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পদকল্পতরু।

সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে

মূল্য ৩৷৹ টাকা।

পরিশিষ্ট যন্ত্রস্থ।

অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য

অনুরাগবল্লী।

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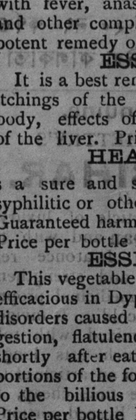

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Do Do No. 3	28	2	0		
Do (Rejections ordy.	17	0	0	,,	,,
Castor Oil No. 1 Fine pale	15	7	0	,,	mds.
Do Thirds yellow	12	10		,,	,,
Rice Table or Seeta	4	12	0	,,	,,
Do Do (inferior)			0	,,	,,
Do Balam N. 1	3	5	0	,,	,,
Do ,, No. 2	3	4	6	,,	,,
Do ,, ,, 3	3	2	0	,,	,,
Do Moongly ,, 1	3	4	0	,,	,,
Ghee (Buxar) 29 to 33	0	0		,,	,,
Do Matki 36 to 37	0	0		,,	,,
Saltpetre 5% crude	7	2	0	,,	,,
Do 15 Do	5	2	0	,,	,,
Sugar (Dulopah)	7	0	0	,,	,,
Do Chandpur ackra	6	8	0	,,	,,
Wheat club No. 2	3	0	0	,,	,,
Do Hard Red	0	0	0	,,	,,
Do Soft Red	0	0	0	,,	,,
KEROSINE OIL :—				,,	,,
American Snowflake	4	15	0	per case	
Do Chester	3	3	6	,,	
Do Tiger	3	3	6	,,	
Sumatra Crown	0	0	0	Two Tins	
Rangoon Victoria	3	6	0	Per Case.	

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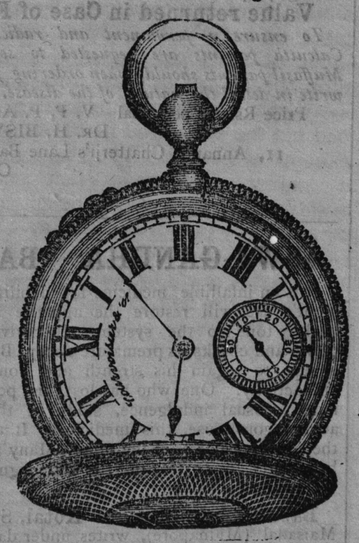

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Certified that I chemically examined the contents of a phial labelled Nizam's Gonorrhœa Cure and found it to be free from Mercurial and Arsenical preparation, and though it is a vegetable preparation, it does not contain any poisonous ingredients.

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This is the only cheapest article of luxury eve invented. It can he used with **pan** and with **tobacco**. Its usefulness is manifold. It atonce remove the bad smell from the mouth and strengthens the gums of the tooth. It has its medicinal properties. it is a medicine for cough and cold.. It invigorates the system. When smoked mixed with tobacco it emits the sweet aroma which asts long and pleases the mind. In short, such an article of luxury and necessity, and at the same time cheap, is not to be found in India. (Use two linseed portion with tobacco and one with betel.)

Beware of imitation : Seeing the extensive sale of our **Tambul Bihar** mischievous persons havt imitated our "Bihar". When purchasing, we would request them to look to our **Trade Mark** Trisul and Registered Number. Large pot 8 annas. Small pot 4 annas. From one to twelve pots V. P. As. 7 extra.

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An excellent nervine tonic and blood purifier. Sure to eradicate the murcurial and syphilitic poisonous from the system. Discovered by the renowned Kaviraj Dwarka Nath Sen and tried for more than a quarter of a century with splendid success. Price Rs. 3 per bottle.

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Perceptible improvement after a fortnight's use. Price Rs. 5 for 15 days.

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ate House-Surgeon, Chandney Hospital, Calcutta
Late Resident Accoucheur and Goodeve Scholar,
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AN IMPORTANT PRESENT.

Mohini or the Goddess of Beauty.

THAT WELL-KNOWN ARTIST, RANI-VARMA'S LATEST PRODUCTION.

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ACIDITY PILL

ACIDITY and DYSPEPSIA are the two most common disorders of the day, and very few are so fortunate as to declare their immunity from these. In view of the fact that though apparently harmless in the embryonic stage, Acidity and Dyspepsia shatter and undermine the constitution in the end and lead to its total wreckage, it must be held that they are dangerous intheir insidiousness.

After years of incessant toil and experiment, I have discovered a medicine which, I can confidently say, will cure the patient of acidity, and its worse stage of Dyspepsia in a sort time, effectively and radically. However chronic and long-standing the complaint, however violent its attack, the Acidity Pill will give instant and permanent relief as has been proved in hundreds of cases. Here are a few unsolicited testimonials :—

(From **H. N Basu** Esqr, M, D.,)

I have seen the effects of H. Biswas's Acidity Pil's and I can safely recommend it to those who are suffering from Dyspepsia and Indigestion,

The Hon'ble G. M. Chitnavis C. I. E. Member of H. E. the Viceroy's Legslative Council, writes :—"The Acidity Pill are giving satisfaction to all those on whom I tried them.

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

FROM **Mr. S. C. Haldar, Political Agency Gilgit.**

I am exceedingly glad to let you know that your Acidity Pills have miraculously relieved me of the colic pains and bowel-Complaints from which I was very badly suffering for the last two years and more.

The **Amrita Bazar Patrika** says :—Dr. H Biswas's Acidity Pill has an extraordinary digestive power so that men suffering from Dyspepsia may give a fair trial. It is exclusively prepared from some native herbs and hence is perfectly safe.

Babu Nilmoni Dey, Assistant Settlement Officer, writes from Camp Patepur, Dt. Mozafferpur:—I have tried your Acidity Pill and found them to be an excellent remedy in removing acidity immediately. They are a great boon after a heavy dinner. They are invaluable in the Moffussil. They should find place in very tourist's bag. Please send me two boxes immediately.

(From **Babu Ramdhani Paure, Deputy Inspector of Schools. Arrah).** "I am really very glad to certify that your Acidity Pills have a wonderful power to cure the ailmeuts they are intended for and I have to thank you very much for the pills you sent me in December last,

Babu, Nitrya Gopal Dutt, Zemindar Mozilpur, writes :—"I have used your Pill and can bear testimony to its marvellous effects. Before I used your Pill for a week it cured me of acute Acidity which all other remedies failed to cure.

Babu P. De, B. A., Head-Master, Shibpur H, C, E. School, writes :—Dr. H. Biswas's Acidity Pill is a sovereign remedy for Acidity and Dyspepsia in general. It is prepared from innocent drugs, and therefore perfectly harmless. Those that have been suffering from Acidity and Dyspepsia will find in the said Pill a speedy and permanent cure. Dr. Biswas deserves the patronage of the public at large.

P. S. I have recommended your Pills to some of my friends who are similarly suffering,

The Acidity Pill is a vegetable preparation. We uarantee a cure and

Refund the Price in case of failure.

Price Rupee One per box. V. P. charge annas 4 Do not fail to give it a trial when every other medicine patent and prescribed has failed to give you relief. You wil realise its worth by a week's us

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Hahnemann Home

(REGISTERED.)

IN connection with the Homœopathic Dispensary carried on in the name and style of HAHNEMANN HOME, and the Electro-Homœopathic Dispensary recently carried on in the name and style of BATABYAL Co., we beg to draw the attention of the public that we had to renounce the name of BATABYAL and Co., and have amalgamated the Dispensaries under the common name and style of HAHNEMANN HOME, the former as HAHNEMANN HOME, Homœopathic Branch, at No. 2-1 College Street, and the latter as HAHNEMANN HOME, Electro-Homœopathic Branch, at No. 2-2 College Street, Calcutta, in the same house and with the same stock of medicines, etc., the proprietors retaining the name. We need hardly add that our medicines will, as hitherto, be of the same superior quality and imported from the same firms in England, America, Germany and Italy as before.

We therefore respectfully request our constituents both in town and in the mofussil to send their orders for Homœopathic as well as Electro-Homœopathic Medicines to the address of HAHNEMANN HOME.

Homœopathic Branch,

No. 2-1, College Street,

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The only reliable depot in India which imports genuine Homœopathic medicines for sale in original dilutions from

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Prices comparatively cheap

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a new system of medicines of wonderful efficacy.

ELECTRO-HOMŒOPATHIC SIKHA DARPAN in two parts.

The best book in Bengali ever published. Price Rs. 2-8-0 Especial rates to our constituents. MATTEI TATWA, Rs. 2-0-0.

Dr. M. N. Banerjee, late Family Physician, Hetampore Raj, attends daily from 8 to 10 in the morning and 5 to 7 in the evening. Advice gratis.

A large stock of Homœo and Electro-Homœo: medicines, boxes, Books English and Bengali and medical sundries always in hand. Orders from mofussil served by V. P. Post.

Illustrated catalogue, Bengali and English, free on application.

PROPRIETORS.

WHAT NEWSPAPER SENSATIONS COST.

THE veriest tyro in newspaper matters must have noticed that frequently one great "daily" has a highly sensational item of news which no other paper contains. Behind the scenes such pieces of news are known as exclusives, and the reporter is never so proud as when he has succeeded in obtaining an exclusive for his paper.

Immense sums of money are often paid for sensational pieces of information, which no other paper has got. The editor of the *Pal! Mall Gazette* paid £500 for the news that Mr. Gladstone was about to resign and the secret was well worth its price. For weeks every paper in England and America was constantly referring to the news which the *Pall Mall* had been the first to give to the world, and the circulation of the paper received a tremendous impetus.

The *Times* once paid a fortune for a sensation. One night a man called at Printing House Square with a batch of letters, for which he asked £1,780. They were the pigott forgeries and the story of how the *Times* was deceived is too well known to need retelling. The money was paid, and not long afterwards another similar amount was paid for a further batch of letters, so that these famous letters cost the *Times* directly between £3,000 and £4,000.

But every body knows that these letters created the most extraordinary political sensation of modern times, and led up to the longest Parliamentary inquiry ever known, and the three or four thousand pounds represent a mere fraction of what the *Time* ultimately paid for them. The bill for the Parnell Commission is carefully preserved in the archives of Printing House Square, but it is an open secret that altogether, before these letters were done with, they cost the *Times* £10,0000—a sum which would have ruined an ordinary newspaper.

The *Daily News* obtained a memorable "exclusive" many years ago for a mere £50 and sundry other trifling expenses. Twenty-five years ago all England was thrilled by the story of the burning of the Cospatrick on the way from England to New Zealand. Three of the crew survived, and the story of how they cast lots which of them should be illed for food forms one of the most horrible tales of the sea ever told. Only one man came back to England the mate, who kept himself alive by cannibalism—and he was brought home by the steamship Nyanza. Thirty journalists waited for the arrival of the vessel at Plymouth, and it was decided that the best thing to do under the circumstances was to let the mate tell his own story in the presence of all. But the arrangement did not satisfy the "Daily News", and Mr. Archibald Forbes went down to Plymouth and awaited events at an obscure inn. Chartering a tug he ordered the skipper to be in readiness at an unfrequented jetty. At last news came that the Nyanza had passed the Lizard Light, twenty-five miles out, and as soon as dusk had fallen over the harbour Mr. Forbes set out in the tug to meet the ship. On coming up with the vessel Mr. Forbes boldly jumped from the bridge of the tug and caught the mizzen-chains of the Nyanza.

"Where can I find Macdonald, the mate of the Cospatrick. Quick !" he exclaimed as he was pulled on deck, and the next minute he was listening to the man's weird story. He gave Macdonald fifty sovereigns down to tell his story to him alone, and when the ship arrived at Plymouth Mr. Forbes handed the man over to a colleague, who took him up to London by the next train, engaging the whole of a first-class carriage ! The chagrin of the thirty waiting journalists may be better imagined than described. "The public have a right know your story," one of them pleaded ; but all they could get from the man in reply was "They maun read it i' the *Daily News*. It'll be all there in the morning."

An American paper, the other day, sent a cheque for £1,000 to the German Emperor with a request for an article on the Spanish-American War. The money was, of course, returned, but the incident is interesting as showing the market value of an article by the Emperor. While the war was in progress, too, a New York paper offered 50,000 dollars for the head of one of the Spanish generals.

Even if the news in itself is not very sensational it is worth a great deal to have it exclusively. When the Prince of Wales went to Niagara to see Blondin cross the Falls on a tight rope, the *New York Herald* monopolized all the wires, so as to get the news exclusively. A heavy sum was paid in wiring unnecessary matter, so as to keep the line engaged, but at the end of two hours the Prince had not arrived. The *Herald* was wasting dollars by the hundred, and the reporters telegraphed to New York, asking what they should do to keep the wires.

"Telegraph the Book of Genesis," came back the reply, and this was done at a cost of £150. Still the Prince did not come, and the reporters, afraid to spend so much money, again telegraphed to Mr. Gordon Bennett, and the word came back with lightening speed—"Go on to Revelations."

Fortunately it was not necessary to telegraph the whole Bible, as the Prince arrived, and the *Herald* gave the news to the public. But the exploit must have cost considerably over £1,000.

Many years ago a man called on several editors in London at an early hour of the morning, declaring himself to be the sole survivor of a teribie shipwreck, and promising to give full details in return for the payment of a cap fare. His story was regarded as a hoax by most of those to whom he offered it, but the *Daily Telegraph* investigated it, found it to be true, and came out the next morning with a glowing account of it, running into several columns. And all for a cab fare!

Newspaper booms do not always pay in cash down. A London evening paper spend £300 a week in securing special news about the recent war between America and Spain, but the result did not nearly cover expenses. In the first week the circulation went up 100,000 extra copies a day, in the second week it fell off heavily, and in the third week the circulation resumed its normal level. The value of an "exclusive" is well illustrated by the effect of the news of the fall of Omdurman. It was published simultaneously in all the evening papers, the result being that the gross receipts of an evening paper which spent £80 on a single telegram were only £40.

ORDERS have been issued to Dr. Aghor Nath to join the Nizam College as Professor of Science *vice* the late Mr. Andrews.

THE Mari-Attock Railway was inspected by the Government Inspector and Railway officials on Tuesday and will be shortly open for public use.

IT is, we understand, probable that the Government of India will shortly take into consideration the question of reducing the return fares of coolies, who, after completing their labour contracts in the colonies, may wish to come back to India.

TowtoDocr to Bills.

We have saved many doctor bills since we began using Chamberlain's Cough Remedy in our home. We keep a bottle open all the time and when ever any of my family or myself begin to catch cold we begin to use the Cough Remedy, and as a result we never have to send away for a doctor and incur a large doctor bill, for Chamberlain's Cough Remedy never fails to cure. It is certainly a medicine of great merit and worth.—D. S. MEARKLE, General Merchant and Farmer, Mattie, Bedford county Pa. For sale by

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

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, MARCH 5, 1899

CASE OF MR. AUGIER AS TOLD BY HIMSELF.

In our last article, on Mr. Augier's case, we related the part, alleged to have been taken in it by Mr. Laing, the coolie contractor. According to Mr. Augier, the minor Brahmin girl was kidnapped with the direct or indirect knowledge of Mr. Laing; that Mr. Laing did not restore the girl to her natural guardians, knowing that she was a minor and Brahmin, as he was bound to do under the law; and that he was liable to be prosecuted for locating his coolies in a depot which, he says, did not belong to him.

In justice to Mr. Laing, it should be stated here that, in his evidence before the court, he said that when the Brahmin girl was shown to him for selection he rejected her and that his connection with her ceased from that time. He further said that the girl belonged to one Bunshee Lal, who was a sub-contractor under him, and with whom he had no other concern whatever. Cross-examined by Mr. Augier, he, however, admitted that he had no depot of his own at Purulia but that he kept his coolies in Bunshee Lal's depot. He could not also produce any paper to show that Bunshee Lal was only a sub-contractor under him. He further admitted that he had helped Bunshee Lal's men with advice and money when they brought the case against Mr. Augier; that he had taken an interest in the case, and that he was "anxious" to have Mr. Augier "convicted."

The suggestion of Mr. Augier is that Bunshee Lal is not a sub-contractor but a partner of Mr. Laing and that the firm of Messrs Laing and Bunshee Lal is known as Friend and Co. If this be true then Mr. Laing is really liable to be prosecuted for more than one offence. But, considering the state of bitter feelings existing between Mr. Laing and Mr. Augier, one must take with caution the accusations which they have hurled at each other.

There is, however, no doubt about the part played by Mr. Law and Mr. Maguire, the Deputy Commissioner, in this affair. Mr. Law, according to evidence which Mr. Maguire believed, personated a District Superintendent of Police to get possession of the Brahmin girl alluded to above. When he was hauled up on this charge he said that he had done so at the instance of Mr. Augier; and the latter was accordingly hauled up along with him as an abettor. There was, however, no evidence worth the name to connect Mr. Augier with the offence. Indeed, if Mr. Augier had so wished, he might have secured the girl in a far easier way, and he had no necessity whatever to induce Mr. Law to personate a District Superintendent of Police and thus run a serious risk. It is also quite plain that Mr. Augier never intended possessing the girl for nefarious purposes; for it is on evidence that she was suffering from unmentionable diseases at the time. On the other hand, there is no doubt of it, that Mr. Augier was actuated by the best of motives in mixing himself up with this matter, namely, to rescue the girl, if possible, from a horrible fate.

But yet, we find, the principal offender, Mr. Law, was let off with a fine of Rs. 100 only, while the so-called abettor, Mr. Augier was sentenced to undergo six months' rigorous imprisonment and pay a fine of Rs. 500. Now, we submit, Government is bound to ask Mr. Maguire to explain how he could treat Mr. Law with such leniency, and Mr. Augier with such severity. Be it remembered the latter was honourably acquitted by the High Court.

The above reminds us of another personation case which occurred in a Dacca village last year. Two villagers, in a spirit of fun, personated plague inoculators and frightened some village women. They, however, immediately after, threw off their mask and disclosed their real character. A criminal case was the result; and—would you believe it?—one of them was convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment! The other man, who absconded, was very recently caught and placed on his trial. He too got two years!

Compare this case with that of Mr. Law. The Dacca men absolutely intended no mischief; it was simply a piece of joke that they had perpetrated—a joke which did nobody any harm. But Mr. Law not only personated an important functionary like the District Superintendent of Police, but his object was apparently the possession of a young girl by false pretences. Yet he was let off with a fine of Rs. 100 only, while the Dacca men were sent to jail for two years with hard labour! Need any body now be told what has led to the universal belief in this country that there is one administration of the law for the natives and another for the Europeans?

Mr. Augier explains this severity of Mr Maguire towards himself by attributing it to his private feelings. This is, no doubt, a serious charge, but when Mr. Augier has preferred it in his letter to the Commissioner of the Division, Government ought to hold an enquiry into the matter. Addressing the Commissioner Mr. Augier says:—

> Mr. Maguire wanted an excuse to injure me and you yourself would be about one of the best witnesses I could offer in support. For you could not have forgotten my note (d-o) complaining that it would be impossible for me to please Mr. Maguire, and in support of this I sent you a memo. of his declaring that he disliked me, but that he thought you liked me.
>
> This fact is further supported by Mr. Maguire's charge to the jury, who by the way were not selected according to the list, but according to Mr. Maguire's fancy. I pointed out the procedure to him at the time, but it was not heeded. It is true I may have challenged them, but as I knew I was quite innocent, and your own note to me assured me that I should have no reason to think Mr. Maguire would not be impartial, and the further consideration that I had the sympathy of the whole of the non-coolie-recruiting community and that the entire bar who took up my cause without fees and refused briefs from the opposite side, (except a Mahomedan Barrister who did so reluctantly, yet said nothing in the case) I refrained from doing so. Mr. Maguire on the other hand *ordered* the Government prosecutor to appear. I respectfully ask does this look like impartiality, or rather that Mr. Maguire was himself the Judge, Jury and Complainant all three combined. His selection of the Jury were, (1) Mr. Cook, *coolie contractor*, (2) Babu Akoy Sirkar, *coolie contractor*, (absent), (3) Mr. Massyek, *photographer of coolies to all coolie contractors*, and (4) Annant Ram Sircar, *clerk to Akoy Sircar*.
>
> It is a true saying that if you punish or prosecute one of a particular profession you offend all of that profession, yet my *faith in the integrity of the Indian* Civil Service was so great that I did not believe that whatever Mr. Maguire's feelings towards me may have been as an official superior, as a Magistrate or Judge this feeling would never influence him, and so I submitted to be tried by him, being further assured by your letter before mentioned and my own innocence.
>
> Mr. Augier cites another instance to show Mr. Maguire's bias. When on appeal, the High Court ordered him to be released on bail to the satisfaction of the District Magistrate, he made an application to Mr. Maguire. But Mr. Maguire refused to release him, and thus the accused had to remain in jail six days longer. Now, this is a very grave allegation, for it means not only an act of gross disobedience to the order of the High Court, but the illegal detention of a person who was merely on his trial and who was afterwards found to be innocent.
>
> That Mr. Maguire had no good feeling for Mr. Augier, there can be no doubt. This is quite evident from correspondence which passed between the two. It being so, how could Mr. Maguire venture to try this case? And how can he now convince people that he was actuated by the best of motives in sentencing one, who happened to be disagreeable to him, to six months' imprisonment, when the High Court acquitted him even without hearing Counsel who appeared on his behalf? The case is so scandalous from beginning to end, and reflects such discredit upon the local authorities, generally speaking, that Government would be wanting in its duty if it did not take proper notice of it. The impression, which the perusal of the papers in this case leaves upon the mind is that, Mr. Augier was the victim of a conspiracy, because he nobly tried to save a poor girl; and that he has suffered so terribly because he was not in good odour with some of the high local authorities. Now that he has been acquitted by the High Court, he ought to be restored to his post, and those who have brought this ruin upon him ought to be severely dealt with.

INDIA, THEN AND NOW.

Speaking of the increase of litigation in this country Lord Curzon was pleased to attribute it to the character of the people. We contended, however, that the people were not litigious in pre-British days. The question is an important one, for the vice of litigation is really ruining the country. We have no gambling or drinking here, but litigation is doing as much evil as drinking and gambling together. We believe the increase of this vice is due to the mistaken policy of the Government.

Sir W. Hunter, an official of officials, and the writer of the Indian columns in the *Times*, cannot be accused of being so very partial to the Indians as to falsify history to please them. This is how he summarises the account of India given by Megasthenes, who was stationed at the court of Chandra Gupta:—

> The Greek ambassador observed with admiration the absence of slavery in India, the chastity of the women and the courage of the men. In valour they excelled all other Asiatics; they required no locks to their doors; above all, no Indian was ever known to tell a lie. Sober and industrious, good farmers, and skilled artisans, they scarcely ever had recourse to a lawsuit, and lived peaceably under their native Chiefs. The Kingly government is portrayed almost as described in the Code of Manu. Megasthenes mentions that India was divided into 118 kingdoms; some of which as the Prasi under Chandra Gupta, exercised suzerain powers over others. The village system is well described, each little rural unit seeming to the Greek an independent republic.

The above description will shew that the Indians had succeeded in converting their country into heaven, so far as that was possible. Lord Curzon attributed litigation to the vicious character of the people, but Megasthenes says that in his time "they scarcely ever had recourse to litigation." Now, this habit the Indians maintained as long as they could. Old people can testify to the fact that when the Indian courts of law under Western principles were first established, the people of this country refused to have recourse to them. They either settled their own differences or applied to their landlords. But their indigenous courts were forcibly destroyed, and the people compelled to resort to the ruinous law courts established by Government, under what is called civilized principles.

Here, let the saying, emphasized by Kipling, be remembered, namely, that "East is East." This is a theory which we have no objection to adopt. But the British Government has adopted only that portion of it which suits its interests. If Government were asked to introduce representative institutions it would tell you that they were developed in the West and unknown in the East, and hence they were not suited to the East. Well, be it so. Then why do you destroy our village system which is Eastern from its inception to its completion, and introduce the complicated system of the West with which the people are so unfamiliar? Indeed, when India is to be taxed it is treated as a Western country. And when laws are to be made, it is the people of the West who will not only make them, but administer them too!

The Americans are very proud of their Constitution, and perhaps deservedly so. But the village system of India was immensely superior, in many respects, to the one in vogue in America. That system made every village a republic, indeed, as we said above, it made heaven of earth as far as that was possible. It had, however, this defect, that it did not take into account the existence of rascally neighbours, blood-thirsty robbers, without a drop of moral sentiment to control them.

The wise men who framed the ancient Constitution of the Hindus did not provide adequate measures for the protection of the country from the inroads of barbarian hordes. Max Muller says that India was over-run because the people had not cultivated the art of war. That may be one of the causes, but not the chief cause. In India, it was never known that human beings could actually fight for the slavery of their neighbours or for *loot*. They fought from chivalrous feelings; and thus when Alexander asked Porus how he should be treated, the latter was surprized. He replied—"Of course, like a King!"

There are statesmen, who try to justify the defects of British rule on the ground that, it has established peace in the land. We fully agree that blood-shed was stopped in the country by the British Government, and that there is now peace in the country not enjoyed by it for seven hundred years previous to British advent. But we do not agree that this justifies Government to permit continuing undoubted evils, especially when they are removable. Then there are others who allege that India not only enjoys the blessings of good rule now, but what she enjoys is so good that the like of it she never enjoyed before. To such people we commend the quotation from Megasthenes in the beginning of this article.

THE DECAY OF CHRISTIANITY OR THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST BY HIS FOLLOWERS.

The writer of the following letter, which appears in the *Pioneer*, means kindly:

> Sir,—A member of Sir Thomas Roe's embassy to the Emperor of Delhi in the 17th century thus represented the impression made by Europeans on the natives of India: "Christian religion devil religion, Christian much drink, Christian much do wrong, much beat, much abuse others." It may be hoped that such a statement was, even at that time, exaggerated, and that, in our time it may be regarded as quite unjustifiable.
>
> (1) But even if this be so, most of us would be ready to acknowledge that there is a wide difference, one might almost say a wide gulf, between the life of the founder of our religion, as recorded in the earliest Christian documents, and the lives of the majority of professing Christians. We may go further, and say that if the majority of professing Christians throughout India were to faithfully obey the precepts and follow in the footsteps of their Master, a most immense and phenomenal extension of our religion would result. I venture to assert that amongst educated and thoughtful Indians, whether Hindu or Mahomedan, the chief hindrance to the reception of Christianity is derived not from any confidence in the ethical equality of their own systems, but rather from the failure of Christians to live the Christ-life. Hence they deny the potency of the religion.
>
> (2) If it be replied that the *ideal life* of the Hindu is as lofty as that of the Christian, we cannot but ask *what ideal*. There are many lives to choose from, recorded in many books. Which book is to be regarded as authoritative to the exclusion of others? We may admire portions of the Gita, or the Ramayana, but whence in the Hindu system do these derive any exclusive authority? The Kali-life would claim with as much right to be the ideal of some, as the Sita-life of other Hindus; the Krishna-life may claim to be as God-like as the Rama-life. All must admit the beauty of such a passage as the following:—
>
> "O God of gods, Thou art to me
> A father, mother, kinsmen, friends;
> I, knowledge, riches, find in Thee,
> All good Thy being comprehends."
> (*Vikrama-charita, Muir's translation.*)
>
> But whence does it derive any *authority* for conduct over the following:
>
> "With kindly words address thy foe
> When thou design'st to lay him low;
> When thou hast struck the deadly blow
> Then let thy tears profusely flow."
> (*Mohabharata*, I. 5300)
>
> Most of us judge systems similarly as we do men. No superiority of genius redeems the character degraded by falsehood and immorality. No splendour of philosophical maxims scattered through ancient times can lift the *system* of Hinduism above the degradation of its age-authorised idolatries.
>
> (3) This need not hinder us from appreciating the enlightenment and high character of many Hindus. But we must regret that there are many others who have not the courage of their enlightenment, but shrinking timidly before their fellow-countrymen, profess an orthodoxy they secretly despise, and conform to ceremonies and practices not merely contemptible but debasing. This constitutes the true barrier to a warmer sympathy between Christians and those who, claiming intellectual emancipation, yet march in time to the clanking fetters of caste and idolatrous rites.
>
> F. R. C. S.

"F. R. C. S." brings a couple of charges against the Hindus, namely, they no not raise the system from the degradation of age authorized idolatory, and they timidly shrink from disavowing practices which are contemptible and debasing. We can assure the kind-hearted correspondent that the Hindus are struggling very hard to improve the spiritual condition of their fellows. It may please him to know that the Hindus are not shewing much neglect in regard to this matter at least. We must say, however, though not in a spirit of hostility but of friendliness, that the Christians are doing worse than the Hindus in this respect.

The writer of the letter in the *Pioneer* himself admits the wide gulf between the founder of Christianity and the lives of those who profess to follow him. Let us quote here a paragraph from the life of Lincoln Abraham to show what noble work the Christians have done. When America came to be settled, Missionaries followed the settlers. "They were not," we are told by Thayer, "generally men of learning and culture, but they believed that they had a call to preach. Many of them preached almost every day, travelling from place to place on horseback, studying their sermons in the saddle. They stopped where night overtook them, and it was sometimes miles away from any human habitation with no bed but the earth, and no covering but the canopy of heaven. They laboured without a salary, and were often poorly and scantily clothed and fed, being constrained to preach by the love of Christ."

We quote the above paragraph to shew the sacrifice made by these blessed preachers, to save their fellows and proclaim their Lord. It is these half-fed and half-clothed men who succeeded in spreading Christianity all over the world. Go into the heart of China and you will find a Christian Missionary preaching Christ there! It is such devotion among the followers of the Founder that led to the spread of Christianity. The Hindus, who are proud of their religion and saints, can take a lesson from the lives of these great souls who carried their lives in their hands for the purpose of proclaiming their Lord.

Christianity owe its decline to Spain and Portugal. Armed with guns and protected by the wooden walls of their ships, they found themselves in an unarmed continent, far away from priests and public opinion. They were led to commit brutal excesses and gradually converted themselves into fiends. We find the following in "Columbus and Columbia":

> Before their unbridled and lascivious senses, the Spaniards saw a people of modest manners and a guileless disposition, and this they would violate by inaugurating an immorality to which the natives were yet strangers. We cannot fail to reflect upon the astounding satire furnished by the contrast of naked modesty and pure manners of this untutored island tribe, as compared with the lustful appetite, calculating avarice, distrust, latent cruelty, and perfedious spirit of the Spanish mariners, products as they were of one of the oldest civilizations—a civilization upon which the forces of literature, arts and so-called religion had operated for nearly a thousand years.
>
> The fact is, the passage to the nethermost regions is paved with polished marble, and it is the easiest thing in the world to slide down to the bottomless pit. In India, the atrocities of Vasco-de-Gama have never been forgotten; for, it is said, that his ghost is seen in dark nights fleeing with unearthly shrieks, followed by the ghosts of his victims!
>
> Thus with ships and cannon the Europeans found the whole world at their mercy. The temptation was very great, and Christ was sought to be forgotten in the greed for material gain. Christ was thus sought to be crucified by his own followers!
>
> But it is difficult to forget religion for any length of time, and they had to recognize its sway. Then they brought the Bible into requisition to justify their action. They satisfied their conscience with the consoling assurance that the heathens were enemies of God, and the Christians had every right to take their gold and land. To kill a heathen must be pleasing to God whom they never accepted. And in this manner they sought to justify slavery by texts from the Bible.
>
> But yet men began to grow in intelligence, and the Europeans saw that they could not worship two masters—God and Mammon, at one and the same time. Then they changed their tactics. They said, "the Africans kill one another; they reduce nations to slavery; some of them eat their prisoners. We should stop all that for their good. We should take their land and civilize them. And in doing that we must kill those who oppose us."
>
> The above, which we read in a very respectable English paper, is very consoling no doubt. But some are not yet consoled. We have already seen what Mr. Morley, Mr. Stead and others think of the affair. This is what Mr. John P. Thompson says in the *Manchester Guardian*:—
>
> If the recording Angel could write in letters of fire before the British nation the number of natives we have slaughtered by the sword, the number we have killed by intoxicating drinks, the lives we have terminated by the introduction of European diseases, the number of women seized as concubines and used merely for purposes of lust, the thousands now consigned to slavery under the British flag, though we carefully avoid the name of slave—if that Angel could record these things, I think even the British Parliament might appoint a day of national fasting and humiliation for our sins.
>
> Men build their own houses in the other world. God has implanted in man sentiments of truth, justice, charity, mercy and love. If, disregarding the promptings of their finer sentiments, men seek to lord it over their fellows and nourish baser feelings in their heart, they only make themselves unfit to live in the Heaven where good men dwell.

The president of the last Municipal protest meeting, held last Monday at the Classic Theatre, while giving an account of how the elective system first came to be introduced in Calcutta, had, for unavoidable reasons, to omit many interesting incidents in connection with it. Thus, while the feeling was raging very high over the question, whether or not we should be satisfied with the ten annas offered by the Government, or reject the gift unless the whole sixteen annas, that is to say, the elective system in its entirety, were given, the B. I. Association (which was for either the whole or nothing) waited in deputation upon Sir R. Temple. When the members of the deputation surrounded Sir Richard, His Honor saw that he had not a sufficient number of chairs at hand to accommodate all, for they numbered sixty strong. Sir R. Temple, after a hasty conference with his Private Secretary, devised a plan to get out of the difficulty, that is to say, he received them standing! Besides, the members felt that the attitude of Sir R. Temple, for reasons to be explained hereafter, was not as courteous as it always was. After the return of the deputation from Belvedere, the *Hindoo Patriot* wrote an indignant paragraph complaining that the Lieutenant-Governor had insulted the *elite* of the Indian community by keeping them standing! Soon after this incident, Babu Shishir Kumar Ghose had a private talk with Sir R. Temple on the subject. Said Sir Richard: "The tactics of these men are transparent. They will not appreciate the great boon I am going to offer them. An elective system will make their position shaky, for they fear it will displace them and bring in their place others. Their object was to bully me. So they came 60 strong, and as I did not yield to brute force, they are now attributing motives to me." Well, a paragraph appeared in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* defending Sir Richard Temple and explaining the circumstances that had led His Honor to receive them standing, as he had not a sufficient number of chairs close at hand to accommodate all the members of the deputation; and, that he did not mean any insult would appear from the fact that he himself remained standing all the while the deputation waited on him. The members of the Indian League followed suit and requested to be heard in reply to the representations of the B. I. Association. This arrangement very much frightened the Private Secretary to His Honor. It was known that the Leaguers represented the middle classes; and the B. I. Association, the highest. What the Private Secretary feared was that since the B. I. Association had come with 60, members of the League might possibly come 600 strong, to besiege His Honor! So the Private Secretary wrote to Babu Shishir Kumar, requesting him not to bring with him an immoderately large number of men. In reply Babu Shishir Kumar Ghose wrote that the number would not exceed 25. In going through the account, the readers will no doubt be struck with the way the earlier administrators ruled the country. They were more in touch with the people than their successors are at present. Perhaps, they were not sometimes as courteous as their successors are. But there is no doubt of it, they had more sympathy with the people than is, generally speaking, displayed by the present generation of rulers. The Lieutenant-Governor was not then as inaccessible and unapproachable as Magistrates are at the present day.

As darkness is to fire-works, so is humility to real merit. Darkness enhances the beauty of fire-works, so humility increases the beauty of the man, who is really able. In the same manner, wit and humour receive additional sweetness when they come from the mouth of a Chief Justice, who is expected to be as grave as a Methodist preacher. His Lordship, the present Chief Justice of Bengal, made his audience laugh, by his humorous speech, delivered on the occasion of the unveiling of the portrait of Sir Comer Petheram. But may we inquire, why his Lordship has given up the salutary practice of putting an Indian Judge along with a European on the Criminal Appellate Bench? Of course, we have nothing to say against the present arrangement. But yet we see a change, which may be construed into a slur upon the illustrious and experienced Indian Judges of his Court. As a liberal Judge it is the duty of his Lordship to see that the Indians are not unnecessarily deprived of the privilege which they have been enjoying for many years past.

We beg to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Mr. Bolton to the following letter:—

> Promotion is very, very slow in the Provincial Civil Service, and, if an officer is allowed to overstep another without reason, it naturally causes heart-burning. In going through the

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Civil List I find that Babu Nogendra Nath Mukherjee has been allowed to supersede 21 men in the 7th grade. He failed to pass with them the higher standard examination and lost his promotion. Thus, in the Civil List for January 1897 he stood 42 and in the last Civil List he stands 21. The reason assigned for this extraordinary step is said to be that he was doing special duty and could not attend to his studies; but, certainly it is very well known that there were other officers who also did special duty which brought in a large amount of increased revenue to Government, who have been superseded by this arrangement and no consideration has been shown to them. In these days of slow promotion the loss of a step means three months' time and the Chief Secretary ought to realize the heart-burning it causes.

Then, again, Kushtia, Ranaghat, Meherpore and Chooadanga have been virtually taken out of the hands of Indian Deputy Magistrates. Can any one divine the motive for this change? If it is to please a handful of indigo planters the motive is certainly not very high. How is it also that blind and invalided men are now placed in charge of Sub-divisions?

There is some screw loose somewhere; and either Mr. Bolton or Sir John Woodburn should set it right. There is considerable discontent in the Subordinate Executive Service, and this ought not to be allowed to continue.

"POOR Lord George Hamilton,"—that is the way the opponents of his Lordship speak of him in England. But poor or rich, he is the autocrat of three hundred millions in India. To the latter he is greater than the greatest man in the Universe. His opponents have just now found him doing something outrageous. "Several adverse criticisms," says the *Morning Leader*, "have appeared upon Lord George Hamilton's remarks at Chiswick last week about a gold standard in India, on the ground that a committee, under the Chairmanship of Sir H. Fowler, has the subject still under consideration." This is considered a serious breach of etiquette. Who knows that this did not lead Sir H. Fowler to shew spirit in regard to the Calcutta Municipal Bill? Lord George Hamilton is in the habit of boasting that Sir H. Fowler is his man; and that the latter has no independence of his own. Possibly it is this opinion of Sir Henry that led the Secretary of State to take this freedom with the Committee, which is under the leadership of the former. The other breach of etiquette that Lord George Hamilton is accused of having committed is in regard to a more exalted personage, viz., the Queen herself. His Lordship gave out that Lord Elgin would get his reward when he came back, and he was actually given the Garter. Now, this reward is in the gift of the Queen herself, and every one knows that Her Majesty does not like any one to meddle with her prerogative. Lord Palmerston himself had been snubbed by the Queen for such a breach of etiquette.

The *Morning Leader* has another fling at Lord George Hamilton on a quite different matter. When Mr. Thorburn commented upon the Forward policy in his now famous Simla speech he was censured for his conduct. Lord George Hamilton laid down that it was improper for any Government officer to convey to the public any opinion upon matters of Government policy. But Lord George Hamilton himself, while defending his sedition measures, quoted in support thereof the opinions of two Mahomedan Associations which represented two Government officials. So you see how great men disobey their own injunctions! No Government servant must give any opinion on a public question,—that is the law laid down by Lord George Hamilton. But officials are welcome to give their opinion if they support the views of his Lordship! Is not this funny? Let us, however, quote the following paragraph from the *Leader*:

> One sees it stated in Anglo-Indian journals that the Indian National Congress has become superfluous because Indian public opinion can now be made known through interpellations in the Legislative Councils. The argument would be feeble enough in any case, but it is peculiarly silly in view of the fact that important interpellations are commonly disallowed. A decidedly interesting example of this practice is noticed in the Calcutta *Bengalee*. Everybody remembers the excellent speech in which Mr. Thorburn denounced the "forward" policy on the occasion of a military lecture at Simla last summer. It happened that Mr. Thorburn was a Government servant. Therefore Lord George Hamilton sent a despatch to the Government of India, remarking that it was improper for any Government officer to convey to the public any opinion upon matters of Government policy likely to become the subject of public discussion. So far, so good. But in the debate in the House of Commons at the close of the Session, on the law of sedition in India, Lord George Hamilton made great play with the opinions (favorable to the new law) which had been put forward by the secretaries of two Mahometan associations in Calcutta—the Central Mahometan Association and the Mahometan Literary Society. He omitted, however, to infrom the House that these two gentlemen, whose opinions he was passing off as typical Indian opinions, are Government servants, one being Presidency Magistrate at Calcutta and the other a Judge of the Small Cause Court. A distinguished Indian member of the Bengal Legislative Council gave notice in the middle of December of an interpellation on the interesting point how the Government orders referred to in Mr. Thorburn's case were to be applied in the case of Lord George Hamilton's clients. But the interpellation was disallowed. It or something like it might very well be repeated in the House of Commons, where the egregious Secretary of State for India can speak for himself.

THERE was a proposal of appointing a European to officiate for Mr. Markham, Manager of the Hutwa Raj, when he would proceed on leave in April next, and we entered a strong protest. We are glad to learn that Babu Bepin Behari Bose, C. I. E., now Assistant Manager, will act for him. It may be remembered that Babu Bepin Behari managed the Raj, without any European help, with great efficiency, and that the late Maharaja expressed a wish that, after his death, the management should be placed in his hands. The last wishes of the Maharaja were, however, not observed. and a European, who served *under* Bepin Babu, was put *above* him and made Manager, after His Highness's death. This European was subsequently paid a lump sum of Rs. 67,000 and relieved of the post, and Mr. Markham was brought in to take his place on double or treble the salary paid to Bipin Babu by the Maharaja. All this was done during the time of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, and Sir John Woodburn is not responsible for the scandal. By allowing Bepin Babu to act for Mr. Markham, His Honor has shown his sense of justice. We hope, in due course, Bepin Babu will be confirmed in the appointment.

To make administration popular the first thing necessary is to improve the Police. The Police will never be improved by the mere increase of salary or the importation of educated men into the force. The duty of the Police is to protect the weak from the strong and the innocent from the guilty. If those who control the force exact these duties from their subordinates they will naturally grow into usefulness. But the former do not always make the latter do what is clearly their duty. A Police officer to be successful must please his master. It matters not if, by going to please his master, he displeases the people. A Police officer knows very well that his only work lies in keeping his master in good humour with him. He knows that if he offends the people they will not be able to harm a single hair of his head. Nay, a Police officer, if he is found fault with by the people, becomes often a great favourite with his master. Police officers are now and then sacrificed. But, then, rest assured that in the majority of such cases, these unfortunate men must have fallen under the displeasure of their master. If a constable commits oppression, and if a layman resents it, the entire force arrays in the support of the former—from the highest to the lowest. "Race feeling" runs high between laymen and the members of the Police force. The constable stands on his own dignity,—he is an important personage. Of course, he is treated as a very low man by his masters, but he vents his spleen upon the people, for the rough treatment that he receives at the hands of his masters. If their masters will reward the members of the force for doing what is their duty, the force is bound to improve in no time. It is the Police which stand for the Queen before the masses of India. The surest way, therefore, to make British rule popular is first to make the police popular.

THE only favourable point, that the present Municipal Bill has, is that it has no legs to stand upon! It may be said that this is no favourable point at all; but it must be borne in mind that ours is a jealous Government, which can never bear to be dictated to, or defeated in argument. It must always have its will, and if it drops the Municipal Bill it must do so of its own supreme will. The Age of Consent measure was introduced and carried to the bitter end, purely on the ground that Government was worsted all along the line. We have, however, no desire to see the supreme will of the Government challenged in any way. Mr. Roberts urged in Parliament for the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry into the circumstances of the case. Let that be done. Let a strong and honest Commission be appointed, and let the Government abide by the decision of its own Commission, and not by the wishes of the people, though we must say that the supreme duty of Government is to pay more regard to the wishes of the people, than to the deliberations of a Commission appointed by itself. Lord Curzon, we understand, is studying the question. His Lordship has, however, no need to go through the 700 sections of the Bill. The dispute is about the principle; let his Lordship only go through the history of the period when the elective system was first introduced, and he will then be able to see why the system was introduced and at whose instance. We have no doubt, his Lordship will then be surprised to learn that the European merchants and traders of the period, unlike their brethren who are now supporting the present Bill, prayed, in a body, for the elective system, and the system *in its entirety*. Should statesmen return practically to the same method which was at one time universally condemned, and was found to have utterly failed?

THOSE who have read the account, published in these columns three or four days ago, of the introduction of the elective system in Calcutta, will no doubt be struck with the condition of affairs that prevailed in 1876, and which obtains now. Then the British Indian Association demanded the entire control of the Calcutta Municipality, even the privilege of dismissing and appointing the Chairman. The citizens of Calcutta also demanded the privilege of being heard in the Legislature through Counsel, and the Government granted the request. Were not the people of that period very happy when they found the Legislature besieged by their representatives, criticising every point of an impending Bill? But what is the condition now? We prayed for the privilege of reporting the proceedings of the Municipal Bill Select Committee and here is the reply we got:—

> The meeting of Select Committees are not open to the public and it would not be convenient to permit notes to be taken of their proceedings. Such amendments as the Select Committee may decide to recommend will be incorporated in the Bill, for presentation to the Council and the public will then have ample opportunity for considering them.

The B. I. Association can now scarcely raise its head and venture to utter a protest against any measure of importance. Twenty-three years ago the B. I. Association demanded the entire control of the Municipality, out the Government of the period, not being able to make this concession, had to offer ten thousand apologies for it; but now, many leading men there are who dare not join a public meeting, and enter a protest against objectionable measures. Those who do so, fancy themselves to be martyrs, and have possibly their names put down in the black book of the Government. Is this the progress the people have made under the enlightened administration of the British Government during the last quarter of a century? Our London correspondent was pleased to suggest that the energies of the Indian nation should now be directed solely to keeping what they have got, and not to the acquirement of new privileges! Twenty-three years ago the chief ruler consulted more with the representatives of the people than with his ministers, and kept the district autocrats in such check that if any complaint were brought against them, even in an obscure print, it was taken notice of, and the alleged offender compelled to explain his conduct. But now the Indians may rend the skies with their cries, but none there is to listen to them!

EVACUATION and disinfection are said to be the only remedies for stamping out the plague. At least that is the theory which just now finds favour both with Government and most medical men. But Mr. Carmichael, Collector of Belgaum, in his evidence before the Plague Commission, cited an instance which knocks this theory on the head. He said that, neither evacuation nor disinfection was adopted in the village of Neginhal, containing a population of 2,949. The disease broke out there in July, 1898. There were 496 cases and 391 deaths, and, the epidemic died out of its own accord at the end of September. The malarial fever, which almost depolulated some of the fairest districts in Bengal thirty years ago and which still carries off lakhs of people annually in this province, is only another form of plague. Sanitary experts were employed to discover its cause, and they confesed their utter inability. Similarly, it seems equally hopeless to find out the cause and remedy of the present form of the plague. There is no doubt, however, that plague in all its different forms is a poor man's disease. The vast masses in this country cannot get a full meal a day all through the year, and, as a rule, starve three months in every twelve. Their system is thus becoming weakened, year after year, and they cannot resist the least attack of fever or any other disease, and when attacked, die in the couse of three or four days. Improve the condition of the people, give them better and sufficient food, and they will not succumb so easily to attacks of diseases as they do now. Talking of the plague we draw the attention of the reader to an excellent letter on the subject, published in another column, from the pen of Dr. Hurro Nath Roy of this city.

APROPOS of our remarks on the vernacular papers, we are glad to find that Babu Panchcowri Bannerjee, who has resigned the Editorship of the *Bangabasi*, has joined the staff of that growing and enterprising paper, the *Basumati*. Babu Panchcowri, we are told, has cut off connection with the *Bangabasi* because he had always to write, much against his will, against the Congress movement, to the necessity and usefulness of which the *Bangabasi* chooses to remain opposed. We hope that under him the *Basumati* will continue to rise higher and higher in popular estimation, and be a real power in the land. In this connection we cannot help referring to the practice of giving cartoons in season and out of season which has sprung up among the vernacular papers. Most of these cartoons are clumsily done and appear very objectionable to all sober-minded people. It is certainly not by such methods that the vernacular papers can ever hope to claim that authority and position which they can, in justice, look forward to. Our contemporaries should always remember that one should first deserve before he desires anything.

IN reviewing the trade of the N.-W. Provinces, the *Pioneer* makes certain remarks *anent* sugar which would go to prove how the foreign bounties are imperilling the indigenous sugar industry of India. This is what the *Pioneer* says:—"The consumption of sugar also rose from 32 seers 13 chattaks to 37 seers 5 chattaks which latter figure is 1 seers 5 chattaks in excess of the Government standard; but the unfortunate Indian producer would appear to be in no such good case, and the state of stagnation to which the native sugar refining industry has been reduced is very strikingly demonstrated in the largely decreased exports of refined sugar from the principal producing Division of the Provinces, Benares, as also from the Agra, Rohilkhand and Fyzabad Divisions. In the case of Benares exports fell by no less than 50 per cent, while imports also decreased by 25 per cent. Those who argue that the sugar industry of India is not being seriously imperilled by the foreign bounties have a good many stubborn facts to get over, and the above is probably one of them."

ON Feb. 1, Mrs. Bradlaugh-Bonner delivered an admirable speech at a crowded meeting of the "Bond of Union among Workers for the Common Good" in London, about India. Referring to the case of the Natu brothers, she said:—"The Sirdar Natu is the present-day Indian Dreyfus. In one respect the case of these brothers is worse than that of Dreyfus, for the Natus have never been allowed even the form of a trial—they were punished without any crime whatever being formally alleged. It may be quite right that they should be punished; I hold no brief for the Natus, but in common with every honest man and woman I do hold a brief for Justice; and I say that the English nation ought not to know an easy moment until these men are put upon their trial, and until this monstrous ordinance which puts such despotic, such terrible power into the hands of an English Viceroy be erased from the regulations for our Government of India." She then proceeded to speak of the Sedition Laws and the Press prosecutions. "Except in the case of the Mutiny, which was a rebellion of a peculiar character," she said, "we had no reason to look upon the Indians as a specially rebellious people." She then spoke of the insertion in the Code of section 124A and explained that until the disastrous murders of Mr. Rand and Lieutenant Ayerst this clause was purely ornamental. Then arrest after arrest was made, and the trials usually resulted in a verdict of "guilty" being pronounced by the judge, sometimes even in the teeth of a verdict of "not guilty" pronounced by the assessors; as for example in the case of Keshalkar and Harmolkar. Mrs. Bonner spoke with indignation of Mr. Justice Strachey's interpretation of the section—an interpretation upheld in appeal to the Privy Council of England. Now, she went on, "not only have we this special reading of sedition for India—a reading which if applied to England at the present day would involve putting on trial all Liberals, Radicals, Social Democrats, and vast multitudes, who are lacking in affection for our Government of the hour—not only have we this, but a new law for the suppression of sedition has been drawn up in England and imposed upon the Indian people." Having shown how much more oppressive the new law was than the old, Mrs. Bonner spoke of the horrible system of espionage established by the new Press Committees. Apart from the ethical question she thought the Government was taking a very blind and foolish course. If people have grievances, real or imaginary, they will talk of them; if they are not allowed to speak openly and freely they will whisper in secret. It is not in human nature, certainly not in Indian human nature, with its copious gift of language, to efface itself in silence. Speak people must, and the British Government is taking a terrible responsibility in closing all the natural avenues of speech.

THE *Mahratta* hints that the present Maharaja of Kolhapur is a puppet in the hands of the Resident. We are told that the Maharaja Shaheb has desired it to be understood by the public that he is not prepared to shift the responsibility of whatever may go amiss in his Government from his shoulders to those of the superior power that holds sway over him. Thus we see that the name of the Maharaja Shaheb has been associated, for the last two years, with oppressive Plague measures that are being enforced in the Kolhapur dominions in defiance of all manner of notifications and orders of universal application issued by the Bombay Government. But it is an open secret that the Maharaja has no independent authority; everything is done in his name, that is all. Others will govern his kingdom and he is to take on his shoulders the odium of their bad acts—that is the arrangement.

THE following sensational telegram has been sent by the Landi Kotal correspondent of the *Morning Post*, under date 1st March: Orders were received on Sunday night for the Scots Fusiliers to march to Peshawar on Tuesday morning. The 34th Pioneers were directed to take over their camp and stike their own. The Pioneers had done so, and were actually going into camp on the Fortified Serai, when the orders were countermanded on Monday morning. It is generally believed at Landi Kotal that the rumour about the Amir's death is true, and that the Khyber Brigade will march to Jellalabad during the course of the next few days. If His Highness is still living, there is strong evidence that he is in a precarious condition of health. Several noted Mahomedan hakims have recently passed through the Khyber on their way to Cabul to treat Abdurrahman, and messengers have arrived in great haste to summon more medical attendance. One of the most prominent members of the Amir's household has returned after a vain attempt to persuade the renowned hakim at Delhi to give the ruler of Afghanistan the benefit of his skill and advice.

INDIA has been described by an English historian to be an epitome of the world, and hence the indigenous drugs of India form a field of enquiry not only vast in extent but rich in results. Unhappily, however, the spirit of enquiry has come to languish among the Indians, so much so that we find many of the Kabirajes show an utter lack of knowledge in respect of many plants and herbs of which mention has been made in the works of the ancient Rishis. We are glad to notice, therefore, that Babu Hem Chandra Sen, M., D., Lecturer of Materia Medica in the Campbell Medical School, has taken up the subject. He is now engaged on an Anglo-sanskrit work on the indigenous drugs of India, which, we hope, will prove a welcome contribution to the medical literature. Dr. Hem Chander, though quite a young man still, has had a brilliant career at the Medical College and we are glad to find that his practice too is getting deservedly extensive. He is not only a successful physician and surgeon, but also a specialist in eye-diseases. It is superfluous to add that we will be very glad to hear of his growing success.

AN enquiry is being made into the charges against Lieutenant Lethbridge preferred by Mahomed Sheikh Fazal Ilahi at Rawalpindi. We learn the latter gentleman was summoned by the District Judge on two occasions and was examined with closed doors, no lawyer or member of the public being allowed to be present. Referring to this, the *Tribune* very pertinently observes: "This sort of inquiry appears to us absolutely unjustifiable under the circumstances, nor do we understand why such a length of time should have been allowed to elapse before the institution of the inquiry. There was no confidential inquiry against Sirdar Gurdial Singh and the inquiry against Raja Chitpal Singh is being openly made. The charges against Lieutenant Lethbridge are of another nature but he does not hold a position higher than these officers. The charges made by Sheikh Fazal Ilahi were contained in an affidavit sworn by him in the Chief Court of the Punjab and have been published in every important newspaper. Why should not the inquiry into those charges be made openly, when the charges were made in the most open manner possible? Supposing the present inquiry is considered a preliminary inquiry even then it should be followed by an open inquiry, since it is not clear how it can be properly avoided. As regards the charges brought by Sheikh Fazal Ilahi, the documents in his possession can be easily seen by any one and will conclusively prove whether the charges are well founded or not."

A NATURALIST tried the effect of music upon animals in a Zoo in London. Here is the result of his experience: "One day, after our experiments had taught us much about the kind of music likely to be most appreciated in the Zoo, we played to the eagles. The great birds proved willing listeners, and although they showed no excitement, and seemed to grow only more serious and sedate as the music progressed, it was very evident that they were nonetheless delighted. The carnivora, in their large outside enclosures, received us in different ways. The big lioness was lying at full length, in deep slumber, with her back turned towards us, but at the moment the musician began to play, she aroused herself suddenly in evident excitement. The bagpipes, of all the instruments the musician attempted, seemed to affect her most. At the first sound of the weird music, she came close up to the bars, in a half-crouching, half-frightened position, finally making a wild gallop round the enclosure as the music became wilder and shriller. The effect on the coyotes, at the sound of music, was marked and interesting. They ranged themselves in a semi-circle and sitting upon their haunches listened with the greatest attention. They kept perfectly still as long as the music lasted, and when it came to an end, they were evidently disappointed. One little coyote ran towards the musician, and pawed at him through the bars as if imploring him to continue. The snakes showed a distinct preference for the bagpipes, played softly, as in some way approaching the airs of the native Hindu. One of the cobras had evidently been through the performance in India, for he quickly uncoiled himself at the sound of the music, and, raising his head, spread out his "hood" in quite the orthodox fashion, swaying slightly from side to side as the music rose and fell.

HIS Highness has given permission to Mr Syed Ali Belgrami becoming a Fellow of the Madras University.

THE proposed Chief Court for Burma is now unlikely to come into being this year, as the legislation necessary for its creation has not yet been begun. The new Bench is likely to be made up of the Recorder of Rangoon, and the Judicial Commissioner of Lower Burma, associated with a Third Judge, who has still to be appointed, and who may be either a Barrister or a Civilian, probably the former. This arrangement will leave the Judicial Commissioner of Upper Burma at Mandalay, where his presence is required in connection with appeals from the more backward areas of the Northern Province.

THE historical Dargah Kalandar Sahib, near the city of Karnal, close to the Grand Trunk Road, was built by the Emperor Gyasuddin about five hundred and seventy years ago in memory of the celebrated Faqir Bu Ali Kalandar. The tomb is made of marble and decorated with sculpture and the enclosure contains a mosque and a reservoir with fountains built by Aurangzeb. The sage is supposed to have died at the age of hundred and twenty-two years. The inhabitants of Panipat, however, do not believe the Faqir was buried at Karnal and also have a large tomb in his memory. This tomb is said to have been erected by the sons of the Emperor Alauddin Ghori. The *Khadims* of the Dargah still receive from Government the grant of a land with an annual income of one thousand rupees. Formerly they received two thousand. The reduction is said to have been due to the discovery of a plot they had set up against Government during the Mutiny.

PARTICULARS were received at Madras on Thursday of the heavy defalcations in connection with which C. Ramalingam, head Shroff of the Colombo agency of the Bank of Madras, was arrested at Colombo on Saturday. They go to show that, if the facts are as represented, a most daring fraud has been committed by one of the oldest and most trusted of the bank's servants. The tracing of the defalcations by Mr. Tinson, the Chief Accountant, almost immediately after they were committed, appears to have been due to an accident. On the 17th ultimo Ramalingam, as usual, had shown Mr. Tinson his books and presented his weekly statement showing the various balances in hand. On the following day Mr. Tinson had occasion to call for this account again and discovered that a figure "1" in the lakh column had been altered after his inspection to the figure "4". This strengthened his previously aroused suspicions and he acquainted Mr. Dawson, the Manager, who after certain investigations telegraphed to Madras. Mr. Ker, Deputy Secretary and Treasurer of the Bank, thereupon went to Colombo and made further enquiry, the outcome of which was the arrest of Ramalingam. Mr. Ker has been joined by Mr. Greig, Inspector of Branches, and a patient investigation has been carried on resulting in the discovery of defalcations amounting to Rs. 4,18,000. Ramalingam stands charged with criminal breach of trust, forgery, uttering forged documents, and misappropriation. He joined the bank when the Colombo agency was first started upwards of 33 years ago and had always secured the highest consideration from his superiors and the confidence of the bank's consitituents.

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THE ADVOCATE GENERALSHIP.—Mr. L. Pugh will, it is understood, officiate as Advocate General of Bengal, when Sir Charles Paul proceeds on leave to England.

EDUCATIONAL.—Mr. A. C. Edwards, M. A., relieved Mr. Booth of the office of the Principal of the Presidency College on Tuesday. Mr. Booth left for Assam yesterday.

CHAMPARAN SESSIONS.—Under orders of the Bengal Government Sessions cases arising in the District Magistracy of Champaran, will henceforth be tried at Matihari.

PUNITIVE POLICE.—The Local Government has ordered the posting of punitive police at Gopalpur in Mymensing, for four months, the cost thereof being realised from the inhabitants of Konabari, Bagooata and Nandanpur.

THE CENTRAL RAILWAY SCHEME.—With reference to the proposed Central Railway for Calcutta, we understand that the Syndicate have received the support of practically the entire commercial body in their application to Government for the appointment of a representative Committee to consider the scheme.

NEW MAIL ARRANGEMENT.—The Postmaster-General of Bengal intends to make arrangement for carrying the Cuttack Parcel Mails by the B N. Railway from 1st April, 1899. At present the above mails are being carried from Calcutta to Cuttack and intermediate stations by the steamers belonging to the India General and Rivers Company, Limited, on a subsidy sanctioned by the Postal Department.

RIFLE-THEFT.—A daring robbery was committed at Dum-Dum on Tuesday night when three Lee-Metford rifles were stolen from the Sergeants' bunk between seven and nine No clue has been obtained. Six rifles in the bunk were all together. The thieves got in by smashing the venetian bolts of the rifles' safe in charge of a Non-commissioned officer, who, on being informed of the loss, reported the fact to the Officer Commanding the station and the civil police.

WEATHER AND CROP.—The weather during the week ending 27th ultimo was unsettled, and rain is reported to have fallen in some parts of Lower Bengal. The general agricultural prospects are favourable. The rabi harvest is proceeding. Poppy is in flower, and in some places lancing and collection operations have begun. Transplantation of spring rice is still going on, and ploughing for autumn rice and jute is in progress. Cattle are generally in good condition, but some disease among them is still reported from certain districts. Fodder-supply is generally sufficient. The price of common rice shows a slight rise in some districts, but is generally stationary.

CLERKSHIP EXAMINATION.—Here are the names, in order of merit, of the 20 successful candidates in the above examination:—Debendra Nath Mitra, Benode Behari Chatterjee, Harilal Mukherjee, Probhas Chundra Mookherjee, Gostha Behari Dass, Bepin Behari Sen Gupta, Bejoy Krishna Sanyal, A. J. Mendes, Saris Chunder Banerjee, Satkari Mukherjee, Uma Charan Pal, Thakurdas Nandah, Fozl Karim, Jagamohan Lal, Jnanendra Nath Sur, Hari Dass Dutt, Satis Chundra Mukherjee, Richard Mendeta, Manmatha Nath Sen, Upendra Nath Bhaduri, Syyed Ali Shah, Jnanendra Nath Sen, Auckland C. Wilson, Upendra Nath Patwari, Bankim Chunder Chatterjee, Hari Narayen De, Abinash Chunder Roy, Siva Prosad and Mongal Sen.

BETHUNE COLLEGE.—The annual distribution of prizes to the successful pupils of the Bethune College came off last evening. Her Excellency Lady Curzon gave away the prizes and Sir Francis Maclean, in the absence of His Honor Sir John Woodburn, presided. There was a very large and influential gathering. Her Excellency, on account of the indifferent health she has been keeping for some time, came half an hour after the proceedings had commenced. There were songs pretty and plenty, and some recitations, and representations both in English and Bengali which were highly appreciated by the audience. The Secretary, Mr. J. Ghosal read the annual report. Her Excellency then distributed the prizes. Sir Francis next addressed the meeting very briefly. A vote of thanks was carried with acclamation, and with three cheers for Her Excellency the proceedings came to a close.

THE OIL-SEEDS CROP.—From the first forecast of the oilseeds crop, we learn that the normal area under all kinds of oilseeds is now estimated at 4,079,500 acres against 4,004,900 acres estimated in the final report of the oilseed crops last year. The out-turn is likely to be much better than of last year. In 30 districts, the crops are reported to be better than those of last year, in eight equal and in seven only less, viz., Bankura, Rangpur, Dacca, Chittagong, Sonthal Parganas, Angul and Khandamals and Manbhum. Six districts, viz. Gaya, Saran, Champaran, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, and Manbhum show crops above the normal; 14 districts estimate normal crops of 100 per cent., and in the other districts, Chittagong (50 per cent.) excepted, the crops are estimated as varying from 72 to 98 per cent. It is anticipated that the crop will not for very short of a normal crop. It may now be estimated at 95 per cent. against 86 per cent., the estimate for the crop of last year.

LOAVES AND FISHES OF OFFICE.—The Calcutta Stationery Office, writes a correspondent, will see a number of changes in a short time. Mr. H. B. St. Leger will soon go away and Mr. Gayer will take his place. Very little is known of Mr. Gayer at present except that he has been Private Secretary to two Lieutenant-Governors. Mr. Abdul Jubber once acted as Superintendent. The post of the Stationery Store Examiner is vacant through Mr. Donnithorne's death. This post is one of great trust, for it is on the recommendations of the Store Examiner that the annual contracts are settled, and it is the Store Examiner who alone can pass or reject a lot tendered by a contractor. Ever since its creation Mr. Donnithorne held the post and there is no doubt that he held it with much credit. When he went on his last leave, from which he was never to return, Mr. Beames at once appointed Mr. D'Cruz, but the Board of Revenue objected and at last agreed to allow him to officiate on the understanding that he would have no claim to the post should it become vacant. The opinion in the Stationery Office is that a white man is better for the post than a native, unless he is well-connected and well educated. The pay of the post being Rs. 250 per mensem respectable natives may offer themselves as candidates, provided it is thrown open to them.

FROGS IN ROCK.—Mr. F. Gibbons of Stourbridges writes to *Nature Notes*:—I have often heard stories of frogs being found embedded in rocks, and I have always been very sceptical about their truth; but I have just had an experience, that seems to throw some light on the question. We were sinking a shaft in our clay working, for getting clay for making encaustic tiles, and had to go through some rock. She men came across some frogs embedded alive therein. They were in pockets or holes of about three inches diameter, and I have portions of these domiciles quite smooth and round on the inside. The frogs were much smaller than they would have been in the normal state, not more than a quarter full size, and of a bright yellow colour. The rock was about fifteen feet below the ground level. Now I have an idea that the frogs are of quite recent production. Over the place where the shaft was sunk there was a pool of water last spring, and it no doubt contained tadpoles, and I think they found their way, when very young, down through the fine fissures (of which there were many) in the rock until they either found, or made, the chambers they inhabited, though how they got food is a mystery. I understand that fogs can imbibe through their skins double their weight of water. Is it not possible that they may abstract a small amount of nutriment from the organic matter contained in the water? Is it not also possible that they may excrete an acid from the skin that may have the power of dissolving the rock and so make the cavity? I have noticed that there is frequently a pool of water in quarries in the spring, when frogs spawn, and think it more than likely that that explains the mystery belonging to the stories that are so universal about this subject. But, on the other hand, it is strange that we found casts, or fossil deposits, of old holes of about the same size as previously mentioned, which would seem to point to the idea of frogs having lived under similar circumstances a great number of years ago, the holes being gradually filled up when they died. I have broken one or two through, but could find no trace of anything resembling the skeleton of a frog.

Plague News.

THERE were six cases of suspected plague reported in Calcutta on Wednesday, and three deaths, bringing the total deaths from this cause up to 228. The deaths from all causes numbered 72, compared with 78, the averags of the last five years.

THURSDAY'S plague return for Karachi showe further increase in numbers and spread of plague—cases 14, deaths 7.

THURSDAY'S plague returns for Bombay gives 148 cases and 132 deaths; the total mortality being 334. Last year there were 151 cases and 169 deaths, and a total mortality of 280.

WHILE giving evidence in the Bombay Police Court on Thursday, in an assault case, a Hindoo, aged twenty five, was found to be suffering from plague. The Magistrate ordered his removal to hospital, but before he could leave the Court premises, he fell dead. It was at first thought that he had taken a drop too much.

MR ANDERSON, barrister-at law, Bombay, has been engaged by the Goverment to conduct the prosecution in the Dravid murder case, which commenced yesterday at the Poona Sessions, while Mr. B. Master, a local pleader, has been engaged by Government to defend the accused.

THERE says the *Deccan Post*, seems to be a dispute with regard to the Aurangabad Water Works. The Government pay an annual maintenance sum towards the repairs of these works but the water supply is mainly used by the Cantonments, and the City derives no benefit. The Nizam's Government have called upon the Resident to ask the military authorities either to give over the water to the Aurangabad local Fund Committee, along with the tax which they levy on all houses, or to pay the maintenance charges given by the Government. This seems nothing but fair, and we hope the Government may be successful in obtaining their request.

IN reference to the recent developments at Muscat, a correspondent writes to the *Times of India* that the text of the conditions imposed on the Sultan is kept secret, and it is surmised that they deal not only with the question of granting harbours to foreign powers in Oman territory, but also with the slave trade which is being carried on by dhows flying the French flag. Admiral Douglas having secured the treaty which had been drawn up between the French and the Sultan placed it in the hands of British Resident, to whom afterwards the conditions he had insisted upon were submitted. Great doubt seems to exist, however, as to this treaty with France. There appears to be a vague idea that the document now in the possession of the British does not contain all the terms arranged between His Highness and the French.

A RAJSHAHYE MURDER CASE.

THREE PERSONS SENTENCED TO DEATH.

HIGH COURT PASSES SEVERE REMARK.

JUSTICES Prinsep and Stanley disposed yesterday of a murder appeal from Rajshahye in which three persons, Bepin Manjhi, Gayanath Manjhi and Uma Churn Manjhi, had been sentenced to death by Mr. A. F. Steinberg, Sessions Judge, for the murder of one Prahlad Paramanik.

Mr. P. L. Roy with Babu Dasarathi Sanyal appeared for the appellants, and Babu Lal Mohan Das, Government pleader, for the Crown

The facts of the case which are fully given below in the judgment of their Lordships went to show that the deceased had been entrusted with a certain sum of money in notes by his master, that when he did not come back from the place where he had been sent to cash the notes a charge of criminal breach of trust was entered against him, and that afterwards it was suspected that he had been murdered, but that his body was never found. Under these circumstances Mr. Roy citing the sensational case of Iswar Napit of Howrah, in which Mr. Jackson appeared, pointed out to their Lordships the risk of sending a man—here three men—to the gallows when there was no knowing whether the so-called deceased had actually been killed or that he was still living. Mr. Roy said in that Iswar Napit's case the man had been charged with the murder of his own daughter and he was on the point of being convicted, when, to the utter surprise of all in court, the supposed murdered daughter, whose skull the police had produced as a strong piece of evidence against the accused, turned up in court in flesh and blood. Counsel cited two other cases of similar nature in England and submitted, citing in support the remarks of a well-known Englisn Judge, that where the dead-body had not been found it was always unsafe to pass extreme sentence on the accused. Mr. Roy also strongly commented on the most inconsistent attitude adopted by the Sessions Judge in this case.

Their Lordships after hearing both sides delivered the following judgment:—

The difficulties which have arisen in this case have been caused entirely by the manner in which the proceedings have been held by the Sessions Judge. The prisoners were charged with the murder of one Prahlad and also with robbery of property of which he was possessed and other offences which it is unnecessary here to consider. The Jury, contrary to the opinion expressed by the Sessions Judge in his charge to them, unanimously convicted the accused of murder and thereupon the Judge who advised them not to convict of murder but rather of robbery, accepted this verdict and sentenced the prisoners to death subject to the order of confirmation by this Court adding:—"Though I think that the said accused should have had the benefit of the doubt as to the charge of murder." The Sessions Judge has thus imposed upon us a great responsibility which was contrary to his own opinion as the presiding Judge at the trial. There are faults to be found moreover in the manner in which the case was laid before the jury There was no intelligible narrative of facts and no laying before the Jury for their consideration of that part of the case which contained the suggestion that Prohlad, whose body has not been recovered and who is not forthcoming, has absconded with a large sum of money belonging to his employer. The Sessions Judge expressed himself thus:—"If I were the counsel for the accused, as in a way I am, I would not ask you to disbelieve this evidence." Now, it was perfectly incumbent on the Sessions Judge to express his own opinion regarding any portion of the evidence, so long as he left it to the Jury distinctly to understand that they were to express their own independent opinion regarding the same. It was obviously improper for the Sessions Judge, while professing to act as on behalf of the prisoners, to invite the jury to express an opinion contrary to a view of the evidence which might be suggested on their behalf. We have, as we are bound to do in a case of this description to consider the entire evidence and form our own opinion on the facts of the case.

The case for the prosecution is that one Prohlad, who was a servant of Okhoy Monda, was entrusted with a large sum of money, about Rs. 4,600 in notes which he took to change at a place at some little distance. He is said by his master and by others to be a man deserving of every confidence and to have been on other occasions entrusted with large sums of money which he faithfully accounted for. There was therefore nothing against his character which would lead one to suppose that he had abscouded with this sum of money. On the other hand we have evidence to show that he went in a boat in company with those prisoners to Dubulhati for the purpose of changing the notes into cash and there is evidence also which leaves no doubt that he did receive cash in exchange for these notes and returned to the boat. Beyond that, the evidence is wanting except so far as is supplied by the evidence of Nobodwip who is an approver in this case and was one of the men in his company. He has never since been seen alive, though enquiries have been made at his house and other places where he was likely to be found. Suspicion apparently fell on the prisoners, because they were known to have gone away in company with the deceased Prohlad in a boat which the prisoners are said to have hired from one Rasick, and, after considerable search at a place some distance off, these men were discovered together and were arrested by the Police. Owing to information given by one of them, Nabadwip, who was the youngest—he is entered in the records as being 20 years of age—the Police obtained from his father a bag of rupees, a few rupees short of Rs. 1000, which Nobadwip states that he received as his share of the money which was found with Prohlad after the other prisoners had kiled him in the boat and thrown his body overboard together with various articles of property belonging to him. Corroboration is afforded by the evidence of Nobodwip's father, Krista Majnhi, also states that he received that money, that when he was given this by his son, Nobodwip, the prisoners were present possessed of other bags of money and that when he asked as to where this money come from, the prisoner Bepin said: "Wherever it came from keep it and I will tell you afterwards." On demand of the police he produced this money which had been given him. There is some other evidence tending to show the production of the sum of Rs. 638 by Bhaga Ram who is said to be father of the prisoner Uma Charan Manjhi. But Bhaga Ram has not been examined, and there is absolutey nothing to show whence Bhaga Ram obtained this money or to connect it with the money which is said to have been taken from the deceased Prohlad. There is also some evidence to show that the prisoners when arrested had altered their personal appearance, and in this respect there is no reason why this evidence should not be accepted. But in regard to the evidence that has been offered regarding the alteration said to have been made in the boat for the purpose of disguising it, it might be observed that the owner of the boat to whom it was returned did not say anything on this subject. So it is better to put this evidence aside. The case therefore rests upon the facts that the prisoners were last seen in the company of the deceased Prohlad, that one of the company Nobodwip. who has given evidence on conditional pardon, has stated that the prisoners in his presence killed Prohlad and threw his body in the river and that he received Rs. 1,000 as his portion of the stolen property. There is corroboration of this in the evidence of his father who has produced the amount given to him by Nobodwip in the presence of the prisoners and there is other corroboration, so far as the evidence goes, in the fact that the prisoners were found as having altered their appearances so as to lead one to believe that they were attemting to disguise themselves. In these circumstances we are of opinion that the Jury have rightly convicted the prisoners of murder under section 302, I. P. C. But at the same time we cannot concur with the Sessions Judge that this is a case in which the extreme sentence of law should be passed. We accordingly direct that the appellants be sentenced to transportation for life and their appeal be dismissed.

THE DRAVID MURDERS.

THE SESSIONS TRIAL.

POONA, MARCH 2nd.

THE case against Wasudeo Chapekar, M. V. Ranade, and Sathe, for the murders of Ramchander Dravid and Gunpatrao Dravid on the night of the 8th ultimo, commenced to-day before the Honorable Mr. Justice Crowe and a jury. Messrs. Daver and Kirtani, barristers-at-law, instructed by Mr. Lele, appeared for the accused Sathe; Mr. Jennah, instructed by Mr. Cutchley, appeared for Ranade; and Mr. Bomonji Master, local pleader, for Wasudeo Chapekar; while Mr. Anderson, barrister-at-law, appeared for the Crown. The jury was comprised of one European, one Parsi, and three native gentlemen. The charge was first read out to Wasudeo for having murdered the Dravid brothers on the 8th ultimo: he pleaded "guilty." Ranade also pleaded "guilty." Sathe pleaded "not guilty" to all the charges. In opening the proceedings Mr. Anderson addressed the jury at some length, explaining the charges alluded to, the circumstances which led to the murder of the Dravid brothers, how they had conspired to kill the chief constable Ramjee Pandoo, and had joined in the conspiracy to murder Mr. Rand. The first witness examined was Ramchander Krishn, Suboverseer, Public Works Department, Poona, who deposed to having made the plan in connection with the case. Wamon Naghoji, head-constable, City Police, deposed to having proceeded to the scene of the murders on the night of tha 8th ultimo, and helped to remove the bodies to hospital; the following morning he went to the spot again where he found a bullet, which shot Ganesh Dravid with a piece of bone in it. Gunoo Sonoo and Sheik Hoosen, police constables deposed to having removed the bodies to the Sassoon Hospital from the scene of the occurrence. Surgeon-Captain Charles Easdon, House Surgeon, Sassoon Hospital, described the nature of the wounds on the Brothers Dravid. Witness was present when the Dravid brothers made statements to the City Mamlatdar at the hospital on the same night. Mohonirajeeknath, City Mamlatdar, deposed to having recorded the dying depositions of the Dravid brothers at the Sassoon Hospital on the night of the 8th February. Dr. Sabnis, Assistant House Surgeon, Sassoon Hospital, gave the result of the *post mortem* examinations he had made on the bodies of the Brothers Dravid. Mr. F. H. Carvalho, City Magistrate, Poona, was the next witness examined. He deposed to having correctly recorded Wasudeo's confession on the evening of the 10th ult mo. Witness said it was made voluntarily, and that Wasudeo appeared anxious to make it. The confession was then read out to the jury. On the same evening Ranade also made a voluntary confession, which he recorded correctly. He got Ranade to sign it. The confession was then read to the jury. On the following evening Sathe also made a certain statement which witness considered to be voluntary. This confession was then read out. Witness identified certain weapons, which had been stated by the accused to have been used in the murders. At this stage the Court adjourned for tiffin.—*I. D. News.*

THE graceful gazelle (*chikara*) and antelopes are abundantly found in the Mukteswar and Moga Tahsils of the Ferozepur district.

THE Simla Municipality have applied to Government for further loan of a lakh and-a-half of rupees for the completion of the Waterworks.

DEATH is announced in London on Saturday last of Mr. Merwanji Rustomji, a wealthy Parsi broker of Bombay. The deceased gentleman went, a few months ago, to England with his family for a change and relaxation He was the only native of India who was permitted to give evidence before the Currency Committee, not because he was an expert, but because he had considerable experience of the business transacted by the exchange banks in Bombay. Mr Merwanji's death was altogether sudden

SOME time ago, says the "Madras Mail," we noted that the Madras Government had determined to try Madras cement against English cements of the highest quality sent out by the Secretary of State. We now learn that after prolonged test and trials, a circular has been issued to the D. P. W. to the effect that the test of cement made by the Consulting Architect showed that Madras cement has attained a sufficiently high standard to that commonly used in the Department. Its use in the Department is, therefore, sanctioned and recommended.

Telegrams.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, FEB. 28

The Victoria Cross has been conferred upon Captain Hope Ruthven for his action at Ghedaref on the 22nd of September last.

LONDON, FEB. 28.

His Holiness the Pope suffered to-day from a prolonged swoon, and has been ordered to bed, absolute repose being enjoined.

LONDON, FEB. 28.

A mob of 200 Chinese have attacked the Railway works at Paoting Fu, on the Pekin-Hankan Railway, and destroyed much material.

LONDON FEB. 28.

The German men-of-war now at Manila are probably going to China consequent upon the outrage on Germans in Tientsin. Herr von Buelow, German Foreign Minister, in a speech in Reichstag said that unless the culprits were severely punished, or if the outrage was repeated, China would incur grave consequences. Referring to the Anglo-German agreement, Herr von Buelow said it deals rather with furture contingencies than actualities.

The P. and O. steamship Britannia has lef Melbourne with £175,000 in gold for India.

LONDON, MAR. 1.

The English Church Union has decided to memorialise the Queen, the Archbishops, the Bishops, and both Houses of Parliament denying the right of the Crown or Parliament to determine the "doctrine, discipline, and ceremenial of the Church of England." The Union further declares that it is not prepared to barter the principles of the Church for establishment or endowment.

LONDON, MAR. 2.

At eleven o'clock last night Rudyard Kipling's condition was unchanged.

A bulletin issued this morning announces that the Pope is somewhat better.

LONDON, MAR. 1.

A large cyst has been excised from the Pope's thigh without placing the patient under chloroform, and slight fever has followed upon the operation, but His Holiness is doing well.

LONDON, MAR. 1.

Lord Herschell died suddenly to-day in Washington.

LONDON, MAR. 1.

The French Senate has passed the Bill referring the Dreyfus revision proceedings to the united sections of the Court of Cassation by 158 to 131 votes.

LONDON, MAR. 1.

The Sagasta Cabinet has resigned, owing to meeting with violent opposition in the Spanish Cortes.

LONDON, MAR. 1.

Italy has demanded from China the lease of Sanmun Bay, south of Mingpo.

LONDON, MAR. 1.

Hu Yu Fen, Director of the Northern Chinese Railways, whose removal from office was opposed by Sir Glaude Macdonald, British Minister at Pekin, has been acquitted of the charges of mal-administration.

LONDON, MAR. 1.

The Second Chamber of the Dutch Legislature has passed a Bill placing Japanese upon a footing with Europeans in the Dutch East Indies.

LONDON, MAR. 1.

Sir Edward Sassoon, Conservative, has been elected member for Hythe by 2,425 votes against 1,898 polled by Sir Israel Hart, Liberal candidate, and replaces General Sir James Edwards, who has resigned his seat.

LONDON, MAR. 2.

It is believed that Great Britain has approved of the Italian demand for the lease of Sanmun Bay.

In the House of Commons to-day, Mr. Brodrick, replying to questions about the Russian protest against the terms of the Newchwang Railway loan, said the British Government regards the engagements of China in connection therewith as binding.

LONDON, MAR. 2.

The Pope is improving, but he is still suffering from slight fever.

LONDON, MAR. 2.

The Indian Budget will be taken in the House of Commons on the 20th instant.

LONDON, MAR. 2.

It is understood that the Government intends to confer a decoration upon the Egyptian troops for their services at Atbara and Omdurman.

LONDON, MAR. 2.

Mr. Wyndham, Under-Secretary for war, in introducing the Army Estimates in the House of Commons, described minutely the successful execution of the programme of last year. The country must face the fact that the new burdens of Empire placed additional burdens upon the Army. Mr. Wyndham added that the Colonial troops, including the force for Wei-hai-Wei, now number 31,991

LONDON, MAR. 3

IT is anticipated that the French Government intends to prosecute the various Leagues which have recently been formed, with a view to their suppression on the ground of illegality.

LONDON, MAR. 3.

It is announced that the crisis in Kipling's illness has passed, and there is no further danger.

THE charges of bribery and extortion brought against the Naib-Tahsildar of Bareilly have proved to be unfounded and he has cleared himself before the authorities.

THE Secretary of State for India is said to have vetoed the appointment of Mr. Michell, Chief Judge, Madras Small Cause Court, to the High Court, on Mr. Justice Shephard's furlough, on the ground that it is against the Secretary of States' despatch, which prevents the fresh appointment of the Sixth Judge on a vacancy occurring among the six Judges.

THE Nizam's Government have applied to the Resident for the sanction of the Government of India to the appointment of Mr. Hugt Wright, son of Mr. F. Wright, late Officiating Inspector General of the Berar Police, and brother of Mr G. Wright, District Superintendent of Police, Secunderabad, as an Assistant to Mr. A. H. Stevens, Deputy Plague Commissioner. Mr. Hugh Wright is to be appointed on a salary of Rs. 300 with Rs. 3 per diem as bhatta.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

TELEGRAMS.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

THE MOHANPUR TEA-GARDEN CASE.

MR. ROSS IN COURT.

CASE TRANSFERRED.

HAILAKANDI, MARCH 2.

FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The enquiry into the charges against Mr. Ross, Manager of the Mohanpur Tea-Garden, of having shot too villagers, one of whom died in hospital, came on for hearing yesterday before Captain Herbert, the Deputy Commissioner.

The Court was cowded with Europeans and natives, the case having evidently created a great sensation. Great interest was evinced in the proceedings by the assembled people. An application was made on behalf of the complainant for one month's postponement, on the ground that he had but one day's notice that the case would come up for hearing on Wednesday. The defence strongly objected; and the Deputy Commissioner granted only one day's adjournment.

2ND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Another application was made yesterday by the complainant for retaining the Government Pleader for the defence; but it was rejected.

On the Court resuming the enquiry to-day, the complainant again applied for one month's postponement in order to move the High Court for a transfer, as local pleaders had declined to accept the case at such short notice.

Captain Herbert enquired of the pleaders if this was so, and on their corroborating the statement of the complainant, the case was transferred to Silchar, to be heard there on the 21st instant.

As on the first day there was a large crowd of Indians and many Europeans present to-day in Court.

A DISCLAIMER.

(*From another correspondent.*)

HALAKANDI, MARCH 2.

The Mohanpur Tea-garden case has been adjourned till the 21st instant. The case will be taken up at Silchar.

New bail has again been taken from the *busti* people in the counter case brought by Mr. Ross; but Mr. Ross has been allowed to remain on the same bail.

The *Englishman's* version that Mr. Ross's revolver went off while the *busti* people struck him on the arm is inaccurate as his letter to the Magistrate was to the effect that he had drawn out his revolver and believed that one man had been shot. The *Englishman's* statement that there is a dispute about the land is also inaccurate. The land belongs to the *busti* people.

ASIATYCISO OFTECI BENGAL.

THE monthly general meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bengal was held in the Society's rooms on Wednesday, March 1. Colonel T. H. Hendley, C. I. E., I. M. S., Vice-President, in the chair. Major A. Alcock, I. M. S, Superintendent, Indian Museum, Calcutta, exhibited an interesting instance of commensalism between a fish and a zoophyte. The fish in question, Major Alcock remarked was dredged from a very great depth in the Bay of Bengal. The fish is blind having no use for eyes as in the profound, depths of the sea no light penetrates, and it is covered with a zoophyte, which in appearance is similar to a mass of small sea-weed. This commensalism is of mutual benefit, as the fish is a gainer by the presence of the zoophyte on its surface, as the latter helps to hide the fish among the sea-weed growing at the bottom of the sea, so enabling it the easier to obtain the prey upon which it lives. The zoophyte is also a gainer, as being itself unable to move about (such animals being usually attached permanently to rocks, &c.), the fish carries it about wherever it goes, and so the zoophyte is enabled to easily obtain the food on which it lives. Commensalism is of quite a different nature to parasitism, the former is a state in which both are mutually benefitted, while the latter is a state in which the parasite lives at the expense of the host to which it is attached Major Alcock also exhibited some models in clay attached to boards and carefully painted to resemble the live objects of some typical deep-sea fishes made by native artists for the Indian Museum. The first example shewn was a deep sea fish dredged from a great depth which is wholly blind. The second was a fish also from a considerable depth, but which has very large eyes. The use of sight in this animal is only apparent when it is known that although it lives at a depth at which there is no light, it manufactures its own, the whole of its head being luminous, so it is able to see its way about and to seize its prey. The third example was a torpedo fish which has luminous spots all round its body. Mr. F. Finn exhibited three live specimens kindly lent by Mr. Rutedge, the dealer in wild animals of Entally, who is well-known, and some skins of certain rare ducks obtained this season in the Calcutta market, and drew attention to the fact that there has been a small immigration of the bronze-capped teal into Bengal during the last year or two from China, the records of the occurrence of this duck in Eastern India being hitherto exceeding scanty. A paper was then read on a new copper-plate inscription of Madanapala from Dinajpur by N. N. Vasu. Mr. Finn in the absence of the author read a paper entitled "Notes on the Fauna of the Gilgit District," by Major A. H. Mahon, C. S. I., &c., and exhibited some specimens, a falcon and a marten, Mr. Finn remarking that the latter was domesticated by the Romans in much the same way as cats now are in Europe, and elsewhere; the domestic cat being later introduction to nome life.

An Editor Finds a Sure Cure for Rheumatism.

A. R. De Fluent, editor of the *Journal*, Doylestown, Ohio, suffered for a number of years from rheumatism in his right shoulder and side. He says. "My right arm at times was entirely useless. I tried Chamberlain's Pain Balm, and was surprised to receive relief almost immediately. The Pain Balm has been a constant companion of mine ever since and it never fails." For sale by SMITH STANISTREET & CO. and K. PAUL & CO.

THE SUPREME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A MEETING of the Council was held on Friday at Government House. His Excellency Baron Curzon of Kedleston, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, presided and there were present. His Honor Sir John Woodburn, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, His Excellency General Sir W. S. A. Lockhart, Commander-in-Chief in India, the Hon'ble Sir J. Westland, the Hon'ble Mr. M. D. Chalmers, the Hon'ble Major General Sir E. H. H. Collen, the Hon'ble Sir A. C. Trevor, the Hon'ble Mr. C. M. Rivaz, the Hon'ble M. R. Ananda Charlu, the Hon'ble Sir G. H. P. Evans, the Hon'ble Mr. J. D. LaTouche, the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit Suraj Kaul, the Hon'ble Mr. Gangadhar Rao Madhav Chitnavis, the Hon'ble Mr. Allan Arthur, the Hon'ble Mr. P. M. Mehta, the Hon'ble Nawab Mumtaz-ud-daula Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan, the Hon'ble Mr. J. K. Spence, the Hon'ble Mr. G. Toynbee, the Hon'ble Mr. D. M. Smeaton, the Hon'ble Mr. J. D. Rees, and the Hon'ble Maharaja Rameshwar Singh Bahadur of Darbhanga.

BANKRUPTCY BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers moved that the Hon'ble Messrs. Rees, Arthur, Mehta and himself be added to the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the law relating to bankruptcy and insolvency in British India.

The motion was agreed to.

COURT-FEES BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. Rivaz presented the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Court-fees Act, 1870.

THE ARBITRATION BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers moved that the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the law relating to arbitration be taken into consideration. He said that the Bill had been on English principles. It would be in force at first in the Presidency towns and the town of Rangoon. Then it might be extended to other large cities if thought necessary by the local government concerned with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council.

The Hon'ble Mr. Toynbee supported the measure.

The motion for taking the report into consideration was then agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans moved the following amendments one by one.

1. That for the first paragraph of clause 3 of the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, the following be substituted, namely:—

"3. The last thirty-seven words of section 21 of the Specific Relief Act, 1877, and sections 523 to 526 of the Code of Civil Procedure shall not apply to any submission or arbitration to which the provisions of this Act for the time being apply."

2. That after the proviso to cause 3 of the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, the following proviso be added, namely:—

"Provided, also, that nothing in this Act shall affect the provisions of the Indian Companies Act 1882, relating to arbitration."

3. That after clause 18 of the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, the following clause be added as clause 19 (the remaining clauses being consequentially re-numbered), namely:—

"19. Where any party to a submission to which this Act applies, or any person claiming under him, commences any legal proceedings against any other party to the submission or any person claiming under him in respect of any matter agreed to be referred, any party to such legal proceedings may, at any time after appearance and before filing a written statement or taking any other steps in the proceedings, apply to the Court to stay the proceedings, and the Court, if satisfied that there is no sufficient reason why the matter should not be referred in accordance with the submission and that the applicant was, at the time when the proceedings were commenced, and still remains ready and willing to do all things necessary to the proper conduct of the arbitration, may make an order staying the proceedings."

The Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers accepted all the above amendments and they being put to the vote were carried.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ananda Charlu moved:

That in clause 19 of the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, the following sub clause be inserted after sub-clause (*b*) (the remaining sub-clause being consequentially re-lettered), namely:—

"(*c*) compelling the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents before aribitrators and umpires."

The Hon'ble member made a lengthy speech in support of the amendment.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers opposed the principle of the amendment. It was true the Hon'ble member himself had not much experience of India, but in the opinion of men who possessed the necessary experience, this provision, if adopted, would be a source of delay, expense and vexation. He did not think there was any ground for the change in the law in the way indicated by his hon'ble friend. As the law stood there was no power for compelling attendance of witnesses before arbitrators, but as experience showed practically no difficulty had arisen in obtaining necessary evidence.

The Hon'ble Mr. Allan Arthur said that he had some experience of arbitration in commercial cases at Calcutta and at Bombay, but he did not recollect more than one case in which witnesses were required and there was no difficulty in getting the witnesses. Similar was the experience of the Secretary of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. Accordingly in the light of experience thus gained the hon'ble member thought that it was not desirable to give to arbitrators this power. If this power were given to arbitrators it would defeat the very object of the Bill and proceedings before arbitrators would be equally lengthy as before the Courts.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu said that his experience at least was quite at variance with that of the Hon'ble Mr. Arthur. He knew of many instances where the arbitrators required witnesses to clearly explain certain points.

The amendment was then put and lost.

Another amendment to the effect that proceedings before an arbitrator would be deemed a judicial proceeding within the meaning of the Indian Penal Code, which stood against the name of the Hon'ble Mr. Charlu, was withdrawn by him.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers moved as an amendment that for sub-section (2) of clause 22 of the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, the following be subtituted, namely:—

"(2) For the purposes of this Act, the local limits aforesaid shall be deemed to be a Presidency-town and the Recorder of Rangoon shall have all the powers of a High Court."

The amendment was carried.

The Bill, as amended, was then passed.

THE CARRIERS BILL.

On the motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers the Bill to amend the law relating to Carriers, the report of the Select Committee of which was taken into consideration, was passed into law.

THE CURRENCY NOTE FORGERY BILL.

The Hon'ble Sir James Westland presented the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the law relating to the forgery of currency-notes and bank-notes.

The Council was then adjourned for a week.

MR. HARRINGTON, Engineer-in-Chief of the Kalka-Simla Railway, will arrive in India this month. It is unlikely that the construction of the line will be undertaken this summer, as detailed surveys have yet to be made.

THE Ceylon Fishing Club is about to make an effort to import rainbow trout and the ordinary trout from New Zealand, as well as to get perch from England.

Law Intelligence.

HIGH COURT: CRIMINAL BENCH —MARCH. 2.

(*Before Justices Prinsep and Stanley.*)

A MUTUAL FUND CASE.

DIRECTOR AND CASHIER CONVICTED.

SIR GRIFFITH EVANS with Babu Dasarathi Sanyal moved on behalf of Umanath Ghose and Kedarnath Ghose for the admission of an appeal from the decision of the Officiating Sessions Judge of Faridpur who convicted the second appellant of criminal breach of trust and the first appellant of abetment of the same in respect of three distinct amount and sentenced the first appellant to six months' and the second to eighteen months' imprisonment. The facts of the case as stated by the Sessions Judge are as follows: About three years ago, on the 5th Magh 1302, the "Solakari Paribaric Shahajya Company, Limited" was established with the avowed object of giving to the subscribing members a bonus for the purpose of repaying debts, defraying the expenses of marriage and erecting tin houses. The subscription of first class members was fixed at Rs. 2 per month and of the second class members at Re. 1 a month, and both classes of subcribers could be either yearly or six monthly. A perliminary fee of Rs. 2 was required for enrolment for all classes. A first class yearly member had therefore to pay Rs. 26 in all, and six-monthly or second class members had to pay, besides the fixed entrance-fee of Rs. 2, in proportion. A set of rules was approved on the 8th Magh, got printed, and circulated as a sort of advertisement. By the 31st Bysack following (1303) 225 members had been enrolled and steps were taken to get the Company registered according to law. On the 12th June, 1896, the Articles of Association and Memorandum of Association were filed before and Registrar by the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies. Collection of subcriptions began from the end of Joista 1303. The first half-yearly general meeting of shareholders was held on the 2nd Agrahayan at which some modification was made as regards the amount of bonus to be paid to a subscribing member. At the rate thus fixed bonuses began to be paid from the next day. The first general annual meeting was held on the 22nd Bysak 1304, at which the rate of bonus was fixed at Rs. 60 for first class yearly members, and at proportionate amounts for the other classes. Realisation of subscriptions began to fall off very early, and on the 29th Aswin 1304, within five months of the first annual meeting, the Company ceased to transact business and stopped all payments of bonuses. Prosecutions for cheating and criminal misappropriation followed within a short time, with the result that Umanath Ghose (one of the Directors and Secretary) and Kedarnath Ghose (one of the Directors and Cashier) were committed to the Court of Sessions on the 30th March last, Out of several instances of alleged misappropriation the prosecution elected to proceed on three. The first in order of time was misappropriation of a sum of Rs. 30, on the 8th January 1897, by the second appellant, the cashier, in his own name, the second and third instances took place on the 20th May, 1897, the amount in each case being Rs. 27-12 taken by the cashier in the name of his brother Jodunath Ghose and of Prosonno Kumar Goswami, an agent of the Company. The first appellant was charged with abetment. The assessor were unanimous in finding the accused guilty and the Sessions Judge agreeing with them convicted and sentenced them as stated.

Sir Griffith condemned the proceedings as very irregular. The proceedings were instituted before a Deputy Magistrate of Pubna, but Mr. Radice, the District Magistrate, took the cases into his file and committed the case to the Sessions, although no regular complaint had been made in the case. Mr. Radice's proceedings Counsel characterised as monstrous, and he hoped that the whole proceedings, which were systematically irregular, should be set aside. Counsel also contended that the proper course to follow in a case like this would be to take action under the Company's Act and not the Penal Code.

Their Lordships admitted the appeal and set it down for hearing.

THE KAMARHATI MURDER CASE.

THE above case in which one Issur Gain was tried before the Additional Sessions Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs for the murder of his mistress at Kamarhati, particulars of which have already been reported, came up before their Lordships on a reference by the Sessions Judge under Section 307, Cr. P. C., disagreeing with the verdict of acquittal by the jury.

Their Lordships after hearing Cousel for the accused convicted the accused and sentenced him to death.

VARIETIES.

CANNIBAL BIRDS.

ONE fine day a batch of tiny parrakeets from a neighbouring island arrived, and I congratulated myself on having at last acquired some amiable members of my bird community. Such gentle creatures were never seen. With their pale-green plumage and the little grey-hooded head which easily explained their name of "capuchin," they made themselves quite happy in one of the many domes or cupolas of the Arab cage. In a few days, however, a mysterious ailment broke out among all the other birds. Nearly every birds seemed suddenly to prefer going about on one leg. At last it dawned on me that many of these canaries had actually only one leg. An hour's careful watching showed me a parrakeet sidling up to a canary, and after feigning to be deeply absorbed in its own toilet, preening each gay wing feather most carefully, the little wretch would give a sudden swift nip at the slender leg of its neighbour, and absolutely bite it off then and there. Of course, I immediately turned the capuchins out of the cage with much obloquy, but too late to save several of my poor little pets from a one-legged existence.—Lady Broome, in the *Cornhill*.

GOOD AND BAD LANGUAGE OF BIRDS.

MR. CHARLES A. WITCHELL discusses in *knowledge* the language, good and bad, of birds. Malice and love are not, it appears, readily distinguishable by the tones of bird-song. While the blackbird, startling, chaffinch, and others may be pouring out the truest love-notes, the robin, thrush, hedge-sparrow, and others, though also singing, may be using the very "Billingsgate" of birds. "If a singing robin be watched, and especially in autumn, he will be seen to attack any other singing robin which may be near; yet the birds will be singing all the while, and their songs will be like the ordinary songs of the species, though a trifle sharper in tone. The music is evidently intended to convey the animosity of the birds. The hedge-sparrow twitters in quite a subdued tone when fighting; yet it nevertheless seems to be singing. The willow-wren sings its ordinary song when about to attack a rival. The chiffchaff, however, does not employ his cheerful strain on the like occasion. The nightingale is somewhat pugnacious, and I have several times seen two fighting—I once saw three—but no song-notes were then given." In a few cases the combativeness of a bird is fairly well suggested by its cry—as occurs in the common fowl, whose "crow" is as defiant as a bugle blast. The cooing of a dove, or the warbling of a fluent singer may seem to be as expressive as the purr of a cat, "but when attention is given to the actions which accompany the cries of birds, an observer finds that some very pleasant sounds are incidental to very unkind behaviour."

MOSTODON TUSKS.

A PAIR of mastodon tusks, the largest and most perfect specimens ever found (says the *San Francisco Chronicle*) were brought to San Francisco recently on the whaler *Lonania*, and are in the possession of the H. Liebes Company. They measure 101 inches in length on the outer curve, 91½ inches on the inner curve, and 18 inches in circumference, about two feet from the base, 17½ inches in the middle, and 14½ inches 2 feet from the point. They weigh a little over 103 lbs., or an aggregate of 207 lbs. The weight of ordinary tusks is about 12 lbs. a pair, and their market value from 50 to 60 cents a pound according to the size and clearness of ivory. The commercial value of these mammoths is beyond computation, owing to their rarity. They were found a few miles from Point Barrow, where the Company maintains a supply station for its whalers and fur hunters, and two lives were sacrificed in digging them out of the ice in which they were imbedded, 10 feet below the surface. The following account of the find was sent to the Company by its agent at Point Barrow:—"A party of natives in the Company's employ started from the station early last spring, to carry supplies to some hunters who were collecting furs for the Company. About ten miles from the station, while travelling over the ice, they discovered, accidentally some foreign substance deeply embedded in one of the floes, which looked like a flaw in clear gum. They started to dig, and it took three days of axing and chiselling to reach the points of the huge tusks. Two of the natives lost their lives before the tusks were clear of the ice. One of them stepped back and fell into a crevice made by himself and his companions, one of whom jumped to his assistance, and went down into the sea, never to rise again. The others saw that they would share the same fate, and made no further attempt to rescue the two unfortunates. After they had secured their find the natives returned to the station. The joy over their success was greater than the sorrow over the death of the two companions who perished. Getting additional men, sleds and dogs they went back and brought their treasure to the station." The enormous size and weight of these tusks establishes the oft asserted theory of the immense animal which existed in those regions in prehistoric times. An animal that could walk about comfortably, carrying 207 pounds weight in its upper-jaw, must have been of immense bulk and strength.

PUNISHING BEASTS.

A CURIOUS MEDIÆVAL CUSTOM.

BEASTS were often condemned to be burned alive (says Mr. E. P. Evans, writing in the "Green Bag") and, strangely enough, it was in the latter half of the seventeenth century, an age of comparative enlightenment, that this cruel penalty was most frequently inflicted. Occasionally a merciful Judge adhered to the letter of the law by sentencing the culprit to be slightly singed, and then to be strangled before being burned Sometimes they were condemned to be buried alive. Such was the fate suffered by two pigs in 1456, "on the vigil of the Holy Virgin," at Oppenheim-on-the-Rhine, for killing a child. Animals were even put to the rack in order to extort confession. It is not to be supposed that the Judge had the slightest expectation that any confession would be made; he wished simply to observe all forms prescribed by the law, and to set in motion the whole machinery of justice before pronouncing judgment. "The questions," which, in such cases would seem to be only a wanton and superfluous act of cruelty, was nevertheless an important element in determining tha final decision, since the death sentence could be commuted into banishment, provided the criminal had not confessed under torture. The use of the rack was therefore a means of escaping the gallows. Appeals were sometimes made to higher tribunals, and the judgments of the lower courts annulled or modified. In one instance a sow and a she-ass were condemned to be hanged; on appeal and after a new trial, they were sentenced to be simply knocked on the head. In another instances, an appeal led to the acquittal of the accused.

EXECUTING A SOW.

In 1266, at Fontenay aux Roses, near Paris, a pig, convicted of having eaten a child, was publicly burned by order of the monks of Sainte-Genevieve. In 1386, the tribunal of Falaise sentenced a sow to be mangled and maimed in the head and leg, and then to be hanged, for having torn the face and arm of a child and caused its death. Here we have a strict application of the *lex talionis*. The sow was dressed in man's clothes and executed in the public square, near the city hall, at the expense to the State of ten sous and ten deniers, besides a pair of gloves to the hangman. The executioner was provided with new gloves in order that he might come from the discharge of his duty with clean hands, thus indicating that, as a minister of justice, he incurred no guilt in shedding blood. He was not a common butcher of swine, but a public functionary, a "master of high works" (maitre des hautes œuvres), as he was officially styled. In 1394, a pig was found guilty of "having killed and murdered a child in the parish of Roumaygne, in the county of Mortaing, for which deed the said pig was condemned to be drawn and hanged by Jehan Pettit, Lieutenant of the Bailiff,

GOING BAIL FOR A PORKER.

There is also extant an order issued by the Magistracy of Gisors in 1405, commanding payment to be made to the carpenter who had erected the scaffold on which an ox had been executed "for its demerits." Brute and human criminals were confined in the same prison, and subjected to the same treatment. Thus "Toustain Pincheon, keeper of the prisons of our lord the King in the town of Pont de Larche," acknowledges the receipt of "nineteen sous six deniers tournois for having found the King's bread the prisoners detained, by reason of crime in the said prison." The jailer gives the names of the persons in custody, and concludes the list with the "item" of "one pig, kept from the 24th of June, 1408, inclusive, til the 17th of July," when it was executed for "the crime of having murderd and killed a little child." For the pig's board he charges two deniers tournois a day, the same as for boarding a man. He also puts into account "ten deniers tournois for a rope found and delivered for the purpose of trying the said pig that it might not escape." In the case of a mule condemned to be burned alive at Montpelier in 1565, as the animal was vicious and kicky, the executioner cut off its feet before consigning it to the flames. This mutilation was an arbitrary and extra judicial act, dictated solely by considerations of personal convenience. Hangmen were often guilty of supererogatory cruelty in the exercise of their bloody functions. On the 10th of January, 1457, a sow was convicted of murder, committed on the person of an infant named Jehan Martin, of Savigny, and sentenced to be hanged. Her six sucklings were also included in the indictment as accomplices, but "in default of any positive proof that they had assisted in mangling the deceased, they were restored to their owner on condition that he should give bail for their appearance should further evidence be forthcoming to prove their complicity in their mother's crime." About a month later, on the Friday after the Feast of the Purification of the Virgin," the sucklings were again brought before the court and as their owner, Jehan Bailly, declined to be answerable for their future good conduct, they were declared forfeited to the noble damsel Katherine de Barmault, Lady of Savigny. Sometimes a fine was imposed upon the owner of the offending beast, as was the case with Jehan Delalande and his wife, condemned on the 18th of April, 1499, by the Abbe of Josaphat, near Chartres, to pay eighteen francs "on account of the murder of a child named Gillon, aged five years and-a-half or thereabouts, committed by a porker, aged three months or thereabouts." The porker was "hanged and executed by justice."

THEN IT WENT ON ALL RIGHT.

THE writer of the letter which I am going to copy for you in a moment has a complaint to make. Rather, perhaps, a complaint to place on record, as the reason for it is passed away for the present and she hopes—and we hope with her—that it may not return. The complaint does not refer to any relative, friend, or foe, but to her own heart. It did not work well. It was weak, and for a long time she was unable to find means to make it do better. Which was a serious matter, inasmuch as the vigor of the circulation of the blood always depends upon the force wherewith the heart drives it.

Still, it seems to me we ought to be a bit indulgent towards the heart in view of the labour it has to perform. Remember that it never takes a full minute's rest at one time, night or day, from the instant it begins at your birth until, like a muffled drum, it stops for good and all—life's funeral march to the grave being over. During all this while, ten years or a hundred, the heart has got to keep on pumping blood through your body at the rate of from 130 strokes a minute in childhood to 50 or 60 in old age. If you happen to have a mechanical turn of mind it may interest you to figure out how much this stands for in units of horse-power for a given case and time. If not, you can take my word for it that, merely as a machine, the heart deserves your respect. So long as it goes ahead steadily, up hill and down dale, hammering away softly but strongly, you haven't a word to say for or against it; but when it begins to get weak, may be skipping a stitch now and then, you call in the doctor, who puts the tip of his finger just below the base of your left thumb, looks wise and solemn (as befits the occasion), and says, "Ah, yes, yes: I see, I see." But *what* does he see? He doesn't tell you *that*; he leaves medicine, and mentions when he will look in again.

But as to the letter I spoke of. "For many years," the lady says, "I suffered from indigestion and weak heart. Very little exertion made me feel weary and tired. Cold, clammy sweats broke over me. I had a poor appetite, and after meals an aching paid at the chest and a miserable sinking feeling at the stomatch. I had also much pain at the left side, and my heart would flutter so as to frigh en me. At length I became so weak I was barely able to get about, being no longer able to do my housework.

"Owing to the trouble at my heart I obtained no proper rest at night, and often walked about my bedroom at night. Many times these attacks were so bad *I thought I was dying*. During the day a sense of suffocation sometimes came upon me and I was obliged to go to the door for fresh air.

"Year after year I suffered like this; now a little better, now as bad as I could be. In November, 1887, while on a visit to Croydon, my son-in-law persuaded me to try Mother Seigel's Syrup. He got me a bottle, and after taking it I experienced great relief. The pain at my heart was easier, and I felt better as a whole. I could eat well and the food agreed with me.

"I now felt encouraged to continue using this remedy. Soon I was in better health than for years, the heart trouble having disappeared altogether. Since that time when I feel anything ailing me a few doses of Mother Seigel's Syrup never fail to give the desired relief. I have told many persons of the benefit I have derived from it, and her by consent to your publishing this statement should you wish to do so."—(Signed) (Mrs.) William Harrington, near Wickford Hill, Clare, Suffolk, November 12th, 1897.

Now what ailed Mrs. Harrington's heart? Why, precisely the same things that ailed her lungs, her nerves and her muscles—*weakness*. Therein she is right. It *was* a weak heart but not a *diseased* heart. The heart is a muscle, and (seeing the prodigious lot of work it has to do) necessarily a strong, active muscle. But it will not work without pay any more than you or I will. With all the rest of the body it has got to be sustained and strengthened by food. Here we have the point, then. The lady was afflicted with chronic indigestion. For this reason her whole body grew weak—the heart, of course, with other parts of the engine. Hence all the symptoms she names. Her immense all-round weakness and puller-down is that same old dyspepsia. When Mother Seigel's Syrup made the digestion of plenty of food possible, the heart went on all right, like a newly-wound clock.

THE Poona Magistrate at the conclusion of the inquiry into the Dravid murders framed a charge against the accused and commited him to the Court of Sessions. The case will probably be heard on the 6th instant.

THE dead body of a tiger was brought into Insein on Thursday morning, the 23rd ultimo, from Thanetchoung. It is reported that the animal was discovered in a very weak condition by a party out shooting at that station, and was bowled over by a well-directed shot. On examination, it was discovered that the beast had already had no fewer than four bullet holes in various parts of the body. A Karen is said to have killed a tiger near Tharrawaddy with a bow and arrow a few days ago.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

ACCIDENTS WHICH HAVE SAVED LIVES.

CCIDENTS, as a rule, are answerable for loss of life. Here, however, are some interesting and authentic incidents which serve to show that accidents have sometimes saved many from death.

On a German railway, some years since, a certain signalman was unable to lower his signals for an express train, on account of a lever becoming locked in a most mysterious manner. As the result of this, the train pulled up near his box and the fireman, who went to inquire as to the cause of the stoppage, chanced to discover that two rails on the track before them were seriously displaced. Had the train passed at its usual speed an appalling accident must have taken place.

A lad p aying with a pistol in his father's garden at Chicago, unaware that the weapon was loaded, discharged its deadly contents into the window of an adjoining house. The bullet broke the fore-arm of a desperate man, who, rendered reckless by a great trial, was preparing poison for himself and his family. Regarding the wounded arm as an interposition of Providence, the man reconsidered his rash resolve and abandoned it.

In a huge public hall in the United States where a thousand people were assembled for a lantern lecture an alarming accident to the limelight apparatus led to the postponement of the lecture, and the disappointed audience trooped away to their respective residences. Less than an hour later a fearful cyclone burst suddenly over the district, and wrought havoc upon the hall aforementioned, lif ing its roof entirely off, and pressing the side walls in, so reducing it to a neap of ruins. But for that fortunate lantern accident some hundreds of lives must assuredly have been sacrificed.

What might have been a memorable colliery disaster in Wales, about ten years ago, was happily averted by a breakdown of the machinery manipulating the shaft-cage. In the early morning, prior to the decent of the "second-shift" men, the engine controlling the cage became unworkable. Before it could be readjusted it was discovered that the sea had broken in and flooded the mines. The engine accident, which detained some 500 men above ground, practically saved them from a watery grave.

A Dutch family were on one occasion saved from a fiery death by reason of a curious accident. Some workmen, who had been repairing a roof, damaged an overhead reservoir to such an extent that the slightest pressure was likely to cause an overflow. During the night a fire broke out in the rooms beneath and the fierce heat finished the damage the workmen began, by bursting the cistern floor and flooding all the upper portion of the house. The fire was thus speedily extinguished, and the family who were sleeping below—though they received a thorough drenching—were spared the awful alternative.

A threatened native insurrection in Indi was miraculously prevented some years since by the most trifling of accidents. A native, who had been run over in the streets, was being treated in the hospital, when a letter dropped from his turban.

The missive, which proved to be an important communication concerning the conspiracy against the Government, got into the hands of a faithful sepoy, who handed it to the British sahib who employed him. Thence it found its way to the Governor, who, thoroughly apprised of what was coming, adopted prompt precautions, and thus saved India from what would probably have been a red revolution.

1,200 MILES ON SNOWSHOES.

AN ANGLO-SAXON RIVAL TO NANSEN.

THINK of sleighing 1,200 miles nearly 10,000 feet above the level of the sea, over a table-land of snow over a mile in thickness, and at the end of it to stand on land nearer the North Pole than that reached by any other man!

Fancy sleeping for several nights alone on that spot with your two companions several miles aways and the nearest inhabited sport 500 miles off!

Nerve, grit, and Anglo-Saxon blood are needed for such things, and these Lieutenant Robert Peary, the hero of the exploit, has got.

For seven years he has devoted every dollar he has got to Arctic exploration, and for more than half that time he has kept the Stars and Stripes waving within the Arctic Circle and amid the ice of Greenlapd. How he did it he has just told in two splendidly illustrated vol mes called "Northward Over the Great Ice," which Messrs. Methuen have published.

At this moment he is on his way to the pole, and promises to hang his hat on it, or perish in the attempt. His plan is to take ten picked Esquimaux, and form a base 200 or 300 miles further north of Greenland than ever chosen before. From that base he will proceed by stages to the most northern p int of Greenland. He thinks land may extend to 85 degrees, or even further north. From that point, wherever it is, he will make a dash for the Pole. If there is an unbroken sea of ice he may reach the Pole in three or four months. He hopes to reach it this coming February or March, but is willing to take five years over it if necessary.

In the vo umes just published he tells us all about his early Arctic experiences, which are of the greatest interest under these circumstances. In addition to several short voyages, they tell of a thirteen months' and a twenty-five months' stay in North Greenland and of two sledge journeys of 1,200 miles each. Mrs. Peary accompanied him on all those journeys, and his little daughter was born within the Arctic Circle!

Greenland is the most northerly land yet discovered, and it is for this reason that Lieutenant Peary has given so much attention to it. He has made friends with its Esquimaux, and, by following their methods of travel, he has achieved very considerable results.

Greenland, it seems, was discovered by and received its name from an iceland outlaw. "People would sooner be induced to go thither in case it had a good name," he said. That was 900 years ago.

Lieutenant Peary says: "There are reasons for thinking that its northern headland may be one abutment of a bridge of islands, over which, through years of Arctic summer day and winter night, a portion of the human race slowly emigrated from Siberia, over the Pole, to the American Continent."

Lieutenant Peary, like a good American, tried to repeat the experiment, and, though he did not succeed, he made the first part of the journey in a way which had never been done before. But to understand exactly what he did, something must be known of Greenland. That country is 1,739 miles long and 690 broad, and yet it contains scarcely "any land." "All there is of land is a ribbon five to twenty-five miles in width along the coast.

"The interior of Greenland—three times the area of France—to-day is simply an elevated, unbroken plateau of snow, lifted from 5,000 to 8,000, and even 10,000 feet above the level of the sea—a huge white glistening shield.

"It is an Arctic Sahara, in comparison with which the African Sahara is insignificant for on this frozen Sahara of inner Greenland occurs no form of life, animal or vegetable; no fragment of rock, no grain of sand is visible. The traveller across its frozen waste travelling as I have week after week, sees, outside of himself and his own party, but three things in all the world—namely, the infinite expanse of frozen plain, the infinite dome of the cold blue sky, and the cold white sun—nothing but these

"The traveller, too, across this frozen desert knows that at no time during his journey are the highest rocks of the mountain summits below him nearer than from 1,000 to 5,000 feet down through the mighty blanket of snow."

So blinding is the glare of the snow that the strongest eye "canendure it unaided only for a few hours. A manplaced in the centre of the "Great Ice" in midsummer with no means of protecting his eyes, would be as completely helpless at the end of the day as a blind kitten. The traveller upon the "Great Ice" must keep his eyes constantly protected by gog les of heavy smoked glass, and even with this we frequently—when in camp, and trying to sleep— were obliged to protect our eyes still further by a strip of fur tied across them to exclude the light, which would otherwise penetrate the closed eyes."

On this ice-cap Lieutenant Peary says is to be found the fierces degree of cold of any spot upon the surface of the globe. And yet, to get to he north of Greenland, Lieutenant Peary decided to travel overland (or snow), rather than go round by the coast ice. It was upon the surface of this uplifted desolation, in nearly straight lines, at a constant elevation of from 5,000 to 8,000 feet above the level of the sea that he made two famous sleigh-journeys of 1,200 miles each, in the first of which he determined that Greenland was an island.

He set out with twenty dogs on the first journey, but only five returned. And he only had one companion on the whole of the journey. Though they had sleighs they did not ride. The sleighs had to be used for carrying food for man and beast. The journey was really a 1,200 mile tramp on snowshoes.

The second journey by the same route was made with a comp nion and a servant, together with sixty dogs and six sledges. Only one log returned. The chief incidents in this journey were the deaths of the dogs, and the smashings of the sledges and the want of provisions—everything seemed to depend upon the finding of musk-oxen at the end of 500 miles, when the ice-cap came to an end.

"As the dogs grew more tired, it became daily more and more difficult for me to force my team into the white emptiness ahead. While we could walk without discomfort at a two or two and-a-half-miles an hour pace, and continue it for from twenty to twenty-five miles, a run of a few yards to overtake the sledges after stopping to tie a kamik string or pick up a mitten or two or three vigorous pulls to start the sledges, would take our breath completely, and, in the case of Matt and Lee, be frequently accompanied by bleeding at the nose.

"The strength of all of us was reduced fully 50per cent. though this was undoubtedly largely the result of our rarely, if ever, eating our full meat rations."

At the end of four hundred miles there were only seventeen dogs left, and they had had the last of the walrus meat. Lieutenant Peary, on the first journey, had shot many musk-oxen when he got to the end of the ice-cap, and hoping to do so again, he hurried forward, with his servant, leaving his companion, who was quite knocked up, in camp.

First they shot a hare, which they at once ate between them. "That meal of fresh, hot, luscious meat from the hare, the first adequate meal in nearly six hundred miles of daily snow-shoeing, in nearly six weeks of arduous work, had been to us like the taste of freshly-spilled blood to the long-tamed tiger, and had wakened in us every one of those merciless hunger pangs which during those previous six weeks had gradually been dulled into insensibility."

Presently they came on a herd of musk-oxen, and soon brought several to the ground.

"I can scarcely realise," says Peary, "what absolute animals hunger makes of men, and yet I can say truthfully never have I tasted more delicious food than was that tender, raw, warm meat—a mouthful here and a mouthful there, cut from the animal as I skinned it. I ate till I dared eat no more, although still unsatisfied."

The return journey was full of tragic possibilities. One of the party was so knocked up that he had to be dragged on one of the sledges, and the dogs died one by one. When at last Lieutenant Peary saw the place from which they had started, he says:

"Even should I in the hereafter be permitted to gaze upon the glory of the Golden City, the sight of its splendour will not outburn the peerless view that met my blurred eyes as I rounded the last angle of the rocks."

In preparation for this journey Lieutenant Peary had had quantities of food buried at certain points, and signals placed over them, so that they might be discovered. One of these "caches" contained all his alcohol, and another had 1,400lb of pemmican. But when the time came these "caches" could not be found. The snow had buried all traces of them, and they will probably never be discovered. This involved a serious loss to the travellers.

One of the most interesting parts, if not the most so, of Lieutenant Peary's book is that in which he tells about a little community of 234 Eskimos with whom he had much to do, and who vastly helped him in his work.

"They are quite isolated and independent. Without government, religion, money, language, or property, except clothing and weapons; their food nothing but meat, blood, and blubber; without salt, or any substance of vegetable origin; their clothing the skins of birds and animals; almost their only two objects in life something to eat and something with which to clothe themselves, and their sole occupation the struggle for these objects."

They are "dependent for everything upon a few miles of Arctic coast-line. To them each an ordinary thing as a piece of wood was just as unattainable as the moon. Is it to be wondered at that under these circumstances a man offered me his dogs and sledge and all his furs for a bit of board as long as himself?—that another offered me his wife and two children for a shining knife?—and that a woman offered me everything she had for a needle?"

These people were good friends to the Lieutenant and his wife, and, the many pictures of them, with which the book abounds, shows what mutual fun and enjoyment was the result of using the camera.

PRINCESS IN A MADHOUSE.

THE *Matin*, Paris, breaks a lance in favour of Princess Louise of Coburg, who, in defiance of law or justice, has been shut up in a lunatic asylum, although perfectly sane. The letter is from a doctor who spent some time at the establishment of Professor Obersteiner, at Dobling.

One night in the month of May, 1898, a lady, attended by another lady, was brought in, and lodged in a small apartment badly furnished, with bolts to the door and bars to the windows. Her name was concealed, but it was soon known to be Princess Louise of Coburg. From time to time visitors sent by her husband came to see her, endeavouring to trap her by perfidious questions She was completely abandoned by her relatives, and it was only by accident that she learnt even of her daughter's wedding.

The story that she told was that one morning a lawyer and a doctor, sent by her husband, entered her bed-room, forced her to rise, attempted to handcuff her, refused to leave the room while she dressed, and afterwards took her to the asylum of Dr. Obersteiner. She remained there till November, when the same lawyer appeared one day, took her off as brusquely as he had brought her, and placed her in the asylum of Dr. Budinger, near Vienna.

The *Matin* says supposing even that the House of Austria refuses to pardon a scandal, added to so many of which that House has given the example, what is King Leopold of Belgium doing? Does he ignore that his enemies say that he wishes to keep his daughter imprisoned so as not to be saddled with her debts?

The *Liberte* takes up the cudgels furiously on behalf of Princess Louise, whose life it compares favourably with those of many famous Austrian archduchesses. King Leopold's conduct, it says, is inexplicably callous, while that of the Prince of Coburg is actuated by mean motives.

It is stated that King Leopold has paid the creditors of Princess Louise.

According to a report spread in certain quarters in Belgium the princess is in America and not shut upon madhouse nearV

THE WAY OF THE TRANSGRESSOR.

"I AM surprised you should think it possible that I should be disposed to take anyone without a reference."

"It is hardly taking me without a reference. Mrs. Brown knows all about me."

Mrs. Crowe's small black eyes twinkled viciously.

"Mrs. Brown seems to consider that her knowledge of you ought to be enough for me!"

"I ought perhaps to have mentioned Lady Jordon as well, but I thought Mrs. Brown's recommendation would be sufficient. Of course if it isn't there's no more to be said." The tall-distinguished-looking girl who was being interviewed by Mrs. Crowe for the post of Governess rose as she spoke.

"Don't be in such a hurry," said the elder woman, more civilly. "I only meant to make sure. You understand that the person to whom one entrusts the care of one's children should be chosen with great circumspection . . . but of course her ladyship's recommendation puts the matter in a different light."

A few minutes conversation brought the interview to a satisfactory conclusion, thanks to the magic influence of Lady Jordon's name. "You may consider yourself engaged, Miss Sheldon" said Mrs. Crowe majestically. "And now I am sure you would like to see the dear children."

If Ethel Sheldon's heart had been heavy before, it sank like lead in her breast when she beheld her future charges: three solid, stolid maidens, whose ages ranged from twelve to sixteen, dressed outrageously in purple plush, with thick plaits of lint-white hair hanging to their ample waists and tied up with generous bunches of purple sat.n ribbon. They rejoiced respectively in the names Araminta, Daphne, and violet.

"This is your new Governess, children," said their proud mother. The three girls stared.

"I hope we shall be good friends," said Ethel Sheldon, conventionally. The three young persons opened their mouths a little wider, but did not answer.

"I hope we shall be good friends," said Mrs. Crowe cheerfully. "Children, you will give Miss Sheldon some tea."

Mrs. Crowe left the room, and Ethel sat down helplessly. She was engaged, in spite of her disadvantages, at a considerable salary—a salary that was so terribly wanted at home—to teach these uninteresting young women. Yet her feelings were the reverse of triumphant.

The story was a common one enough. Her father had put all his eggs into one basket, and basket and eggs had come to grief and the family was ruined. Ethel, who was a brave girl, had decided not to be a burden at home, but to take her life into her own strong young hands. Mrs. Brown and Lady Jordan, kind friends of happier days, had recommended her to Mrs. Crowe, the millionaire's widow who lived in Belgrave square, with the result that an engagement had been secured. Fortunate Ethel Sheldon!

But fortunate was the last thing the girl felt herself to be.

"This won't do at all," she said sternly to herself as she prepared at the invitation of the elder Miss Crowe to draw her chair up to the tea table; and, bracing herself to the effort, she began to try to make friends with her pupils, who sat in a row gazing at her with open-mouthed admiration. It was an easy conquest, and by the time Ethel had made an excellent tea, with an ample complement of hot cakes and cream—so different to the blue milk and thick bread and-butter at home—she began to feel more normal.

"I wonder what Harry will say to this," she thought, as she took leave of her new pupils and departed in search of the omnibus that was to convey her to the humble abode of the ruined family in Finchley-rd.

"I hate the whole thing, Ethel! Why should you give yourself and your time to those vulgar people?"

"Mrs. Crowe is really a good old creature," said Ethel, "and the girls have kind, elephantine hearts and mean well. Besides, Harry, some day, when you've made enough money we are going to be married, and that keeps me up."

The tall young man with a weak, good-looking face, fine eyes, and irresolute chin, looked at her doubtfully. Harry Derwent was a clerk in an insurance office, and his salary was £200 a year. He was the younger son of a county baronet, and was supposed to have done very well for himself when he had become engaged to Ethel Sheldon. But that was before her troubles had come upon her, before her father had airily shifted the responsibility of his follies on to the feeble shoulders of his family by putting a butlet through his brain. Still it had not occurred to Harry Derwent to forsake his love in her poverty. He had only begun to wonder what would be the end of it; to reproach himself with having done a very foolish thing, and to wish that he had a stern parent to do his dirty work for him and break off the engagement. But of this Ethel Sheldon knew nothing. Harry Derwent was the one oasis in the dreary desert of her future, and she thought of nothing else.

"Fancy, Lady Jordan tells me that those terrible uninteresting children have each £100,000," said Ethel. Harry Derwent's eyes sparkled.

"It's colossal," he murmured. "You and I could do with a bit, could'nt we, darling."

Ethel sighed. It was almost more than human patience could stand.

"If you could see Araminta, Harry—the eldest one—she is the worst of all." And Ethel drew a fancy portrait of Miss Araminta Crowe which made her lover roar.

"I must see her," he cried. "Could'nt you manage it, Ethel?"

"How can I? Mrs. Crowe told me gracefully that she didn't allow her servants to have followers. It didn't occur to me that she meant me until she said she hoped I wasn't engaged. I said I was, but that you wouldn't trouble me."

Harry Derwent laughed, "I must see the fair Araminta somehow," he said. "I'll meet you in Kensington-gardens on Saturday, and you can just tell them I'm your brother in case they peach."

Ethel Sheldon and her charges were walking by the Round Pond in Kensington-gardens when Harry Derwent appeared in the distance. He came up to them and to the gigling surprise of the three Miss Crowe's, he saluted his supposed sister and her pupils with easy grace.

"You must introduce me, Ethel," he said.

'My sister has often spoken to me of you," he added, turning to the three Miss Crows. He ranged up alongside of Araminta and her governess while the two younger girls followed in their wake.

From henceforth Mr. Derwent made it his invariable practice to meet the little party every Saturday afternoon and now and then he took them to tea in a shop in High-street, Kensington. The girls kept their own counsel. They were too much afraid of their fun being stopped, and Mr. Crowe was left in complete ignorance of what was going on. Sometimes Ethel's conscience smote her, but, after all, life was so deadly dull, and these meeting, in Kensington-gardens were harmless enough. On the Sundays—which occurred once a month—when she was allowed to go home, Harry made her die laughing by his mimicry of Araminta, and the languishing glances she cast at her governess's handsome "brother."

"She is getting quite careful about her dress and made her mother allow her to put her hair up," said Ethel gaily. "Really, Harry, you are a god-send to Araminta. Mrs. Crowe says she never could persuade her to attend to her personal appearance—now she wears her boots and gloves the proper size, and condescends to let the maid dress her in the morning

"I shouldn't wonder if Araminta were handsome in a year or two," said Harry reflectively.

"My dear Harry, never!" said Araminta's governess

* * * * *

"Miss Sheldon, have you seen Araminta this morning?"

Mrs. Crowe's usually high colour was a pale motled grey and her eyes looked anxiously at the governess, who was eating her breakfast with her two younger pupils.

"Araminta—no. She is usually late for breakfast."

"She is not in her room and her bed has not been slept in. I am terribly anxious. She cannot have done anything foolish; she has been so constantly with you and her sisters, or with me—never out of our sight, so to speak," said the poor mother.

Ethel rose, her face white as the linen collar she wore. A vague horrible fear laid its hand on her heart...a fear, but not for Araminta.

"If you please, m'm, this was found in Miss Crowe's room addressed to you," announced a servant, swelling with importance as she handed Mrs. Crowe a note.

"Darling matter," it ran, don't be very angry with me. I have run away to marry Miss Sheldon's brother.

When Ethel Sheldon attempted to get another situation as governess after that long illness which followed the simultaneous loss of her lover and her situation in Belgrave-sq, she found that the story of the elopement of Araminta Crowe, which must have been connived at if not openly encouraged, told terribly against her. Truly, the way of the transgressor is hard.

TOMB OF ESTHER AND MORDECAI.

THE tomb of Esther and Mordecai, the famous characters in the Biblical book of Esther, has been discovered in Hamadan, Persia, and the inscriptions on the sarcophagi and the tomb itself read and translated. This discovery is most timely, for some writers have tried to discredit the Biblical story and the festival of Purim, which goes back to it for a basis.

Every reader of Scripture is familiar with that strange tale of the Jewish maiden whose beauty so touched the King of Persia that he took her for his wife and placed her on the throne by his side. The Jews of Hamadan show this tomb of the hero and heroine, of the Bible story to all travellers with no small pride, for in it lies their title to nobility, one of their own people having actually reigned with the king.

This tomb has evidently been added to at various periods, and is now sixty feet high. The entrance is to the left of the centre, leading into an outer passage. To the left is the tomb of some ancient savage, and to the right the tomb of an old physician, with a stand bearing lamps and oil in front of it.

A wall separates the sacred part from this outer section. At its western end a door leads to the principal part of the tomb. To the right is Mordecai's tomb and to the left Esther's, separated from each other by a corridor along which pilgrims pass going around the sarcophagi. In a niche is a scroll of the law, and an ostrich egg is suspended beneath the dome, as is the custom in all Persian tombs.

The sarcophagi are made of a dark wood, evidently of great antiquity, and are covered with inscriptions in Hebrew. On Mordecai's sarcophagus is this inscription:—

"Here is the holy ark of Mordecai the righteous. May his merits protect us! Amen."

The same inscription is repeated on each side of the coffin, besides these verses from the Bible:—

"Now, in Shushan, the palace, there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benja nite, son of ——"

"Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily; and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward.

"Therefore, my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy one to see corruption. Thou wilt show me the path of life, in thy presence is fulness of joy, at the right hand there are pleasures forever more."

On the sarcophagus of Esther are these inscriptions:—

"Here is the ark in which is interred Esther the Righteous. May her merit protect us! Amen."

"Then Esther, the queen, the daughter of Abihail, and Mordecai, the Jew, wrote, with all authority, to confirm this second letter of Purim."

"And the decree of Esther confirmed these matters of Purim; and it was written in the book. And the King, Ahasuerus, laid a tribute upon the land and upon the isles of the sea.

Fac-similes of the inscriptions have been taken from plaster impressions now in the possession of Dr. Zadoc Khan, chief rabbi of France.

SINCE the patrolling of the streets by the Agra Police, there has been no case of docoity. Gobhardhana, the dacoit leader, has not yet been arrested.

THE annual meeting of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce was held at Cawnpore on Monday afternoon, Mr. A. McRobert presiding.

FURTHER reports fregarding the collection of Abdul Rahman Khels under Guldad at Sarwakai show that they had collected to settle a land dispute and not for the purposes of raiding. The Abdul Rahman Khel Jrgah have given bail in the sum of Rs. 2,000 for Guldad's good behaviour.

THE Nawab of Dir's illness is now said to be dangerous, and he is being conveyed to the shrine of a local saint, which rather indicates that he is *in extremis*. If he should die his eldest son about twenty years of ago, would succeed him without probably any turmoil in the State.

THE Bombay Government has sanctioned an important scheme for the reorganisation of the Bombay Law School. The number of professorships is to be increased from two to five; the remuneration of each is to be Rs. 300 per mensem, and the Principal's salary is to be raised. The increased cost is to be met by raising the fees. This will mean a considerable development of the school which in its present condition is admittedly unsatisfactory, and in these circumstances the Government refuses to sanction a College of Law.

What to Do Until tor Arrives.

It is very hard to stand idly b and see our dea ones suffer while awaiting the arrival of the doctor. An Albany (N. Y.) dairyman called at a drug store there for a doctor to come and see his child, then very sick with croup. Not finding the doctor in he left word for him to come at once on his return. He also bought a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, which he hoped would give some relief until the doctor should arrive. In a few hours he returned, saying the doctor need not come, as the child was much better. The druggist, Mr. Otto Scholz, says the family has since recommended Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to their neighbours and friends until he has a constant demand for it from that part of the country. For sale by

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HOW SOME FAMOUS SECRETS WERE REVEALED.

THE power to keep a secret has not been too freely given to the human race, and the marvellous development of the press has made it more difficult than ever to withhold information from the public. The news of Mr. Gladstone's impending resignation leaked out through a waiter who heard the G. O. M. confiding his secret to his host. The waiter was no. so dense that he did not see the value of this important piece of news, and he is said to have sold it to a London newspaper for £500.

Lord Randolph Churchill's resignation was a secret worth knowing, but it cost the *Times* nothing at all except the indignation of Lord Randolph himself. On leaving Lord Salisbury, Lord Randolph drove to the *Times* office in a hansom, and sent his card to the editor. "Of course, you will be friendly to me," said his Lordship, after he had informed the editor of his intention "Certainly not," replied the editor. "But there is not another paper in England that would not show some gratitude for such a piece of news," protested Lord Randolph.

"That may be true, but you cannot bribe the "Times," remarked the proud editor of that journal. "This news is enormously important. It will make a great sensation. But if you choose to have it so you can give it to some other newspaper, and not one line of it will appear in our columns to-morrow." But Lord Randolph left his secret with the *Times*, and next morning there was a strong article in that paper, severely censuring him for deserting his leader.

Bismarck himself once revealed a secret to M. de Blowitz, the Paris correspondent of the *Times*, which averted a great war and probably saved France from destruction. In 1875, the German military party, thinking, evidently, that France was growing too strong determined to force on another war, which should crush her altogether. There was to be an invasion and Paris was to be occupied. Bismarck opposed it, but his influence was not sufficient to stop the scheme. Determined that the plot should fail Bismarck managed to inform M. de. Blowitz, through certain indirect channels, of what was to be done, and the whole plot was upset in the *Time*.

A piece of information of the gravest importance to Great Britain once leaked out at a dinner party. The editor of a London evening paper, who is still living, was dining at his club when he heard, from a great financier, that the Khedive was about to sell his shares in the Suez Canal to France.

The journalist left his dinner and went to see Lord Derby, who was astonished at the news. Lord Rothschild found £4,000,000, and in less than a week it was announced that the Khedive had sold his shares to England But for that the Suez Canal would have become part and parcel of French territory, and the revelation, when it was made public, nearly caused war between England and France.

It seems incredible that a man should be the means of revealing a secret which he himself did not know, but that was actually done some years ago. In the course of conversation at a dinner party in London, a well-known doctor, Sir Andrew Clerke, remarked casually that Lord Northbrook had been asking him that day how he thought the climate of India would suit him. "And what did you tell him, doctor?" asked Delane, the editor of the *Times*, who was present. "I told him it would suit him very well," was the reply, and nothing more was said. But the journalist knew very well that the Viceroyalty of India was vacant at the time, and his paper next morning announced that Lord Northbrook had been appointed the new Viceroy of the Indian Empire, which proved to be quite true.

Any visitor to some of our public libraries may see a copy of a secret treaty by which Charles I. entered into an agreement with the Catholics of Ireland, making certain concessions to them, in opposition to a public treaty made at the same time. The secret treaty was found among an archbishop's luggage, and caused a great sensation. The King denied its authenticity, but nobody believed him

Authors have frequently tried to hide their identity under a 'nom-de-plume,' but few of them have been so successful as the author of the famous Junius letters, whose secret went with him to the grave a hundred years ago. The letters of Peter Plymley, which appeared in pamphlet form in the earlier part of this century, puzzled the literary world for many years, until Sydney Smith, tired of the mystery, published them in a book of his works, with this preface:—

"The government of that day took great pains to find out the author; all they could find was that they were brought to the publisher by the Earl of Lauderdale. Somehow it came to be conjectured that I was the author; I have always denied it, but, finding that I deny it in vain, I have thought it might be as well to include the letters in this collection."

Sir Walter Scott kept his "Waverley" secret remarkably well, considering that quite twenty of his friends knew it. For thirteen years the reading world spoke of the author of the Waverley novels as "the great unknown." All that time Scott wrote books in his own name, kept up a hospitable house, acted as clerk of session, and did so much that nobody dreamed of connecting him with "Waverley." But on February 23rd, 1827, the secret leaked out at a dinner, the revelation causing immense excitement.

Lord Meadowbank, the Judge, asked Scott if he might break the news, and the author gave him permission to "do just as you like." The Judge worked up to the revelation in a little speech, proposing the health of "The Great Unknown," finishing up by saying, "I propose the health of Sir Walter Scott." Sir Walter was, of course, already very popular, and there was a wonderful scene when Lord Meadowbank sat down.

Soon after, Sir Walter threw a note across the table to a friend, asking him: Why not confess something, too—say, the murder of Begbie?" and a little later, when some one spoke of The Great Unknown," the author corrected him by calling out: "The Small Known, now, Mr. Bailey."

THE Indur Water Works, in the Nizam's Dominions, will provide water by pipes to the inhabitants of Indur, about 15,000 in number. This work, with the Filter-Beds, will cost about Rs. 25,000, which is a generous gift of Rani Cheelum Janka Bai of Sirnapalli.

IT is under consideration to provide all posts in the Tochi Valley with barbed wire entanglements in place of the present brushwood abattis which offer an insufficient protection against a sudden rush and are a source of danger in their liability to fire.

MR. PADSHAH, Secretary of the Tata University scheme, is now touring in the N.W. Provinces. He has been granted an interview by the Lieutenant-Governor, who is said to have expressed his approval of the scheme, and in the course of the discussion suggested Rorkee as a site for the University. The Viceroy has intimated his desire to show his interest in the scheme in a practical manner.

A SUIT brought by Mr. Chinamal, late Traffic Superintendent, against the East India Tramway Company, Limited, of Karachi, for damages, because of the dismissal alleged to be due to misconduct, he having gone on leave during the plague last year, was decided on Thursday, the district Court awarding Rs. 500 and proportionate costs, and defendants bearing their own costs.

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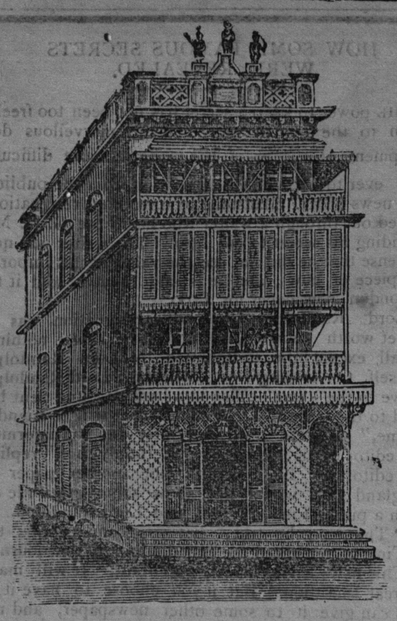

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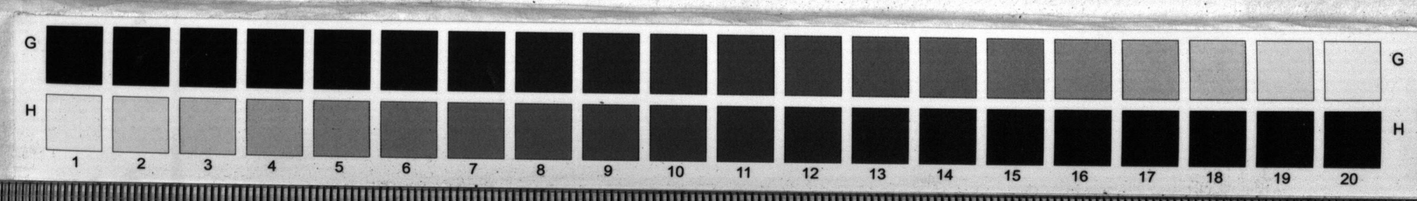

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