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পদকল্পতরু।

সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে

মূল্য ৩।০ টাকা।

পরিশিষ্ট যন্ত্রস্থ।

অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য।

শ্রীঅদ্বৈতপ্রকাশ।

শ্রীঅদ্বৈত প্রভুর প্রিয় অনুচর ও শিষ্য

শ্রীঈশাননাগর কৃত।

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অমৃতবাজার, পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য।

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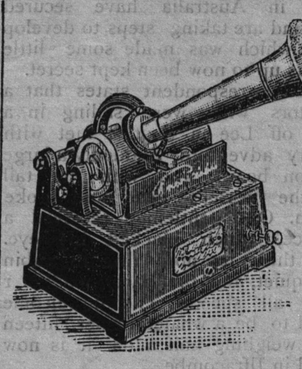

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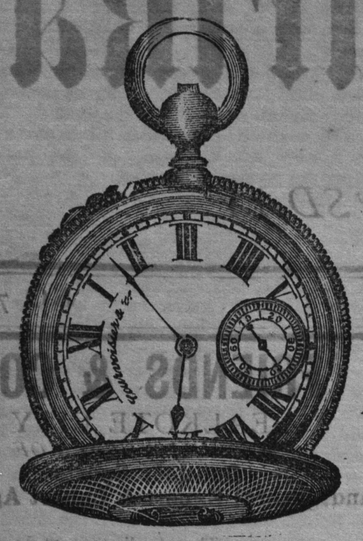

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A WRITER in the *Philadelphia Times*, who has been looking up the record of the mosquito in natural history, has come to the conclusion that it is a very useless insect. Here is the result of his investigation: "Just why the mosquito by its people is not yet known. It is not to furnish it food, for it is an established fact that a mosquito, after gorging himself with human blood, dies within a few hours; whereas mosquitoes that have never tasted blood have been known to live very comfortably even through the entire winter and into the next season. The adult mosquito does not need food. During its larva stage it has stored up enough nourishment to last all its life, and it is a normal state for it to go without food for the rest of its existence. All that it needs is moist air, adult mosquitoes being known to pass the winter in damp cellars, living on nothing but the moisture. The fact that it is estimated that only one out of 10,000 ever tastes human blood also proves that it is not necessary. Why it persists in torturing mankind, therefore, has not yet been found out, and scientists can only swear softly with the rest of mankind and make the general statement that the mosquito is born with a vitiated appetite for human gore—an appetite that causes the death of the indulger.

DANCING WITH SNAKES.

DESCRIBING the weird, mysterious secret rites of the Antelope priests and snake lancers of Arizona, Mr. Levon Carnac says: "The snake dance, as practised among the Moquis, lasts nine days, but the first eight are devoted to preparations and secret writes; on the ninth day the real snake dance begins. The snake-priests divide themselves into three groups—the carriers, the huggers, and the gatherers. The carriers bring the snakes out of a big earthen jar in the kisi, and take them by the back of the neck in their mouths. Then the huggers put their left hands on the carrier's shoulders and brush the snakes' heads with their whips, so as to keep them from striking their faces. In this way they make about three-fourth of the circuit of the dance ground. Then they stop. The carriers throw the snakes to the ground; the gatherers pick them up, and pass them to the Antelope-priests. These evolutions are repeated for about twenty minutes or half an hour. Then all the snakes are flung down in a hideous, writhing, slimy heap at the base of a well, and the priestesses and their assistants come and sprinkle them all over with consecrated meal. After this the priests gather them up in their arms, each taking as many as he can carry, and rush off with them from the top of the 'mesa,' or hill on which the 'pueblo' is built, down to the plain below. Here the snakes being released are allowed to escape unharmed and discuss their strange experiences among themselves. The priests then race back to the top of the hill, and drink considerable quantities of a liquid placed in a big earthen jar near the snake-kisi. This acts as a violent emetic. They then retire for a short time to their secret chambers for the concluding mysteries, and by a little after sundown the whole of the strange ceremonial is over."

DOUBLE SNAKE-KILLING CAT.

GEORGE MATHIS of Geneva, N. Y., has not the only thousand-dollar snake-killing cat in New York State. On Tuesday came the report of one at Great Neck that had killed a black snake after a fifteen-minute fight. There is at present living in reposeful old age at Orient, L.I., one of these snake-killing cats. It is now 15 years old, and only recently ceased its life-long practice of bringing snakes up to its owner's house, to be despatched there, unless it had already made victims of them on the journey from the wood.

This cat, named Tiger, was really a snake hunter. It was not satisfied with the occasional reptile that it might chance upon, but at intervals made trips, prolonged if necessary, to the neighbouring woods, beating up the cover, as it were, until a snake was found. It seemed to like the sport of the hunt and also to show its prowess, for usually, instead of killing the quarry on the spot, it would carry it alive to the door yard, there waiting and guarding the reptile, with watchful care, until some one from the house should come out and make an end of it. Tiger's intelligence had early noted the characteristic of its prey that leads the snake's mate to follow its trail, and the cat was always on the alert to nab the second snake. Year after year Tiger continued its periodical hunting trips, and the record of its captures is a large one. Recently it seemed to come to the conclusion that its days for sport were over and it no longer stalks its game, but will seize any snake that happens in its path.

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Notes by the Mail.

A TELEGRAM from Halifax (N. S.), dated Sept. 5, says:—A yachting party, numbering eleven persons, and including Messrs. Poole and Judy, officers of the British cruiser *Talbot*, was capsized last evening in a squall when returning from a water picnic. Messrs. Poole and Judy each grasped a lady of the party and swam for the shore, which they reached in an exhausted condition after battling with the stormy waves. The others—four ladies and three men—were all drowned.

DICOVERIES of gold in small quantities in the Isle of Man have frequently been reported, and in some cases workings have been undertaken, but they have not proved remunerative. It is now again reported that gold has been found, and that crushing tests have yielded one ounce of the precious metal to a ton of quartz. Two gentlemen who have had experience in Australia have secured mining rights, and are taking steps to develop the discovery, which was made some little time ago, but has up to now been kept secret.

AN Ilfracombe correspondent states that a party of visitors who were sailing in a pleasure yacht off Lee on Sept. 4 met with an extraordinary adventure. Suddenly a large fish jumped on board, and with its tail smashed all the vessel's gear, and broke the main boom. One gentleman received a blow in the face, which blacked his eye. The fish then thrust its nose into the cabin and remained quiet, and the party made for the shore with all speed. The unwelcome intruder proved to be a whalethrasher, fifteen feet long, and weighing half a ton. it is now being exhibited in Ilfracombe.

MR. W. F. MONYPENNY, the editor of the Johannesburg *Star*, whom the Transvaal authorities wished to arrest, but who has succeeded in getting over the border into Natal, where he is safe, was up to February last one of the assistant editors of the London *Times*. He left England in that month to assume the position of editor-in-chief of the *Star*. Born some thirty years ago in county Armagh, he proceeded him from Dungannon School to Trinity College, Dublin, subsequently going to Oxford, where he greatly distinguished himself. He was, it is understood, enttusted with many delicate missions on behalf of the leading daily journal. Mr. Monypenny was an officer of the London Irish Rifle Volunteers.

AN important piece of patronage will very shortly fall to Lord George Hamilton in the Governorship of Bombay. In the ordinary course Lord Sandhurst would not vacate his appointment until next February, but it is believed that he desires to anticipate the expiration of his term of office by a couple of months so as to be able to spend his Christmas in England. In the circumstances it will be necessary to nominate a successor before the autumn is very far advanced. The post is a very desirable one, carrying, as it does, a salary of 10,000*l.* a year, with a rank in India second only to that of the Viceroy. The name of Lord Arthur Hill is prominently associated with the vacancy in official quarters.

A SCIENTIFIC expedition has, says the London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, been despatched by the Royal Society and the Natural History Department of the British Museum to Arabia for the purpose of making a zoological exploration of the highlands in the neighbourhood of Aden, and of penetrating as far as possible into the interior in an easterly direction. The project has been organised on similar lines to the expedition sent on to Socotra by the National Museum and the Liverpool Museum last year, and there is reason for anticipating that results of equal scientific interest will be obtained, especially in relation to the affinity existing between the Socotran forms and those found on the mainland. The leaders of the Arabian expedition are MR. B. Percival and MR. William Dodson, aud I believe that General Creagh, the Governor of Aden, will accompany the party within his district. Some reticence has necessarily to be observed as regards the precise route to be followed, inasmuch as Arab chiefs have on more than one occasion lately placed difficulties in the way of foreign expeditions traversing their country. I understand, however, that as regards the present undertaking the Sultan of the territory adjoining the British sphere has promised to render every assistant to the explorers.

As we commented somewhat lightly last week on the malarial mosquito and his investigators we may take the following from the *Manchester Guardian's* London correspondence:—Detailed information received here concerning the Liverpool Malarial Investigation Commission in Sierra Leone fully confirms the importance of Major Ross's discovery of the malaria-bearing mosquito. As reference has been made to the fact that the species of mosquito associated with malarial feve in Italy and other parts of Europe was already known, I may state that the precise discovery made by Major Ross is the mosquito stage of the parasite of quartan fever in mosquitoes, which has been met with in some numbers in two or three localities. The next important move is to find the breeding-places of this mosquito. Latest advices speak hopefully of the Commission being able to make this discovery, though so far they had only found any number of breeding-places of mosquitoes belonging to the genus *culex*, which are considered to be harmless from the point of view of malaria. The discovery by Mr. E. E. Austen, the dipterologist of the British Museum, who is with Major Ross, of the presence of the tsetse fly in Sierra Leone is also of great scientific interest. The fly had never previously been met with in the colony, and was not known to occur, though one or two dipterologists had long suspected its existence owing to the fact that horses will not live in Sierra Leone. Every advantage will be taken of the opportunity of obtaining all information possible as regards the habits and life history of this pest, and this will lend additional interest to the very useful and important work accomplished by the mission.

A WORD TO MOTHERS.

Mothers of children affected with croup or a severe cold need not hesitate to administer Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It contains no opiate nor narcotic in any form and may be given as confidently to the babe as to an adult. The great success that has attended its use in the treatment of colds and croup has won for it the approval and praise it has received throughout the United States and in many foreign lands. For sale by*

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Indian News.

MR. ROSE, Executive Engineer, 1st grade, Punjab, is permitted to retire from the service from the 2nd of October.

MR FOWLER, Executive Engineer, 1st grade, is appointed Engineer-in-chief of the Ludhiana-Dhuri-Jackhal Railway.

MR. STEWART, Assistaut Engineer, third grade, on return from leave, is posted to the Ludhiana-Dhuri-Jackhal Railway.

LIEUTENANT GARDINER, R. E., Assistant Engineer, second grade, on return from privilege leave, is posted to the Allahabad-Fyzabad Railway Survey.

INSTRUCTIONS were received in Bombay by the medical authorities to select several additional officers of the Indian Medical Service for employment in South Africa.

MR. SCOTT'S labours on the Burmo-Chinese Frontier are not yet completed, and proposals for the approaching season's work are now under consideration.

THE last *Madras Gazette* contains the appointment of Mr. Eardley Norton to be a member of the Legislative Council as representative of the Madras Municipality.

SIR ARTHUT HAVELOCK will leave Ootacamund on tour to Periyar and Kodikanal on the 17th proximo, and will return to Madras on the morning of the 27th idem.

IT has been decided that income-tax will not be leviable on the salaries of officers proceeding with the Indian Contingent to South Africa, unless the salaries are paid by Government to a Banker or Agent in India.

THE Amir has now prohibited entirely the import of British salt into Afghanistan. In April, 1899, 271 camel loads of salt were refused admittance to Afghanistan on the Kurram frontier, and persons found smuggling British salt into Afghanistan are now liable to arrest and heavy penalties. The Afghan Government are pushing the trade in salt from their own mines in Afghan and Turkestan by every means in their power.

THE Bombay crop summary for week ended September 26 shows little change. No rain has fallen in Sind, where the position grows steadily worse. The river is low and there is a deficiency of water on the Sukker and Ghur canals. The same remark applies to the whole of Guzerat, where fodder famine grows in intensity every week. In Amedabad extensive relief works are in progresses, but more are urgently required, and the construction of the Railway embankment between Wadhwan and Dholia will be soon commenced. Strenuous efforts are to be made to keep cattle alive. There is no fodder nearer than Thana, and arrangements are being pushed forward to establish cattle relief camps. The situation is still unsatisfactory in Nasik and Khandeish, where more rain is wanted. In the southern portions of the Presidency the good rain of the previous two weeks has been supplemented by such timely showers that there is no longer any need for anxiety.

REPORT of rioting on rather a serious scale, says the *Pioneer*, reach us from Sailana in Central India. Sailana is a small State in the Western Malwa Agency, not far from Rutlam. A large part of the population of this and the surrounding States consists of Bhils and since scarcity began to be felt these people have shown symptoms of restlessness. On the 21st they passed from robbing crops to robbing cattle. A band of about 200 of them attacked a Gujar village called Kheria Rundi by night, and succeeded in carrying off a herd of about 150 buffaloes. The Thakur Sahib of Raoti, a neighbouring magnate, on getting news of the raid, mustered some State sowars and police, and with 100 Bhil friendlies gave chase. After a march of 25 miles he came upon them just as they were entering the hills of Jabua, a neighbouring State that used to belong to the Bhil Agency. The cattle lifters here turned to bay, and having the advantage of the higher position completely repulsed the pursuers. The Thakur Sahib had to draw off after losing seven men and six horses killed and several more wounded, and the Bhils remained masters of the field and the cattle. There may be some exaggeration in this account, brought in, we suppose, by the members of the defeated force; but there is probably none in our correspondent's statement that the villages round about are considerably disturbed, and that "the mahajans are passing their days with great anxiety."

THE Rev. E. Darnley Smith, Landscove Vicarage, Ashburton, has invented the device for preserving choice fruit, such as peaches, nectarines, and pears, from the attacks of birds and wasps.

AT London, England, and Bremen, Prussia, the longest day has 16½ hours. At Stockholm, Sweden, it is 18½ hours in length. At Hamburg in Germany and Dantzic in Prussia the longest day has 17 hours. At St. Petersburg, Russia, and Tobolsk, Siberia, the longest day is 19 hours and the shortest 5 hours. At Torena, Finland, June 21st brings a day nearly 22 hours long, and Christmas one less than 3 hours in length. At Wardbury, Norway, and in Spitzburgen the longest day is somewhat less than 15 hours and at Montreal, Canada, it is 16.

A WONDERFUL CURE
OF DIARRHOEA.

A PROMINENT VIRGINIA EDITOR.
ALMOST GIVEN UP, BUT WAS
BROUGHT BACK TO PERFECT HEALTH
BY CHAMBERLAIN'S COLIC, CHOLERA
AND DIARRHŒA REMEDY.

READ HIS EDITORIAL.

From the Times, Hillstille, Va.

I suffered with diarrhœa for a long time and thought I was past being cured. I had spent much time and money and suffered so much misery that I had almost decided to give up all hopes of recovery and await the result, but noticing the advertisement of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhœa Remedy and also some testimonials stating how some wonderful cures had been wrought by this remedy, I decided to try it. After taking a few doses I was entirely well of that trouble, and I wish to say further to my readers and fellow sufferers that I am a hale and hearty man today and feel as well as I ever did in my life.—O. R. MOORE. Sold by.*

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, OCTOBER 1, 1899.

THE LAST LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

IT seems, Sir John Woodburn was very much moved when he pronounced his final doom upon Local Self-Government in Calcutta. This was expected, for everybody knows that His Honor possesses a very tender heart and is incapable of hurting any person by word or deed. When he, therefore, remembered that he was going to deprive the people, so devotedly attached to him, of a privilege which they had been enjoying for the last quarter of a century and for which they had fought so hard, he naturally felt that he was bound to soothe their wounded feelings with some kind expressions. And thus, His Honor did his very best to assure them that he had ever been their friend, and that it would be his duty to serve them in future.

The public would, however, have been gratified if His Honor could explain to them why this gift was withdrawn from them. Of course, His Honor says that, Local Self-Government yet exists, though in another form. But, he knows very well that not only the people of this country but a half of England, including Sir Henry Fowler, do not agree in this view. If real Local Self-Government had existed, why should the 28 Commissioners resign? And why should the citizens rise to a man and protest against the measure? And why should Sir H. Fowler oppose it so strongly? His Honor will thus see that the people are not at all prepared to accept his assurance, that they are yet in possession of the boon which was conferred on them in 1877.

Sir John says that the constitution failed, and that hence a change was necessary. But was His Honor competent to hold such a decided opinion on the subject, specially when his predecessors, who were fully his peers, had left the constitution undisturbed? What happened was this. Before the Bill was studied, Sir A. Mackenzie referred it to the Select Committee. For, in India, when a bill is once referred to the Select Committee, its future progress is assured. He then made over his bantling to Sir John Woodburn.

The heart of Sir John Woodburn is always kind. When, therefore, Sir A. Mackenzie, almost in a dying condition, pressed him to accept his darling, Sir John could not refuse to accept it. Of course, His Honor had no help in the matter. But we venture to think, that if Sir John Woodburn could not disoblige his predecessor, he might have told him that he was a stranger in Calcutta, that he knew nothing of its present and previous conditions, that he had not studied the Bill and that he would, therefore, keep his mind open.

But, as soon as Sir A. Mackenzie left the country, Sir John was pleased to declare that he could not allow the principles of the Bill to be discussed, and that because his predecessor had referred it to the Select Committee. Was that fair to the rate-payers? Was His Honor, knowing nothing of the Municipal administration of Calcutta, justified in making this declaration? And the fate of the Corporation was sealed as soon as the question of constitution was not allowed to be raised in the Select Committee.

His Honor's Government next brought a serious charge against the Commissioners, namely, that some of them were open to corruption. And when they wanted to know which of them were corrupt, they got a curt reply! We dare say His Honor would not have been under the necessity of placing himself in this disagreeable position if he had not yielded to the importunities of Sir A. Mackenzie. Indeed, would His Honor have taken upon himself the serious responsibility of depriving the Indian subjects of the small right of Self-Government, once granted to them, if he had not been influenced by his predecessor? Let His Honor search his own heart for a reply.

His Honor, however, need not trouble himself about the pain which the withdrawal of Local Self-Government has caused to the people. They are used to it. They have at last come to realize that it is their lot to suffer. It is a mistake on the part of the Indians to claim political privileges. They would, however, never have done this, had they not been taught and encouraged by their rulers to do so. Sir J. Woodburn is a sympathetic ruler, and we love him for his good feelings towards us. He means us well and we are grateful to him for it. We have this confidence in him that he will never willingly do us any harm; on the other hand, he will always do his best to help us. Let us cherish this feeling towards the ruler of our province, without minding whether he does us service or dis-service.

THE burial of local self-government, planted in the capital of British India in 1876, by Sir Richard Temple with the help of a Hindu gentleman who is now a religious recluse, took place on Wednesday in the Council Chamber of the Bengal Government. An esteemed townsman, referring to the incident, writes to us:

"Will you publish a leader to-morrow about the passing of the Municipal Bill within black borders headed "Extinction of Local Self-Government" or something to that effect?"

In our humble opinion it is the Anglo-Indian papers and not the Indian, who should come out in black. For, the strangulation of local self-government in the first city in India, will do greater harm to the members of the ruling race than to the people of the country. Indeed, the authors of this vandalism will realize in the course of a few years the nature of the disaster which they have brought upon the Indian Empire by their suicidal policy. Let it be borne in mind that the system of municipal government which was killed on Wednesday, was conferred upon the citizens of Calcutta after mature deliberation. The city had been converted into a veritable cesspool, under official management: and both Europeans and Indians loudly demanded a change. And the constitution, which was laid at rest on Wednesday evening, was given to the Corporation. It was nourished for nearly a quarter of a century by an array of distinguished Lieutenant-Governors and their Secretaries and by such experienced and able Chairmen as Sir Henry Harrison and Mr. Lee. The noble edifice, built up with such tender care and consummate skill has, however, been demolished by a Governor who is absolutely a stranger in Bengal! Yet, there is no doubt, an honester man than His Honour does not exist in the whole world. Perhaps he had no help in the matter; perhaps he simply carried out an inexorable decree. The only redeeming feature of the measure is that the Government will no longer find a scapegoat in the representatives of the people to fasten the shortcomings of the Corporation upon. How short-sighted the rulers are! They as well as we know that in the system of the so-called local self-government, they were the masters in the Corporation. That being so, they had no necessity of replacing the system by another which would not benefit them much, but which would only go to show their narrowness and produce blank despair in the minds of the people. They might have retained the system, and abused the Babus to their heart's content for all the sins, of omission and commission, of the Corporation. Upon whom will they now throw the blame when the Corporation will fail to do its work properly? As we said, it is a day of mourning more for the Europeans than for the Indians.

THE *Kaira Vartaman*, of Ahmedabad, alleged that the Karkoon of Matarbad had used force in collecting arrears of revenue. By making this allegation, the newspaper did eminent service to the Government at the risk of his personal liberty. But the Government did not take that view of the case. The members of the press are outsiders, while the Karkoon is a member of the official family. Is it proper that a member of the family should be allowed to be exposed by an outsider? So, what the Government did was to ask the Karkoon to sue the editor for defamation. And thus the unfortunate journalist was at once reduced to the position of a criminal. And why? Because he had the patriotism and public spirit to bring to light a wrong which, as a publicist, it was his duty to expose and which could never be approved of by the Government or conduce to its profit or prestige. Using force to collect the Government revenue,—that was the charge brought against a Revenue official of the Bombay Government! Well, the Bombay Government was apparently more for checking public spirit and nourishing force in the collection of revenue than for making an independent inquiry into the matter. They seemed to throw overboard the public-spirited editor. There was a prosecution, and sure enough the poor editor was convicted, as also the writer of the article, and they were sentenced to pay fines of Rs. 100 and 150 respectively. There was an appeal, and then the British sense of justice came into full play, and the accused were acquitted. The Appellate Court observed that it did not matter whether the statements made were correct or not. They could not be libellous if they were made for public good after due inquiry. The Judge remarked that it was quite evident that due inquiry had been made, and that the accused, therefore, deserved to be acquitted. But there was another important fact which the Judge brought in prominent notice in his judgment. He said that no fewer than twenty-four witnesses had sworn in open court to the effect that the Karkoon had used force against them to recover arrears of rent, and had gone, says the *Mahratta*, "so far as to make them stoop down in the falling rain and grasp their toes, while pieces of wood were placed on their backs". This must be a severe form of torture. And though twenty-four persons came to testify that they themselves had been subjected to this torture for the purpose of making them pay arrears of revenue, the Magistrate convicted the public-spirited writers. What does this shew? Is it in this manner that Government revenue is extorted from the ryots of India? And is it the way of the Government that when these extortions are brought to light, the bold man who does that, is punished? Petty as this case is, it makes important disclosures. And we dare say the case deserves to draw the attention of the people in England who take interest in Indian affairs.

THE practice of hanging more than one person for the murder of a single individual, whether it had existed before or not, no doubt got an impetus from the famous Judge Mr. Nichols, of the North-Western Provinces. Those Provinces were demoralized by his "exemplary" sentences and gradually the practice extended to all parts of India. The High Court, however, rarely allows the hanging of more than one. The Madras papers to hand shew two cases of this nature. There was a murder, and the Sessions Judge of Madura adjudged three men to be hanged for that offence. As regards the third prisoner, Mr. D. Chamier, who appeared on his behalf, said that, "it was shocking that a human being should have been convicted of murder on such evidence as the third prisoner had been." Still that was considered sufficient by the Sessions Judge to send him to the gallows. On appeal the third man was acquitted, the second prisoner was transported for life, and the death-sentence on the first was confirmed. Upon what flimsy grounds did the Sessions Judge of Madura pass severe sentences upon two accused persons, will appear from another case. In this case there were two prisoners, the first was adjudged by him to be hanged and the second to be imprisoned for life. About this second prisoner the High Court observed that, there was no evidence against the accused excepting that he was present at the time of the murder, and an alarm being raised, ran away along with the first prisoner! Is any interest served by such severity? Tooth for tooth is, we believe, sufficient for the ends of justice. But when a couple of men or more are sent to the gallows for the murder of one, we do not know why, but the spectacle must give a shock to every human soul.

UNDER the heading "Humours of Plague Inspection" a writer in the *Indian Spectator* has described some "plague impressions" which throw a good deal of light on these plague examinations. From all that the writer has said it is manifest that these examinations cannot be of any earthly use. The manner in which the examination is conducted makes but a farce of it, with only this exception that while a farce is enjoyed by every one, in a plague examination there is nothing but worry and trouble for those who have the misfortune to undergo it. No man in his senses can have any faith in these examinations as they are: even those entrusted with the work do not, in their heart of hearts, believe in the usefulness of these operations. The writer mentions having in the course of his journey fallen in with a plague doctor who happened to be an old acquaintance. On asking him about these things the writer was frankly told that they were "all bosh." He (the plague Inspector) detailed his experiences as a Plague Inspector, and his opinion as a medical man, winding up with the remark that the whole business was a failure, and bound to be such, but that as a servant of Government he had to carry out instructions, etc. This would show that this officer at least is no believer in the virtues of these examinations. But the most curious experience of the writer is yet to be told. Let us quote his own words:

The carriage held two young British officers, and myself. The officers had got in at—. One of them as bonny a young fellow as any mother's heart could wish, appeared to be in fever, and as the train halted incontinently I could almost hear his breathing. "Will she never reach—," he used to cry out at these halts. And when the train did reach the station the poor fellow groaned, "My god, the fever must be more than 102, and here is the fellow coming to examine." But the "fellow," a smart young medico, merely touched his hand. He could have seen at a glance that the officer was in a high fever. But he "did not," and I was right glad he did not. It was the fever of exhaustion, such as foolish young soldiers court in this country, and had nothing to do with plague. The other officer was as lightly let off. When my turn came to hold out the hand, the Inspector blandly asked, "Where from, Sir?" On mentioning my starting place, I was asked to be good enough to show my tongue. Well, I gave him a taste my tongue, at which he took out a printed paper from his pocket and explained, with many apolfogies, tha he had instructions to be most particular with passengers coming up from "any" part of the Bombay Presidency.

All this would go to show that plague has a respect for colour,—at least the plague officers seem to think so.

THIS is how they manage it in the Bombay Presidency. But Calcutta has also been declared plague-infected and any one going from here cannot avoid these examinations. And we regret to find that in spite of the sympathetic pronouncements of Sir John Woodburn, the provisions made at the Howrah Railway Station for conducting the examination of passengers, especially of the female passengers, are not all that can be desired. It is true that there has been set apart a separate entrance for lady passengers, but the difficulty is that their male guardians are not allowed to enter by this gate. This arrangement is only for those that do not travel by first or second class, for both sexes of whom there is one entrance. It should be noted here that respectable Indians do not usually travel second class with the ladies of their families whom they usually put in an inter-class carriage. Such is the inconvenience of the present arrangement, that in order to avoid it, instances are known to have occurred where second-class tickets have been taken for simply finding an easy entrance to the platform. This the Railway authorities have taken in a different light. A notice has been posted on the platform warning the public against any such act. Some Marwari gentlemen had recourse to it and were prosecuted for avoiding plague examination. Then there is no purdah arrangement for examining inter-class lady passengers. At the entrance reserved for such lady passengers there is a lady doctor, but there are also policemen there and the examination is conducted before them! This state of things can be easily remedied, and it is a wonder that nothing has been done so long.

THROUGHOUT the British West Indies evidence accumulates that the Government of the United States in laying a countervailing duty on European bounty-fed sugar has supplied in part the relief to the main industry of these Islands which the British Government has so long withheld. The "Port of Spain Gazette," in an article transmitted to the State Department by the United States Minister to Venezuela, thus describes improved conditions in Trinidad and Demerara (British Guiana):

The last crop season has presented some remarkable features, well worthy the attention of others besides planters, because they are indications of material progress. First, there has been the expansion of the cane-farming system to a degree which will be best realized from its financial side. Over £100,000 have been paid to cane farmers during the last four months. * * * The flux and reflux of money in the colony indicates a more prosperous condition of things than was previously the case. In view of the fact that no abnormal change has taken place in the cocoa production, it must be due to the improved prospects of the sugar industry.

Another notable feature of the sugar crop this year was the effect of the American countervailing duties, in putting new life into the local and Demerara sugar industry. The same result has been reported in the case of Mauritius in consequence of the imposition of the Indian countervailing duties. The planters of that island are now shipping sugar at remunerative prices to India. And yet there has been no great rise in the price of sugar to startle the American or Indian consumer; but a fair market has had its inevitable result for an industry enabled in the nature of things to hold its own, and only prevented from doing so for some years past because of markets artificially rigged by the European bounties.

We hope the Indian industry will also shew an expansion. But for Lord Curzon, this important Indian industry would have been destroyed. Is it not a shame that the planters of Mauritius should ship sugar here when we have the advantages of cheap labor and a more fertile soil? What the Indians need is a greater expansion of the cane and date cultivation and good machineries like those used in Mauritius. Mauritius has this advantage over India that it can supply its local factories with very large quantities of raw sugar almost throughout the year. Here the sugar mills work for six months in the year at the most and have to import coarse sugar from Java and other places.

REFERRING to the attitude of Sir H. Fowler during the last Budget debate, the *Morning Leader* asks:—

Who in the world has ever asked him (Sir Henry) to "treat Indian affairs from the merely partisan point of view, or blamed him for declining the invitation? What Sir Henry Fowler does is to assert frequently, vigorously, and with complacency that he will not treat Indian questions as Party questions. Our answer is that under the existing system this formula, which is so dear to Ministers and ex-Ministers, is cant, and cant of a transparent kind. The reason is simple. The Secretary of State for India is a member of the Cabinet, and a vote of censure upon him would end the life of the Government. Hence the whole machinery of the Ministerialists who are in a majority, is employed on his behalf, and there is no importan division on an Indian topic in which the Government Whips are not tellers on the side of the Indian Secretary. It follows that the claim that Indian questions must not be treated as party questions can only mean that the Opposition ought not to oppose. That is, indeed, the common effect of Sir Henry Fowler's appeals, and the curious sequel is that the official machinery of both parties is employed against independent criticism of errors in the administration of India.

Yes, Sir Henry Fowler and others of his way of thinking, which means the administrators who now rule the Empire, will not permit inquiry or independent criticism. They call all independent criticism as "gross falsehoods" and would let the matter end there.

IT is said by the Hindu saints that God is so good that He saves even those who wage war against Him! Examples are shewn of atheists, who, after living a life of gross infidelity, at last fall at the feet of God, overcome by His mercy. Mr. Waggoner is one of the oldest and wealthiest citizens of Toledo, and one of the most prominent infidels in America. He spent seventy-two years of his life in waging an aggressive war with God. Constantly thinking of God, how to dethrone and discredit Him he came to love Him at last! And in order to proclaim his conversion he invited the citizens to a bonfire which he made of his finest infidel library in Ohio. His life-long collection, which had cost him an enormous sum, was thus reduced to ashes in a moment.

THE Dinajpur public has naturally been very much exercised over the case of Babu Ashutosh Mookerjee, Station-master, Bhowanipur Railway station. He is undergoing trial under three different charges, (1) under sections 211 and 182 I. P. C. for giving false information, (2) under section 323 for assault, and (3) under section 307 I. P. C. for attempted murder. From the records now before us we find that Babu Ashutosh has brought all this trouble upon himself under the following extraordinary circumstances. For some reasons or other, the Station-master and the Parbatipur police did not pull well. Indeed, lately, the Sub-Inspector made a report against him to the District Superintendent of Police which, on enquiry, was found to be false. Next, he was charged by the same officer with having stolen a door-frame. This accusation, too, fell through. On the 29th July, the Station-master sent a telegram to the District Magistrate to the following effect:—

Night 3 o'clock, Parbatipur Police Head-constable with about thirty constables and chowkidars forcibly arrested Bhowanipur villagers for obtaining evidence against me and took them to Habigunj Kutchery. Soliciting your favour for enquiry.

On receipt of the telegram, the Magistrate deputed a police officer to make an enquiry. The policeman reported the allegation to be false. Thereupon the Station-master was served with a notice to show cause why he should not be prosecuted under sections 211, and 182 I. P. C. While the matter was standing thus, another exciting event happened. On the 23rd August, the Police Sub-Inspector of Parbatipur obtained a warrant against Babu Ashutosh for having grievously assaulted him. He was seized in his house and marched off to Dinajpur handcuffed. After some difficulty, he was enlarged on bail but the very day he was again arrested on a warrant on a charge of having used his gun against the Police officer, while he was being arrested in his house on the 23rd August. He was again released on bail. Thus one may see that three very serious charges are hanging over him. The case under section 211 is being heard before Babu Rajani Prosad Neogy, Senior Deputy Magistrate. The depositions of some of the witnesses for the accused are so extraordinary that one can hardly believe them. They have been offered to prove the allegation of the Station-master in his telegram of the 29th July. For instance, Basaratulla Fakir says:—

I came to Dinajpur to file a complaint against the Sub-Inspector of Parbatipur. On my way back I and Samir were arrested at Parbatipur by a constable and a chowkidar and taken to the Thana. On the next morning I was taken to Habra Cutchery and the Sub-Inspector Mathur Nath asked me to depose that the Station-master of Bhowanipur took bribe and extorted money from the Beparies and that he sold one sleeper to Samir Mondal. I refused to depose so. On this the Daroga threatened to beat me. For fear I deposed as desired by the Daroga. About 5 or 6 days after this I was sleeping in my house. I was aroused from my sleep. My hands were tied by the Jamadar. Jamadar entered the inner apartments of Sara, Kachi and others' houses and brought them out, their hands being tied.

Another witness Samir thus deposes:—

On a certain night in Sravan last some one called me and I replied while I was lying in my bed in the Verandah. He dragged me out. Jamadar and others then tied my hands. I began to cry. The Head-constable gagged me and pulled my beard. Then they took me to Habra Kutchery (Zamindery Kutchery.) The constable aroused Mathur Babu, who caught me by the beard and dragged me into the room in which he was sleeping. He up-rooted some of my beard and beat me with shoes. Jamadar (Satish Ghosh) who had come with other people then began to beat me. The Daroga then told the men of our village who had been taken to the Kutchery that unless they deposed that the Station-master was a thief, a badmash, &c., they would be beaten as severely as I was beaten. They and I then deposed just as the Daroga desired.

Of course, these witnesses are yet to be cross-examined and the correctness of their statements tested. The Stationmaster has been committed to the Sessions on a charge of attempted murder. In the above we give only a bare sketch of the case; and when we publish the full records the reader will wonder if it is all a reality or a romance.

THE Barh whipping case is still fresh in the memory of the reader as also the name of Mr. Foster, Sub-divisional Officer of Barh, who played so prominent a part in it. It will be remembered that the District Magistrate, in explaining the conduc- of Mr. Foster in that notorious case, put forward inexperience as a justification. This inexperience has, we find, led that officer to play another prank. In March last a case of rioting came up before the Sub-divisional Magistrate in which the prosecution failed to prove their story and the accused were discharged. As an offshoot of that case, two of the local landholders were summoned by the Sub-divisional Officer under Sec. 154 I. P. C. on suspicion that their agents had fomented the alleged riot. The parties applied for a transfer of the case, but their prayer was not granted. At last they moved the Magistrate, who ordered the transfer of the case to the file of another Deputy Magistrate. The trying Magistrate in acquitting the accused remarks: "I cannot understand how under the circumstances, the accused could have been committed for trial under section 154 I. P. C. There is no evidence to establish a charge under section 154 I. P. C. against the accused." Let it be noted here that the case began in March and ended only on the 29th August last. Now, some body must be held responsible for an ignorance which is the cause of so much worry and trouble, not to speak of the pecuniary loss to the parties concerned.

WE doubt not, "On-Looker's" graphic description of the debate on the Municipal Bill, published in another column, will be read with intense interest by the general public. The fact was made very plain that, arguments, sense, and justice were all on the side of the six representatives, and it was only by the weight of numbers that the other side scored. Yet it was only a fight over a dead carcass. It would have mattered very little, if even all the amendments of the representatives were carried, when the question of the constitution of the General Committee had been settled for ever. The public lost all interest in the discussion, as soon as they came to learn that amendments relating to the constitutional part of the Bill had been closured by the Lieutenant-Governor. It was thus a veritable farce that was enacted in the Council Chamber, for days together, with all the solemnity necessary to the discussion of a grave problem. We all knew that the debates in our Legislative Councils were mere *tamashas*, but never was the fact more forcibly impressed upon the people than on the present occasion. Twelve men sat down with the deliberate intention of voting solid against six; and when the latter, as a matter of course, were defeated, the President congratulated the former on their brilliant victory! The beauty of the thing is that our rulers, who are, no doubt, very intelligent men, do not see the ludicrousness of the position. The debate in our Legislative Councils reminds us how the non-existence of God was conclusively proved at a certain meeting in Bombay. At a meeting of the Prarthana Samaj, the subject for discussion was, whether God existed or not. As the members of the Samaj were all theists, they had no difficulty in deciding the question in favour of God. In revenge, a sceptic, who was out-voted by the Prarthana Samaj men, called a public meeting to prove the contrary. He took care to bring with him a large following, pledged to support him. There was a hot discussion raised, but the convener of the meeting bawled out, "vote, vote." And when votes were taken, it was found that fifty were on the side of God, and one hundred against Him; and the president was obliged to declare that God did not exist; and God was thus formally deposed in Bombay! "On-looker" is not quite correct when he says that the boon of elective system was conferred on Calcutta by Sir Richard Temple unsolicited. As we have said in another column but for the active help of a Hindu gentleman, now a religious recluse, the citizens would not have got the little of self-government, which has just been snatched away from them. We may one day relate how the system, over which the whole country is now mourning, came to be introduced into the capital of the Indian Empire in 1876.

In Re the Dinajpur case, we have said elsewhere that the accused, Babu Ashutosh Mukherje, had some difficulty in obtaining bail, after he had been marched off handcuffed to Dinajpur. Yes, the bail episode forms one of the most extraordinary features of the case. Babu Ashutosh was arrested on the morning of the 24th August last and brought before the District Magistrate, Mr. Garret, at about 12-30 P. M. on the same day; and an application for bail was immediately made. The application was, however, rejected, though the offence was bailable. Thereupon another application was made for a copy of the above order, when the Magistrate changed his mind and passed an order to the effect that the accused might be released on furnishing bail for Rs. 2000. On that very day, the District Judge was moved with the result that the amount of bail was reduced to Rs. 1,000. The order of the Judge was, in due course, communicated to the District Magistrate. Four leading Mooktears submitted a bail-bond for Rs. 1000. According to the ordinary practice, the bail-bond, on the certificate of the Court Sub-Inspector, is accepted by the Senior Deputy Magistrate. But, in the present case, there was a departure. The bail-bond was sent to the District Magistrate himself, who was then in his *kuti*, and who referred it for inquiry to the Sub-Inspector of the Kotawali Police Station. The Sub-Inspector having made a report the next day, the bail-bond was accepted. What happened next created a sensation. Scarcely had the accused got his release and taken a little rest, when he was again arrested under a warrant and marched off to the lock-up. The fact is, a new charge was brought against the Station-master, viz., attempt at murder. The charge was based on a report submitted by the Sub-Inspector, who had gone to arrest him on the night of the 23rd August and who alleged that the Station-master had fired a gun at him What followed is described by our Dinajpur correspondent thus:—

On the following day the Sessions Judge was again moved and he released him (accused) on bail for Rs. 1000. The said order of the Sessions Judge was in due course communicated to the District Magistrate; and Babu Gopal Chandra Banerjee, Munshi Jehoruddin, Munshi Lutfar Rahaman, and Babu Chitragiri Pain offered themselves as sureties. Their bail-bond, as was the case with the former one, was made over to the Kotwali Police Sub-Inspector, Babu Broja Rakhal Sanyal.

The Kotwali Police Sub-Inspector submitted his report on the following Tuesday. In his report he stated that Munshi Lutfar Rahaman and Babu Chitragiri Pain had not sufficient means and the other two had properties which were not in their exclusive possession. Upon the said report the District Magistrate rejected the said two gentlemen reported against by the Kotwali Police Sub-Inspector and did not pass any final order with regard to the other two gentlemen.

On the same day Babus Rajib Lochan Das and Ishan Chandra Tarafdar submitted a fresh bail-bond in lieu of Munshi Lutfar Rahaman and Babu Chitragiri Pain. This bail-bond was again referred to the Kotwali Sub-Inspector, although the pleader for the accused informed the District Magistrate that as a rule the bail-bond was inquired into by the Police officer in charge of the Court office, and that the same might be referred to the said officer to expedite business.

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On the following day the Kotwali Police Sub-Inspector submitted his report, in which he did not speak favourably about the circumstances of Babu Rajib Lochan Das. Thereupon a petition was made to the District Magistrate on behalf of the accused, stating among other things that Rajib Babu had sufficient means to pay Rs 250 as would appear from his Savings Bank Account-book.

Then Babu Rajib Lochan Das produced his Savings Bank Account book and the District Magistrate was satisfied that Rajib Babu had sufficient means, and he was accepted as a surety. But then the District Magistrate called upon Babu Gopal Chandra Banerjee and Munshi Jehoruddin, about whom he did not pass any final order before, to adduce better proof as to their circumstances. But subsequently on the assurance of the pleader for the accused they were accepted as sureties and the accused was then released.

I should add that the District Magistrate issued on the 23rd August a warrant upon Babu Ashutosh Sirkar for his arrest on a charge under section 332 I. P. Code. Although the offence under that section is bailable the District Magistrate did not mention the amount of bail in the warrant, which is usually the case, in case of a warrant issued for the arrest of an accused person for a bailable offence. He did not make any provision for bail in the said warrant thinking that the accused might abscond. What are the reasons for his so thinking are not known to the outside public. There is no evidence on the record to show any ground for his holding that there was a likelihood of the accused absconding.

THE *Indian Spectator* has taken the acquittal of Private Johnson very much to heart. It says: "It is the indifference of the majority of respectable Englishmen in the country that makes these outrages on justice possible. May we ask them henceforward to pledge themselves to stamp out this long standing epidemic of outrages on helpless people." The *Indian Spectator* talks like a Christian missionary. But, if the truth must be told, these outrages are due mainly to the policy of keeping up a difference between Indians and Englishmen. This policy, though not acknowledged by the responsible rulers of the land, yet holds its sway. It does not approve of a good feeling between the two races; and it teaches British soldiers not only to regard the people of this country as inferior animals, but to hate them as enemies. "Why did you commit the murder?" And O'Hara replied, "There are too many of these black bastards," and so he had tried to reduce their number. A cordial feeling between the races is desired by the Indians, but such a state of affairs does not favor the policy which supports the maintenance of 75 thousand British soldiers in India, and the necessity of stringent laws and their rigorous application. An Anglo-Indian contemporary, the *Statesman*, learns from Rangoon that the Burmans have resolved upon retaliation. Such an announcement will, we believe, have a more salutary effect upon a certain class of Europeans than the sermons of the *Spectator*. There are others who advocate that Lord Curzon should disband the Regiment altogether. Well, if that is done, who will defend the Empire from the seditious Babus? What Lord Curzon has to do is to create better feeling between the two races. His Lordship should do this by precepts and examples. Hitherto an opposite policy has been followed.

THE way in which Reuter telegraphs the demonstration in Trafalgar Square is amusing. It seems, an attempt was made by the Radicals to enter a protest against the war contemplated against the Boers. It is evident that "a large concourse of people assembled," for the purpose. Reuter, however, says nothing as to what they said or did, but he has much to say of the doings and sayings of those few who were not with them. So we are told that "the agitators did not have things all in their way." But why do you call them agitators, pray? And why should "the waving of Union Jacks", "the singing of National Anthems," and "Rule Britannia", be considered as supporting war against the Boers? We presume, those who were against war were as much patriots as those who were for it. But we are amused to see the attitude of Reuter. His duty is to describe incidents correctly, and not to force his politics upon his victims. It is quite true war means a blessing to those who deal in news, and Reuter expects a rich harvest if war is declared; but yet, by tainting the news furnished by him with his own political views, he deprecates the value of his commodities. His methods will lead the public to receive the news supplied by him with suspicion. It is clear, however, that the *Times* is not the nation nor the Empire. There is, no doubt of it, that there are great many people in England who are opposed to war. And we are glad to learn that Christianity is not altogether dead in that imperial country.

THE Indians are Socialists almost to a man, because they are helpless and dependent. Englishmen are Imperialists because they are masters. A man gets his impress from his surroundings and experiences. An Englishman, with Radical tendencies, finds his views undergoing a change in the climate of India. A few years of office served to convert the leader of the Radicals, Sir H. Fowler, into a full-fledged Conservative. All this is true, yet truth is always truth; and we have not the least doubt that the views advocated by Jesus Christ are more correct than those advanced by Rudyard Kipling. The views urged by the latter would go to suggest that there are some men who are created by God, and others who are created by the Evil One. Christ says that all men are children of one and the same Father. Of course, Jesus Christ is right. Kipling says that the white man must bear the burden of the colored man, by which he, of course, means that the colored man must live for the benefit of the white man. But Jesus Christ says that all men being the children of the same Father, they must love, cherish and protect one another; the strong must bear the burden of the weak, and protect him where he cannot do it himself. Of course, Jesus is right in this view, and Kipling is wrong.

IS a man of power, a man of wealth, a master whom subjects or slaves obey, happier than an ordinary man who pays his taxes and earns his livelihood by the sweat of his brow? Kipling, of course, thinks that the man of power is the happier, though he does not say so in so many words. From Kipling's point of view, the most blessed man in the universe is the Czar of Russia. But, we fear, the Czar will not confess to the impeachment that he is happier than his peasants. The next personage in importance in the world is the Viceroy of India. Lord Curzon, if His Excellency has not already found it, will do so in a short time that the incense paid to him does not adequately recompense him for the worries of his official life. Vanderblidt confessed that, being one of the wealthiest men in the world, he was necessarily the most miserable. Elsewhere will be found extracts from the Socialist paper of Toronto, the *Citizen*. We do not venture to reproduce the article entire, for we may be hanged for it, but the extracts we give will shew that, though what the paper says may not commend itself to the taste of those who hold Imperialistic views, yet the attitude that it takes is unassailable.

Scraps and Comments.

FROM the third quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in India for 1892-93 to 1896-97, which has just been received here, it appears famine and plague seriously checked educational progress throughout India in 1896-97, but it is a hopeful sign that there was no actual decrease in numbers in that year as compared with those in the previous year. The most important change during the quinquennium was the re-organization of the Education Department, which was effected by a Resolution of the Government of India in July 1896 by which the Department was divided into the Superior and Subordinate Services. Collegiate education shows an increased percentage of passed candidates in all subjects except law. For the M. A. degree Bengal still maintains its pre-eminence. Madras and Bombay show little progress. Unaided Colleges show a continuous decline in Bengal for this, degree. Of the 340 M. A's who obtained, their degrees during the five years under review, 329 came from Bengal. In European education there has been a steady increase. The Review, which was prepared by Mr. H. J. S. Cotton and presented to both Houses of Parliament, deals with the controlling agencies in the different provinces of India, collegiate education, secondary education, primary education, training schools, technical education, female education, Mahomedan education, the education of special classes, private institutions, hostels, physical and moral training, educational conference, text-books and libraries.

THE new Chief Justice of Madras seems to have begun well. On the day following his assumption of office there came up before his Lordship a string of appeals. The first appeal was that of a monomaniac who had been convicted by the Sessions Judge of South Canara of having caused the death of his brother and sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment He was acquitted on the ground that he was by the reason of unsoundness of mind, incapable of knowing the result of his act—a reason which had apparently failed to have any effect on the mind of the Sessions Judge. The next case was a very important one in one sense, because the Judge and Jury had differed in their opinion about it—the former, as usual, being for conviction and the latter for acquittal. Their Lordships—the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Moore—took the same view of the matter as the Jury and acquitted the accused. The third case was a strange one hailing from North Arcot. There were two accused who had been charged with the murder of a boy. One was acquitted by the Sessions Judge and the other was found guilty of *abetment of murder*, and sentenced to transportation for life. After hearing the appeal their Lordships held that it was not justifiable to hold one of the accused guilty of abetment of murder while the murderer was not forthcoming, and set aside the conviction. In another case, a man had been sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment because he had stolen 40 Rs. worth of paddy and had confessed his guilt. Their Lordships were struck with the enormity of the sentence and reduced the same to a term of three years. It is this sort of Judges that we want in this country. There are enough and more than enough of that class who are for conviction and rigorous punishment.

THAT India is being drained of its wealth, slowly but surely, nobody will deny. This process is going on in more ways than one. There are the Home Charges and other items incidental to an alien Government, which we must put up with till a better day dawns upon the political firmament of India. The trade of the country is almost entirely in the hands of foreigners and the profits which it brings in, goes to them. The only benefit that the people of India derive from the commerce of their country is a number of appointments in the mercantile firms and even the earnings from this source find a way out sooner or later. Then there are the industries which are also being monopolised one by one by foreigners. The tea industry is most remunerative and how few of the Indians are interested in it? The same may be said of the indigo industry. Foreign capital has been invested in these industries and foreign countries are being enriched at the expense of India. It is true that the tea gardens of Assam and the indigo factories of Behar are giving employment to thousands of our countrymen. But what of that? Do they contribute a single farthing to the national wealth of India? Experience shows that they do not. Then, why this cry for British capital? We are told on all hands that the universal reliance for all industrial work in this country is on European capital. The currency of the country is reformed to facilitate the flow in of foreign capital. The Government legislates with the same object in view. But foreign capital will not prove such a blessing to India as it may at first sight appear to be.

WHERE are our countrymen? Who will rouse them to their sense of duty? Thousands and lacs are spent for purchasing a hollow-sounding title but how much is applied to the development of the resources of the country? That there is yet a lack of the necessary capital, we refuse to believe. But if things are allowed to go on at the present rate, the day is not distant when India is bound to lack in capital. Therefore it behoves our countrymen to rise equal to the occasion, to throw off their lethargy and counteract the constant drain that is going on in this country. Let them take up the various industries and develop the resources of the country. To a want of aptitude and practical training of the Indians are attributed this neglect. But does this excuse hold water? A little thought will show that if the money is forthcoming, there will be no difficulty in engaging the services of experts from foreign countries. There are no minerologists of any note among us. But if a syndicate is formed among our countrymen to work the rich gold mines of Jashpur and Gangpur or the almost inexhaustible coal fields of Palamow and other places in Chota Nagpur, will there be any difficulty in procuring an expert from England or America? We don't think that that would be any likely cause to stand in the way of the syndicate's working.

THE iron industry of India has a bright future before it. Iron ore is to be found in any quantity in almost every part of India, and all this is waiting for the smelter's pot and the smith's hammer to come out as the thousand and one implements and machineries which we use in our everyday life and for which we have to depend solely upon foreign countries. In England, as we know, ores are brought from great distances as are also coal and flux, to the works, and yet the manufacture is carried on at a profit. While in India we get all the ores, coal and flux at the spot and cheap labour besides. And nothing but the best results can be expected if money is invested in this industry. Our London correspondent advises the youths of India to turn their attention to engineering, so that the engineering goods now imported from England—in one year alone so much as £2,400,000 worth of such articles was imported from England into India—may be turned out here in this country. Yes, that is a sound advice. But that alone will not do. What if they come back and do not find employment or if they find any at all, it may be under one of the many foreign Engineering firms already working in this country. And what good will that do? We shall be the same hewers of wood and drawers of water as before. Therefore what we want is that the whole thing should be in the hands of the Indians. Why is Japan flourishing? Because she is producing all that she consumes with her own capital, with her own brains and with her own labour.

AN Assam correspondant writes to the *Sanjibani* complaining of the want of a sense of proportion manifested by an Extra Assistant Commissioner in passing sentences. The accused in a certain case was charged with the offence of having attempted to commit outrage on a woman while she was returning from the fields. The accused had forcibly carried the woman to a solitary place and would have committed the outrage but for the timely appearance of her husband. He was found guilty of three charges under sections 354, &c., and was fined Rs. 5 on each count. The same officer had, the day before fined a man Rs. 20 for having snatched away an impounded buffalo. And, to crown all, the accused in the case of attempted outrage filed a suit for damages amounting to Rs. 100 against the husband of the insulted woman. This case also came up for hearing before the same Extra Assistant Commissioner who had decided the criminal case against the complainant. It should be parenthetically observed here that in Assam Extra Assistant Commissioners are vested with both civil and criminal powers. The result of this civil suit was that the complainant was allowed Rs. 50 as damages. This amount was, on appeal, reduced to Rs. 5 by the Deputy Commissioner.

INDIA AND ENGLAND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, SEPT. 8.

THE TRANSVAAL AFFAIR.

THERE is very litttle subject-matter for correspondence now-a-days. Everybody and everything that furnishes "Indian copy" is resting and holiday-making. The dull season, as it is called, is only enlivened by the everlasting Dreyfus case, and the Transvaal crisis, which is a perfect godsend to the daily papers, whatever it may be to Her Majesty's Government. It is many long years since a Cabinet Council was called during the months of August and September, but this week Lord Salisbury summoned his colleagues, from grouse-moor, salmon-river and yacht, to advise with him on the Transvaal difficulty, which has now reached a very sharp and critical stage. The Cabinet Council, which is meeting as I go to post, has been summoned by telegraph, post and special messenger, and the utmost secrecy is maintained as to its object. There is, however, only one urgent matter that could make the meeting necessary.

The Transvaal Government have now withdrawn every proposal of reform, which they had submitted to the British Government, expressing its regret that Great Britain is not able to accept them, as it had considered itself able to deduce from the negociations previous to the submission of these formal proposals, that they would have been accepted by the British Government. President Kruger, therefore, considers all his proposals annulled and finds it necessary to submit them to the Volksraad and to the people. The full despatch is published this morning, and has possibly been considered sufficiently important to be telegraphed to India by Reuter, as India's interests in South Africa are very great and increase every year.

President Kruger, by this despatch, practically reverts to his original proposal of a seven-years' franchise, and may be regarded not necessarily as a hostile attitude, but as a step taken to form a fresh basis for bargaining at the Cape Town conference, to which both Governments seem willing to accept. There can be no doubt that the situation is extremely acute, though not yet hopeless. The chief danger lies, not so much with the two negociating Governments, as with the violent partisans in the Transvaal itself. Any half-dozen hot-headed young Boers could organize a raid into Natal for instance, or half-a-dozen young Outlanders could be put up to start a riot in Johannesburg, that would at once precipitate war, and it is to be feared that there is ready enough material for either eventuality.

In the meantime, the steady preparation for war, which is going on in all the departments here, suggests that Mr. Chamberlain's policy is prevailing with his colleagues, and it is almost certain that the Cabinet Council to-day will result in an ultimatum to the Transvaal Republic. All news from there clearly indicates that the Boers have, for a long time, looked upon war as inevitable, and think they are better prepared for a good fight now than they can ever be later on, and that it is better to close at once than wait for the completion of Great Britain's armaments. The Boers have a good enough conceit of themselves, and their ability to make things pretty hot for the British before they can concentrate sufficient force to crush them and from the general appearance of the situation the odds seem heavily in favour of war before the end of the month.

The British Government keep their preparations as secret as possible, but it is well known now, that if an invasion of the Transvaal is decided upon, it will be undertaken entirely by Britain, and the Cape Colonies will furnish no troops for invasion, providing only defence for themselves from possible Boer raids. It is certain that, in that case, an army corps of at least 40,000 troops will be necessary, and what has already leaked out goes to show that the Government are contemplating at least this number. All the Home regiments have been already warned and hold themselves: inreadiness, and as I have already told you in previous letters, at least 10,000 troops will be drawn from India, and which, I understand, is in perfect readiness to start at short notice. They will all be wanted for the protection of Natal, which is entirely open to a sudden Boer invasion, and will probably get it within a week of the declaration of war.

Mr. Chamberlain's policy all through has been to make war inevitable. His policy is clearly the immediate annexation of the Transvaal, and its constitution as a British Crown Colony. All along his action and language have justified the belief which now seems rooted in the Boer mind, that no possible concession, which President Kruger can make, will suffice, and unhappily almost every concession he has made has only called up fresh demands from the Secretary of State for the Colonies. It is significant that the most hopeful opinions of the possibility of peace are based, not upon the justice of the case, but upon the known reluctance of Lord Salisbury to make war, and the passionate desire of the Queen that the closing years of her reign shall not be dominated by a war that will partake of all the horrors of Civil War, and which may easily enough result in the loss of a great colony.

Johannesburg is behaving as if it believed in an immediate outbreak of hostilities. For weeks past, the exodus of women and children has been going steadily on. Now the Outlander leaders have cleared out, and this week most of the large financial and mining firms have removed their books and clerical staff to Capetown.

The Liberal leaders in this country are doing all in their power to preserve peache. Mr. Asquith and Mr. John Morley have both made grave and important speeches in their constituencies this week, urging the Government to patience and forbearance, and the most generous treatment of the Transvaal in their negociations, consistent with the securing of those fundamental reforms on which Liberal and Tory leaders are agreed. Mr. Asquith eloquently declared that the failure in the past of the Government to arrive at a pacific settlement would be a reproach to their statesmanship, a calamity to civilization and an almost incalculable disaster to South, Africa. The general attitude of the Liberal party leaders and the Liberal press is in accord with these views, and they steadily urge upon Lord Salisbury a firm, patient and prudent diplomacy, a line which is what he would himself desire to take, if he is not jostled out of it by the impetuosity of the evil genius of the Cabinet, Mr. Chamberlain.

Mr. John Morley's speech was eloquent, weighty and singularly powerful, even for his powerful mind. As I read sentence after sentence, I am filled with the desire to see this just and honest man in the position of Secretary of State for India. Five years of John Morley at the India Office, will be a history-making epoch.

His speech was one long eloquent protest against the fire-eating jingoism, which is driving the Government to the edge of the precipice of war. He was frank enough in his appeal to the Boers. He warned them that the whole country was determined to obtain fair play and justice for the Outlander, and he urged them to meet their claims honourably, and to strip the franchise of every ambiguous term and every dubious restriction.

LORD SANDHURST'S SUCCESSOR.

SPECULATION is beginning over here in political circles with regard to Lord Sandhurst's successor. Lord Sandhurst's time is up next February, but I understand he has applied to be relieved in December, and that the nomination of the next Governor of Bombay is imminent. In official quarters. Lord Arthur Hill is very freely named as the man to be chosen, and it is a very likely appointment; indeed, I hear no other name suggested.

Lord Arthur Hill had sat in Parliament from 1880 to 1898, when he retired to make way for his eldest son, who was duly elected in his place. He was second Whip of the Tory party for many years under Mr. Akers Douglas and Sir William Walrond, holding the office latterly of Controller of the Royal Household. He is a younger son of the Marquis of Devonshire, an ex-Life Guard officer, is 53 years of age, a good fellow all round and exceedingly popular on both sides of the House, but has never developed any qualities of statesmanship. He is, however, quite as good and well tried a man as his predecessor was, when he was appointed, and there is no reason why, with the usual submission to official guidance, he should not fill the post creditably enough. But such appointments only confirm me in the conviction that the sooner these two Indian Presidencies are abolished, and replaced by Lieutenant-Governorships, the better it will be for Bombay and Madras.

ENGINEERING—A NEW FIELD FOR INDIANS.

I wish some of the young Indians who flock to England in such increasing numbers to study law and medicine, would turn their attention instead to Engineering. Lord George Hamilton and his like are never weary of "encouraging British capital to go out to India and develop native industries". What India wants is, that her own wealthy citizens and clever youths educated for the purpose, should find the capital and brains needed for this laudable object. Looking over the Board of Trade monthly issue of exports and imports for September, I find strong evi lence of the steadily increasing consumption by India of the products of British engineering, which if Indians were as *enterprising* as they are *capable*, would quickly be produced in India, to the great advantage of Indian capital, brains and labour. Japan is quickly squeezing out all foreign engineering products and Indians are in no way behind the Japanese either in brain power, wealth or handicraftsmen.

Let me give you a comparison between the seven months' exports to India from Britain of this and last year.

	1898. £	1899 £
Mining machinery	44,000	46,000
Sewing Machines	22,000	32,000
Locomotive engines	195,000	388,000
Agricultural machinery	11,000	13,000
Engines of other sorts	117,000	133,000
Manufactures of steel and iron (*exclusive* of bar, sheet and other rolled iron and steel)	577,000	780,000
	966,000	1,392,000

So that for the seven months of this year the enormous total of £1,392,000 worth of Engineering goods, the product of British machineries equalling £2,400,000 for the whole year, has been imported into India, and might easily enough have been produced in that country by native capital, skill and labour.

Oh! for a Commercial Viceroy!!!

THE TELEGRAPHIC PRESS MESSAGES BILL.

The Telegraphic Press Messages Bill, recently introduced into the Indian Legislative Council, is severely criticised and condemned by British journalism generally. At the recent annual meeting of the Society of British Journalists, the president Sir W. Reid, spoke very strongly against it, contending that 12 hours' grace, which is good enough protection for us in this country, ought to be good enough in India. But, of course, the Government of India have a double motive in this discreditable measure. They not only wish to do a good turn to Reuter, who has done so many good turns to them but to inflict a damaging blow to the native press, which cannot afford Reuter's charges, and whose readers are quite content to wait a second day for their foreign news. It is an absurd thing to copyright anything that appears in a newspaper beyond the issue of the next copy of the same. News published in the *Pioneer* or *Times of India* on Monday, ceases to have the smallest copyright value on Tuesday, and it is to be hoped that this silly Bill, whose object is very transparent, will be dropped by its promoters. News once published, become public property, and ought to be free for use by anybody and everybody forthwith. The proposed Act is explained by its authors to mean not only the prohibition of the publication of the telegram itself, which might have some reason and justice behind it, but that "any comment upon or any reference to such intelligence shall be deemed to be a publication for the purposes of the Act." That is to say, that if Reuter cables to his small group of subscribers that war has broken out between Britain and the Transvaal, no newspaper, not subscribing to Reuter, shall be permitted to comment upon or refer to a matter of the very highest public importance to the Empire at large. The "Pioneer" and Reuter's other customers announce this great piece of news on Monday morning at six o'clock no other newspaper in India will be allowed to say a word about it all day, Monday, all day Tuesday, or before Wednesday morning, under a penalty of 500 Rupees for the first, and 1000 Rupees for the second offence. The journalists of India may well wonder what is in store for them next. I wonder that a man of Lord Curzon's shrewdness and judgment should consent to such crude oppression of native journalism. However, if it should result in the better class of native papers combining to create a news agency of their own, getting rid of the biased messages of Reuter, and replacing them with messages from (if you like) a biased source of their own, it may be a blessing in disguise, and for the betterment of Indian journalism all round. Reuter's telegrams are intended for the Anglo-Indian element and not for the native mind. But, in the debate on the Sugar Duties, Lord George Hamilton made great professions of the value he attached to sound Indian opinion, which on that particular occasion only, he happened to have on his side of the controversy. Yet now he seems ready to prohibit the comments of native editors on important political news until they have become entirely stale. British journalism can stop this legislation if it pleases, and I was greatly interested to read Sir W. Reid's short, strong condemnation of this foolish Bill.

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

DISCUSSION IN THE BENGAL COUNCIL.

(*Impressions of an Onlooker.*)

LATE on Wednesday afternoon the doom of Local Self-Government in Calcutta was sealed in the Council Chamber of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, by a majority of twelve to six, and the discussions which were extremely prolonged over that extremely vexed of vexed questions, the Calcutta Municipal Bill, were brought to a close. The loyal, the faithful, the devoted six were simply overborne by the weight of the solid phalanx of official majority. No more will Calcutta know even the semblance of Local Self-Government,—no more will it be the pride of any honest citizen to associate himself with the civic life of this great city,—the city which our fondest associations cling to,—the city, which, alas, it was fondly hoped, was enbosoming within herself the best example of Self-Government and from which the provincial towns were to draw their inspiration and light. Saddening the prospect is no doubt all round: darkness and despair encircle us; we are fallen upon evil times; and evil encompasseth us everywhere. But the one bright star in this firmament of darkness and despair has been the stern, unrelenting and patriotic position taken up by the people's representatives withreference to this measure. If only for the purpose of solacing trodden reeds and broken hearts would I fain chronicle here what I was privileged to see with my own eyes, almost from day to day, of that magnificent independence, that sturdy, commonsense, that valorous defence of the rights of the people which knew nothing of a debasing compromise and which characterised the speeches and the votes of the elect of the people. You, Sir, have more than once in the columns of the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" vindicated, in the clearest and most explicit manner, the wisdom of the selection of the Hon. J. G. Apcar as the representative of the Corporation of Calcutta in the Legislative Council. It is not necessary nor will it be wise on my part at the present moment, to allude to the circumstances of that election

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I am not, however, a believer in the theory of respectable silence, and I am bound to record here my deliberate and emphatic protest against the disgraceful scenes to which we were treated after the Corporation had pronounced its opinion on the subject of that election. Mr. Apcar has, in every manner, justified the wisdom of his election. He has done his work in the Council Chamber with a thoroughness which leaves nothing to be desired, well posted as he was with all the minutiael of the work of the Corporation, with a firmness of mind and attitude which some of us may well imitate and all may profit by,—with an eloquence that recalls to one's mind the best traditions of the Calcutta Bar and withal, inspite of all what the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham and the Hon'ble Mr. Mackenzie may have said when they were writhing in agony under the castigations which were administered to them,—with a courtesy which was truly his own. As the Hon'ble Mr. Apcar, in the most pathetic of tones said, he was one of those who had taken a leading part in the Ilbert Bill agitation and in the making of the Anglo-Indian Defence Association; he came to the Corporation with all the prejudices against the Hindu, which unfortunately the average European has, but his association with his Hindu colleagues led him to estimate at their true worth the value of those services, often rising to the level of devotion, rendered by the latter, and, lo and marvel, a change came over the spirit of his dreams. To-day he stands forth the stoutest champion of the much maligned Hindu Commissioners, resolved to do battle for them. Mr. Apcar may rest assured that he enjoys to-day, in an unstinted measure, the confidence and respect of the Indian population of Calcutta.

Of the services of the Hon'ble Surendra Nath Banerjee it is difficult to say anything which has not been said. As the Hon'ble Mr. Bolton said—and his statement was concurred in, in a striking manner, by the whole Council the European members of the Council had good reason to be proud of an adversary in the person of Surendra Nath Banerjee. My readers will have but a vague idea, even were I to detail here all that I have seen and heard, of all that deftness and skill in using the weapons that compose the armoury of debate, of that passionate eloquence which knoweth no fear, of that firmness of purpose which exciteth admiration, of that attention to details which leaveth nothing unseen, of that keen anxiety and solicitude to do his very best, and, withal, of that most lovely of qualities, the possession of an even temper which rouseth no anger. Surendra Nath Banerjee must be seen on such occasions; it would not do to sit in an arm-chair and read newspaper reports.

The Hon'ble Boikantha Nath Sen was literally unsparing in the service of his countrymen. He combines within himself an earnestness of purpose and a directness of expression which have been scarcely rivalled but never surpassed. He brought to bear on the discussion an extremely trained intellect, and by his many homethrusts he often extracted damaging admissions from the official members, at the point of the bayonet so to say. A past master in the art of saying things without giving offence to anybody he never would mince matters, and, inspite of what the authorities might be pleased to dictate, would continue to call a spade a spade. A resident of a provincial town, he always brought to bear on the elaborate discussions a freshness of argument, which the ordinary Calcutta man would be at a loss to do. I do not know if these lines will ever catch his eyes, but may I be permitted to express my own opinion that the Bengal Legislative Council will be distinctly the poorer if it has not a Boikuntha Nath Sen to count among its members.

The services of the Hon'ble Jatra Mohun Sen are, I am happy to say, very generally recognised. Naturally of a very quiet disposition, the Hon'ble Jatra Mohun Sen did not, it is true, "leap himself into the fray" but no one, I apprehend, will gainsay the fact that among the ranks of the representatives of the people, there was not one who had more resolutely determined, by act and word, to defend to the utmost the filching away of those rights which, unasked and unsolicited, Sir Richard Temple had granted to the people of Calcutta than the Hon. Jatra Mohun Sen.

As regards the Hon'ble Dr. Asutosh Mookerjee it is nothing but the language of sober and unvarnished truth to say that he has well sustained the splendid reputation which he has earned for himself among educated Indians. Ask any man who has attentively followed the proceedings of the Council and you will at once be answered that Dr. Ashutosh Mookerjee has proved himself the worthy bearer of that sacred mantle which has fallen from the shoulders of men like A. M. Bose and Kali Charan Banerjee. I have had the privilege of seeing the Hon. Dr. Ashutosh Mookerjee in many and various capacities, but I trust I shall be pardoned if I say that never has the doctor been seen to the best advantage. Dr. Asutosh has never professed to be an athlete in noisy platform eloquence where behind the glitter of the moment all is sham and unreal; but his is an eloquence which rivets attention and commands the respect of the unwilling to listen in patience, and above all, it is intermixed and interwoven, by the hand of a master so to say, with the closest and most acute reasoning. Sometimes rising to the loftiest heights of indignation—witness his speech in the matter of paying fees to Committee-men—sometimes speaking in tones of the most subdued pathos, his words carried conviction to every unbiased mind; and it was not the fault of the Hon. Dr. Ashutosh that the inglorious band of twelve did not dissolve that tie which bound them together. Himself a lawyer of no mean eminence, Dr. Ashutosh was quick to perceive that if the Hon'ble and learned Advocate General of Bengal had been in his place in Council, it would have been a distinct gain to the people of the country. The Government evidently felt very uneasy when Dr. Ashutosh reminded them, in words that would never be forgotten by those who heard them, that they were treading on dangerous ground by offering a premium, so to say, by means of a particular section, to the needy to enter the portals of the Corporation. May the God of righteousness and love be so pleased as to ordain that the country may, for many many years to come, be benefited by the counsel and ability of the Hon. Dr. Asutosh Mukerjee!

Last but not surely the least, as the following lines will at once show, the Hon. Raja Ranajit Singh Bahadur of Nashipur has shown in an unique and striking manner, that a scion of one of the most ancient families in the land having large and important interests at stake and necessarily obliged to respect the views of the officials, can still serve his countrymen without the fear of frown or favour. All honor to the Raja Bahdur for the bright example that he has set! He literally vied with the representatives of the people in his anxiety to improve the Bill. He tabled amendment after amendment, and if the Government had seen its way to accepting some of the eminently wise suggestions of the Raja Bahadur, much of the sting in the Bill would have been taken out; and, I am not sure, whether in that event the Bill would not have been acceptable even to so redoubtable a champion of the people as the "Amrita Bazar Patrika." But the Government was inexorable and like Cerberus of old, standing at the gates of the nether world, would not permit any attempt to purify that region which it had undertaken to guard.

Thus fought the chosen of the people, and thus they fell. It is better to have fought and fallen in battle than not to have fought at all. The curtain has fallen. Can our people be now trusted to do their duty by their representatives?

POLICE COURT.—SEPT. 29.

(Before Nawab Bahadur Syed Ameer Hossein, C. I. E., Northern Division Magistrate.)

DEFAMATION CASE.—This morning Babu N. L. Dey, on behalf of Babu Amarendra Nath Dutt, proprietor and manager of the Classic Theatre, applied for processes against Babu Khagendra Nath Chatterjee, Editor, Babu Gora Chand Dass, Printer and Babus Gora Chand Dass, Amrita Lall Dass, proprietors of a vernacular weekly, called the *Banga Bhumi*, printed and published in Mirzapore, on a charge of defamation under section 500 I. P. C. Mr. Dey submitted that in its issue of the 19th and 26th September, the paper had most vilely attacked the complainant, who was a highly respectable member of society—and manager and proprietor of the theatre, and that it was a personal attack upon his character. The paper had done so while criticising the performance of a drama called *Vromor* which had been dramatized by the complainant himself. Mr. Dey further submitted that as the drama was one of the best representations ever staged, the house was so crowded on the nights of the performance that the manager could hardly find accommodation for all the audience. The Editor, it is alleged, not only vilified the character of the manager but wrote in a strain which was likely to deter people from going to the theatre. Here Mr. Dey read out the translations of the passages which formed the subject-matter of the charge and assured the Court that he, the pleader, had once gone to the theatre with his whole family to witness the performance of *Vromor* and that there was nothing indecent in it. His Worship after hearing Mr. Dey, ordered the issue of summonses against the accused.

OUTRAGES ON WOMEN IN MYMENSINGH.

THE following cases are reported by a correspondent of the *Sanjibani*:—

1. On the 19th instant a thirteen-year-old girl, named Maurjan complained to the Deputy Magistrate of Netrokona that Yakub Ticadar and three others had forcibly carried her away from her home at night. Her screams brought her uncle and some neighbours to her rescue when the miscreants fled. The case has been made over to the Special Police Inspector for investigation.

2. The Deputy Magistrate of Netrokona acquitted and discharged Gurudayal Karnig and others sent up by the Police Sub-Inspector under section 376 I.P.C. for having outraged the wife of Golok Majhi of Mansurpur. The District Magistrate on seeing the records of the case has issued a rule calling upon the accused to show cause why they should not be committed to the Sessions.

3. Amin Shaikh of Kendua charged his neighbour Futkar Bag with having entered his house with an evil intention. The accused was caught in the house. The Deputy Magistrate convicted him under section 457 I. P. C. and sentenced him to 2 years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 20, which amount was to be paid to the complainant.

REMARKABLE experiments with the kine matograph in the service of medicine have just been made at the Kiel University. M. Doyen, an eminent French doctor, by means of certain alterations in the kinematograph has been enabled to take a perfect series of pictures of various kinds of operations from the first cut of the knife to the laying on of bandages. Every prase of the operations was thrown on the screen with marvellous accuracy. M. Doyen insists that his invention will be of incalculable benefit to the students of surgery.

AT the meeting of the Sanitary Congress at Southampton on the 30th ultimo a paper was read by Lady Harberton on the hygiene of dress. She said that a woman's dress, instead of being a help and protection to its wearer, was just the reverse. It trailed in all kinds of filth, and distributed disease germs. Women's dress erred in construction. It was not womanly but silly to try to cling to garments unsuited to the human figure. Women should learn not to be ashamed of their true God-given form, and they should adopt a method of dressing which would be a physical help instead of the impedimental, disease-producing monstrosity of the nineteenth century. The discussion which followed was generally favourable to Lady Harberton's views, although several ladies said that personally they would not have the courage to wear bloomers.

A DAY or two ago relates a correspondent of the *Leader*, the Prince of Wales, staying at Marienbad, sat down like any ordinary mortal on a bench in the park, where an elderly Polish Jew, wearing a long mantle and the little ringlets of hair which mark his tribe, was already resting. Not knowing his illustrious neighbour, the Polish Jew began to ask the Prince all sorts of questions about himself. "What do you pay for your rooms? What fees does your doctor charge?" "How much can that watch of yours have cost?" where some of the interrogations put to his Royal Highness, who answered them all good-humouredly. Finally the old Pole become confidential, and gave the Prince a familiar dig in the ribs, telling him he looked too healthy to need a cure. The Prince afterwards related the incident with evident amusement.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

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POLICE CHANGES.—Inspector Lyons of the Baliaghata Thana, having obtained leave for one year on medical certificate, Sub-Inspector H. D. Bose, has been transferred from the Colootolah thana to fill his place, while Sub-Inspector Robertson of the Bow Bazar Thana will take charge of the Colootolah Thana. Constable Ledley will officiate as Junior Sub-Inspector, Bow Bazar Thana.

OPIUM SALES.—Notice is given that the Eleventh Sale of Opium, the Provision of 1897-98, will be held at the Government Opium Sale-room, No. 2,1 Bankshall Street, on Wednesday, the 1st November 1899, at 11 A. M., and will comprise 3,400 chests, of opium and the Tenth Sale of Opium, the Provision of 1897-98, on Monday, the 2nd October 1899, at 11 A.M., and will comprise 3,400 chests.

THE LUCKNOW CONGRESS.—In reference to the forthcoming Session of the National Congress at Lucknow, a Government Order has been issued, stating that the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces has no objection to the Committee putting up a drawing-room and reading-room *shamiana* refreshment-room for delegates, an office-room, a gateman's tent, and an intelligency tent. His Honor, however, cannot allow the erection of stalls for sellers of eatables, as this would invite a congregation of idlers and produce a larger crowd than it is desirable to permit.

CROP PROSPECTS IN BENGAL.—There was general rain during the week, in par sheavy, accompanied by cyclonic winds. No reports have been received from the Northern Bengal districts. The rain has greatly benefited the winter rice and other standing crops, but more is still required for the high lands in Orissa and Chota Nagpur. The autumn harvest is almost at an end, and the ploughing for the rabi crops has begun. Prices of common rice continue steady with a tendency to fall in some districts. Cattle are generally in good condition, and fodder is everywhere abundant.

THE RAJSHAHYE KIDNAPPING CASE.—A correspondent states that in the Rampore-Boalia kidnapping case Nagendraballa, the principal accused, appealed to the Sessions Judge, Mr. R. R. Pope, against Mr. Rattray's decision. After a prolonged hearing, the Judge dismissed the appeal. There was a good deal of discussion as to whether the statements made by Kartik and Kamini were confessions, and as such receivable in evidence against the present appellant. The Sessions Judge, however, overruled the contention of the respondent's pleader, in the face of the ruling in Kripa Boistami's case, recently decided by Justices Rampini and Pratt, and held that they were not confessions. He, however, admitted them under section 10 of the Evidence Act.

CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.—The general meeting of the Corporation of Calcutta called for Wednesday did not take place for want of a quorum. There were altogether fourteen Commissioners present including five Europeans. As the law requires that there must be at all such meetings at least eighteen Commissioners present the meeting could not be held. The Chairman wanted for about a quarter of an hour after the appointed time and then declared that no meeting could be held. He, however, expressed a hope that there would be at least ten Commissioners present to form a quorum at the adjourned meeting which will be held next week. There is a wholesome rule of the Corporation that ten Commissioners form a quorum in meetings adjourned for want of quorum.

THE MISHMIS.—The Mishmis, against whom, as we have already stated in these columns, a small expedition is to be sent, inhabit the mountainous country to the east of the Debong river, which lies roughly between latitude 26deg. and 27deg. longitude 96deg. to 98deg. On their west lie the fierce Abor tribes who tried conclusions with us in 1894, and it is quite possible that these gentry may be glad of an opportunity of trying to pay off old scores, and make common cause with their neighbours against us. To give timely warning and prevent their crossing the Debong unmolested we presume the post established at Nizamghat will be strong enough to detach small parties to patrol the river, and make any such flank movement a difficult matter for the Abors. On the east of their country lie the Khamti and Singpho tribes with whom our relations have always been fairly amicable. To the north lies the unknown land of Tibet. The Mishmi country is very hilly, and has never been explored by Europeans owing to the dense jungle which covers it. Their trade with Assam is very small, the exports being chiefly musk, and a small quantity of India rubber, while they import a certain amount of salt and iron. The Takin, an animal which has never yet been killed by a European, inhabits these hills. It is said to be of the antelope tribe and in general appearance resembles a gun. As before stated the arms of the Mishmis consist chiefly of poisoned arrows, the poison for which is made from aconite prepared with decomposing pig's blood and is said to be very virulent. They probably have, besides bows, *daos*, and cross bows, a certain number of antiquated guns. Their tactics are said to resemble those of the Abors, namely, not to oppose the advance guard but block it by a stockade, and then rush from their hiding places in the jungle upon the baggage, endeavour to carry off what they can, and, do as much damage as possible in the confusion. The dense jungle would afford a favourable opportunity for trying the smokeless powder, which has already been experimented with, for the Martini rifle and rockets would probably have more actual effect on their villages, and moral effect on the people, than shells.

A CONTRADICTION.—The *Times of Assam* contradicts the statement made by a correspondent of the *Sanjibani* and translated in these columns, that the editor of the *Times of Assam* had been on a certain occasion reprimanded by the Deputy Commissioner for having commented on a case.

A SNAKE STORY.—A Tiruvadi correspondent writes:—A Sudra, 40 years old and of a village near the Grand Anicut, was fast asleep one night a few days ago with his mouth wide open when a snake, said to be a span long, is said to have crept through his gullet down into his stomach! The man, on waking, bitterly complained of severe pain in the abdomen and was put under medical treatment. He died two days after, the cause of his malady being unknown. The most astounding part of the tale is that after the man's death the snake is said to have come out alive to the awe and surprise of the bystanders who were eye-witnesses to the strange scene!

A SHOE ORDER.—We hear an order has been issued by Mr. Maud, the District Magistrate and Collector of Mozafferpur, prohibiting Mukhtears and their clients to sit in the court verandah. It appears that Mr. Watson, the Assistant Collector, was one day going from one office to another and he noticed several Mukhtears and their clients seated on *Daries* in the court verandah with their shoes off and it is alleged that that gave him great offence although the Mukhtears had taken shelter there from rain. It is further alleged that he ordered his peon to throw away the shoes and get the verandah clear, and at the same time requested the District Magistrate not to allow anyone to sit in the verandah. Thereupon the District Magistrate passed an order that no one was to sit in the verandah and three months' time should be given to the Mukhtears to make their arrangements to remove themselves elsewhere.—*Behar Herald.*

A RAPE CASE.—Our Malda correspondent writes:—A case of rape of a most brutal nature is under inquiry in the Court of Moulvie Abdul Samad, Deputy Magistrate. The story of the prosecution is that on a certain night in the month of Srabon, at Nandalalpur, Thana Kaliachak, four ruffians, Chasas by profession, entered into the house of a caste-fellow of theirs when the owner was away leaving at home his young wife mother-in-law and blind old grand-mother. The wife, probably a girl of fourteen, was lying asleep on a *khatia* with her mother and the blind old woman was sleeping on the floor. Two of the *budmashes* caught hold of the mother and by means of a few pieces of cloth gagged her and tied her to the *khatia*, while the other two seized the girl and having gagged her mouth carried her to a distance followed by their associates. There the four monsters ravished the girl and then they carried her to a *Bel* tree near her house and there left her in a semi-conscious state. The Deputy Magistrate, after taking down evidence on Saturday last, observed that the case was of a most serious nature, and that it appeared to him to be true to the letter, so he would commit the case to the Sessions. Only one of the accused has been arrested. The Magistrate has issued processes for the arrest of the remaining three.

THE FIRST CASE AGAINST THE *HITABADI.*

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

THE further hearing of the case brought by Babu Dinanath Ray, Assistant Manager, *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, against Babus Debendra Nath Sen, Kali Prasanna Kavyabisharad, Ashwini Kumar Haldar, proprietor, editor and printer of the vernacular weekly *Hitabadi*, and Babu Nanda Lal Ghose under Sections 500, 501 and 502 I. P. C., was resumed on Thursday before Mr. P. N. Mukherjee, Police Magistrate of Sealdah.

Mr. K. N. Sengupta instructed by Babus Hirendra Nath Dutt, Rajendra Lal Mukherjee, and Preo Nath Ghose appeared for the complainant.

Mr. P. Mitter, instructed by Babu Hemendra Nath Mitter, appeared for the accused. Babu Hem Chander Ray appeared for the first accused at a late stage of the proceedings.

Mohendra Nath Neogi, Assistant Manager, *Indian Empire* Office.—The office of the *Indian Empire* is at 3 Mohan Lal Mitter's Lane, within the jurisdiction of this Court. We receive the *Hitabadi* newspaper in exchange. We receive the paper every week. I have got the copy of the 21st July (copy produced). I got this copy from the *Indian Empire* office. We keep a file of it. There is on this paper a stamp of our office. I had occasion to read an article in this paper headed "A Defamation Case in the Central Provinces." (Cross-examination reserved.)

Nibaran Chander Dass was next called. He said: I am by profession a compositor. I am not employed now at any particular press. I know that there was a press at 29 Colootolah street. I worked there as a compositor. The press is called the Dhannantari Press or *Hitabadi* press. I was an extra hand there. The house, No. 29 Colootolah, belongs to Babus Debendra Nath Sen and Upendra Nath Sen. (Identified Upendra Nath Sen who was present in Court) Babu Debendra Nath Sen is the elder brother. Debendra and Upendra Babus seem to live jointly. I was employed off and on as compositor in this press from fifteen days to a month at a time. Debendra Babu and Upendra Babu whoever might be present used to order payment of my wages. They would sign a chit for the purpose, which I had to take to the Sircar for payment. At that time the *Hitabadi* newspaper used to be composed at No. 29, and printed at nor 70, a house opposite to no 29. I am not certain of the owner of no. 70. It may be a tenanted house. I do not know. I used to set up matter in Bengali and English for the *Hitabaai* and other kinds of work belonging to the *Hitabadi*. I used to be paid by the job at the end of my term. The chits used to be prepared by either Kali Prasanna Kavyabisharad or the printer. I last worked in this press about two or three months ago. Both Kavyabisharad and the Sen brothers used to superintend the work of the press. If I had any complaint to make in connection with my work, I used to do the same before the Sen brothers. There is only one press which is called either Dhannantari or Hitabadi press. When I used to work in that press Kali Prasanna Kavyabisharad was the editor. Kali Prasanna Kavyabisharad used to pass the final proof. (Cross-examination reserved.)

Babu Hari Mohan Biswas proprietor of the well-known Acidity Pills, was next called. He said: I am the Printer of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* but now I am on leave. I am the proprietor of a medicine called "Acidity Pills." I advertise my medicine in several papers. I know Kali Prasanna Kavyabisharad and Nanda Lall Ghose, accused in this case. I also know Babus Debendra Nath Sen and Upendra Nath Sen. For the purpose of advertisling my medicine in the "Hitabadi" I went to Nanda Lal Ghose in July. In consequence of an interview I had with Nanda Lal Babu, a day was fixed for taking me to Debendra and Upendra Babus.

Q. What did you go there for? What was your object?

Mr. Mitter: I object to the question. What the object of the witness was can't be evidence.

Mr. Sengupta: This will lead up to other questions.

Babu Hemendra Nath Mitter: I object to the question as there is no section in the Evidence Act which will permit such a question.

The court disallowed the question.

Witness continuing said:—I went to the house, No. 29, Colootolah Street. I saw there both Upen Babu and Deben Babu. Nanda Babu introduced me to them. Nanda Babu said to the brothers that as this man (witness) was the printer of the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" he might bring in a lot of work. Nanda Babu also said that I was a particular friend of his and requested them to put in my advertisement. Upen Babu addressing Nanda Babu said, "As you say that he (witness) is a particular friend of yours, let the advertisement go in; the rate will be settled afterwards." Saying this Upendra Babu asked me to make over the copy of the advertisement and block to him which I did. Debendra Babu was present there. Upendra Babu ordered the advertisement to go in. The advertisement did appear in the *Hitabadi*. (Witness here produced a copy of the *Hitabadi*, dated 11th August, containing the advertisement). In connection with this advertisement I did not go to any other person. I have not paid anything for the advertisement, because demand has been made on me. At Nonc22-2 Bag Bazar Street I have my dispensary for Acidity Pills. Nanda Lal Babu used to come to my dispensary in June and July. I was on friendly terms with Nanda Babu during that time. We came to be friends since the time he was the Sub-editor of the *Patrika*. Nanda Lal worked as Sub- editor off and on for about seven or eight years. In the first week of July I had a talk with Nanda Babu about the defamation case at Saugor. Nanda Babu told me that the deposition of Dinanath Ray and Keshub Ray given in the defamation case, and the discomfiture of my masters and that of Dina Babu would all appear in the "Hitabadi". Dina Babus the Assistant Manager of the "Patrika" office. He is present in court. I asked Nanda Babu how could he expose his former masters. Nanda Babu, in an excited manner (which the witness imitated) exclaimed—why should he not do it as he was now a dismissed servant. Saying this Nanda Babu produced a manuscript from his pocket. I saw this manuscript in print in the *Hitabadi* (witness identified the article in the *Hitabadi* of the 21st July) headed "A Defamation Case in the Central Provinces.'

At this stage Mr. Sengupta made an application for the issue of a summons against Babu Upendra Nath Sen who had originally been made an accused in the case but against whom the Magistrate had refused to issue summons. Mr. Sengupta who based his application on the ground that the evidence disclosed the fact that he was more connected with the work of the paper than his brother Debendra Nath against whom summons had been issued. As it was a criminal case and not a civil case counsel argued that Debendra could not be held responsible for Upendra's actions. He therefore prayed that summons might be issued against Upendra Babu.

The Court observed that in that case they would have to hold the trial *de novo*.

Mr. Sengupta: We have only examined four witnesses and it would not be inconvenient at this stage to hear the case *de novo*.

The Court, however, refused the application on the ground that when one of the proprietors had been made accused in the case it was not necessary to summon the other, since the offence of proprietors consisted in offering papers for sale only.

Mr. Sengupta next made an application for notice upon the accused persons to produce the Cash, Ledger and some other books belonging to the *Hitabadi* and the Dhannantari Press.

After some discussion the accused agreed to produce the books in court.

The case was then adjourned to 7th November next, in view of an application from the complainant for sufficient time to enable him to get certified copies of certain letters exhibited in the Saugor Defamation case and to call for the originals of those letters.

THIRST is more active among herbivorous animals than with the carnivorous. Herbivores use much water; they must have a great abundance of salivary and digestive fluid to digest the herbs which, in great volume, contain a relatively small amount of nutritive matter. These animals need to have water in their stomachs, for other wise the material swallowed would dry, and from what are called 'heterodiths.' Carnivorous animals, as has been said, are less often thirsty. We may cite as an instance the cat which can live eighteen months without drinking, and lions, which in menageries emain easily all winter without liquid."

THE annual report of the Burma Educational Syndicate shows that Rs. 84,800, including the various scholarship funds, is invested by the Syndicate in Government securities. The receipts during the year from examination entrance fees were over Rs 30,000, while the examination charges were roughly Rs. 11,500. The total receipts of the General Fund were Rs. 44,310-15 and the total expenditure Rs. 40,883-12-4. The closing balance for the year was Rs. 90,201-11-5.

THE following officers will constitute the Committee appointed to arrange about the frontier garrisons and the substitution of native levies for Regular troops: Major-General Egerton, Punjab Frontier Force, presides with the Commissioner of the Derajat, the Political Officers of the Tochi and of Wana, Colonel J. W. Thurburn, R. E., and a medical officer, who has not yet been appointed, as members. Now that General Egerton has returned from leave, the questions for the decision of the Committee will be at once considered.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE GREAT CYCLONE.

EVERY hour brings in further and more distressing details of the havoc caused by the recent rain-burst. There is every reason to fear that a catastrophe far greater than that caused by the earthquake has befallen Northern Bengal. Certainly the loss of life in Darjeeling alone exceeds that caused in Assam and Bengal in 1897. The Lieutenant-Governor at Wednesday's Council meeting stated that 400 human beings have been killed at the summer capital of Bengal. To these must be added those drowned in the floods in the plains. The "Englishman's" special correspondent telegraphs details of the destruction wrought in the vicinity of Kurseong. One can scarcely hope that similar disasters have not taken place throughout the districts through which the rivers fed in the Sikkim hills and Nepal Terai ran. Further many thousands of acres of paddy crops must have been destroyed. There is now little doubt that two different storms visited Bengal on that fateful Sunday. The centre of one travelling north appears to have passed directly over Calcutta, giving heavy rain all over the Sunderbans, the Presidency District, and Hugli, but reserving its full fury for the Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling districts. The second storm would seem to have crossed the first one at right angles, starting from Rangpur and passing over Dinajpur, Purnea, and Bhagalpur on a tract so broad that the edge of it caught the Chota Nagpur plateau. So far as the plains are concerned the mischief is over and complete. But the latest reports from the hills are ominous of further disaster. Landslips are still taking place on the Jellapahar road, a working party of 12 men has been overwhelmed in Darjeeling and the gravest fears are entertained for the safety of the bazar. The heavy rain has saturated the earth and destroyed the cohesion of large masses of soil, and in the event of the forebodings of further bad weather being realised more subsidences are not improbable.

The following was telegraphed from Darjeeling under date the 27th instant:—

The Telegraph Office is crowded at all hours and the rush of work is fearful. Messages are attended to promptly and all hands are hardworked, yet obliging. Communication is restored so soon owing to the indefatigable efforts of the Telegraph Master, who himself went on construction duty and restored communication. Extra hands are put on to distribute, and all that is possible is done for the convenience of the public.—

Among the houses that have been badly injured are: Baldoyle Step Aside, Pekoe Tip, Eden Bank, Prospect House, Mary Lodge, Carlton Hill, and Arcadia.

The houses which are now in dangerous condition are the Prusbytery, Holly Lodge, Holly Wood, Rockingham, Maryville, Assyline Villa, Mall Villas No. 4, and Bachelors Cot.

Fresh disasters are reported hourly, but owing to the roads being gone, it is impossible to verify the information.

Gangs of troops are clearing away the wreckage in all directions but the damage is terrific.

It is rumoured that the Rungneet Tea Estate loss is heavy.

There is scarcely a tea garden that has not suffered heavily and hundreds of acres are swept away.

The rumoured loss of life at the mineral springs is thirty-eight, and there must be at least 100 to 200 killed in the district.

No Municipal water is obtainable, and supplies at the hotels are doled out.

The bazar is asking one rupee for a loaf of bread.

The special correspondent of the *Indian Daily News* wires :—

Kurseong, September 27th, 3-45 P.M. I arrived after an uneventful journey at Siliguri. I have heard that Monday's storm played havoc there, that thatched houses have been unroofed, and that the plague camp wall has been blown down.

I booked from Siliguri to Kurseong at my own risk and found the line in a much better state than was reported. There is only one small block now just beyond Rungtung, which will be cleared by to-morrow morning, when through communication between Siliguri and Kurseong will be restored.

The bridge over the Pugla Jhora has been patched up sufficiently to allow a carriage to be taken over.

On my way up, after leaving Mahanuddy, one luggage van left the rails. This delayed the train one hour. The van was eventually uncoupled and left behind.

The weather is delightful.

The Dilaram Tea Estate at Toong has lost 50 acres of tea.

Kurseong, September, 27th, 6-30 P. M.

This place is very full with passengers from Calcutta who are unable to proceed to Darjeeling owing to the break. Clarendon Hotel is chockful, and that is also the case at every other inn and boarding-house.

The Railway line is impassable, and will be so for a month or more.

Communication with Darjeeling was so utterly suspended that the details of the disaster there became known here only from the report in the Calcutta papers.

The mails, however, are now being brought through by runners, and one of the superior postal officials walked over the hills to-day and arrived very leg weary after his journey through chaotic mud and tangled jungle yesterday.

An American missionary lady and her gentleman companion left from here for Darjeeling on foot. It is hoped that they reached safely.

To-day a party of five, headed by Mr. Lancaster of Calcutta, who came up by mail, left for Darjeeling with coolies. I leave early to-morrow morning, and hope to finish the climb sometime in the afternoon.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor is expected here on Saturday, and will also walk over the hills. All the available coolies are being retained for His Honor and party.

There are wild reports of desolation and disaster from the surrounding Tea Estates but there is nothing authentic.

A good deal of damage has been done to Tea Gardens and Estates at and around Darjeeling by the heavy landslips and the deluge of rain. Tea has been damaged to a considerable extent, but reports of the ravages o the crop generally, and the casualties by the landslips, received by local agents, are very meagre, no details of the exact amount of the damages done having been communicated either by wire or letter.

Messrs. Kilburn and Company have been informed that the Darjeeling Tea and Cinchona Company in the Teesta Valley have sustained much damage by the storm and heavy rain. Several landslips have occurred, and twelve coolies have been killed. The turbine pipes have been carried away by the floods.

Some of the estates, of which Messrs. Williamson Magor and Company are the local agents, have been damaged, but to what extent is not known, as no particulars have reached them.

News comes from the Avongrove Estate, Darjeeling, of the destruction of about thirty acres of tea. The Balasun river is flooded, the bridges gone, and the traffic stopped and some fearful landslips have occurred. So far there has been no loss of lives reported from this Estate.

Messrs. Andrew, Yule and Company have received the following telegram from Mr. W. J. Ager of the Singtom Tea Company ; Darjeeling :—"Terrific storm here Sunday, enormous damage done to tea. Roads, coolie-lines, all buildings safe."

Messrs. Begg, Dunlop and Company have received a telegraphic communication from Darjeeling stating that Margaret's Hope Estate has been much damaged by the frightful cyclone of Sunday, and that a good deal of tea has been destroyed Several coolies are reported to have been buried alive, presumably by landslips, which have covered the huts occupied by them. The coolie lines have been damaged to a very considerable extent.

No reports from the other gardens have reached the agents, though telegrams have been despatched asking for fuller details.

The Dooar Tea Gardens have also been damaged, but to what extent is not known. The Agents, Messrs. Finlay, Muir and Company have wired for particulars.

The Avongrove Tea Estate, Sonada, lost 30 acres of tea and 4,000 bushes.

All bridges are washed away on the Ballasund river.

At the Cedars Tea Estate, Sonada District the factory is washed away.

The Kaly Valley factory on the Dooteriah Tea Estate is severely damaged.

Great credit is due to the Telegraph Department for the expeditious way communication was restored between Darjeeling, Kurseong and Jalpaiguri, all the lines being badly damaged.

On Wednesday, from intimation received by wire from the Managing Agent of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway, the authorities of the Eastern Bengal State Railway were able to book passengers and parcels from Calcutta to Kurseong, a stage further, passengers being allowed to carry parcels not exceeding a maund and-a-half in weight. Between Siliguri and Kurseong two transhipments have to be made, one at Gyabaree and the other at Giddapahar, owing to the extensive breaks caused by the heavy rains. Passengers to and from Darjeeling have to walk and trolly some portions of this part, the lines being under water owing to the great overflow of water from the two Pugla Jhoras. A staff of Engineers with a contingent of gangmen are hard at work, looking to the repairs of this section, the road having been greatly damaged and washed away in several parts. It is said that the repairs will take some time to complete, about two to three months, for the resumption of passenger and goods traffic. The greatest amount of damage is reported between Ghoom and Darjeeling, where heavy landslips have blocked the lines in various parts of the section. Heavy boulders form most of the *debris* which has to be removed, and special arrangements have been made for getting the line clear. Workmen are busy on the scene with the official of the Engineering Department and several cranes, endeavouring to split up and remove the obstructions. The work is not at any rate light, considering the large and heavy material that will have to be removed from the permanent way. The Darjeeling Mail train was again late in arriving at the Sealdah Terminus on Wednesday, being 25 minutes behind time. She left Siliguri an hour late, and arrived at Damukdia 47 minutes behind time. No passengers came by the mail from Darjeeling, there being only one saloon passenger who travel led to Calcutta from Jalpaiguri. This train conveyed Monday's mail bags from Darjeeling to Calcutta, runners having been employed for bringing them from Darjeeling to Kurseong, from where they were carried to Siliguri by rail. There were several anxious enquiries at the Sealdah Station when the mail arrived and a number of press representatives present with a view to interviewing passengers and getting what up-to-date news they could, possibly gather, but they were disappointed, as there were no first or second class passengers by that train.

THE following is from the special correspondent of the *I. D. News* :—

DARJEELING, September 28th, 6-19 P. M

I have just arrived after a long and weary journey on foot amid a lot of exciting hazards

I followed the railway line right through.

The line is in a fearful condition, especially after leaving Toong. Nearly every bridge right up to Ghoom has been swept away. There are blocks with remittant regularity right up to Ghoom. In Darjeeling, the cyclone has made a clean sweep.

The scarcity of coolies is hampering the permanent way, but the work is being pushed on as expeditiously as possible, but with the men available, the general opinion of the staff is that it will be impossible to restore even a trolly service within six weeks.

It is being made easier every day to walk through, but no ladies or any body with a weak heart should attempt the ascent. Starting early in the morning, it takes the whole day from Kurseong. It is absolutely necessary to get in before dark.

Of a party who attempted to walk to Sonada yesterday evening, one man, a Mr. Middleton, fell down a *khud*, where he lay for half an hour before he was rescued. Fortunately he was not seriously hurt. The descent, however, is not so tedious. Many Calcutta men are making it, but it is necessary that one should be sure-footed and possess some knowledge of hillcraft. I am quite blown and legweary.

Here is another account from Darjeeling.

The damages to the Pussimbing Tea Estate, is estimated at Rs. 4,000.

Two coolies' houses have been buried, killing five coolies and injuring eleven, two of whom are not likely to recover.

Three acres of tea are lost.

There is fortunately no scare.

The coolies worked manfully till the bodies were found.

A severe storm accompanied by rain was experienced in the Western Dooars on the night of the 24th, resulting in slight damage. The line has been opened to Kurseong from to-day.

The following is a copy of a telegram from His Excellency the Viceroy to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, dated the 28th September 1899:—

"Deeply regret to hear of lamentable loss of life at Darjeeling. Kindly continue to keep me informed, since Her Majesty is anxious for full details and has telegraphed Her Gracious sympathy with the bereaved families."

Mrs. Pell, the proprietress of the Clarendon Hotel, Kurseong, and of several well-known Boarding-houses in Calcutta, is sending up large supplies to Darjeeling and Kurseong, at which places famine rates are now prevailing. This lady's enterprise is deserving of the success which it is certain to meet with.

A Kurseong correspondent telegraphs :—A new danger has been threatening us here. The hotels and every house is over crowded, and provisions have run short everywhere, so that instead of being able to help those in Darjeeling, where the greatest scarcity prevails both as regards food and water, we were in need, of help ourselves. There is now some improvement, but not very much in our position, as provisions are beginning to arrive. From the few venturesome ones who are coming down we learn that it looks as if the price of bread will go up to Rs. 5 per loaf. Those who are coming up from Calcutta will do well, to come provided with good hampers, if they do not wish to suffer great privations. All the soda-water, lemonade and aerated waters of all kinds seem to have run out, and there is general discomfort among the crowds of people who are unable to proceed. News has also reached us that the narrow bridle path between Kurseong and Darjeeling, which has been used till now has been pronounced unsafe and is said to be impassable, with the result that the journey is increased by about ten or eleven miles, as people have to travel by the old road. Instead of going by the edge of the *khud* they have to take the old road, which makes the road longer by about the distance named. The condition of the roads, want of provisions, the difficulty of getting coolies, etc., make the journey one which a lady ought not to attempt lightly at present. All the officials up here are doing their best to clear the roads and make them at least a bit less unpleasant to go over, and by next week, this will probably be accomplished, but for the present it would be better if ladies refrained from proceeding up. The scarcity of water appears to be increasing in Darjeeling from all accounts. The Clarendon Hotel is now better supplied, a good quantity of provisions of sorts having just arrived.

The Secretary of the Darjeeling Association wires that a relief fund has been opened for natives rendered homeless by the recent catastrophe. Subscriptions are solicited by the Secretary.

It is officially stated that the road between Kurseong and Darjeeling will not be open before Sunday or Monday, and that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has postponed his departure from Calcutta till Tuesday, the 3rd proximo.

Reports were current in Calcutta late last night of a fresh disaster at Darjeeling, a resident having received a telegram which might be so interpreted, but we had received no confirmation of the rumour up to the time of going to press.

—"THE mind ought sometimes to be amused that it may the better return to thought and to itself." "The excesses of our youth are drafts upon our old age, payable, with interest, about thirty years after date." "The only rule for a rich man to be healthy is by exercise and abstinence to llve as if he were poor."

THE Arsikere Mangalore Railway project has not been abandoned. The Mysore Durbar is very anxious to see the project thoroughly examined and carried out if possible. Accordingly, the Government of India have sanctioned another survey during the coming cold weather.

MR. S. M. RASTER, Tutor and Governor to H. H. the Maharaja of Mysore, will be going next month on privilege leave for three months. It is just quite probable that Mr. H. R. C. Dobbs, I. C. S., First Assistant Resident, will officiate for him during that period.

A correspondent writes to the *Daily Post of Bangalore* :—Under the orders of the Municipal President all Municipal servants are called upon to submit themselves to inoculation, whether they have undergone the operation before or not on pain of dismissal and many of them when first inoculated suffered intense pain, for days and weeks together, and many still suffer the after consequence, general debility of the entire constitution.

IN his Resolution on the Reports on the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces for 1898, the Chief Commissioner says : But for the tragedy in Chnuikhadan, the year was an uneventful one, and the agricultural conditions of the States, except Kawardoa, generally favourable. The murder of the Chief of Chhuikhadan as added another to the long list of States under direct management. The extent to which Government control has become necessary is much to be regretted, but the Commissioner points out that in each case it has been necessitated by the Chiefs minority, and not by his misconduct or incapacity. The important States of Kanker, Bamra, Sonpur, Raigarh, and Koairagarh, and the small State of Sakti are all administered excellently by their own Chiefs, and it is only in Rehrakhol, where the ruling Chief is almost completely incapacitated by extreme old age, that Government interference approaches the degree which was common in former days. One or two of the Chiefs are said to be still prone to personal extravagance, but the Commissioner is able to report that the majority act consistently up to the principle of spending the bulk of their revenues for the benefit of the people from whom they are derived.

Thegreat success of Chamberlain's Colic Cholera and Diarrhœa Remeday in the treatment of bowel-complaints has made it stand ard over the greater part of the civilized world For sale by,
SMITH STANISTREET & CO.
AND B. K. PAUL & CO.

TELEGRAMS.

[INDIAN TELEGRAMS.]

(From our Own Correspondent.)

THE SUPREME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SIMLA, SEPT. 27.

The next sitting of the Supreme Legislative Council will be held on the 13th October next.

ROYAL SYMPATHY IN RE-DARJEELING CATASTROPHE.

SIMLA, SEPT. 28.

Immediately upon hearing of the catastrophe at Darjeeling, Her Majesty the Queen telegraphed to His Excellency the Viceroy asking for full particulars of the disaster and directing His Excellency to express her Majesty's profound sympathy with the bereaved European and native families.

THE PERSIAN CONSUL.

The Governor-General in Council has been pleased to recognise the appointment of Mr. R. D. Mehta as Persian Consul at Calcutta.

JUSTICE O'KINEALY'S SUCCESSOR.

Her Majesty the Queen-Empress has approved of the appointment of Mr. C. A. Wilkins, of the Indian Civil Service, as a Puisne Judge on the Bench of the Calcutta High Court in succession to Mr. O'Kinealy.

H. H. THE LIEUT.-GOVERNOR OF THE PUNJAB.

His Honor Sir Mackworth Young, Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab, left here to-day for the plains. He will probably abandon his tour in Cashmere.

FAMINE REPORTS.

SIMLA, SEPT. 29.

Detailed reports on the state of the various famine-threatened areas have reached the Government of India.

MORTALITY FROM WILD ANIMALS.

SIMLA, SEPT. 29.

In a Resolution in to-day's *Gazette* the Government of India review the mortality from wild animals and snakes in India during the past year, and direct special measures to be taken by local authorities concerned for the destruction of man-eating tigers in the districts of Ranchi, Singhbhum and Gaya, Bengal; and of wolves in the Moradabad district, Nourth-West Provinces. Attention is also drawn to the heavy increase in mortality from snakes in the Gorakhpur Division. The total returns for the whole of India show 21,901 human deaths from snake-bite last year, and 3,265 from wild animals, the heaviest mortality from wild animals being in Bengal, the North-West Provinces and the North-West Provinces also return the highest figures in mortality from snakes.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, SEPT. 25.

Mr. Chamberlain's despatch, dated the 22nd instant, has been published. In it he first expresses his profound regret at the refusal of the Transvaal to accept the moderate and conciliatory offer made by Great Britain, whose Government had repeatedly assured the Transvaal that they had no desire to interfere with the independence of the Boers, and had offered to give a complete guarantee against attack either from within the British dominions or from abroad. The British Government, Mr. Chamberlain says, are compelled to absolutely deny and repudiate the assertion of the Transvaal that it is an international sovereign State. The object of Government has been to obtain substantial and immediate representation for the Uitlanders in the Volksraad and secure for them just treatment as promised in 1881. The Government is of opinion that the new conditions are less comprehensive than those contained in the despatch of the 8th September to effect the desired object, and the refusal of the Transvaal makesf urther discussion on former lines useless. The Government are, therefore, compelled to reconsider the situation and formulate their own proposals for a final settlement.

Mr. Chamberlain in the second despatch of the same date declares that the Transvaal must have known beforehand that the conditions of non-interference and suzerainty attached to the franchise proposals were totally inadmissable. He regards the use of both languages in the Volksraad as reasonable, and is astonished that the Transvaal should deny making such a proposal to Mr. Conynham Greene.

The Admiralty has taken up the steamers Cowan and Spartan as hospital ships for South Africa.

LONDON, SEPT. 28.

The contingent sailing in the Braemar Castle for the Cape consists of the bulk of the Army Service Corps for a complete Army Corps.

The Orange Free State Volksraad has unanimously instructed the Government to do their utmost to ensure peace without sacrificing the honour and independence of the two Republics, and declares that war with Great Britain would be criminal, although the Orange Free State will in any case faithfully fulfil its obligations to the Transvaal.

At a meeting Ministerialists held at Capetown, a resolution was passed to petition the Queen deprecating war with the Transvaal, and urging a joint enquiry into the franchise question.

LONDON, SEPT. 28.

The Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, speaking at a meeting in Dundee to-day, said the Government had striven to bring about a peaceful and honourable solution of the difficulty with the Transvaal, and if they failed, the fault would rest with the other.

The Government, he said, had not yet abandoned all hope of a peaceful settlement, but it seemed to him that a point had been reached when the Transvaal refused to yield and Great Britain could not and would not give way. The interests of South Africa, of civilization, and of honour made that impossible.

TELEGRAMS.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, SEPT. 28.

Reuter wires from Capetown that the Transvaal Government has sent a reply to Mr. Chamberlain's last despatch, and in it says that the Transvaal strictly adheres to the Convention of 1884, and asks nothing further. No allusion is made to the question of suzerainty.

Government have provisionally engaged seventy transports to take troops to the Cape in the event of hostilities.

General Buller has now completed the selection of his Saff which accompanies him in the event of his going to the Cape.

Now Zealand is sendin a force of two hundred men to South Africa.

The Ist Battalion, Grenadier Guards, stationed at Gibraltar, which was under orders for Home, has been detained, and it is believed will go to the Cape.

Arrangements have been completed at Pretoria to defend the borders, and the burghers are now congregated in towns and are anxious to advance; but the authorities are determined to restrain them and avoid a collision with the British.

Reuter wires from Johannesburg that the Commandant General has ordered Commandoes to assemble at a defined point on the Natal border.

THE situation in Kathiawar is becoming more critical every day. The desertion of children and murders and dacoities are committed for but trifling gain. It is reported from Jamnagar that a *Kunbi* left his three young children on the banks of the river, and they are now in the possession of the police. A raid was made on Khambhalia village, Ambardi, and food obtained. Besides food and fodder, money is getting rare. In the market at Jamnagar *hundi* rates of currency are koris 464½ per Rs. 100, with a possible rise up to koris 475 and above.

NOBODY WILL STEAL THEM.

THERE are two reasons why the Crown jewels are never stolen from the Tower of London. They are in a strong place, well guarded, and are dengerous things to handle when dishonestly come by.

Most losses of valuables are due either to carelessness on the part of the owners or custodians, or to bribery. Perhaps the burglar's vocation is under no circumstances an absolutely safe one, but not unfrequently he chances upon a "Job" which is both easy and lucrative. I do not mention this fact for the unworthy purpose of inducing any of the youth of the land to enter the profession, but solely to throw illustrative light upon quite another theme. Still, there is a relation between them, and we shall hit it after we have talked a bit about the case of Mrs. Mary Rowlands, who lives in Wales.

The lady says that no longer ago than February (1898) she had a severe attack of influenza, followed by bronchitis. At this point we are concerned to know whether the influenze was in any sense responsible for the bronchitis, as cause and effect. If so, why? It is well understood, of course, in England, where influenza is so common, that other ailments *do* follow it ; yet probably, the majority of us have not settled in our minds the reason for it.

At all events, Mrs. Rowlands had a low, bad time. The trouble lingered along as, sometimes, winter does, away down into the period proper for May blossoms. She could not seem to get the better of the throat ailment not master the lethargy and weakness left her as a legacy by the influenza. Her condition may be likened unto that of a ship which has indeed survived a gale but finds herself stripped of the sails needed to enable her to take advantage of gentler winds.

The lady's hope of getting back her losst trength by taking plenty of solid nourishing food was illusory. Every meal of that kind caused fearful distress in the stomach and acute pain at the chest. Nature distinctly repudiated the solid liquids, such as broths, teas, and milk. It looked as if Mrs. Rowlands must strave at her own table.

Then came on asthmatic symptoms, so bad she was often obliged to gasp for breath. Between this combination of complaints she got but little rest day or night. Soon after arose a threat of a still more serious disease—a threat happily not fulfilled. I refer to the cold, clammy sweats that broke out upon her, pointing to a fatal decline. The fear was natural, as grim Consumption with his poisoned dant, often approaches by that same road.

"I became so reduced and feeble," the lady writes, "that my daughter had to nurse me constantly. I could not get into or out of bed without her help. In the house, or to others, I was of no use at all. The doctor who attended me left nothing untried that he knew of; but, in spite of all he did I grew worse and worse.

"Where I should have been to-day, whether in the land of the living or not, who can tell, if a kind Providence had not, intervened to save me? In some way my husband heard of Mother Seigel's Syrup, and persuade me to try it. I began taking it and soon felt better. My appetite returned, and all kindsf of food agreed with me. With plenty o nourishment I gained strength rapidly The asthma and the bronchial trouble vanished, and almost before I could realise it, I found myself in the best of health, and have continued so to be ever since. For my remarkable and unexpected recovery I am under obligation to Mother Seigel's Syrup; and so I tell all whom I know."—(Signed) Mary Rowlands, Deri via Cardiff August 31, 1898.

One thing Mrs. Rowlands says in her letter which I have reserved for this place, namely, that she was *dyspeptic*. Her system was weak ened and her blood rendered impure by indigestion. That is the same point. *That is why she was open to the attacks of influenza, bronchitis, and asthma.* Her body castle being weak, the precious jewel of health was stolen.

Keep the digestion strong and the blood clean and pure, by the frequent use of Mother Seigel's Syrup, and there will be no soil for the germs of disease to grow in. The system thus guarded, protects the health as the health as the walls and doors of the Tower hold safe the Crown jewels.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

(THE LAST SCENE IN THE ACT.)

THE following is the full report of Wednesday's meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council when and where the Calcutta Municipal Bill was passed.

The Hon'ble Mr. Baker moved that the Bill as amended be passed.

The Hon. Mr. J. G. Apcar said: My opinion is so strongly opposed to the Bill that is about to become law, that I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without entering my final protest against it The work of forty years has been undone. Self-Government, that was intended in all sincerity to be real and genuine in its operation is to be rep aced by self-government in a form that is only a mask for official absolutism. A very noticeable circumstance during the progress of this measure is the change in the attitude of those who have become responsible in the Council for this measure, in the later phases of the proceedings, towards a certain class of the citizens of Calcutta. I am not here as a champio nof the Hindus. They need no champion outside their own community in the presence of the non-official members of the Council who represent them. But as a member of this Legislature, and now engaged in dealing with this Bill, which is a subject of recognised public importance, I may be permitted to express my satisfaction with the present aspect of affairs. With this, there nevertheless has been no relaxation in the strenuous efforts to destroy every trace of the constitution that made self-government by the Corporation of Calcutta a reality, and gave them open control of the administration. So far has this policy of restriction been carried that the Chairman in his executive functions is without supervision or control. However much the public may desire it, they are left absolutely without power of obtaining any information of what he may be doing, or how his subordinates may be conducting themselves. The supervision and control that was found to be so necessary, and was a salutary check on the vagaries of the executive, is completely withdrawn, and not even the opportunity of criticism is left. The Chairman of the Corporation, who in the past we have known not merely as an advocate but as the active protector of his executive subordinates, is in the future to be the sole arbiter of our fates, which are now to be confided to such persons as the Executive of the Corporation of Calcutta. There is a most important consideration that, to my great surprise, has not yet been noticed in any way by the Government. The Bill was designed with elaborate care in order to provide for the condition that the numerical majority of the Hindus would continue to exist in the Corporation. Sir A. Mackenzi in very decided terms publicly stated that the number of Commissioners as constituted under the present law would remain untouched, that is to say, that the Hindu majority would continue to be a fact in the question. Permit me to remind you, Sir, and at the same time the Council, of your own words on the point—lest we forget, I feel that it is almost ungracious, when I recall the patient courtesy with which you have listened to the proceedings of this Council and the consideration that we all have met with at your hand to criticise any word spoken by you. But I hope it will be recognised that this is a debate on an important question, and I have to make use of all the material that I find necessary and avilable. I trust that nothing I may say may be taken as an attack. On my part I can say no one will receive with keener interest and good humour any reply that is fair, and to which I may have laid myself open. "And, speaking for myself, I endorse with the heartiest pleasure and satisfaction the decision that the constitution of the Corporation shall remain as it is. I look upon it as of the greatest value to the Administration of the City that there should be numerous wards and numerous delegates. The information and advice about local needs, which these delegates bring, will be of most important service. There could be no more excellent illustration than in the assistance they gave last hot weather in calming the fears of the people and establishing the temporary hospitals, which were the best means of reassuring them. I welcome, therefore, the arrangement which retains a large number of local Councillors, and the dangers of possible friction I personally regard as enormously outweighed by the certain advantages of their help." Of the sincerity of these words I do not suppose there is an educated man in Bengal, or the North-West, or in the Central Provinces, who would en ertain the suspicion of a doubt. They might have certainly been accepted as Stygian oaths and inviolable promises. No expressions could have better charged a determination to maintain the numbers of Commissioners at 75, and that it was necessary and wise to maintain that number. To my bewilderment, being only a raw, newly-joined recruit in this Legislature, which has been described by high and responsible authority as free to state the measure before it in accordance with the views entertained within the Council, I have found these explicit declarations swept away like chaff before the wind, and this independent Legislature, shaping this measure committed to their judgment, not in accordance with these declarations of their policy by two successive rulers of this province, but in accordance with the executive order of superior authority! But, Sir, if the Local Government find themselves unable to stand up to the recoil of its own gun, there is yet another consideration in which the Government of India express themselves as being in complete accord with them, which had been lost sight of. Sir A. Mackenzie and Mr. Risley have directed their objections to the Hindu element in the Corporation and the effect of their predominance in the body. The Government of India in their summary, under four heads,of the grounds for a change, follow the same line, except, indeed, they undertook the failure of water-supply which is news to them,and since the changes in the constitution will not improve it. I let that pass. All the rest is directed at the Hindu element in the Corporation. The objections of Mr. Turner and of the honourable member who still represents the Trades centred round the same point. All tha the honourable member who now represents the Chamber said hinged on the same subject. When circumstances have altered, when the mischiefs that were said to exist have been removed, when the causes that have been stated to have given rise to the evils complained of can no more be found, when the reasons, the presence of which we were told led to the introduction of the Bill, cannot be quoted, what justification is there for the revolutionary changes that now have been made? The whole aspect of the question has now been altered—it has been completely altered. The Bill was introduced under wholly different circumstances, and I have watched with keen interest to learn why, for what reasons the Bill has been continued to be proceeded with on the lines on which it was originally framed. But the Government have not even attempted to give any reason or suggest any explanation whatsoever. If it was desired to define the powers of the Executive, that could have been done without making the revolutionary changes that now have been effected in the constitution of the Corporation, but the new law has not improved matters even in this connection. The public have been entitled to learn the reasons for such revolutionary changes, and I am curious yet to learn how these changes can be justified. I have looked for the sturdy independence, the self-reliance, and the public spirit that has placed the Trades Association in so high a place in public esteem to assert itself in this Council, but have looked for it in vain. I had hoped to find in the Chamber of Commerce the home for independent thought and independent action, but I have found their representative voting away, with the official members, all the substance of what makes self-government a reality. These with knowledge of our Municipal Administration have, from the first, regarded this Bill as being ill-considered and unworkmanlike in practise. It has been before the Council for a long time as we have so often heard. It never occurred to the framers of the Bill to insert the provisions of section 24A, which I shall presently more fully mention, and the Bill passed through two references to the Select Committee without any idea apparently that they would be wanted, and it brings into relief the criticisms of the Bill to which I have referred. That the section should have been found to be necessary only at the last stages of the Bill, and that the law would have been found unworkable without it in certain particulars, the proceedings themselves testify. But, Sir, the introduction of the section is not without interest to those who have been opposing the Bill, and for a very special reason. Sir A. Mackenzie and Mr. Risley loudly proclaimed that under the present Act the Chairman's powers were undefined and in a fluid state. I deny that there has been any difficulty in practice under the present Act. The duties have been clearly defined and there has been no question in this respect, but Sir A. Mackenzie and Mr. Risley understood to clearly define the respective functions and duties of the three so-called co-ordinate authorities, and their intention was expressed by the framers of the Bill as it existed until a few days ago. Now we have it that the General Committee who have had certain specific duties assigned to them, to be performed by them at their own discretion and on their own responsibility, may delegate all that required "their approval, sanction, consent or convenience" to the Chairman. The powers that the General Committee can delegate are described, as will have been observed, in the widest terms. And now the new law that was to effect such a great reform in this particular, and in place of uncertain provisions as to the respective duties of the authorities, to present well-defined duties in explicit terms—and we know that Sir A. Mackenzie and Mr. Risley took credit to themselves for carrying this intention to effect. We after all find the provisions of the new law taking a form, at the last moment, more uncertain and undefined than the law that was so lightly condemned. And the honourable member who has been in charge of the Bill has now helped to complete the discomfiture of the attack on the Corporation, and has justified by his conduct, if not by his vote, the proceedings of his earlier official predecessors.

The Hon. Mr. Oldham supported the motion.

The Hon'ble Mr. Mackenzie in supporting the measure said that he would not attempt slay the slain by dwelling upon the absolute necessity of a reform in the Municipal Government of Calcutta. The commercial and trading community were perfectly satisfied with the Bill drawn by the late Lieutenant-Governor. They were conscious that the scheme which it embodied was not altogether symmetrical, or if the phrase be preferred "logical"—but it was eminently workable and provided the city with all that is required.

The Hon. Babu Jatra Mohan Sen offered his humble opposition to the Bill. He desired to congratulate the Council on the termination of their labours in connection with the Bill. Although he at first felt hurt and embarrassed at the ruling of this Honor the President in connection with the amendments which related to the main principles of the Bill, yet he confessed that the ruling had saved the Council from considerable waste of energy.

The Hon. Mr. Oldham rose to a point of order, as the honourable member was reading his speech.

The Hon. Babu Surendranath Banerjee said that that that rule had been relaxed.

The Hon. Bab Jatra Mohan Sen, resuming objected to the manner in which, under the Bill, the General Committee would be constituted. The anomaly which would be introduced under the new law would have been avoided if the question had been discussed and settled in Council; but they should hope for the best. The strongest complaint of the rate payers was in regard to the reduction in the general body of Commissioners. From having a two-thirds majority, the representatives of the people had been reduced to half, and similarly in the General Committee the representative members of the Corporation had been reduced from two-thirds to one-third. He only hoped that the Government would endeavour to meet public feeling in this matter by exercising the power of nomination which it would have under the Bill in the interests of the people. In conclusion, he hoped the Government would find out if any means could be devised to improve the finances of the Corporation, as when the Bill came into force much more money would be needed for improvements.

The Hon'ble Raja Bahadur Ranjit Singha of Nashipur in supported the motion said:—I think, no measure of this Council ever ex-cited so much criticisms as the one which we are discussing to-day, and I think there is not a single section of the native community left which has not strongly opposed to the Bill.

The Hon. Baboo Boikanta Sen said that the passage of the Bill through Council had been irrestible. However strong public opinion might have been—and it had been strong enough in all conscience—it had not, as they knew, been strong enough to deviate the course of the Bill. He felt it his duty to make a few observations on the measure before them. The honourable member in charge had said that to urge now that they should not pass the measure on which so much pains and thought had been expended would be to stultify themselves. It might stultify those who had framed the measure and supported it, but it would not stultify those who had opposed the Bill to suggest that it should be thrown out. The honourable member in charge said that the Bill was better and stronger than the one now in use, but that was not the opinion either of the two members—the Hon. Messrs. Apcar and Jatra Mohun Sen who—had preceded him. In their opinion the new Municipality would merely be a consultative body, with no semblance of authority or control. They had in the matter of this Bill two sets of prophets—one set who said that it would tend to improve the town, and the other who forecasted in a different direction. Time would decide which side was correct—the strong majority or the feeble minority. They had been told that day that the Bengal Council was subordinate to the Supreme Council. He confessed he was surprised to hear this, as he was all along under the impression that they were an independent body, and had a free hand in legislating for the want of their own province. Admitting that the Supreme Council could indicate the lines upon which they were to legislate, he still contended that they had a right to discuss whether the recommendations of the Government of India had been properly construed and given effect to by the select Committee and this Council. When theGovernment of India had reduced the number of the Corporation to fifty members, it had expressed the hope that there would be a truce to dissentions, and they had sent the Bill back to the Bengal Government with the direction that the General Committee should consis of members, two-thirds of whom should be appointed by the Corporation, and one-third by the Government, the terms of the direction being that the "entire two-thirds should be of their own political complexion or class." It was really the desire of the Government of India that the representative element should preponderate in the General Committee; but the Select Committee had misconstrued the intentions of the Government of India, and this Coucil had confirmed their erroneous action. Local self-government was being virtually—in fact actually—destroyed in Calcutta. They who came from the mofussil were not much or directly concerned with Calcutta, but the alarm which had been caused in the metropolis was being shared by people residing in the mofussil. They were afraid that, under the guise of reform, the pruning knife would be applied to them also. The Bill, when passed into law, would create discontent in the whole province. He, therefore, begged to enter his humble but strong and emphatic protest against the passing of the Bill.

The Hon. Mr. Spink spoke in support of the measure. In the course of his speech he said that the Bill widens the broad principles of Local self-government, and for that reason he welcomed the measure.

The Hon. Dr. Ashutosh Mookerjee, after a few preliminary remarks, said: I take it, it is perfectly legitimate at this stage to consider whether the Bill as amended which in a few moments will become the law of the land, does or does not make adequate provision for the removal of the evils to remedy which the Bill was avowedly introduced. One of these so-called evils has been described to be the complete failure of the elective system to secure adequate representation, even of the different interests existing in the native city: or to put it in a more practical and more intelligible form, one of the avowed objects of the Bill was—I am quoting the language used by the honourable members in this Council—one of the avowed objects of the Bill was to destory the dominance of the educated Hindoo in the Calcutta Corporation. That object, sir, I mournfully confess has been adequately secured by the provisions of the Bill; and I say, with all the emphasis I can command, that the Bill, in so far as it has attained this object, has my unqualified disapproval; in this respect, it has not, and it cannot have, the smallest measure of my sympathy. But, sir, it is instructive to inquire what have you substituted for the dominance of the educated Hindoo? You have not satisfied yourself with replacing it by the dominance of the mercantile European or the progressive Mahomedan, but you have replaced by the irresponsible executive. The fundamental principle of the Bill is the creation of three co-ordinate authorities, the Corporation, for purposes of deliberation, the Chairman, for purposes of meantime Government, and interposed between the two a small General Committee which, in some respects, is subordinate to the Corporation, which in others is superior to the Chairman, and sometimes indepenpent of both. All this, sir, looks very nice on paper, but by virtue of the power of unlimited delegation of authority, which the chairman possesses under the law and against which it was my duty to enter my most emphatic but ineffectual profess -you have not three but an unlimited number of co-ordinate authorities. I have no desire, sir, to anticipate the verdict of poosterity, but I venture to affirm that it will be absolutely impossible for the Chairman, however able and however devoted he may be, to exer ise any effective control over the numerous band of the Executive to whom his authority must necessarily be delegated, and who, in practice, will either be irresponsible or will enjoy the delightful position of having an autonomous responsibility. But this is not all. You deny to the members of the Corporation the right of access to the records of the Chairman and the General Committee, you render public criticism impossible, you draw a thick veil of mystery over the misdeeds of the Executive.

The honourable member concluded as follows:—The provisions of the Bill are so numerous, many of them so novel and so complicated, and their intention and operation will lead to so many doubts and difficulties, that they will puzzle the best administrators, lead to the inevitable oppression of the poor, and will foster mischievous litigation. These, sir, are blemishes of a grave and serious character, and I should be wanting in loyalty to the profession to which I belong, if I were to accord my sanction to them. Before I resume my seat, sir, I desire to take the opportunity of referring to the startling theory propounded this morning by the honourable member in charge of this Bill. I have met with some surprises, sir, in the course of this prolonged debate, but I did not know that the greatest of these surprises had been reserved for the very last moment. The honourable member in charge has seriously defined the function of this Council to be to carry out the mandate of the Government of the day when the principle of any proposed measure of legislation has been approved by that Government. I would not have been surprised, sir, if this had been authoritatively laid down to be the duty of the official members of this Council. Thus qualified, I might have left the proposition alone and unchallenged. But I repudiate, sir, in the clearest possible terms, this extraordinary theory when it is applied to non-official members. In spite of the doctrines expounded by the honourable member in charge, I retain, sir, the right to think and judge for myself. I have made none the custodian of my conscience, and so long as I have the honour of a seat in this Council, it will be my duty to advise the Council to the best of my ability and judgment quite irrespective of what this or that party may approve or disapprove.

The Hon. Baboo Surendranath Banerjee in an eloquent and lenthy speeah opposed the motion.

The Hon. Mr. Bolton said: It will perhaps be an advantage if the fervid speeches of my honourable friends who have last spoken were followed by the few, calm, and, indeed, by comparison, very tame remarks which I will address to the Council. I have not hitherto joined in the debates on the most important controversial questions which have come under discussion in the course of these sittings, and I do not rise to act otherwise on this occasion. These matters have been uniformly dealt with admirable fullness by my friend the honourable member in charge of the Bill. I have no desire to strike a single note of discord or unpleasantness now. The stage has been reached in the consideration of this Bill at which it is possible to congratulate the Council, the Government,and the public on the termination of the prolonged contest which the measure has excited. That legislative proposal introducing changes so important in the municipal constitution of the metropolis of the province should have stirred the educated classes and aroused strong opposition was natural, and was necessarily anticipated. But it may be hoped that the final decision by the Council will now be accepted, and an end put to fruitless controversy. Whatever the views of the opponents of the Bill in regard to the principles on which the administrative machinery of the Municipality will be reconstituted, it will be generally admitted that many provisions have been introduced which cannot but conduce to the improvement of the administration of the city, and the wellbeing of its inhabitants. I desire to offer my tribute of appreciation to the members who have represented in this Council the opposition to the Bill. In the fulfilment of this task, which they felt called upon to undertake, they have displayed unremitting industry, ability, aud patience, and if they have lost, to them remains the satisfaction of having discharged their duty in the fullest degree. Well, may they say that it is better to have fought and lost than never to have fought at all. I trust that the men of light and learning in the Indian community of Calcutta will not permit any feeling of disappointment to restrain them from taking in the future as active a share in the work of the Corporation as they have done in the past. It will still be open to them under the new constitution to assist actively and with much influence in the Municipal administration, and I venture to add that it is incumbent on them to place their services at the disposal of their countrymen and of the Government.

The Hon. Prince Mahomed Bukhtyar Shah supported the Bill.

The Hon. Mr. Buckley said that to his mind municipal govrnment was not a matter of classes, or a matter of races, or a mattre of creeds, and abeove all not a matter of politics. Municipal government was a pure simple, and often very uninteresting matter of business.

The Hon. President said: I congratulate the Council on the completion of this very heavy task. It has been a very heavy task. I can recall no measure of legislation in this country which has entailed such prolonged and minute labour. A strong Committee of the Council was engaged on its details for six months. The Council, as a Committee of the whole house, has sat for eleven days considering the report of their Select Committee and the 565 amendments which were tabled to improve and alter the Bill as it left the Committee's hands. I have never known a Bill subjected to so close and searching a criticism. The 565 amendments concerned 197 of the 641 sections of the Bill. If the minute scrutiny of the most experienced critics ensures the success of a public measure, assuredly no measure had ever more of that security than this. I should like to express my recognition of the general fairness and courtesy with which the discussion has been conducted. The speeches have been for the greater part most interesting, the arguments have been perfectly fair, and we have received a considerable number of excellent practical suggestions, to which the votes of the Council have given their approval. Mr. Baker has paid a tribute to the Secretary of the Council. I must add myself one word of appreciation of the skill and mastery of detail with which the honourable member in charge of the Bill has born his important part in these long debates. He was pitted in this arena against the most trained and practiced knights, and he bore himself manfully and well. Thanks to his perfect familiartiy with every detail, the Council had the great advantage of a complete statement on both sides of the case on every issue that was raised. In the whole course of the discussion the only circumstances on which I look back with regret was one which indeed preceded it. I refer to it with reluctance, but it has been twice dragged into to-day's debate, I mean th simultaneous resignation of twenty-eight of Municipal Commissioners. I refer to it with regret because among them where men for whom I entertain a genuine regard and liking which will be in no whit diminished by our political differences in this matter. We have been honourable opponents in this controversy, and because we have been so, one laments to see one's adversary put himself at a disadvantage by putting himself grievously in the wrong. I pass on to the two simple points in the debate, on which, in summing it up, I am alone called upon to speak. There have been before this Council two cardinal issues. The first is: Why should we change the constitution of the Municipality? The other is: If we change, what form should the change take? The answer to the first issue was given in the long and ample statement with which Mr. Risley introduced this Bill. In the shortest and simplest words, the constitution had not succeeded. On two occasions I have given in Council my personal opinion on this great issue. I have given it with all the courtesy I could command, but I am constrained to repeat that I cannot refuse the evidence of my own eyes and my own experience, that for the better Government of Calcutta a material change is imperiously needed. I spoke then as I speak now, with the utmost courteousness and respect, because I know the disappointment and resentment which the statement of this opinion must give to many excellent men. I have given them credit as I do again, for the best of intentions, for an earnestness and assiduity of purpose which merited better results. But alas, good intentions do not necessarily lead to good government, and for the capital of India we must ensure a thoroughly efficient conduct of its public affairs.

Now what was the cause of this failure? It has been explained again and again that the cause was over centralisation, absorption of the Executive authority in the hands of the Corporation, and of the overgrown Committees, which it amassed on every branch of the administration. I think of all the speeches that have been delivered in this Council, the most impressive was one of those of Mr. Buckley. Several members of this Council have been members of the Corporation; not one except Mr. Buckley has been its servant. He was for a time its engineer, and he told you how impossible it was to get work done. There is no man in this room more calm and dispassionate, no one more sympathetic to the opponents of this measure, and his works came with all the weight of his high character.

That being the cause, we have to provide its remedy. The Bill leaves to the Corporation the power of the purse, the raising and distribution of the funds, and the decision on all the broad issues of the Municipal administration, but it decentralises the Executive authority. That is placed in the hands of a limited Committee, and of the chairman acting under its sanction and control. In this Committee is equally represented the two great interests of the city: the rate-payers, the merchants and the Government. Against this adjustment there is the one passionate outcry, that it is a destruction of local self-government. Twice I have said that it is not. I have to say it yet once more. True, it terminates one form of it that has not answered, but it substitutes another. No Government in the world could stand which solidly refused to amend its constitution as experience dictated. In England, the home of self-Government, the system and method of self-Government have been steadily altered as experience was gained. When the vested interests of the ancient vestrymen were touched, precisely the same outcry was raised, which we have heard in this Chamber. But England, with all possible tenderness to the disappointed vestrymen, went patiently and firmly on. The change was needed, the change was made, and self-government stands on a stronger, because on a more efficient basis than before.

So it will be here. Eloquent declamations of a retrogade Government will doubtless continue, but as time goes on, the sound sense of the community will prevail. The people will recognise the advantage and convenience of a more prompt and efficient administration, and the very men, whose earnestness of purpose has been the bright particular star in all this stormy quarrel, will come to see that, under the new system, they will have gained a new authority and a real power to achieve good for their fellow-citizens, which was constantly hampered and thwarted under the system which ends.

Before I close, I should like to say one word, if I may intrude so small a matter, of my personal share in this controversy. I trust that I may claim to have been throughout my service a friend of India and of the Indians. That is no credit. It is certainly no boast. It is the simple duty of every Englishman in India. But to me it has been a quadrupled duty. Four generations of my name have eaten the salt of India, and I am the last. On me it was incumbent to do all that in me lay to help and forward the people of this generous country. The sands of my official life are fast running out. Is it possible that, except under the cogency of a plain and clear necessity, I should set my hand to a measure which I know must hurt and wound those whom I seek to serve? I have been told, not in this Council, for my colleagues know me too well, but I have been told in the plainest terms that I shall be excommunicated for my part in this matter. I venture to hope not, but were it so, I should still unfalteringly do my duty. I stood once at the bed-side of a famous Indian officer. A surgeon performed an operation which saved his life, but in the moment of his agony he anathematised the surgeon as inhuman. Even out of evil, perhaps always out of evil, cometh good, and out of all this pain and wrangle there will emerge a new order, and with it a new prosperity to this great city.

IN connection with the movement for the prevention of consumption it may be remembered that Sir William Broadbent and his colleagues chose the Falkenstein institution as a model for sanitoria to be erected in various parts of England. The Heilaustalt of Folkenstein is situated in the Taurus mountains, but it is a mistake to suppose that the climate of this little German village is exceptionally good. The weather varies almost as much as that of England. One of the features of the "cure" is the absence of medicines. Even cod-liver oil, once regarded as the only remedy, is not used. Patients are encouraged to drink milk in large quantities, and some determined, invalids have been known to drink twenty glasses a day. If the victim can walk he strolls slowly through the lovely woods, but most of the consumptives spend thirteen hours day in chairs in the open air, and in the summer they are taken under the trees of the neighbouring park. The rest of the time is spent on one of the verandahs, even after dark, when gas lights allow of reading of games, the great object being to keep the patients in the open air as much as possible. Some wonderful cures are reported, and the healthy glow upon the faces of the patients makes it difficult to believe that they are suffering from what a few years ago was regarded as an incurable disease. It is said that 90 per cent, of those who give the open air cure a fair trial derive great benefit from it, and 25 per cent. are either cured or are on the way to speedy recovery when they leave the establishment.

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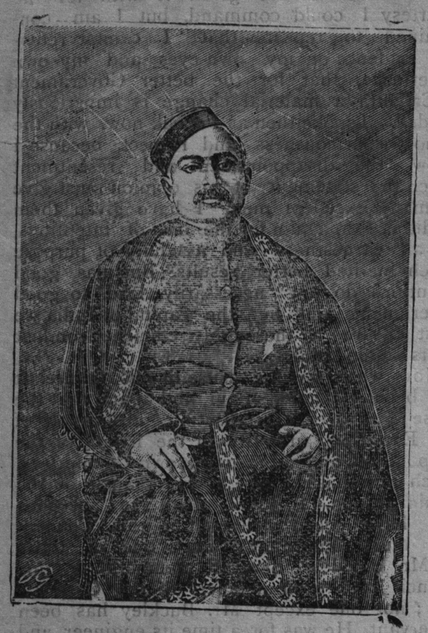

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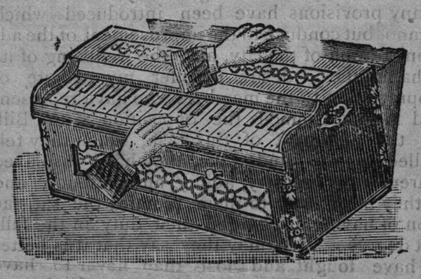

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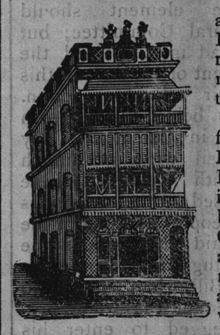

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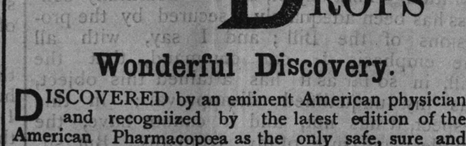

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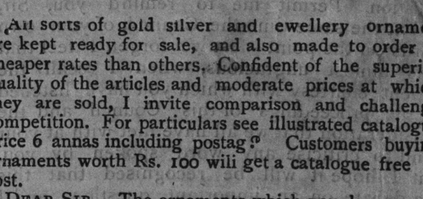

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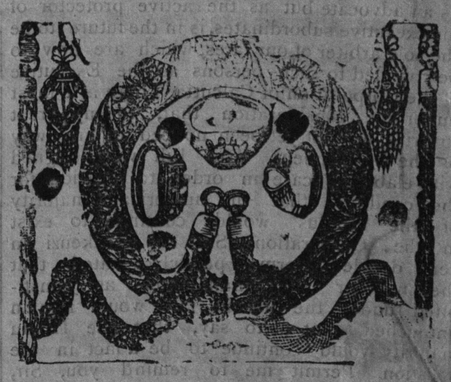

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