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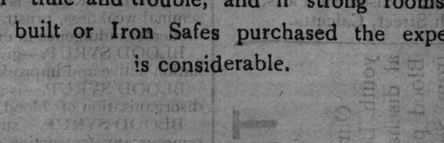
BEST PEBBLE  STEEL FRAME RS. 5

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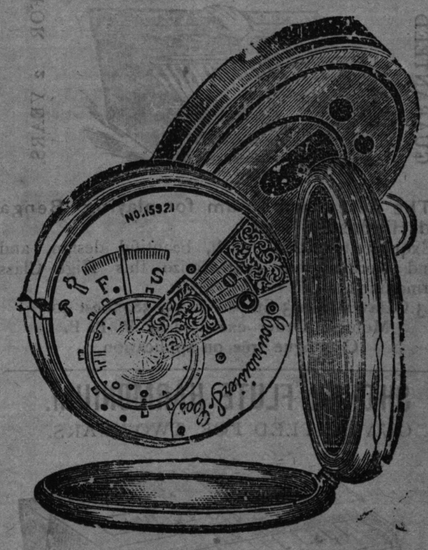

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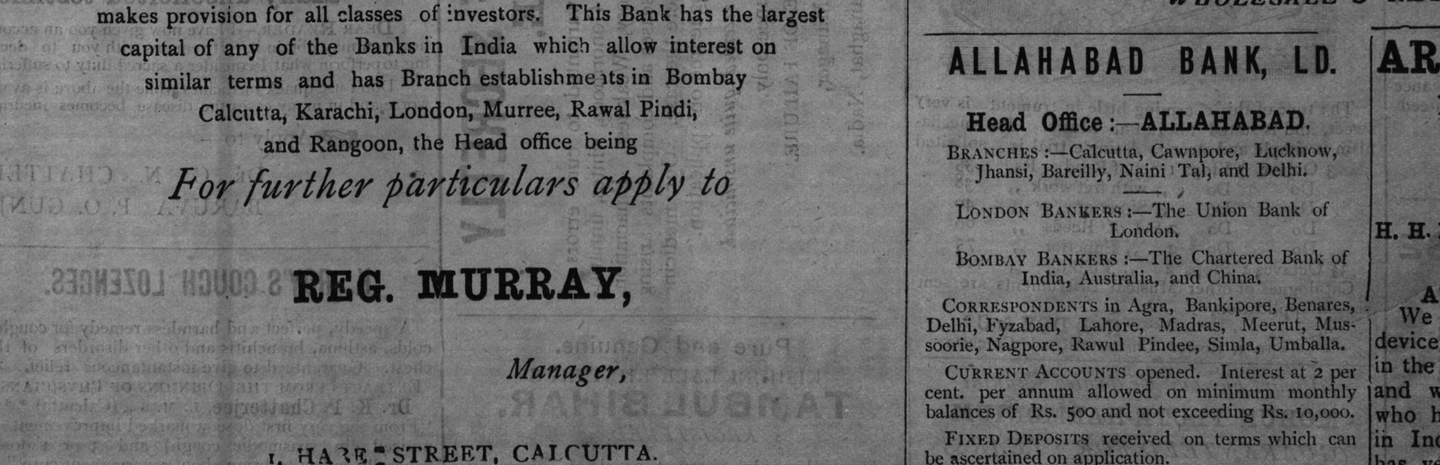

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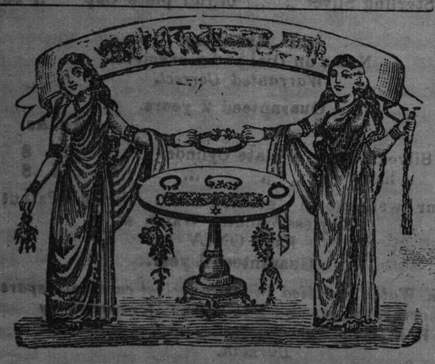

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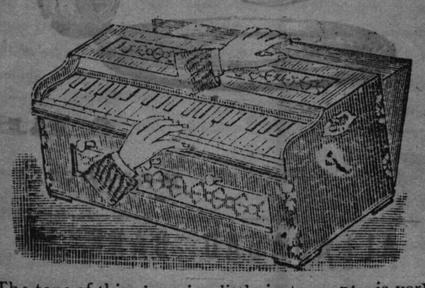

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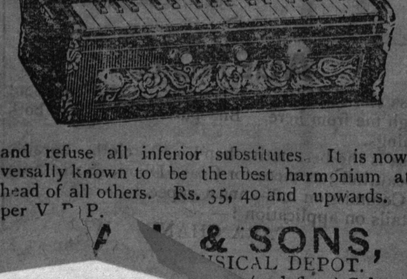

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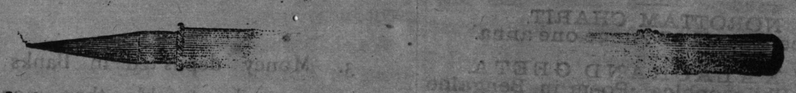

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Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA JANUARY 9. 1898.

LORDS ELGIN,—FATHER AND SON.

One of the best of Viceroys that ever came to rule India was Lord Elgin, who sacrificed his valuable life to duty. One of his (private) letters, dated June, 1862, to Sir Charles Wood (afterwards Lord Halifax), the then Secretary of State, has been unearthed by the *Champion*. This letter ought to prove exceedingly valuable at the present moment. The reason why the letter was written is this. The mutiny had been quelled by 1858, but panic-mongers continued to harass the responsible authorities, by circulating all sorts of absurd rumours. These rumours gave them opportunities of giving play to their ill-feeling to the natives of the soil. A rumour was circulated that the well at Agra had been poisoned, and the Commanding Officer was led to take extraordinary precautions to save the men and officers from an imaginary danger! Lord Elgin sought to stop these things, but he could not. On the other hand, the panic-mongers on the spot retorted by remarks, such as,—it is safe to be wise from a safe distance.

Similarly, a rumour was spread that the Sepoys had planned the massacre of Europeans in Delhi. Lord Elgin was disgusted, for, the rumour was absurd on the face of it. At Delhi, the Europeans were equal in number to the Sepoys, and they had all the artillery in their possession. That being the case, if any massacre was attempted, the Sepoys and not the Europeans would be the sufferers by the event. So what Lord Elgin thought of doing was to go in person to Delhi, and shew by his own example that none had any cause for fear. His Lordship chose to go personally to stop the mouths of those who deprecated advice given from a "safe distance." But here is the letter:

> The follies which are committed by the Military panic-mongers in the North-West are very vexatious and pregnant with mischief of all kinds. . . . I made up my mind yesterday to set off in person and go to Delhi, if the theory goes on. A rising of troops against us in places where the Europeans have all the Artillery, and at least equal the native forces in number, rather too strong a dose even for the weakest nerves. The stock-in-trade now is the existence of designs for the assassination of Europeans. . . . These topics are probably the conversation at every mess-table. . . But talking is not all. The Commanding Officer at Agra has acted on these suspicions and . . . taken extraordinary precautions on the assumption that the wells are poisoned . . . . . Then again this panic, beginning with the officers, spreads to the men. Some cases of terrorism have occurred at Delhi, which are a disgrace to our rule. And, of course, we know what follows. Cowardice and cruelty being twins, the man who runs terror-stricken into his barrack to-night, because he mistook the chirp of a cricket for the clink of a pistol, indemnifies himself to-morrow by beating his bearer to within an inch of his life. All this is very bad and very difficult to control . . . To preach common-sense from a safe distance is equally futile. It therefore occurred to me that the only thing practically to do would be to go to the head-quarters of the panic, surround myself by native troops, and put a stop to the nonsense by example. . . . I have not abandoned the intention, and shall certainly carry it out if this sort of thing goes on. We cannot afford to have the progress of the country arrested by such miseries.

Let us see what that noble ruler says: "We cannot afford to have the progress of the country arrested by such miseries." And what are the miseries? They are the results that follow rumours circulated by panic-mongers. And why? His Lordship explains thus: "Cowardice and cruelty being twins, the man who runs terror-stricken into his barrack to-night, because he mistook the chirp of a cricket for the clink of a pistol, indemnifies himself to-morrow by beating his bearer to within an inch of his life." Thus, says his Lordship, the follies which are committed by panic-mongers, are "very vexatious and pregnant with mischief of all kinds."

His Lordship could at once see that the rumour of the massacre of Europeans at Delhi was false, because it was impossible for Sepoys, who had no artillery, to cope with an equal number of Europeans, who had the same. But, if the rumour of the massacre of Europeans at Delhi was false, still more ridiculous was the rumour of a combination of the Poona Brahmins for the massacre of the European residents there. The rumour was spread; panic seized the usually sober-minded rulers of the province. And now what is the result?

Judging from the letter quoted above, of the late Lord Elgin had been the ruler of mongers, not to bring on mischief and stop all progress of the country by their absurd nervousness. Or his Lordship would have proceeded to Bombay to show by his own example that, he had no fear from a combination of the Poona Brahmins.

What we desire of the present Viceroy is to follow in the wake of his noble father. That is all we ask of him. The case is simple. It is quite true, two Europeans were murdered, but it has now been satisfactorily proved that the tragedy was not due to any conspiracy, but to an accident. The panic which led to the posting of the punitive police force, the deportation of the Natu brothers, and the prosecution of newspaper editors, have now been conclusively proved to have been based upon a misapprehension. Why should, then, the country be convulsed by something like a revolution which the proposed sedition law is likely to bring about? Why should not Lord Elgin step forward, as his noble father did, to put a stop to the policy, which "arrests the progress of the country and brings on miseries?"

SURE REMEDY AGAINST PANIC.

If the Government can provide against sedition, without in any way interfering with the liberty of the press, they are welcome to do it. Indeed, such a measure will do an immense piece of service. But if, in going to provide against sedition, they in any way interfere with freedom of speech, they will not only stop all progress, but also bring in disaster, of the nature of which they have at present only a faint conception. The proposed measure, we fear, will do away with freedom of speech altogether, in spite of what Mr. Chalmers says to the contrary. No Indian will, when the proposed law is passed, care to run the risk of offering any really adverse criticism on any Government measure.

We shall show what they are just now doing in England. The Liberals, nay, even some Conservative papers are trying to prove that the Government, by its forward policy, is not only impoverishing India and exasperating nations with whom it is our interest to live in friendship, but also paving the way for the Russians to come in. Now, by this the Liberals are not only creating a contempt for the present Administrators, but proving them to be idiots and traitors to their country. But no one yet thinks that they are committing sedition; for, it is in this way, by a fierce discussion of a measure, that the truth is reached.

But an Indian, after the proposed Bill is passed, will have not the opportunity of speaking out his mind about measures which he thinks obnoxious, and in which he is vitally interested, and of which he has certainly a right to give his opinion. Of course the Government will not likely prosecute an Indian if his motives are honest; but it is difficult for a native to prove that his motives are honest; and no native will care to take the risk of relying upon the generosity of the Government, in offering adverse criticism. For, the Government does, now and then, lose its temper, for, it is composed of frail human beings.

And is it possible that the enlightened rulers of India, in this latter end of the nineteenth century, will slay the loyal messenger-coming with tidings, which he believes to be true, but is yet evil? The story is, that an autocrat of Delhi, who loved victory and hated defeat had once the mortification of hearing of the disaster of his army. None ventured to tell him this defeat, lest he offended the sovereign by his frankness. But a loyal servant took the risk; he said, the sovereign must be informed of the disaster at all hazard for his own benefit and that of his people. So he approached the sovereign, and told him that his generals had sustained a defeat. The sovereign lost his temper and slew the loyal messenger!

The Anglo-Indian administrator proves to his satisfaction that India is getting richer day by day under the present system, and attributes the frequent famines to drought and the custom of early marriage. But an Indian, who holds a quite different view, tries to damp the spirit of the triumphant administrator, by the remark that the country, far from getting richer day by day, is getting poorer. Is he to be sent to jail? Of course, it is not likely that the Government will ever

of panic, the Government, if in charge of a weak man, is not to be implicitly trusted.

This leads us to the "panic-mongers" referred to by the elder Lord Elgin. Panic mongers could not influence him; for, he was a man of strong mind. We, the people of India, are sore afraid of them, however. It is they who are at the root of many of our miseries, and it is to them we owe the present policy of the Government. If they flourished in 1862, the race is not extinct now. Said Lord Elgin: "these panic-mongers are cowardly and cruel", and they ought always to be kept in check. But how is that to be done? There is only one remedy which is sure and safe,—it is a free press.

If a free press existed during the days of the Mutiny, that disaster would not have happened. When in 1862, they at Delhi reported that the Sepoys were planning the massacre of all Europeans, the elder Lord Elgin did not know how to calm their fears. He wanted to go to Delhi personally for that purpose! But if a free press had then been existing as it does now, he would have felt no necessity of going personally to allay the fears of the panic-stricken. Nothing is so great a prophylactic against panics as a free press.

Only the other day here in this Imperial city, the equanimity of the citizens, living under the protection of the Fort, was very much disturbed by the appearance of a Mussalman mob in the streets. Panic-mongers urged the Government to follow their advice and make a tremendous row over it. But the then ruler, Mr. Stevens, had the beacon of the native papers to guide him. These papers revealed to the Europeans, who had not the slightest knowledge as to the origin, aim, and scope of the riots, the real nature of the rising. And this saved the Government the trouble of making a gigantic preparation for a petty matter, and rendering itself ridiculous.

The Government is ill-advised in proposing restictions upon the liberty of the press. Perhaps there are so-called statesmen who gloat over the prospect of seeing "the bold and independent" native papers fleeing before this measure with tails behind their legs. But the disappearance or the demoralization of a paper or a few papers is a small matter. The measure will do as much harm to the ruled as to the rulers. The native papers silenced the panic-mongers; but they will now raise their heads, and torment the rulers more than the most annoying of the native papers have ever been able to do. The day the liberty of the press is practically destroyed, the Secretary of State will find himself helpless in the hands of the authorities here, and the authorities here helpless in the hands of the panic-mongers.

The *Advocate of India* raises a point in regard to the proposed sedition law, with which the reader of this journal must be familiar. It says:—

> Two things about the law regarding seditious writings here will astonish the historian. The one is that until August 1870 this Empire got on very well without Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code.

How could the rulers of India manage to get on without a sedition law these 150 years? A sedition law was certainly more wanted formerly than now. The former rulers had to do with a much larger native army, an armed country, and fierce foes like the Sikhs, Afghans, Nepalese, and so forth. How is it that they could manage without sedition laws, while the rulers of the present day, who want them, have not to deal with the dangers that surrounded their predecessors? Is it that they were abler men?

There is another supposition which can justify the measures, which is that sedition did not exist in those days, but it has, like the bubonic plague, suddenly overtaken the country. If this supposition is correct, it will only prove that the present rulers have managed it very badly enough. Sedition means a deadly feeling against the ruling authority. Well, how is it, that sedition, which did not exist before, should appear so suddenly? How is this supposed deadly feeling against constituted authority to be accounted for, except in the supposition that the rulers themselves brought it into existence by their blunders?

It is given out that the Government means to carry out all its amendments in the course of a month. But a large number of sections have been meddled with by Sir Henry Prinsep, and most of these are not improvements at all. We want to point these out. How can we do it, when the Government is in such a hurry? In other countries they take a good deal of time in effecting even a slight change in the law. Of course, we do things much better here. We can here announce a proposed measure for public discussion, and then declare, along with it, the day and minute when it would be passed. That is, no doubt, a great improvement upon old

for hurry, and as the people of this country are wanting in the energy of the Anglo-Saxon and have to be roused into action by newspaper articles and other methods, one month's time is scarcely sufficient for the collection of public opinion, for which the Government is so anxious.

Is "contempt" such a bad thing as to render one, who shews that he entertains it, liable to be sent to jail, nay, for life, when the object of such contempt is the Government? This must be absurd. We do feel, nay, do shew contempt for our dearest objects. Thus, who has not contempt for the learning or intelligence of his wife or his boy or girl, generally speaking? Yet a husband, entertaining an ardent love for his wife, and a father, an ardent feeling of affecton for his boy or girl, may entertain a contempt for their intelligence or learning. We do not know what is the religion that the Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers follows. If he is an atheist, or if he is a bigotted Christian who believes in the damnation of all who are not followers of Christ, his best admirers may feel contempt for him for his religious notions. The Queen has a Munshi who is, no doubt, very proud of the Hindustani of her Majesty. Yet there is no doubt of it, he has supreme contempt for her Majesty as a Hindustani scholar. And the Government is going to provide for the punishment of a man who betrays any contempt for it! The best course for the Government to adopt now, is to amend the sedition law in a way so as to make freedom of speech absolutely safe and sedition absolutely impossible. Let them do this, if they can. But let not the Government, by going to make sedition impossible, in any way trifle with freedom of speech. If they do it, they will, as sure as there are sun and moon in the heaven, bring upon themselves difficulties, of the nature of which they have at present no conception. Of the existence of a deep discontent in the country, there is no doubt. There is also no doubt that the rulers are not in touch with the people. It would, therefore, be an act of sheer madness to tamper with freedom of speech in this country. Of course, there is a homicidal tendency, a mania, which leads one to commit suicide. It is only a feeling like this alone that can lead the Government to the step it contemplates.

If Dr. Blaney is to be believed,—and there is none in the Bombay Presidency who can utter his name without bowing down his head in reverence,—the plague is neither infectious nor contagious; and segregation, therefore, has no effect upon it. That being the case, the only way open to the Bombay medical authorities now, is to abuse him, and they certainly are doing it. We now learn from the highest authority that segregation was a mistake. But to segregation we owe not only the murders of Messrs. Rand and Ayerst and the incarceration of Mr. Tilak, but also the amendment of the Sedition law, and the determination of the Government to have it passed within a prescribed time. Now that the method of segregation has failed, it is quite possible that the medical authorities at Bombay will propose "congregation." And we dare say that the Government will adopt the suggestion with as much readiness as it did in the case of the previous one. For, is not India a country for experiments?

The plague has done one good,—at least to the Bombay authorities. It has helped them to come out of an awkward position, in the matter of retaining the Punitive Police Force at Poona after the confessions of Damodar. The reply that the Bombay Government gave to a question on the subject, clearly showed that the authorities felt their indefensible position keenly and were looking forward to an opportunity to withdraw from it. The plague, as we said above, gave that opportunity. The Poona correspondent of the *Indian Daily News* telegraphs:—

> The Government want to abolish the Poona Punitive Police owing to the recrudescence of plague in a virulent form, and all available funds are required to cope with it.

The above intelligence, coupled with the restoration of all their moveable properties to the Natu brothers, show that the Bombay authorities are gradually returning to good sense and reason, and we may expect good things of them yet.

The *Indian Daily News* does not act like a true friend of the country, which he certainly is, when he tries to prove that the secession of Europeans from the Congress is due to failings on the part of the Congresswallahs. The Europeans have seceded because the atmosphere of the country has demoralized them. We may mention another cause—the death of Mr. Clarke. There was a time when the non-official Europeans took part in almost every political movement in the country. The British Indian Association itself was founded by a European. There was a time when the Chief Justice had a seat in the Council and he fought for the rights of the people. Those days are now gone. It is idle to recall them now, except to remind the Anglo-Indians of the present day that their predecessors thought it a duty to join with the natives of the soil in the interests of good government. We dare say, the *Indian Daily News* does not like the course to which the Government is drifting. As a friend of the country and well-wisher of the Empire, let him rouse

their duty. The Government will listen to wiser counsel, if urged by the Europeans and Indians combined. Only the other day, Sir Charles Elliott tried to knock the system of trial by jury on the head, and as the Europeans came forward to stop the mischief, the result was that the Government had to withdraw from the position it had taken. If the *Indian Daily News* thinks that the step the Government is taking is inexpedient and mischievous, it is its duty to appeal to its constituents to step forward with a protest. How we now mourn the loss of Mr. S. E. J. Clarke! Why does not his successor in the Chamber of Commerce follow his noble example and prove a friend of the Indians and the British Empire in India?

"India for the Indians"—is a cry to which no reasonable man can take any exception. But the Indians found great difficulty in holding a national meeting in their own country, because some officials chose to oppose it. Does not this simple fact show that, at the present moment, India is not so much for the Indians as for the officials? When such is the condition of the Indians in their own country, it is but natural that they should grumble. The pick of Indian society met at Amraoti. They discussed the public affairs of their own country. They voted for this measure and objected to that. But what of that? The administration is not in the least affected by their mandates! The Indians are thus treated as strangers in their own country. Such a system of government, can, under no circumstance, be agreeable to the inhabitants of the country; and the earnest endeavours of the English people have ever been to give the Indians a much better rule than that. Such is the exclusiveness of the system that the Congress, which is an expression of the national will, may be altogether ignored by those who rule the country. If the rulers now choose to play the firm—and declare that they know not the Congress, the Indians have no way left to them to make their presence felt. The best seven hundred of the country sat together and voted for or against certain measures. The Government may, if it chose, snap its fingers at them!

The Congress is a proof that the natives of India are not utterly incompetent for organization and self-government. We all know that Berar is a small backward province, or rather, a district. It is not a political province at all. It is a province where a Political Resident and a Judicial Commissioner rule supreme, and there is no High Court there at all in its ordinary sense. But, though there was official opposition and people were sought to be coerced, and though policemen attended its sittings, yet some two thousand local men were present to listen to the deliberations of the Congress. Fancy also the elements of which the Congress was composed. The delegates were all men of leading position. These seven hundred delegates met together. They managed their busniess without a hitch. This is a feat the like of which the world can rarely show. In other parts of the world, if seven hundred delegates had suddenly met, they would have not only consumed a very large quantity of liquor but possibly broken some theads.

The statement of our special Congress reporter regarding the Police incident, requires a slight correction. It is quite true that a Police Inspector claimed the right to be present at the meetings of the Subjects Committee and persisted in remaining on the last day of the session, though it was explained to him that these meetings were purely private business meetings, from which the Press was excluded, and where only a few selected delegates were allowed to be present: but the promoters would not have objected to his presence if he had chosen to come in. Indeed, the members of the Subjects Committee expected the presence of the Police officer, and all that they did was to send for their official reporter to take notes of the proceedings to guard themselves against misrepresentation. The Police Inspector, however, did not turn up.

As the Sedition Bill, now before the Council, means a revolution, we can hardly believe the statement, published by a contemporary, that the Government is determined to have it passed in the course of a month. The introduction of the measure has a little paralyzed the public; they should be allowed to recover, to be able to see where they are and then submit their representations. Even when an unimportant Bill is introduced, it is published first in the *India Gazette* and then in the Local *Gazettes*. Why should a different procedure be adopted in the case of a measure which, if passed, will, in the opinion of the whole nation, deal a deadly blow at the liberty of the press and freedom of speech? In all important Bills, the Judges of the High Courts are consulted. But, if there was a matter in which the opinions of the Hon'ble Judges were needed, it was the proposed revolutionary amendment of Section 124A. Their Lordships have been, however, totally ignored in this connection! The Government of Lord Elgin is going to take a tremendous responsibility upon its shoulders. There is no doubt of it, if

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it will be done against the wishes of the Indian people who don't want it and against the best interests of the Empire also. For, the liberty of the press was conferred upon the people o this country, not so much for their good as for enabling the alien rulers to govern it without committing ridiculous mistakes. It is, however, no exaggeration to say that the authorities will see darkness all around if they put out the light through which they can now see the innermost thoughts of the Indian mind. Here, let us remind the members of the present Government, of the treatment accorded to the people by their predecessors, when the sedition section was first sought to be introduced by Sir James Stephen in 1870. Sir James had made every arrangement to have his measure passed, when the British Indian Association protested. The Bill was published in the *Gazettes* in the usual way; but, the ground on which the Association prayed for further time, was that it was a very important change and should not be hurried through the same session in which it was taken up. The then Governor-General acceded to the request, and thus a whole year was given to the people to discuss it. Why should not Lord Elgin show the same liberality on the present occasion, especially as the contemplated change in the law is regarded with the greatest alarm possible by the nation?

Says the *Englishman*: "The *Indian Mirror* is beginning at last to see what is meant by Mr. Chalmers' amendments." Exactly so; we prophesied that the *Mirror* would write differently when he would come to understand the true nature of the proposed measure. Our contemporary is a little too slow, but, in the end, as a rule, sure. But is the *Englishman* yet of opinion that the alterations proposed by Mr. Chalmers are only "verbal"? If the *Mirror* is slow, it is honest. Let the *Englishman* follow in the wake of the *Mirror* and "begin to see at last what is really meant by the amendments." The *Englishman* says, "it is the lawlessness of the native papers that calls for legislation." We don't know that, but we know positively that one part of the measure, and not its least dangerous part, is solely due to the "lawlessness" of the *Englishman*. We refer to the provision relating to the publication of false rumours. It was the *Englishman* who threw the machinery of the Government *topsy turvy* by proclaiming the appearance of plague in Bengal and sedition in Bhagulpur. It was he, who created a panic about the Mussalman riots in Calcutta. And the *Englishman* is the first and only paper in India to welcome the Chalmers measure! Of course, as a good Christian, he shows an example to the world, of kissing the rod. But the threatened rod is not only for his own back but also that of other editors in India who are innocent. As a good Christian, he ought to see that innocent people are not made to suffer for his short comings.

The zemindars are blamed for employing European managers. The zemindars themselves know very well that to appoint a European as a servant is to make him a master. A zemindar who has a European servant, is very much the servant of his servant. Yet he is oftentimes obliged to entertain the services of a European for his safety. One such zemindar who has a European manager is able very much to protect himself from executive annoyance. Such a zemindar can screen himself behind his European servant over whose dead body the police have to step to reach the native behind him. Then again, zemindars have oftentimes to deal with European residents in the Mofussil. Under such circumstances, the zemindar is no match for his European neighbour. Only the other day, the case of Sub-divisional Officer Mr. Smyther, how he passed one night with one party to a suit who is a European and was hoodwinked by his host, to use the expression of the Judge who heard the appeal, made a good deal of noise. Here are the particulars of a case which came before the High Court the other day. The Rai Sahibs of Patna had leased out certain Maujahs in Begusarai to the Manjoul Factory, and the last lease having expired in 1896, resumed khas possession of the same. The factory people would not, however, allow the manager of the Rai Sahebs to realize rent from the tenants and had recourse to various unlawful and aggressive measures in order to secure the land for the cultivation of indigo. In distress the manager sought the protection of the law courts, and applied for the deputation of a special police force. The result, however, was that though this application was supported by the Sub-divisional Officer, the District Magistrate issued a process on the manager to show cause why he should not be bound down to keep the peace. Against this order the High Court has granted a rule to the manager to fight out his cause against the executive. The manager of the Rai Sahebs is a European and his services were no doubt entertained for the purpose of meeting their European opponent on equal grounds.

We learn from Bogra that the case against Mr. Woodside, Executive Engineer in charge of the construction work on the Sultanpur-Bogra line, has been concluded. It is, indeed, with surprise that we come to know that the accused has been let off by the District Magistrate, Mr. Umesh Chandra Batabyal, with a nominal fine of Rs. 100. The charges, as the reader would remember, against Mr. Woodside were very serious. He trespassed into the police station, assaulted the Sub-Inspector of Police and a constable, entered the the zenana apartments of the former, and rescued certain prisoners from lawful custody. These he admitted in main, in his written statement, only pleading provocation. And what was the provocation, even according to Mr. Woodside? Why, when repeating his question as to under whose authority his men had been arrested, after it had been answered by the Sub-Inspector, the latter grasped his stick. Of course, the police officer denies this. Even granting that Mr. Woodside's version is true, the Sub-Inspector's action betokens nervousness and not a threat of violence. But whatever it was, the invasion of a police station, the assault on a Police Sub-Inspector and the rescue of prisoners from police custody, are too serious offences against the constituted authority to be dealt with in this lenient fashion. To a man of Mr. Woodside's position a fine of Rs. 100 is no punishment. If there ever was a case in which the prestige of the executive had to be maintained, it was this Bogra case.

MAGHEYA DOMS OF BIHAR.

(Specially written for the Patrika)

THOSE who had the chance of living in Bihar know very well what a terror the Magheyas were in days gone by. They had no fixed home, but their favourite retreat was the Nepal Terai, and their field of action Bihar, south and north. They had chosen the Nepal Terai evidently to escape from both the British and the Nepal police. When chased by the former they would climb up the Nepal Hills and make themselves scarce in that territory, and when wanted by the latter they would come down the Hills and conceal themselves in the Terai jungles. They were generally a robust, stalwart, well-built class of bold ruffians, while their women were no less both in physique and courage. Thanks to the kind exertion of Sir John Edgar, the then Magistrate, most of these homeless ruffians were induced to settle down in life. He gave them lands and ploughs, and taught them to lead an honest life. Had this not been done, I am afraid their number would, in this time, have far out grown the number of trees in the jungle they lived in. Some of the Magheyas are, however, still seen plying the old boat, though they are now very few in number. It might be in the recollection of your readers how the property of a Lieutenant Governor of Bengal was robbed at Sonepur Camp, from an iron safe, to which a bull-dog was tied. I do not recollect whether or not the thieves were traced, but I think it were these Magheya Doms who committed this daring robbery. While in Bihar, I gained a sad experience of the Magheya's tact and ability by having had to pay a tribute of about Rs. 2,000 worth of trinkets in a single night. It would not be out of place here to relate an ancient story in illustration of the Magheya Dom's wit and pluck. I heard it long ago while in Bihar.

In days gone by a Bara Police Sahib was sent out from Calcutta to Bihar to put a check to the depredations of these *budmashes*. The Sahib and his suite, on arrival there, pitched their tents in a mango grove, and began operations. No sooner the Magheya Doms got wind of this than they formed a league to checkmate the Sahib sent out to check them. But it was a very hard task they had undertaken. The Sahib's camp was guarded by armed sentinels night and day, and it was not an easy thing for an evil doer to get in there. However, the gauntlet did not remain very long on the floor, for one gallant Magheya youth picked it up.

One dark night the gallant hero, with a few pieces of rope and other requisites, sallied forth from his stronghold. On reaching the grove in which the Sahib was encamped, he climbed up a tree that stood at the farthest end of the grove, and made towards the camp by jumping from tree to tree, silently and quickly like a squirrel; where the trees happened to be too far apart for a successful jump, he tied a piece of rope to the tree he was on and with the help of this swung to the nearest tree. In this way he continued his stealthy approach till he reached the big mango tree under which stood the Sahib's tent. The sentinel, as usual, paced to and fro before the tent, watching all the four sides, but he never dreamt that a man from the moon would drop into his master's tent at midnight.

Now the Magheya had to get into the tent. He had a plan ready shortly. He looked on all sides and finding the coast clear, tied a stout rope to one of the overhanging branches of the tree, and with a burning charcoal made an opening in the canvas sufficiently large for his passage. It did not take him long to land within his enemy's tent. He found a candle burning at one end of the tent and the Sahib fast asleep in his cot with his *memsahib* sleeping by his side. The glistening gold watch of the Sahib on the dressing table and a beautiful diamond-ring on the tapering finger of his fair spouse attracted the Magheya's immediate attention. In the twinkling of an eye he secured the trinkets about his person; and fearing lest the Sahib would awake, he made a hasty retreat. Of course leaving a deep sigh for other valuable things that he had perforce to leave behind. He then joined his comrades, who were at a safe distance anxiously waiting for the return of the hero of the night.

The next morning the Sahib found his watch missing, and went to enquire of his wife who gave a faint shriek and asked her husband if he knew anything about her finger ring. Now there was a confusion in the camp. The servants and guards were summoned but none knew about the watch or the ring. At last the opening in the tent cloth was noticed, and the truth dawned upon them. Heaven and earth were moved to trace the robber to his lair. It was no ordinary robbery; the watch of the Police Sahib, and the finger-ring of his wife had disappeared. But the Magheya boy had shown a clean pair of heels and all search and effort to recover the stolen property went for nothing. When all means failed the Sahib had the good sense to proclaim a free pardon and reward, if the daring burglar would voluntarily make his appearance. This had its desired effect. The Magheya boy appeared before the Sahib with the watch and the ring and got the promised reward.

R. S. M.

INDIA AND ENGLAND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, DEC. 16.

LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL.

I HAVE seldom come across a more frank and refreshing bit of cant than a paragraph on the Frontier campaign, which appears in the editorial column of that organ of Evangelical churchism, the *Rock*. . . . "The carnage among the natives has been terrible while we add our need of admiration to the officers and men who have fought so brilliantly and of sympathy with those at home who have been so desolated, we must plead for sympathy with the vanquished, and that no time should be lost in conferring every possible benefit upon them, and especially in carrying to them the light of the Gospel." What a delicious irony this poor editor unconsciously brings to bear on what he calls the "light of the Gospel." We invade their country, burn their villages, destroy their mills, drive their women and children adrift in winter on the terrible hill sides, bring terrible carnage among the men and then send missionaries to convert them! If this canting hypocrite, who writes this disgraceful twaddle, would read his Bible now and then and study the true nature of the Kingdom Chirst came to set up on earth, he would remember that when the "light of the Gospel" was first proclaimed on earth to the shepherds of Bethlehem, it was described as being "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good-will towards men." It is little wonder, that the Gospel of Christ find so little favour in India, when its Christian Government is recreant to its simplest and most foundation principles. I pity the Christian Missionary who takes the "light of the Gospel" to the burnt homes and desolate widows and orphans of the Afridis. I am afraid that the "benefits" already "conferred" would make them mighty shy of the "light of the Gospel." The Missionary's task is rendered only hopeless in India by the monstrous hypocrisies of so-called Christians, who ignore every doctrine and practice of the Divine founder of their faith.

ECLIPSE OBSERVATION PARTIES.

Sir Norman Lockyer's Eclipse party sailed for Colombo last week, and will arrive there on January 5th. At Colombo, they will be met by H. M. S. *Malpomene*, whose Captain and crew have instructions to render all possible assistance; and Sir Norman Lockyer will land at Fort Viziadrug, on the South Konkan coast, January 8th. The eclipse takes place January 22nd and the time intervening will be occupied in setting up the instruments, and generally getting ready for the observations. The method of observation will be by telescopes, with a prism at one end, and a camera at the other, which will produce a serie of permanent photographs. Another party, under the direction of the Astronomer Royal, intended to have gone to the neighbourhood of Poona; but plague regulations complicate everything just now, and they are going to Sohagpur instead. A third party, under Mr. Newall of Cambridge, will operate at Tilli, near Nagpur.

GIBBETING "GUINEA-PIGS."

When a member of Parliament who not only gets no pay but is put to great expenses beside, ventures to supplement his income a bit by joining a Board of Directors, the virtuous press of the country holds him up to public scorn as a guinea-pig. But what is "rank blasphemy" in the Commons, "is but a choleraic word" in the Lords. This week a British American Corporation, Limited, invites the public to contribute a million sterling on the strength of a Board of Directors, of which the chairman is the most Hon'ble the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava K. P., G. C. B., G. C. M. G. &c &c late Governor General of Canada and of India with the Right Hon. Lord Loch G. C. B., G. C. M. G. late Governor of the Cape Colony. Another company for taking over a timber business is being floated this week, of which Lord Wenlock, late Governor of Madras, is the most conspicuous director. I have not a word to say about these Companies which are undoubtedly sound, but it is not long since the "Westminster Gazette" gibbetted all the members of the House of Commons who were directors of public companies, and I see no reason why the same influential paper should not gibbet these excellent pens and ex-Governors for the same thing. I have no desire to gibbet either, except so far as to protest against great official positions being used in prospectuses inviting public capital. Some of the most confirmed and shameless guinea-pigs are these retired Governors. I cannot see why, because Lord Wenlock has been Governor of Madras, he should make a good timber merchant, any more than the Right Hon. the Earl of Denbigh should make a successful Rum distiller. Yet he is a conspicuous Director of an Indian Company which fills the newspapers of the country this week, with invitations to subscribe some £400,000 for the East India Distilleries and Sugar Factories Ltd, which bases it claims upon profit derived from a concession of the Maharaja of Mysore for the exclusive manufacture and sale of spirits throughout his territory, and 140 spirit shops which the Company holds direct from the Madras Government. This sort of "security" threatened as it is by public opinion hostile to its existence, is not tempting to sensible investors.

GOVERNMENT has under consideration the construction of a new vessel to replace the Royal Indian Marine steamer Warren Hastings, which was lost in January last, after only three years service. The estimated cost of the new vessel is £175,000, exclusive of armaments. She will be slightly bigger than the Warren Hastings, and will have certain improvements to fit her for trooping service.

ENQUIRIES made locally regarding the importation of arms from Bushire and elsewhere in the Persian Gulf, show that three well-known firms have been engaged in the business for years past without molestation from either the British or the officials who have been all along cognizant of the trade. The last shipment was landed at Muscat, and another is now expected.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

MONETARY.—Exchange rates were steady on Thursday and closing quotations were 1-4-3-16 for six months and 1-3-29-32 for demand.

ON ECLIPSE DUTY.—Mr. A. Pedler proceeds on special eclipse duty to Viziadrug on the west coast of India, and will assist the party under Sir Norman Lockyer.

RAISING OF BANK RATE.—The Bank of Bengal rate was raised on Thursday from nine to ten per cent. The Bank of Bombay has also raised its rate of interest to 10 per cent.

BRIDGING THE BRAHMAPUTRA.—The question of bridging the Brahmaputra is under the consideration of the authorities, and the consequent surveys have made it clear that the proper place for bridging is at Gauhati.

SIR W. LOCKHART'S VISIT.—Sir William Lockhart will probably visit Calcutta early next week to consult the authorities on frontier matters, and after returning to Rawalpindi, he will take 3 months' leave, sailing from Bombay on the 22nd instant.

SUPREME COUNCIL.—It is said that the reports of the Select Committees on the Indian Penal Code Amendment Bill and the Criminal Procedure Bill, together with Mr. Chalmers' proposed amendments with reference to the law of sedition, will be dealt with in the course of next month.

A RUNAWAY ELEPHANT.—On Sunday night a young elephant broke loose from a menagerie, kept by a native gentleman in the Phoolbagan on the Barrackpur Trunk Road, Cossipur. It had had a quarrel with a young camel, and behaved in a very alarming way in the Cossipur Road, where it was pursued by its keepers. Entering the house of Dr. Mohendra Lal Mozumdar, it broke open a door and frightened the inmates. Then it ran into the Baranagore bazar, where it did some slight damage before being secured.

OBITUARY.—A Mozufferpur correspondent reports the death of Babu Kedarnath Bannerjee, at 10 30 P. M. on Wednesday last. The deceased was a highly respected pleader of the Mozufferpur bar, who was liked and was respected not only by the Bengalee but by the Beharee community as well. Beginning life as a humble clerk he became leader of the district bar.

THE BURDWAN SESSIONS.—At the December sessions at Burdwan one Bepin Behari Sarkar, an inhabitant of village Ankona, was charged with a brutal outrage on a girl named Feru, while she was cutting grass in a field. When the accused attacked and threw her down to satisfy his brutal cravings, she raised an alarm which brought to her rescue two peisants, but not before the dark deed had been done. The jury were not unanimous, the three being for conviction and two for acquittal. The Judge agreeing with the majority sentenced the accused to ten years' rigorous imprisonment.

A STRANGE STORY.—The "Jyoti," a newly started weekly of Chittagong, publishes a letter from Babu Barada Kanta Ghosh, a pleader of Patunkhali, which tells a strange story. It is said that on the night of the last Kalee Pujah an eighteen-month old nephew of his surprised all his relations by remaining seated almost in a state of trance, his eyes fixed on the image before him all the time the pujah lasted. The next night, a lady of the family was terrified by the sight of the Goddess in front of the room in which the child and his mother slept. On the day following the little child fell from a veranda, a drop of only two feet, and died of tetanus in two days. Babu Barada Kanta writes to say that an astrologer in casting the child's horoscope had predicted that he was destined to die of supernatural fright and fall from a high place. "(Debabayadhikang uchhai patanang)."

RIOTING AND MURDER.—Yesterday, Mr. Caspersz, presiding over the Alipore Criminal Sessions, disposed of a case in which one Bunoo Shaik, a landholder of Diamond Harbour, and four of his men, were charged with having been members of an unlawful assembly, rioting, grievous hurt and causing the death of another landholder. The deceased, with his men, went to raise an enbankment over a canal The accused, with about one hundred armed men, resisted them; hence a free fight ensued, in the course of which one man was killed and several others were seriously injured. The defence argued that the canal was for several years in their possession and they were compelled to use force in defence of their property. The jury returned an unanimous verdict of "guilty" against all the accused on a charge of rioting only. The Judge agreeing with the verdict, sentenced the first accused to one year's, and the rest to six months' rigorous imprisonment each.

KHEDDAH OPERATIONS.—The latest news received at Dabca of the Kheddah party was on the 31st ultimo, when it was reported that the Superintendent was close on the heels of a great herd which had been making off at a great rate towards the Burmese forests, but which he had been successful in stopping close to the Lotchang Valley by sending out a flying party to head them off. This difficult operation was most successfully performed by the Jemadar in charge. The main body of hunters was trying to manoeuvre the elephants into the valley with a view to the surround and subsequent drive. It was expected that all the arrangements for this would be completed by the 3rd instant, and the drive itself take place on the 6th. We trust the Superintendent and party will meet with the success they deserve. It is admitted by all who know the Chittagong hills, that they are far more difficult to work than the Garo Government Preserves. In the one the range is practically unlimited, and the elephants travel for thirty or forty miles unless headed off, whereas in the Garo Hills they can only go a short distance, and a single herd has been known to be surrounded two or three times even after they had broken through the ring. This may account for the fact that the Garo Hills has always been a favourite hunting ground. Even the famous "Elephant Sanderson" did not quite like the idea of Chittagong.—*Englishman.*

[INVENTIONS AND DESIGNS.—Applications in respect of the under-mentioned inventions have been filed:—Harry Morrison, engineer, of 27, Martin's Lane, Cannon Street, London, for improvements in handles for bicycles and the like; Adolph Gothard Christiansen, engineer, partner in the firm of Garlick and Co., of Nesbit Lane, Mazagon, Bombay, for a water waste preventer stand-post, to be called "Christiansen's waste-not stand-post;" Norman Blount, accountant of the Commercial Bank of India, Ld., of 10, Strand Road, Rangoon, for the application of asbestos fibre to articles for protection from the sun; Atmaram Abaji Bhise, clerk, Preventive Department, Customs-house, Bombay, for a non-refillable bottle.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—We have received the following publications:—(1) Report of the Baraset Association for the 22nd year ending 30th September, 1897. This Association, the object of which is to secure the welfare of the inhabitants of Baraset in a constitutional way and to impart primary education to boys and girls, has done useful work during the year under notice, as is quite evident from the Report before us. The Baraset Girl's School, which is in charge of the Association, reports steady progress, while various attempts have been made for the sanitary and other improvements in Baraset and the neighbourhood. (2) "Himalaya Darsana" by Pundit Tarakumar Kaviratna. The author is well-known as a composer of verses in Sanskrit. The brochure before us consists of about fifty well-written *slokas*, with their renderings into Bengalee, describing the Himalaya Mountain and its highest peak. (3) The Sixth Annual Report of the Hindu Provident Fund, Simla, for 1896-97. The Report shows steady progress. (4) Calendar of the Muir Mills Company, Ld. The get up is excellent. (5) The Spelling Teacher, Part I, by Babu Sasi Bhushan Bandyopadhya. This is a very useful book for beginners and deserves to be introduced in our schools. (6) "Mahabhoke" by Babu Hem Chunder Roy Chowdhury. This is a poem in Bengali which we have read with a melancholy pleasure. (7) "Daktarisikshia" by Kaviraj Nogendra Nath Sen Gupta. The author is well-known as an Ayurvedic practitioner, who has also knowledge of the Allopathic system of medicine. The book consists of nearly one thousand pages and gives in easy Bengalee all sorts of informations and instructions which every Allopathic student should know. The large number of prescriptions and illustrations enhance the worth and usefulness of this medical *Vademecum*.

NEW YEAR PROSPECTS.—The new year opens so (illegible). Whether the partition of China has begun is not quite clear, but that trouble is brewing in the East is quite clear. The Japanese are preparing for (illegible) next, and probably before that year is out we shall find them forced into fighting Russia, Germany, and France, which have already found that she is expected to send cruisers into the China seas to support Russia, as we pointed out three months ago. What has been our attitude seems ambiguous; we seem to have taken an active step in sending ships to Chemulpo. The occupation of four of the Powers is thus provided for in the East. In Africa we have all sorts of complications arising over the head-waters of the Nile and the boundary of Abyssinia, complications with France, which seem to have nearly come to a crisis a short while ago, but which the "St. James's Gazette" says are now solved, though how, is not so clear. In fact the announcement is mosterious. In West Africa we have not settled up about the Hinterland of Lagos or the Niger Company's territories, and negotiations proceed. The message of the American President is exciting the Spanish nation to fury, though for once in a way the Americans seem to have swallowed European interference with Hayti without a word. In Europe, Macedonia is restless, and the Bulgarians and inhabitants of the Balkan Peninsula are chafing at the prevailing state of things. Austrain is on the brink of a civil war. Crete is still in a state of anarchy. The Caucasus is in an Islamic ferment, and apparently near a revolt. We ourselves are about to begin a war with the Bunerwals to-morrow and to renew the Tirah expedition in the spring. That is not a bad programme for the firms that deal in arms and ammunition.—*U. P. News.*

A RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—Shortly after five o'clock on Tuesday morning, a disastrous collision occurred between No. 6 down passenger train and a special up goods train between the stations of Jhinkargacha and Naibaran, on the Bengal Central Railway, resulting in considerable damage to rolling-stock and in the death of five Indian railway employes and the serious injury of two others. The passenger train started a little before 5 A. M. (Calcutta time) from Jessore, its head quarters, and was timed to arrived at Calcutta at 9-24 A. M. On passing Jhikargacha, which was the next station, it collided violently with a special goods train, which was in motion, the smash being sufficient to wreck both trains. On the news reaching the railway authorities, a relief train was despatched to the scene of the accident. It was soon discovered that the two native drivers had been killed on their respective engines, which were smashed. The two firemen of the passenger train were also killed, while Guard Kebbie, who was on duty with the train, was severely shaken and injured. The brakesman and the fireman of the goods train were likewise seriously injured. These three men were sent by a special train to Calcutta, where they were conveyed to the Campbell Hospital. But the brakesman shortly afterwards succumbed to his injuries. The native fireman's condition is reported to be critical, while that of Guard Kebbie is favourable. The greatest confusion and disorder prevailed at the scene of the collision. The native passengers were shaken and bruised and were thrown into a panic-stricken state. They were eventually transferred to other trains arriving on either side of the wreck. Mr. E. G. Staples, Agent; Mr. Tait, Assistant Traffic Superintendent, and Mr. Robb, Locomotive Superintendent, Bengal Central Railway, arrived on the scene shortly after the occurrence and held a preliminary investigation, and on Wednesday morning Mr. T. C. Dass, of the Sealdah Government Railway Police, also held an enquiry. The line is completely blocked and all through traffic has had to be suspended. A joint official investigation was to have been held on Wednesday.

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COLLISION ON THE B. C. RAILWAY.

(From Our Jessore Correspondent.)

THE Jessore public have been greatly agitated by the news of a serious collision which took place yesterday (4th January) at about 5 A. M. between the Local passenger down train which had started from this station at 4 A. M. and a goods train which was on its way here. The collision occurred midway between Jhikergachi and Jadubpore stations, while both the trains were running in full speed. So great was the alarm caused by this accident, that the members of the bar in a body petitioned the District Magistrate to institute a prompt inquiry into the nature and gravity of the catastrophe. Mr. Moorshed, upon this representation being made to him, wanted to be satisfied as to the source of their information, when two gentlemen who had had a talk with the Jessore Station-master on the subject, corroborated them. About this time, the son of the Second Subordinate Judge's Sheristadar, who had been a passenger by the ill-fated "Local" came to Jessore in a bullock cart wounded and was being taken to hospital. Mr. Moorshed examined him and his two Mahomedan attendants, and himself started for the scene of occurrence with the Civil Surgeon and a number of Police constables. The facts which have been gleaned from the boy regarding the accident are as follows:—The boy was going to Calcutta by the Local train. After the train had run three miles past Jhinkergachi Station and acquired a great velocity, it collided with a goods train, which was coming towards Jhinkergachi in full force. He felt a severe shock and was thrown down unconscious on the ground, when he was picked up by the two Mahomedans, who were residents of Kowria, a neighbouring village. These two men also made similar statements and added that in consequence of darkness they could not ascertain the fates of the other passengers but that they heard loud wails. The Railway authorities, it is alleged, did not allow the outside public to be present at the place of accident. The Railway authorities have declared that only four men were killed and two wounded; but the actual state of facts has not yet been known. It reflects a great deal on the management of the Bengal Central Railway, when we consider that within the last two or three months no fewer than 5 collisions have taken place. The company have, since their assumption of the management, are trying to make the line more profitable to themselves by economising their expenditure. They have dispensed with their old and experienced servants and imported into their service raw and immature hands. In the night trains there was good arrangement for light when the line was under Government management. But the company have also effected economy in that direction and the night passengers have now to grovel in darkness. We hope the Government will take action in the matter.

WEST AFRICA.

A STATEMENT in the *St. James's Gazette* of Saturday, Dec. 11, that the basis of a satisfactory arrangement between Great Britain and France respecting their possessions in West Africa has been agreed to involving the recognition of the prior rights of Great Britain over Borgu, created considerable interest.

There is a disposition in certain quarters, says the same paper, to give a point-blank denial to the statement, but these denials must be received with great caution. The well-informed London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* writes:—

"My own information stops short of that of the *St. James Gazette* at the critical point. I learnt nearly three weeks ago that suggestions almost identical in terms with those which it is now said have been accepted had been placed before the French Government. Indeed, in one particular, my information was more precise than that published yesterday, for it pointed to the cession to France of Say and a strip of territory on the right bank of the river about sixty miles in length. At the very outset of the renewed negotiations I stated in the most positive manner that no great difficulty was anticipated in finding a solution on the Gold Coast Hinterland problem. These mutual concessions would certainly result in an understanding. As regards the Say-Barua line, it has never been more than is generally delimited, to make use of the phrase employed in the agreement, itself. The line was to be "determined" by commissioners, but except on paper the work of delimitation remains still to be done.

It was over Borgu (adds the correspondent) that the only real difficulty existed, and subsequent events have most amply justified this statement. If M. Hanotaux has indeed tardily acknowledged the priority of British right, he has done no more than accept the inevitable once it became apparent that Lord Salisbury did not intend to allow himself to be bluffed into making another "graceful concession," which this time would involve not merely the relinquishing of claims over other people's property, but the actual abandonment of territory admittedly British. I need not recapitulate the facts relating to the British claims over Borgu, but a piece of evidence as to the absolutely untenable character of the French claim to establish posts on the Middle Niger between Say and Boussa, which has hitherto, I think, escaped observation, has just come under my notice. In a despatch written on March 30, 1892, by Lord Salisbury to the Marquess of Dufferin, the British Ambassador at Paris, the Foreign Secretary, referring to the circumstances in which the agreement of August 1890 had been concluded, said:

"The French Government, noting that the progress of the two countries on the Upper and Lower Niger must, if unchecked, lead to conflicting claims, suggested that a point should be agreed on beyond which neither should pass."

Say was the point so agreed on. North of this Great Britain undertook not to go, and France similarly contracted not to go south. Her occupation of Boussa and the other points intermediate between that place and Say are thus clearly proved to be in direct opposition to the arrangement entered into.

REPORTED BRITISH DISASTER.

The *Soleil* says, it has received intelligence that a British force has been defeated by Samory in an engagement on the Ashantee frontier. Several officers are alleged to have been killed.

This news is declared by the Colonial Office to be three weeks old, and to be absolutely without foundation.

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Correspondence.

THE LAW OF SEDITION.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—In his speech while introducing the proposed sedition law, the Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers thus referred to the Vernacular Press Act of 1878:—

"That principle apppears to us to be objectionable on two grounds. In the first place we see no reason for drawing any distinction between the Vernacular Press and any other press." And hence, he has found it necessary to gag the press without any distinction of colour and creed. It is a puerile argument which the Law Member has advanced in support of his proposal. The Vernacular Press Act was repealed, because it was something of which the Government itself was ashamed, because it was a disgrace to a civilised Government. And now the Government of Lord Elgin is going to bring that Act back only with a new name. But the new garb which the Government has made it put on cannot hide the true character of the Act. The section, as the Government now wants to make it, will practically be a second Press Act, only Indians as well as Anglo-Indians will be sailing in the same boat.

His Excellency the Viceroy has said that the necessity of the amendments has been brought to light by recent events. But one fails to understand what these events are. Neither the famine nor the plague was the action of the Indian Press. Neither the frontier troubles nor the Poona murders had their origin in the Indian Press. Then why is this unjust charge brought against the Indian press, and why will this obnoxious section be placed in place of the old section?

In his speech the Hon. the Law Member said:—"For the most part under British rule our Mahomedan and Hindoo fellow-subjects live together in peace and amity." Surely but for the policy of the Government divide and rule—they would have continued to do so. If the Government is to prosecute those who foment feelings of enmity or ill-will between different classes of Her Majesty's subjects it shall have to prosecute itself first and others afterwards.

About the trial the Hon. the Law Member said: "At present sedition under section 124A is triable only by a Court of Sessions or a High Court. We intend to propose that offences under section 124A shall be triable also by Presidency Magistrates and Magistrates of the first class." That practically takes away from the accused the right of being tried by a jury. And this after forty years of peace and progress!!

Then the proposed alteration in section 505 of the Penal Code is another and perhaps a more serious blow to the liberty of the Indian Press. The omission of the clause "which he knows to be false" makes it practically impossible for news-papers to publish any news regarding the actions or the intentions of the Government. That surely will be of advantage to the Government, for then it will not be possible for the public to possess any information about any action the Government—whether at Calcutta or at Simla where the officials "lie reclined, on the hills like gods together, careless of mankind"—will try to carry out. And the people will perhaps wake up on some *durdina* only to find notifications like the notorious Jury Notification issued with the object of taking away from them their most cherished rights.

If the proposed amendments in the Law of Sedition are carried—it will be necessary for us to shut up our Congresses and our Conferences—to put a stop to our press and our platform.

Let the country from one end to another ring with opposition to the proposed amendments. Let the people explain to the Government that the step which the Government is going to take is one which should not be taken by an English Government, which has all along been the champion of the blessings of an advanced civilisation.

L'EXACTITUDE.

BABU PURNENDU NARAIN SINGH AND THE RAJA OF KHAIRA AT KHANA.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I send you the following particulars supplied to me by my local reporter, relating to what happened to a respectable gentleman at Khana. Our most respected countryman, Babu Purnendu Narain Sing, M.A., B.L., Government Pleader of Patna, started for Calcutta on the 24th ultimo by the Punjab Mail in a second class compartment. His clerk and nephew were in the intermediate compartment and one servant was in the third class. At Khana junction those who showed their tickets were passed off. When Purnendu Babu showed his Residence Certificate granted to him by the Magistrate of Patna, under Plague Notification No. 2, dated the 30th November last, he was detained there by the Doctor for comparison of the thumb-mark and was pointed out by the Police Inspector. In spite of the request of the Government Pleader that he might be inspected and passed off, the Doctor was inexorable. It was 4 in the morning and extremely cold. The Doctor placed him under the charge of one constable and himself went to his quarters on the platform. At 5-30 a passenger train came, but he was not allowed to go. In due course, the Doctor came to inspect the passengers and was again requested permission to go by that train after comparison of the thumb-mark; but the Doctor told him that the train could not be detained for his sake. The train remained for about an hour and left the platform at about 6-30. The Police Inspector told him that one Raja had been similarly detained. The Doctor, after a short while, went to his office and Purnendu Babu was also allowed to accompany him. He now learnt to his great surprise that the office was about a quarter of a mile off, but the Police-Inspector kindly allowed him to sit on the trolly and they went to the office. After half an hour or so the comparison was made of all the unfortunate persons together. The other persons were Raja Ram Narain Singh of Khaira and his little boys and companions. The comparison was satisfactorily made and they were then asked to come away. The Raja of Khaira was in a reserved second, class compartment and he remarked what would have been his fate had he brought females with him. Purnendu Babu came back to the platform, and at about 8 A.M. another passenger train came. He gladly put his things and comforted himself in a second-class compartment. The Doctor and the Police Inspector came, but this time they were another set of persons, and it appears no communication was given to them of his release from the clutches of the former Doctor. He was asked to show his ticket, but lo! it was not with him. He forgot that the former Doctor had taken the ticket from him and made a search but got confused. Purnendu Babu was running to the office, but was suddenly stopped and was being reserved for the Inspector's camp. At the time, some one who knew him and his previous detention, informed the responsible officer and he was allowed to go back to the office in charge of a Police constable. He found his railway ticket there and took it back. The passenger train in the meantime passed off and he ran apace to be in time for the Loop mail. When he got near the platform, the Loop mail also whistled off. He got, however, a passenger train after ten which reached Howrah at about 3 P. M., and he arrived at his destination at about 4 P. M. Being an orthodox Hindu, he had his breakfast after 4. But misfortune never comes alone and the miseries of our esteemed friend did not end here. At his lodging no one was to be seen, neither his nephew nor his clerk nor servant. They, not finding Purnendu Babu in train after train, had gone up to Khana whence they came back to him at 1 P. M. night.

Bankipur. YOUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

SUPREME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A MEETING of the Council of His Excellency the Viceroy was held yesterday at Government House. Their were present: His Excellency the Viceroy, President, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the Hon'ble Sir J. Westland, the Hon'ble M. D. Chalmers, the Hon'ble Major-General Sir E. H. H. Collen, the Hon'ble Sir A. C. Trevor, the Hon'ble C. M. Rivaz, the Hon'ble Rahimtula Muhammad Sayani, the Hon'ble Pandit Bishambar Nath, the Hon'ble Joy Gobind Law, the Hon'ble C. C. Stevens, the Hon'ble Sir H. T. Prinsep, the Hon'ble M. R. Ananda Charlu, the Hon'ble Sir, G. H. P. Evans, the Hon'ble J. J. D. LaTouche, the Hon'ble F. A. Nicholson, the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit Suraj Kaul, the Hon'ble Gangadhar Rao Madhav Chitnavis and the Hon'ble Allan Arthur.

COURT FEES ACT.

The Hon'ble Mr Rivaz moved that the Hon'ble Mr. Sayani and the Hon'ble Mr. Nicholson be added to the Select Committee on the Bill to further amend the Court-fees Act, 1870. He said that the opinions received on the Bill were important and required careful consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

STAGE-CARRIAGES ACT.

The Hon'ble member also presented the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to further amend the Stage-Carriages Act, 1861.

By the amendment the Act is extended to whole of British India, but it shall not apply to carriages ordinarily plying for hire within the limits of any municipality or cantonment or other places, in which any law for the regulation of carriages is for the time being in force.

In presenting the report the Hon'ble member said: "The main object of the Bill which was introduced in this Council on the 2nd September last was to repeal the proviso to section 1 of the Stage-Carriages Act, 1861, which limited the application of the Act to carriages ordinarily used for journeys of more than twenty miles. The effect, however, of repealing this proviso without any qualification would be that the Act would extend to some classes of carriages which run for short distances to which there is no necessity to apply its provisions. We have therefore given power to Local Governments to exempt any particular carriages or classes of carriages from the Act. We have also inserted a clause which will prevent any conflict between the provisions of the Act as now amended and any local enactments which deal with the regulation of hackney carriages in municipalities and other places. Other slight alterations have been made which are explained in the Committee's report and which need no further remarks on my part."

The Council adjourned to Friday, the 14th January.

CONGRESS RESOLUTIONS.

THE following resolutions were passed at the Thirteenth Indian National Congress held at Amraoti, on the 27th, 28th and 29th December, 1897.

RESOLUTION I.

Resolved—That this Congress expresses its deep and earnest conviction that the present Frontier policy of the Government of India is injurious to the best interests of the British Empire in general, and this country in particular, as it involves frequent military expeditions beyond the present limits of the British Indian Empire, and causes great loss of valuable lives and public money, and therefore entreats the British Nation to put a stop to this aggressive policy and to lay down that if such expeditions are found necessary, they being for imperial purposes, the major portion of their expenses should be defrayed by the British Exchequer.

RESOLUTION II.

Resolved—That in view of the fact that the calamities of famine and plague have dislocated the already seriously embarrassed finances of this country and crippled its limited resources, and that the military operations carried on beyond the North-West Frontier are for the protection of Imperial interests, this Congress prays that the British Parliament will, pending the settlement of the principle on which the military charges are to be apportioned between Great Britain and India, be pleased to make a substantial contribution to the cost of the present war.

RESOLUTION II A.

Resolved—That this Congress authorizes the President to submit a petition to Parliament, embodying the prayer contained in Resolutions I and under his hand on its behalf.

RESOLUTION III.

Resolved—That this Congress rejoices that the Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure was pleased to decide to admit the public to its proceedings and further desires to express its greatful acknowledgments for the opportunity afforded by the Honorable Commission to representative Indian witnesses to state fully the case on behalf of India. With regard to the 3 divisions of the reference the Congress desires most respectfully to submit the following prayers for the favourable consideration of the Honorable Commission.

(i) As regards the Machinery to control Indian Expenditure, it is prayed (1) that the non-official members of the Viceroy's Council may be made more directly representative of the Indian people, and that they may have the right to move amendments and divide the Council upon the provisions of the Budget; (2) that a sufficient number of representative Indians of position and experience may be nominated to the Council of the Secretary of State on the recommendation of the elected members of the Viceroy's and Local Legislative Council; and (3) that each year a Select Committee of the House of Commons may be appointed to inquire into and report upon the financial condition of India;

(ii) As regards the progress of Expenditure it is prayed that the Military and other unproductive expenditure be reduced, that larger amounts be spent in promoting the welfare and the progress of the people, and that a large saving and a more efficient administration may be obtained by the substitution, as far as practicable, of Indian for European agency in the higher grades of the Public service; and

(iii) As regards apportionment of charge, it is prayed that the Imperial Treasury may bear a fair proportion of all expenditure in which the common interests of India and the rest of the Empire are involved, and especially that the expenses of the present war beyond the frontier may be largely borne by the Imperial Exchequer.

Lastly that it be an instruction to the President to submit a copy of this Resolution, under his own signature to the Chairman of the Royal Commission with the least practicable delay.

RESOLUTION IV.

Resolved—That this Congress concurs with its predecessors in strongly advocating:—

(a) Persistent pressure by the Government of India on all Provincial Administrations to induce them to carry out in its integrity the excise policy enunciated in paragraphs 103, 104, and 105 of the Despatch published in the "Gazette of India" of March 1890, and the introduction of a simple system of effective local option; (b) A modification of the rules under the Arms Act so as to make them equally applicable to all residents in, or visitors to India without distinction of creed, caste or colour; to ensure the liberal concession of licenses wherever wild animals habitually destroy human life, cattle or crops; and to make all licenses granted under the revised rules, lifelong tenure, revocable only on proof of misuse, and valid throughout the Provincial jurisdiction in which they are issued; (c) The establishment of Military Colleges in India, whereat Natives of India, as defined by Statute, may be educated and trained for a military career, as Commissioned or non-Commissioned officers (according to capacity and qualifications) in the Indian army; (d) The authorising and stimulating of a widespread system of volunteering, such as obtains in Great Britain, amongst the people of India; (e) The discontinuance of the grant of exchange compensation allowance to the non-domiciled European and Eurasian employes of Government; (f) The abolition of the Council of the Secretary of State for India; (g) The establishment of a High Court of Judicature in the Punjab; (h) In recording its protest against the scheme of reorganisation of the Educational Service which has just received the sanction of the Secretary of State as being calculated to exclude natives of India, even those who have been educated in England, from the superior grade of the Educational Service to which they have hitherto been admitted; for the words of the Resolution are:—"In future natives of India, who, are desirous of entering the Education Department, will usually be appointed in India and to the Provincial Service." The scheme may be so recast as to afford facilities for the admission of Indian graduates to the superior grade of the Educational Service; (i) Against the present rate of salt tax which produces great hardship to the poorest classes of the country, a hardship which renders it incumbent upon the Government to take the earliest opportunity to restore the duty to its level of 1868; (j) Against the disabilities imposed on Indian settlers in South Africa, and the invidious and humiliating distinctions made between them and European settlers and appeals to her Majesty's Government and the Government of India to guard the interests of Indian settlers and to relieve them of the disabilities to which they are subjected; (k) Against the retrogade policy of the Government of India in nominating a gentleman for the Central Provinces to the Supreme Legislative Council without asking local bodies to make recommendation for such nomination, that Government will be placed to take early steps to give to the Central Provinces the same kind of representation that it has already granted to Bengal, Madras, Bombay, and the North Western Provinces.

And in expressag its firm conviction:

(l) That in the interests of the public the Medical Science and the profession, as also in the cause of economic administration,—(1) there should be only one Medical Military Service with two branches, one for the European army and one for native troops, worked on identical lines, (2) the Civil Medical Service of the country should be reconstituted as a distinct and independent Medical Service wholly detached from its present Military connection and recruited from the open profession of Medicine in India and elsewhere, with due regard to the utilization of indegenous talents, other things being equal, and (3) that the Congress further affirms that the status and claims of Civil Assistant Surgeons and Hospital Assistants require thorough and open enquiry with a view to the redressing of long standing anomalies and consequent grievances.

(m) That the time having come when greater facilities are imperatively required for higher education and the proper development of the Indian intellect than what are at present offered by examinations alone, the Acts of Incorporation of the Universities of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay should be amended so as to provide for the introduction of teaching functions and for a wider scope of learning, and so as to suit generally the requirements of the present day.

(n) That having regard to the facility of intercourse between all parts of India and Assam the time has now arrived when the Inland Emigration Act I of 1882 as amended by Act VII of 1893 should be repealed.

(o) That it is desirable that in future no Indian Prince or Chief should be deposed on the ground of mal-administration or misconduct until the fact of such mal-administration or misconduct shall have been established to the satisfaction of a public Tribunal which shall command the confidence alike of Government and of the Indian Princes and Chiefs.

(p) That having regard to the opinion of the Jury Commission as to the success of the system of the trial by Jury, and also the fact that with the progress of education a sufficient number of educated persons is available in all parts of the country, the system of trial by Jury should be extended to districts and offences to which at present it does not apply and that the verdicts should be final.

RESOLUTION V.

Resolved—That this Congress, concurring with previous Congresses, again records its deep regret that the labours of the Public Service Commission have practically proved void of any good result to the people of this country and it repeats its conviction that no satisfactory solution of the question is possible, unless effect is given to the Resolution of the House of Commons of the 2nd June, 1893, in favour of holding the competitive examinations for the Indian Civil Services, viz., Civil, Medical, Police, Engineering, Telegraph, Forest and Accounts, both in India and in England. This Congress would once again respectfully urge on Her Majesty's Government that the Resolution of the House of Commons should be speedily carried out as an act of justice to the Indian people and as the only adequate fulfilment of the pledges made to them.

RESOLUTION VI.

Resolved—That this Congress being of opinion that the Government of India Notification of 25th June, 1891, in the Foreign Department gagging the Press in Territories under British administration in Native States is retrograde, arbitrary and mischievous in its nature and opposed to sound statesmanship and to the liberty of the people, again enters its emphatic protest against the same and urges its cancellation without delay.

[To be continued.]

TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, JAN. 4.

A letter from Sir H. Havelock Allan, dated December 14th, is published, wherein he deplores the delay in finishing the Tirah campaign before the winter, which might have been easily avoided if a more just conception of the task had been formed at the outset. It is difficult to say whether the error lies with the Military or the Civil Government of India.

General Gatacre, with Sir Henry Rawlinson, proceeds to Egypt to-morrow to take command of the British Brigade in the Sudan.

Prince Victor Dhuleep Singh was married to-day to Anne, daughter of the Earl of Coventry.

Fresh proposals have been made to the British Government to assist China to contract a new loan. The Government is considering them.

LONDON, JAN. 5.

The *Times* in a leading article says that Great Britain does not design joining in any partition of China, but aims at preserving the Chinese Empire as a vast field for the extension of trade, and favours British financial assistance being given to China in view of commercial advantages to be derived. The *Times* then cites as a precedent the Suez Canal.

In a match between the Victorians and Stoddart's team the latter were out for 316 and the Victorians won the match by an innings and 55 runs.

LONDON, JAN. 6.

The French Press regard the cession of Kiaochau to Germany as a fair reward for her securing the retrocession of Liaotung.

It is reported on the Stock Exchange that the Chinese loan of three per cent. has been issued at 110.

General Gatacre has started for Egypt.

Ten special medical men stationed at the Curragh have been ordered to Berber.

LONDON, JAN. 6.

The *Times* correspondent at Pekin states that Kiaochau has been leased to Germany for fifty years.

One hundred cavalry with four-hundred followers arrived at Kassala from Suakin in fourteen days. A regular post has been established between Suakim, Berber and Kassala and the telegraph is expected to be opened shortly.

It is announced by the War Office that the Foot Guards, who are willing to extend their service with the colours, will receive a bounty of two pounds, and that a limited portion of the reserve will be permitted to rejoin.

LONDON, JAN. 7.

The "Times" is informed that the lease of Kiaochau granted to Germany is for 99, not 50, years. Germany will establish a branch of the German Asiatic Bank at Kiaochau.

LONDON, JAN. 7.

The Canadian Militia Department is receiving offers of service in the event of trouble in the Far East.

GORAKPUR, JAN. 7.

The defence in the alleged poisoning case applied to the High Court to order the Deputy Magistrate to take evidence of the defence, which he had refused as unnecessary. The Magistrate furnished explanation and denied refusing to take evidence. The Counsel in the High Court impugned the correctness of the explanation and filed copy of Magistrate's order. The High Court stayed proceedings in the Sessions Court, which commences 10th instant, sent for record and ordered Magistrate to furnish explanation through Counsel.

BOMBAY, JAN. 7.

The Corporation of Bombay yesterday elected Mr. Mehta, Dr. Bahadurjee having withdrawn at the last moment and explained why he had come to oppose Mr. Mehta. He said that he had received a message from Mr. Mehta, saying that he consented to a re-nomination and would return earlier.

The plague returns yesterday show 66 ca and 65 deaths, the total mortality being 176

MY ADVENTURES IN AFGHANISTAN.

(By Miss Hamilton, M. D.)

Hitherto I have written ofthe upper class Cabul woman only; but considering how very few of these there are, and that being purdah they have but little influence beyound their own immediate circle it would give quite a false impression of the women of Afghanistan were I to say nothing of the other far more numerous and really far more important class—the class that works. Before, however, I can give an accurate account of their occupations and lives, I must explain that Afghanistan is not a country inhabited by one great nation, bound t gether by the ties of blood and common interest, but is occupied by a number of perfectly distinct races; races who have nothing in common except a religion, which is divided into two distinct and inimical factions, each calling the other heretic, and between whom the most bitter hereditary feuds have existed from time immemorial, though they will unite against a common foe. The consequenc- of these feuds is that until quite recently (since, in fact, murder has been made punishable by death) a constant petty warfate has been carried one not only between these distinct races, but between the various tribes into which most of them are subdivided.

The professed object of these raids was always to avenge some loss that had been sustained by the raiders, and to recover what had been taken from them on some previous occasion, to which was, no doubt, added the further object of obtaining as much in addition as they could lay their hands on, including women and children, who then became the slaves of the conquering party.

The result of all this is that slaves of every race in the country are met with all over Afghanistan, or at least ot all but the Koochis, of whom more anon. These slaves are far from badly treated, and as a rule I felt much more sorry for the master or mistress who had to support and put up with the most inefficient services of the slaves, than I was for the slaves themselves. The question naturally arises—if so useless, why do the owners not sell, or at least set at liberty, those among their slaves whose work is insufficient to pay for their keep? To explain this fully I should have to go into the question of Mohammedan law, and then show not only in how far it is carried out in Afghanistan, but how it is affected by the caprice of a despotic ruler; and this is not the place for details of that sort. All I can say here is, that it has always seemed to me that the obligations of the master were far more severe than those of the slave; and that the master is obliged to see that his slave girl is provided for, no matter how poor he may be, before he can set her at liberty. Selling is more difficult still except in the case of the Hazarah, a race only recently brought into regular recognised subjection to the ruler of Afghanistan.

These Hazarahs some few years ago were given over to the mercy of the Afghan soldiery for withstanding the Ameer's orders to pay him tribute, and have been brought and sold like cattle as a punishment for their audacity in defending their native hills from a yoke which they had never acknowledged. By degrees the Hazarah too is getting justice, and soon it will be as difficult to buy a slave of this despised race as it is one of any other. The Hazarah slave-girl is, however, at the present time, the mainstay of the harems of the rich. She is not trained, she does nothing regularly, nothing to prefection. How can she, coming from a village home to a household where there is no system, no order, and where watches are generally worn as ornaments only, and are as often as not out of order? As a rule she is slatternly in her work and untidy in her person; but I do not know what the fine ladies would do without her. She cooks, she bakes, she washes, she scrubs—in fact she does everything but the sewing. That is a higher class of work, and is generally done by Afghan Turc or Badakshan slaves and the poor relations of the householder, though I have occasionally found a favourite slave-girl who had acquired the accomplishment. I have, however, never seen one who could read or write that would be taking them out of their places altogether.

The Hazarahs are said to be dull, heavy and stupid, and there is a good deal of truth in this, but I found that they improve wonderfully under regular tuition, and when kindly treated have the devoted fidelity of a dog, though they are cunning and revengeful when ill-used. My experience of them is that they are hard-working, painstaking and affectionate, and that a great deal can be done with them. I always felt confident when a Hazarah was brought to me for treatment, that I could do something with her. They are not purdah, lead natural, healthy lives, with plenty of exercise, are hardy and have good constitutions, the very opposite of the Badakshani, a creature who shrinks from discomfort and screams and faints at the slightest pain.

The Hazarah, in her own home, waves a strong coarse woollen material that practically never wears out; this she makes into loose, well-fitting garments for the male members of her household; her own are generally cotton, lined with wadding and quilted, and cut not unlike the old-fashioned servant's prints, when the bodices and skirts were joined together with piping, the body fastened down the front, and the last hook, which was sewn on to the front width of the skirt, was fastened slightly on one side. Her occupation outside the usual household business of every working woman, the preparation of ghee that is butter that has been boiled and strained. It is prepared differntly from sheeps, cows, camels or goat's milk and is one of their chief articles of commerce. But the great difference between her and the women of all the other races of Afghanistan, except the newly conquered Kaffir and the Koochi, is that she is not purdah.

The Ameer has often told me that it is only the women in the towns of Afghanistan that are purdah that the village women are free as English women. This is so to a certain extent, of course; for travelling across the country one comes upon women labouring in the fields, milking cows, and engaging themselves in other suitable occupations. But to be purdah is, among all but the three races I have just mentioned, a sign of rank; and the women of the headmen of every village are shut up in harems, and when a man rises in the social scale the first thing he does is to make his women purdah; nor do these seem to resent it, and though they go out more frequently than those in the towns, they do closely veiled. In Cabul, however, even the wives of the servants are purdah; it is a sign of respectability, and also of the position of their master.

The Koochi is, to me, the most interesting of all the races I came across. A nomadic pastoral people, they are generally looked upon as the original inhabitants and of them no one in Afghanistan can give any account, except that they have always, "from the time of Noah," fed their flocks all over the country, wandering from the southern plains which they occupy during the winter, and ascending to the cool mountain slopes and valleys during the summer. A proud, free, independent people, "no man's servants," they would say, with more proper pride than I have found among any other race in the country; and rich moreover, though not in coin, for they have camels, cows, donkeys, sheep, and poultry, which they exchange for the few necessaries that their own industry does not provide them with.

Among them it is the men not the women who weave, but the women spin with the distaff and take a very active part in the roving active life they lead. Their opinion is very much deferred to by the men, who, if you ask them if they will consent to this or that, say, "We will talk it over in the tent and let you know." I went out a considerable distance from Cabul once to take some photographs of an encampment that has just been made, and which I had heard was specially large and wealthy. I thought I should have some difficulty in explaining to so simple and ignorant a people what I wanted to do, and was afraid that they would know no Persian.

I drove as far as the road would permit, and then got on my horse. Far from needing an introduction or requiring to enter into explanations, several of the men and some women came forward to meet me, and I found myself quite at home among a set of people who knew me and addressed me as Dr. Sahib though they had never seen me before. The daughter of someone, or the father or wife of someone else, had been to my house. Did I not remember that so and so had given me some particularly fine chickens? will he was a relation of theirs, they had seen him, and he had told them all about me. They knew all sorts of things about my work and establishment, and that there was another feringhee lady who lived with me and washed the people's wounds and gave them medicines. They were delighted to have their photographs taken, and offered me milk, which I drank, and food of which I did not partake though I am sure it was scrupulously clean and well prepared. Afterwards I had more intimate dealings with Koochis, and got to know them well. It always seemed to me that, being brave and honest themselves, they expected nothing else from me, and took for granted that I did my best for them.

The third race of non-purdah women is the Kaffirs. How any one that has seen them must have laughed at the descriptions of their beauty and regular features that appeared in some of the British journals not two years ago! There are certainly fine, well-built women among them, and in spite of their wild unkempt appearance, they have a certain grace of movement which is distinctly lacking in the men. They are women who fear nothing and dare anything.

The following new members of the Madras Legislative Council have been appointed:—Messrs. Winterbothan and Thompson, of the Board of Revenue; Mr. Forbes, Revenue Secretary to the Government.

The plague returns at Poona for 5th instant show twenty-four cases and seventeen deaths in the city; four cases and two deaths in the cantonment; five cases and three deaths in suburban limits; twelve cases and six deaths in the villages.

The returns for the foreign trade of India for the seven months, 1st April to 31st October, 1897, show a total shrinkage in value amounting to over 12¾ crores of rupees which is divided in about equal parts between imports and exports. Cotton and opium are the chief heads under which the fall in exports occurred: while imports of cotton piece-goods accounted for over 4¾ crores of the drop in imports.

There has been an appreciable increase in deaths from plague in Bombay during the past week. The total mortality from all causes was 1,061, being 86 more than in the preceding week. There were 302 deaths from plague, being 102 more than the previous week Thursday's returns show 60 attacks and 65 deaths from plague.

The Judicial Commissioner of Upper Burma has confirmed the sentence passed by the Additional Sessions Judge on the members of the Mad Hpongyi's gang, who were tried under sections 121 and 302 I. P. Code. The following are those on whom the capital sentence was passed:—Haung Khine, Maung Maying, Maung Chone, Maung Kyet, Maung Te, Maung Yan Gyi, Maung Tai, Maung Cho, Maung Shwe, Maung Tha Aung, Maung So, Maung Kan Yauk and Maung Pe Te. Aung Hla was sentenced to transportation, and Maung Kan was acquitted.

Captain Creagh's annual report shows that there were 243 wrecks and casuaities in Indian waters during the year 1896. Of these, there were 54 wrecks and 189 casaulties, and a total of 168 lives lost. The wrecks included six British and foreign vessels, 32 British Indian vessels, and 16 native craft; and the casualties included 102 British and foreign vessels, 62 British Indian vessels, and 25 native craft. Of the total of 243 wrecks and casualties, there were 38 collisions, 14 founderings, 21 groundings, 104 strandings, and 66 miscellaneous cases.

It is not generally known that the plague was first detected in Kharkhar Kalan quite by accident. A Hospital Assistant in charge of a dispensary some ten miles from that village heard some people talking of what they called an unknown and very fatal type of "fever." The symptoms, even according to their rough description, were so like the dread malady, that the suspictons of the Hospital Assistant were aroused and he decided to see some cases himself. The inspection confirmed his worst fears, and he at once sent a report to the civil Surgeon, who lost no time in visting the village, and informing the authorities concerned of the outbreak. The villagers, by the way, say that there had been several deaths among low caste people at Kharkhar Kalan before the 18th of October, the date on which the disease was first perorted there.—*Tribune.*

FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

More rear-guard fighting has occurred between Ali Musjid and Landi Kotal.

Major General Yeatman-Biggs died at Peshawar on Monday afternoon at 4-30 The funeral took place the next day.

It is reported from Lundi Kotal that orders have been received to build huts for the troops. This undoubtedly means a long stay and a spring campaign.

Both sections of the Gaduns have now paid in the whole of their fines, except twenty guns, and as many swords, which they have sent men to fetch, and for which they have given hostages.

Singular as it may appear, Afridis are now offering to enlist in some native regiments on the frontier which usually take Pathan recruits from across the border. Orders have been issued that no Afridis are to be accepted until the present campaign has come to an end.

The rumour from the Kurram that the Afridis contemplate sending in a representative *jirgah* to make peace, is repeated from Kohat; but no credence is given to it in view of the fact that the Zakka Khel seem in as turbulent a temper as ever, and are plainly bent upon making the most of the natural advantages which the Khyber offers for guerilla warfare.

General Sir Bidnon Blood telegraphed on Tuesday: I have issued orders for an advance on Katlang and Rustam to-morrow. Reports lead us to believe that the enemy will make a stand on the Tanga pass; the Umbeyla and Malandri passes are also reported to be held. All the Commissariat arrangements are complete, and the troops and transport in first class condition. The weather is fine and looks like holding.

The health of Sir William Lockhart has considerably improved since his return to India. The dinner to be given to him by the Rawalpindi Club on Monday last was postponed on receipt of a telegram from Peshawar, saying that Lieutenant Maxwell, his nephew, and A. D. C, was very ill. Sir William at once left for Peshawar. Lieutenant Maxwell has been for some time unwell with fever which is declared to be enteric.

The two pipers of the Gordons, Milne and Findlater, are both practically whole again. Milne, who was shot in the chest has so far recovered as to be able to go out route marching. Findlater, who, by the way, did not lose his leg, hopes to get his discharge from hospital in a day or two. He was severely wounded in the ankle, but the doctors have been able fo restore the use of the joint and he is now able to bend it.

A messenger has come into Hoti Mardan, bearing a letter stating that the Boners refuse compliance with the terms dictated to them. It is rumoured that the three western sections of the tribes have been warned to hold and defend the Tanga Pass, whilst the remainder, with the Chanlaurels and Hindustani fanatics, watch the Meludhri and Umbeyla Passes. It is also said that the Upper Swatis and Yusufzai sections between the Mingalor and the Indus have refused all assistance to the Bonerwals. The date of the move depends on the weather and the road to Kallang which leads over the sandy bed of the Kalapani, and which proves a severe check to cart transport. It is probable that one Brigade will be equipped entirely with mule transport, and will carry seven days' rations, and another small force will also have a very large portion of its transport in mules.

The special correspondent of the *Bombay Gazeette* in a letter written from Peshawar says that in the attack on Dargai out of 22 officers with the Gordons no less than 15 had bullet holes in their helmets or in some part of their uniform; six of them were touched but not hurt by bullets. Lieutenant Hewett of the Dorsets on the same day had a shot through his helmet, a second through his havresack and a third through his sleeve and he was the only man of his section who assed the fire-swept zone. Three officers of the 53th Sikhs returned from Waran with bullet holes through their helmets, and the Colonel of the 15th Sikhs was fired at by an Afridi from a distance of 10 yards with an old muzzle loader charged with nails, pieces of wire etc. His helmet was riddled, a piece of wire grazed his cheek and a nail cut his nose rather badly. A Subaltern, a sergeant, and a signaller of the K. O. S. Bs. were covering a foraging party from Maidan one day when a volley was poured into them. One shot grazed the Subaltern's hand, another touched his field glasses, a third took off the top of the Sergeant's helmet and fourth passed through the Signaller's water-bottle. A little Gurkha came into camp one day with a broad grin on his face and showed how a bullet had pierced his leather belt on his left side, taken a course round the belt and made a hole on the right side, without touching his skin.

No evidence of the transportation of rifles to the tribesmen of the North-West frontier from the Persian Gulf has yet emerged. Not a single rifle captured or surrendered bears the distinctive marks which are so well-known at Bushire and elsewhere. It is quite true that every year some 10,000 Martinis and other breechloaders are landed on the shores of the Gulf, but these would seem to be purchased by the local tribesmen, and some day or other, the Shah's Government, and possibly the Turkish authorities also, may have an unpleasant surprise in the shape of a revolt by many thousands of men armed with good rifles and with abundant ammunition. There are obvious natural difficulties in the way of a traffic in arms from Southern Persia to the North-West frontier of India. It is 1, 200 miles in a bee-line from Bushire to Peshawar, and if there were any attempt at an illicit trade in rifles through Afghanistan the Amir would promptly suppress it. Again, if smuggling were tried through Baluchistan our own Political Officers would probably know of it very soon. As a matter of fact, it is almost certain that rifles do not pass that way. The Baluch tribes have only a few score Martinis and Sniders, and this number has not increased of late years. The late Azud Khan was able to hold his own against all his enemies simply because he had bought up some breechloaders which our troops lost at Maiwand. We have no doubt that in Southern Persia, Eastern Arabia and in the Lower Tigris Valley there are now many thousands of rifles, for, the trade is profitable; but the Sultan and the Shah are, or ought to be, more concerned to stop the smuggling that goes on in this quarter than the Indian Government.—*Pioneer.*

A telegram from camp Maidan, under date the 6th instant, says that the Ambeyla Malandrai and Pirsal Passes are being held by picquets of the frontier tribes.

General Blood telegraphs that the First and Second Brigades are now concentrated with artillery at Sanghao, and that he has reconnoitred the Tanga Pass with the Brigadiers and Commanding Officers. A thousand of the enemy with twenty seven standards have been clearly seen on the summits betwen the old and new Passes, and some shots have already been fired.

While Mr. Lorimer, Political Officer in the Tochi Valley, was making a political reconnaissance on the 5th instant from Boia towards Bazhda with twenty men of the 1st Punjab Infantry and some levies, the party was attacked and fired on by some men who turned out to belong to the Dawasi village of Land. Two men were taken prisoners. There were no casualties on either side.

The first brigade of the Boner field force marched to Kattang on Wednesday. The rear guard was in camp by 1-45 P.M. The Rustam force also marched to Rustam and was in heliographic communication with General Blood during the afternoon. A telegraph office was opened the same day. at Kattang Picquets' fiers have been seen on the Tanga pass. The troops at Kattang and those from Dargai were concentrated at Sanghao on Thursday

Two towers were destroyed and the walls of three Sadda Khel villages knocked down on Wednesday. Large quantities of wood were obtained from the walls and roofs of villages destroyed. Foraging parties went to Nikki Khel villages and brought in large quantities of bhoosa. No opposition was offered. The 45th Sikhs marched in from Ali Musjid on Wednesday, and all the wounded have been despatched to Jamrud. It is reported that all the Zakka Khels have left the Khyber for Girdi. The Sappers and Miners have commenced construction of a new reservoir in the bed of the Tanji stream for the storage of water as a reservoir, as the pipes for the Tansi water-supply cannot be expected for some time. The casualties on the enemy's side during the last five days have been ascertained to be four killed and five wounded. A wing of the Oxford Light Infantry has marched in from Ali Musjid. Major J. J. Bond, R. E., was slightly injured in the left hand by a stone from an explosion on the 1st of January.

A correspondent in another column asks whether the time has not come for some organised expression of public opinion by way of protest against the "Forward" policy on our Indian frontier. The question is certainly opportune. Our readers will admit that we have never ceased to oppose this reckless and dangerous policy to the utmost. We have now the satisfaction of seeing that all the leaders of the Liberal party take the same view, and that Sir William Harcourt at Kirkcaldy used the same arguments with which we have thought it our duty to protest against the shameful waste of blood and treasure which has been going on for so many months. It is true that our troops have shown their capacity for overcoming the most formidable of natural difficulties in this mountainous frontier region. But it is impossible to say what impression their operations have made upon the tribesmen. All that we can certainly know is that they are our enemies, and that if our frontier is to be strong they ought to be our friends and the enemies of any Power that would dare to attack us. We are still more than a couple of months removed from the meeting of Parliament, and n the meantime our Government will be trying to make up its mind upon the policy that is to be pursued when Sir William Lockhart and his punitive expedition have bone what is expected of them. It is for this reason that public opinion at home cannot too soon or too clearly be made known to Her Majesty's Ministers There is a very suggestive article in the December issue of the "Nineteenth Century," from the pen of Sir Auckland Colvin, than whom few men can speak with greater authority on the financial aspects of this forward policy. The chief purpose of Sir Auckland Colvin's article is to warn the British taxpayer that the ambitious schemes of the military party in India may prove a very serious thing for him. If the public in this country, therefore, fail to make their protest now, and to make it emphatically, Sir Auckland Colvin predicts that the organisers of the "Forward" policy will not rest content even with the advance now made. Their next objective will be Cabul and Kandahar, and so on to Herat. But we have to deal at present with what actually confronts us, and Sir Auckland Colvin calls upon those responsible for this policy of advance to show us by what means the cost of it is to be borne without placing upon the people of India a burden of taxation far heavier than they are able to bear. Given the need of a policy of advance, he says, "India alone cannot be expected, whether in the present or in the future, to defray all the charges which the maintenance of her position as an integral portion of the British Empire is imposing and is about to impose." It is a question, therefore, for the British taxpayer to consider—to put it only on the lowest ground—whether he is content to see his money, recklessly squandered in such enormously costly, futile, and unnecessary military expeditions as that now operating on the North-West frontier.—*Leeds Mercury.*

The plague is again assuming an epidemic form in Bombay. There were eighty cases on Wednesday. The weather being unusually cool, probably accounts for the rise.

The North-East monsoon having been a faillure up to the present, the Madras Government has called on the Board of Revenue for an estimate of the expenditure likely to take place in the next official year in connection with relief operations. The Collectors have been requested to supply the necessary figures. Reports from Chingleput calculate that State relief will be required by the people of that district up to July. The expenditure is placed at a lakh of rupees.

The Indian coolie seems to get on better in Fiji than in most other colonies to which he emigrates. Mr. Horace Emerson, the acting Agent-General of Immigration in the colony, tells us that considerably over 2,000 acres are now under cultivation by "time-expired" immigrants, who prefer staying on in Fiji to returning to their native land. The retired coolie, in fact, promises to become a not unimportant element in the commercial and industrial economy of Fiji. "Already, perhaps," says Mr. Emerson, "the forerunners of a distinctive class of small planters have appeared in the persons of the larger landholders amongst them who have risen to the rank of employers of labourers. As storekeepers, they are both employers and importers, though yet on but a small scale. Their stores, however, are numerous."

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Mail News.

THE mails from London to Redhill are to be carried by a steam motor van. This will be the first time road motors have been used for the transmission of mails.

IT is again rumoured at Whitehall that Lord Salisbury may resign the Foreign Secretaryship owing to Lady Salisbury's health and be succeeded by Lord Lansdowne. Lord Salisbury would retain the Premiership.

AT Bow Street, Vladimar Bourtzeff was charged with endeavouring to persuade divers persons to murder the Czar of Russia. He was arrested in the British Museum, and admitted writing articles in Russian newspapers.

IT is possible that the Queen may go in the spring to North Italy for a few weeks and will visit Milan and Venice. There would be no difficulty in obtaining adequate accommodation for the Royal party in Venice, and King Humbert would be pleased to place the Chateau of Monza, near Milan, at Her Majesty's disposal.

The *Daily Chronicle's* Washington correspondent telegraphs that the proposition to kill all seals is opposed by scientists and others who have studied the question. Professor Jordan, the Government expert, in the recent conference, says that it would be impossible to slaughter all seals. A remnant would be left which in time would revive the herd, and the whole question. Seals are too valuable to be destroyed in childish spite.

THE Cunard Company's steamer Etruria rescued at sea the crew of the steamer Millfield. The Millfield had been struck by a heavy sea which carried away the upper bridge, the funnel, and engine-room skylight. The water burst into the bunker hatches, extinguishing the fires and disabling the engines. The Etruria, owing to the state of the weather, had to stand by for twelve hours, and then lowered a boat, making two trips.

A DESPATCH from Chicago says that a veritable reign of terror exists in that city by reason of the increasing number of highway robberies and burglaries. At noon three armed robbers entered Messrs. Taylor and Co.'s trunk store in a busy thoroughfare, held up the manager and the clerks as the pistol's point, looted the safe and carried off the cash-box and other valuables, making good their escape. Three branch stores of the same firm have been entered and robbed during the past few weeks. Large numbers of similar cases are reported.

A DESPATCH from Alaska states that a thousand miners who stampeded from Dawson City last October to escape starvation are forcing their way over the mountains, in a desperate effort to reach Dyea. An Indian letter-carrier, who brought the news to Dyea, left Dawson City ten days after the party had started, and reported that the van guard of the terror-stricken army was following less than a week's journey behind him. It was his belief that fully one-fourth will never live to relate the horrors of the flight.

ACCORDING to the *Temps*, a special fine net, made entirely of spider's webs, is being manufactured in a professional school at Antananarivo. The process is very simple. The thread of several dozen spiders is wound on winders, the quantity produced by each spider ranging from fifteen to forty yards. The covering of the web is removed by repeated washings, and the web is made into a thread of eight strands. When the thread is spun it is easily woven into gauze, which is very fine cut and very strong. It is to be used for the experimental covering of a navigable balloon by M. Renard, head of the French military balloon school in Paris.

A FIRE broke out at Dover Castle in a wing behind the terrace of the officers' quarters on the eastern side of the castle. The fire arose through a broken flue in the kitchen chimney, but was in no way due to neglect. The flames raged for four hours and the block was gutted. A strong wind was blowing, and the flame spread with remarkable rapidity, considering the massiveness of the structure. Within a few minutes of the first bugle-call the hose was got to work on the fire. The whole of the troops within reach, including a strong force of Royal Artillery, the East Surrey Regiments, the Seaforth Highlanders and the West Yorkshire Regiment, lost no time in turning out and battled gallantly with the flames. Meanwhile a call for assistance had been sent down into the town, and the full strength of the Dover Fire Brigade toiled up to the castle. The fire was extinguished by 2-30.

PARLIAMENTARY papers were issued last night (15th Dec.), containing further correspondence respecting affairs in Crete. It appears that on October 13 Lord Salisbury addressed a letter to the Great Powers, in which he proposed that immediate steps should be taken for the appointment of a Governor for the island, who should be provided with an armed force which should not form part of the Turkish Army. He further suggested that the Powers should delegate the actual selection of the Governor to one of themselves by the vote of the majority, adding that the main thing desired by England was the pacification of Crete at the earliest possible moment. Writing again on November 6, the Premier urged that the task of restoring order should be confided to one man, and that the vital point was that his selection should be made without delay. "If," he continned, "the appointment is made to depend on the conclusion of some kind of negotiations at Constantinople, the result must be a long delay and the prevailing misery and anarchy in Crete will be constantly on the increase, whilst Notes are being slowly exchanged between the Ambassadors and the Porte." The latest despatch from Sir Philip Currie, dated November 22, shows, however, that the Ambassadors on that day decided to lay the designation of a provisional Governor on one side, and proceeded to discuss the best means of enabling him, whenever appointed, to carry on the administration of the island.

IS THERE ANY TRUTH IN PHRENOLOGY?

MR. G. E. CLAXTON, L.R.C.P. and S. Edin.' on special plague duty, Bandikui, contributes to the "Indian Medical Record" the following :—The medical fraternity regard phrenology as a pseudo science, yet strange to say, though it has sadly degenerated since its pristine days, it rests on a scientific basis. Its originator, Francis Josef Gall, was an enlightened medico, an original thinker, a painstaking investigator, and as he was in medical charge of a lunatic asylum, had every opportunity of studying the mental peculiarities of its inmates. Before his time there was no system in vogue for dissecting the brain, so though Gall's method is now no longer adopted, he may be regarded as the pioneer of a systematic and practical method of dissection of the brain, and his method has paved the way for other methods of ability which have certainly led to an intelligent study of the brain substance. All Gall's observations and experiences were compiled in a learned and most interesting treatise entitled "The functions of the brain"; and as the result of many years of patient, thoughtful, diligent study, he was led to map out the majority of the bumps with which phrenologists are so *au fait*, and which have been caricaturised as the science of craniology. Our modern methods of studying the cerebral organ, and the electrical researches of Fenier and others on the brains of monkeys, dogs, pigeons, etc. have totally eclipsed Gall's methods of observation, it is true, and made the Faculty think this 'savant' was erroneous and unscientific in his deductions, and that these do not contain even a modicum of truth in them, but surely a man possessing Gall's mental calibre could not have erred from the truth as his opponents aver, and though his experiences do not tally with the experimental methods of modern neurologists, still, it might be yet proved that the portions of the brain which do not respond to electrical estimuli, contain the bumps which Gall so laboriously sketched out. No one has yet disproved their existence. Quite recently Sir William Gowers, in his address on "the Neuron and its relation to disease" (vide "British Medical Journal',' 6th November, 1897), has pointed out that the nerve substance, even in its simplest element the "axis cylinder" is a most complex structure: what then must the surface of the brain be, seeing it is studded with numerous sinuous convolutions and encli, and possesses a grey substance which varies in thickness in different individuals? It is a well-known fact that the localisations of F. Fernier have been repeatedly confirmed by clinical cases, and that a knowledge of them has enabled the surgeon to ascertain with exactitude the blood clot or depressed fracture, and gave relief in many cases of paralysis, but it has never yet been proved that Gall's method is incorrect, though we, with conservative minds, and highly prejudiced feelings, have stigmatised it false, simply because charlatans have abused a science which was founded by one of its then ablest exponents, and by one who was certainly considered a leading neurologist in his day. Had Gall lived in the present age, he would have endeavoured to reconcile and harmonise his method with those now in vogue, and as he was a lover of his science and did all he could for its advancement—his name being even handed down to posterity in the "columns of Gall," he would most undoubtedly have expunged all the dross, and retained only such matter as would have been of utility to a correct study of the brain. Professor Elliotson, a contemporary of Gall, spoke in the highest praise of his 'confrere,' in his work on physiology, and most ably defended him against his many opponents. I myself believe there are yet undiscovered methods of investigating the "encephalon" that it only remains for future neurologists to bring this not only to light, but to also place phrenology on its scientific pedestal, and make its study tally with that of modern teaching.

THE GRAECO-TURKISH WAR.
SENSATIONAL STORY AS TO ITS ORIGIN.

THE OUTCOME OF FUTILE MARRIAGE NEGOTIATIONS.

IN *Truth* of this Mail there is a curious article of three columns, which is headed "The True Story of the Turco-Greek War." When, says the writer, (presumably Mr. Labouchere) I was recently abroad, I met a foreign diplomatist with whom I had long been acquainted, and than whom few could know better the inner history of the events that led to the Turco-Greek war, or what really occurred during that struggle. From him I obtained the following particulars:—About two years ago King George, his wife, and his daughter, Princess Maria, were at Copenhagen. There they met the Grand Duke George Michaelovitch who is one of the wealthiest of the Russian Imperial family. King George was desirous to arrange a marriage between his daughter and the Grand Duke. On the return of the King to Athens, he took steps which, as he thought, would be likely to ensure the marriage. Of all the Balkan States, Servia alone has shown a disposition to ally herself with Greece, but this leaning has always been viewed with disapproval by Russia. It was, therefore, conveyed indirectly to the King of Servia that, if he became a suitor for the hand of Princess Maria, his proposals would be favourably considered by the Greek Court. On this the King journeyed to Athens, where he arrived in April, 1896, on matrimony intent. But Russia had got wind of the project. He found the Grand Duke was already there, and he learnt that on the day before his arrival the Russian engagement had been publicly announced. The King of Servia was indignant at having been thus made a catspaw by King George to secure the Russian marriage, and being thus exposed to an unmerited humiliation. Time passed. The marriage never took place, being put off on one pretext or another; the real fact being that the only object of the Russian Government in sending their Grand Duke to Athens had been to prevent the Servian marriage; and the close alliance of Greece and Servia, which would naturally have followed, was prevented.

A GAME OF "BLUFF."

King George endeavoured once again to force the Tsar's hand. In order to make it clear that there might be very serious disturbances in South Eastern Europe if the Tsar did not comply with his wishes, he issued a rescript to M. Deiyannis, the Greek Prime Minister, decreeing the formation of a camp in the north of Greece. Shortly afterwards the troubles in Crete commenced. Once more the Russian marriage was announced and the King, believing that he had gained his uprising point, ramained at first indifferent to the Cretan. The marriage, however, did not take place. On which the King, still bent on the marriage, became an ardent supporter of the Cretans. Then followed his daily warlike harangues to the populace. The national spirit was thoroughly aroused. War became inevitable. At this junctre, however, a remarkable change came over the King; he suddenly lapsed into reserve and reticence. What had meanwhile occurred was this. The King had failed this time to bluff Russia. The Turks were encouraged to avail themselves of the provocation, and fell upon Greece with overwhelming force. And everything having thus been arranged for the crushing of Greece, Russia warned the King that the Turks would occupy Athens, in which case his dynasty would probably cease to reign. The following arrangement was on this entered into by the King with Russia :—The latter Power promised that the Turks should not go beyond Thessaly, provided that no real stand were made against their advance in that province that the Greek forces in Epirus would not operate seriously against Janina and that the Greek fleet would remain inactive. As regards the inaction of the Greek fleet, Lord Salisbury seconded the efforts of Russia. Thus the war became, so far as the King could make it, a sham encounter, with all the moves pre-arranged beforehand between him and Russia. "This arrangement" (*Truth* says) "explains the inactivity of the Greek warships and the puzzling retreats of the army in Thessaly, notwithstanding that it occupied some very strong positions."

SPORT IN AFRICA.

BY COUNT FELIX SCHEIBLER.

THE following account of a successful shooting-expedition in Somaliland is contained in Chapter XIX of an interesting work, by Count Felix Scheibler, shortly to be published under the title of *Cacciagrossa*.

Having got ready the guns and saddled the horses, we left camp exactly at noon, under a burning sun, with a light wind blowing, both of which circumstances were very favourable to our chances of sport. In order not to tire myself too much, I rode for half an hour. On arriving at the place where Kalif had left Harsi and Hassan, I handed the three horses to Giasma to hold, and went on foot, accompanied by Rossi and a shikari. The elephants had not stirred; we found our scouts, and Harsi, who was in hiding on the slope of a hill, informed me that the elephants were hidden among the herbage below. Leaving the ·577, carbine with Rossi and the ·500 carbine with Harsi, I descended into the plain, armed with two carbines, and followed by Kalif alone. Advancing cautiously, I could see the elephants and the continual flapping of their large ears as I softly drew near. They were four in number—a male of average size, a young one with perfect tusks, and two females, both of which had one tusk half broken off, followed by a good-sized vannino. Naturally, I decided to fire on the largest. It being the first time I had ever come so close to a wild elephant, and being impatient, as soon as I arrived within thirty yards, fancying myself a sure shot, I could contain myself no longer, I aimed at the temple, just at the proper angle of the beast I had selected, which fell to the ground. The two females, with prolonged cries, sometimes resembling the rumbling of thunder, and sometimes most plaintive tones, came up to him. I fired at the largest, and then, changing the empty carbine, fired at the other. Both fell on their knees but continued their cries. Suddenly, however, they rose, and with pricked ears and their trunks extended, came after me, joined by the largest male and the infant. Kalif told me to fire another shot at the male. Having done so, I remained with the second carbine empty.

When I turned my head the shikari had disappeared and in the meantime the four elephants were advancing on me. I confess that I cannot tell how I succeeded in joining the shikari, or how many shrubs I jumped over that day. All I know is that I found myself thirty paces from him, where he had taken shelter behind a tree to load the 8-bore, which I took, giving him the empty carbine. I then waited till the elephants were within twenty paces and fired at the foremost, usually the largest female, which evidently plays the part of the leader of the band. The beast fell upon its knees, and while in that position, received the second charge. It got up again, and the fout advanced, but the momentary delay had given me time to rejoin Kalif, who persisted in his strategy of retiring to re-load. Every time that the shikari gave me a fresh charge, he lectured me with the most confident air : "Wait till he gets within ten yards. What is the use of wasting ammunition? One ball is enough to kill an elephant." And then he ran away.

In this fashion the battle continued, I suppose, a quarter of an hour; so that the male went off, and the three others, badly wounded, remained under a tree. Overcome by the heat, by continually running and the many shots I had fired from the heavy guns, I sat down to recover breath. After resting five minutes, I set off with Kalif after the male, which we found dead about 300 metres off. The shikari insisted that I should fire another shot into the back of the neck, so as to penetrate the brain, and then we went after the large female which had been abandoned by the rest. She was unable to move, having had her leg broken by a steel ball. When I gave her the *coup de grace* in the temple, she started, raised her trunk towards the sky and fell with an enormous noise and a cry which resembled a prolonged peal of thunder. I never saw a beast die with so much noise. Kalif insisted on my firing another shot at the back of the neck.

The female being dead, Rossi came running up. At the first report Hassan, inspired by his passion for the chase, had taken his carbine and had made off after Harsi, who was following the elephants at the respectful distance of 150 yards to watch events. Rossi, left to himself, had followed the sound of my carbines and had found himself, alone and unarmed, confronted by the two wounded elephants, which were still on their feet. He had in vain attempted to gain a refuge in the thorny trees that surrounded him; finally, in running through the wood, he had heard my last two shots, which directed him towards me, delighted at having found me again.

Hassan also came up; Rossi got his carbine back, and we all set off together after the wounded elephants, which were not far off. The female appeared in a bad way and allowed us to get within thirty paces of her. I told Rossi to give her a *coup de grace* with the ·577-bore solid ball. This I did to satisfy him and to see the effect of the carbine. He took her in the temple and she fell dead. The young male, having lost his last companion, took to flight, scattering a shower of water in front of him from his trunk. The poor little vannino remained besides its mother until we drove it away, as it was too large to be taken alive. Having despatched the third with a ball in the ear, Harsi went after the fourth on horseback, while we ran in front of him on foot. When he came within 150 metres of the beast he fired fifteen shots at it behind. The elephant became fierce, turned and charged him. He turned his pony in our direction, in order to bring the beast within the range of our weapons. The stratagem succeeded perfectly. By running fast I was able to cut him off. He passed within 30 metres of me and I brought him down with one ball through the brain from the 8-bore. From the wound there sprang a fountain of blood, half a metre high, an infallible token of death. This elephant expired with its four legs bent under him and without noise.

Thus ended the hunt in the most satisfactory manner. I looked at my watch: it was one o'clock, so that it had only taken one hour from start to finish. The last elephant had taken the direction of our zariba, and we were but 300 metres from the camp. We made off for the water to quench our ardent thirst, all the shikaris singing songs of triumph. I was received with the greatest enthusiasm by Mohmed, the Askaris and the camel drivers.

About nightfall I took my place with Kalif in the little zariba, carefully prepared by Ghohob with two loopholes to fire through. Within half an hour I heard the lion come up at a heavy gallop, and with three bounds he was upon the ass. . . . He looked round, roared, and came up to the zariba and put his head through the left loophole, to satisfy himself that there was no one in it. I remained motionless, and he returned to the ass, with his tail to the right. I raised my carbine and aimed, but at the slight noise I made in pressing the branches he leaped up, and roaring louder than before, came up to the loophole on the right. This time I was ready; judging as nearly as I could by the motion of the neck and the body, I fired point-blank at the head. The large ball rolled him over within the 6 metres of the zariba. Kalif saw him fall and get up three times, roaring all the time. I prepared for his charge; but the "libbah" roaring with rage and pain, went off towards the large zariba, in which we heard the cries of the camels and their attendants. After ten minutes' slience, Harsi called out that the lion was dying beneath a tree on the side opposite to us. I shouted to him to come for us with all the askaris and bring torches, and before seven o'clock I returned into the tent.

At dawn I was out on the traces of the wounded beast. We found a quantity of blood on the spot where Kalif saw the lion fall, and after a hearty breakfast I set out with the three shikaris and Rossi to find the beast, which was easy enough, as the marks of blood soon brought us to the thicket where he lay. Hersi entered the thicket and suddenly sprang back, saying that the lion was lying down within, that he rose and was about to spring upon him. I then made my men pelt him with stones to drive him out, waiting ready to fire at a distance of twenty paces. He roared, but did not move. Kalif said he could see him, but I could not. I, therefore, ordered Kalif to fire on him. A dead silence followed the report, and a second shot came to nothing. I, therefore, went up a small hill close by, when I saw him lying with his head hidden. I fired in the direction of the heart, but he was already dead. Kalif's shot had broken his back.

THE MARRIAGE OF THE ALWAR CHIEF.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

THE small state of Kishengarh in Rajputana, some 16 miles north of Ajmere, has recently been the scene of interesting festivities consequent on the marriage of the daughter of its Maharaja with the young Maharaja of Alwar. These two representatives of illustrious houses, the one Rahtor, the other Naruka, stand high among the proud aristocracy of Rajputana; and their kinsmen assembled in large numbers to do honour to the occasion. The young Maharaja of Jodhpur was there, the head of the great Rahtor clan to which Kishengarh belongs; and with him a representative throng of Marwar nobility. His uncle, Sir Partab Singh, to everyone's extreme regret, was unable to be present, being unable to leave his military duties on the Frontier. From far Jeysalmere, isolated in desert tracks, came the little Maharawul, the head of the Bhatia clan. Central India was represented by its Rahtor Chief of Rutlam to whose family the mother of the bridegroom belonged. And to show his friendliness to the Alwar and Kishengarh families, as well as to assert his title to be reckoned as a Rajput Chief, the Maharaja of Kashmir, accompanied by his brother Raja Ram Singh and a large following, had travelled down all the way from Jammu, this being the first time a Kashmir Chief has visited Rajputana since his Rahtor ancestors left it many generations ago. The Sesodhya clan of Rajputs was represented by the two sons of the Maharaj Dhiraj of Shahpura; while the States of Sirohi, Bhartpur, and Partabgarh all sent deputations.

Nor was it to his native friends alone the Maharaja of Kishengarh proffered hospitality. From Ajmere and all parts of Rajputana his European guests flocked in, to the number of over seventy. An imposing camp was laid out midway between the Railway and the Palace, and the catering was entrusted to the capable hands of the renowned proprietor of the Charleville Hotel, Mussoorie, Mr. Wutzler. On Mr. Irwin, the Political Resident of Jaipur, the responsibility of all arrangements fell; and he was helped by the experienced advice of Colonel Loch of the Mayo College, whose genius as an organiser has been widely known ever since the days when he was a popular member of the Staffs of Lords Northbrook and Lytton. Hearty aid was also afforded by the able Minister of the Kishengarh State, Rao Bahadur Syam Sundar Lal, whose patience and endurance must have been taxed to the utmost.

The marriage ceremony itself took place on the evening of the 8th December. But before that a busy and eventful day had to be got through. Early in the morning special trains brought the Agent to the Governor-General, Sir Robert Crosthwaite, and Lady Crosthwaite, the Maharaja of Jodhpur with his Resident, Mr. Martindale and Mrs. Martindale. Then arrived Major Pears, Political Agent of Alwar. And at 9 o'clock the bridegroom himself arrived His reception at the station by the Maharaja of Kishengarh was a brilliant scene, the platform being crowded with rajas and nobles in their picturesque attire, with Political Officers in uniform, and a guard-of-honour furnished by the Alwar Imperial Service Corps. After embraces and salutations a procession was formed to the camp, where the Alwar guests were accommodated. With all the pomp and display for which the Rajput Courts are celebrated, with splendidly caparisoned elephants and horses, with wild looking men clad in red and mounted on camels, with every conceivable kind of vehicle from barouches and landaus to the gorgeous gold cloth covered *rath*, the procession passed along. In the afternoon the presents from the bridegroom to the bride, beautiful jewels of great value, numerous dresses of the richest silks and brocades, voluminous and heavy, were solemnly borne along in trays, and escorted by troops and with music the Palace. Many and deep were the sighs and desires that these gave rise to. From 7 to 10 in the evening the Alwar Maharaja began in earnest to experience the onerous duties of married life: mounted on a magnificent elephant arrayed in trappings of the richest gold, he slowly progressed through the city amidst the acclamations of shouting multitudes, while we Europeans enjoyed the excellent fare provided by Mr. Wutzler. After dinner we hurried to the Palace to witness the *Jorun* ceremony. The *Jorun* is the rude representation in painted wood of a gateway, placed above the main entrance of the bride's house; it is struck by the advancing bridegroom, recalling the days when a bridegroom had to force his way into the bride's abode and win her by capture. As the Alwar Maharaja slowly advanced on his huge elephant, a glittering mass among the surging excited crowd, with torches flaring and the still full moon overhead, the idea of this being a "marriage by capture" was sustained by a furious onslaught on him and his beast, the weapons on this occasion being no more deadly than curious trees of paper flowers; and when standing up he had struck the *Jorun* and alighted, the relatives and friends of the Kishengarh Maharaja carried on the farce, hustling and resisting him. After cerain religious ceremonies and recitals from the Vedas he was allowed to cross the threshold and passing into the inner apartments the marriage rite was performed.

The next day at noon the young Maharaja with the dignity of a married man and the composure of a Rajput welcomed all those who came to congratulate him, and provided for their entertainment native dances performed by the most eminent artists from Lahore, Jaipur and Delhi. A cheery hour was passed. In the evening a State banquet took place, and towards its end the Maharajas of Kishengarh and Alwar joined the party. Sir Robert Crosthwaite in a few well-chosen words wished the bride and bridegroom all happiness, and the Alwar Maharaja suitably responded. Then the Minister Rao Bahadur Syam Sundar Lal, on behalf of the Maharaja of Kishengarh, thanked his guests for their presence and alluded gratefully to the kindness he had received from the Agent to the Governor-General, expressing regret at his approaching departure. Everyone then withdrew to see the wonders of the Cinematograph; great was the surprise and deep the admiration of the audience at the marvellous pictures; and had it not been for the counter-attractions of a grand display of fireworks many would have continued looking at them throughout the night, amazed and delighted.

On the morning of the 10th we paid a visit to the Maharaja of Kissengarh in his palace. The palace is an imposing old castle of massive proportions towering to a great height above the lake; at its base is a prettily laid-out garden with pleasure-houses on the banks. The entrance leads through successive gateways up a steep incline until the inner courtyard is reached, round which are the stables and the rooms where the feudatories and their retainers dwell when they pay their customary visits to their chief. From the rooms an extensive view is obtained over a wide plain, broken up by detached hills of the Aravalli mountains. Here it was the ladies' privilege to be introduced to the bride, who by her delecate refinement and beauty, interested them greatly.

THE Survey of India Department have issued a very good map showing the path of the shadow in connection with the solar eclipse of the 22nd instant. The following is a fairly exhaustive list of the stations in the vicinity of lines of railway which lie in the path of the central line of totality:—Dhang Railway station on the Uska Bazar Branch of the Bombay and North-West Railway; Sitamarhi, a sub-divisional town in the Mzaffarpur District, is a town close to it; Bara Railway station on the Bettiah Branch of the above railway; Sahibgunge is a town close to it; Ekma, Daudpore, and Chainwa stations on the Mazuffergurh-Goruckpore Branch of the above railway; Tajpore near Haloi, eight miles east of Ballia, in the North-West Provinces; Bhojpore, near Dumraon, Dumraon Railway station, East Indian Railway; Bisiar, a town close to it; Bhabua and Mohania in the Sasseram district; Sahual Railway station, Katni-Bilaspore Branch of the Bengal Nagpore Railway; Sohagpore half a mile from the line; Seoni and Nagpore; Kondhali, two miles west of Nagpore, Pulgaon Railway station, G. I. P. Railway Pathri, near Hyderabad; Mastra Railway station and Karad Railway station on the Southern Mahratta Railway; Langa, near Ratnagiri, on the West Coast.

WHAT MAKES THEM CRY?

You have a very sore finger, let us say. It may be a hurt, a boil—or, worse still, that fearfully thing, a felon. Oh, my! oh, my! what a time you have been trying to protect that poor finger. It is all the time getting hit or knocking against something. Simply to keep it out of harm's way worries you more than doing a day's work; and you don't succeed—and wouldn't, even with a dozen policemen to help you. You are scared of a fly threatening to light on it.

That is the principle on which Mrs. Elizabeth Allen couldn't bear the least noise. She had no sore finger, but she had what was still more sensitive—a body full of sore nerves; weak, starved, unstrung nerves. So the prattle of children, the closing of a door, the momentary roar of a waggon in the street, the clatter of dishes in the kitchen, the thousand and one sounds and noises that are in the air constantly—why, the smallest of them struck her like a blow from a club. Noises which are not regarded by a well person are like volleys of musketry to one in this condition. Millions of women know all about it, and plenty of men, too—crowds of them. You recognise them on sight—those who are subject to this affliction. Their lined foreheads, their bright, suspicious eyes, their self-protecting gestures and manner—you've seen them. Perhaps you are one of them yourself. If so, you'd give all your money and mortgage your future to have a stronger set of nerves, wouldn't you? Let's talk about it two minutes, first quoting the lady's letter, which is dated May 11th, 1893, and written from her home, 263, Syston Street, Leicester.

"For many years," she says, "I suffered from indigestion and weakness. After meals I had a great pain in my chest. Every few days I had an attack of sick headache, and had to be constantly lying down on the couch; I strained and heaved a good deal, and spat up a sour nauseous fluid. As time went on I got very weak and nervous, andcould'nt bear the least noise.

"I took all sorts of medicines and consulted doctors, but nothing did me much good. Later on I came to hear of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and after taking it a short time the disease left me, and I was able to relish and digest my food. Owing to the virtue of this remedy I now keep in good health. (Signed) Elizabeth Allen."

And here is Mr. W. Nash, who says: "For fully ten years I suffered from periodic attacks of billousness. At times a severe headach preceded by excessive drowsiness; at other times, vomiting, and retching for a whole day; at other times, sleeplessness, pain in the chest, side, and stomach, coated tongue and bad breath—that was the way it acted with me. I grew very melancholy, and was not able to follow my business. I consulted doctors and used tonics, &c., but they only made me worse.

"I had constantly heard of your wonderful remedy, Mother Seigel's Syrup, but didn't believe in it. Then I read in *Wit and Wisdom* of a case like mine that that the Syrup had cared; so I tried it, and the first bottle acted like magic. The pains left me the first week, I repeated my food no more, *and in a month all my ills were gone. Bless Mother Seigel for ever*, I say.—Yours gratefully, (Signed) W. Nash, 331, Goswell Road, E. C., London, October 2nd, 1893."

Now, where is there room enough on paper to sufficiently praise a medicine that will do what this one did for these two good friends of ours? All pain, remember, is nervous pain, and in the above case it was the foul and inflamed stomach which, by stopping digestion, starved the nerves and made them cry out. What won't cry out when it is starved? Babies will, men will, women will, nerves will.

Mother Seigel's medicine set the stomach in order and gave the nerves some food. Then what? Why, quiet, comfort, strength, rest, enjoyment.

"Bless Mother Seigel," indeed.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

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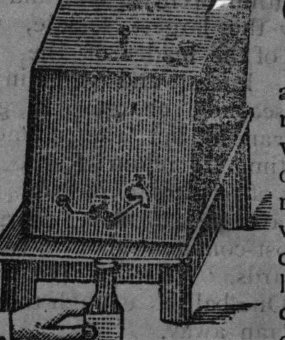

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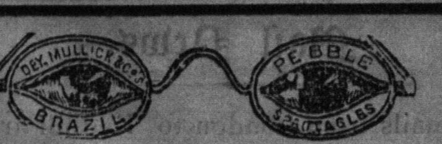

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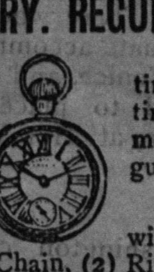

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