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পঙ্কজ-পতঙ্গ।

সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে

মূল্য ৩।০ টাকা।

পরিশিষ্ট যন্ত্রস্থ।

অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা-আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য।

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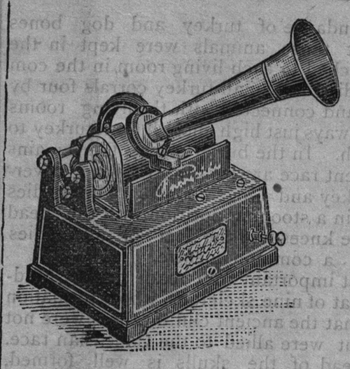

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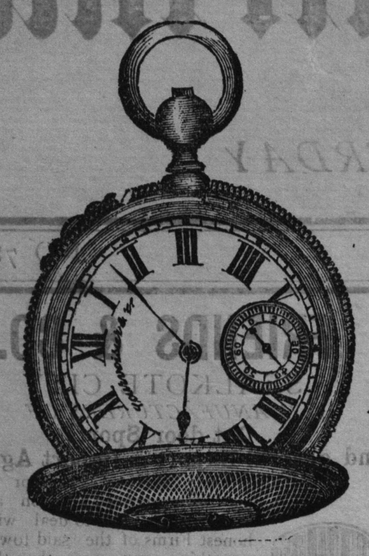

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"Talking of bear," he went on; "now, up in the Northern country there is various kinds. On the Little Pelly, for instance, they come down that thick to feed on the salmon in the summer time that you can't get an Indian or white to go nigher than a day's travel to the place. And up in the Rampart mountains there's a curious kind of a bear, called the 'side-hill grizzly.' That's because he's travelled on the side hills ever since the flood, and the two legs on the down-hill side is twice as long as the two on the up-hill. And he can outturn a jack rabbit when he gets steam up. Dangerous? Catch you? Bless you, no. All a man has to do is circle down the hill and run the other way. You see, that throws Mr. Bear's long legs up-hill, and the short ones down. Yes, he's a mighty peculiar creature, but that wasn't what I started in to tell about.

"They've got another kind of bear up on the Yukon, and his legs is all right, too. He's called the bald-faced grizzly, and he's as big as he is bad. It's only a fool white man that thinks of goin' huntin' aim. Indian's got too much hoss sense. But there's one thing about the bald-face that a man has to learn; he never gives trail to mortal creature. If you see him comin,' and you value your skin, why, get out of his path. If you don't, there's bound to be trouble. If the bald-face met Beelzebub, he'd not give him an inch. Oh, he's a selfish beggar, take my word for it. But I had to learn all this. Didn't know anything about bear when I went into the country, excepting when I was a youngster I'd seen a heap of cinnamons of that little, black kind. And they was nothin' to be scared at.

"Well, after we'd got settled down on our claim, I went up the hill one day, lookin' for a likely piece of birch to make an axe handle for the one my pardner'd broke. But it was pretty hard to find the right kind, and I kept a-goin' and a-goin' for nigh on two hours. Wasn't in no hurry to make my choice, you see, for I was headin' down to the Forks all the time, where I was goin' to borrow a log-bit from old Joe Gee. When I started I'd put a couple of sour dough biscuits and some sow belly in my pocket in case I might get hungry. And I'm tellin' you that little lunch came in right handy before I was done with it.

"Bime-by I hit upon the likeliest little birch saplin' right in the middle of a clump of jack pine. Just as I raised my hand axe I happened to cast my eyes down the hill. There was a big bear comin' up, swingin' along on all fours right in my direction. It was a bald-face, but little I know about such kind.

"'Jest watch me scare him,' I says to myself and stayed out of sight in the trees.

"Well, I waited till he was about a hundred feet off, then I runs out into the open.

"'Ooh! ooh!' I hollered at him, expectin' him to make off like chain lightning.

"Make off? He jest throwed up his head for one good look, and came a-comin.'

"'Ooh! ooh!" I hollered louder'n ever. But he jest came a-comin'.

"'Consarn you!' I says to myself, gettin' mad. 'I'll make you jump the trail.'

"So I grabs my hat, and wavin' and hollerin', starts down the hill to meet him. A big sugar pine had went down in a windfall and lay about breast-high. I stops jest behind it, old bald-face comin' all the time. It was jest then that fear took me. I yelled like a Comanche as he raised to come over the log, and fired my hat full in his face. Then I lit out.

"Say! I rounded the end of that log and put down the hill at a two-minute clip, old bald-face reachin' for me at every jump. At the bottom was a broad, open flat, quarter of a mile to timber and full of nigger heads. I knew if I slipped I was a goner, but I hit only the high places till you couldn't 'a' seen my trail for smoke. And the old devil snorting hot after me. Midway across he reached for me, jest strikin' the heel of my moccasin with his claw. Tell you I was doin' some tall guessin' jest about then. I knew he had the wind of me, and that I could never make the brush, so I pulled my little lunch out of my pocket and dropped it on the fly.

"Never looked back till I struck the timber, and then he was mouthing it in a way which wasn't nice to see, considerin' how close he'd been to me. I never slacked up. No, Sir! Jest kept hittin' the trail for all there was in me. But jest as I came round a bend, hell-bent for election, what'd I see in the middle of the trail before me and comin' my way, but another bald-face.

"'Whoof!' he says when he spotted me, and he came a-runnin.'

"In a flash I was about and hittin' the back trail twice as fast as I'd come. Clean forgot all about the other bald-face, the way this one was puffin' after me. First thing I knows I seen him mosving along kind of easy wonderin' most likely what'd become of me and if I tasted as good as my lunch. Say! when he seen me he looked real pleased. And then he came a jumpin' for me.

"'Whoof!' he says.

"'Whoof!' says the one behind me.

"Bang I goes, straight off the trail sideways, aplungin' and a-clawin' through the brush like a-wild bull. By that time I was clean crazed. Thought the whole country was full of bald-faces. Next thing I knows—whop! I comes up against something in a tangle of wild blackberry bushes. Then that something hits me a swipe and closes in on me. Another bald-face! And then I knew Iwas gone for sure. But I made up my mind to die game, and of all the rampin' and roarin' and rippin' and tearin' you ever see, that was the worst.

"'Oh, my God! Oh, my wife!' it says. 'And I looked and it was a man I was hammerin' into kingdom come.

"'Thought you was a bear,' says I.

"He kind of caught his breath and looked at me, then he says, 'Same here.'

"Seemed as though he'd been chased by a bald-face and hid in the blackberries. So that's how we mistook each other. But by that time the racket on the trail was something horrible, and we didn't wait to explain matters. That afternoon we got Joe Gee and some rifles and came back loaded for bear. Mebbe you won't believe me, but when we got to the spot there was the two bald-faces lyin dead. You see when I jumped out sideways they came together, and each refused to give trail to the other, that was the result.

"Talkin' of bear—"

The Klondike King paused eloquently, then headed the delegation in the direction of the bar.

RUINS OF AN ANCIENT CITY (BURIED UNDER LAVA.)

SANTA FE. N. M., Aug. 22.—New Mexico has its Pompeii and its Herculaneum; it has its extinct Vesuvius aud its extinct Aetna; it has ruins as interesting as those of Central Asia and of Egypt.

Not far from Santa Fe, in Santa Clara Canon, there are buried the ruins of a city of cliff dwellers, older, perhaps, than Rome. The Rev. G. S. Madden and a party of scientists have attempted systematic excavation, and during the last week they have dug out two rooms of a Communal building 300 by 400 feet, three stories high, containing at least 2,000 rooms.

The rooms that were excavated showed that the cliff dwellers deserted the house in great haste. They left many articles of interest behind which they would assuredly have taken along if their leave-taking had been less precipitous.

The abundance of turkey and dog bones showed that those animals were kept in the house. Attached to each living room in the communal building are small turkey corrals four by four feet, and connected with the living rooms by low archways just high enough for a turkey to slip through. In the burial places, the remains of the ancient race are invariably found covered with turkey and dog bones. The bodies are buried in a stooping position, with the head between the knees and the feet of all bodies pointing to a common centre.

The most important find made by Mr. Madden was that of nine skeletons, whose formation indicates that the ancient cliff dwellers were not Indians, but were allied to the Caucasian race. The forehead of the skulls is well formed, whlle the posterior part of the head is almost flat. In the course of evolution, the incisors of the cliff dwellers were transformed into grinders for the cliff dwellers were evidently vegetarians. In their houses are found corn, and they evidently grew and smoked tobacco. Some skulls that were found in the cliff dwellings on the Gila had long red hair.

The reason for the sudden evacuation of the Santa Clara cliff dwellers is found in the immense stream of lava which poured forth from a crater only a few miles from Santa Fe, and covered many square miles with lava and ashes. It must have been a volcanic eruption, similar to that which destroyed Pompeii and Herculaneum, which caused the cliff dwellers to flee from their homes.

According to Mr. Madden the dwellings were deserted *at least 2,000 years* ago. The cliff dwellers *were giants in their day, for one of the femurs that he picked up measured twenty inches and must have belonged to a man between seven and eight feet high.* (Italics are mine.—Ed.)

Buffalo *Enquirer.*

THE THREATENED SCARCITY.

SCARCITY of food grains has led to serious disturbances in parts of the Bombay Presidency. Here are the facts of the late Bhil disturbance:—The baniahs in the South State and Jhalod Mohal insenced the Bhils, by refusing advances of grain. The Bhils who are dependent for grain on the baniahs to whom they generally make over their produce in bulk naturally showed great indignation and forming into two large bands, one in the South State and the other in Jhalod, proceeded to loot grain from the villages. On the 10th of September Limdin Jhalod was attacked, but the inhabitants with police assistance drove the Bhils off with few casualties. On the 11th several villages in the South State were looted by the Bhils who carried off grain, some gold and silver ornaments and cattle. The inhabitants of these districts being considerably alarmed, and the police force being unable to cope with the situation, the Collector wired for troops and two companies of the 9th Bombay Infantry were immediately despatched from Baroda, reaching Dohad on the 12th. The threatened points were occupied by small bodies, while the main body under Lieutenant Hoskyns held Rampur and Fatepura in South. The arrival of troops and the prompt commencement of relief works in Jhalod had a salutary effect and there has been no renewal of the disturbances.

THE Bombay weekly crop reports show a growing seriousness in the position in Guzerat. In Ahmedabad all agricultural stock is starving, and fodder is not procurable at any price. Cotton, jowari and other standing crops are withering for want of rain in other Guzerat districts, and cattle are being fed entirely on leaves. In the Deccan, with the exception of Khandesh, Nassik and Ahmedanagar, although the rainfall is in great deficiency, the position is fairly satisfactory, early crops being reaped and rabi crops being sown; and in the southern portions of the Presidency the outlook is fairly good.

CUTCH MANDVI is suffering severely, owing to scarcity of fodder and water and to help the poor a subscription has been started and Rs. 11,885 promised. The Government have thrown open over 60,000 acres in Thana district for giving pasture and water to starving cattle from Guzerat. Careful arrangements have been made for receiving and looking after them. Some kind land-holders of the same district have also offered to take in and keep for a year a limited number, but the railway freight, which at reduced rates is roughly Rs. 5 per head, comes heavy on the people whose income for the year is absolutely *nil.* To pay the eight of a train load Mr. Narandass Purshotamdass has given Rs. 1,500.

THE famine relief works in the Madras Presidency will probably include the undertaking of the proposed Krishnagiri-Tirapatun Railway, Calicut-Baliapatam Railway, and Ammayanayakunur Kuruvanth Railway lines.

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THE KOLHAPUR POISONING TRIAL.

THE hearing of the charge against Fernandez and Babu Maras of attempting to poison Colonel Wray on August 5th, has commenced. Nagesh Pandurang Bide, Private Secretary to the Raja, said that the dinner was given in honour of the Hon. Mr. James. It was cooked in the Residency, except some rolls and loaves, which Augustine, the State butler, purchased outside. After dinner, the witness was told to collect this bread by Colonel Wray. There were nineteen rools and four loaves, which were made up in a package, sealed and placed under guard. Augustine purchased twenty rolls, and the odd one could not be found. Augustine Corea, the butler, said the management of the *khana* was in has hand, and on August 5th, accompanied by a Mahomedan, named Khatal, he bought twenty rolls, six loaves, and half-a-pound of biscuits from the baker Khtal; brought the purchases. While Augustine Corea was still at the Residency, the Political Agent called him, and ask ed whether he had been to the house of Fernandez. The witness said "No." The Political Agent said he had received an anonymous letter, saying he was to be poisoned, and that the witness had been paid Rs. 250 by Fernandez to do it. The Political Agent asked if he had received money. The witness said "No," and further that he knew nothing about it. Fernandez, the witness told Colonel Wray, had not offered and he did not take money. That conversation took place at 5 P. M. on the 5th August. Colonel Wray asked whether the witness suspected anything wrong in connection with the dinner, and he replied "No." Next the Colonel asked whether he should come to dinner or not, and the witness told him to come without fear. Five minutes before dinner, an order came from the Residency, ordering the removal of the rolls, subsequently one roll was missing. Next morning the witness sent to the baker's for another roll, and this was locked up with the rest.

In answer to the Judge, it was stated that the missing roll had a special bearing on the case, which is proceeding.

MR. JUSTICE O'FARRELL of the Madras High Court, on relief by Mr. Justice Benson, on the 22nd instant, will go on seven weeks' privilege leave.

SIR GEORGE WOLSELEY, Lieutenant-General Madras Command, is at present touring in Travancore. He was entertained it a State dinner by the Maharaja, on Tuesday night.

NEWS has been received that Mr. Savage Landor is on his way back to Almora from an expedition in the direction of Nepal. It is not known whether he succeeded in crossing the frontier.

IT is understood that Government will acquire Gorton Castle for officers for one lakh and twenty thousand rupees, and this sum will be available for starting a sanitarium on another site.

H. H. THE NIZAM has just ordered the trial by Commission of Nawab Framruz Jung, Taluqdar of Elgandar, charged with bribery. The commission will comprise Nawab Imad Jung, Financial Secretary, Mr. Hankin, C. I. E., Inspector-General, District Police, Moulvie Aziz Mirza, Judicial and Police Secretary, Nawab Akhbar-ul-Mulk, C. S. I., Police Commissioner, and Moulvie Hassan Khan, Judge, High Court. Mr. Eardley Norton, Barrister, defends Framruz Jung.

A TELEGRAM received in Bombay states that the steamer *Shiravati*, owned by Messrs. Shepherd and Co., of Bombay, ran aground during a fog on Tuesday last and sank off Jaitapur Lighthouse. She carried from 300 to 400 passengers, and the whole of these, besides her crew, with the exception of four or five persons, were saved. There were forty-one boxes of treasure on board, and nineteen of these were saved. The vessel was on her way to Goa from Bombay.

THE Hon. Mr. T. L. E. Beaumont, Chairman of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce, has been invited by Government to accept a seat on the newly-created peripateric Railway Commission, which is expected to hold its first meeting at Bombay early next month, and probably the conversion of the Hyderabad-Shadipalli Railway to a metre gauge, against which so many protests have been made from Karachi, will be one of the first matters to which the Commission will devote its attention.

TO minimize the existing gravity of the situation, several local philanthropists have subscribed Rs. 6000 each to at once establish relief grain shops in Secunderabad. About Rs. 50,000 have already been subscribed and this sum will for the present meet the emergency. The prices of food stuffs have risen 40 per cent. above the normal market rates, and the failure of the monsoon has stimulated the dismal forebodings in regard to both the grain and water. The tanks are at dry weather ebb.

A SERIOUS dacoity is reported from the village of Godha, in the Agra District, where a gang of dacoits attacked a wealthy bunnia's house. Resistance being offered, they shot one man dead, wounded some of the others, and got safely away with their booty. Shortly afterwards apparently the same gang raided a village called Keria, where, after firing a few shots to terrorize the villagers, they entered the house of the chief zemindar, and, after torturing one of the inmates, got away with some money. These crimes are attributed to the prevailing scarcity.

THE campaign against undue prolixity of report writing is going on vigorously, and a further circular has been issued, in which the Government of India point out that the tendency of departmental administrative reports is to become a mere record of what has been done in the department during the year under review for the information of the department itself, whereas what is really required is only such information as is necessary to enable Government to judge whether the working of the department has been efficient and economical.

UMSER-UL-MULK, the only remaining Chitrali prisoner in Ootacamund, among the Chiefs sent there by the Government of India some years ago, had an interview with the Governor of Madras the other day. The Assistant Superintendent of Police and the Police Inspector were in charge of the prisoner, and Mr. Weir, Collector of the District, was asked to be present at Government House on the occasion. The Chief stated the object of the interview was to secure his release from confinement, a request which His Excellency regretted he could not entertain.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

NOTICE

We take the usual holiday on account of the Durga Puja festival. There will, therefore, be no issue of the paper on 12th and 15th inst. The next issue of the paper will appear on Thursday the 19th instant.

THE

Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, OCTOBER 8, 1899.

MATTERS RELATING TO THE MUNICIPAL ACT.

OUR Councils have been likened to machines; and His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal himself indirectly admitted it when he made the confession that he had not the slightest desire to hurt or wound his people, but yet he had no help. When this is the confession of the head, one must regard the Council like a watch which moves as it is moved. But no; the Legislative Councils have, at least the Bengal Council has, a soul, to wit, the following announcement of His Honor:—

Hon'ble Members will be deeply concerned to hear of the terrible disaster which has overtaken Darjeeling. The loss of life has proved far more grave than was at first believed, and I cannot place the number of lives lost now at less than 400. I am sure that the whole Council will join with me in most heartfelt sympathy for the families of the victims.

But it is claimed for the Council that it has not only a soul but a conscience too. Says Dr. Ashutosh:—

The honorable member in charge has seriously defined the function of this Council to be to carry out the mandate of the Government of the day when the principle of any proposed measure of legislation has been approved by that Government. I would not have been surprised, Sir, if this had been authoritatively laid down to be the duty of the official members of Council. Thus qualified, I might have left the proposition alone and unchallenged. But I repudiate, Sir, in the clearest possible terms, this extraordinary theory when it is applied to non-official members. In spite of the doctrines expounded by the honorable member in charge, I retain, Sir, the right to tnink and judge for myself. I have made none the custodian of my conscience, and so long as I have the honour of a seat in this Council, it will be my duty to advise the Council to the best of my ability and judgment quite irrespective of what this or that party may approve or disapprove.

This extraordinary claim to the possession of conscience is utterly at variance with the genius of our Legislative Councils.

His Honor regrets the resignation of the 28 members,—of the regret, we have not the slightest doubt. But His Honor says: "We have been honorable opponents," which means that the representatives of the rate-payers and the Government were fighting and fighting fairly. But the arrangement that the Government made was this: It fulminated charges which it would neither prove, nor even enumerate, nor withdraw. We cannot agree with Sir J. Woodburn's idea of fair-play. Then, the Government brings forward twelve solid votes against six, and necessarily wins at every point. Two to one is not a fair arrangement. Nor do we think it fair that when the Indians served, their services were secured free; and now that the Europeans are to do the same work they must get two :gold mohurs per sitting.

Yet there was a fair fight, that is to say, that the representatives fought exceedingly well, so well that their opponents winced before them. It was on this occasion that half-a-dozen of trained English administrators found themselves face to face with half-a-dozen of our representatives. And the result was that, if not for the solid support of the *ap-ke-waste* six, the trained administrators would have found themselves no match for their opponents. We do not mean to say that the Indian six were abler than the official six, but the latter had a weak case or no case at all.

Yes, the thanks of the nation are due to these representatives, specially to Raja Ranajit Sing Bahadur; for, not only was he a nominated member, but, as a big Zemindar residing in the moffusil, he risked a good deal by going against the Government in a matter in which the latter showed considerable *zid*. Next to the late Maharajah of Durbhanga, who was, however, elected by the people, no land-holder had ever displayed such courage, independence and patriotism in the Legislative Council as the Raja Bahadur of Nashipore did. And has he lost in the estimation of the Government? Certainly not. On the other hand, the authorities will now entertain far greater respect for him than they would have done if he had played the part of an *ap-ke-waste*. Our thanks are equally, or still more, due to the Hon'ble Mr. Apcar who sided with the subject race. We have also to thank the 28, or rather the 27, Commissioners, who sacrificed themselves for the sake of principle, and among whom we ought to make special mention of Maulvi Shams-ul Huda, because he left his co-religionists in the Corporation and cast in his lot with others for the sake of duty.

THE LAST OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

MEN have their higher sentiments and baser passions. The Europeans, enlightened as they are, have their baser passions; the Indians barbarians as they are, have their higher sentiments. Just now the whole of India is sympathising with the sorrows of the Lee family, who have lost five of their children, during the recent cyclone at Darjeeling. Five children to be snatched away in this violent and awful manner in a moment! Was ever man or woman so stricken down? In India the destruction of a whole family is not altogether a rare occurrence. Plague has monopolized public attention just now, but cholera is not a less dangerous foe.

We have seen several villages almost depopulated within a week by the ravages of that disease. We have seen families, composed of father, mother and children, almost all disappearing within the course of twenty-four hours.

But we cannot say why the case of the Lees seems to us so dreadfully affecting. All that we can say is, the sympathy of the entire country is with them, and Indian mothers, and fathers too have wept in sympathy with the sorrows of the bereaved parents. The children are in the lap of their Father, but very few have a living faith in the truth of this wonderful arrangement in the other world. If tears of sympathy can, however, soothe the bruised hearts of the parents, stricken down by such a dire calamity they have the tears of a large number of Indians.

As we said before, the Indians have their good points. Indeed, they feel exactly as Englishmen do. They are, however, now the wards of Englishmen. They cannot protect themselves, nor manage their own affairs. They have to depend upon Englishmen for all that. Here in India the Englishman has thus an opportunity of either nourishing his higher or baser faculties. As guardians of the Indians, Englishmen can either squander away the resources of their wards for their own benefit, or husband them for the good of the latter. They can either treat them as children and watch over their growth, physical, intellectual, and moral,—as a fathe r would do, or they can leave them uncared for. The Indians are absolutely helpless and Englishmen absolute masters here.

Never before, in the annals of the world, was a nation so weighted with responsibility as the English. Three hundred millions of their fellow-beings have been placed by Providence under their absolute care. They can treat these men as their wards and consider the responsibility a sacred trust. They can watch over the growth of these three hundred millions and lead them on towards progress and happiness. If they do so, they nourish their higher sentiments. If they can help these three hundred millions to grow under their fostering care into a prosperous and happy nation, their very efforts in that direction will chasten their hearts and convert them into divine beings.

If, on the other hand, they take advantage of their irresistible powers and the helpless condition of their dependants, to further their own petty interests, they foster their baser passions,—selfishness, covetuousness, arrogance and so forth. So there is a reward for treating the Indians well, and there is a punishment for treating them with injustice. What have the Europeans gained by depriving the Indians of some control over their municipal affairs which had been given to them a quarter of a century ago? The advantages derived are infinitesimal, but the movement has done incalculable harm in every other respect. It has demoralized the Europeans, it has demoralized the Indians. It has led the rulers away from the path of their duty; it has thrown the Indians into despair.

The English are, there is no doubt of it, a chivalrous race. But where is the chivalry in depriving a dependent nation of a privilege which was once given to them? And where is the chivalry in twelve solid out-voting six? It is despotism that prevails here. We are content with it. But that despotism must be based upon some sort of understanding. That despotism must be intelligent; it must be benevolent; and it must be just. But is the despotism, which deprives the Indians of all control over their municipal affairs, intelligent? As we asked, what substantial advantages have the Europeans gained by this move? And how will they manage these affairs without the help of the Hindus whom they have forced to quit the field?

Is the despotism benevolent? Have not the Indians, ever since the beginning of this move, been imploring their rulers to excuse them? All these earnest and humble solicitations did not touch the heart of the Government. And is the despotism just? How will the Londowners like it if their city were made over to the aliens who reside there?

That this move on the part of the Government has deprived the Indians of the little of self-government they possessed, is a small matter. But it has taken away all hope of future progress from them. And they are going to hold their "National Congress!" We have not the least doubt that the authorities did everything in *zid*, and that now they are repenting.

The very best thing that Lord Curzon can do now is to withhold his assent. We feel that he would be very glad to do so, only if he could.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

ELSEWHERE is published an article from the *Pioneer* on capital punishment. What the views of our contemporary on the subject are, is not quite clear; but, we are thankful to him for his abhorrence of the indiscriminate hanging of murderers in India, and his preference to transportation over death-sentence. There is no boubt of it that capital sentences are passed more readily in India than in any other country in the world. But this is not all. In India there is scarcely the exercise of the prerogative of mercy. In England the Queen is always ready with her gracious pardon. In some countries, the Royal pardon has become almost a part of the law. In others no one will agree to hang a man. In others again, capital sentences have been abolished altogether.

In India, however, not only are capital sentences often passed with a light heart, but once the sentence is passed there is almost absolutely no chance for the condemned of escape from the gallows. In India, again, the law is not always "an eye for an eye", or "a tooth for a tooth"; but oftentimes, two, three, or four, and occasionally more than half a dozen, men are condemned to death for the murder of a sing e individual. In this country, a Magistrate actually recommended "a more frequent infliction of capital punishment." And this recommendation was quoted with approval by the Inspector-General of Police and embodied in a Government Resolution!

Those who are in charge of the criminal administration in India should read carefully the paper of Mr. Andrew J. Palm, Editor of the *American Journal of Politics*, on "Capital Punishments." It will open their eyes to the inhumanity and mischief of inflicting capital punishments for the suppression of crime. Mr. Palm proves by statistics that capital punishments do not reduce, but only increase, the crime of murder, and demoralize both the Judges and the people. He maintains that the only sure protection to human life in any country, is to have it regarded with reverence by the whole people; and that, consequently, if the Government wishes to teach that human life is sacred, it must not set an example by deliberately destroying it.

In India, unfortunately, a different teaching is imparted, the result being that people are oftentimes sent to the gallows in an indiscriminate manner. In short, the teaching that is imparted here, does not at all increase any "reverence for human life," but only destroys it. To be plain, the teaching imparted here brutalizes all parties concerned.

The principal objection against the abolition of capital punishments is that, to take away the fear of the death-penalty is to increase the number of murders. To this Mr. Palm replies:—

The favourite argument that to take away the fear of the death penalty would result in an increase of murders, may or may not have any force in philosophy, but, in practice, it has been proven false repeatedly. In those of our States where capital punishment has been abolished, the statistics furnished by the census reports show a smaller number of murders than in those States that still follow the law of "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth". The same is true of other countries.

From statistics Mr Palm goes to show that relatively to population, murders are becoming less frequent in many States that have abolished capital punishment. The Howard Association also made a careful study of the subject; and its investigation has shown beyond doubt that death as a punishment for murder has the only effect that can be expected from it, namely, instead of softening the emotions, it hardens them and prepares men to commit murder by contemplating it.

That the death-penalty does not reduce the number of murders is thus proved by Mr. Palm from statistics:

The executioner has been steadily plying his glorious trade in the United States ever since the foundation of the Government, but instead of his being a terror to evil-doers, murders have been constantly increasing. In 1888 there were 2,184 homicides in the United States; in 1889, 3,567; in 1890, 4,290; and in 1891, 5,906. Is not this evidence enough to warrant a change in our method of dealing with the crime of murder? When it comes before the Legislators of the different States, I trust, they will not act on their ideas of what, they are afraid, *might* occur if capital punishment were abolished, rather than on the actual facts as they *have* occurred where it has been abrogated.

So, in countries, where the penalty is death, the crime is increasing! And where the penalty is not death it is decreasing!

But Mr. Palm has another strong ground against death-penalty. Says he:—

The death-penalty defeats the ends of justice in allowing thousands of murderers to go at liberty. It is a fact beyond dispute, the average juror of to-day hesitates to assume the responsibility of being an instrument in sending a fellow to death, and oftentimes when there is no other verdict possible except that of guilty of murder in the first degree or not guilty of any crime, the convenient reasonable doubt comes in, and the prisoner is set at liberty, when, if the punishment had not been death, he would have promptly been found guilty.

In Mussachusetts from 1862 to 1882, a period of twenty years, there were 123 trials for murder in the first degree, and but 29 of these or less than 24 per cent, were convicted. In Connecticut, during thirty years from 1850 to 1880, 97 persons were tried for first degree murder; and of these but 13, or a little less than 13 per cent., were found guilty.

Capital punishment was abolished in Rhode Island—a State in all respects very similar to the other two—in 1852. During the next thirty years, there were 27 persons tried for first degree murder in that State, of whom 17, or 63 per cent., were found guilty as charged. The same truth is shown in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Maine, the statute books of which are no longer disgraced by the law of death as a punishment for crime.

In enlightened America, sometimes 24 per cent, and sometimes even 13 per ceut, only are convicted; but yet, the privilege of trial by jury is not sought to be abolished there. That is, however, by the way. It is certain, the manner in which criminal justice is administered in India is demoralizing a good many of our officials, though they naturally don't feel it and will resent it, if it is pointed out to them.

THE *Times of India* has at last found something consoling to say about the Rangoon outrage case. It is that the natives are as bad as the Europeans who committed the outrage. Nay, the natives are worse; for, if outrages like the one committed at Rangoon are common in the distr. ict of Mymensing, the native papers suppress the fact. And the *Madras Mail* finds something very important in the discoveries made by the *Times of India* and commends them to the notice of its readers. The two discoveries made by the *Times of India* are that the natives are as bad as the Rangoon soldiers and that the native papers suppress them which the European papers do not. The *Madras Mail*, referring to the second discovery, gravely observes that the only "just man is he who judges without distinction the black sheep of all flocks." By the bye, how came the *Times of India* and the *Madras Mail* to know of these Mymensing outrages? They were brought to light by native papers, and from them they were brought to the notice of the Anglo-Indian papers. In the district of Mymensing outrages are committed no doubt, but they are not of the same nature as the one at Rangoon, which has caused so much horror and indignation throughout the country, among all classes of people. An outrage upon a weak, defenceless woman is, to the shame of mankind, a common enough offence. But, in the Rangoon case, the soldiers did not act at all like human beings. Men cannot do such things in broad day-light and before company. Brutes do so, men never. And it is this fact that invests the outrage with such a fiendish character. For twenty men to ravish a woman, an elderly woman to boot, one after the other, in the presence of dozens of eye-witnesses, in broad daylight and in an open place, is to act not like men but brutes. That is the point in this case. We have never heard of such an incident. The *Times of India*, in trying to find a scape-goat in the unfortunate natives of India, furnishes another example, amongst numerous others, that a European in India, even a journalist, is oftentimes the slave of his prejudice and passions.

THERE is, however, one point which can be urged in favour of British soldiers in India. They are unmarried, young, fed with beef, allowed indulgences in rum, and kept confined in barracks. From their unnatural position they must always feel an irresistible impulse to break all bonds which keep them under so much restraint. Yet in England they would have submitted to the restraint for many reasons. Those reasons do not exist here. As, for instance, in England they have to regard public opinion and are surrounded by their own people and they have to fear punishment. But in India they are in the midst of strangers whom they have been taught to believe as inferior beings, and if not as enemies, at least not as friends of their country. British soldiers here find their position intolerable, and they are made to feel that they are essential for the defence and maintenance of the Empire. Men who think that they are essential naturally claim extraordinary privileges. And naturally they are led to commit excesses. Such outrages would not have occurred if the Government had relied entirely upon the natives of the soil for the maintenance of the Empire, and on British soldiers who are married. They have no need to post such a large number of unmarried English youths in this country; it is an absurd suspicion in the loyalty of the natives of India that leads them to do this.

THE Darjeeling disaster has naturally engrossed the entire attention of the Government and the public; for, not only was it an unprecedented one, but the lives of many European children were lost on the occasion under the most painful circumstances. But the calamity which has overtaken the district of Bhagulpur is far more serious. Just imagine that about two scores of villages were washed away by unprecedented floods with perhaps all their inhabitants! According to our correspondent, some three thousand people were, in this manner, swept away. We expect further details in a short time. In the meantime, the Government should take prompt steps to succour the survivors who must be in a horrible condition; for, judging from what our correspondent wrote to us the other day, they are not only homeless but have absolutely nothing to live upon. The Mag strate of the district is, no doubt, doing his best, but he can't do much unless the Government comes to the rescue. The Bhagulpur disaster reminds us of the one that happened in Dakhin Shabajpore, in the district of Backergunge, from where many thousands of people were carried away by a storm-wave in 1877. But it was the after-effects which added to the horrors of the situation. The Government left everything to the Magistrate of Backergunge, and he was persuaded to believe that there was a large quantity of rice in the affected quarter hidden underneath the ground in earthen jars. The result was that people began to die of starvation and cholera, which disease the unfortunate men brought amongst themselves by eating indigestible food and wild fruits. At last, when the mortality became frightful and the bones of tens of thousands of human beings whitened the land, the Government found its mistake, alas! too late to undo the mischief that its policy of indifference had done. There is, we believe, no chance of a similar blunder being committed in the case of Bhagulpur; but, yet, the Government cannot be too prompt with its help in a matter of this kind.

WE noticed a few crab cases the otherday. Like the crab the turtle also figured in courts of law, thanks to the zeal of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The Guris are a race of aborigines in Bengal who live by catching turtles. Some five or six years ago, one Deno Guri was hauled up before a Bench of Honorary Magistrates at Howrah, for having cruelly put a turtle to death, and fined Rs. 50, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment if he failed to pay the fine. Fortunately for him, he paid the fine and thus escaped imprisonment. The matter was referred to the Chief Justice by the District Magistrate, who disagreed with the decision of the Bench of Honorary Magistrates. His Lordship, if we remember aright, upheld the conviction. Now, the fact is, the turtle is protected by a hard shell from the attacks of ll animals, except the alligator and the man. The alligator has strong jaws, strong enough to crush the shell of a turtle. When the alligator does this, the report is so loud that it can be heard from the bank. The way, therefore, to kill turtles is to cut through the shell with an axe. That is a slow process, and, of course, a cruel one. But, if turtles are to be eaten, that is the way to reach at its flesh. You cannot kill it in any other way. You can throw it down from the top of a mountain without doing it any harm. Of course, if by good luck, you can get hold of the neck, you can chop it off. But you can reach the neck only by good luck; you can never be sure of it. The chopping off of the head is also not as easy as the slaughter ng of a buffalo. Turtle-soup is considered a delicacy, and a good many turtles are brought from the Bay of Bengal for the use of the European residents of Calcutta. May we enquire, how these turtles are disposed of? If there is any better way of killing turtles, the Indians ought to be taught the process before they are punished for having killed them in the way they have been doing from time immemorial. The surest way of preventing cruelty to turtles is, however, to give up eating these animals altogether. Why do not the members of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals set the good example?

IT is the removal, we mean forcible removal, of alleged plague patients or suspects to hospitals or to segregation camps that have led to most of the plague riots in the Western Presidency. Any one who has watched the plague operations with any care will bear us out in this. But unfortunately the authorities there have uniformly held that no concessions can be made in this direction. We are, however, glad to note that a departure from this rule has just been initiated at Nagpur. The following notice has been issued by the Deputy Commissioner there:—

Whereas it appears that plague which previously existed in the city of Nagpore in a sporadic form has now established itself firmly in the town in spite of the strict precautions hitherto adopted in the hope of stamping out the disease; and whereas it appears that there is no further probability of these precautions proving effectual, the Chief Commissioner is pleased to make the following modifications in the existing rules, which are notified for information of the public and will take effect at once:—

(1) No plague patient shall be removed to the Plague Hospital unless he or his friends consent.

(2) No contacts shall be removed to the segregation camp against their will, and they may continue to live in the infected house if they prefer to do so. But if they decide to leave it, they must undergo the usual period of segregation in the camp before settling elsewhere.

With the experience of Calcutta before us we have hardly any doubt that this scheme will work most satisfactorily. If the authorities had taken such a commonsense view of the matter, much evil might have been obviated; but that is neither here nor there.

ELSEWHERE is published a judgment delivered by Mr. A. Porteous, Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, in an appeal preferred by a coolie named Raghunath Koiri against an order of the Sub-divisional Officer of Karimgunj directing that certain coolies in the Hatikhira tea garden, in the jurisdiction of thana Patharkandi, must serve out the terms covered by agreements alleged by the Manager to have been executed by them. It would appear from the judgment that these coolies wanted to leave but they were restrained on the ground that they had executed agreements under Act XIII of 1859. The case has been sent back to the Sub-divisional Officer for further enquiry, and we necessarily hold back our remarks. The Deputy Commissioner, in the course of his judgment, however, says that under the Act referred to, no manager has the power of arrest, but that his "only remedy is to apply to the Magistrate for a warrant. Were it not so, Act XIII, which provides no agency for the protection of coolies induced to give agreements on receipt of advances, would become a veritable Slave Act. Complaints of illegal detention of Act XIII coolies therefore demand close investigation." We need hardly say that we agree with the Deputy Commissioner, but we fear in most such cases "close investigation" is what does not take place.

THURSDAY'S Municipal elections came and went without creating any the least stir in town. The city wore an aspect as if there was nothing uncommon afoot. Out of 25 wards, there were elections at 21, to fill up the vacancies caused by the resignation of the 28 Commissioners. In six of these no candidates came forward to offer themselves for election; while in five, those whose names were put forward resigned at the last moment, leaving the vacancies unfilled up. Of the remaining ten, the results in wards 20 and 25 were not known at 5 P. Mon Thursday; while in 24 Dr. Surendra Nath Roy who had resigned with the 28, only to recall his resignation letter immediately after, offered himself for re-election, and was, of course, returned unopposed. It will also indicate which way the wind blows when we say that the candidates who were returned for wards 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, and 19 were all either Europeans, Eurasians or Mahomedans. In ward 9, where there was a little keen contest between a Hindu and a Mahomedan gentleman, the latter withdrew on the ground that he had not the remotest chance of success against his rival, who, thereafter, when his success was fully assured, gave such a proof of self-abnegation as to deserve grateful mention. He withdrew, leaving the seat vacant.

THE shoe case of Mr. Mounsey, Magistrate of a Madras district, Udumalpet, noticed by us the other day, will go some way to shew, why Kuar Sing petitioned the Viceroy to prevent Englishmen from thrashing natives when they are not salaamed by the latter. But this case is in many respects worse than that of Kuar Sing. Mr. Mounsey is a Magistrate, while Lieutenant Villiers Stuart, who thrashed Kuar Sing, is a son of Mars, whose profession is fighting. What makes the Mounsey case particularly objectionable is the occasion when he was led to make use of the whip. They had all gone to honor and garland him. That being the case, if they had committed any indiscretion, Mr. Mounsey ought to have overlooked it. And what was the indiscretion, pray? Some of those who had come to honor him, had shoes on! So you see there was no indiscretion in the case. They had every right to put their shoes on, even when garlanding or approaching Mr. Mounsey. But he lost temper, used his whip, indulged in unparliamentary language and asked the Tahsildar to fine one of the culprits, that is to say, one who had shoes on, Rs. 50. Is this the training that Englishmen receive here in India? Is this the way to deserve absolute powers which they enjoy, and a ground for asking for more? Is this the way to make English character respected and the Government popular? Is this the way to remove race-prejudice? It is only the exercise of large powers that is telling upon the noble character of Englishmen in India. Mr. Mounsey, if he had been trained in England, would never have objected to the wearing of shoes or acted in the manner he is alleged to have done. It was his Indian training that made him behave in this manner.

HERE is an analysis of the results of Thursday's bye-elections of the Calctuta Corporation. There were 28 vacancies in 21 wards. From the beginning there were no candidates in wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 11 and 21. Six candidates for wards 5, 6, 22 and 23 retired before the day of election. Two candidates for ward No. 9, after the whole day's contest, withdrew at the last moment,—the Hindu beating his Mahomedan rival by over 200 votes. Thus, of the 21 wards 11 have returned nobody, leaving 16 seats still vacant; and the Local Government under the law will have to fill up these vacancies. Of the 12 persons returned, in the place of 28 resigned, 10 have come in without any contest for several wards in the town proper. There were contests in only two Suburban wards (Nos. 20 and 25) for one seat in each. The contest in No. 20 was between a Mahomedan and a Eurasian; and the latter has been elected. In No. 25 the contest was between two Hindus; but the one who has been elected, will, it is reported now resign. Thus virtually only 11 persons have been returned. They consist of:7 Eurasians, 3 Mahomedans and 1 Hindu.

THE result of the bye-elections in Calcutta proves that the native papers did not vaunt when they said that no respectable and independent Hindu would come forward to fill up the vacancies. It is quite true that, in some of the Hindu wards, Hindus stood as candidates; but they did so either to create fun or to oust the Mussulmans and Europeans who sought to represent them. It is also a remarkable fact that, all the Hindu candidates, who retired before or after their elections, were very indifferent members of society, and their appearance on the field confirmed the repeated warning of the native press that if the Bill were passed, no leading Hindu would care to be a Commissioner. Dozens of public meetings were held to condemn the measure. But the fact that, no really independent Hindu gentleman offered himself as a candidate, is a more potent protest against the innovation than all these demonstrations of the rate-payers put together. The resignation of the 28 Commissioners opened opportunities to nobodies in the city. But even they refused to have anything to do with a measure which has been so persistently and systematically condemned by their countrymen. We are glad the Hindu rate-

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

payers have done their duty so manfully. They were asked to elect fresh representatives in the place of those who had resigned. If they had done so, they would have not only confirmed the disgrace cast upon their representatives by the Government, but indirectly accepted the measure they have so strenuously opposed. The question before them was—were they to stand by their representatives or throw them overboard? They would have assuredly thrown them overboard if they were guilty. But they were never proved guilty; on the other hand, when they challenged the Government to establish its charges against them, the authorities did not accept it. The rate-payers were thus bound to stand by their representatives and had no option but to elect none, and to ask those whom they had elected, to resign at once. Thus, out of 21 wards, 11 remain unrepresented! What a commentary upon the new Municipal Act! Here is another opportunity for the Government to correct its mistake.

Of course, Reuter is for war; and he is telegraphing all the aggressive movements of the Boers, altogether ignoring the fact that we too have our aggressive movements. India and England combined are going to fight with the Boers; and does Reuter expect that the latter should remain quiet and make no efforts for their own protection? Of course, India has no voice in the matter, and it is of no consequence whether India approves or disapproves of the war. But if India has no voice, has England any? If the helm of affairs were in the hands of the Liberals, there would have been no war, and numerically the Liberals are stronger than the Conservatives. So Englishmen are not so free after all. It is hard to determine who is the real author of this war; yet there is no doubt of it that England is going to plunge into a business in which the majority of its people have no heart and which will cause much bloodshed and scarcely secure an adequate return for their losses. Envied by every nation, the aggressive movements of John Bull are viewed with jealousy by every Power on earth. Of course, the Boers are pigmies before the mighty English; but a slight indiscretion, or a combination of circumstances beyond human control, may bring about a general conflagration; and then the whole world will be deluged with human gore. Such is the human nature, that the sympathies of men, generally speaking, are always with the weak, even when the latter are on the wrong side. Being weak the Boers will have friends who will naturally sympathise with "a race fighting nobly for their home and hearth." And when England, after much sacrifice, brings the Boers to their knees, public opinion may compel England to forego all her advantages. For public opinion now counts for something, witness the Dreyfus case. Irrepressible France had to submit to public opinion. We do not like bloodshed, and we must deprecate war, when not undertaken in self-defence.

Fum Whoam was the President of the Ceremonial Academy in Pekin, so said Goldsmith. The idea of the European was, and perhaps is, that the Asiatics are a ceremonial race. To ridicule this ceremonial instinct of the people, Oliver Goldsmith conceived a Ceremonial Academy, in China, where people were taught the ceremonies that were to be observed in society. It is needless to discuss the point whether the Asiatics are more ceremonial than the Europeans, or the Europeans are more ceremonial than the Asiatics. We have, however, no Ceremonial Academy in India, but one ought to be established if people are to be punished for "going with an open umbrella." Lieutenant Stuart is an observer of ceremonies, rather a strict observer. If people are caned for not salaaming; if open umbrellas are considered unlawful; if the wearing of shoes is made punishable by fines of Rs. 50, the best thing for the Government to do is to establish a Ceremonial Academy with Lieutenant Stuart for its President and Mr. Mounsey for the Vice. Englishmen have the credit of being very practical people. When Lord Beaconsfield wanted to arrest the progress of Russia by conferring the title of Empress upon our beloved Queen, the Liberal papers laughed at the idea, and they laughed at the spectacle of Lord Lytton riding a painted elephant as representing the Empress. When Viceroys of India appear before the public in a plain dress they shew that there is no humbug about the English nation. But the Indian atmosphere has a strange effect upon English character. When the Udumalpet people were garlanding Mr. Mounsey he was watching with his keen eyes whether they had their shoes on or not!

From the letter of Babu Sashindra Chandra Singh on "Cooly Impressment in Cachar" it would appear that the District Judge of Cachar is just now engaged in hearing an interesting case. The plaintiff in the suit is Babu Joymoni Barman who has sued the Secretary of State for India for damages amounting to Rs. 1001 for his having been impressed as a cooly. The plaintiff belongs to a respectable family: indeed, he claims to be descended from the Rajahs of Cachar.

After all the soldiers implicated in that dirty affair, since known as the Rangoon outrage case, are not to be let off so easily as they had thought. The biased verdict of a jury helped these miscreants to escape confinement in the Rangoon jail—for, even in case of a conviction anything more severe than that could not be expected; but they belong to the British Army noted for its strict discipline. We now learn on the authority of the "Pioneer" that summary disciplinary measures have been ordered by the Army Head-quarters in the case of these soldiers.

The *British Medical Journal* is airing the grievances of European doctors on plague duty, that they get only Rs. 700 per mensem in the shape of salary. But if these medical men really consider it a hardship to work on this pay, the remedy lies in their hands,—for the Government cannot certainly compel them to serve against their will. Considering the heavy burden which the plague administration has thrown upon the exchequer, the Indians will not consider it a great loss, if European medical men refuse to work here on plague duty on Rs. 700 per mensem. The same duties can, we fear, be performed by competent and well-qualified Indians at a comparatively less cost. The cost of the plague administration in the Bombay Presidency has already assumed such a gigantic proportion that the matter is engaging the serious consideration of the Government.

The *Advocate* of Lucknow has the following under the heading, "A Bulletin":—The youthful bantling of seven summers, the dearly beloved child of Lord Ripon, is lying dangerously ill in India. Sir Alexander Mackenzie helped at the delivery of the child and nursed it for a time, but afterwards kicked it off for showing tendencies that did not suit the fancy of the nurse. In Bengal the proposal is still in a consultative stage to amend the Moffusil Local Self-Government Act, and in Bombay a Bill on the same subject has already been introduced in the Provincial Council there."

An evil affects many, some directly and some indirectly. The existing plague and the prospective famine conjointly make up an evil which will make others suffer besides those whose lot it will be to fall direct victims to its ravages. It will be remembered that the Government of India referred for their opinions, certain proposals for improving the positions and prospects of Civil Hospital Assistants, to Local Governments and Administrations. These opinions have been all received and it is understood that they are favourable to the proposals. But what of that? The matter has been shelved for the present, because of the heavy expenditure caused by the plague and the outlay likely to be occasioned by the famine. However, we are assured that the delay does not mean abandonment. So there is still hope, and hope sustaineth the heart.

There is, we learn, some chance of clerks of the office of Comptroller of Postal Accounts, who may be deputed, under the decentralization scheme, to proceed to the Central Provinces or Bombay, getting some sort of concessions; though what these are to be we are not in a position to say. We hear that Mr. Ghattak who is now acting as Assistant Comptroller here, will probably go to Bombay in the same capacity.

So, Professor Haffkine's prophylactic against plague is not an invention, at least, not in principle. Kaviraj Manishankar Govindjee of Bombay has addressed a letter to the press in which he states that in *Kalpasthan*, 6th Chapter (*Shusruta*) it has been laid down that in cases of Hydrophobia and similar affections immunity from attack might be obtained by artificially inducing the disease in the body of the patient before any perceptible progress has been made. This is exactly the principle that underlies the remedy of Professor Haffkine, though by this we do not mean to urge the infallibility of the Professor's system or to recommend it by any means.

The reader would remember that there was not long ago a proposal before the Government for the appointment of a third Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta in view of the increasing number of cases on the files of the two Stipendiary Magistrates. To this proposal, however, certain of our Anglo-Indian contemporaries, who, it appears, from their attitude, have pledged themselves to attack the present Magistrates in season and out of it, raised their voice; though for ourselves we do not find any reason why there should not be a third Magistrate, if there be work for one. We are sorry to learn that the proposal has been thrown out and that we are no longer within measurable distance of seeing the Police Bench strengthened.

Assam is to be congratulated on having a ruler who has always the good of his people at heart. The backward province is after all about to have a College of its own for the higher education of its youthful sons. The Chief Commissioner has published for general information a resolution, in which it is mentioned that a College will at once be established at Gauhati, and that the Director of Public Instruction has received orders to prepare at once the plans and estimates of the cost of additional buildings for the College classes and a hostel, as also to report on the strength and cost of the additional establishment necessary for the purpose. So Mr. Cotton's name will long be gratefully associated with the progress of the province as the pioneer of higher education there.

The crisis in the Transvaal is fast assuming a most serious aspect. The forty-eight hours granted by the Boers for the removal of British troops from the frontiers of the State have expired, and every moment brings us close and closer to the actual breaking out of active hostilities. No longer, may we expect to see the advance of the olive branch of peace; and bloodshed is all but too imminent. Reuter seems already to hear the boom of cannon, the cries of the victors and the groans of the wounded. One Anglo-Indian paper is already announcing "the Boer war." If the London telegrams of the *Pioneer* are to be credited, undercurrents of dissatisfaction exist among the Ministers at the miscarriage and delay of the military measures. We are told that the transport department has failed to prove as effective as people would like to find it at an emergency like this. Sir Redvers Buller, however, we learn on the same authority, has not yet received orders to assume command.

The curtain has now dropped on the Rangoon outrage case, so far, we believe, as the offenders are concerned. A Simla telegram to the *Englishman* announces that the authorities have now decided that the men of the West Kent Regiment who were implicated in the outrage case at Rangoon, shall be discharged from the army. We do not know, but perhaps this is the only step that the military authorities can possibly take in the matter at the present stage of affairs. The punishment that has at last been awarded is certainly not commeusurate with the inhuman brutality of the outrage, but then it would have been worse if the miscreants had been allowed to go scotfree, without even so much as a discharge, to repeat their experience elsewhere and perhaps under equally hideous circumstances. We would be glad to find them, as discharged soldiers, leaving the shores of India for ever. Let them remember that the stain they have brought on the escutcheon of the British army will not be wiped off in a hurry; and that is no small loss to the rulers in the matter of what they prize above life itself,—prestige.

Another batch of 409 refugees has been sent back to Ka hiawar.

ORIGINAL.

THE BOY AND THE COBRA.

AN INCIDENT OF A GREAT LIFE.

The child is the father of the man; and to those who can use their eyes to any purpose, the doings of the boy of tender years are to a great extent indicative of his future career. The boy who shines most in his class-room is not necessarily the most successful man in the world. The foundation of Clive's greatness, with which is intimately connected the foundation of the British Empire in India, was not laid in the school, but in the open field and the shaded wood where he would spend most of his time in robbing bird's nest and such other youthful frolics. The details of such a life are always replete with instructions. The early acts of a great man, which one is often tempted to ascribe to waywardness or rashness, will, when read in the light of his subsequent career, furnish food enough for the student of human nature. The early life of the now world-renowned Lieutenant Suresh Biswas bristles with incidents and adventures which must have marked him, even while still far away from his teens, as destined for something better than the slavery of the present-day quill-driving office Babu. The adventurous spirit which has led him to seek his fortunes in distant climes—his courage and presence of mind which have enabled him to make his mark in the history of a foreign country—were much in evidence even in his childish pranks. The following incident will at once illustrate the dauntlessness of his character and the fixity of his purpose.

Suresh was now in his seventh year and used to live partly at Calcutta, where his father had settled down, and partly at his native village. At Calcutta the boy Suresh was not at all at his ease, being unable to give full play to his animal spirits. But once in his native village he made it up by making the fields his home. Here he formed a band of his play-fellows, at the head of which he was always going after adventures. Even at this early age he loved to hear of the heroic deeds of Hannibal and Brutus, Caesar and Alexander. The account of every feat performed by these giants among men, only served to stimulate his emulation and led him to dream of the time when, with his ideals before him, he would give a free and unrestrained vent to his feelings and reduce them to actions. But he did not rest with dreaming only. As far as his tender years would permit, he laid out and carried into execution plans, such as would do credit to one of riper years and maturer judgment. The mock-fights that he played at with his companions, the garden robberies and the thousand and one tricks born of a superabundance of animal spirits, all bespoke of the genius of the boy. Such was his love for adventure that even the highest tree would not deter him from climbing it to get at a bird's nest on the topmost branch. This inborn characteristic more than once landed him in positions of difficulty and danger, and as many times did his presence of mind and dauntless courage came to his aid and enabled him to come out not only scatheless but victorious.

Once, while at Nathpur, the boy had wandered away into the fields, and while seeking for something to do, he caught sight of a bird's nest on a tree. That was enough for Suresh and in the twinkling of an eye he was making his way up to secure the prize. But there was an enemy between him and the object of his desire—a rival—a cobra - a hooded snake—was also creeping towards the same goal—with what object need not be told. But there he was slowly going, halting, looking back and finding the coast clear again proceeding. The noise which the boy made in getting up the tree soon attracted the attention of the thief and made him turn back. The ordinary cobra—as opposed to the Kautia—is naturally a shy and inoffensive creature, never acting in the offensive as long as he is let alone. But once come between him and his prey or in any other way rouse his anger, he is all fury, from the top of his hood to the point of his tail. When he turns at bay, rising on his tail, majestically swaying to and fro his expanded hood, he is not an enemy to be trifled with. Little did Suresh dream of meeting such an enemy up there. And what did he do? An ordinary boy, or for the matter of that, any grown-up man even, would have shown a clean pair of heels with a chance, ninty-nine to hundred, of getting a prick and being done for. But not so with Suresh. His presence of mind which had stood him in good stead many a once before, and without which courage is but another name for foolhardiness, came to his aid now. As soon as he saw the situation he stood motionless: not through fear though. There he stood pouring a stream of magnetic fluid from his eyes which held transfixed the cobra. This power is one of his peculiarities which has contributed not a little to enable him to make his way up on the ladder of fame. It was this power which enabled him to win a name as a wild beast tamer. Having in this way brought his enemy under control, he began to move up slowly, step by step, never for a moment taking away his eyes—open and winkless—oft the now hypnotised cobra. Slowly he advanced gathering his courage as he went, till at last he stood within a striking distance of his enemy.

Though unable to move, held down as it were, rooted to the spot by a will superior to his own, the serpent did not fail to make a supreme effort to get free from the influence of the bewitching eyes of his young adversary, and struck at Suresh. Fortunately for the boy, fortunately for India, none-the-less fortunately for Brazil, but unfortunately for the striker, the aim missed for once and spent its force and fury on a branch. The next moment, before he had time to make another effort, the neck of the serpent was within the firm grasp of Suresh's left hand. Then commenced the struggle. Unable any more to work harm with his deadly fangs, the creature had recourse to his muscular force, which is, by the way, not to be despised at. The body of the cobra began to coil itself round and round the tender arm of the seven-year old lad and press with such a force that the bones seemed to be crushing into powder. But Suresh was not a boy to let go his grip—not he. The pen-knife in his pocket, opened with help of his right hand and teeth was now brought into requisition. With it the embryo Lieutenant of the Brazilian army cut in twain the serpent and threw it down—an inert mass. All this while, all the time that he was fighting for life or death with his unnatural enemy, he did not lose sight of the object he had in view—the robbing of the bird's nest. His fight with the cobra, Suresh viewed in the light of one of the many difficulties that lie in the way of one's attaining an object, and nothing more. The difficulty surmounted, he, in his moment of victory, did not forget his ultimate object and not till he held the contents of the bird's nest in his hands, did he think of coming down. Such was the bravery, such the unflinching purpose, such the strength of mind of that lad who was to bud into one of the greatest commanders of the day.

N. C.

A COOLY CASE.

Here is the judgment of the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet in an appeal preferred by a cooly against a decision of the Sub-divisional Officer of Karimgunj directing certain coolies to serve in Hatikhira tea garden for terms covered by agreements alleged to have been executed by them:—

So far as I understand this case the agreements set up by the Manager Hatikhira are agreements under Act XIII of 1859. This being so if Raghu Nath's story be true as to the interference with the coolies as they were attempting to leave the garden, then such interference constituted an offence under Sec. 341 I. P. C. Under Act XIII a Manager has no power of arrest. His only remedy is to apply to the Magistrate for a warrant. Were it not so, Act XIII, which provides no agency for the protection of coolies induced to give agreements on receipt of advances, would become a veritable Slave Act. Complaints of illegal detention of Act XIII coolies, therefore, demand close investigation.

It does not appear that Raghu Nath's petition is a formal request for prosecution of the persons who wrongfully restrained his relations, therefore I shall not deal with it under the Criminal Procedure Code.

I find, however, that the enquiry by the Sub-divisional Officer into the question of the validity of the alleged agreements was most incomplete, no evidence whatever being recorded on the side of the petitioners except that of Saran Koiri, and on the side of the manager only that of a garden clerk, the whole effect of whose evidence is destroyed by his admission that he could not identify two of the coolies whose agreements he professed to be proving.

Agreements of so one-sided a nature as those alleged by the said clerk, to have been executed, must, if verbal, be proved to the hilt by adequate oral evidence, and if the agreements were reduced to the form of a document, in what, I see Mr. Skinner terms an "agreement Register," it must be seen whether the provisions of sections 98 and 92 of the Evidence Act and of section 34 of the Stamps Act (1 of 1879) have been complied with before the validity of the agreements can be pronounced upon.

Again, if, as is alleged by Raghu Nath in his appeal petition (part 2), it be true that, prior to the execution of these Act XIII agreements, a petition was filed before the Sub-divisional Officer, Karimganj, asking for leave on behalf of himself and the rest to quit the garden, the inference would be almost irresistible that the alleged agreements were obtained by fraud or compulsion. A bonus of 8 As a month for a year's service on an unhealthy garden would hardly be likely to induce an unwilling coolie to remain.

The case is returned to the Sub-divisional Officer with the above remarks for further enquiry which should be held at an early date and care should be taken that the enquiry is full and thorough.

The record of the case with the decision arrived at should be forwarded to me for information on completion of the enquiry.

Plague News.

PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

Of ten cases reported on Thursday nine are said to have ended fatally. These were distributed over the various wards as follows:—1 and 1 in No. 5; 1 and 1 in No. 6; 1 and 1 in No. 8; 3 and 3 in No. 9; 1 case in No. 11; 1 and 1 in No. 14; 1 and 1 in No. 15; 1 and 1 in No. 22. The total mortality was 63 as against 59, the mean of the last five years.

KARACHI FIGURES.

Plague returns for September 29th to October 5th show an increase in plague cases. There were six cases and three deaths, and two cases of cholera and one death.

BOMBAY RETURNS.

The plague attacks in Bombay on Thursday last, number 10, and plague deaths 22, the total mortality being 106. Last year it was 126, and in 1897, 1,108.

POONA MORTALITY.

On Thursday 19 cases and 27 deaths were recorded in the Poona city, the total mortality being 42. In the Cantonment there were one case and three deaths, in the Suburban area three cases and one death, in the district 201 cases and 170 deaths.

POONA HOSPITAL RETURNS.

Nine patients are left in the Sassoon Hospital, all of whom are doing well, except Master Lobo. Up to Thursday 54 patients were admitted, of whom 24 died, 20 being Eurasians and four Europeans. Out of these 54 only one was inoculated and he recovered. Mrs. Adams, wife of the District Superintendent of Police, Dharwar, has been attacked with plague at Dharwar.

The Secretary of State has sanctioned the commencement of work on the Jubbulpore Gondia Railway project as a relief work.

His Excellency the Viceroy will visit some centres in the Central Provinces.

Mr. J. E. O'Conor, Director-General of Statistics, left for Calcutta on Monday morning.

Dr. Sime, Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, probably gets a year's extension of service.

The Burma Government are offering a reward of Rs. 500 for the first full-sized specimen of leathery turtle.

Intimation has been received that Dr. Lingard's private Library, worth about Rs. 20,000, has also been burnt down at Mukteswar.

The first meeting of the Legislative Council of the N.-W. Provinces, after the return of the Government to the plains, will be held at Lucknow on the 15th November.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

Public Works Department.—Mr. W. A. Inglis, Superintending Engineer, Orissa Circle, has been granted furlough for one year and three months, Babu Mohendra Nath Dutt, Assistant Engineer, has been transferred temporarily, in the interests of the public service, from the 1st Calcutta to the Darjeeling Division.

Small Cause Court.—The Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, has been closed from Wednesday, reopening after the Dussera vacation on Monday, 6th November. No Hindus can be arrested, or processes of any kind served on Hindus, from the 11th to 14th instant. Mr. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman and Mr. C. D. Panioty will be the vacation Judges.

A Railway Grievance.—The resident of Purulia find it a common thing to receive goods over a week after they have been booked at Howrah. Is this, asks the *Chota Nagpore News*, entirely the fault of the B. N. Railway, or might it not rather be ascribed to the friction that is known to exist between the B. N. Railway and the E. I. Railway, and the consequent bad arrangements at Assansol?

Darjeeling Relief.—Mr. C. Lawrie Johnston, the Sheriff of Calcutta, has received some telegrams, in reply to an offer to start a fund in Calcutta for the relief of the sufferers in the recent disaster at Darjeeling, stating that sufficient funds have already been locally subscribed. Mr. Nolan, the President of the Relief Committee, however, states that, should additional monetary assistance be required, he will acquaint Mr. Johnstone with the fact.

Weather and Crop Report.—Rain is reported to have fallen generally in Bengal Proper and Bihar, but there was practically none in Orissa and Chota Nagpur during the week. Heavy rain has caused considerable damage in Darjeeling, and some local damage in Bhagalpur and the Sonthal Parganas. The general prospects of the crops continue favourable, except in Orissa and Chota Nagpur. The reports from Angul, Puri, Palamau, and Singhbhum are very unsatisfactory. The harvesting of the autumn crops is being rapidly completed, and the preparation of the fields for the spring crops is being carried on. The price of common rice is reported to have risen in Darjeeling, Cuttack, Puri, Angul, and Hazaribagh; elsewhere it is practically stationary. Cattle-disease continues to be reported from a few districts. Fodder is generally sufficient.

Departure of the Lieutenant-Governor.—His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, who was accompanied by the Hon. Mr. Bolton, Chief Secretary to Government; Mr. Pugh, the Inspector-General of Government Railway Police; and Captain Horsford A. D. C., left the Sealdah terminus on Tuesday afternoon by the mail for Darjeeling. Though the departure was private, there was a large number of officials and others to see Sir John off. After spending a few minutes in conversation with those on the platform, His Honor and party stepped into the reserved special saloon, and the train steamed out under the usual salute fired from the ramparts of Fort William. A pony was sent on to Kurseong on Sunday from Calcutta for the use of the Governor, on his way thither to Darjeeling. Mr. Bolton and Captain Horsford will also accompany him on horse back. Special arrangements have been made for the journey by the Railway officials.

Corporation of Calcutta.—A general meeting of the Corporation was held on Tuesday with Mr. Bright in the chair. There were altogether nineteen Commissioners present. The business was principally of a formal nature, and all of them were carried without any opposition. There was a letter from Babu Nalin Behari Sircar relating to his serving on the Port Trust as the representative of the Corporation. As he had resigned the Commissionership of the Corporation, he was willing to resign his membership on the Port Trust if the Corporation would so desire. Mr. Tremearne made an impressive speech recognising and appreciating the merits of Babu Nalin Behari, of whom the late Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the father of the Calcutta Municipal Bill, had said that if he thought that the effect of the new Municipal Bill would be to deprive the Municipality of the services of men like Babus Nalin Behari and Kali Nath Mitter, he would throw the proposed Bill into the fire. Mr. Tremearne moved a vote of confidence in Babu Nalin Behari Sircar, which was unanimously carried. It was then resolved unanimously, on the motion of the Chairman, that Babu Nalin Behary Sircar should remain the Corporation's representative in the Port Trust.

Wholesale Poisoning.—A Bankipur correspondent writes:—There is a mess here composed of 9 students reading in the Behar School of Engineering, situated very close to that School. It so happened that on the morning of Wednesday last, their servant being a little out of sorts went home and sent his little boy, only 12 years old, to act for him. Now, an altercation ensued between the cook of the mess and the boy-servant, when the students were away, and as it afterwards transpired, the boy's mother coming to her son's help threatened the cook that she would teach him a good lesson for handling her son roughly as also the other inmates for not taking her son's cause. The students, as usual, took their night meals at 9-30 P. M. that evening but after the lapse of 15 minutes they all simultaneously began to feel an unusually itching sensation in their throats. A little while after they began, one after another to vomit and purge. Babu Jogendra Nath Ganguli, one of their teachers living close by, was speedily informed and he at once sent for Dr. Asdar Ali Khan, a local medical man. Before the morning dawned, the affair took a very serious turn and some of the students had 17 or 18 stools during that comparatively short period of 8 hours only. The doctor pronounced that "Jamalgotta," a kind of poison, had been administered either with their food or with the water The doctor was disappointed when he wanted a little water for examination as there was no water left The students are coming round gradually and, as the doctor said, the culprit, whoever he or she might be, either through ignorance or purposely did administer a sufficient quantity of poison to have caused the deaths of so many persons at a time. The case is under Police investigation. The boy-servant as well as his mother have denied the accusation. The vomits have been sent for examination to the Chemical Examiner in Calcutta.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE DARJEELING DISASTER.—The railway is open to Toong, thence four hours' ride to Darjeeling. Mr. Jones, of the Livery Stables, is supplying steady mountain ponies to cover this distance.

ARRIVAL AT DARJEELING.—The Hon. Mr. C. W. Bolton, C. S. I., arrived at Darjeeling on Thursday from Kurseong. He and Mrs. Bolton are staying at Rockville Hotel, Southfield being uninhabitable.

FINALE OF AN ADULTERY CASE.—After a protracted trial, the charge brought by Mr. Jahans against Mr. Mungavin of adultery with his wife, better known as the Sooterkin Lane scandal, was thrown out on Friday by a majority of the try Honorary Bench.

A FREAK OF NATURE.—A correspondent writes to the *East Coast News*:—"I hear from a reliable source that in a village called Bursiguda in the Kotapad Thana, of the Jeypore Samastanam, a Poraja woman gave birth to a pig of white colour baving one head, three ears, two eyes, eight legs, two waists and two tails. The pig died immediately after birth and the woman is doing well.

A DACCA MURDER CASE.—On Friday at the Alipore Criminal Sessions before Mr. Geidt, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Mohabat Ali Khan, a rich trader of Dacca, was charged with having killed his nominal partner Jalfikar Khan and attempted to kill his Gomasta in the course of a dispute over accounts. The trial is proceeding.

COMMUTATION OF SENTENCE—On Friday Mr. Pargiter, District Judge of Alipur, heard a criminal appeal preferred by two young respectable men and a woman of the town who had been sentenced to various terms of rigorous imprisonment by the lower court on a charge of having robbed a pleader of the local Bar. The Judge sentenced the first prisoner to fifteen stripes in lieu of eighteen months' imprisonment, acquitted the second and reduced the sentence on the third from six months to three months.

BARODA GOALINI'S CASE.—This case hsa just come to a close at Burdwan. The Sessions Judge has found both the accused guilty of having wrongfully confined the woman and outraging her modesty, and has sentenced them o one year's rigorous imprisonment each.

THE POLICE COURT.—The Durga Poojah holidays in the Police Court will commence on Monday, the 9th, and last up to Friday, the 20th instant. The Southern Division Court will remain open on the 9th and 11th and the Northern Division Court on the 16th and 19th. The Bench of Honorary Magistrate sitting singly will also sit for the disposal of cases as arranged by Mr. Pearson prior to his departure on leave.

DARJEELING RELIEF COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of the Darjeeling Relief Committee, Mr. Nolan presiding, it was decided that the sum required for charitable relief in the Darjeeling district is Rs. 15,000. Mr. Nolan states that Rs. 13,500 have been already collected, and he expects the balance will be raised locally. The Committee have, therefore, declined offers to raise subscription in Calcutta.

A FREAK OF NATURE.—Babu Nabin Chandra Gupta, Native Doctor, Sahar, writes: "On the 1st instant at about 6 P. M. a chowkidar of Paturia, a village under the jurisdiction of the Sahar outpost, came with an animal which resembled a tiger cub. He said that it was born of a she-buffalo belonging to him. The little one was in every respect a tiger cub except that it had its left foreleg only hoofed like that of a buffalo. The birth was a premature one and the buffalo-tiger cub was still-born. There were many eye-witnesses and I myself saw it..

THE L.-G. AT DARJEELING.—The Lieutenant-Governor, accompanied by Captain Horsford, A. D. C., arrived at the Shrubbery at 6-15 o'clock on Wednesday having ridden up from Toong. Mr. Pughe, Assistant Inspector-General of Railway Police, accompanied him; also he was met on the road to Darjeeling by Mr. Greer, Inspector-General of Police, and Mr. Barnard, Assistant Manager of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway. His Honour had some difficulty in accomplishing the ride owing to a sharp attack of fever. The Hon. Mr. C. W. Bolton, who accompanied His Honour from Calcutta, remained at Kurseong for the night.

THE POLICE IN THE DARJEELING DISASTER.—An exhaustive inquiry has been made into the conduct of the police on the night of the storm as serious charges of cowardice have been levelled against them in some quarters. The inquiry reveals many acts of heroism, and reflects the greatest possible credit on the police. Wherever the native police had a leader, they readily and willingly risked their lives. In two cases only the police declined to leave their post without leaders, but had these little Goorkha policemen been led, they would have maintained their reputation for bravery. All the people speak highly of the dash and daring of the police, especially of Mr. O'Connor, the Inspector in charge, who led on his Goorkhas where others feared to go.

HURRICANE AT SAUGOR ISLAND.—A correspondent writes:—At about 1-15 on Saturday, the 30th of August, a small tornado of considerable force passed over the Telegraph and Lighthouse station of Saugor Island doing damage to the thatched hut, etc., within the railed enclosure, and whisking the poultry and sheep about in a surprising manner. But the force of the W. S. W. gale seemed to be concentrated on the storm signal drum and cones, which were hung on the palisades ready for hoisting, if required; these the whirling winds passed and twirled about madly, as if making an effort to run them up to the mast-head. The storm began with a N. E. wind and thunder, in a cloud to the eastward, and suddenly the wind hauled into W. S. W. and blew violently, as described above. The appearance over-head is said to have been as if steam was rushing violently about, within a circle of about a hundred feet or so. From a distance of 2¾ miles S. W. it had the appearance of a well-formed tromb or water spout, without the usual lower sea attachment which produces its quota of water vapours in the exhaust caused by the whirl; this absence of disturbance of the water, between the ship and the tree-lined shore, showed that the whirl was over the land, as it turned out to be. After about ten minutes the tromb was lost in the rain. The barometer kept at the Saugor Observatory was greatly agitated by the oscillating pressures, and doubtless the self-recording instruments have produced interesting data for the central office to discuss, as they are only a few yards away from the line of march of the tornado.

THE L.-G'S HEALTH.—We regret to learn that fever has not left Sir John Woodburn. We are, however, glad that the attack is not of a severe type.

THE PARBATIPUR STATION-MASTER'S CASE

(From our Own Correspondent).

DINAJPUR, OCT. 2.

THE trial of Babu Ashu Tosh Mukerjee, Station-master, Bhowanipur, who had been committed to the Sessions by Babu Kali Das Mukerjee, Deputy Magistrate, was taken up to-day. The Station-master is charged under (1) Section 307 I. P. Code (attempt to murder), (2) Section 353 I. P. Code (using criminal force to deter a public servant from discharging his duty), (3) Sec 224 I. P. Code (resistance by a person to his lawful apprehension).

For the prosecution there appeared the Government Pleader; for the accused Babus Lalit Chandra Sen and Madhu Sudan Ray.

Police Sub-Inspector Ashu Tosh Sircar, cross-examined, said:—On the 23rd August last I was an Inspector. I am now a Sub-Inspector. I have been degraded for making contradictory statements in a judicial proceeding. I took Satish Chandra Ghosh, Head Constable Parbatipur, with me. Satish shouted out "Station-master Babu, come out, we have come to arrest you," only once. He was behind me. After coming out of the station premises some of us went to the north, some to the south to surround the house of the Station-master. After Satish had shouted out "Station-master Babu, come out, &c.," we went close to the door of the house when the gun was fired. The gun was fired about one cubit from the door. The last was about 2 cubits long. I did not see the gun. I did not see who fired the gun. The house is a pucca building. It is a large building and contains several compartments which are occupied by the Asstt. Station-master and the signaller. I have heard that the Station-master and the Asstt. Station-master live with families. When I stood near this door I saw it closed from inside. I did not see any other Police officer excepting my men. I took with me, one Head Constable, 6 constables and 4 chowkidars and 1 Railway constable. I collected a number of persons, about 10 or 12, from the neighbouring villages. Then Head Constables Sita Nath and Kunja Lal came with a large number of persons. After they had come I procured 4 or 5 guns from the neighbouring villages. We fired the guns. I took these men with me because I feared that like the Daroga, Mathur Babu, we might be beaten. Some of the constables had sticks with them. I took no firearms from Parbatipur. I don't know from whom the guns were procured. In my report to the district Magistrate I did not mention the fact that Satish had shouted out "Station-master, come out, &c." because I did not think it necessary. I know it is imperative on the part of the executing officer to notify the substance of the warrant to the person whom he is to arrest. No one was put on the roof of the house of the Station-master. I did not make a note of the names of the private individuals who were brought to strengthen our force. I arrested the accused next morning. I did not order any one present to get the gun from the house of the Station-master because I did not think it necessary.

The Court.—Why did you not order any one to bring the gun when you arrested the Station-master?

Witness—The wife of the Station-master was taking it bitterly, so I thought it better to remove the accused to the station first and then to send for the gun.

The Court—Your excuse is a lame one. A very lucid explanation indeed! I never heard of such—in my life.

The Court—When did you tell Sita Nath to bring the gun?

Witness—I told him to bring the gun when we were starting.

The Court—Why did you not go yourself to bring the gun?

Witness.—Because I thought the exasperated Head Constable and constables will assault him (accused)

The Court—Then you were afraid the Head Constable will tear the man from limb to limb.

Witness—Yes.

Continuing, witness said:—I did not ask Sita Nath to search for powder, cap or ball in the house of the Station-master. I did not give him any written authority to search the house of the Station-master. When I arrested the Station-master he had a single piece of cloth on his person. He was bare-footed then. He had neither *chaddar* nor any shirt nor coat on his person. In that state we took him to Dinajpur.

The Court.—Is it? Well, Ashu Babu, I must tell you one thing. Your behavior towards the Station-master has not been what it should have been. Even if he was guilty of the offence he is charged with, he was not deserving of such treatment at your hands.

We then took him to Habra. Habra is 2 miles from Bhowanipur. We walked the distance. The Station-master informed me that a train was due then. He offered to pay 1st-class fares for me, 1 HeadConstable, 1 constable and 1 chowkidar. I did not agree to the proposal of the Station-master. There is no regular road from Bhowanipur to Habra. There is water in many places. He was hand-cuffed at the station. We did not make him carry our shoes.

The Court—Who produced the gun before you from the house of the accused?

Witness.—Head Constable Sita Nath.

The Court—But in your deposition before the Magistrate you said that it was Satis Chandra Ghosh who produced the gun. What have you to say on the subject?

Witness—By Satis Chandra Ghosh I meant Sita Nath Banerjee.

The Court.—In your report on the back of the telegram you said that you notified the substance of the warrant to the accused, while in your subsequent report and in examination-in-chief you did not mention the fact. How do you explain the matter?

Witness—Satish Chandra Ghosh called out to the accused in my presence. I thought it was all the same whether I called out to the accused or Satish Ghosh.

DINAJPUR, OCT. 5.

THE trial of Babu Ashutosh Mookerjee Station-master, Bhowanipur, who had been committed to the Sessions by Babu Kali Das Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate, was continued on Tuesday. The accused is charged under Sections 307, 353 and 224, Indian Penal Code. For the prosecution there appeared the Government Pleader, and for the accused Babus Lalit Chandra Sen and Modhu Sudhan Roy, pleaders.

Head-constable Satish Chandra Ghosh, cross-examined, said:—I am a subordinate of Mathur Babu, Police Sub-Inspector, Parbatipur. After we reached Bhowanipur, I asked the signaller in what part of their house did the accused live. The gun was fired through loopholes in the wall of *verandah*. Head-constable Sita Nath reached Bhowanipur at about 3 or 3-30 P. M. with about 50 or 60 people. I don't remember how many times we fired guns. I saw a gun in the hands of Sita Nath. He might have fired the guns. I remember that in July last the Station-master telegraphed to the District Magistrate complaining that I had forcibly taken away villagers to gather evidence against him. I admit I had gone to the houses of some *dagis* of Bhowanipur. I went on elephant. Mathur Babu instituted a case of theft of a door-frame against the Station-master. The case was reported by the Railway Police as false. Mathur Babu reported to the Inspector of Post-offices against the Station-master for having used a Postal Service cover for his private use. Mathur Babu reported the Station-master as a bad character. The door-frame was returned to the Station-master under orders of the District Magistrate. I don't know if I am called *chota* Daroga. The door of the house of the accused appeared to be shut from inside. The Inspector did not call out to the accused. I did not see the gun nor do I know who fired it. Mathur Babu has 2 guns. I did not bring any gun from Parbatipur. I don't know why I was taken to Bhowanipur. The Inspector, Head-constable Kunja Lall and I were present when the accused was arrested. I did not try to beat the accused nor did Sita Nath. On coming to the Railway station with the accused, the Inspector ordered Sita Nath to fetch the gun. We were about 10 or 15 minutes at the station. 5 or 7 minutes after Sita Nath returned with the gun.

The Court:—According to your own calculation the Inspecter must have been there when Sita Nath returned with the gun.

Witness:—I did not say the Inspector ordered Sita Nath to fetch the gun immediately after he had gone to the station. I don't know why the Inspector did not wait till the gun had been brought. We went to the Habra Cutchery because the Station-master complained of fever. We stopped at Habra for about half-an-hour. The accused offered to pay first-class fare for the party. We did not agree to the proposal. At the time of arrest the accused said he did not know that the Inspector had gone there to arrest him. I did not tell the Deputy Magistrate about the firing of guns.

Head-constable Sita Nath Banerjee, cross-examined, said:—The accused was arrested at the door of his house. No one ordered me to peep into the room. I entered the verandah and peeped from there. I don't remember if I peeped from elsewhere. The accused's quarters contain three compartments. I saw the outer compartment. I don't remember if I said in the lower Court that I did not peep into the room where the accused's wife was. Satish Ghose was behind me when I peeped. I don't remember who else were there. I and Satish were there to console the weeping wife of the accused.

The Court: I see very kind-hearted fellows you are.

Satish consoled her saying,—She need not fear for her husband. He would be released on bail. We had been there not only to console her but to see if any body else was there. Peeping and consoling took 5 minutes. I and Satish went to the station together. After 10 or 12 minutes I was told by the Inspector to bring the gun. The Inspector asked me to search the house in case they refused to deliver the gun. I did not suggest to him to authorise me to search for powder, caps or balls. I did not find powder, etc., in the front room. Mathur Babu has 2 guns. They were in my charge. Mathur Babu is in the habit of taking guns with him when he goes on investigation. I collected men from neighbouring villages. Kailash Thakur of Khamerpara, Shamatulla of Kalikapur, Major Sarkar of Khalilpur supplied us with guns and powder. It took me 5 or 7 minutes to take the gun from the house of the accused to the station. I did not show the gun to the Inspector. I then prepared a list under sec. 103 Cr. P. Code.

The Court.—Why did you not prepare the list under sec 103 Criminal Procedure Code when you seized the gun?

Witness—I have no explanation to offer why I did not prepare the list then and there. Kachimuddin of Khamerpara is a witness in the list. He is a *dagi*. Khamerpara is ½ *cose* from Bhowanipnr. Major is the collecting Panchayet of Khalilpur. He is also a witness in the list. Nidhu Sarcar and Major are also witnesses. They belong to Kalikapur, which is 2 miles off from Bhowanipur.

The Court.—Did you send for any respectable inhabitants of the locality?

Witness.—No. I did not.

After preparing the list I started at once to catch up with the Inspector, but I failed. I went to Parbatipur on foot. On reaching Parbatipur I went to the station first. But the train had left then. I did not come to Dinajpur by the night train nor by the morning train. I reached Dinajpur at 12 next day with the gun.

Constable Bachon Ali, cross-examined, said:—Major Sarkar called out to the accused towards the close of the night. Major called twice. Accused was hand-cuffed at the station. At 7-30 in the morning we started for Parbatipur on foot. I don't know who fired the gun. I did not see the gun. Sita Nath Babu fired 2 blank-shots in the morning.

The Court.—Did you tell the Deputy Magistrate about the firing of guns in the morning?

Ans.—No, I did not.

Sher Ali, Railway-constable, cross-examined, said:—After getting the house of the accused surrounded by the men the Inspector twice shouted out to the accused. The gun was fired about 10 or 12 minutes after the 2nd shout. I returned to Parbatipur by a goods train. It seems to me that the gun was fired from inside the house. The accused had a single piece of cloth when arrested. I can't say who fired the gun.

THE Kolahpur poisoning case is going on. Colonel Wray, the Political Agent of Kolahpur, gave his evidence on Thursday last. The public prosecutor, thereafter, asked for a ten day's remand, which was opposed on behalf of the accused Farnendez. The Court did not think that so far the evidence did not justify a remand. The Public Prosecutor next applied for one day's remand at least, and the case was remanded till Thursday following.

THE MUNICIPAL BYE-ELECTIONS.

A FIASCO.

THURSDAY, October 5, was the date fixed for holding the bye-elections to fill up the vacancies caused by the resignation of twenty-eight elected Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality. Beyond the announcement of the date in the newspapers, there was nothing in the town to show, if Ward No 9 was alone excepted, that any election was coming on. The din and bustle attendant upon such events were conspicuously absent, there being no strings of carriages, usually seen on such occasions, carrying voters to polling-booths; no crowd of voters at or around the polling stations. In short, no body in Calcutta seemed to know that an election was to take place—an election in which they had all along been accustomed to take part with so much enthusiasm. Those of us, who remember a similar event during the *regime* of Sir Rivers Thompson when thirty two elected Commissioners resigned and the same thirty-two were returned by an overwhelming majority wherever there was a contest, know that this lack of interest in the present elections was not due to the fact that it was merely a bye-election the term of office being only for the short period of six months. There was, however, a keen contest in Ward No. 9. Babu Narendra Nath Sen had been one of the sitting Commissioners of this Ward, the other Commissioner being Dr. Zahiruddin. By the resignation of Babu Narendra Nath Sen there was one vacancy caused in the ward. There were, however, two candidates offering themselves for election—Babu Debendra Nath Dutt and Mirza Mahomed Aly. The consert in this ward was somewhat keen. Babu Debendra Nath Dutt was the only Hindu candidate nominated by any of the town wards. Being asked, a prominent rate-payer of the ward told our reporter that the object of bringing Babu Debendra Nath forward was that in the event of his success it would show to the Government what sort of Commissioners they would get under the new system.

The Calcutta Municipality is divided into 25 wards and the vacancies caused by the resignation were in twenty-one of them. There were no resignations in wards nos 7, 12, 16 and 18.

In wards 1, 2, 3 and 4, all the sitting Commissioners, viz, Babus Bhupendranath Bose, Pasupati Nath Bose, Chandi Lal Sing, N. N. Ghose, Kally Nath Mitter, Akshoy K. Bose, Nalin Behari Sircar, and Kumar Manmatha Nath Mitter, had resigned, but no candidates came forward to fill up the vacancies. Consequently no Commissioners were returned from these wards.

In ward 5 only one Commissioner, Babu Lalbehari Bysack had resigned, while the other, Kumar Dinendra Narayen, had retained his seat. The name of Babu Radhanath Addy had been sent up to fill up the vacancy in this ward. Babu Radhanath, however, withdrew his name from the list of candidates. The vacancy in this ward, therefore, was not filled up.

In ward 6 there were two vacancies caused by the resignation of Babus Amarendra Nath Chatterjee and Radha Churn Pal and the names of three candidates were sent up, but all of them refused to stand at the last moment.

In ward 8 there was one vacancy caused by the resignation of Babu Sree Nath Dutt. A Mahomedan gentleman, S. Mahboob Ally, offered himself as a candidate. There was no opposition.

In ward 9, as stated above, there was one vacancy caused by the resignation of Babu Narendranath Sen. There were two candidates in the field and consequently there was a contest. The result of the poll at about 6 P. M. was—Babu Debendra Nath Dutt—412 votes; Mirza Mahomed Ally—194 votes. At about 5 minutes to 6, the Mahomedan candidate withdrew from the contest on the ground of his not having the remotest chance of being returned. The successful candidate, Babu Debendra Nath, however, withdrew at the last moment, leaving the seat unoccupied.

In ward 10 there were two vacancies caused by the resignation of Babus Surendra Nath Dass and Raj Chunder Chunder. Here three candidates had originally offered themselves for election. Mr. Pritchard, one of the candidates, having withdrawn, Mr. E. S. Andrews and Syed Karim Aga were returned unopposed.

In ward 11 there was one vacancy caused by the resignation of Babu Deva Prosad Sarbadhikari. There was no candidate for election from the ward.

In ward 13 both the sitting Commissioners, Babus Mohini Mohan Chatterjee and Benode Behari Banerjee, had resigned. There were originally four candidates for election from this ward—three Europeans or Eurasians and one Mahomedan. Two of the candidates having withdrawn, Mr. H. A. Stark and Mr. J. H. Valentine were returned unopposed.

In ward 14 the only Hindu Commissioner, the Hon'ble Surendra Nath Banerjee had resigned. Mr. W. C. Madge was returned unopposed in his place.

In ward 15 there was one vacancy caused by the resignation of Moulvi Syed Shams ul Huda, the only Mahomedan Commissioner who had resigned. His place was filled up by the return of Mr. C. M. Connew unopposed.

In ward 17, Mr. J. Ghosal, the sitting Commissioner, having resigned, Moulvi Aga Mahomed Isa was returned unopposed.

In ward 19 there was one vacancy caused by the resignation of Babu Amrita Lal Ghose. Mr. John Laird of Goureeparah Road stepped into his place unopposed.

In ward 20 Babu Jyoti Prokas Ganguly had resigned. Three candidates, Moulvies Atwar Rahman and Ikram Ali Khan and Mr. E. C. Bayley, offered themselves for election. There was consequently a contest in this ward.

In ward 21 Babu Kanty Chandra Banerjee had resigned, but no one offered himself for election here.

In ward 22 Babu Jogendra Chandra Ghose had resigned. The name of a Hindu candidate was sent up for election, but he refused to stand. The vacancy here was, therefore, not filled up.

In ward 23 there was one vacancy due to the resignation of Babu Ramtaran Banerjee. Originally the name of a candidate was sent up but he withdrew.

In ward 24 Babu Surendra Nath Ray had been the sitting member. He had resigned along with the 28 Commissioners. He offered himself for re-election. No one contested him.

In ward 25 there was one vacancy caused by the resignation of Rai Moni Lal Banerjee Bahadur. Here two candidates offered themselves for election. There was consequently a contest.

TELEGRAMS.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.]

A PETITION FOR MERCY.

(From a Correspondent.)

SYLHET, OCT. 5.

An appeal for mercy has been submitted to His Excellency the Viceroy by Brajapatni, a condemned prisoner in the Sylhet Jail, who had petitioned Mr. Cotton for mercy on the grounds of his confession having been extorted by the police and his having gone undefended in all the courts, the only corroborative evidence against him being that of the wife of the deceased who had first informed the chowkidar that her husband had died of cholera. The Sessions Judge, it is said, had expressed himself in favour of a commutation of the sentence. Mr. Cotton, however, having declined to interfere with the capital sentence passed on the petitioner, the latter has now appealed to his Excellency the Viceroy and to Her Majesty the Empress of India. The prisoner's application to the Jail Superintendent for the examination of the marks of torture on his person, which are still visible together with the Civil Surgeon's remarks thereon have also been submitted to the Viceroy, through the Chief Commissioner of Assan. The case hsa created great local sensation.

THE BHOWANIPUR STATION-MASTER'S CASE.

ACQUITTAL OF THE ACCUSED.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

DINAJPUR, OCT. 5.

Babu Ashutosh Mukerjee, Station-master, Bhowanipur, who was committed to the Sessions on charges of attempt at murder, using criminal force to a public servant to deter him from discharging his duty, resistence to arrest has been acquitted this day by the Sessions Judge, who has entirely and absolutely disbelieved the story of the prosecution. Great stress has been laid by him on the conduct of the Parbatipur police.

The case against Ashu Babu under Section 211 I. P. Code brought by the Police has also been disposed of. The trying Senior Deputy Magistrate has declared the allegations contained in the Station-master's telegram to the District Magistrate, to be true.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, OCT. 3.

The Hawarden Castle, Lismore Castle, Roslin Castle and Harleeh Castle have been chartered as transports, and ordered to be ready in ten days. They will accommodate 4,000 men.

LONDON, OCT. 3.

Colonel Brocklehurst, of the Blues, will sail in the Mexican to command the Cavalry Division, Natal. Major Gironard, constructor of the Soundan Railway, will also leave in the Mexican for the Cape.

LONDON, OCT. 3.

The first race between the Columbia and Shamrock for the America Cup came off today, and was without result, as the time limit was exceeded. The Shamrock had a slight lead.

LONDON, OCT. 3.

Captain Austin and Captain Brake have been awarded the Distinguished Service Order for services in East Africa.

LONDON. OCT. 4.

The Government have chartered the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamers Formosa and Oriental to convey troops to the Cape. The steamer Nubia also goes to the Cape instead of taking out India reliefs.

LONDON, OCT. 4.

The Transvaal has seized half a million of gold which was going to Capetown, and also retains possession of about 400 railway trucks belonging to the Cape.

LONDON, OCT. 5, (MIDNIGHT.)

Strong rumours are current that the Transvaal has sent an ultimatum to the British Government demanding the withdrawal of the British forces from the frontier within 48 hours. It is even stated that the limit has almost expired.

LONDON, OCT. 5.

The advance of the Boers into Natal as stated by the *Daily Telegraph* has not yet been officially confirmed. A later telegram received from Newcastle by the Government states there is no immediate cause for alarm, and that the panic which took place there owing to the reported advance of the Boers has been arrested.

LONDON, OCT. 6.

The troops which have just arrived at Durban where landed at once and hurried to front.

LONDON OCT. 6.

There is great disappointment at the Cape at the delay which is taken place at home in the dispatch of troops from England. Major General Colvile has been selected to command a brigade in South Africa.

LONDON, OCT. 6.

The second race for the America Cup took place to-day and was again without result.

LONDON, OCT. 5, MIDNIGHT.

The British Foreign Office knows nothing of the Boer ultimatum having been handed to the British Agent at Pretoria.

LONDON, OCT. 6.

The chief Boer concentration is taking place in the neighbourhood of Volksrust, where it is estimated that between 18,000 and 22,000 men have been already assembled, but these figures are probabiy an exaggeration.

LONDON, OCT. 6.

The last arrivals of troops ftom India are regarded as rendering the military situation in Natal secure.

LONDON, OCT. 6.

The Australian commandants, who have been sitting in conference at Melbourne, have recommended that a force of 2,000 men be sent to South Africa.

LONDON, OCT. 6.

Mr. Chamberlain has telegraphed suggesting that 250 men be sent each from New South Wales and Victoria, and 125 from South Australia, besides the Queensland contingent already accepted. Preference will be given to infantry. West Australia will also send a Contingent.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE STAMP DEPARTMENT.

THE following passages are taken from the Resolution on the Report for the three years ending the 31st March :-

The Acts under which the stamp revenue was collected during the triennial period under review were the Indian Stamp Act, I of 1879, and the Court Fees Act, VII of 1870, as modified by subsequent enactments. The former Act was further amended by the enactment of Act XIII of 1897, in which provision was made for composition of duty payable in respect of bonds, debentures and other certificates issued under the Local Authorities Loans Act, 1879 or any other law for the time being in force. Provision was at the same time made for leaving such bonds, debentures or other certificates unstamped. After the close of the year 1898-99, the new Indian Stamp Act, II of 1899, which revised and consolidated the Act of 1879, and received the assent of the Governor-General in Council in January 1899, came into force The Court Fees Act of 1870 was also further amended by Act XI of 1899, with the object, first, of providing a check on the undervaluation of estates by persons applying for probate of a will or for letters of administration, and secondly, of giving the revenue authorities greater facilities for the realisation of the full amount of the duty payable on probates and letters of administration. This Act came into force with effect from the 10th March 1899, and it is yet too early to offer any remarks on its working. The changes made during the past three years in the rules issued by Government, though numerous and important from a departmental point of view, are not of sufficient general interest to call for special notice in this place. The administration of the Stamp Department in the Sonthal Parganas, which, since the passing of Act XXXVII of 1855, had been under the Commissioner, came under the Board of Revenue with effect from the 1st April 1898.

The gross average annual revenue collected under both the Indian Stamp Act and the Court Fees Act, during the three years under review, was Rs.1,75,72,309 against Rs. 1,64,82,973 collected during the preceding triennium, thus showing an increase of Rs. 10,89,336, which was contributed both by non-judicial and judicial stamps in the proportion of Rs. 3,67,360 and Rs. 7,22,476, respectively.

The average receipts were again highest in Calcutta (Rs. 25,95,374), where nearly one-seventh of the entire stamp revenue was collected, and lowest in Singhbhum (Rs. 21,077). Mymensingh contributed more than 9½ lakhs, 24-Parganas nearly 7½ lakhs, Dacca more than 7¼ lakhs, Tippera over 7 lakhs, Backergunge nearly 7 lakhs, Midnapore 6⅔ lakhs, Chittagong, Faridpur and Muzaffarpur over 4½ lakhs each, Jessore, Rangpur and Hooghly more than 4¼ lakhs each, and Burdwan and Noakhali over 4 lakhs each. The general incidence of stamp revenue on the population of Bengal numbering 71,096,643, according to the census of 1891, was 3 annas and 9 pies per head.

The statistics of revenue from impressed sheets, the most important of the non-judicial stamps, are of remarkable interest and afford a striking illustration of the conditions of agricultural life in this country. In England, an increase in the revenue from deed and instruments is regarded as conclusive evidence of the activity and prosperity of the landed interest, and was singled out for remark as such in last year's Budget Statement for the United Kingdom. But the above figures, read with the remarks of the local officers, make it clear that in this country it is in years of agricultural depression and distress that the revenue from this source is highest, and that the large increase in it during the years 1896-97 and 1897-98 marks a correspondingly large number of transfers of holdings from the cultivating to the money-lending class. In 1896-97 the sudden incidence of distress upon the poorer cultivators caused by the failure of that year's harvest was accompanied by a sudden rise of 3¾ lakhs in the revenue from this source. In 1897-98 the continuance of distress through the first-half of the year caused a further rise of nearly half a lakh ; while with returning prosperity in 1898 to 1899, we find a sudden drop of three half lakhs, bringing the revenue down to but a fraction above that of the average of the years 1893-96. In the North-Western Provinces the result was similar, but it may be remarked that the high water-mark in those provinces was reached in the first of the three years of scarcity, and that contraction of credit and other influences caused a decrease in these transactions during each of the two subsequent years, though it even then remained above the normal. From this comparison it would appear that the credit of the raiyat and the capital of the mahajan are greater in Bengal than in the North-Western Provinces.

As to individual districts, it may be noted that in Calcutta, where business was unfavourably affected by famine and the plague scare, the revenue for the three years under report decreased by 5·5 per cent. from the previous triennial average, and that in Champaran there was the large decrease of 15·1 per cent. In the latter case the decrease is the more remarkable in that it follows on a decrease of 7·7 per cent in 1893 to 1896, which was explained by the Board of Revenue in their report for that period as due to parties awaiting the conclusion of survey and settlement operations before entering into fresh transactions. The decrease in 1898-99 is ascribed to the Manager of the Bettiah Raj having interdicted the transfer of raiyati holdings without the consent of the landlord. From whatever cause, the revenue from this source in Champaran has fallen from Rs. 54,329 in 1893-94 to Rs. 28,994 in 1898-99.

Impressed labels, which are used only in Calcutta, decreased during 1898-99 by Rs. 1,57,404, as compared with the figures for 1897-98, but the average receipts from this source during the three years under review amounted to Rs. 8,14,447 against Rs. 6,96,067 collected during the years 1893-94 to 1895-96, thus showing an increase of Rs. 1,18,380. There was a decline of Rs. 6,877 in the sale of 1 anna revenue stamps, commonly known as receipt stamps, during 1898-99, as compared with the receipts of the previous year, but the average receipts of the three years ending 31st March 1899 showed an increase of Rs. 30,586 as compared with the figures for the preceding three years. The increase occurred in all the districts except Backergunge, Dinajpur and Noakhali. The Board of Revenue attribute this increase "to the better observance of the law by the people to the greater vigilance on the part of Government officers in making known to the people the requirements of the law, and to the facility afforded to the public for obtaining these stamps through the agency of the post office."

The other classes of non-judicial stamps, which are of minor importance, showed a decrease of Rs. 16,357 under share transfer stamps, Rs. 3,136 under foreign bill stamps, Rs. 2, 166 under advocate, vakil and attorney stamps, and of Rs. 23,376 under *hundi* stamps; and an increase of Rs. 8,232 under one-anna impressed stamps. The decrease under share transfer and *hundi* stamps was mostly due to the stagnation of business in consequence of famine and plague. Under the head judicial stamps are included (1) adhesive and impressed Court-fee stamps, (2) High Court service stamps, (3) Calcutta Small Cause Court stamps, and (4) stamps for copies. The figures now given indicate that the stress of scarcity, though it may compel the native of Bengal to sell or mortgage his ancestral holding, is yet powerless to induce him to forego in any degree his taste for litigation. Each of the three years now under review shows a steady and continuous rise in the revenue from this source. The average income of the past three years from the sales of these stamps was Rs. 1, 13, 70, 309 under (1) Rs. 3000 under (2), Rs. 3, 76,362 under (3), and Rs. 6,54,337 under (making a total of Rs. 1,24,04,608, or an increase of 6·2 per cent. over the income from the same sources in the preceding triennium. Forty districts showed an increase and six a decrease. The largest increase were in Midnapore (Rs. 76,697), Tippera (Rs. 76,556), the 24-Parganas (Rs. 45,768), Rangpur (Rs. 44,459), Backergunge (Rs. 39,920), Howrah (Rs. 39,245), Bankura (Rs. 36,904), Cuttack including Angul (Rs. 33,930), Saran (Rs. 31,050), Noakhali (Rs. 29,669), Faridpur (Rs. 25,661), and Muzaffarpur (Rs. 25,538); the chief decrease being in Dacca (Rs. 24,617). These increases and decreases are due to purely local influences, which it is unnecessary to recapitulate. Taking each denomination of Court-fee stamps sold during the years under review, there was an increase of nearly 4 lakhs in the sale of eight-anna stamps, nearly 3 lakhs in one-anna stamps, and over one lakh in one rupee stamps, while on the other hand there was a decrease of 40,893 in that of two-anna stamps.

The average number of prosecutions instituted annually for various breaches of the stamp law was 995 against 1,016 in the previous triennium. The Lieutenant-Governor notices with satisfaction the decrease in the number of prosecutions instituted in all except the Presidency and Chota Nagpur Divisions. There was a marked increase of 639 in the number of cases instituted in Calcutta, and the Board attribute this to the "success of the officers attached to the Stamp Department of the Collectorate in seizing a large number of unstamped *hundis* which were issued from Faridpur and Backergunge and negotiated in Baliaghata in the 24-Parganas." The average number of persons brought to trial was 991 against 1,249, of convictions 889 against 1, 020, and of acquittals 73 against 162. The Board of Revenue bring to notice the fact that not a single rupee was paid as reward in 30 out of the 47 districts in the province, *viz.*, in the whole of the Orissa and Chittagong Divisions, in 4 districts of the Burdwan Division, in 3 districts of each of the Presidency and Bhagalpur Divisions, in 5 districts of the Rajshahi Division, in 6 districts of the Patna Division, and in 2 districts of the Chota Nagpur Division. In explanation the Board write:—"The duty assigned to income-tax assessors of detecting evasions of stamp duty having been withdrawn, no rewards were paid to those officers in any of the districts except Palamau. This explains the non-payment of rewards or scanty payment in the remaining districts."

Several cases of fraud and defalcation were detected during the period under review, the most serious of which occurred in the Shahabad treasury, where Court-fee stamps to the value of Rs. 13,080-8 were abstracted from the double and single lock store. The enquiry disclosed that the abstraction of the stamps, which extended from 1891 down to July 1896, was rendered possible only by neglect of rules and culpable carelessness on the part of the Treasurer and the Treasury Officer. Criminal proceedings against the stamp mohurir were instituted in respect of certain stamps found missing from the stock under single lock, and he was sentenced, on conviction, to two years' rigorous imprisonment. A similar, but isolated case occurred in the Puri Collectorate ; stamps to the value of Rs. 148-8 having been abstracted by a mohurir during the temporary absence of the Treasurer. The theft was, however, immediately discovered by the latter officer, and resulted in the mohurir being sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment.

The working of the licensed stamp vendors was on the whole satisfactory, an exception being in the Sewan Sub-division of Saran, where systematic frauds in obtaining refunds and in selling spoiled stamps appear to have been committed. No conviction, however, was obtained.

A WONDERFUL CURE OF DIARRHOEA.

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

READ HIS EDITORIAL.

From the Times, Hillstille, Va.

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

SMITH STANISTREET & CO AND B. K. PAL & CO.

Kashmir Loi Patti Shawls

and Gujrati check cloth from 5 annas to 12 annas per yard can be had from the Manager, Punjab Commercial Board, Lahore.

A CASE AGAINST THE PUNJAB POLICE.

HERE are certain documents *in re* a case brought by a respectable Brahmin widow, Mussammat Anchli against the Deputy Inspector of Police Thaneswar.

Report of Mr. Gibson, Assistant Commissioner Karnul.

Charge under Section 323, I. P. C.

To the District Magistrate.

Mussammat Anchli brings a curious charge against the Thanadar. She accuses him of summoning her before him, taxing her with intercourse with her late husband's cousin with whom she lives, and for dishonouring her person. At the same time neither she nor her witnesses disclose any motive for the action. They do not accuse the Thanadar of attempting to extort money out of her or Banwari as the result of the charge, nor does there appear to have been any spite or grudge on either side. If the story is true the Thanadar's extraordinary action would seem to have been dont, if not from the highest at any rate from no motive at all. Further it was done in the most open way possible and there was no attempt at concealment. According to the evidence the Thanadar deliberately summoned some three or four citizens to be witnesses of what he was going to say to Banwari at the Thana. Also when he summoned Anchli he was sitting in the *dehliz* with two or three citizens who had come on business and he interviewed her there before them.

Mussammat Anchli appears to be a very respectable woman and one unlikely to bring such a charge unless true.

There remains the question of Pola's evidence. Remarks on his demeanour have been already recorded under his evidence. His story about arriving here at fair and finding the men at Serai is false because from 12 o'clock to 3-30 they were waiting outside the District Magistrate's Court and from there they came straight to this Court where they remained till 6 o'clock. It is significant too that he should have to arrive here on business on the very day that his name was down to appear in this case. It looks as if his mouth had been stopped by some one and by the confused way in which he gave his evidence it looks as if he had not had much time to change the story. It is obvious from what the witness tried to say as will as what they said that the Thanadar is very unpopular at any rate with a section of Thanesar if not with the whole city. Mussammat Anchli, it should be noticed, says in her evidence, that she did not know who the two men were who were with the Thanadar at his house; at the same time these men appear as her witnesses. The case is very much in the hands of the witnesses who appear to be the moving spirits. Of course one who is a witness has as much interest in it as Anchli who is complainant.

(Sd). B. T. GIBSON,
2nd class Magistrate.

Proceedings in a case decided by A. Langley, Esquire, District Magistrate.

Mussammat Anchli, widow of Moti, Brahman of Thanesar *Versus* Deputy Inspector of Thanesar.

Charge Sections 500 and 323, I. P. C.

Order.—No offence seems to have been committed by the Thanadar. He appears to have had a suspicion that the woman was withchild and abortion might be caused and therefore to have called her to enquire.

The woman is a respectable Brahman widow and the Thanadar's treatment of her was brutal and tactless and to be reprehended.

Case dismissed under Section 203, C. P. C.

(Sd). A. LANGLEY,
30th June 1899. District Magistrate.

In the Court of the Sessions Judge of Delhi.

Revision side, Criminal case No. 135, of 1899. Karnal District. Petition filed by Mr. T. C. Morton on the 8th August 1899.

Mussammat Anchli, widow of Moti, Brahman of Thanesar, Complainant-Appellant, *Versus* Bakar Hussain, Deputy Inspector, Thanesar, Opposite Party.

Revision from the order of A. Langley, Esquire, District Magistrate, dated the 30th June 1899.

Order.—The charge which Mussammat Anchli brings against the accused is that he sent for her and charged her with having had illicit intercourse with her deceased husband's cousin and then put his hand over her stomach and felt it presumably to see if she was withchild. She declares that the charge against her is absolutely false and that it was made in presence of others. If these allegations are to be believed I do not see how it can be said that the Deputy Inspector has not committed offences punishable under Sections 500 and 354, I. P. C. What legal or moral duty was cast upon him to act as he did ?

A preliminary enquiry was made by Mr. Gibson, Magistrate, 2nd Class, and in his report to the District Magistrate he remarks that Mussammat Anchli appears to be a very respectable woman and one unlikely to bring such a charge unless true.

The District Magistrate in his order says : "The woman is a respectable Brahmin widow and the Thanadar's treatment of her was brutal and tactless and to be reprehended.

In the face of these opinions the case could not be dismissed under Section 203 Criminal Procedure Code, but should have proceeded to trial.

I am not prejudging the accused. TLe preliminary enquiry has been *ex parte*. It is possible he may be able to prove that the charge is totally false or that there was justification for what he did. All that held is that, upon the findings come to by Mr. Gibson and the District Magistrate, the complainant is entitled to have her complalt further enquired into. Under Section 437 Criminal Procedure Code I accordingly direct that the District Magistrate should by himself or by any of the Magistrates subordinate to him make further enquiry into the complait.

(Sd.) C. S. Lewis,
Sessions Judge,
Delhi,
27th September 1899.

A WORD TO MOTHERS.

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

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CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

THE question of capital punishment for murderers has come up at home, as it often does in the silly season ; and the suburban Philistines who write letters to the papers have been having their outing. The grounds of objection are mainly sentimental, while the defenders of the existing practice fall back on the Bible, and so the controversy sways and sags, without ever getting settled. We do not see how this is to be helped. The absurdity of the scriptural argument ought to be patent : the book *Genesis* contains many promises and injunctions which have no application to the conditions of modern society; moreover, if we are to take all such things literally—strangling a murderer with a rope does not shed his blood, and the command is not obeyed. Besides the objectors have a very strong argument in the sacredness of human life, and the cruelty of an irrevocable doom. But the object of punishment is the protection of the community, that *salus populi* postulated by the Roman law. If murder be indeed the appalling evil that it is generally assumed to be any punishment will be justifiable by which men may best be deterred from committing it. Indeed, it was very much on these lines that the efforts of Romilly and Benthan proceeded by which death was done away with as a penalty for offences against property. Such a system, it is urged, did not so much deter men from robbery as supply them with an incentive to murder ; because a robber would argue that he might as well be hanged for a sheep as for a lamb, and—if he could prevent it—would rather not be hanged at all. If therefore the person robbed was the only witness of the crime, it was obviously good policy to put him out of the way by adding murder to stealing. By abolishing the death penalty for theft, and retaining it for murder, the consequences of this argument were exactly preserved ; and it became the interest of the robber to make off without killing the object of his attentions. Such was the reasoning ; and it has probably been justified by results. Let the same criterion be applied to the present question : and before deciding that capital punishment for murder ought to be abolished, let inquiry be made into the percentage of the crime to population in the countries where the death penalty is abrogated (or uncertain) and those where it is vigorously enforced. There is one object-lesson afforded in a region not six hours' voyage from English borders. In the kingdom of Belgium the Nepoleonic Code provides that "all murder shall be punished by death," but the present King has suspended the provision by habitually refusing to sign warrants for execution. The result is that the perpetrators of the most heinous assassinations escape with imprisonment ; and there is no country in which more heinous assassinations are occasionally reported. One is forcibly reminded of the witty saying of Alphonse Karr, when first approached on the subject by some philanthropist urging a movement for abolition based on the supposed duty of respecting human life—*Que Messieurs les Assassins commencent* ! ("Let murderers set the example.") The case of Maximilien Robespierre is much in point for those who dwell too long on the humanitarian aspect of the case. Indeed, ever since the day when the death of Abel was ascribed to the scruples of a vegetarian brother it has been clear that a fastidious reluctance to take life was apt to defeat its own ends. If it can be proved that the death of a murder was unavailing for the protection of the community no mere consideration of expense ought to enter into the discussion. But if that cannot be shown there is no other valid reason why the tax-payer should be subject to charges for the support of a number of murderers in jail. If, however, these views prevail in England we are not thereby bound to be of those who would defend the indiscriminate hanging of murderers in India, where transportation is often more dreaded than death. The assassination of Lord Mayo, at Port Blair, was notoriously due to the vindictiveness of a Pathan convict *whose sentence had been commuted.*—The *Pioneer*.

THERE has been a tremendous and unprecedented rush of work at the Government Telegraphs here, since Saturday last. The natives are telegraphing freely all over Sind given large orders for produce at almost any price. On Sunday during the whole day the crowd round the doors of the booking office was enormous and over 500 messages within 24 hours were handed in for transmission. Excitement still continues, and native merchants here seem regardless of the prices they have to pay for foodstuffs, which, it is believed, they are buying up for shipment to Bombay and the coast ports.

MANKIND fight with each other for territorial possessions. Animals do the same for food. But here is a curious incident taken for an English paper :—Great consternation has been caused at Czernavoda, on the Danube, by the fact that an immense number of storks and eagles have been fighting in midair for two days, with the result that the ground is sprinkled with torn plumage and the bodies of nearly 100 dead birds. The cause of the battle seems to have been a dispute over a perching site ; but the superstitious peasantry regard the event as an omen of a great war, and spend most of their time in weeping and praying.

THE first Railway Commission under the recent Resolution will meet in Bombay early in November, and will consist of Sir A. Trevor, Mr. Upcott, Secretary to Government and Mr. Beaumont, of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce. It is understood that unofficial members of the Commission will receive pay while serving thereon at a rate of about Rs.4,000 a month, plus travelling expenses. The Commission will consider various questions connected with the Bombay Port Trust Railway, and whether it shall be constructed and run by the Port Trust or by the G. I. P. Railway. In appointing unofficial members to the Commission it is intended to select representatives from outside provinces to discuss local matters: thus a Karachi man is appointed to express an opinion on Bombay matters, and probably a Bombay representative would be nominated to advise on Madras questions.

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LONDON LETTER.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

LONDON, SEPT. 15.

AN occasional correspondent at London writes to us by the last mail :—

I send you herewith a cutting from the *Queen* containing an interesting account of Indian Concert and Reception, given in honour of Her Majesty's birthday, at St. James's Hall, May 24th, 1899. [The account is published in another column—[Ed., *Patrika*.] The success of the entertainment is mainly due to the exertions of your distinguished countryman, Dr. Sarat Mullick, who has practically made England his second home. In one of the issues of your paper, just to hand, you suggest that the best way for the Indians to secure the sympathy and support of Englishmen for the welfare of India is not to make speeches but to see the latter privately and make friends with them. Perhaps you are not aware that, Dr. Sarat Mullick is following this method in his quiet way, and trying to do all he can to serve his motherland for which he feels very strongly. The *Queen*, you will see, testifies to the fact that Dr. Mullick holds a prominent position in English society. As a matter of fact, he moves in the highest circles and has thus opportunities of coming across the foremost men and women in the ruling country. I only hope he will always utilize these opportunities for the benefit of poor India.

Sometime ago Dr. Mullick sent a letter to Mr. Stevens of the *Daily Mail* for an interview, at which it was his intention to teach the libeller of the Bengalee nation a lesson. But he thought discretion the better part of valour ; he sent no reply to the challenge. The Doctor, however, is still on his track and may yet take his revenge at all costs.

I heard from Dr. Mullick himself that, when the Calcutta Municipal Bill was engaging the attention of the English public, he had a series of discussion with Sir Richard Temple, the author of the elective system in Calcutta. At the invitation of Sir Richard, the Doctor spent a few days with him at his house. They discussed the Municipal Bill, and, after a great deal of talk, the Doctor succeeded in persuading his host to write to Lord Curzon privately. Sir Richard promised to do so on the special point of the two-thirds being unofficial members of the General Committee, and he said it was monstrous that only one-third should be elected by the Indian members. Most probably he wrote, but Lord Curzon could not see his way to comply with the request. When Dr. Mullick thanked Sir Richard and told him how the Indians appreciated his bold venture in establishing Municipal Government on elective principles, he replied to the following effect: "They abused me when I was in India—now they see I am right. Tell all my friends I remember them. I never forget my Indian friends, for I love India."

It is a curious commentary on Anglo-Indian character that, when in India, most of them entertain a contempt and dislike for its people. When they retire and have been in England for some years, their love grows for them, and they like the Indians as much as they hated them before. Possibly the Anglo-Indians are not to blame entirely. The Indians must see and correct their side of the quarrel too. It may be that their insufficient knowledge of English life and ways has a great deal to do with their want of cordiality with the English. There is no doubt, many of them wish the Indians well.

I am glad to find that you have acknowledged in suitable terms the great work which Lord Stanley of Alderley is doing for you in the House of Lords. It was Dr. Mullick who had kept him posted up *re* Indian grievances. His Lordship is a most valiant and daring champion of the Indian cause in the Lords. He fears neither man nor—in the House. Dr. Mullick and Lord Stanley are excellent friends. In the opinion of the Doctor, once his Lordship is convinced of the right side of a question he will go the full hog. The debate that his Lordship raised in the Lords, about the outrages committed in India by British soldiers, was itself a very spirited one, but the report in the papers was very meagre and one-sided. As I said, he was coached by Dr. Mullick. It was with referenee to this matter that, Dr. Mullick told me, "*I find that private conversations with prominent men do us more good than one thousand self-advertising speeches.*"

A few weeks ago, Dr. Sarat Mullick was at Bagshot, the residence of H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught, helping them at a Garden Fete and Bazar in aid of a local charity. He met there Prince Christian, Princess Victoria of Wales, Princess Margaret, and several other members of the royal family. He was also presented to H. M. the Queen-Empress by the Duke. About Her Majesty Dr. Mullick says : "She is most charming and full of affection and regard for India. She asked the Duke a great many questions about me. Her interest in India is unbounded. She truly loves the Indians."

Let us trust that Dr. Mullick will gradually work his way into the confidence of the Royalty, and, to quote the famous words, "instruct the Throne in the language of truth and sincerity," with regard to Indian questions. What is needed is that men of position and independence should settle in England and button-hole prominent politicians in this country. Private talk will be of immense service. In this way the interest of a large number of Englishmen may be secured in Indian matters. With this object, Dr. Mullick invited the *elite* of London society to the Concert, alluded to above. By introducing an Indian element into the Concert, he was able to bring India somewhat before the audience. There were 900 to 1,000 people present. It is a matter of common knowledge that there is an immense mass of the public who fight shy of politics, pure and simple. But if you coat it with social amenities, you can make them swallow the bitterest political pill you like. Like Dr. Mullick, other Indian gentlemen should reside in England and try to serve their country in the way he is doing.

THE Raja of Jhind will probably be invested with full powers early next month.

A PEON in the employ of the Delhi Branch of the Bank of Upper India bolted on Monday with Rs. 3,000, but was captured the same night with the money in his possession, thanks to the energy of Sundah Khan, the City Inspector to whom great credit is due.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

CUPID IN NEW ROLES.

NOVEL writers are trying to give originality to the love-making scenes in their new books this year. How some popular authors have succeeded is shown in the following extracts from five of the latest novels on the market:

This is how the hero in John Strange Winter's new work, "Wedlock" (Fenno & Co., New York), makes love to his stenographer:

The next moment a tall man in light grey clothing came out by the window. * * *

Mary was in Alan Stacey's presence.

"Mrs. Conway," he said, looking at the card in his hand and then at her.

Mary sprang to her feet. "Yes, I am Mrs. Conway," she said, tremulously. "Messrs. Bloomingby thought that I should suit you."

"As a typist?"

"And stenographer," she added, quickly.

"Pray sit down," said Alan Stacey, kindly, and himself pulled a chair near enough to talk with ease. "What is your speed as a shorthand writer?"

"A hundred and twenty."

"I am not very easy to work with. I'm as crochetty as most other literary men," Mr. Stacey said. "I have just got rid of a man, an excellent fellow, for no reason than that he sat on the edge of his chair and waited. I would have forgiven him many things, but his waiting became oppressive—it killed every idea I had. Before that I had a young lady. She knew Shakespeare by heart, and could quote Xenophon—but she would mend my copy as she went on——"

"Oh, how dared she?" Mary burst out. Mr. Stacey looked at her with a vague sense of amusement. "I assure you Miss—well never mind her name, it is immaterial—but Miss Blank we will call her—thought very small potatoes of me. She could not do my work without ironing it out as she went along, so that every vestige of style and individuality was eliminated completely."

Mary gave a little gasp. "But I thought she took down what you dictated," she said, almost breathlessly.

"Yes, but if she saw what she thought was an error she was always kind enough to mend it for me," said Alan Stacey, smiling at the remembrance. "She knew just a little too much for me—for she must have been over-educated or something. My last helper had on the contary no ideas. I had to get rid of him. I found him an excellent billet and swore I would never have another helper of any kind. Then my hand came in and said, 'No, I'm hanged if you shall use me. I'm delicate.' So I sent to Bloomingby's. So now, Mrs. Conway, you see what kind of man I am to deal with—nervous, irritable, almost eccentric."

"I am not afraid," said Mary, smiling. This man was wholly delightful to her, surrounded by a halo of romance, still young, strong, unconventional, and wholly human.

"Have you seen any of my work?" he asked.

"I have read 'The Lover's Creed' a dozen times at least," she answered.

"Ah! Then you will to a certain extent understand me. I should need you from 10 o'clock to 5 o'clock each day—well, not on Saturday afternoons, that goes without saying."

"But my references" she exclaimed.

"Mrs. Conway" said the novelist turning and looking directly and fixedly at her, "I would just as soon not see your references. I know too well the lies one tells when one wants to pass some one on to one's friends. I know too well what they are worth * * *

"Why don't you let me begin right away sir?" she ventured to say.

He looked at her again with the same quick, alert glance as before. "Don't call me 'sir,'" he said half amused and half irritable. "One 'sir' would upset me for a morning. Come into my study. I like you for tackling the work straight away. We'll try how it goes."

Mary followed him into the study, a long, low-ceiled room, with many books, a few pictures, some guns, fishing rods, golf-clubs, two luxurious sofa-lounges, and half a dozen capacious chairs. A rough terrier dog lay before the open window and a big Angora cat brindled like a bull dog was in possession of a fur rug before the empty fire-place. It was a revelation to Mary Conway—she had never seen such a room in all her life before.

* * * *

In Alan Stacey Mary found not an employer but an idol. From the first day she worshipped him. I know that it is not a commonly accepted idea that a woman should love a man at first sight. In a sense she did not do so; and yet, she idolized him! The possibility that one day she might be something more to Alan Stacey than his interpreter never for a moment entered her head. But she loved him with a dim, far-off, almost a religious feeling. He was so brilliantly clever both in his work—for where were such vivid, brilliant, haunting human books to be found as those which bore his name?—and in himself. There were times when he worked at fever heat untiringly, restlessly almost passionately times when the fit was on him when he almost wore her out calling on her to come early and to stay late, times when they snatched their meals and when she went home to her bed dog-tired and brain weary.

At such times Mary Conway would willingly rather have died than have failed him! At others he would laze through the days, letting his work slip into brilliant easy gossip, telling her his ideas, his hopes, his aspirations, making her look over his great collection of stamps, help to arrange his autographs, discussing furniture of the next smart little teaparty that he meant to give and apparently wholly unconscious that she took any more interest in him than the man who waited had done.

"What was your father: he asked her suddenly between the pauses of his work one day when Christmas was drawing near.

"A clergyman—he was curate of Elppinstowe,' she replied.

"Ah! you were young when he died?"

"Yes—quite a child."

"And your mother?"

"She died after I was married."

"I see! Forgive me for asking—but were you long married? Well, of course, you couldn't have been, you are still so young. But did you lose—"

"I lost my husband only a few months after our marriage," Mary said, rising suddenly from her place at the little table where she worked and going to the fire, where she stood nervously holding her hand out to the warmth and keeping her face half turned away from him.

"He was—he was—I mean was he—was he—"

"He was a sailor, captain of one of the Red river line of steamers," said Mary, almost curtly. "He was drowned.'

There was a moment's silence. "It must have been a great shock to you." he said at last. He was busily occupied with a paper knife and a slip of notepaper, and spoke in a studiously indifferent tone, as if they were discussing some question absolutely impersonal to both of them.

"It killed my mother," said Mary, still warming her hands.

"And you?" he rapped out the question in a strange, breathless fashion.

Mary looked aside at him. "Why do you ask me this, Mr. Stacey? she asked, brusquely. "I was beginning to be happy—to forget all the horrid past. I'll tell you' and then never. I entreat of you, speak of it again. I sold myself because my mother was ill and because she yearned to be well off. I was honest with him and he professed so much. I told him I did not love him—and—he took me. Our marriage was a failure, a most dismal failure. I was wretched—I hated and despised him. He was bitter and mean and vindictive toward me. My poor little mother was the only one who got any sort of satisfaction out of the bargain, and she did not have it long poor soul, for the news of the loss of the Arikhama killed her, and it was as well for he left every penny away from me. As for me—I won't pretend to be better than I am; I won't sham; I'll tell you the truth; I thanked God when I found that he was gone. Yes, I did, for I would have put myself in the river before I would have lived with him again."

"He was older than you?"

"Many years. He is dead and they say we should never speak ill of the dead. I can't help it. He was a brute; only a few weeks after we were married—he struck me. Oh! why did you ask me these questions? I had almost forgotten—at least I did not always think of it as I did at first. Why did you ask me?"

With two stripes Alan Stacey was by her side. "My dear, my dear, shall I tell you why I asked you?" he cried. "Because I had a vital interest in wanting to know. I've always had a sort of feeling that you belonged to that dead husband of yours, that he stood between us, keeping us more widely apart than if all the world stood between us. Can't you understand that I wanted to know—that I—Oh! Mary, child—don't you understand that I love you and I cannot live without you?"

* * *

In "The Kingdom of Hate" (Appleton & Co New York), a romance by T. Gallon, the plot of the story turns on a wager made by Bernard Aubanel in a London, clubroom one sultry night in June. It was 2 o'clock. Bernard, on a wager with Archibald, the poet, agreed to get into any dwelling-house along the dark street at that hour in the morning, on one pretense or another. He was admitten to at all, dark mansion house, found himself seized suddenly, bustled along a corridor, and married to a beautiful and rich Princess. He falls in love with her at first sight. It develops in the course of the story that the Princess has been forced by her rivals to marry him in order that her title to her throne may be invalidated. This is how everything turns out happily in the last chapter:

It was the Princess Viviana. She drew back a little from him, and made as if to cover her face with her hands; but he had surprised in her eyes a look—sudden and fleeting and gone in an instant—of intense gladness. He caught her hands in his, and drew her toward him. And for some moments neither of them spoke; they were content to look into each other's eyes.

"What brings you here;" she said at last very softly.

"I came in search of you," he replied. "I lost you at Rouen, and, remembering the date of the coronation here, I determined to see the end of that strange game in which I have played apart, and to see what part you had also, if you had made up your mind to play one at all."

"My part in it is ended," she replied a little sadly. 'The kingdom is no longer mine, as you know. By my marriage with you I forfeited it. Oh, that is all past and done with! You must not think that I blame you, it was but the working of fate, and you had nothing to do with it. We have been tools—puppets in the hands of a villain, and the villain has won."

"Not yet!" exclaimed Bernard eagerly. Listen "Princess" your kindom may yet be regained. Of this marriage Chaillavia holds not the faintest proof. The witnesses are dead: the very priest who performed the ceremony is dead; the proofs—the book in which we signed our names—all are gone. Dear lady, I loved you from the first moment I saw you; I shall love you till I die. But I will willingly release you from any claim I may have upon you Back to the city Princess how yourself to the people, and they will rise to a man and throw this impostor from the place into which he has forced himself."

She looked at him in wonder and amazement with her eyes shining, and caught his hands, and before he could prevent it, had carried them to her lips.

"You don't understand," she said softly. "I could not do that. I will tell you why presently. There is something else I have to tell you first."

They withdrew further into the wood and sat down side by side on a grassy slope under the trees, that Princess holding his hands.

"I was a very lonely woman when my father died; I have been a very lonely woman since. I have had to fight single-handed against hidden foes—foes who had not even the generousity to declare themselves as such. Gradually I came to see that the worst foe I had was my cousin, Count Challavia. Oh, my husband—I may say it to you now—the man had one vile purpose in his mind through everything—to secure me, and to secure my throne. I hated him from the first hour of our meeting, and my father had made him my guardian. You remember Sangaletto?"

"Yes, I remember," said Bernard, looking at her intently.

"You thought him my lover; he was—but not in the sense you mean. He belonged to a band of revolutionists who had long plotted to overthrow my kingdom. Knowing me to be in the direct line of succesion, they determined to kill me, and cast lots among themselves to determine the man who should undertake the task; the lot fell upon Sangletto. He did not know me then—had never met me. He followed me to London; saw me—and his purpose was dead. He formed a most mistaken attachment for me; absolutely hopeless, but sincere and self-sacrificing. He came to me at night and threw himself at my feet, and on my mercy and told me the whole story and craved my forgiveness.

"The people who guarded me in London had informed the Count that a man visited me secretly and at night. The Count, as my guardian, demanded an explanation; I refused it. He said shameful things to me and about me, and claimed his right, as the guardian of the future Queen of Labirinthia, to see to it that no scandal touched my name. I did not know his purpose then; but I know now why he insisted on my marriage. In a moment of anger and defiance, I cried out that I would marry any man on God's earth except himself. He took me at my word, and I was told that, on a certain night, my unknown bridegroom would present himself."

"And I came," said Bernard.

"Yes—although you were not the man meant for the business by the Count. When you appeared, I married you, as I might have married any other stranger, confident that I should never look upon your face again; glad only to place a barrier between the Count and myself."

"But you have not lost your kingdom yet," exclaimed Bernard.

She rose from the ground, drawing him up with her, and came very near to him, looking up into his eyes. For a long moment they stood thus, while far away they could hear the bells ringing and the guns booming.

"I do not want my kingdom," she said at last, very slowly, "There was a time when I cried out that I hated you, because you had stolen from me the kingdom that was worth more to me than life itself. Dear, there is another kingdom I have found, and it lies deep in your heart; and I want to reign there supreme, as I never could have reigned in any kingdom of men. It is the kingdom of love."

The two turned, as by a common impulse, and began to walk away through the wood, with their backs to the city. And then suddenly, above every other sound, drowning the pealing bells and the booming of the cannon, came one mighty awful roar, shaking the very ground on which they stood. Clasping each other, they looked back toward the city; a great column of smoke and dust rose high in the air. And, after that, came a dread and awful silence; the clamor of the bells was hushed, and only startled birds flew screaming all about them affrighted at the sudden darkness of the sky.

"What was that?" she asked, clinging to him in terror.

He knew well what it was; he put his arm about her, and began to draw her hurriedly through the wood. "It means," he said, "that Chaillvia's brief reign is over; that the revolutionists have carried out their threat, and have triumphed at last. Your kingdom, as a kingdom, exists no more.

She wept a little as they ran on together, but presently began to be comforted. The sun was shining brightly through the trees; the birds had lost their fear, and were singing joyously; she looked up at Bernard, with trust and love shining in her eyes.

And together they went out to find their new kingdom.

INDIAN CONCERT AND RECEPTION.

Given in Honour of Her Majesty's Birthday, at St. Jame's Hall, May 24th, 1899.)

AMONGST the many rejoicings that took place to celebrate the occasion of Her Majesty's Eightieth Birthday, there was none more brilliant or loyal than the afternoon Concert and Reception given by Dr. Mullick and Munshi Kashi Prasada in honour of this event, at St. Jame's Hall, Piccadilly, May 24th. About 900 distinguisheh Englishmen and Indians residing in England are invited.

Dr. Sarat Mullick holds a very high position in both the Medical and Social World and has made numerous friends among the *elite* of London. Lately he has received high honours in his profession. He is at present House Physician at the National Hospital for Paralysis and Diseases of the Heart, and holds the unique position of being the only Indian who has been elected Fellow of the London Medical Society, the oldest Medical Society in London. He had a very brilliant career in the Edinburgh University and gained double 1st class honors, and when he left it was as Senior Prizeman in Therapeutics and Practice of Medicine.

A residence of nearly twenty years in England has enabled him to acquire the best trains of our nation. His high professional qualifications, his dignified and charming manners, so natural to an Oriental, enable him to practice in the Classical Medical Square of London with much acceptance amongst a most distinguished and fashionable clientele. It is a weakness which justifies his friends in giving him the sobriquet of "Fash phys" which when explained to the uninitiated means a fashionable physician.

His friend and fellow host, Munshi Kashi Prasad, has also won distinction during his residence in England. He is remarkably clever and cultured, and has studied for the Law and passed brilliantly, he was called to the Bar in April of this year, and is now just returning to India were a great future undoubtedly awaits him. Last year he was presented at Court, and has since attended the Levees. He has made many friends in Society by his pleasing manners and fine physique.

The reception was of a unique and picturesque kind, and its success was amply proved by the immense number of distinguished and remarkable people present. The guests were received at the head of the Grand Staircase by Dr. Mullick and Munshi K. Prasada, the latter in turban and choja glittering with gold and jewels, while Dr. S. R. Mullick looked remarkably distinguished in sombre English dress, a graceful compliment to our country thus to illustrate "India and England." The room was soon filled to overflowing and still fresh guests arrived, the dresses of the English ladies were for the most part very lovely and together with the gorgeous oriental Costume, worn by many of the Indian gentlemen and members of the Chinese Embassy, made up a scene of wonderful colour not often seen in England.

The Concert was opened with Indian Music, played by the Misses Hardy, both ladies wearing soft white silk "Saris." Miss Stuart Hardy played sweetly on the Indian Instrument called "Esthray" accompanied by her sister, Miss M. Dorothy Hardy, the music being an Indian lullabye and other songs.

Mr. S. Zeauddin Balkhi gave a song in Hindustani, he has a very good voice and heartily applauded by all for his good singing. He looked very well in a handsome choja and gold turban. Mr. Sarath Kumar Ghose also sang a Neapolitan song and was much appreciated. There were other songs, English and Indian, and Instrumental Music by Signor Scoma and Signor J. Brath, the Duo given by these two gentlemen, on Clarionet and Piano, was a splendid performance. Miss Ellen Beech Yaw quite charmed the audience with her sweet and wonderful voice in the song, "None he loves but me. Mr. K. B. Divatia sung in Gujrati, accompanied on the "Esthray" by Miss Stuart Hardy and Mrs. Percy Bardesly on the piano. Miss Florence Fausett charmed the audience by the perfect rendering of the "Cigarette Song" from the *Runaway Girl*. The remainder of the musical part of the programme, both Indian and English, was very good and much appreciated.

The Tableaux had naturally much attraction, being something quite new to most of the audience. The first scene was a "Darbar" or Court where the nobles present "Nuzzur" to their ruler. The part of the Maharajah was taken by a very fine Sikh gentlemen, resident in London, who dressed in a choja of cloth of gold and shimmering with jewels, acted his part with much dignity and grace, the Indian gentlemen, all attired in gorgeous oriental dress, presented to the audience a picture of duzzling colour and beauty as they went through their parts with the simplicity and grace that is natural to the Indian Nation, and called forth much applause.

During the Tableausoft music, suitable to each scene, was selected and played by Mrs. P. Bardesly on the piano.

The second Tableau was a scene depicted from "Raghurausa" by Kalidasa, the Indian Shakespeare (A. D. 3). The part of Princess Indumati was taken by Miss Rani Dutt, dressed in a beautiful embroidered Sari of pink silk, and accompanied by her companion, Miss M. Dutt, in white silk Sari, then to soft music she chooses a husband from the group of gorgeously attired Princes, who are heated before her, her companion reads out to her the various virtues and rare accomplishments of each Prince, after which the Princess chooses the favoured suitor by throwing a wreath of flowers round his neck amid much acclamations and unsheathing of tulwars of all the other Princes.

The third and final Tableau is patriotic and loyal as befits the occasion. It represents the Queen-Empress crowned and throned surrounded by her faithful Indian and English subjects. Miss M. Dorothy, enacted the part of the Queen Empress. Her Majesty was represented crowned and robed in purple velvet and ermine, holding the golden sceptre on her throne, on her right and left she was supported by an Indian Prince, holding the flags of England crossed above her head, on her right also stood an Afghan Prince now staying in England) and her left arm was placed round the shoulders of a Hindu lady. On the steps of the throne were grouped other Indian ladies placing garlands of flowers at her feet, while the Indians and Englishmen, their eyes turned towards her, held up their hands and swords. Immediately as the curtain rose the whole of the company sang "God save the Queen-Empress," the audience joining in, and thus bringing to a close a most brilliant celebration of Her Majesty's Birthday.

* * * *

"Dr. Sarat K. Mullick and Munshi Kashi Prasada are to be congratulated on the brilliant success which attended their unique and interesting invitation entertainment, given last week in Honour of the Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress of India. The spacious banqueting room of St James's Hall, Regent Street, was crowded to overflow, and many, it is feared, had to leave disappointed, unable to find even standing room. There was a distinguished company present.

The entertainment included an excellent miscellaneous concert, assisted in by native and European artists. The magnificent Indian Tableaux, which, three in number, occupied the places of honour on the programme, were undoubtedly, however, the special feature, of the afternoon, and, in their due successions the central and surpassing points of attraction. The first tableau represented an Indian Durbar; nobles in gorgeously colored draperies, and blazing with jewels, presenting a "Nuzzur," a gift of precious metals brought by subjects to their rulers. The second, a scene of charming, yet splendid simplicity representing "The Princess Indumati choosing a Husband," taken from Raghurausa by the dramatist Kalidasa, A.D. 3. The approach of the third and final tableau was appropriately heralded by the following quaint refrain from a "Loyal Indian Song," admirably sung by Mr. K. B. Divati "with unbroken feelings of loyalty, Oye aryas (Indians) bend before the lotus feet of the Queen." In this beautiful concluding tableau was represented, in a scene of combined dazzling Western and Oriental splendour, "The Royal Proclamation of 1858, whereby it was pronounced that India had passed from the control of the East India Company to that of Her most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, the representation being witnessed by the large assemblage and amid the strains of the National standing, Anthem, in which both audience and performers enthusiastically joined."—*Thee Queen.*

LORD CURZON has returned to the station from the Dhami Hill State, about 15 miles from Simla.

THE Goanese manager of the railway refreshment room, Gwalior, fell off the platform under the carriages as the up Bombay Mail ran into the station on Thursday last. Both his legs below the knees were cut off clean, and he was removed to the hospital in a precarious condition.

—THE following is a translation of one of the placards posted in the Honkong New Territory before the recent disturbance occurred:—We hate the English barbarians who are about to enter our boundaries and take our land, and will cause us endless evil. Day and night we fear the approaching danger. Certainly people are dissatisfied at this and have determined to resist the barbarians. If our fire-arms are not good, we shall be unable to oppose the enemy. So we have appointed an exercise ground and gathered all together as patriots to drill with fire-arms. To encourage proficiency rewards will be given. On the one hand, we shall be helping the Government; on the other we shall be saving ourselves from future trouble. Let all our friends and relatives bring their fire-arms to the ground and do what they can to extirpate the traitors. Our ancestors will be pleased, and so will our neighbours. This is our sincere wish. Practice takes place every day. First prize:—One gauze coat; a packet of 1,000 crakeers. Second prize:—One pair of brown gauze trousers; a packet of 500 crackers. Third prize:—One straw hat. 17th day 2nd moon 25th year of Kwongsui (28th March, 1899). A placard issued by the Yukon Hin ("Wish for Peace" library) of Pingshan.

EXTRACTING POISON FROM SNAKES.

A GOVERNMENT Order, to hand, contains an interesting report by Major Lyons, I. M. S., on the way in which snake, are treated at the Pasteur Institute at Lille, in the preparation of Dr. Calmette's discoveries in the way on treating snake-bite with anti-venomous serum. The way in which, according to Major Lyons, the poisonous snakes are handled and their jaws "forced open by means of the thumb and index finger" is rather startling, and suggests a snaky experiment that most of us would like to see with our eyes, though we might prefer not to conduct it with our own hands. The snakes at the Institute are kept in cages, in two rooms roofed with glass, and the creatures are boarded and lodged in return for their venom. Dr. Lyons records the procedure, as witnessed by him, as follows:—The lid of the cage having been raised, a snake was caught behind the head and lifted out, by means of a pair of forceps about 18 inches long, which terminate in heart-shaped jaws. When the snake had been lifted clear of the cage and the lid closed, the operator grasped it in his hand just behind the head, and removed the forceps. "The jaws were then forced open by means of the thumb and index finger of the hand in which it was held," the open mouth being turned away from the operator's face lest some of the venom should be injected into the eyes, as venom sets up a severe form of ophthalmia. An assistant then placed a watch-glass, about 4 inches in diameter, in the open mouth, with its edge resting against the palate, immediately behind the fangs. The fangs were then lifted over the edge of the watch-glass and unsheathed, and the operator, "by means of a milking movement" with his free hand forced the venom from the glands into the glass. When all the venom had been obtained, the snake was fed by means of a glass funnel passed down its throat. An egg was broken into the funnel and poked down with a glass rod, and the snake was then restored to its cage, to be "milked" again after another ten days or a fortnight. Major Lyons says that in appearance the venom from some of the snakes was like the white of egg, in colour as well as in consistency, or rather thinner; in others, the colour varied from a bright yellow to deep orange or reddish orange hue. The venom of the different snakes was received in the same watch-glass, and when all the venom has been collected in this way and mixed, it is removed to a dark room, where the toxic action will not be impaired by the light, and is dried. The venom, when dried, forms reddish-yellow or brownish-yellow crystalline-looking scales. In bulk, it has a heavy-offensive odour; it can be kept in stoppered bottles indefinitely without deteriorating if dry, but decomposes if it becomes moist. From this the serum is prepared.

Experiments are then made upon unhappy rabbits and guinea-pigs, to test the appropriate strength of the serum for human beings, and its action. When a rabbit has been inoculated with the venom, the poor creature becomes restless, snuffling round its cage and throwing up its head; it grows heavy and sick, and its breathing is quickened. Then, says Major Lyons, signs of weakness appear at first in the hind and later in the fore legs. The breathing becomes panting and difficult, with gasping inspiration and other signs of asphyxia. The head is laid flat on the bottom of the cage, the jaws are relaxed, and saliva dribbles from the mouth. All this time the heart continues to beat strongly, its force being increased by attacks of asphyxal convulsions which occur from time to time. Towards the end the inspiratory efforts become reduced to shallow and infrequent gasps, and these soon cease altogether. A little later the heart fails and the poor creature dies, generally without a struggle.

The following is a reported example of the curative effect of anti-venomous serum. A man, a native of Sargon, had been deeply bitten in the index finger of the right hand by a cobra, one of a consignment that was being sent to Dr. Calmeite. An hour after having been bitten, he was injected with the serum, the finger at the time being very much inflamed, contracted, and painful, and on the following day all symptoms of intoxication and swelling had passed off.

Major Lyons remarks that, in India, according to the annual returns, about 20,000 persons die yearly from snake-bite, and of this large number only an insignificant fraction is seen by medical men. That more cases are not brought for treatment is no doubt due, however, to the well-founded belief that up to the present there has been no remedy for snake-bite, and Major Lyons says that the very few who know that the immediate ligature and amputation of a finger or of a limb offers a fair hope of safety, prefer to run the risk of almost certain death to being mutilated. He believes, however, that a large number of cases would be brought to hospital for treatment if it were widely known that a simple and easily applied remedy could be obtained, which affords a fair hope of recovery in all but the most rapidly fatal cases. With this object he suggests that in those districts where deaths from snake-bite are common, the civil hospitals and dispensaries should be equipped with a supply of serum and syringes, and that the assistant surgeons and hospital assistants should be instructed in the method of applying the treatment. Major Lyons reports that until the English Government is able to establish special laboratories in India and in Australia for the preparation of and for testing the serum, the Pasteur Institute of Lille will be able to supply as much serum as may be necessary—up to 30,000 doses per annum, and "in order to render a service to the English Government, and the Government of India," the Pasteur Institute at Lille agrees to deliver the serum at the net cost of its preparation, that is 2s. per dose of 10 c.c., packing included, the cost of postage falling on the colony or Government interested. Most people, we fancy, would at any rate want surer proofs of the efficacy of the new treatment prior to the establishment of "special laboratories in India."

A TELEGRAM from Jibutil states that a British Force has landed on the Somali Coast and fought the Pretender and Mahdist followers near Berbera. Twenty-seven natives were killed.

THE Hon. Mr. Dawkins, Colonel Sandbach and Captain Baker Carr accompanied His Excellency, and the party bagged in two days over 60 pheasants and four karkar or barking deer in the Rana's preserves.

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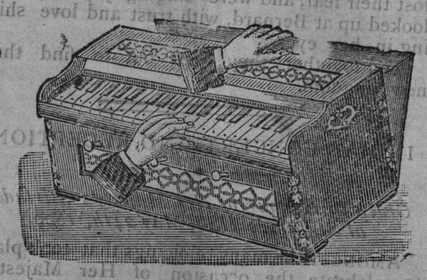

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umar Debendra Narayan Sinha Bahadur of Moheshpur.

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I have used Mr. H. Bose's Kuntaline oil and Scents and found them really good. They are in no way inferior to similar articles prepared by European manufacturers.

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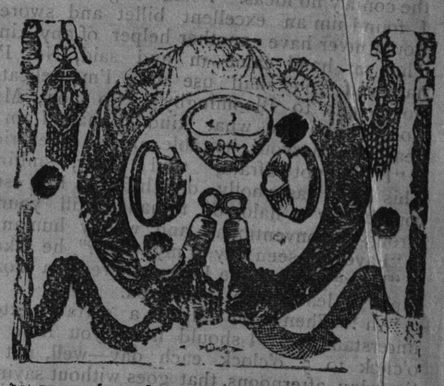

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