







"contempt," or "disaffection." But what is "hatred" and what is "contempt"?

If the Law Member is determined to thrust his measure down the unwilling throats of the people, let him define the words introduced by him into the section, namely "disaffection," "enmity," "hatred," "contempt" and "all feelings of ill-will."

The country has at last begun to speak. The people of Baranagar and Kasipore were the first to publicly protest against the Seditious Bill, and Madras has now responded to the call.

The Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce has thus further addressed the Government of Bengal on the question of the seditious law.

This is very honest. But who led them to the blunder? Alas! for Mr. S. E. J. Clarke.

Is it a fact that two Government servants in the Public Works Department, Bijapur, have been dismissed for having subscribed to the Tilak fund?

The latest news from Bombay states that Mr. Tilak has lost considerably in weight, which is now 112 lbs.

From what we could gather from conversation with a gentleman who ran to Buxar all the way from Calcutta to witness the solar eclipse, it is clear that he did not return much wiser after what he saw there, though, of course, he would not admit that he went on a fool's errand.

We have received several letters from Barupur and the neighbouring villages, describing the panic that has seized the people of that locality on account of the recrudescence of serious crime.

large numbers, and all well-armed, to overcome the opposition of the householders. And it is not Thana Barupur alone that seems to have become a hot-bed of serious crime against life and property.

If there is no rose without its thorn, there is also no evil without its good. The plague rules brought in their train a long list of disasters. Not only lakhs of men suffered terribly from the operation of these rules; but the rulers lost their temper and inaugurated a policy of repression the like of which was never seen before.

The plague rules have had the effect of reconciling the Hindus and Mahomedans of Bans Barriely. It is well known that a great many years past there existed ill-feelings of the worst possible nature between the Hindus and Mahomedans of this town.

Another city where the friction between the two communities was very pronounced, was Patna. The same thing also happened there.

You are aware that never was Patna overtaken with a greater panic than when the plague rules were published in the city. Somewhat or other, the mischievous rumour spread from mouth to mouth that the zenanas of the Hindus and Mussalman would be invaded, and that the ladies would be dragged to public hospitals for treatment.

As we said before, the seditious measure has also brought about a unanimity of feelings amongst the diverse communities of the Indian society.

THROUGH the intervention of the Madras High Court, a man has just been saved from the gallows. It would appear that the accused in this case was declared to be innocent by the Assessors; but the Sessions Judge of Madura, differing from their view, convicted and sentenced him to the extreme penalty of the law.

FROM a Chittagong telegram, published elsewhere, it will be seen that the representatives of the various Municipalities in the Division, at a meeting held on the 21st instant, have nominated Babu Jatramohan Sen, Junior Government Pleader of Chittagong, to a seat in the Bengal Council.

A STRANGE tale reaches our ears. We hear that some military enthusiasts has proposed the places of some of the Civil Assistant Surgeons to be filled up by officers of the Military Assistant Surgeon class, so that they may be available for field duty in times of war.

If the Advocate of India is to be credited, well might those who had gone to Buxar at great expense and trouble to see the solar eclipse, envy the Bombayites, though the sun was only partially eclipsed there.

PROTEST AGAINST THE SEDITIOUS BILL.

A CONFERENCE AT THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION ROOMS.

THE Conference of the semi-public meeting, held on Tuesday at the hall of the British Indian Association to protest against the Seditious Bill, and the Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill, was a most brilliant one.

A draft memorial was read before the Conference; but, as it was considered to be not exhaustive, it was decided to appoint a Sub-Committee for the purpose of re-casting it and submitting it to the Government of India before Saturday next.

THE Duchess of Cleveland, mother of Lord Rosebery, who is on a visit to India this cold weather, was to have been at Delhi on the 21st instant last.

INDIA AND ENGLAND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, JAN. 7.

MR. R. C. DUTT ON THE SEDITIOUS LAW.

Mr. Romesh Chander Dutt, who has now retired definitely from the Civil Service, has determined to take up his residence permanently in London. He has been appointed by the London University to a lectureship on Indian History, and intends to devote his rare literary powers to the service of his country which he has served so long and so honourably.

Mr. Dutt this week has written a very timely letter on the Seditious Law of India in the columns of the Daily News—a journal that is at last awaking to the importance of Indian national problems.

Mr. Dutt justly maintains that sedition finds no place whatever among the educated people of India; it has been killed by English education. They know and thoroughly grasp the immense power of Britain, and the benevolence which characterises, on the whole, British Indian administration.

THE ENGLISH PRESS ON THE CONGRESS.

I AM a little disappointed at the paucity of comment on the Amraoti Congress in the press generally. The telegraphic summary of the Resolutions has been published by every daily paper in the country, but very few of the Editors have thought fit to write serious and detailed leaders upon it.

But having said so much, the article swings off from modified praise of the sensible Congress Resolutions to a violent attack upon what he sarcastically calls "Mullyckatwney," and spends himself in a couple of columns of ridicule and abuse of Congress pretensions, as interpreted by Mullick.

The Times takes exactly the same unfair advantage of the London Indian Society's Resolutions, and manages, in a long article, to confuse the Congress Resolutions with it. The writer contrasts the quiet tone, and indignant repudiation of the charge of disloyalty to British Rule, of the Congress Resolutions, with the "silly and spiteful tone" of the other; and indeed goes so far in his desire to injure the Congress, as to declare that, in spite of this contrast, there is internal evidence to suggest that they are the outcome of common deliberations.

The St. James Gazette gives ten lines to the Congress Resolutions, and the rest of a long article to that of the London Indian Society, closing it by saying that "perhaps the most germane commentary that is to be made upon this contrast between the sucking doves of the Indian Congress, and the seditious talk of the London Conference, is that while it is no longer safe to talk disloyally in India, that kind of language can be held with impunity in England."

The Morning Post follows the same dishonest line of argument. It says that the so-called National Congress breathes nothing but loyalty in its Resolutions. Unfortunately, however, for its professions, the meeting held in London was marked by a different tone, and Mr. Naoroji and his friends make no appeal to the judgment of those who would be glad to hear frank criticism of the Indian Government.

It is refreshing to turn from the disingenuous criticism of the Tory press, to that of the Daily News, whose editor declares that, while no conceivable body could "represent India" the Congress undoubtedly represents an important and influential section of highly-educated Indians, Mussalman as well as Hindus. The President insisted upon the loyalty of the people and the Congress to British Rule, and that loyalty is undeniable, and has been recognised by successive Viceroys.

The Newcastle Leader is a powerful Liberal provincial organ in the north of England. Mr. Edith also refers to the meeting of the Indian Society, and deprecates that the opening day of the Indian National Congress was chosen for the meeting of a conclave which, unlike the Congress, cannot claim to be heard in the name of any considerable section of our Indian subjects, and which only appears to have been convened that "certain glib and ill-conditioned persons" might foolishly fulminate against the British Government in India.

The Bradford Observer, the most able and advanced Liberal paper in Yorkshire, writes very sympathetically about the Congress, and I will quote the closing sentences of the article, verbatim, for they voice the general convictions of thoughtful Liberals in this country. "We have fought with greater or less success through famine and plague, and repaired the ravages of earthquake; but these have been of the nature of disastrous accidents merely. The real problems which have to be faced, are graver and more momentous, and are not to be tidled over by half measures of provisional relief, but demand to be taken seriously in hand to the end of permanent solution and settlement.

The events of the year, in concentrating public attention in this country on Indian affairs through a succession of varied and startling experiences, have had at least one good result in bringing fairly home to the nation many truths as to the conditions under which we control the destinies of these millions of people, and in correcting, it is to be hoped, many illusions under which our easy optimism and placid vanity had long been labouring.

The Manchester Guardian which has now taken a foremost place in Liberal journalism in its sound appreciation of the Congress movement, writes quite the best article of









