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সম্পূর্ণ হইবে। ১ম ও ২য় শাখা মূল্য ৫০; ৩য়

শাখা মূল্য ১০; ৪র্থ শাখা (বন্ধন), মূল্য ১০।

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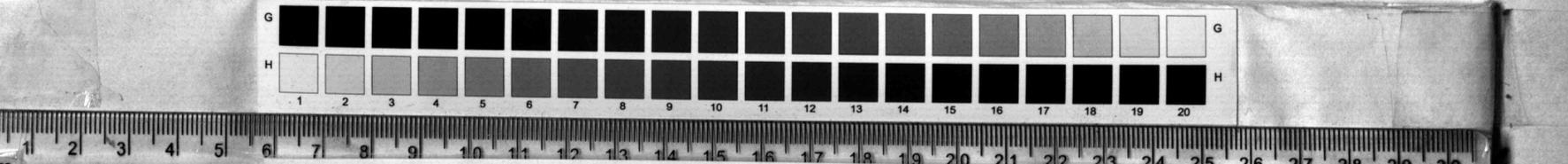
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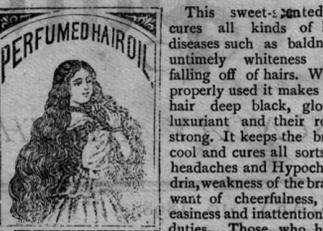
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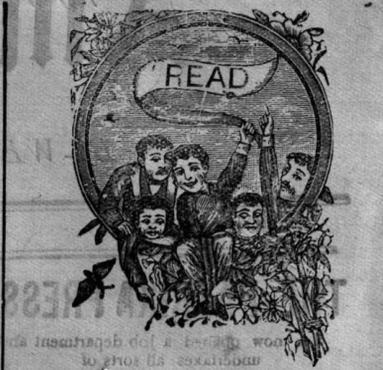
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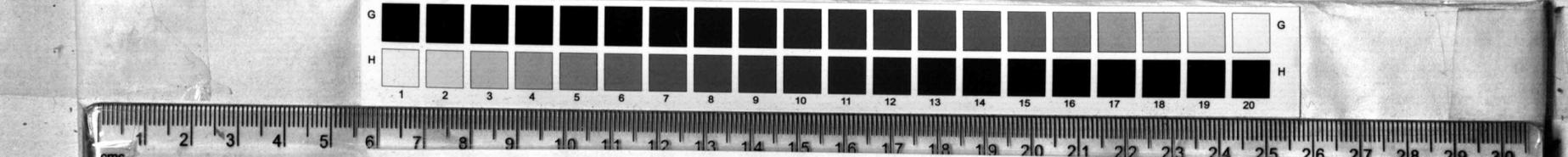
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THE Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, FEBRUARY 10, 1898.

THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE. I

Did Mr. Chalmers chaff that very respectable body of Anglo-Indians who compose the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, when he declared in his speech at the last Council meeting that the Select Committee had accepted their suggestions on the Seditious Bill "almost in their entirety"? Sometimes it is very difficult to distinguish the pleasantries of the Hon'ble Law Member from his serious utterances. For instance, when introducing the Seditious Bill he began with the solemn assurance that he would never re-enact the Vernacular Press Act of 1878, because, said he, "the essential feature of the Act of 1878 was executive control over the writings of the Vernacular Press." But he ended his speech by proposing to place not only the Vernacular Press, but the entire Press, Indian and Anglo-Indian, nay, even the general public, at the tender mercies of the Magistrates, by ascending section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Indeed, the Vernacular Press Act will be revived with a vengeance if his amendments in connection with this section be given effect to; for, public writers and speakers will then be liable to be treated in the same manner as the veriest badmashes and dregs of society if they happen to use language which, in the opinion of the Magistrate, is calculated to bring the Government into contempt.

As regards the compliment paid to the Chamber of Commerce by the Law Member, we shall let an esteemed correspondent speak on the subject:

Sir—One of the prevailing distempers among officials and their spokesmen and apologists, is to deride severe handling and complain that they get their deserts. The cure for this distemper is to avoid positions provoking ridicule and compelling censure. Now, take the following utterance of the Law Member at Friday's meeting of the Viceroy's Council, and test its accuracy:

"We have also derived considerable assistance from non-official sources. I think, for example, the Select Committee have enabled to give effect, almost in their entirety, to the suggestions on this Bill made by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce."

So far as it has transpired in the public papers, the last sitting of the Select Committee was on the 29th January last. The communication of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce is dated the 31st January last. Therefore it was utterly impossible for the Select Committee on the 29th January, or on any day before that date, to give effect to what did not come into existence till two days after that date.

Again, the communication from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, dated 31st January, contains the following suggestions:

1. To keep the words "established by law in British India" after the word "Government."

2. To take out of the proposed section 124A, the offence of promoting feelings of enmity between different classes of Her Majesty's subjects, and place it, if necessary, along with section 153.

3. To give a clearer definition of "disaffection" than is given in Explanation I.

4. To recast Explanation II on the lines of the second paragraph of Article 93 of Stephen's Digest which, the Chamber points out, expresses with great lucidity what is not a seditious intention.

Now, looking at the Bill which is the outcome of the labours of the Select Committee, the two latter suggestions have been rejected; and so the Hon'ble gentleman must be far from accurate in talking of giving effect to the Chamber's recommendations "almost in their entirety," even if such a thing were possible, having regard to the dates above noted.

As to the first two of the Chamber's suggestions, having regard, again, to the same dates, it is unimaginable how the Bengal Chamber could have enabled the Select Committee to adopt them, unless, indeed, this latter possessed such prophetic power as to divine what was coming, two days after.

I suppose, absurdities—not to use a stronger term—such as these, coming from such quarters, are not contemptible and ought not to move one to contempt. If they form no such exception, how is one to fulfil the function of expressing disaffection of it, without exciting contempt? For one should like Mr. Chalmers himself to give us a specimen of criticism, of himself regarding these peccadilloes without exciting or attempting to excite contempt against his measure.

It is, indeed, a psychological phenomenon that the Select Committee should be enabled to avail of the suggestions of the Chamber of Commerce when its communication was not in the hands of the members of the Committee at all. We hope, Mr. Chalmers will take an early opportunity to explain this curious phenomenon.

Our correspondent has pointed out that of the four suggestions made by the Chamber, only two have been accepted by the Select Committee. These two were so outrageous innovations that it is a wonder that they were at all introduced into the Seditious

tion; and it goes without saying that it would not have been possible for Mr. Chalmers to insist on their retention without greatly lowering the prestige of the Government in the eyes of the public. Indeed, as the *Indian Daily News* pointed out in a skit that the substitution of the word, "Government" (which has a special and wide definition in the Code) for "Government as established by law in British India" was a change which would justify all executive officers from the choukidar upwards to bring a case of sedition against a journalist or a public speaker when he deemed it proper to criticise their conduct strongly.

May we enquire how the learned Law Member with his high forensic talent and superior education, found it possible to commit such a blunder as to omit the words "established by law in British India" after the word, "Government," and seek to introduce an innovation of such a ridiculous nature as to attract the attention of even a non-legal body like the Chamber of Commerce and give the latter an opportunity to put him straight? May we also enquire how, as a distinguished lawyer, he could introduce an offence like the promoting of enmity between class and class in the sedition section, when the proper place for it was the chapter of offences relating to the public tranquillity? We must confess that Mr. Chalmers has not enhanced his reputation as a lawyer by acknowledging that he owes these two improvements in his Bill to a commercial body like the Chamber of Commerce. What, in our humble opinion, he ought to have done, was to acknowledge that as he introduced his Bill in a hurry, he was unconsciously led to make the above blunders, and that he had corrected them of his own motion in the Select Committee.

It comes to this, then. The Select Committee have not accepted the suggestions of the Chamber of Commerce, or of any other public body, either in their entirety, or partially. Even if no representation had been made by any public body, Mr. Chalmers would have been obliged, in order to maintain the character of the Government for ordinary commonsense, to make the two improvements, noted above. Truth to tell, the unanimous voice of the public, both Indian and European, has been totally ignored by the Select Committee. They wanted bread and Mr. Chalmers has given them stone.

THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.—II

Just see, it was the Defence Association which first pointed out that the object of the Government could be attained by only a better definition of the word "disaffection." And the definition which they suggested, is so good that it has been almost universally accepted. The two Indian members of the Select Committee were deeply impressed with its lucidity and exactness, and they have embodied it in their Notes of dissent. Mr. Chalmers, however, does not even allude to the communication of the Defence Association, though it was such an able document that it converted such ardent advocates of the Bill as the *Englishman* and other Anglo-Indian papers into its bitter opponents.

The Note of the Calcutta Bar is even a more powerful document than that of the Defence Association. Sir Charles Paul, we believe, presided over the meeting of the Bar when it was adopted by its members. And what did they say? They suggested that all that was necessary to do was to give a clearer meaning of the word, "disaffection" on the lines laid down by the Law Commissioners. They further said that the punishment of transportation should be reduced to two years' simple imprisonment, as in England. And with reference to the amendment of section 505, they remarked that "the time has not come for the making of the truth penal in this country." Some of the members of the Calcutta Bar at least are fully the peers of the Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers. But the deliberations of this learned and august body of lawyers have not only fallen utterly flat upon him, but he has not even the courtesy of acknowledging their Note at all. This is all the more remarkable, as he has specially mentioned one or two public bodies and thanked them for their service.

The Chamber of Commerce, whose suggestions Mr. Chalmers is said to have ac-

cepted almost in their entirety, begin their representation thus:—

"They are not prepared to accept the amendments as they stand, as tending to the object which the Government have in view, as stated by the Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers in his speech when introducing the Bill, namely, that the law might be expressed in clearer and more unequivocal terms."

And they end thus:—

"The Committee do not consider that any special amendment is required in section 124A as it stands at present, but would suggest that a clearer definition of the word "disaffection" than that given in Explanation I, is desirable. With regard to Explanation II, they would also suggest that it should be recast on the lines of the second paragraph of Article 93 of the Digest of the Criminal Law by Sir James Fitzjames Stephen, which expresses with very great lucidity what is not seditious intention."

The gist of the Chamber's representation is then this, that Mr. Chalmers should remove his amendments altogether, and replace them by a more lucid definition of the word "disaffection."

So the three influential European Associations in Calcutta (the Bar Association is more European than Indian) unanimously demand the same thing, namely, the existing Seditious clause should, on no account, be disturbed, but only a clearer definition of the word "disaffection" should be given. That is the contention of the Indians also. Mr. Chalmers has, however, paid no heed to this universal request. The Report which he presented at the last meeting of the Council, is only a nominal improvement upon the original Bill. The real sting is there, and this sting will not be taken out of it unless the suggestions of the Defence Association, the Bar Association and the Chamber of Commerce are given effect to. We do not mention any Native Associations for obvious reasons.

It is a source of great relief and satisfaction to us that the matter is now in the hands of our European brethren. Surely, their motives will never be questioned by the Government. We need not thrust our advice upon them, for, they know their duties better than we do. All we need do is to give them this assurance that the leading men of our community will cheerfully follow them if they will take the lead. We trust the Defence Association and the Chamber of Commerce will promptly decide the steps to be taken at this juncture; for, twelve days more, and the Bill is likely to come in for a final settlement in the Council.

THE CHALMERS BILL.

The *Englishman*, in a couple of pithy sentences, expresses the result of the labours of the Select Committee on the Seditious Bill. Says our contemporary:—

The Select Committee, in fine, appears to have been travelling in a circle during the five weeks in which it has been at work on the Bill, and has brought us out exactly where we were when the Bill was submitted to the Council for the first time. If the Bill is passed as it has left the Committee, the result will be exactly what it would have been if it had been approved of at the first reading.

Yes, the position is not a whit better than it was when the Bill was first announced. With the permission of our readers we shall again quote the dialogue between the not-over-educated village schoolmaster and his pupil:—

The inquisitive lad asked his teacher as to the cause of an earthquake, and the following interesting dialogue took place between them:

Q. How is an earthquake produced?
A. When the thousand-headed snake-god, Vasukee, on which the earth rests, transfers its burden from one head to another, the consequence is an earthquake.
Q. Upon what does the snake-god rest?
A. Upon a tortoise.
Q. Upon what does the tortoise rest?
A. Upon the earth, surely!

In the existing seditious clause, we have only one ambiguous word, namely, "disaffection." This expression was, however, clearly defined by that master of lucid and exact writing, Lord Macaulay, in an Explanation which is appended to the section. There are, however, people, who are fond of showing their learning; and, like the celebrated Hindu savant, Vasudeva Sarvabhoum, who gave seven different interpretations to the simple word, *Atmaram*, half-a-dozen Judges in India came forward and interpreted the word, "disaffection," each in his own way, utterly oblivious of the fact that Macaulay and Barnes Peacock, Stephen and Mayne, took as a model of clear drafting what in their opinion was a jumble and capable of being interpreted in any fanciful way one liked. It was, however, to remove all chance of such different interpretations being put upon the section that the Hon'ble Law Member was entrusted with the task of amending it. Indeed, when introducing his Seditious Bill, Mr. Chalmers

said that his object was only to express the law "in clearer and more unequivocal terms." But how has he performed his task?

The law as it now stands, has only one Explanation which is clear enough to the ordinary apprehension. In the place of one, Mr. Chalmers is going to give us three. In the Explanation we now have, only a single word "disaffection" has been defined. The three Explanations of Mr. Chalmers, however, contain "disaffection" and three other words, "hatred," "contempt" and "all feelings of enmity." The existing Explanation explains the word, "disaffection." But the proposed Explanations of Mr. Chalmers explain neither "disaffection," nor "hatred," nor "contempt" nor "all feelings of enmity." And yet he calls them Explanations!

The matter then stands, thus. Under the present state of the law, people have a definite idea of what sedition is. They know that when they write or speak with the intention of inciting people to commit violence or subvert the authority of the Government, they will fall within the purview of the section; otherwise not. But, if Mr. Chalmers' Bill becomes law, the bewildered Indian will find himself hopelessly entangled in a labyrinth of terms, and commit sedition at every step. For, then, disaffection will mean hatred, and hatred will mean disaffection; disaffection will mean contempt and contempt will mean disaffection; and disaffection will mean all feelings of enmity and all feelings of enmity will mean disaffection, hatred and contempt. That is to say, the earth rests upon the snake-god, the snake-god rests upon the tortoise, and the tortoise rests upon the earth again! This is "the clearer and more unequivocal terms" in which the law has been expounded by the Hon'ble Law Member of the Government of India!

WAY OUT OF THE DIFFICULTY.

No measure of Government received opposition from so many quarters as the Seditious Bill of Mr. Chalmers. It is no exaggeration to say that it has been condemned by all who are competent to pass an opinion on the subject. Here is a list of the public bodies, Indian and European, which have entered protests against the provisions of the Bill:—

- (1) British Indian Association.
- (2) European and Anglo-Indian Defence Association.
- (3) Mahajan Sabha, Madras.
- (4) Conference of Representative Men in Calcutta.
- (5) Inhabitants of Madras.
- (6) Bombay Presidency Association.
- (7) Bar Library, Calcutta.
- (8) Bengal Chamber of Commerce.
- (9) Indian Relief Society.
- (10) Inhabitants of Krishnuggur.
- (11) Vakeels Association, Calcutta.
- (12) Inhabitants of Burisal.
- (13) Fardpur People's Association.
- (14) Pleaders Association, Bombay.
- (15) Poona Sarvajanik Sabha.
- (16) Nagpur Malguzars.
- (17) Bombay public meeting.
- (18) Triplicane Literary Society.
- (19) Purulia Bar Association.
- (20) Chittagong Association.
- (21) Rajshahi Association.
- (22) Baranagore Rate-payers Association.
- (23) Tipperah Bar Association.
- (24) Bar Library, Dacca.
- (25) Mysneming Association.
- (26) Ahmedabad Legal Practitioners Association.
- (27) Bhagulpur Bar Association.
- (28) Gya Bar Association.
- (29) Inhabitants of Serampur.
- (30) Indian Association.

Of course, the list is not exhaustive; for, a good many memorials have not been published at all in any newspaper.

Add to the above the fact that the entire Liberal Press, not from any party-feeling but on principle, is opposed to the measure.

Further, take the fact into consideration that such Anglo-Indian papers as the *Englishman*, the *Pioneer*, the *Times of India* and others, which had, in the beginning, given full or partial support to the measure, veered round to oppose it when they came to realize its alarming character.

From the apologetic tone of Mr. Chalmers when presenting the Report of the Select Committee, it appears that this universal protest is not wholly lost upon the Government. It is quite evident that the Government of India would be too glad to extricate itself from the untenable position in which it finds itself, provided a way out could be shown to it. If the matter were in the hands of Lord Elgin and his advisers here, perhaps the Government of India would have at once yielded, and either shelved the Bill or modified it on the lines pointed out by the public. But, it is an open secret that the measure was thrust upon them by

the Home Government, and thus the authorities here are not quite free to act in the way they choose.

The proper course for Lord Elgin, in our humble opinion, was to refuse to carry out such a mandate, if it really came from the Secretary of State. Indeed, the Ministry would have never forced him to take the odium of a measure upon his shoulders which, as a Liberal, he cannot support without doing gross violence to the avowed principles of his party, to which he himself is also wedded. But perhaps his Excellency believed that the measure was not such an ugly one as it has subsequently transpired to be. Perhaps he thought that he could get the support of at least the European community. It is, however, now quite clear that there is not one independent and intelligent man in India who is for the Bill. It is also quite clear that at least one half of England is against it. What is the right course for Lord Elgin to adopt under the circumstances?

If we had the privilege of advising his Excellency, we would have requested him to take the whole situation before the Secretary of State in plain language, and ask him to be relieved from performing a task in which he has no heart and which, if necessary, might be relegated to his successor who joins his office in the beginning of the next year. This is one way out of the difficulty. The other way is to give effect to the suggestions of the Defence Association and other public bodies with regard to the Bill, and thus earn the gratitude of the entire country.

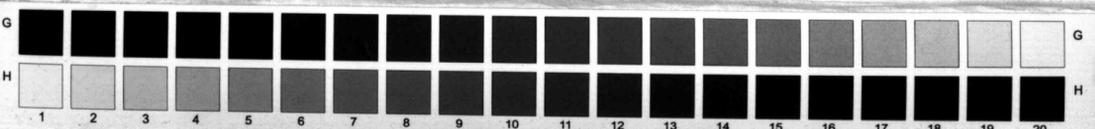
THE trial of Gunner Piper, who was committed to the sessions for having caused the death of a Hindu cultivator, Arjuna, of village Mahi, near Poona, has ended in the discharge of the accused. It will be remembered that at the lower court, Gunners Piper and Clarke had been accused of murder, Clarke having struck Arjuna with a stone, and Piper having shot him dead. Clarke had been discharged, and the other committed, with the result stated above. The defence was that the gun went off accidentally, killing the deceased. The mishap may be put down for a pure accident. But are not such "accidents" bringing contempt upon the administration of justice in this country? If Piper could not handle a gun properly, why was he allowed to carry one? These accidents are never heard of in any other country in the world; and when they are occurring so frequently in this country, a Commission should be appointed to inquire into their cause.

ONE of the complaints of the people in connection with the precautionary measures about plague is, that the extreme solicitude of the authorities to cope with the monster does not manifest itself in battling with a greater monster, we mean, cholera, which carries off lacs of people annually in rural tracts. The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasvaopathi Pillai focussed the complaint into a question, in the Madras Legislative Council, which is as follows:—

Considering that the total number of deaths from cholera in the rural parts of the district of Tanjore (non-municipal areas) during 1896-97 was 7,792 against 645 in the previous year and that the total amount spent on account of the epidemic was only Rs. 1,083, will Government be pleased to invite the attention of the Local Boards in the above district to the necessity of making larger outlays on preventive and remedial measures?

The Government admitted the figures, but said that the outlay was on "remedial measures only, and was very much in excess of the figures, for the previous years, namely, Rs. 457." In other words, the authorities incurred an extra expenditure of only Rs. 600 to deal with an outbreak of cholera, which carried off about 8,000 men. Let us en passant remark that one Plague Observation Camp—that at Chowra—is estimated to cost Rs. 85,000.

We must confess we were a little incredulous when our esteemed correspondent "X" pointed out that the Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers had paid the compliment to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce without reading their communication at all. But we have now got positive evidence to show that its representation could not reach the hands of the members of the Select Committee before their last sitting on the Seditious Bill. In the *India Gazette* of February 5, a list of the papers received by the Select Committee on the Bill is published. On referring to this list we find that the last communication which reached the Committee was the Note by the Bar Library, Calcutta, on the 28th January, which is marked as "Paper No. 21." The list does not contain the name of the Chamber of Commerce at all. As a matter of fact, the communication of the Chamber was dated 31st January, and the Select Committee held its last meeting on the 29th. The inevitable inference, therefore, is that it must have reached the Secretary to the Legislative Council too late, and he could not thus hand it over to the members when, two days before, they were discussing the Bill. The terms, in which the Hon'ble



Mr. Chalmers speaks, are, however clear and unequivocal. He says: "The Select Committee have been enabled to give effect, almost in their entirety, to the suggestions on this Bill, made by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce."

An "official," writing to the Pioneer, makes the following remarks on the Indian Famine:

Just as surely as the British Government exists, and as surely as every other Government which preceded it has existed, so surely have famines existed in India and always will exist.

It is quite true that famines now and then occurred in India in pre-British period. But in older days every decade had not its famine and every half-decade its severe scarcity, as now. Then again, neither during the Hindu nor the Mussalman rule, was any special tax imposed upon the people for the purpose of saving them from the visitation of famines.

THERE is, indeed, a funny side to the following story which hails from the Tanjore district, in Madras. The Sub-Magistrate of Tiruvadi has possibly an exaggerated notion of his own importance as constituting a court.

THE voice of the war party has again prevailed. People were fondly indulging in the hope that as the only of the frontier expedition has been thoroughly exposed, the freeters would see the advisability of putting an end to this profitless war by leaving the Afridis alone.

matter of course. But were not these savages brought on their knees several times before? So, where is the guarantee that they will not break out afresh when they have been humbled by General Lockhart and left alone?

THE weekly India, three issues of which have appeared since the beginning of January, promises to be a first-class English paper. Such a newspaper in England was a crying want, and we congratulate the British Congress Committee on having been able to remove it.

To show that some Anglo-Indian papers now and then create ill-will in the minds of the people towards the rulers, Babu Romesh Chandra Dutt, in his letter to the London Daily News, referred to what one of them had said about "the proverbial cowardice of the Bengalees."

DAMODAR HARI CHAPEKAR, says a Bombay exchange, will shortly appeal to the High Court against the sentence of death passed on him by Mr. Crowe, Sessions Judge of Poona.

THE current issue of the Jyoti, the newly-started weekly of Chittagong, says that for about a fortnight recently, a booming sound issued from the bowels of the earth in a field close to the village Tarakata, thana Mirshwar.

THERE at the present moment four young English girls in Shanghai, possibly more, the youngest only seventeen years old, who were married in London to Chinamen, some of them members of the Chinese Legation in London, brought out by mail steamers as the wives of these Chinese and deserted here, exposed to perils which we know of, but need not particularise.

THE man who was arrested some time ago in connection with the robbery of Rs. 3,000 from a passenger near Amritsar, was sentenced on Friday to seven years' rigorous imprisonment, and a fine of Rs. 900.

INDIA AND ENGLAND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, JAN. 21.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH'S DELIVERANCE.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN, Lord George Hamilton, Sir H. Campbell Bannerman, Mr. Asquith and Sir Michael Hicks Beach have all been disputing themselves at political meetings during the week. All have made reference to Indian questions; but with one exception, nothing worthy of special comment has been said by any of them, the conspicuous position given by each and all to Indian affairs only indicating their growing political import and the certainty that the Forward policy will be the main battle-ground of the two front benches and their followers in the debates upon the Queen's Speech.

While he was able to correct some very extravagant apprehensions of Mr. John Morley and his friends on the cost of the frontier war, at that time the present financial position and the prospects of the war were not so clear as now. He was glad to tell them that the financial position and those prospects had so much improved that from the last advice they had, good reason to believe that the Indian Government did not consider it necessary that any financial help should be given by this country to India at the present time.

It is quite clear from this very specific statement that India in the East is to be robbed for the Indies in the West, on the ground that India's financial position and prospects had so much improved since the Chancellor of the Exchequer promised substantial financial help. The country will be curious to know the particulars of this amazing improvement, and the justification for this second "breach of faith."

Now what is the real nature of the West Indian grievance to which India has been so ruthlessly sacrificed? It is simply this: they cannot supply the home market with cheap sugar, in consequence of foreign bounty-fed competition; and unless we put on an import duty to protect colonial sugar, and throw to the winds that free trade policy which is the root and branch of Britain's supremacy in the commerce of the world, the West India sugar trade must inevitably pine away.

the pockets of plague-stricken, famine-ridden, impoverished India, instead of the pocket of the British tax-payer, whose advantages from cheap sugar alone amount to ten times the largest grant-in-aid that the most reckless and extravagant Tory Government would ever dream of asking for.

Nobody yet knows what the total bill will amount to, for these costly and disastrous Frontier Campaigns; for, there is as yet no certainty that the whole business has not got to be gone through over again this year. But already it must have reached at least ten millions sterling. If Mr. Naroji has done no other service for his native land, he has at any rate brought home to the British people the terrible poverty of India.

It is hardly necessary to deal with the cheap and meretricious argument put forward by Sir Michael Hicks Beach that India has so completely recovered her financial stability, that the Indian Government "did not consider it necessary that any help should be given to India at the present time."

I expect, the bottom reason for this change of attitude on the part of the Chancellor of the Exchequer is to be found in his statement that the Indian Government does not consider it necessary that any financial help should be given to India at the present time.

THE COMING SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.

We are now within a fortnight or so of the assembling of Parliament and coming events cast visible shadows in front of them. It bids fair to be an Indian session. The first formal attack of the Opposition, re-invigorated and encouraged by the brilliant successes of the by-elections, will be on the Frontier policy of the Government.

unhappy about the course of events on the N.-W. Frontier, will abstain from voting, and I should not be much surprised if their majority of 100 were brought down below 100 on the division. The dread of this is already making itself felt in the Tory camp, for, Lord George Hamilton, in a recent speech, stated that he hoped he might be able to present to Parliament a scheme with regard to Indian frontier policy, which might reasonably unite both Front Benches.

MR. MACLEAN'S RECENT SPEECHES ON INDIA.

Mr. Maclean is among the most troublesome men in the Tory camp, and he has been making a good many very embarrassing speeches on India lately, which are evidently foreshadowing a flank attack on the Government, whenever this Opposition impeach their frontier policy.

Mr. Maclean's own newspaper, the "Western Mail," has declared this week in a leading article that it is impossible that Mr. Maclean's outspoken comments about frontier affairs can rest with speeches in the country. The opinion everywhere prevails that there is much to be explained and much censure to be meted out.

INDIA IN COMING PARLIAMENT.

The endless discussions which will be involved by the Scheme of Army Reform which is to be the main feature of the Session, will include constant reference to the condition of India which lies at the root of the demand, and constant opportunity will be afforded to wary and vigilant members interested in India, to raise side-debates of much interest and importance.

THERE were 212 attacks and 165 deaths from plague reported on Tuesday in Bombay.

It is reported that the Karachi Plague Committee has consented to move the detention camp to a site at Manora. Karachi continues free of plague, and is singularly healthy for this time of the year.

THE sky was overcast in the North-West Provinces on Tuesday. Rain is badly wanted in certain districts, where the pinch of scarcity was the greatest.

COLONEL MAYNE returned to camp Turbat on the 6th instant and will halt there till more provisions are brought from the coast. The troops will then visit Maud, the stronghold of the Rind Baluchis, and thence proceed to Kalwa, were Captain Burn's camp was located.

A CURIOUS fever, evidently of a malarial type, is prevailing in the north-eastern suburbs of Calcutta. Many of those attacked having succumbed to the malady, it was popularly believed that the bubonic plague had turned up. The medical authorities, however, found no reason for alarm.

A DESPERATE Sindh life convict, named Rohilla, commenced to set fire to his plank bed recently, while at Yerrowda. Two European warders and one native saw him and prevented his doing any mischief. He threw stones at them and afterwards caught hold of a native and squeezed him to death.

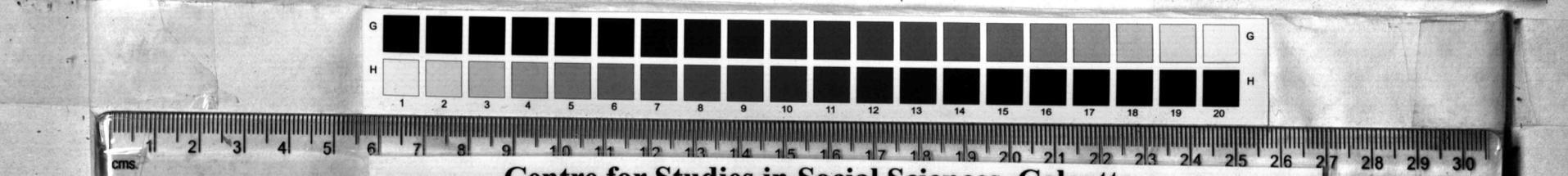
A MONKEY died of plague in Belgaum city on Thursday last. When brought to the Municipal Office for post mortem examination it was found that it had no fewer than four buboes in the throat and groins.

FIVE of the six muzzle-loading guns of No. 5 (Bombay) Mountain Battery, Tirah Expeditionary Force, have been pronounced by a Civilian mechanic from Rawal-pindi Arsenal to be unfit for further use, and are being exchanged at once.

THE Pioneer's London correspondent telegraphs on the 7th instant:—General Sir Hugh Gough succeeds General Sir F. Middleton, deceased, as Keeper of the Regalia in the Tower of London.

THE Madras Mail understands that the Madras Government has as yet received no communication from the Secretary of State regarding the appointment of Advocate-General.

THE showers in parts of Madras at the close of last month have reduced the numbers on the test relief works by nearly two thousand, but they still employ 4,874 persons. There has been a further slight drop in the famine figures for Bombay and the Central Provinces, the total numbers being now 11,800 and 580 respectively, and for the whole of India 17,239.



Calcutta and Mofussil.

LORD GAURANGA

SALVATION FOR ALL. BY BABU SHISHIR KUMAR GHOSE. Paper cover Rs. 1-12. Cloth bound Rs. 2-4. Postage extra. To be had at the Patrika Office, Calcutta.

SIMLA EXODUS.—The Government of India Offices will close in Calcutta on 26th March and re-open in Simla on the 28th.

MONETARY.—Exchange rates were firm on Tuesday, and closing quotations were 1-4-7-32 for six months and 1-3-15-16 for demand.

OFFICIAL.—Mr. Savage, Collector of Gaya, relieves Mr. Hare, Commissioner of Dacca, proceeding on leave, Mr. C. A. Oldham officiating for him.

THE CHIEF SECRETARYSHIP.—Mr. Bolton gives over charge of his duties as Chief Secretary to the Bengal Government on the 12th March, prior to proceeding on leave.

ELECTRIC TRAMWAY FOR CALCUTTA.—The electric system has received the sanction of the Corporation, and the work will commence almost immediately on the Strand Road and Chitpore.

LEGISLATION.—Two Bills, which are to come up for final disposal this session of the Supreme Legislative Council at Calcutta, are the Stamps Act and Indian Post Office Act, both measures affecting the mercantile community.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.—We regret to learn that His Excellency Sir George White met with a serious accident whilst riding in a paperchase on Friday.

RAILWAY COLLISION.—The Assistant Station-masters of Jhinkergacha and Nabharan on the B. C. Railway, have been sentenced by the Sub-divisional Officer of Bongong to one year and six months' rigorous imprisonment respectively, and to a fine of Rs. 100 each, for having caused the recent collision.

INDECENT ASSAULT.—The case of the native boy, convicted of committing an indecent assault on a 6-year old European girl having come on appeal before Mr. Knox-Wright, Sessions Judge of Patna, the conviction was quashed and the accused ordered to be committed to the ensuing Sessions.

A PHENOMENON.—On Friday, the 28th January last, between 2 and 3 p.m., showers of yellow rain fell in the Residency Bazaars, Hydeabad, for an interval of about half an hour. Many persons wearing white clothes, were spotted yellow all over. On many terrace roofs and the leaves of plants were found these yellow drops. When scraped on a piece of paper and smelt, the powder gave out the smell of sulphur. The incident was noticed by a large number of persons. The colour of the scrapings was dull yellow.

SAD ACCIDENT TO A JOURNALIST.—On Saturday last while the Simla Down mail was steaming down between Moghul-serai and Chowra, Babu Girish Chandra Das, editor of a vernacular paper at Sylhet, met with a serious accident which threatens to prove fatal. He was leaning against the open door of a third-class compartment, and fell out as the door caught on to the hook of a mail bag apparatus. The train was immediately stopped and the senseless man picked up. He was removed to the camp hospital at Chowra where it was found that he had suffered a compound fracture of the base of the skull. Very little hopes are entertained of his life.

THE FAMINE COMMISSION.—The Famine Commission has left Calcutta for Madras. Their dates hereafter will be as follows:—Leave Madras 18th, halt Bellary 21st, 22nd, Bombay 25th Feb.—15th March, Nagpur 6th—9th Rairpur 10th—12th, Jubbulpur 14th—18th, Lucknow 20th—27th. They will also visit Agra, Jhansi and Lahore, and proceed to Simla in April to write their report. In Calcutta, besides those already named, the Commission examined Messrs. Hare, Russell, Levinge, Vincent, Manisty and Herald, all of the Civil Service, and Mr. Glass, Chief Engineer, Bengal, Dr. Dyson, Sanitary Commissioner, Rai Khirina Chandra Banerji, Bahadur, Executive Engineer, Mr. McEwan, of Messrs. Sassoon and Co., and Mr. Basu.

A HUGE ALLIGATOR KILLED AT CONTAL.—The Russulpur river is a tributary of the Hughli, running within the district of Midnapur. It takes its rise in the south-west of the district under the name of the Bagda river, and flows eastwards and southwards till it falls into the Hughli below Cowkhali Light House, a short distance above where that river empties itself into the Bay of Bengal. The Russulpur teems with alligators, many of which can be seen lying on the banks. The other day one of the officers employed in the Contal Sub-division killed a large alligator measuring 16 1/2 feet long, which was lying close to the edge of the slope. The officer referred to, stalked the animal to a distance of about 50 yards. He first hit him just in front of the right shoulder on which he reared up on his tail and then became motionless. Eight more bullets were given him, but he wriggled slightly and slid down the bank like a vessel, leaving the "ways" in a ship-building yard, and entered into the water with a great splash. He was washed away about a quarter of mile by the tide. He was then again hit on the head and once more dived, subsequently coming near the shore almost motionless presenting his right side, when two more shots were fired at him, which ended his life. It required the whole strength of more than twenty men to bring him up the bank, and when his stomach was opened eight brass bangles and anklets and one glass bangle were found. This shows that the animal must have killed several women and children.

THE BUDGET.—The discussion on the Annual Budget Statement will begin on March 28th. His Excellency the Viceroy will leave Calcutta a few days later, going probably to Mussoorie, and thence marching through the hills to Simla.

STRANGE, IF TRUE.—The Westminster Gazette says that the picture of Sir Henry Havelock-Allan in the Sergeants' Mess of the head-quarters of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers, fell from its hangings to the floor on December 29th at 3-40 P. M.—the same afternoon that Sir Henry left his escort to proceed to Jamrud. It is a noteworthy fact that there is as yet no positive time given of his death, although his body was found on the Thursday.

IN RE THE SEDITION BILL.—The Secretary to the Indian Association has sent the following telegram to the London "Daily News": "Sedition Bill unanimously condemned all sections European Indians alike. 'Pioneer' semi-official organ, 'Englishman' and 'Times of India' leading Anglo-Indian Newspapers, and public bodies such as Anglo-Indian Defence Association, Chamber Commerce, besides native Associations, all condemn Bill with unanimity not witnessed even connection Vernacular Press Act. Report Select Committee highly unsatisfactory. Indian members including Maharaja Durbhanga dissenting. Bill practically remains unmodified."

HYPNOTISED BY A SADHOO.—A young lad, by name Birajmohun Chowdhury, was found missing on the 22nd January last under very peculiar circumstances. It would appear that on returning from a dip in the Ganges during the solar eclipse, he was met by a sadhoo who threw a flower at him. What came over him he could not explain, but he followed the Sadhoo in a trance-like pre-disposition. For three days he roamed about, but where and how he could not account for. He was found three days later on the Howrah Bridge and said that though he had not taken any food during this time he did not feel any worse for it. The Sadhoo, it is said, gave him a pair and a sum of Rs. 1-14-3 which were found intact on his person.

ANIMAL HYPNOTISM.—A fox is described in the London Spectator as having hypnotised a pheasant while it was sitting on a tree, by walking rapidly round the tree until the hapless bird became dazed and fell into the jaws of the intelligent quadruped. This is followed by the story of a practical taxidermist. He was driving along a road one day and he noticed, some distance ahead, a lot of sparrows feeding. Presently a little weasel came out of the hedge on the opposite side and began turning somersaults towards the birds. The sparrows stopped feeding and looked wonderingly at the strange object. Then the weasel slipped back again, and a minute afterwards repeated the performance. Each time the long brown little body got nearer to the birds, but unfortunately a sudden noise frightened the birds away, and the wicked plot was spoiled.

QUEER MARRIAGES.—The following is a cutting from a foreign paper:—A wedding by which father, daughter, brother and sister, were married at the same ceremony has just taken place at Columbus, Indiana. The parties to the wedding were Russell Debusk and Miss Ella Bevars and William Bevars and Miss Alpha Debusk. Mrs. Debusk and William Bevars are brother and sister and Russell Debusk is the father of Mrs. Bevars. A queer and unusual relationship has resulted. Bevars own sister is his mother-in-law, and his father-in-law is also his brother-in-law. Debusk's daughter becomes sister-in-law. Mrs. Debusk is the stepmother and sister-in-law of Mrs. Bevars. Mrs. Bevars, being her father's sister, is consequently an aunt to herself. Debusk, being his daughter's brother, must necessarily be his own father.

SIR G. WHITE'S GALLOP.—We shall look forward with some interest to see how the accident to Sir George White is telegraphed to the Times; for, we believe, the general astonishment at home on hearing that while there is all this anxiety on the frontier the Commander-in-Chief in India was galloping on a horse, after a man with a bag of paper, will be received with almost as much incredulity as if they heard that their General had been injured while playing blind-man's buff. They will be, we are afraid, rather in the position of the citizens of Kumlifoo, those well-conducted people who, when they saw their bishop land, etc., the joke they did not understand, it made them very sad. We out here see nothing amazing in one doing anything of the sort, but we think that this is precisely the sort of announcement that will stir up all sorts of ill-will at home towards the Government established in British India, and that some sort of official telegram should at once be sent that he was thrown off his horse by an advocate of India or by a person at least of some education. They would believe that just now, but they would never believe the real story. It would be quite too ridiculous. It was Goldsmith who spoke of frisking beneath the burden of three score. I.D. News.

MR. GUNGABISHEN, a well-known saucar has, says the "Hyderabad Chronicle," obtained from the Nizam the Abkari contract for the whole of the Dominions for the ensuing ten years for the sum of Rs. 11,19,000. He has also obtained the Secunderabad contract for the sum of Rs. 4,12,000.

Effect Is Marvellous. O says THOMAS C. FLASHMAN, Esq., the well-known merchant and proprietor of FLASHMAN'S HOTEL, RAWALPINDI, when speaking about some instances where he gave Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea remedy. He said: "I have much pleasure in testifying to the beneficial results I have experienced from Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea remedy. Whenever I had occasion to use it, it has never failed to check diarrhoea, and often one dose was enough. The effect is marvellous. Have given it to travellers passing through my Hotel, and to my servants many times, and I have always proved efficacious." and CHAMBERLAIN'S COLIC, CHOLERA, and DIARRHOEA REMEDY sold everywhere. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2. GENERAL AGENTS: Smith Stanistreet & Co. AND K. & Paul Co., Calcutta.

A DIVORCE CASE. FREDERICA BEATRICE LANTES vs JOSEPH LANTES.—This was a suit by the wife for the dissolution of marriage on the grounds of adultery, cruelty and desertion. The respondent was a Veterinary Surgeon. The parties were married on the 17th April, 1889, in Calcutta and lived and cohabited in various places in the town. There was only one child, the issue of the marriage. It was alleged that shortly after the marriage, the respondent commenced to drink heavily and to ill-treat the petitioner and her severely. It was further alleged that when she was in England and also in Australia, and afterwards in Simla for short periods, the respondent committed adultery with one Mrs. Margery Hadden and with several other Mahomedan women, and was at present living in adultery with one Mrs. Constance Fox. He had also deserted the petitioner and refused to contribute anything towards her support. Mr. Justice Jenkins of the Calcutta High Court, then gave a decree nisi for dissolution of marriage on the grounds of cruelty and adultery.

THE CHAMPATOLA MURDER CASE. In the case of Empress vs Hahul Chander Das, in which the prisoner was charged with the murder of a woman whose body was found some months ago in a sack, with her face tarred, in Nilmoney Datta's Lane, Champatola, Mr. Justice Hill, who sent at the High Court Session, on Tuesday, was of opinion that the charge of murder was not sustainable, and asked Mr. O'Kinealy, Standing Counsel, if he agreed with him. Mr. O'Kinealy said that he agreed with his Lordship. He had read the papers in the case very carefully and had submitted certain facts to the Advocate-General, who agreed with him that there was no possible chance of sustaining the charge of murder. The prisoner was then brought up and discharged.

THE POSTMAN AND THE EAGLES. A GOOD natural history episode is related in Paris. It refers to an attack made by eagles on a rural postman, named Zephirin Bontoux, who has to tramp every day with letters from Saint Bonnet to Saint Etienne, in Devolny, in the department of the Hautes Alpes. Zephirin was trudging along as usual on Sunday when a snow storm came on, and in order to save his eyes he sat down on the roadside, turning his back on the blinding blizzard. Hardly had he seated himself when two immense eagles pounced down on him and began to attack him with their beaks and claws. Zephirin was fortunately provided with a thick cudgel having an iron point, and with this he drove off the birds. Suddenly the two eagles swooped down again from the heights on the postman, who was overturned by a blow from a wing. Fortunately Bontoux soon recovered his equilibrium, and for nearly a quarter of an hour kept the eagles away. His stick rendered him good service, and after desperate efforts to defend himself, he had the satisfaction of seeing the birds soar upwards through the falling snow. Bontoux, although much fatigued by his exertion, reached his destination safely and went to a doctor in order to have a few scratches, which he received in the hands, attended to.

ANOTHER European soldier at Poona has been charged with having so brutally assaulted a native as to bring him to death's door. Private McQuillan, of the Royal Irish Rifles, stationed at Poona, has been arrested by the police on a charge of attempting the murder of a dhoobie-bearer belonging to his regiment. The man's throat was cut, but no motive can be assigned for the act. The wounded man is lying in a precarious condition at the Sasson Hospital. A police investigation is being proceeded with.

The Morning Post of Delhi says that rumours are again current in certain quarters to the effect that it is in the serious contemplation of the Government of India to make Simla its permanent head-quarters. The reason of this revival of the rumour is that, considering the present difficulties on the frontier, it is extremely unwise to locate the headquarters of the Viceroy, even for a few months, at the other extremity of the continent. We sincerely hope that this will not prove anything more than what it is—a rumour.

SIR ANTHONY MACDONNELL is credited with having come to the conclusion that the sole guarantee of success in putting down plague, lies in the detection and speedy treatment of the earliest cases that might occur in a particular neighbourhood. Under this conviction, His Honour is said to have perfected an organisation that can be applied at a moment's notice when suspicion of its necessity is established. By the way, it may be noted here that it was found at Hurdwar that the closest contact with a monkey which had died of plague, would not necessarily communicate the disease to others. This is something; although it is not quite known if the immunity will apply to human beings as well.

We are given to understand, says the "South Indian Post," that the Mail bags despatched from the Patuocota Post Office to Peravurni and Arantangi in Tanjore were held up by some banditti on Wednesday night, the 19th ultimo, near the Punakutti river at Peravurni. The postal runner usually arrives at the Peravurni Post Office at about 8 P. M. and starts for Arantangi at 9 o'clock. Both the Peravurni and Arantangi bags were carried away and the runner severely handled. The man became insensible, but came to senses after a few hours and reported the matter at the Peravurni Post Office. The police at Peravurni immediately proceeded to the spot and found the Peravurni Mail bag lying untouched, but the Arantangi bag was found broken open and some insurance packets rifled off their contents, which happened to be jewels &c., to an estimated value of Rs. 2,400. The affair stands thus at present.

Acted Like A Charm. MR. J. HARRY WATERS, Head-Master STATION SCHOOL, RAWALPINDI, says: "I regard Chamberlain's Pain Balm as a most useful household medicine. Have seen used for toothache, rheumatism, and once for a very bad scalded foot, and in each of these instances the Pain Balm acted like a charm." Every one who uses Chamberlain's Pain Balm always speaks in the same terms. It should be kept in every medicine chest. CHAMBERLAIN'S PAIN BALM for sale everywhere Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2. GENERAL AGENTS:—Smith Stanistreet & Co., and K. & Paul Co., Calcutta.

GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

Mr. Ahsanuddin Ahmad, Offg. Dist. an Sessions Judge, Rangpur, is allowed leave for thirty days under article 308 of the Civil Service Regulations. Mr. Ambika Charan Sen Offg. Dist. and Sessions Judge, Burdwan, is acting for him.

The services of Mr. T. Emerson, Offg. Jt. Magte. and Dy. Collr., Sirajganj are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Govt. of India in the Home Department.

The following confirmations and appointments are sanctioned in the grades of Dist. and Sessions Judges and Magtes and Collrs:—

Appointed substantively pro tempore to the second grade of District and Sessions Judges: Mr. Ambika Charan Sen, vice Mr. Mr. H. E. Ransom confirmed, with effect from the 30th October 1897.

Confirmed in the third grade of Magistrates and Collectors: Mr. Syud Nurul Huda, vice Mr. J. L. Herald, confirmed in the second grade with effect from the 1st October 1897.

Appointed substantively pro tempore to the third grade of Magistrates and Collectors: Mr. Ahsanuddin Ahmad, with effect from the 1st October 1897, vice Mr. Syud Nurul Huda, and again from the 14th November 1897, vice Mr. E. Geake, appointed substantively pro tempore to the second grade of Dist. and Sessions Judges.

Mr. C. A. Bell, sub pro tempore Jt Magte and Dy Collr., has been granted by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India an extension of furlough for six months on medical certificate.

Babu Jadu Nath Sarkar, Dy Magte and Dy Collr., Thakurgaon, is allowed leave for two months and fifteen days, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Rai Mohendra Nath Gupta Bahadur, Dy Magte and Dy Collr., Brahmanbaria, is allowed furlough for one year, under article 371 of the Civil Service Regulations, Babu Sasibhusan Basu, Dy Magte and Dy Collr., Jessore acting for him.

Maulvi Syed Abdool Malek, sub pro tempore Dy Magte and Dy Collr., Darbhanga, is transferred to Jessore.

Mr. W. B. Thomson, sub pro tempore Jt. Magte and Dy Collr., is appointed to have charge of Serajganj.

Colonel H.M. Ramsay, Dist. Supdt. of Police, Muzaffarpore, is allowed leave on private affairs from the 12th February to the 15th July 1898 under Rule XXV of the furlough rules of 1868.

Maulvi Syed Ameer Hossein, Rural Sub-Registrar of Aurangabad, is appointed to act as Spl. Sub-Registrar of Palamau.

Babu Purno Chandra Bose, M.A., B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Kuriganj, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Amulya Chandra Ghose, who is allowed leave for thirty days under article 372 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Satish Chandra Mitra, M.A., B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Patuakhal, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Nagendra Nath Dhar.

The order of the 18th December, 1897, granting privilege leave for one month to Babu Nishi Kanta Chatterjee, sub pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Nadia, is cancelled.

Babu Sarat Chandra Mukerjee, sub pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Satkhira, is transferred to Basirhat.

Babu Monmohun Mukerjee, sub pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Basirhat, is transferred to Diamond Harbour.

Maulvi Syed Tajammul Ali, sub pro tempore Sub-Dy. Collr., is posted to Bhadrak on being relieved of his appointment as temporary Khas Tashildar of Angul.

Babu Dasarathi Datta, sub pro tempore Sub-Dy. Collr., Jalpaiguri, is allowed leave for thirty days, under article 273 (a) of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Jogendra Chandra Bhanja, sub pro tempore Sub-Dy. Collr., Rangpur, is allowed leave for twelve months, under article 369 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Maulvi Shah Mahomed Karim is appointed to act as Rural Sub-Registrar of Aurangabad, Gaya, vice, Maulvi Ameer Hossain.

ANOTHER convict was seized with plague in the Common jail, Bombay, and died on Thursday. The deceased was not inoculated. There have been fifteen cases of plague in the Common Jail and nine deaths have occurred up to date.

A POSTHUMOUS honour of the 3rd class Order of Merit has been conferred on each of the heroic Sikhs of the 6th B. I. who fell at Saragathi, and their widows have been admitted to the usual pension attaching to the distinction.

It Is Remarkable. SAYS MR. W. WILSON, the popular Chind at RAWALPINDI and MURREE, "How Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has attained a prominence in this district, and though it has only been introduced a few months it has taken the lead. From remarks made by my customers, who have used this remedy, I am convinced that it possesses exceptional qualities. I never hesitate to recommend it to all who are in need of a good cough mixture." CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY is for sale everywhere. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2. GENERAL AGENTS:—Smith Stanistreet & Co. and K. & Paul Co., Calcutta.

THE infallible and radical cure for Chronic Gonorrhoea and all sorts of Spermatorrhoea and loss of manhood. It purifies the blood, promotes digestion and assimilation, strengthens the body and improves the memory. In short it rapidly renovates exhausted nerves of the human system, thus restoring all the bodily as well as the mental functions. It is a well-tried and widely used remedy for Nervous debility. Apply for particulars, with half anna stamp. 1 box of 42 pills—Rs. two only. Postage of 1 to 4 boxes Annas Four only. Address—Dr. K. L. BHATPACHARJEA STHAL BASANTAPUR MEDICAL HALL, District Purnea, Bengal.

TELEGRAMS.

(INDIAN TELEGRAM.) MADRAS, FEB. 7. A large and influential meeting was held in Madras, protesting against legislation fixing the marriageable age limit in this Presidency. The meeting wired to His Excellency the Governor-General not to consent to such Bills being introduced into the Madras Council. A memorial is in preparation.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.] LONDON, FEB. 4. Mr. Gerald Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland, speaking at Leeds, said it was untrue that the Government had departed in the smallest detail from the Chinese policy already enunciated, or yielded to foreign pressure. He reaffirmed the determination of the Government to maintain equality in commercial rights.

LONDON, FEB. 4. Alderman Joseph Richardson, the Liberal candidate, has been elected Member for East Durham in place of the late Havelock Allan, and defeating the Hon. I. W. Lambton, brother of the Earl of Durham, the Unionist candidate, by a majority of 275 votes. The polling was: Richardson, 6,286; and Lambton, 6,011.

LONDON, FEB. 5. Prince Henry of Orleans, speaking at a banquet in Paris, said that, thanks to French explorers and the goodwill of King Menelik, the French flag would soon float on the Upper Nile, notwithstanding the threatening clouds and muttering storms.

Operations in the Niger Protectorate against the Ediba tribes continue, and severe fighting has taken place, in which Captain Jented was killed and Captain Middleton wounded. The enemy lost heavily.

LONDON, FEB. 5. The Times' Shanghai correspondent states that at Sir Robert Hart's request, Mr. Bredon has been appointed Deputy Inspector-General of Customs, with a proviso that the chief authority is not to be delegated.

LONDON, FEB. 4. The transport Avoca has arrived at Southampton from Bombay.

LONDON, FEB. 4. German drill instructors in China have received notice of dismissal.

LONDON, FEB. 4. The Japanese fleet is manoeuvring prior to starting on a cruise in Chinese waters.

LONDON, FEB. 7. The first day of the Zola trial was occupied in citing witnesses. Many declined to attend, whereupon Zola's counsel applied to the court to enforce their attendance. The decision will be given to-morrow.

M. Hanotaux in the Chamber said that France would continue to defend the Sultan and the Powers in Egypt.

In the match against New South Wales England scored 227 for six wickets.

LONDON, FEB. 6. The Sultan has replied in a most conciliatory tone to the Bulgarian note.

The "Novoe Vremya" says that Russian official support to M. Leontief and Prince Henry of Orleans will be restricted to a feeling of genuine satisfaction if they are successful.

The transport Nubia has sailed for Bombay.

LONDON, FEB. 8. The Times' Peking correspondent believes that China will decline alike the British and Russian proposals regarding the loan, fearing that acceptance would give umbrage to the disappointed Power. Meanwhile China is seeking to raise a loan by other means.

In the match against New South Wales, Stoddart's team was out in first innings for 387 runs.

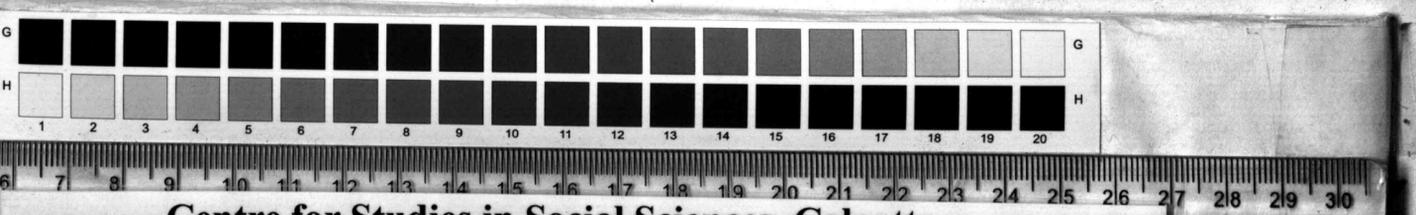
LONDON, FEB. 8. Parliament was opened to-day. Her Majesty in her speech from the Throne, which was read by the Lord Chancellor, said:—My relations with foreign Powers are friendly. I hope the obstacles against arriving at a unanimous agreement in Crete will be fore long surmounted. Owing to intelligence received, which is apparently trustworthy, of the Khalifa's intention to advance against the Egyptian army in Soudan, I have despatched a contingent of British troops to Berber to the assistance of the Khedive.

THE FRONTIER WAR. Her Majesty then announces the conclusion of a treaty of friendship and commerce with King Menelik, and the proposals to enable the West Indies to tide over the present crisis. Her Majesty then says:—The organized outbreak of fanaticism on the north-western borders of India has induced many tribes to break their engagements, and attack military posts and even invade the settled part of my territory, and I have been compelled to send expeditions to punish the se outrages, and insure peace in the future. A portion of the Afri-dri tribes have not yet accepted my terms, but elsewhere the operations have been successfully concluded. The courage and endurance of my troops, both British and native, has overcome almost insuperable difficulties. The country will have to deplore the loss of many valuable lives both amongst my own troops and those placed voluntarily and loyally at my disposal by the Native princes of India.

FAMINE AND PLAGUE. Though the mortality from plague in India is less alarming than last year, it still causes me anxiety, and my Government will spare no effort to limit its extent and mitigate its effects, and I am confident that I shall receive the loyal assistance of my Indian subjects in this arduous task. I am rejoiced at the ending of the famine, and have reason to anticipate a prosperous year both for agriculture and commerce throughout India.

In view of the enormous armaments now maintained by other nations, the duty of providing for the defence of the Empire involves expenditure beyond former precedent. Her Majesty then announces a Bill to secure the increased strength and efficiency of the Army, and to amend the present conditions of military service; also for Local Government in Ireland and to create municipalities in London and other measures. No mention is made of China.

At the trial of M. Zola, the Court has excluded all evidence tending to re-open the Dreyfus case.



THE SEDITION LAW.

The following is the full text of the Sedition Bill, as originally introduced by Mr. Chalmers...

Explanation 1.—The expression "disaffection" includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity.

Explanation 2.—Comments on the measures of the Government with a view to obtain their alteration by lawful means, without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, do not constitute an offence.

Explanation 3.—Comments on the measures of the Government without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, do not constitute an offence under this section.

Explanation 4.—Whoever makes, publishes or circulates any statement, rumour or report, with intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, any officer, soldier or sailor in the army or navy of Her Majesty or in the Royal Indian Marine or in the Imperial Service Troops to mutiny or otherwise disregard or fail in his duty as such; or (b) with intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, fear or alarm to the public; or to any section of the public whereby they may be induced to commit an offence against the public tranquillity; or (c) with intent to incite, or which is likely to incite, any class or community of persons to commit any offence against any other class or community; shall be punished with imprisonment for either description which may extend to two years or with fine, or with both.

Exception.—It does not amount to an offence within the meaning of this section, to make, publish or circulate any such statement, rumour or report as aforesaid, when such statement, rumour or report is true, and is made, published or circulated without such intent as aforesaid.

Explanation 1.—The expression "disaffection" includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity.

Explanation 2.—Comments expressing disapprobation of the measures of the Government with a view to obtain their alteration by lawful means, without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, do not constitute an offence under this section.

Explanation 3.—Comments expressing disapprobation of the administrative or other action of the Government without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, do not constitute an offence under this section.

Explanation 4.—Whoever makes, publishes or circulates any statement, rumour or report, with intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, any officer, soldier or sailor in the army or navy of Her Majesty or in the Royal Indian Marine or in the Imperial Service Troops to mutiny or otherwise disregard or fail in his duty as such; or (b) with intent to cause, or which is likely to cause, fear or alarm to the public; or to any section of the public whereby any person may be induced to commit an offence against the State or against the public tranquillity; or (c) with intent to incite, or which is likely to incite, any class or community of persons to commit any offence against any other class or community; shall be punished with imprisonment for either description which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Exception.—It does not amount to an offence, within the meaning of this section, when the person making, publishing or circulating any such statement, rumour or report, has reasonable grounds for believing that such statement, rumour or report is true, and makes, publishes or circulates it without any such intent as aforesaid.

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SEDITION BILL.

The Ahmedabad Legal Practitioners' Association has submitted, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council and the Select Committee, suggestions regarding the proposed amendment of sections 124 A and 505 of the Indian Penal Code, and Section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code, as well as of the entry relating to section 124 A of the Penal Code in Column 8, Schedule 2 of the Procedure Code.

The Baranagore Rate-payers' Association in a memorial to the Government protesting against the proposed amendments of the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code, urge the following points: (1) that the crime of sedition, in its true sense, is an impossibility in India; (2) the proposed amendment, if passed, would be more dangerous to the rulers than to the ruled; (3) it would be unwise to class editors of newspapers and other public men in the same category as the worst type of badmashies.

The Secretary to the Rajshaye Association, has forwarded to the Government of India the Committee's protest against the Sedition Bill. The Committee of the Association condemn the policy of the amendments and submit that trials under section 124 A should, under no circumstances, be held except in a court of sessions. The shifting of the burden of proof, under the amended section 505, on the accused, is also a feature which is sure to prove highly prejudicial to him. The proposed addition to section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code, is also condemned as unnecessary.

The Bhagulpur Bar Association has condemned the Sedition Bill as "retrograde, reactionary, uncalled-for, and an unjustifiable reflection on the undoubted loyalty of the press and people of this country." They refuse to accept Mr. Chalmers' statement in Council that the measure is justified by "recent events," as also his assertion that the measure aims at assimilating the English law of sedition to the Indian Law. Regarding the amendment in section 5, the Association thinks that it would "seriously hamper and interfere with the freedom of public speakers and writers by throwing on the accused the burden of proving a negative."

At a public meeting of the inhabitants of Serampore was held on the afternoon of the 4th instant the following resolution was passed:—"That this meeting respectfully submits that the proposed amendments of Sections 124 A and 505 of the Indian Penal Code and Section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code, have filled the public mind with alarm, involving, as they do, a serious departure from the wise and generous policy hitherto followed by the Government of India, and tending, as they do, to efface one of the best and noblest features of British rule in India, and prays that no change ought to be effected in the aforesaid Sections." A copy of the resolution was forwarded to the India Government.

The Gya Bar Association held a meeting on the 2nd instant protesting against the passing of the Sedition Bill of Mr. Chalmers. The President, Mr. Howard, Bar-at-law, has forwarded to the Government of India all the resolutions passed in the meeting. The Association is of opinion that the amendments to Section 124 A, I. P. C. are undesirable; that they would affect bona fide publication of religious, books, religious, discussion and religious, duties; that they are calculated to enhance bitter feelings between different classes of Her Majesty's subjects; that Magistrates should not be vested to try cases under Section 124 A.

FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

SIR WILLIAM LOCKHART has, by this time, reached Peshwar, to assume command of the Tirah Force.

It is said Sir William's instructions from Government are such as to enable him to coerce the Afridis of the Khyber and Bara country into submission.

SIR RICHARD UDNEY will reach Peshwar to-day to join Sir William Lockhart.

All further negotiations with jirgahs have been suspended pending the result of the military operations to be undertaken immediately.

The Tirah Expeditionary Force is to be strengthened by the addition of the 2nd Royal Irish Regiment.

All is quiet in the Khyber. General Symons visited Ali Masjid on the 6th.

It is practically certain, writes an Anglo-Indian exchange, that the coming invasion of Tirah will take place simultaneously from several different points.

A few shots were exchanged on the morning of the 4th instant between a wood-cutting party of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and some Afridis. There were no casualties.

The Afridis are reported to be cutting the telegraph wires in the vicinity of Bara and Mamani. Their losses in the fighting on the 29th and 31st January are set down at between thirty and forty.

FROM KURAN to Khushalgarh the whole of the Kohat line is quite safe for daring rifle thieves. The villages in British territory that either took part in or were necessary to the recent Orakzai, Chamkani, Mussuzai, and Afridi incursions, have been heavily fined. The Orakzais are keeping perfectly quiet, and are in no mood to listen to the Afridi's wiles and again jeopardise their homes.

It is evident from the names of the clans engaged at Shim Kamar last Saturday, writes the "Civil and Military Gazette," as telegraphed by our Mamani correspondent, that the Afridis were very generally represented. It is hardly likely that such a gathering would have come together unless something more than an inkling of our plans had not abroad. If harassing tactics are to be followed, secrecy is the first essential; otherwise, the last people to be harassed will be the tribesmen, familiar with every inch of the difficult country. The whole plan of campaign needs thorough revision. We have had ample experience of how the tribes fight, and this experience must now be turned to practical value. Mistakes such as withdrawing picquets too soon, must be avoided; and if we are to make any headway, we cannot afford to neglect a single precaution.

MARIE CORELLI.

The Lady's Realm devotes its first pages to a copiously-illustrated article on Marie Corelli, by Mrs. Tom Kelly. We have views of her drawings and study, together with various snapshots of Marie Corelli herself and her pet Yorkshire terrier, the Tsar, to whom is apparently committed the duty of worrying the press cuttings. Marie Corelli is the daughter of the late Dr. Mackay's second wife by her first husband. She was a lonely child, and when very small, entered into a mysterious friendship with invisible presences, in whose actual existence she implicitly believed. She never went to bed without expecting to see an angel in her room, and then when the angel did not come, she says, she went further than her angel friendship, and took the Supreme Being Himself into her confidence. She says that in everything, small or great, which has affected her literary or personal career, she has been able to trace that spirit working for good. "I provided that I have yielded myself to wait guidance without demur, which has always led me to the safest and happiest ends." The sorrow and annoyance, disappointment and treachery, have always proved only as so many different roses to her. She believes more than ever in invisible presences, but curiously enough, entirely denies that any evil spirits exist. There is nothing spiritual that is or can be malignant. When she was eleven years old, she had devoured all the plays of Shakespeare; but she thinks the book which influenced her life most was Plato, whom she studied closely before she was in her teens. She was sent to school in a French convent, where she had vague ideas of being a leader of an entirely original community of Christian workers. On leaving the convent, it was intended that she should go to Leipzig to study music, for she was at that time a brilliant pianist; but a change came into her life. A mystical influence suddenly deepened and confirmed all her former religious views and opinions and led her to writing "The Romance of Two Worlds." This book has been translated into every known language, even into Persian and Hindustani; and the thin ers and philosophers of the East hold her in high honour as one who is inspired with the truths of the Divine. "The Sorrows of Satan" is now in its thirty-sixth edition. No less than six different versions of "The Sorrows of Satan" are being acted all over the kingdom. All are authorised, and are more or less clumsy travesties of the original work. Mrs. Kelly quotes a letter, addressed to Marie Corelli by Tennyson, in which he said that "Ardrath" was a remarkable work and a truly powerful creation. "You do well, in my opinion, not to care for fame. Modern fame is too often a crown of thorns, and brings all the coarseness and vulgarity of the world upon you. I sometimes wish I had never written a line." It seems that Marie Corelli has withdrawn the portrait which was for a short time on exhibition at Messrs. Grave's Galleries. So many misrepresentations were made about it that she resolved that no portrait of hers should ever appear again at any time.

A HORSE STEALER'S STORY.

"AND is your real name Thomas Lyne?" said the chaplain to a man whose life, it was very evident, was fast ebbing away. He had been shot in a daring attempt to escape a few days before when out at work with convicts and he now lay in bed in the prison hospital.

"It will do as well as any other; I have had a good many in my time; jiggering Jimmy, Bill the Bolter, Captain Sharp, and Yorkie Jack," was the reply; and as the man spoke of the last alias, in spite of his obvious agony, he smiled, and with a kind of chuckle, added—"Yorkie's last biz was smart, wasn't it eh?"

The Reverend J. Rogers, who had been vainly trying for some time to bring the dying man to a sense of the need of repentance of his mispent life, felt an invincible pain at the look of pride which passed over the man's face, as he spoke the last words. For a few seconds he hesitated and was silent; then he said:—"What was the smart business you allude to?"

"You ask the governor to tell you the yarn about Yorkie Jack's bay gelding Sultan," was the reply.

"If you feel strong enough, I would rather hear the story from yourself," said the chaplain.

"All right. You're a good shot, if you are a parson and I'll try." The man who said that he would try to tell the story of lay Sultan, was one of the most noted criminals in Victoria in the fifties. Burglary, bushranging, horse-stealing and forgery had all been included in the list of crimes of which he had been convicted at different times. He was a man of more than average education, and ordinarily spoke like one; but so talented was he in mimicry that he had deceived, by his assumption of different dialects, natives of many English counties. He was now entered on the prison books at Thomas Lyne.

Again, the look of pride passed over the man's face as he began:—"I was in Kirk's bazar one day got up like a new chum; there was not a mate I ever had who would have recognized me. There had been a good many tip-top nags sold that morning, when old Henderson called out:

"Now, gentlemen, I've plum to offer you; a four-year-old bay gelding by Colonel out of Dawson's Dora. How much for him? And one of the grandest looking horses I ever saw, was led by a groom before the auctioneer's box."

"Unbroken, gentlemen give me an offer" cried Kirk.

"Smart bidding went on for some time, and then the colt was knocked down to young Smithers, of Clark and Smithers, merchants, for fifty guineas; a very big price then."

"I should like to have a match for him; I would not mind giving sixty guineas if I could get one I heard the purchasers say to Sam Pierce the foreman of the yard, as the colt was led away."

"I will see if I can get you one, sir, said Sam, and added, "Do you want him broken to harness, sir? If so, I should be glad to do it."

"No, thank you, I have a very good man, a Yor. shieman, on the station at Black Ridge, who will do it. By the way, this same Yorkshireman will be in town in a day or two, and he will lead this colt home; so, you stable him until old Yorkie brings you an order for him, when you will, of course, deliver; and when I return to town I will settle up with you. I am leaving for Queensland to-morrow, and am going to spend a few days there."

"Whereupon he left the yard."

"This happened on the Monday. Tuesday morning I saw Mr. Smithers start in a dog-cart for Queensland—there was no railway in those days."

"On Wednesday morning, jiggered out like an old man, a Yorkshire groom, I went to Kirk's office, carrying an old saddle and bridle, and presented an order written by myself, but ostensibly by Mr. Smithers, to deliver to me the bay colt, branded 'J. D.' near shoulder. The horse was handed to me; I mounted him, and rode through to Geelong the same day."

"I put up at an old crib in Kyrie-street, and the following morning down I went with him to Queens cliffe. I sought out and found Mr. Smithers, to whom I presented a letter which read like this (written by myself):—

"Kirk's Bazaar, Great Bourke-street. Sir.—The bearer is a horse-dealer, an old client of ours. He landed some horses from Tasmania this morning. The one he brings you is such an exact match for the one you bought from us Monday last that we advised him to make you the offer of the animal before putting him up for auction. He says

the lowest price is £60; perhaps you may screw him down a little, but he will only take hard cash; even from us he will never take a cheque.—Yours faithfully,

J. KIRK AND CO.

Smithers liked the look of the horse, and thought he was lighter than the one he had bought and, of course, he did look so as I had ridden the belly off him. But to cut a long story short, after some talk I sold him for fifty-five guineas. There was a little difficulty about the cash, but I refused point-blank to take a cheque; so at length the cash was forthcoming, and with it I was just leaving, when Smithers said:—"How much will you take to deliver them at Black Ridge?"

"Two pounds," I answered.

"Here you are," then, was the reply, and two more pounds were handed me. I saddled up again, and will you believe, I sold the same animal on Saturday morning in McCay's yard in Melbourne for £35 and that very afternoon I was on board the Admeida bound for Adelaide. So, after paying my expenses I cleared more than ninety quid in the week." Then in a weaker voice, and speaking in broad Yorkshire, he added:—"Hey, it won't be bad as far as 't mak went, but it wur a fan on it I liked most. It wur smart, d— smart; wur'n it, parson?"

He said this with a look of as much pride as if he had been reciting how he had won the Victoria Cross.

THE FAR EAST.

A PEKING Correspondent telegraphed on Sunday saying:—

Sir Claude MacDonald, in an interview yesterday, informed the Tsung-li-Yamen that England was willing to assist China to liquidate the Japanese indemnity and would provide a loan of £12,000,000 at par to run 50 years. The service is to be a per cent. annually, net, including sinking fund.

The conditions are as follows:— (1) The opening of three Treaty ports—namely, Ta-lied-wd, Siangin Huguang province (Siangin in Hunan, or Siang-yang n lupei), and Nanning, thereby increasing the Customs revenue. (2) A declaration that no portion of the Yangtze-kiang valley shall be alienated to any other Power. (3) The right to extend the Burma railway through Yun-nan.

In the event of default, China places certain revenues under the control of the Imperial Customs. On this basis negotiations will proceed.

The Chinese regard the negotiations as advantageous, but fear the threatened opposition of France and Russia, especially to the opening of Ta-lien-wan and Nan-ning.

On Tuesday the Correspondent added:—"The Russian Charge d' Affaires, M. Pavloff, protests strongly against the opening of Ta-lien-wan. China, apparently anxious to obtain British financial assistance, will give ample satisfactory security for the repayment of the loan and will permit the extension of steam communication on inland waters and grant increased trade facilities at all open ports."

Reuter's Agent telegraphed on Tuesday:—"Another conference was held yesterday at the Tsung-li-Yamen. The loan question is still unsettled. Great Britain asks for the right to build railways in Yun-nan and Szu-chuan, and also demands the opening of Siang-yin as a treaty port. This place is situated in the anti-foreign province of Hunan, which Japan intended opening at the time of the negotiation of the Treaty of Shimonoseki. The main difficulty at the present moment is the British demand for the opening of Ta-lien-wan as a treaty port, Russia desiring to keep the whole of Manchuria to herself. At present neither Power will yield, and the question is now a political and not a commercial one."

With regard to the proposed granting to England, as one of the conditions of a loan to China, of the right to extend the Burma railway through Yun-nan, the Exchange Telegraph Company learns that the line from Mandalay to Kunlon ferry on the river Salween has, so far, only been carried to Mogging, and some two or three more years will elapse before it reaches Kunlon ferry, which is on the borders of Yun-nan.

The North-German Gazette on Friday contained an authoritative contradiction of the story that an agreement was being arranged between the British and German Governments regarding a Chinese loan, and said it was impossible that any guarantee for such a loan should be given by Germany.

THE GERMAN DEMANDS. Reuter's correspondent at Peking telegraphed on Saturday:—

The Germans insist on the right to make railways and work mines whenever they wish. The construction of a railway from Kiao-chau to Tsai-nan-fu is reported to have been agreed to, the Germans to have mining rights for one mile on each side of the line and Chinese to be admitted as shareholders. Germany likewise demands an indemnity of 200,000 taels, the buildings of a cathedral and compensation amounting to several thousand taels for the relatives of the murdered missionaries.

Prince Henry of Prussia arrived at Aden on Sunday on board the Deutschland and took part in a game of polo on Monday. His squadron sailed for Colombo yesterday. The Prince and his officers were hospitably entertained.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE. The Admiralty announces that the position of the British ships on the China station is as follows:—

Centurion, Narcisus, Iphigenia, Archer, Linnet, Humber, Alacrity, Handy and Hart at Hongkong; Phoenix at Pagoda anchorage; Pique at Wu-sung; Pigmy at Han-kau; Esk at I-chang; Peacock at Swatow left or Hongkong; Immortelle at Nagasari; Redpole at Yokohama; Undaunted and Algerine at Kiao-chau; Bay Rainbow at Chemulpho, Daphne at Chifu, Rattler at Tong-ku-Grafton and Plover at Singapore.

A Hong-kong telegram, dated Jan. 15, says:—"The British torpedo-boat destroyers Hart and Handy are about to proceed northwards, conveyed by her Majesty's despatch vessel Alacrity."

"The homeward orders received by Her Majesty's cruiser Edgar have been countermanded."

"Her Majesty's cruiser Powerful, which is at present in northern waters, is awaiting orders."

According to a despatch received at Antwerp the Japanese transport vessel Vara has been wrecked on her way to the Pescadore Islands. Eighty-five of those on board lost their lives, only five of the crew being saved.

TREES AND TIDES. A VERY curious theory, lately revived, is that the sap of a living tree ebbs and flows in some way in sympathy with the tides of the ocean. This idea comes from Italy, where a grower of vines and other fruit trees, who is also a chemist, has been experimenting in this direction. He says that no tree should be lopped or pruned except during the hours of ebb tide. He has taken fourteen years to come to this conclusion, and now always acts upon it. The result is his trees and vines have developed beautiful foliage, bear splendid crops, and are quite free from the attacks of the insects which devastate surrounding properties. So he says.

SIR ROBERT CROSTHWAITE, Governor-General's Agent, Rajpootana, retires on March 8, when Mr. Matindola will succeed to the vacant post.

OPERATIONS IN NIGERIA.

MILITARY operations have been commenced on an extensive scale by the Niger Company's Government against the Iboza tribe.

The company and the missionary societies have for years been trying by other means to put a stop to the practice of human sacrificial rites, which is still as rampant here as it was until recently in the neighbouring city of Benin.

This Iboza tribe is the last to the west of the Niger now known to practise such rites. Hundreds of victims annually have been cruelly butchered in this way. Indeed, according to the traditions of the tribe in question, no one can become a chief until he has with his own hand killed two slaves, and all the able men are chiefs. The tribe has of late been very aggressive, killing people within a few miles of Asaba, the judicial headquarters of the company.

Major Festig, who recently arrived at Brass from England, is now in the field in command of 300 Hausa troops.

In an engagement with the Ibozas which has already taken place, the Niger Company's force lost three men killed and 12 wounded. There were no casualties among the officers. The enemy's loss is reported to have been heavy. The country is thickly wooded, a circumstance which militates against the operations of the company's force, but the Iboza tribe must now be subjugated at all hazards.

EGGS FROM AUSTRALIA.

SHIPPING eggs to England from so distant a place of production as Australia, appeared not long ago to be an impossibility. Owing, however, to the use of refrigerating machinery, Australian eggs can be landed in this country not only sound, but, according to the *Agriculture Gazette of New South Wales*, in "such perfect condition that some of the best English houses have purchased and sold them as new laid."

A representative of a large London firm shipped from Australia a couple of years since many thousands of dozens. The firm reported that the eggs were of good quality and presented an attractive appearance, being carefully packed in cardboard divisions, filled up with dry pebbles. The consignment was carried at 1deg. above freezing point, and the freight cost about 3d. per dozen, leaving the net return of 9d. per dozen. The local price at the time of shipping was 5d. to 5½d. per dozen. To develop a new-laid egg trade with England, Australian poultry-keepers are warned that the eggs must be forwarded to the cold store while they are still perfectly fresh, and, like poultry, they must be shipped so as to reach England at the dearest time for such products, which, in the case of eggs, is during the three months, November to January. After this period home prices fall to such an extent that exporting is no longer payable; and as supplies to the Australian markets are then becoming limited, and prices are advancing, the egg-producer will have remunerative returns throughout the year.

H. H. THE Rance Saheb of Jawhar died on the 31st ultimo.

SIR NORMAN LOCKYER, accompanied by the Madras Government Astronomer, left Madras on Monday for Kodaikanal, to inspect the site of the observatory there.

THE North-West Railway Company has paid the sum of Rs. 500 to Miss Barnett for injuries sustained at the Umballa Cantonment Station, a few years back, owing to the careless shunting of a train.

FOUR Sinhalese men and seven bullocks were struck by lightning while ploughing in a paddy field on a Ceylon tea estate a few days ago.

SUSA, where three Englishmen concerned in landing arms and ammunition have been captured by a Moorish gun boat, is a city on the east coast of Tunis, opposite Sicily.

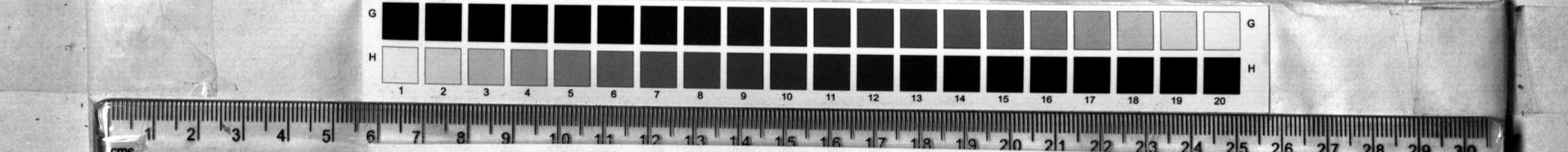
ON Monday a plague party consisting of Sir James Campbell, Drs. Bainbridge, Jennings and Dimmock, Messrs. James, Gell and Alexander, met with a serious carriage accident at Bombay owing to the trap, they were in being upset. All of them received more or less serious injuries. Dr. Jennings being alone picked up in an unconscious state.

THE grievances of B. I. S. N. Co.'s Officers not having been removed, those of them now at Rangoon struck work on the 7th. They charge the Company with breach of faith. The Burma mails for India and Europe did not leave Rangoon on Monday at the advertised time and attempts were being made by the Company's representatives to send out one steamer with the captains of various ships in port as Officers.

THE Pioneer writes:—Sir William Lockhart re-appearance at Peshawar, as we indicated a day or two ago, will be the signal for a renewal of military operations; for, the authorities have now come to the conclusion that the Afridis have no real intention of immediate submission. Their jirgahs at Jamrud have been hospitably entertained; but their one object is believed to have been to temporise and so to wear down the patience of Government until more lenient terms be granted in sheer despair of our even securing a settlement on the basis of Sir William Lockhart's original proclamation. However this may be, the promises to bring us rifles and to pay instalments of the fine, have not been duly fulfilled, though a few breechloaders and some hundreds of rupees have been handed in from time to time. The hostile sections of the tribe appear to have impressed upon their fellows that Government will, under no circumstances, re-enter their country; and one can scarcely wonder that recent events have given fresh heart to the Zakkas. The alternative, therefore, would seem to be between an indefinite delay in obtaining a settlement and further operations to put pressure on the Afridis; and the authorities have decided on the latter in the belief that such a course may save a spring campaign. The Tirah Field Force is well found and equipped in every way, and it should be able, before the close of the present month, to do all that is required of it.

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COMFORT IN SORROW.

A BOOK BY PRINCESS BEATRICE.

The house of Johannes Waitz, of Darmstadt has just published an elegant little volume of 100 pages, bound in white vellum with a deep black border, and called "Trost in Leide; Lesefrüchte einer Trauernden." ("Comfort in Sorrow; Fruits of a Mourner's Reading"), from the English by B. de B., the transparent pseudonym of Princess Beatrice of Battenberg.

The book, says the London Daily News, consists of a preface and forty-five chapters, and begins with a motto taken from W. Chatterton Dix: "A little while our time of waiting lasts; And then our work in this world is complete. The preface is signed by a German clergyman Herr G. Vogel, of Seeheim, who has been requested to explain that the thoughts and aphorisms in this book are translated by the authoress from the English; that they have been thought out and collected by one who mourns in hours of deepest grief. They are proofs of the power of consolation to be found in Christian faith, which is the same for all, whether they walk in the lowly paths or on the dizzy heights of life. What the mourner felt herself when her beloved husband found his death in a distant land—comfort in sorrow—is what she wishes to share with others who suffer like herself. In this preface, Christian thinkers are especially requested to take to heart what is said in the little book on community with the saints, and on the sacrament of the Lord's supper. The clergyman was requested to revise this German translation, but he has left many sentences which are not quite German in their construction, fearing to efface their originality. It must be touching to the reader, he says, to remember that the authoress has taken pains to bring the arguments of consolation before herself in the native idiom of her beloved husband; no doubt, with the hope of hearing again the sound of the voice of him who was so deeply and so memorably woven into her life.

PRINCESS HENRY'S BOYHOOD.

The clergyman writes the preface in Advent, 1897, among the scenes where the one who is so sorrowfully mourned, spent the greater part of his youth. The amiable appearance of the loyal young Prince once more, he says, returns to his mind's eye. He hears the rustling of the trees under which he gambolled as a child, he sees the castle in which he lived with his parents, his brothers, and his sister, and the church in which he sat so attentively and solemnly.

"THE LORD HATH NEED OF HIM."

Princess Beatrice begins her first chapter thus: "Death has touched with his hand, and taken away a beloved one whom it was hard to give up, but you do not know a thousandth part of the reasons why this had to be. Where do they now abide, who have been removed from our eyes? What are they doing? Was not the beloved one God's own from the beginning, and may we not think that the Lord had need of him? You have not given him up to nought, to the grave, nor to a stranger, nor to one who does not love him, but to Jesus. Let that be enough, and let your sorrowing die away in sacred silence. 'The Lord hath need of him.' Whenever we stand helpless before inscrutable death, before a death which has taken a life that to us seemed indispensable, we do not enough remember that our only duties are not of this world. The Lord needs us in other spheres. Besides, our beloved ones may at that very moment be needed for some task for which the Lord has specially fitted them. 'The Lord hath need of them,' and therefore they had to go.

When a beloved being, whether father, husband, brother, mother, sister, wife or only friend, steps as we are wont to say, nearer to God, and disappears from our gaze, it is wonderful how death gradually takes a more beautiful form; how the unknown world appears ever more familiar to us, and the goodness of God greater than ever before. The departed one it is who effects this change within us. To noble souls—and to such alone—is it granted to bequeath this legacy, the power to comprehend fully the love of God, and to attain a clearer consciousness of immortality. The blessing which a beloved being is to us, cannot be quite felt until after his death. We say that death rends asunder the family or the friendly circle, but this is not so. The circle is not complete until some of its members are missed. 'I was dumb, I opened not my mouth, because Thou didst it'—that is what the 30th Psalm says, and we will say the same. I will be silent, not from anger, not from despair, but because Thou didst it, O God, and it must therefore be well done. He had an end in view, a meaning, a reason, and that reason is good. To try to find out that reason would be to try at things which are too high for us. Let us be dumb, not from despair, but from faith, like the child who sits at the feet of the mother, not understanding her actions, but confident that all is done in love.

We must not be content in the thought that we only need help to bear our grief. Those who are anxiously at work to reach a better world, will not rest until grief purifies and improves them. They know that every fresh wave which breaks over them, washes away some of the rust that adheres to the soul, and leaves behind a heavenly gift so that the griefs of life draw us upward more and more to the land of eternal rest and peace.

The tenth chapter opens with the verse, "Lord, if Thou hadst been here my brother had not died" (St. John xi. 21), which suggests the whole argument contained in it in relation to the attitude of the bereaved.

If this and that had not happened, we could better bear this misfortune. O, how often such and similar thoughts poison our grief and make it harder to bear. If we had acted otherwise, this need not have happened. There is nothing more unchristian or more unreasonable than to meditate upon such useless things because it is overlooking the Author of our lives, the Lord of Heaven and earth, Who doeth all things well. Has the Lord no part in deciding our fate? Has not He ordained this trial? Was He not there when our friend was taken from us? Ours are the duties—destinies are with the Lord.

LIGHT IN DARKNESS.

This, indeed, is the illustrious sufferer's message. "Suffer and be silent" that is the best thing, that is duty. The Princess has some fine thoughts.— If God encircle us with darkness, let us abide therein. In vain is it that we seek

to illumine the darkness with candles. It must remain dark. Perhaps we may discover then new beauties in the stars.

The author goes on to compare mental pain and physical, the headache and the heartache. Pain, she says, may be of a twofold kind—physical or mental, and Scripture tells us which is the most difficult to bear. "The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity, but a broken spirit who can bear?" In other words, heart and spirit can win the victory over physical torments; but when heart and spirit are broken, who can conquer? Sorrow for a heavy loss that hangs over us as a dark cloud, a loss that can only be compared with the rending asunder of body and soul, such a loss is a deep, painful wound, which afflicts not body but spirit. One cannot expect that such a wound should heal at once. One should persuade the wounded one to be brave, to suppress all sign of his pain, to resume at once his usual way of life. One should treat the invalid indulgently, and with consideration, urge him to remain quiet, and to leave it to time, tranquillity, patience, and the means of cure to complete their work.

Sorrow is brought out once more as the supreme test of faith. A man who has never been met by difficulties, is unknown not alone to others, but also to himself. If he be stricken with the heavy, painful stroke of fate, and maintains his equanimity without giving way to outbursts of impatience against God or mankind, then he testifies to the truth and depth of the faith that is in him. Such strokes of fate are often the lot of those in whom God is especially well pleased.

THE VEIL BETWEEN.

Resignation is throughout the note struck by the writer. She finds it hard, as so many of us have found it hard, that the "thick veil that hides the invisible world is never lifted." But God willed it. Were it for our good we should know more? There are cogent reasons why it is best so.

It is God's will that the love, the desires, the expressions of the souls who have passed over into the other world, should find in Him their centre. It is not meant that He would bid us forget our earthly love or give up hope of a re-union. But if we knew more, would not then this certainly so fully occupy our souls, that love and veneration for God would be thrust in the background. On the other hand, it cannot be wrong to seek devoutly in the Holy Scriptures all the passages which can enlighten us as to the souls of those who have fallen asleep in Christ.

PRAYER IN PARADISE.

Do they pray in paradise? Can we doubt it? asks the author. Does not reason alone suffice, even if we had no further proof?

As long as the spirit dwelt in the flesh, it was quite taken up with prayer, and its power was its joy and support. It will pray again, when it is once re-united with the body in the new everlasting life. Shall it therefore only abstain during the state between death and the resurrection? If the soul lives on, it must surely be able to pray, and just as certain is it that it prays with a freedom, a joy, and a love, of which we here below, with our temptations, and the weaknesses of this frail body, which are so crushingly to the soul, can have no knowledge. But we are not left solely to reason. It was granted to St. John in the Revelation to see the souls of the martyrs who should rest yet for a little season, and to hear their cry, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" (Rev. vi. 10). They prayed; Yes; when we regard the thick veil and think with longing hearts of the loved ones of the humble, patient, noble, pious souls concealed from our eyes, we are perfectly certain of this one thing—they pray. We know that they worship God with a much more joyous, glorious adoration than any in this world. We know that when we offer our faltering praises, we are surrounded not only by the angels and arch-angels and all the heavenly hosts, but also by "the spirits of just men made perfect" (Hebrews, xii. 23), who still wait for their perfected bliss and glory in Paradise.

A LINK WITH HEAVEN.

In this one occupation, says the Princess, we can recognise the hand which unites us with the blissful departed. It is a link to that "community of saints" which we believe, but which is often so hard for us fully to comprehend. The saints in this world and the saints who rest in God have a common privilege; they both take part in the great offering of worship "which ascends continually, like sweet-smelling incense to God's throne."

Do the saints beyond pray for us? This is not told us. But why not? Should they cease to pray just when they can do so much better than formerly? Must prayer for those who are dear to us, only last as long as we are here in the flesh, and cease the moment the soul tears itself away from its earthly covering? It can not be wrong—it is so simple and natural to hope, and believe that our loved ones in the invisible world still pray for us. Does it not give us comfort, confidence, and strength when we know that friends, who here upon earth are far from us remember us in their prayers. And shall we refuse to entertain the comforting and strengthening thought that our loved ones in Paradise pray for us?

May we beg them to pray for us? The Princess gives a decided "No."

We do not care to go so far. That would mean worshipping them, and that is due to God alone. We dare not address our prayers to any creature. Even if we knew that the spirits of the departed could hear us (and we have no right to endow them with divine knowledge) we dare not ask for their prayers.

But may we pray for them? The scriptures, says the writer, give no answer. This seems to be a question about which one cannot speak with certainty. But it would be difficult to say that we know accurately what we are to ask for the dead. In what things, without being presumptuous, may we presume that God might increase their bliss? That God in His Grace may bestow on the souls in Paradise many divine gifts is certain, but everything that he veils in darkness, we must quietly leave in his hands.

LIFE A NURSERY.

The Princess seeks an illustration from scenes with which she must be familiar. When the grown-up children of a family come to their little brothers and sisters in the nursery, they are full of compassion for the little one's sorrows for a broken doll, a difficult sum or a slight punishment for naughtiness. But though they would wish to comfort the children, yet their sympathy is not so great as to detract from their own happiness. The

know the punishment and the hard sums are necessary, and would not change them if they could.

Is it not perhaps the same with our grown-up brothers and sisters in Paradise? They are in the big people's rooms and we are only in the nursery and school-room. "They do not understand all, perhaps, but we may believe that they delight in watching every step we make forward towards the last great triumph. How they must smile sometimes over our blindness!"

Another difficult question to solve, with which the Princess deals in the above connection, is the effect it must have upon the happiness of the departed to see those they have loved "turn from God to the paths of wickedness and error." The difficulty is one, however, of which no explanation is offered. It is possible, the writer thinks, that they see some things, but not all. Perhaps they are so filled with the will of God that their first desire is to see that fulfilled. One thing is certain: That they see through a clearer atmosphere than ours.

WHERE TWO WORLDS MEET.

Death to the bereaved is not all loss. Such we may be glad to find, has not been the experience of the widowed Princess. To lose what God takes from us, is always, she says, so much gain to us. He returns our dear ones to us in a far deeper, more tender, and more saintly manner than that in which we possessed them before death parted us from them. When they have become His own, they become more ours than ever before. The intimacy which existed between us before death, was more of the flesh and the senses. After death it is spiritual, and dictated by the most saintly feelings.

The Holy Sacrament is the point where the visible and the invisible touch hands. Here the angles and arch-angles and all the heavenly chorus, join their voices to "Holy Holy, Holy," and if we wish to be among them some day, and take part in this worship, we must prepare ourselves for it, and often appear at the Lord's Table with clean hands and pure hearts. If we do not wish to be some day excluded from the community of the saints, we must imitate them in faith, in patience, in innocence. When we have incurred a heavy loss we may be wandering alone on earth, and in the eyes of the world seem to lead a useless life. How desolate we feel! What comfort is it, then, to think of community with the saints, to live in a circle whose head and centre is Christ the Saviour!

THE MEKRAN RISING.

The following are some further details of Colonel Mayne's action near Pasi. On January 27th at 6 A. M. after blowing up Fort Mir Sakah, Colonel Mayne with 300 infantry and two guns left Pasi for Turbat in the Kej Valley, a distance of about 75 miles. Lieutenant Nayler with 75 sabres of Jacob's Horse arrived at Pasi the same day and left on the morning of the 28th to join Colonel Mayne. On the night of the 30th Colonel Mayne's force encamped about 13 miles from Turbat and proceeded early next morning towards that place. Lieutenant Anderson with the advance guard sent back word that the enemy was in force on the hills commanding Gok Prosh, the western pass to the Kej Valley. Major Even and a hundred men remained with the rear guard to protect the baggage. Colonel Mayne at once ordered an advance of the whole force. The two guns took up their position on a hill 900 yards in front of the enemy's position. The infantry advanced within 700 yards when they were received with a hail of bullets. The guns then opened fire and the enemy retreated to a strong position under cover of some small hills and poured out a heavy fire. Captain Jacob with 30 men proceeded over some exposed ground to fire and turn the enemy's left. Lieutenant Nayler arrived at this moment with 60 Sowars, whom he dismounted to strengthen the left in order to effect a wing movement on the enemy's right. (He had camped the night before ten miles off and hearing heavy firing had galloped the last three miles). This manoeuvre was most successfully accomplished, and the enemy retreated in great confusion. A final rush was made on the cavalrymen, who reserved their fire till the enemy was at close quarters, when the whole attacking party were shot dead, and on examination were found to consist of Balooch Khan and his principal followers. The guns were now drawn up into the fighting line and made excellent practice. A heavy-laden camel was seen staggering along, led by two men. A shot was fired, falling on the camel's back and causing a great explosion, it being laden with a large quantity of the enemy's ammunition. The baggage, which was fired at, was skillfully kept under cover by Major Even. Colonel Mayne rested his men for an hour and again advanced, but no sign of the enemy was seen till Turbat was reached at 4 P. M. Major Even joined the main body at 6-30 P. M. having been on the march since the early morning. A few shells only were fired into the fort. Camp was pitched two miles to the east of the fort with pickets, placed and Jacob's Horse patrolling, so as to make a retreat impossible. A party of the enemy being seen retreating from the fort, Lieutenant Nayler with his Sowars was sent after them, and succeeded in cutting them off, killing four and wounding five. The fort walls were nineteen feet high and nine feet thick, and no attempt can be made to take it till the Sappers and Miners with explosives arrived from Pasi. They should have been there on the 3rd. The enemy lost between 100 and 150 killed, including Balooch Khan, his grandson, and Mullah Mehrab Khan (Nowsherwani) and Gul Mahomed (Nowsherwani). Mir Shakrullah of Temp is also reported killed, and Nurstan Khan wounded. One sowar was reported wounded by a shot fired from the fort while patrolling. Mehrab Khan (Gleki), holds the fort and is reported to be determined to fight to the last. The Nazim of Kej without a friendly chief has come in. Temporary repairs are being made to the telegraph land line near Keppas and Sawur rivers, 25 miles of which have been completely destroyed. It is expected to be open to traffic in a few days, though it is estimated that it will take two months to make permanent repairs.

A LONG communication is published in the Times of India purporting to be an account of affairs in Mekran and the Persian Gulf. In it the writer describes the pursuit of

Mr. Graves's murderers. About 12 miles from Galag, where Mr. Graves was murdered, the telegraph line crosses the Raptch, the wires being supported by two lofty masts, 1,000 yards apart, which are visible for miles. The resting-place of the party was not particularly well chosen from a military point of view, being surrounded by hillocks covered with small trees and burshwood, and as they had only ten sepoy at first for sentry duties, the President decided on bringing up some sailors from the Lapwing to strengthen the party already landed from the Pigeon. It was thought at first, the murderers would be captured, but when we advanced, we heard they had cleared out as soon as tidings of the arrival of the Persipolis reached them, and it was said that men on camels were waiting at Galag who went off with the news when the steamers were seen. Very little information was available, and it was at first considered that the advance of the avenging force would be resisted, and that the Kirwanis were in considerable strength. This, however, turned out to be a fallacy, and the country was found deserted, the whole of the tribe having gone with the murderers into the districts beyond the hills, where pursuit was out of the question.

A WEIRD RETRIBUTION.

The Strand was crowded with its nightly concourse of play-goers, and the cabmen's harvest proceeded briskly, as hansom after hansom passed at the Kerbstone for a few moments, and then rapidly rolled away, while ever fresh ones poured into the scene, to supply their place, and the roadway was filled with swift vehicles and the glitter and shimmer of women's ornaments and garments within them.

On the footpath stood a young and handsome woman, talking gaily to a man attired for the opera, and with the perfume of luxury about his person. She did not belong to the gay world, but lived on its outskirts. Suddenly her face changed. A fierce hate and hard despair transformed her features, as her glittering eyes watched a lady and gentleman step into a hansom. They were quite close to her.

"There," she exclaimed, "is the man who made me what I am! If there be a God, may He deal by him as he has dealt by me!" The words were loud and distinct, and the man to whom they referred, turned sharply round. The instant after, he jumped in besides the lady, and the carriage rolled away.

"Whatever was that woman saying to you," inquired his companion, as he tried the doors of the hansom to see if they were properly fastened. "I suppose she thought she knew me. May I finish my cigar, please? Thanks," he leaned back, puffing leisurely. "Even women are often in drink you know, and they make strange mistakes."

But Arthur Maybury's victim was not in drink, only drunk with the sudden, acute sense of her ruin, and of his unaltered life and status. She broke from her companion, and hurried away in the crowd.

For a few moments he stared after her. And then he walked away, with a muttered exclamation, in the opposite direction. Ethel Hersant wrapped her cloak around her, and walked swiftly on, whether she knew not and recked not. But the cool air of the summer night soothed her harassed nerves, and she became calmer. She slackened her pace. She approached a station, and a thought seized her. She would enter reaches of the little village, on the quiet river reaches of the Thames, the home of her childhood and innocence. But the last train had gone long ago, and she was miles from her lodgings. No matter, she could wait here till morning. Scarcely conscious of herself physically, she sat down and waited, with some fitful slumbers, through the night.

Early in the morning she was speeding away far from her feverish London life to gentle country scenes, and long before midday she had reached her destination. As she neared the inn she took her purse from her pocket; there was enough in it for the present. The landlady was a new-comer, and knew nothing of her; besides, she had changed much during the years of her absence; few would recognise her. And so Ethel Hersant sat down to a solitary meal, and then rose up to walk on.

"Would you like to engage a bedroom, miss?" inquired the landlady, as she paid her bill; "or perhaps if you are going on you'd just like a wash?" "No," she replied, vaguely, "N."

Thank you, but I don't want anything just now." He wandered to the little churchyard and stood beside her mother's grave. Then, clasping her hands in an agony of longing and sorrow, she knelt and pressed her lips convulsively to the cold earth.

"Oh, mother, mother, she moaned, I feel I must come to you soon!"

When she left the churchyard she sought the shore. There was a fascination about the cool, clear water. Towards evening she reached another village, and stayed her steps again for food, and then walked on.

Night fell, and the solemn calmness of summer darkness lay on the cool, moist shore, and a fiery mist half veiled the landscape. In the distance he heard the tinkling of a sheep bell, and sitting down she clasped her knees and gazed earnestly at the gentle stream.

Two or three days later two young men were boating further down the river. There was fishing tackle beside them but no oars and tackle were alike idle, as they puffed at cigars and floated quietly.

"Oh, well," one was saying, in reply to some jocular remark of his friend, "a fellow must settle down respectably some time, you know. And I might as well do so now. We shall have enough to live on comfortably."

It was Arthur Maybury who spoke, and he leaned back on the cushions and gazed lazily at the blue sky.

"I say, old fellow, I'm going to take a nap. I'm profoundly sleepy. You'd better do the same," remarked the other.

But half an hour later he was awakened by the boat suddenly jerking, and an exclamation from his companion. "What's the matter, man? Don't upset the boat!" he expostulated.

"There's something or somebody following us," Hilton said Arthur, with a very white face.

"Nonsense!" exclaimed his friend, staring at him in astonishment. "You've been dreaming."

"No, I was awakened by it. I knew we were being followed!" He peered over the stern of the boat, and Mr. Hilton did the same. There was nothing to be seen.

"I tell you've been dreaming, man," said Hilton. "Come and take an oar. It will steady your nerves." They pulled for a few minutes, and then Hilton said, "How goes it now, Arthur?" "I feel there's something behind us, following us," was the reply.

Presently they moored the boat, and went to lodgings on shore for the night. But Arthur Maybury could not sleep. In the morning he shook from head to foot as they entered the boat. "If I feel like this to-morrow, Hilton, I shall hook it and go to town by train," he remarked.

During the day his agitation increased, and his friend began seriously to think his brain was giving way. Towards evening he gave an agonised cry, and pointed up stream. There on the water floated a dark body.

"I told you something was following us! And it is following me, not you! My God, I can't bear it!" "It's a woman!" exclaimed Hilton. "Don't be such an ass, Arthur! We'll wait till she's alongside!"

For Arthur Maybury was about to make frantic efforts to reach the shore. Hilton shuffled him down in the boat, and he covered his eyes, hiding himself. The dark mass reached them, and Arthur gazed ascinated at the face. "It's Ethel, yes, it is? She cursed me and there she is, dead, and dogging my path!" He seized a couple of oars and pulled madly for shore.

"Stop, man," exclaimed Hilton, as he began to rush up the bank. "Where are you going, for God's sake?"

"Anywhere; I don't care." Leaving his friend, he strode through the fields and made for the nearest station, still followed, in imagination, by the corpse of the woman he had fruffed.

An inquest was held on the body of Ethel Hersant and Hilton was, of course, called as a witness. He did not mention Arthur Maybury in the matter, and there was the usual vague verdict: "Found drowned."

"Though it's a deuced strange thing how he knew she was behind us, too!" ejaculated the young man to himself, thoughtfully.

And what happened to the man so strangely clairvoyant 2 1/2 days after reaching town he was stricken with brain fever, and before many weeks were over it was plain his reason had gone for ever.

THE SEDITION BILL.

We quote the following from the representation of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce on the Sedition Bill: "The Committee beg to observe that by the omission of the explanation attached to Sec. 124A, by the addition of 'brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt' to it, and by including 'disloyalty and all ill-feelings of enmity or ill-will' in the definition of 'disaffection' the application of the section has been alarmingly widened.

In the humble opinion of the Committee no honest and open criticism, in disapproval of any measure of Government, can possibly be made which will not tend to slightly lower them in the estimation of the public. The amendment, the Committee apprehend, will have the indirect effect of putting a stop to all open and honest public criticism. The Committee are grateful to Government for their abandoning the idea of re-enacting the Vernacular Press Act of 1878, but if the proposed amendment be passed into law, it will, they submit, in a more severe form, widen the application of the said Act, and seriously interfere with the liberty of press and speech alike, a step, which the Committee beg to assert, is unwarranted by past experience, unjustified by the present circumstances of the country, and will lead to serious results in the future.

With due deference to the Hon'ble Law Member, the Committee beg to observe that the proposed amendment is more vague and ambiguous than the existing section itself.

Disaffection has been defined by including in it 'disloyalty and all ill-feelings of enmity or ill-will.' But 'disloyalty,' etc., have been left undefined, and ill-will includes all shades of anti-feeling, from mild disapprobation to expressions openly inciting people to the use of force and violence.

The Committee fail to understand why an innovation of such a vague and ambiguous character should be introduced in an important section in the admirable Indian Penal Code, in which no term is undefined or ill-defined.

The Committee, as advised, beg to remark that the proposed amendment is not in consonance with the English law of sedition.

The Committee further beg to observe that open and honest criticism of Government measures, helping the Government to rectify their errors, by suggesting alterations and improvements of, and necessary reforms in their measures, prepares the public to accept such measures. In a country where the rulers and the ruled are widely different in their manners, customs and modes of thinking, open and unfeigned expressions of feelings can alone secure true understanding between them; and such open expression of disapprobation prevents disapprobation from deepening into disaffection. Any measure which tends to unduly restrict the expression of public opinion, will, therefore, be productive of great mischief.

The unqualified success which has hitherto attended the administration of this country, though it be by an alien Government, and the ease with which the administration has been carried on, securing peace and contentment to all classes of the people, is mainly due to the respect the Government has hitherto shown to the voice of the people; any retrogressive measure which may tend to interfere with the public voice will be mischievous in result.

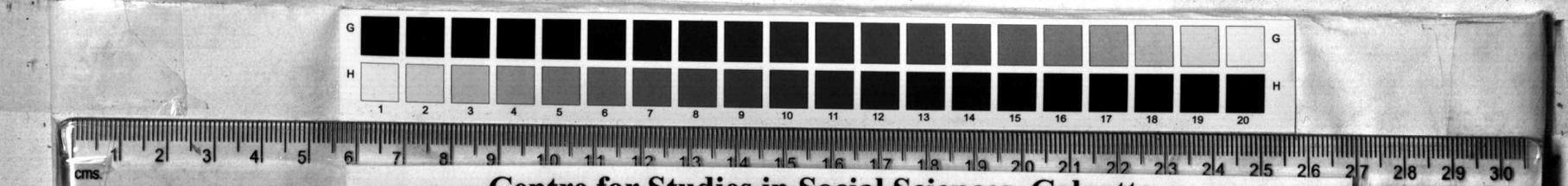
The Committee humbly beg to suggest that the punishment of ten years' imprisonment as provided in the proposed amendment, is unnecessarily severe. The English law provides two years' imprisonment under sedition law, judging from the circumstances of both the countries, the Committee think that seditions preaching is not likely to do as much harm in India as it may do in Great Britain. The Committee therefore humbly beg to suggest that the same punishment be provided here as is provided by the English law of sedition.

As regards the proposed amendment in Sec. 505, the Committee, while recognising the force of the argument directed against the retention of the words in the said section which make it necessary for the prosecution to prove that the accused knew that what he published was false, offer their strong protest against the provision of throwing on the accused the onus of proving that his intention was not criminal; such a demand of proving the absence of criminal intention, from the accused, the Committee beg to remark, has neither any precedent, nor any justification.

The Committee in conclusion respectfully beg to submit that a free press is an important auxiliary in promoting the cause of a progressive government, any undue restriction on it, impairs the efficacy of a good government. The existing sedition law is wanting in clearness, a defect which the Committee presume, may be removed by adding the substance of the following statement of Sir James Fitz-James Stephen, the then Law Member of His Excellency's Council, in one of various discussions on his Bill, to the effect that 'nothing could be farther from the wish of the Government of India than to check, in the least degree, any criticism of their measures, however severe and hostile, may, however indisguised, unfair and ill-informed might be. So long as a writer or speaker neither directly suggested or intended to produce the use of force, he did not fall within this section,' as explanation to sec. 124A. Such alteration, if effected, will, without affecting the liberty of press and speech, attain the object of the proposed amendment, and secure the approval of the whole country.

The Government of India have sanctioned the interchange of Press telegrams at a reduced charge of two annas a word between India or Burma and offices on the Mekran coast, in clusive of Jask.

According to a Karachi telegram, a severe engagement by the force under Colonel Mayne with Baluch Khan and his following took place on the 31st ult. at the entrance to the western pass into Turbat. The latter, 1500 strong, held the pass; and after two hours' fighting, they were defeated with a loss of 200 killed. The victorious force then advanced to Turbat where the fort was found in the possession of the enemy. After a few shells had been fired, all resistance ceased, and the force encamped.



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গ্রন্থ বিতরণ।

কাহার জমিদারের নৌগোবন্দী শাস্ত্রী কাম নগর নামক স্থানের একজন সুপ্রসিদ্ধ আয়ুর্বেদী চিকিৎসক। ইনি সম্প্রতি ১৯০৬ হারিসান রোড, বড়বাজার, কলিকাতার এণ্টী শাখা ঐযংগায় ছাপন করছেন। ইনি ইহার কতকগুলি চিকিৎসা ও সাহিত্য বিষয়ক গ্রন্থ বাঙ্গলা ইংরাজি ও হিন্দিতে ভাষান্তরিত করিয়া বিনা মূল্যে ও বিনা ডাকমূল্যে সাধারণকে বিতরণ করিবেন। ইহার প্রথম পুস্তক পাইতে আশংক্য উত্তারা অগ্রগ্রহ করিয়া নিম্নলিখিত দিকানার কবিতায় মহাশয়কে পত্র লিখিয়া বাধিত করিবেন। নাম যাহা স্পষ্ট করিয়া লিখিবেন ১৯০৬ হারিসান রোড, বড়বাজার কলিকাতা।

চিকিৎসক। ইনি সম্প্রতি ১৯০৬ হারিসান রোড, বড়বাজার, কলিকাতার এণ্টী শাখা ঐযংগায় ছাপন করছেন। ইনি ইহার কতকগুলি চিকিৎসা ও সাহিত্য বিষয়ক গ্রন্থ বাঙ্গলা ইংরাজি ও হিন্দিতে ভাষান্তরিত করিয়া বিনা মূল্যে ও বিনা ডাকমূল্যে সাধারণকে বিতরণ করিবেন। ইহার প্রথম পুস্তক পাইতে আশংক্য উত্তারা অগ্রগ্রহ করিয়া নিম্নলিখিত দিকানার কবিতায় মহাশয়কে পত্র লিখিয়া বাধিত করিবেন। নাম যাহা স্পষ্ট করিয়া লিখিবেন ১৯০৬ হারিসান রোড, বড়বাজার কলিকাতা।

মহারাজ প্রতাপাদিত্য ১৯ বঙ্গের শেখ স্বাধীন মহারাজার বিস্তৃত জীবনী ২০ কর্ণওয়ালিস স্ট্রীট সংস্কৃত প্রেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট ও অমৃত পুস্তকালয় পাওয়া যাইবে।

১৯০৬ হারিসান রোড, বড়বাজার কলিকাতা।

১৯০৬ হারিসান রোড, বড়বাজার কলিকাতা।

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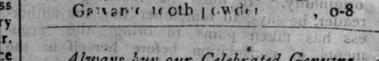
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