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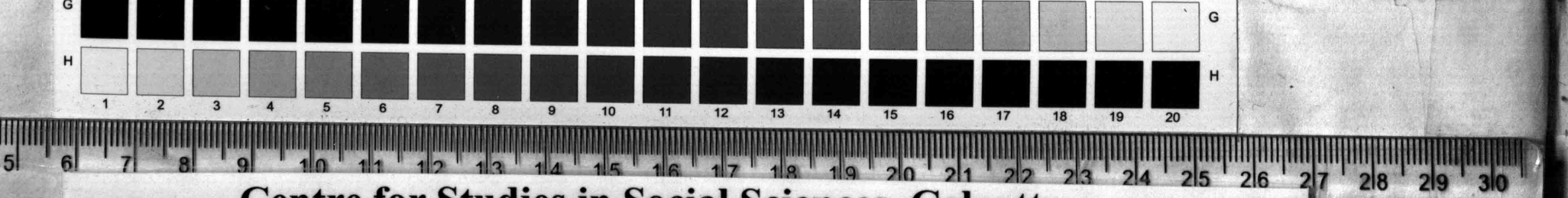
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## Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, FEBRUARY 27, 1898.

## FREE PRESS PRESERVES OR DESTROYS GOVERNMENT?

SIR A. MACKENZIE justifies the seditious measure on the ground that the first duty of every Government, especially of a foreign Government, is self-preservation. Strange as it may appear, it is precisely on the same ground that freedom of speech was granted to the people here by British statesmen. But before we proceed to discuss that point, we must, first of all, say that, we don't think that the principle laid down by Sir A. Mackenzie, can be justified on moral grounds. The basis upon which His Honour builds his theory, is selfish. We have hitherto been taught by Englishmen themselves that the Government which is anxious to protect itself from the people, is inherently defective, because it is founded upon despotic and not representative principles.

If self-preservation from the people, however, is the duty of the Government, it is precisely for self-preservation that liberty of speech was granted to the people of India. Sir A. Mackenzie calls the British Government a foreign Government in India. Well, liberty of speech was granted to the people by the Government for its preservation because it is a foreign Government.

We understand, there is no freedom of speech in Russia. But those who govern that Empire, come from the Russian people. Therefore, those who rule Russia have ample opportunities of knowing the minds of its inhabitants. Here the rulers are foreigners and they are not in touch with the people, and, therefore, a free press was given so that the journalist would serve the purpose of a free Intelligence Department.

Sir A. Mackenzie speaks of possible dangers to the Empire. What these possible dangers may be, we need not enumerate. But we can give some idea of the elements that surround the Government. India is a country of the masses, three-fourths being illiterate and four-fifths having no property. The number is immense and the country is vast. The people have their peculiar instincts and religious prejudices. The rulers are aliens, and not in touch with the people. That being the case, the ruler, even when in the midst of the people, has not the least opportunity of knowing what is going on before his doors.

Such are the surroundings of the rulers of the land. The wise administrators who built the Empire, gave freedom of speech for the preservation of the Government and the ruling race. The arrangement had the desired result. If the Native Press dealt in calumnies, yet they laid bare the native mind. And this enabled the rulers to see clearly the pitfalls and dangers that surrounded them. So the destruction of freedom of speech will not secure but endanger self-preservation.

Sir A. Mackenzie, however, finds self-preservation in the destruction of freedom of speech. This is what he says:

There has been incessant writing, tending to bring the Government, whether in itself or through its officers, into hatred and contempt; and such writing, though not immediately leading to resistance by force to the Government, cannot fail by its cumulative effect to create disaffection and ill-will, and thus produce such a state of feeling as may eventually prove dangerous to the maintenance of order and find its culmination in active resistance.

First of all, we do not understand how Government, as established by law in British India, that is to say, English rule in India, can be brought into contempt or hatred by publicists, through its officers. Of course, this would have been the case, if the Government, as defined in the Penal Code, meant only the chief executive officers. To give this definition to the word "Government" in section 124A, was apparently the object of some of the original framers of the Sedition Bill; but, the public made such a row over this outrageous innovation, that the words, "as established by law in British India," as they existed in section 124A, were at last restored; and the journalist is now as free to criticise the conduct of Government officers as before. As the new Sedition Law now stands it is absurd to suppose that a journalist brings the Government into contempt or hatred by condemning the high-handed conduct of

an officer, or defending his countrymen against the unjust remarks of the ruler of a Province. It should be distinctly borne in mind that Government officers and "Government as established by law" are quite two different things. The Government can be brought into contempt or hatred only through its officers, that is, when the latter behave in a manner unworthy of their position. Journalists, by going to criticise bad measures or the conduct of a despotic ruler, seek to remove the defects of British rule, and not to discredit it.

Then again, it is scarcely one in a lakh who reads newspapers. Those who read newspapers, are necessarily fairly-educated and intelligent men, not likely to be seduced by newspaper calumnies. Sir A. Mackenzie has no objection to the telling of truth, but he objects to calumnies. But calumnies make no permanent impression upon intelligent people. Sir A. Mackenzie, however, assumed everything. Where is the calumny of newspapers and where is the cumulative effect? Who ever heard in India that any disturbance had occurred on account of newspaper writing? Is there any sign, in this land of peace, of the existence of this cumulative effect? So it is all pure supposition. But it is no mere supposition that if the native papers were all to stop their concerns to-day, the rulers of the land would be placed in a very difficult position.

The statesmen who now enjoy the "plunders of the State," to quote an elegant expression of His Honour, forget that they enjoy the fruits of the wise statesmanship of their predecessors. There is a vast deal of difference between those statesmen who built the Empire and those who enjoy the fruits of their labour. It is the former who gave the freedom and it is the latter who have destroyed it.

## SIR A. MACKENZIE'S SPEECH

SIR A. MACKENZIE'S speech during the so-called debate on the sedition measures so convulsed the public mind that we allowed some time to elapse before noticing it. The speech is in print; and we dare say, Sir A. Mackenzie himself is sorry that it has been preserved. The speech produced such a surprise in the country that it is simply impossible to describe its intensity. Sir A. Mackenzie has always been regarded as a liberal-minded ruler, from whom nothing but progress has been expected. He has given no indication to show that he carried any prejudice against the people of Bengal. He is an intelligent man, free from hobbies which rendered the rule of Sir Charles Elliott so signal a failure. His witty speeches always gave delight. When ill-health compelled him to take leave, every one was sorry; when he came back, every one was glad.

Of course, the rumour was that he was going to demolish the Calcutta Municipality. People even went so far as to declare that he would have never come back if he had not that great idea in his mind, viz., of destroying the elective system. None, however, seriously believed him capable of moving in the backward direction, as the rumour suggested.

They had faith in him. One incident would explain how Sir A. Mackenzie had been able so long to conceal his real feeling to the people of this Province from them; and what absolute faith the latter had in his friendly feeling for them. Attempts were actually made to persuade him to declare that the seditious measures of Mr. Chalmers were not necessary in the advanced Province of Bengal. It was believed that it would be possible to persuade Sir A. Mackenzie to declare to the above effect, and that, if he could be made to take such a stand, the Government of India would never be able to force the measure upon the Province of Bengal.

His speech shows that he had been all along carrying a deep-seated resentment against the people of this country who made speeches and wrote newspapers. The speech reminds the public of His Honour's confession that he was a disciple of Sir A. Eden. We forgot all about this confession. We now remember it, and with it the Darbar speech of Sir A. Eden when he denounced the Vernacular Press. Sir A. Eden foamed at the mouth when he delivered it. He had invited the leading men of Bengal to a Darbar; and

Vernacular Press of Bengal. The speech of Sir A. Eden, delivered on that occasion, and the speech of Sir A. Mackenzie, delivered in the Council Chamber of the Viceroy last Friday, are very much similar in tone, spirit and arguments. Sir Ashley had singled out the papers conducted in the vernacular, and fell foul of them. Sir A. Mackenzie singled out the "native papers" for his castigation, and avoided the more powerful papers conducted by Englishmen, who are in a position to give tit for tat.

About Sir Alexander's speech we may have to criticise it, though we do not know what we expect to gain by it. Besides, this is no fair play. He is the ruler of a Province with something like dictatorial powers. He can deal his blows from a position which is inaccessible to the natives of India. Besides, the sedition law makes His Honour the master of the destinies of his critics!

Now that Sir A. Mackenzie has shown practically that he owes most of his training to Sir A. Eden, we can understand the rumour of his attempts to overthrow the present constitution of the Calcutta Municipality. It was Sir Richard Temple who introduced it and who, immediately after, left the Province. Sir A. Eden succeeded him, and one of his first attempts was to deal an irreparable blow at the elective system of the Calcutta Municipality. He, however, failed to carry out his object during his rule; and this ill-will to the constitution of the Calcutta Municipality, is a legacy which Sir A. Eden probably bequeathed to the present ruler of Bengal.

## THE ETHICS OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN INDIA.

It can be easily ascertained why freedom of speech was granted, and that voluntarily, to the people of India. It was not merely because wherever Englishmen go they carry with them their instincts and cherished institutions, viz., representation, freedom of speech and trial by jury, that this liberty was accorded. Be it remembered, the press was made free in India without any demand on the part of the people themselves. The privilege was granted voluntarily.

Now that is not the usual way with our earthly providence, neither with our Heavenly Providence. To get into heaven, it is necessary to knock; to get any present from the British Government, it is necessary to agitate, incessantly. As freedom of speech was granted to the people of India, who did not enjoy either the right of representation or trial by jury, voluntarily, there was, no doubt, good reason for it.

Now this freedom was granted not only voluntarily, but against the wishes of the rulers of the land. How the officials, who ruled the land, liked this freedom, can be ascertained from the feeling of the present race towards the Indian press. And who does not know the history of that independent European journalist who was invited to Government House, and arrested there and bodily deported? They then objected, as they object now, to freedom of speech which, they said, was incompatible with the system of rule that was introduced in India. They said then, as they say now, that a despotic system of rule and freedom of speech cannot work together in harmony without destroying one another. Thus freedom of speech was granted not only voluntarily but also against the strong opposition of the officials.

Nay more, Ever since the establishment of an indigenous press in India, the authorities here have been incessantly trying to curb its so-called "license" or desiring its destruction. We have yet to see an official, Liberal or Tory, who heartily likes an independent newspaper. The best of them will only go so far as to concede that a newspaper is only a necessary evil. So, ever since the indigenous press came into existence in India, the authorities here, who have everything in their own way—who are even supposed to be above the control of Parliament—have been incessantly trying to destroy this freedom enjoyed by the press.

But they have hitherto failed. How is it that they always failed? How is it that, though they are left very much to do

in this business they were never listened to by responsible statesmen in England? There were, therefore, no very strong reasons why responsible people of England voluntarily introduced freedom of speech against the wishes of the responsible rulers of the land and never permitted any interference with the liberty of the press. What are they?

India is governed by officials imported from England. They are vested with almost irresistible powers. They have other privileges. They are accorded support from the higher authority, even when wrong, from motives of policy. These officials are vested with almost irresistible powers and are placed above the reach of the people. The results of this arrangement are (1) they are marked out from the people as a distinct caste; and (2) they are in possession of immense power for good or evil.

Thus it is in their power to drag the Empire to the brink of a dangerous precipice. This they can do, without the English people knowing anything about their doings here. The latter, therefore, wanted the means of knowing the affairs of this Empire from an independent source. And thus the press was made free. If the press is gagged, the English people, who own the Empire, will be obliged to rely only on the authorities themselves for all information regarding India, and be deprived of the means of knowing all about them through an independent source.

Thus the Chalmers measure has put out the light which enabled the English people to examine the state of affairs here. By this measure, the officials here have, of course, secured for themselves immunity from British control to a considerable extent. But is that a thing to be desired?

We said that the arrangement has converted the rulers here into a distinct caste. This means that they live in the midst of the people not in touch with them. The officials are surrounded by innumerable dangers which, from their very position, they are not in a position to discover. A free press enabled them to do it.

So we see why freedom of speech was granted to India. The privilege was granted mainly in the interest of the rulers so that (1) it would enable the English people to see how the officials were doing their work in India; and (2) that it would enable the officials themselves to see the pitfalls that surrounded them.

The sedition measure is thus an injury to the English people, and an injury to the officials themselves. Why is it, then, introduced against the wishes of the British statesmen who built the Empire, of the people, European and Native, of the Liberals and the dictators of English instincts? It is because the native papers criticize, and the sensitive rulers of the present day cannot bear to be criticized.

It was in 1835 that Sir Charles Metcalfe gave liberty to the Indian Press, and he explained why he did so in these memorable words:

The Act evinced to the world that the Government of the Company desired no concealment, that it was happy to have the most minute particulars of the Indian Administration scrutinized and displayed to the gaze of the universe, that it sought information and instruction wherever they could be found, and did not wish to rule India as a conquered, ignorant and enslaved, but as a cherished, enlightened and free country.

The founders of the British Empire in India thought that liberty of the press was a necessity for the protection and good name of the British rule in the world; their descendants, seventy years after, when the country has made vast progress in education and enlightenment, have come to the conclusion that freedom of speech should be knocked on the head for the same purposes, namely, to preserve the existence and fair reputation of the British Government! In the opinion of the early English rulers, a free press was necessary to seek information and instruction from the people, and proclaim to the world that Indians are governed on the same principles as the people of Great Britain. Is it the object of the present generation of rulers to take away freedom of speech for the purpose of establishing the reverse of the above policy?

THE *Pioneer* has the following in reference to the speech of the Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans on the Sedition Bill last Friday:

The arguments for the Bill were compressed into a few sentences by Sir Griffith Evans who, by the way, must by this time, one would imagine, have attained certainty on at least one point in politics, to wit, that in public life compromise is the surest guide. He was a member of the Council which passed the Press Act of 1878; he was a member of the Council which repealed it in 1882; and he

has passed another Bill, the principle of which if we believe its authors, is totally opposed to the legislation of twenty years ago, though the ultimate object aimed at is the same.

The above at once reminds anybody who was present at the proceedings of the *Bangabasi* trial in 1891, of a rather amusing incident. Mr. Jackson, counsel for the defence, had occasion, in course of his address to the jury, to speak of what he called "the consistency of opinion" of his Hon'ble friend Sir Griffith Evans, who was one of the counsel for the Government. Said Mr. Jackson to the effect: "My Hon'ble friend to my right was a Member of Council during Lord Lytton's administration when the Vernacular Press Act was passed; and my Hon'ble friend gave his assent to the measure. But times changed, and the Liberals came into power; my Hon'ble friend was also a Member of Council during Lord Ripon's time when the Vernacular Press Act was repealed; and my Hon'ble friend gave his assent to the repeal also." While these words were being uttered by Mr. Jackson, Sir Griffith was looking up to the Chief Justice, as if communicating his own helpless position and praying for protection. The learned Chief Justice sought to interrupt Mr. Jackson, saying "this is rather personal, Mr. Jackson, isn't it?" "One moment, My lord," replied Mr. Jackson, but he went on citing instances of the "consistency of opinion" of his learned friend. The *Pioneer* adds one instance more to the above, namely, in 1898, that is to say, last Friday, he supported a measure the principle of which was opposed to that of the Bill which received his warm support in 1878! No wonder, Sir Griffith has been able to stick to his seat in the Council for the past quarter of a century.

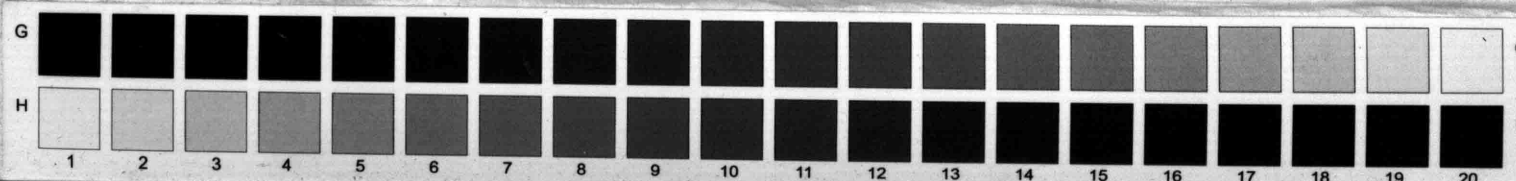
We are glad to see that the defects of the present system of University education are engaging a good deal of attention, and we welcome the appearance of a Note on the subject by Babu Gour Dass Bysack, which is being circulated largely among educated Indians for an expression of opinion. Babu Gour Dass very justly observes that the great defects of the present system are the multiplicity of books and the multiplicity of subjects. We quote the following from the Note:—

Our present educational system commits, at the outset, a most palpable mistake, in actual practice, if not in theory, by trying to bring about a "growth" and not a "development" of the mind. The curricula of study are made inordinately heavy. The young students are compelled to collect a chaotic mass of all sorts of ideas, and no time is allowed them to give them a shape or make them one harmonious whole. Year after year they are compelled to pursue the same incongruous mode of acquiring knowledge, and the result of this fruitless mode of acquirement is suicidal to the object in view. The mind is hampered with a burden of unnecessary materials, while thoughts of a more important kind are lost sight of. Thus circumstanced, the young mind tries to work up, under the spur of emulation, till it can bear the weight no longer, and ultimately succumbs to it to rise no more. It can then imbibe no fresh ideas, because the plastic power of the brain is gone. The unsystematical ideas that it had amassed with a life-long endeavour, gradually fade away. The brain becomes a concrete mass, absolutely without any real idea. The heaviness of the curricula we have spoken of just now, arises from two causes. First, in the multiplicity of the subjects taught; and secondly, in the multiplicity of books assigned as texts for examinations; not to speak of the inordinate toughness, in some cases, of the books.

But if the system does very little good to the development of the brain of the students, it does them incalculable harm from another point of view. It tells seriously upon their health. We do not know whether malarial fever or the present educational system is more responsible for the general physical deterioration of our educated young men. The proposition of Babu Gour Dass Bysack should receive the support of every Fellow of the University who has the welfare of the country at heart. The present method of our University education must be thoroughly changed, otherwise the time is not distant when three-fourths of our future hopefuls will be carried to an untimely grave and the whole Bengali nation almost extirpated.

THE reader is aware that Mr. R. C. Dutt has lately been honoured with the chair of the Indian History in the University College, London. From a private letter just received from England, it appears that Mr. Dutt has been at present teaching the history of the Vedic period, and his lectures have attracted so much attention that his class is being largely attended, among whom are some highly-cultured ladies. Our London correspondent speaks highly of his political speeches. The report of a meeting where he took a prominent part, is reproduced elsewhere. It will be seen that both he and Mr. A. M. Bose are doing yeoman's service in England at this juncture.

We are deeply grieved to hear that Sir Antony MacDonnell is about to take six months' leave on medical certificate, leaving India in May next. If there was one ruler of a Province who should not have left the country at this juncture, it was Sir Antony. It is an open secret that it was through his strong recommendation that the words "all feelings or ill-will" were erased from the Sedition Bill. Those who have read his report on the Sedition Bill, tell us that although he supported the principle of the measure, he, at the same time, recommended the Government to take the





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SIR J. WESTLAND.—The Hon'ble Sir James Westland leaves Calcutta for Simla on the 29th proximo.

MEDICAL.—We hear that Dr. Murray, O. Howrah, will act for Dr. O'Brien when the latter goes on leave in April.

BANK OF BENGAL.—The Bank of Bengal has raised its rates for demand loan to twelve per cent.

JAYNAGAR MUNICIPALITY.—Babu Bhaba taran Bhattacharjee, B. A., has been duly elected to be a Commissioner of this Municipality, vice Babu Surendra Nath Dutt.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN.—Mr. C. E. Buckland, C.I.E., is appointed to be President of the Committee of Management of the Zoological Garden, vice Mr. E. V. Westmacott resigned.

SOBBABAZAR BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.—The Sobhabazar Benevolent Society's feast, annually given by a kind donor through Babu Harendra Nath Dutt to the poor, took place on Wednesday last. More than one thousand people were sumptuously fed with various sorts of dishes.

THE FALLING OF A METEOR.—The other day, writes a correspondent, a curious optical phenomenon was witnessed at Raigunge. On the morning of that day a very bright shining meteor was seen to fall in a north-westerly direction, accompanied by smoke and a loud noise.

DUPLICATE RAILWAY LINES.—It is, we understand, intended to duplicate the Eastern Bengal Railway from Naihati to Sealdah. This will give four lines of rails. As General Strachey recently announced, the East Indian Railway from Bardwan to Howrah is also to be duplicated.

BENGAL PLAGUE CAMPS.—The following statement shows the total number of persons examined in the following Plague Observation Camps during the week ending the 6th February, 1928:—Mairwa, 1,508; Chousa, 1,122; Damukdia, 1,185; Khurda, 1,892. Of these 231 were detained as suspects.

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE DINNERS.—The following Indian names occur on the list of those present at the recent Dinner: Mr. K. S. Bonnerjee, M.A., and Mr. D. Gupta, of Oxford; and Mr. R. Mitra, Dr. Bose, Mr. A. Chaudhuri, and Mr. R. Mehta, of Cambridge.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.—The following is the result of the election for the new committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce:—President, the Hon. Mr. Allan Arthur; Vice-President, the Hon. Mr. M. C. Turner; Members:—Mr. S. Finney, Mr. G. C. Scaramanga, Mr. W. B. Gladstone, Mr. G. Lyell, Mr. G. Henderson, Mr. R. Murray, and Mr. A. Forsyth.

ALIPORE SUBURBAN MAGISTRACY.—Yesterday Mr. Abdul Kader, Alipore Police Magistrate, made over charge to his successor Maulvi Serajul Hak. The Police officers in a body came to bid goodbye to his Worship and expressed their regret at his transfer and tendered their thanks for his uniform kindness towards them. His Worship shook hands with all the officers and thanked them for their kind expressions towards him.

WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.—The following is the general summary of the weather and crop report in Bengal for the week ending the 21st instant:—There were slight showers during the week in parts of Darjeeling, Patna, Saran, Champaran, Monghyr, Purnea, and Khondamir. Reports of the crops continue favourable, but in Chittagong rain is required. Oilseeds and potatoes are being gathered, and the pressing of sugarcane is in progress. Boro or spring rice is doing well. Ploughing for the autumn crops is going on in several parts of Bengal Proper. The poppy crop in Bihar and Hazaribagh is promising, and lancing has begun. Very little cattle-disease is reported, and there is no want of fodder except in the flooded parts of Chittagong and at Kurigram in Rangpur. Prices remain steady.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEDJAZ.—It appears from the report, submitted by the Inspector-General of Police, on the arrangements made by him for despatching pilgrims bound for the Hedjaz during the current season, that 708 pilgrims have been shipped per S. S. Jubeda from the port of Chittagong, but that, notwithstanding the efforts of the Government to procure steamers, it is unlikely, owing to the demand for freight, that any more steamers will be available this season for pilgrim traffic. Persons who still entertain the intention of proceeding to the Hedjaz will be well advised, therefore, to defer their purpose till next year. Magistrates of districts have been instructed to be careful to explain these points to the leading Muhammadans in order to remove all source of misapprehension.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION AT THE BETHUNE COLLEGE.—There was a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen yesterday afternoon to witness the distribution of prizes to the meritorious pupils of the above college by H. E. the Countess of Elgin. The overture being made by a Bengalee song by the junior students of the College, the usual annual report was read by the Secretary. After the distribution of prizes a pleasing ceremony took place in the unveiling of the portrait of the late Mr. M. M. Ghose who had been the Secretary of the

sideration. Indeed, we are told that he spoke both for and against the amendments in Section 124A, and it was very difficult to decide whether he was in favour of or opposed to them. India is sadly in need of rulers like Sir Antony MacDonnell, who can sincerely sympathise with the people both in their prosperity and adversity. The people of the N.W. Provinces have already borne testimony to the fact that Sir Antony had sacrificed his health and comfort for the purpose of fighting the monster of the famine, the like of which had never visited their country before; and, no wonder, that his health has broken under these extraordinary circumstances. Indeed, he sadly needs rest, and we trust he will return to India with invigorated health, to govern his people and earn further blessings from them.

The experiences of an Indian, in an English electioneering campaign, published in another column, will, we doubt not, be read with profound interest by our countrymen. We need hardly say that it is an extract from a private letter which Babu Ananda Mohun Bose wrote to a friend, not of course, with the object of giving publicity to it. We have, however, thought it proper to publish the account in our columns in the interests of the public, though perhaps at the risk of incurring the displeasure of our distinguished countryman. Indeed, the generous treatment, accorded to Babu Ananda Mohun Bose by the English people at home, when generally known, may encourage many of our educated men, gifted with the powers of speech, to proceed to England, and serve their country in the magnificent way he is doing, single-handed and without any help from his countrymen, pecuniary or otherwise.

PROFESSOR S. K. Bannerji, the renowned tiger-tamer, is now in Calcutta. He requires no introduction at our hands, for the general public are well aware of his heroic feats. Suffice it to say that his services as a tiger-tamer were so much valued that T. Cook's English Circus Company retained him for some time on a monthly salary of Rs. 1500. As a tamer of wild animals, he seems to be second to none in his profession anywhere. But he not only tames, but actually fights with wild and untamed tigers, as the following incident will show. In 1894, while at Patna, Nawab Syed Ibrahim Ali Khan Sahab challenged the Professor to enter a cage and play with his own wild and untamed royal Bengal tiger. The Professor accepted the challenge. But let the Nawab himself describe the incident:—

In 1894 last while Professor S. K. Bannerji was holding his circus performances at Patna, I went to witness them. Amongst other things I was struck by his skill in wrestling with a tiger, riding on its back and treating it just like any harmless domestic animal, but I doubted whether he could do the same with any other animal, and asked the Professor to enter, if he could, the cage of a ferocious untamed Bengal tiger of my menagerie. He accepted the offer on condition that the animal would be presented to him, if successful. When in the presence of the European and native spectators he was about to perform the feat, I prevented him from his doing so, as I apprehended imminent danger to his life, and offered to give the animal to him for his daring idea; but in spite of all this he, with thanks, entered the cage of the animal for the satisfaction of the spectators, and succeeded in thoroughly getting mastery over it amidst repeated cheers and applause. I was so highly pleased with this courageous deed that I not only gave the tiger to him, but a pair of horses with it, and offered to do all in my power to advocate his cause. If such genius remains unsupported by the wealthy gentry of the country and the public at large and has to bid farewell to the arena from want of encouragement, then a permanent blot would, I consider, be on the people of this country.

If Professor Bannerji had been born in Europe he would have been simply worshipped for his daring feats. But here, we have to introduce him as a humble suitor to the public! His demand is, however, very moderate and just like himself. A pair of lions have recently been brought from Africa; and he undertakes to enter into the cages of these wild and ferocious animals and fight with them, if any gentleman will come forward to reward his skill and courage by the presentation of these lions. The cost of the animals is not likely to exceed Rs. 3,000. Like Babu Suresh Chander Biswas, Professor, Bannerji is a living evidence of what a Bengalee can do even in professions like tiger-taming and the like. We doubt not, some of our wealthy men will gladly accept the proposal of the Professor and secure the lions for him. They cannot spend their money in a better way than by encouraging such gifted persons.

In its issue of the 30th November last, the *Kesari* of Poona published an account of a shooting accident in the Bassein Taluka of the Thana District, in which Mr. Hudson, Assistant Collector of Thana, was concerned. Since then, the *Kesari's* informant made further inquiries, which brought to light a different set of facts, and sent another report accordingly. Upon this, the *Kesari*, in its issue of the 28th December, made necessary modifications in its statement of the circumstances of the case, according to the second report. This seemed, however, not quite satisfactory to the officer concerned; and he used the following letter to be addressed to the Editor of the *Kesari* by the District Magistrate of Poona, under date the 21st, giving his version of the occurrence.

I am directed to, invite your attention to the account in the *Kesari* of November 30th, 1897, of a shooting accident in the Thana District. Enquiry shows that your information is incorrect in several details.

2. In the first place, the boy who was shot, was not one of Mr. Hudson's beaters, as stated. He came up on hearing the firing; and had he shown himself openly, he would have been safe. The incident was a regrettable accident, for which Mr. Hudson was in no way to blame.

3. Your account further stated that Mr. Hudson surrounded himself with police, and sought to minimise what you represent as a serious accident, by obtaining an admission in the shape of a deposition from the boy's mother. This last assertion is absolutely incorrect. Mr. Hudson took no statement from the boy's mother, and the only police he sent for were the Chief Constable and the Village Officers, to render assistance in taking the boy to hospital.

4. Your account adds that the boy was expected to be permanently disabled by his wounds. You appear to have been unaware that the boy was discharged, cured, two days before your article was published. Mr. Hudson did all he could for the boy, and the Assistant Surgeon at once pronounced the injuries to be slight.

5. The concluding sentence of your article implies a doubt as to whether the account published by you was correct. You will see that it was very much the reverse; and I do not doubt that you will give the same publicity to this letter as you did to the original article.

The above furnishes a typical instance how reports, neither wholly true nor wholly untrue, now and then find admittance in the columns of newspapers. The very circumstance that there was a shooting accident in which a native was wounded at the hands of a European, made it imperative on the Editor of a newspaper, in the interests of good government, to give publicity to the report he had received from a reliable source; while, it was the duty of the gentleman concerned to point out, in the identical interest of good government, to come forward with his own version of the occurrence, if the report published in the newspaper, did not tell the whole truth or was inaccurate on some point, such as would lead to unworthy impressions in the public mind about him. In this matter, both parties have done their respective duties; and the interests of all have been, we are glad, well served, though, it would have been better, if Mr. Hudson, and not the Magistrate of Poona, had addressed the *Kesari* direct.

There is one sentence in the letter of the Poona Magistrate, which requires a word of comment. "The incident was a regrettable accident," says he, "for which Mr. Hudson was in no way to blame." But how can it be a regrettable incident, if Mr. Hudson was not to blame? So, the Poona Magistrate does not exactly mean what he says. Would this accident have occurred at all if Mr. Hudson had fired his gun more carefully? Why did he shoot at all when there was a chance of a human being being hurt by his firing? These accidents are unknown in England and other countries. Why should they occur so frequently in India? By publishing the incident, the *Kesari* has done one great service to Mr. Hudson for which he ought to be thankful to that paper. In future, Mr. Hudson will never again fire his gun carelessly and give occasion for the occurrence of another such "regrettable accident."

The Anglo-Indian Defence Association, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and other public bodies, though they received such scant courtesy at the hands of the Government in connection with the sedition measures, have come forward with their suggestions regarding the Criminal Procedure Bill, which will be passed into law next Friday. It goes without saying that none of these suggestions will receive any consideration at the hands of the Council, but yet they have done well by exercising their right of protest. Some of the changes contemplated, are of a radical character as those in the sedition law. We shall mention some. First of all, the amendments in section 108 will deal a deadly blow to all liberty of speech. They empower District Magistrates to treat public writers and speakers just like *badmashes*, and bind them down in heavy sums, if their writings and speeches, in the opinion of the same officials, are seditious and defamatory against any public official. When this section is passed, every newspaper, specially those published in the Mufussil, will be placed practically under the absolute control of the District Magistrate.

SCHEDULE II, section 124A, column 8, makes the sedition cases triable by Magistrates. No jury, no assessor, and the Magistrate will be free to decide the case at his sweet will. In England, when they commit sedition, they are not tried by Magistrates. The accused are tried by a Judge and Jury of their countrymen. The Jurors must convict them unanimously, otherwise they are discharged. If they are convicted, they are treated not as criminals but as first-class misdemeanants, who are not required to do any work and are treated like gentlemen. They can take their own food and pass their time in any way they like; only they are not allowed to come out of the jail. Then, the highest punishment for sedition in England is two years' imprisonment. In India, persons committing the same offence are to be tried by Magistrates, without the help of their own peers. When the trial is held in the

High Court and a jury allowed, the majority of the jurors are to be foreigners, unacquainted with the language, manners and customs of the accused. If the accused are found guilty, they are to be treated as criminals or convicts, just like thieves and robbers, and made to do hard labour with them. And lastly, the punishment extends from three years' rigorous imprisonment to transportation for life. It is said that the circumstances of England being different from the circumstances of India, that is to say, the climate of England being cold and that of India hot, sedition in the former country is a dwarfish thing, but it grows luxuriantly in the fertile soil of the latter; hence those who commit sedition in England are given only two years and treated like gentlemen, while those who commit it in India are made to pick oakum like *badmashes* and sometimes transported to the Andamans for life.

The tendency of almost all the amendments in various sections of the Code is to strengthen the hands of the Police and the Magistracy, and curtail the powers of the High Courts and throw obstacles in the way of the accused. The change in section 102 with regard to search is dangerous, as it will confer power upon the Police which might be seriously abused. It is proposed in sections 162 and 172 to treat previous statements made to the police by the complainant and witnesses for the prosecution, as privileged. Needless to say that all police prosecutions, under the above circumstances, will result, as a rule, in the conviction of the accused. Then section 439 (5) will deal a great blow at the control of the High Court over District Judges and Magistrates in the Mufussil. While section 526 (8) will make the trying Magistrate omnipotent, by empowering him to reject the application of the accused for leave to move the High Court for a transfer of the case.

JESUS CHRIST said in effect that his mission was to create dissension between husband and wife, father and son, brother and brother. Mr. Chalmers has, by his measure, worked such a miracle. A Barrister was seen in the Legislative Council supporting the sedition measure with warmth. His brother, however, also a Barrister, was seen to oppose the same measure, by joining the public meeting held to enter a protest against it. Jesus Christ preached universal brotherhood and peace, and good will. Mr. Chalmers' measure has also done something in this direction. There is a cartoon in the *Bangabasi* in which the editor of the *Pioneer* and that of this journal are represented as embracing one another.

The Government of India have sanctioned the survey of the proposed Damoodah Valley Railway being undertaken by the Bengal-Nagpore Railway Company.

In view of the large number of officers of the Indian Medical Service likely to go on furlough this year, steps are being taken to send out early to this country the probationers for the Indian Medical Service at Netley who have successfully completed their course of studies.

SIR JAMES WESTLAND'S Bill to consolidate and amend the Stamp Act, contains a provision requiring share certificates to be stamped. The Upper India Chamber of Commerce object to this provision. They urge that share certificates are not required to be stamped in England; and, as the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Bill declared in Council that it was not introduced for purposes of revenue but mainly to bring the Stamp Law in India on a level with that of England, share certificates should also be free in India. The new provision of the Bill, the Chamber think, is evidently a misapprehension arising from an impression that scrip certificates and share certificates are identical.

In view of the complication of affairs at Sokoto, as wired by Reuters, the following short description of the place may not be uninteresting. Sokoto is the largest and most prosperous State in the Sudan. It is a sultanate over a number of smaller States, and is supposed to have a population of 15 millions; next to it is the Empire of Bornu, ruled by Rabeh, a slave of Zebek Pasha, who has made a kingdom for himself. Kano, the capital of Sokoto, is a place of considerable trade. The French know perfectly well about the effect of the treaty of 1890, but their explorers have recently been penetrating Sokoto, Gaudu, and Bornu, and they find that these places are far more suitable for trade than the sphere they have got to the east of the Niger.

The survey for the proposed line of Railway from Baroon to Daltongun, which was commenced some time ago, is expected to be shortly completed. The preparation of the plans and estimates will take some time; but there is every probability of earthwork being commenced next cold weather.

The Commissioner of the Patna Division is in correspondence with the Government of Bengal regarding an improvement in the status of the Behar School of Engineering. Under the present regulations, passed candidates from the College can only become Sub-oversers; but it is proposed to modify the course of studies in such a way that they might be entitled to oversers' certificates.

The European and Anglo-Indian Defence Association have addressed a further letter to Government regarding the Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill, in which, amongst a number of other suggestions and objections, the Committee strongly protest against the exclusion of statements, made to the Police by the accused or his witnesses, from cross-examination, as likely to lead to the frequent con-

viction of innocent persons. They also object as dangerous, to the powers given by clause 281 to courts, to add to the charges without affording the accused inalienable liberty in recalling witnesses to rebut the same. They further protest against the curtailment, by clause 439, of the general power of revision, possessed under their charters by all High Courts, which, though occasionally exercised, is used exclusively to redress serious wrong, which otherwise could not be righted.

THE Public Works Department of the Government of India Secretariat will soon see some important changes. The Railway Branch will be kept entirely separate from the Civil Branch and made over to the management of the Secretary, who will be the chief adviser to the Government. There will be no Director-General of Railways, and his functions will be divided amongst the various managers of the different lines. The Railway Secretary will have under him two Directors—one for construction and the other for traffic. The office of the Consulting Engineer for Government will be divided among the Directors, who will also be called Deputy Secretaries of the Railway Branch. The Accounts Branch will practically remain the same. The Civil Department will be conducted by a Joint Secretary to Government, who will also be Inspector-General of Irrigation, and he will deal finally with all cases other than those connected with the Railway Branch. The Under-Secretary, Civil Works Branch, which also includes Telegraphs, will act under the Joint Secretary.

The latest information from Hyderabad is that the Resident and the Nizam were to have met yesterday to discuss State matters.

HENCEFORTH the Government of Bombay will have two British officers in His Excellency's Body Guard instead of one like that of Madras.

SIR JOHN WOODBURN, Home Member of the Viceroy's Council, has resumed his duties. Mr. Rivaz is reported to have gone to Burma on short leave.

FORTY men are now undergoing trial before Mr. Hardikar, the Special Magistrate, on charges of having complicity in the Sinner riot. The Police Inspector is prosecuting and the defence is unrepresented.

SINNER is to have an additional punitive police force for a period of six months, the inhabitants defraying the cost.

A DARBAR was held in Jodhpur on the 18th by the Agent to the Governor-General for Rajputana, in which the Maharajah was invested with full powers of administration over the State, with the restoration of criminal jurisdiction in the district of Mallavi.

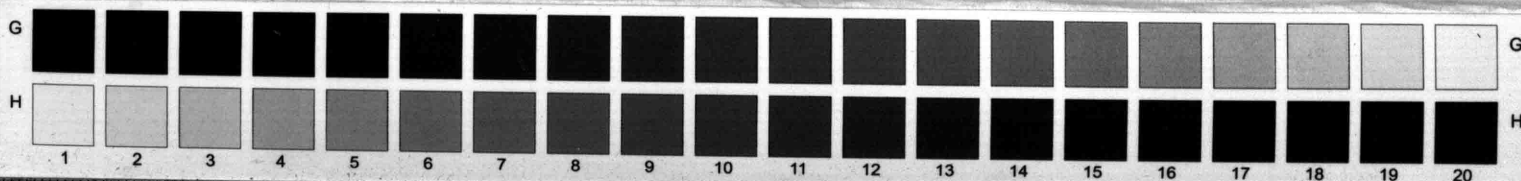
We have received a copy of a pamphlet called "Mysore Administration", by Mr. H. S. Nanjunda Rao. We gather from it that there is a party, strongly opposed to the administration of the present Minister, Sir Seshadri Iyer, and Mr. Nanjunda Rao belongs to it. The charges preferred against the present Minister, are too serious to be allowed to pass unnoticed.

THE booksellers and publishers, carrying on business in Calcutta, have just addressed to the Government of Bengal a representation, praying for the withdrawal of the grant-in-aid to the Calcutta School-book Society. The memorialists urge that times have considerably changed since the grant-in-aid was decided upon, inasmuch as there is no necessity at the present time for subsidising any publisher for the purpose of "supplying the backward parts of the country with books written in the vernaculars of those places." Moreover, there is an economic objection to the arrangement; viz, that this grant-in-aid places the School-book Society in a position to undersell books, which tells seriously upon the business of the memorialists. The representation deserves a careful consideration of the Government.

We are glad that Mr. Justice Ranade has given notice of his resolution relative to the question of examinations by instalments, which, as the reader will remember, was rejected on technical grounds. In all probability, it will come up for discussion at the next meeting of the Bombay University Senate. It consists of five parts: the first part requires the Senate to re-affirm the proposition which it has once passed; the second attributes the hesitation and doubt felt by the Bombay Government on the subject, partly to the defective way in which the resolutions were submitted by the Syndicate to the Government; the third affirms that the principle involved is neither novel nor radical; the fourth states that "the Senate is further of opinion that the resolutions, if carried into effect, will result not in lowering the value of the degree, but will ensure a more thorough mastery of the subjects than is the case now, and, by reducing the elements of chance, discourage cram and promote the efficiency of the examination test; and the fifth requires the appointment of a Committee to draft a reply to and confer with the Government."

THERE were 122 attacks and 155 deaths from plague in Bombay on Thursday. The total mortality from all causes was 304 as against 203 last year, and 91 the year before.

An accident which resulted in the obstruction of passenger traffic for a couple of hours, happened on Wednesday night on the Bombay Baroda, and Central India Railway. A local train, which left Colaba at 8.15 P. M., safely ran off the line when it reached the level crossing at Elphinstone Road, the passengers receiving a rude shock, and the engine and four carriages blocking the line. The passengers got out safely, and received no injuries. It is generally believed that the accident was due to a mistake on the part of the pointsman. Two special trains of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway conveying troops from Colaba, who arrived by the S. S. Simla, had passed from the local line to proceed on to the line of the main railway. The pointsman mistook the local train also for a special, and joined the line so as to allow it to pass on to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, but as the train approached the cabin he saw his mistake, and tried to rectify it when it was too late with the result recorded.





**VERNACULAR MEDICAL EXAMINATION.**—The Syllabus of the subjects of Examination in Vernacular Medical Schools, as approved by the Government of Bengal, have been published in the *Gazette* for general information.

**MORTUARY RETURNS.**—The total number of deaths registered in urban Calcutta during the week ending 19th February was 250 against 218 and 271 in the two preceding weeks, and lower than the corresponding week of last year by 74. There were 18 deaths from cholera against 18 and 11 in the two preceding weeks, the number is lower than the average of the past quinquennium by 10. There were 2 deaths from small-pox during the week, against 4 in the previous week. There were 3 deaths from tetanus against 3 in the previous week. The mortality from fevers and bowel-complaints amounted to 72 and 24 respectively, against 61 and 36 in the preceding week. The general death-rate of the week was 27.9 per mille per annum, against 34.5 the mean of the last five years. The total number of deaths registered in suburban Calcutta during the week ending 19th February was 138 against 158 and 160 in the two preceding weeks, and lower than the corresponding week of last year by 58. There were 3 deaths from cholera, against 12 and 2 in the two preceding weeks, the number is lower than the average of the past quinquennium by 19. There were no deaths from small pox during the week against 11 in the previous week. There were 3 deaths from tetanus against 5 in the previous week. The mortality from fevers and bowel-complaints amounted 32 and 28 respectively, against 43 and 32 in the preceding week. The general death-rate of the week was 33.4 per mille per annum, against 46.0 the mean of the last five years. The general death-rate of the combined area is equal to 29.7.

The death-rate at Poona, due to plague, is reported to be decreasing rapidly. The returns for the last seventy-two hours show three cases and seven deaths in the city including the suburbs, and six cases and seven deaths in the districts.

The news from the Punjab about plague is that it is slowly making a progress there. Two more villages are said to have been attacked.—Sahlad, in Jullundur district and Bhajal in Hoshiarpur.

The Municipality of Madras considers that it should not be saddled with the plague expenditure which is imperial, and has accordingly decided to ask Government for a grant of Rs. 60,000 to cover the plague expenses. The question raised is an important one, and we shall await with interest His Excellency the Governor's decision on it.

It appears that the plague is spreading. In Bombay, there were 162 attacks and 153 deaths on Tuesday. Then, a Lahore telegram of Tuesday's date says that another village, named Debrin, in the Hoshiarpur District, situated about one mile from the town of Garshankar, has been attacked with plague. But the most alarming news comes from Secunderabad, Deccan. It appears that the plague has attacked several villages in the Bedar and Gulburga Districts, and that cases have broken out in Ajunta and Aurangabad.

The Delhi market is still practically closed; dealers will on no account venture to place their usual large orders, and the plague scare continues unabated; meetings of both Hindus and Mahomedans are daily taking place in the city, selecting sites for probable plague hospitals, in case the disease should manifest itself here.

MISS H. MCDUGALL, an English nursing sister, has died in Bombay from plague. She contracted it by a patient coughing in her face some sputum entering her eye.

The transport "Simla" arrived at Bombay from England on Wednesday morning.

MR. ATUL CHUNDER CHATTERJEE, who headed the list of successful candidates in the C.S. examinations last year, has been posted at Allahabad as Assistant Magistrate and Collector. He is now at his post.

The syndicate of the Allahabad University has, with the sanction of His Honor the Chancellor, affiliated the Jaswant College, Jodhpur, to the University of Allahabad, in Arts, up to the B.A. standard.

**SURGEON-LIEUTENANT-COLONEL G. S. A. Ranking, M.D.,** Secretary to the Board of Examiners, goes on tour on the 1st March. He will examine at Lucknow on the 3rd, 4th and 5th March, Main Mir on 8th and 9th returning to Calcutta on 12th ultimo.

GOOD rain is reported to have fallen throughout the N.W. Provinces during the week ending 16th February, greatly benefiting the rabi crops, especially those on unirrigated and bhar lands. Slight damage from hail is reported in some districts. Poppy is doing well and prospects are very favourable. Markets are well supplied and prices show a tendency to fall in places.

The *Englishman* says that Professor Sylvain Levi, who is now at Katmandu, has discovered a number of additional inscriptions, some of which, we are told, go many centuries back, and promise to enlighten one or two more dark corners of ancient Indian history.

A FLYING column under Major Even consisting of two guns, 130 Infantry, and a Sapper detachment left Turbat on the 17th instant to visit the Bolida Valley, returning on the 23rd. On the 24th the above force increased by the Cavalry and 100 Rifles, start for Mand. Mehrab Khan is reported to be in Persian territory.

THERE is an improvement in this week's mortality returns for Bombay. The number of deaths registered in the city during the past week was 1,974, being 221 less than in the preceding week, and 324 more than in the week ending the 23rd of February, 1897, and 1,216 more than in the corresponding period of the previous five years. The death-rate was 120.2 per thousand. There were 1,082 deaths from plague, 175 less than in the previous week.

It is impossible to estimate accurately the amount of damages caused by the recent rains in Bombay. The official estimate puts it at Rs. 20,000.

CAPTAIN C. L. LAWRENCE successfully performed a balloon ascent and parachute descent at Amritsar on the 22nd inst. He rose to a considerable height and came down safely with the help of his parachute on a two storey building. The balloon is said to have been greatly damaged.

In our last issue we announced the acquittal by the Chief Court of the Editor of the *Amalga Gazette*. The complainant (Ralla Ram, Second Master,

## Frontier Affairs.

A TELEGRAM from Peshawar reports that three Lee-Metford rifles were stolen from the base godown camp on Monday morning. A murder is also reported as having occurred close by, about the same time.

THE position on the frontier may be briefly described as follows:—The Malikidin section have now paid up their full fines, and the blockade against them has been partially withdrawn. The Sipahis are paying slowly, and the Kambar Khels and Kamrai Khels are showing signs that they will follow suit. Only the Kuki Khels and Zakka Khels still appear to be really obstinate. In round numbers about 900 rifles and some Rs. 40,000 have still to be paid by the tribesmen. Sir William Lockhart has, it is understood, been allowed discretionary powers as to the recommencement of hostilities, and now that the Malikidin have complied in full, a slight extension of time will be granted to the remaining sections. Our force was to have moved on Tuesday, but should the Sipahi Afridis fulfil the terms at once, a still further extension of time may possibly be granted. It will be seen that every possible chance is being given to the enemy.—*Englishman*.

ANOTHER section of the Afridis has followed the example set by the Malikidin. The Sipah clan's share in the fine imposed was 48 rifles and Rs. 3,000 in cash. They have handed in 28 rifles and Rs. 1,000, and the balance is expected immediately. The Kamrai Khel also seem disposed to submit, as their leading malik, Hafiz Sunundin, returned from Bara Valley to Jamrud on Monday with the news that the balance of the rifles due from this section would be brought in the day after the 1d is closed; that is, on the 23rd. This man Hafiz also brought important information regarding the attitude of the Zakka Khel. He met in the Bara Valley the jirgah which had gone into Afghan territory to ascertain the wishes of Khwas Khan and Wali Mahomed. They stated that these irreconcilables had clearly announced that they would give no aid to their clansmen in any form; neither would they join any jirgah going to Jamrud. The Zakka Khels must please themselves in the matter of peace or war. Accordingly the tribesmen had decided to hold a big gathering in Bara on the 21st to decide for themselves what should be done. It is believed that they will declare for peace. Since Khwas and Wali Mahomed gave the jirgah the above answer they would seem to have become alarmed for their own safety in Afghanistan, for rumours of action by the Amir to expel them have become current. They have therefore opened up communications with the political authorities on their own account, and it is within the bounds of possibility that they may appear at Landi Kotal or Jamrud. They have, at any rate, asked if a safe conduct would be given them, and have been told that this was promised to them all along.—*"Pioneer"*.

THE 24th Gurkhas and two sections of a Native Field Hospital arrived at Jamrud from Ali Masjid on Wednesday.

MAJOR-GENERAL Sir Power Palmer on Wednesday inspected the new road from Mamani post to Barkai on the left bank of the river, and the camp, and proposed a permanent post at Barkai. All is quiet in the Bara Valley, and the weather has improved.

IT is reported from Mamani that the Political Officer has failed to recover the bodies of the remaining three men of the Yorkshire Light Infantry who fell at Shin Kamar.

A PESHAWAR telegram, dated the 22nd February, says:—To-day the leading Malikidins assured me that a fortnight after the Festival would see the submission of the whole of the Afridi clans, Zakkakhel included. The period of grace has been extended somewhat, presumably upon the signs of a real submission now prevalent. The movement of the troops up toward the Bara Valley has evidently worked the oracle, and now that the Orakzais, Malikidin Khels, Separ and Kamrai have given in the results of the arduous and much abused campaign begin to be proved. The situation as it is received in Peshawar at present is so hopeful that the termination of the Campaign and the reduction of the force are freely spoken of.

THE facts of the Akora outrage are these: A burglary was committed in a Hindu shop on the night of the 17th and the burglars, probably about twelve in number, had one or two torches, the night being pitch dark. The shop caught fire, whether accidentally or otherwise cannot be determined, and the flame spread to other shops, twenty of which were burnt down. Both Hindus and Mahomedans joined in getting the fire under, and forgot the burglars who escaped in the confusion. Some of the burglars, it is reported, have been recognised and the police were sent to arrest them, but whether they have been arrested or not has not been reported. Doubts are entertained of their being caught for some time yet. No mention is made as to whether the burglars were transborder Jowakis or not.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Barkai on the 18th:—We are sniped into every night, but so far have had no casualties among officers or men, though several animals have been hit. Only those who have seen this part of the country can realize how extremely difficult it is, and what an advantage the wily Afridi on the mountain tops has over our troops. It took the Third Brigade ten hours to march from Mamani to Barkai—a distance of not quite four miles. There are no roads whatever and not even tracks. Our march was through the bed of the Bara river, which had to be crossed and recrossed almost every 500 yards. As we proceeded the heights on both flanks had to be crowned in case of an attack, and it is a wonder how Tommy Atkins ever got to the top. Our transport consists of 5,000 animals, and I leave it to you to imagine the difficulty we had in driving them along the route. We are now busy making a road from Barkai onwards.

As it is believed that the recent bad weather on the frontier interfered with the collection and surrender of rifles by such of the Afridi clans as are inclined to submit, Sir William Lockhart is giving the tribesmen a few days' grace. When the other sections see that the blockade has been partially raised in the case of the Malikidin Khel, who have complied in full with the terms imposed, they are likely to make submission. The Zakka Khel, however, are still divided among them-

## DAMODHAR CHAPEKAR'S APPEAL.

THE following is the purport of the petition in appeal made by Damodhar Hari Chapekar, who was sentenced to death by the Hon. Mr. W. H. Crowe, Sessions Judge of Poona:—

The petitioner invokes the deity Gajanan and says that the petitioner Damodhar Hari Chapekar is at present a convict in the Yerrowda Jail. The Sessions Judge of Poona had sentenced him to be hanged in connection with the murders of Messrs Rand and Ayerst. With reference to the murders neither he nor his brother Balkrishna had committed the two murders. The police had concocted the whole evidence and tutored the witnesses in the matter. At first the police brought the petitioner to Poona as a friend of Gopal Krishna Sathe, and while at the Faraskhana Subedar Roshan Ali and others belaboured him, with the result that his right ear was injured.

The Police further threatened him, saying "we will reduce you to the same condition to which we have reduced Tilak, Natu, Jogekar and Mahadeo." They also held out inducements, but the petitioner was not led away by them.

Petitioner led them to believe that he would make a confession if they did not beat him, and then petitioner began to concoct evidence.

A Police jemadar and a police sepoy at first asked the petitioner if there was any well attached to his house and the petitioner accordingly pointed out a well. After this the police officers began to tutor witnesses regarding gunpowder and shots, and then petitioner pointed out the houses of Kachare Patel and one Mr. R. Jones.

Then the Police officers shewed the petitioner the places, namely, Ganeshkhind, "Yellow Bungalow", St. Mary's Church, the Club, Mr. Rand's room and the Gymkhana.

On the Friday preceding the 22nd, witness had gone to do homage to the goddess Chatarsingee as usual, and on his return saw some school girls, which circumstance he had casually mentioned to the Police and the Police had, in consequence, called those girls as witnesses.

The police took witnesses to their bungalow and there tutored them. In the same way every witness was brought to the Faraskhana the petitioner was pointed out and they were tutored like parrots. Next the Police took the petitioner to his house and without calling a "punch" they entered it, and took such articles as they thought would serve their purpose.

As to the pagri, pieces of broad tape and shots, petitioner positively denied they were his. He submitted that those articles were artfully placed there by the police and required to be fully explained. Among the bundle of weapons was a bag with letters D. H. C. which stands for Desh Hitech Company, i.e. the Company wishing to promote the welfare of the country.

The two guns were those which Rama Pandu had caused to be stolen from the Temple of Maruti by the Police round-guard. At that time there subsisted ill-feeling between the Plague Committee and the Police. The pistols were out of order. And all the weapons were brought from Shanwar Wada.

All this was told to the petitioner by Vishnu Bhide, a police sepoy who died on the 16th of November.

Petitioner asked for service in a regiment, and it was evident from the applications he had made that he was loyal to her Majesty the Queen.

Petitioner had caused a photo to be taken in European dress at the instance of his friend Dev, and he had two or three such photos of different sorts.

As to the gun barrels petitioner said they were old ones, and were found in the loft of the house where he resided, but he did not know if they belonged to the owner of the house.

Every year the petitioner with his family spent a part of his time in Bombay and accordingly they went to Bombay on the day after the Jubilee.

Petitioner said that he had written those facts out briefly accordingly to what his poor intellect suggested to him, and he would have stated those facts to the Sessions Judge, but the latter did not ask him, nor allow him to speak.

The barber and David were false witnesses, and though the barber is still alive the police intentionally produced his wife, and said that the barber was dead.

In conclusion, the petitioner stated that he is suffering from a nose disease and consequently he was unable to run about for business requiring despatch, and up to this time he had not touched a musket or a pistol.

Petitioner described himself as a dull man devoted to his religion.

Notwithstanding those facts the police fastened upon the two brothers the offences committed at Poona and Bombay.

High European officers were brought to the petitioner, and they were told in English that the petitioner intended to kill them, and so their minds were prejudiced against the petitioner. The Police treated the petitioner like a Raja for four months. In conclusion, the petitioner said that it was said that under the British rule there was justice, and he prayed that he may realize the truth of it.

The petitioner has sent a supplementary petition in which he first thanks the Jailor Sahab, who had kindly supplied him with another half sheet of paper. In this part of his petition he says that during all twenty-seven years he had never attended a disloyal meeting nor had he composed or read a disloyal writing.

The petitioner said that he and his brother were uneducated, weak, lazy and timid, and their Lordships will notice in what a dangerous form the Police officers had represented them to the world.

## Effect Is Marvellous.

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: "Have much pleasure in testifying to the beneficial results I have experienced from Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea Remedy. Whenever I have 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 it has always proved efficacious."

CHAMBERLAIN'S COLIC, CHOLERA, AND DIARRHOEA REMEDY sold everywhere. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2.

He was not acquainted with the use of a gun and it was unjust to saddle upon an unaccustomed poor man like him such a serious act which was even difficult for a clever marksman and military soldier to perform.

The persons who were alleged to be cleaning the guns ought to have been produced before the Court, but whence could they bring them?

The whole thing is a falsehood and the petitioner had come to know positively that Mr. Brewin had got up Dravid as a witness by giving him false promises regarding his brother in the jail.

Coming to the promises, the petitioner stated that the promise of keeping him in princely style had been made by Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Brewin.

During the four months the petitioner was in police custody he had sumptuous meals pastimes and amusements of various sorts, chairs, and tables to sit at, pillows to recline upon, superior clothes to wear and a carriage and horses for a drive at pleasure and money to give away in charity. With regard to Mr. Hamilton the petitioner said that he was deceived by the police and it was only after the petitioner came to Poona that he knew that Mr. Hamilton was a Magistrate. The Police had practised treachery in a similar way at Poona and had thus got him to be hanged. In the end the petitioner prayed that God may inspire their Lordships to do him justice.

To-day (Monday) Mr. S. R. Bakshi appeared before the Hon'ble Justices Parsons and Ranade and asked for a week's postponement of the hearing of the appeal. He said that the case was a heavy one and the papers had only come to his hands this day.

Their Lordships accordingly fixed the hearing to Wednesday, the 2nd proximo.—*Advocate of India*.

## THE SEDITION ACT.

REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

THE following letter has been addressed by the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal to the Secretary, Government of India, Legislative Department, dated the 18th of January, 1898:—

In compliance with your letter No. 2125, dated the 21st ultimo, I am directed to submit the following report on the further amendments of the Indian Penal Code to be proposed for the consideration of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Code in relation to extra-territorial offences. These amendments were circulated to certain selected officers for report, and opinion was also invited from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the British Indian Association, the Indian Association, the Mohamedan Literary Society, and the Central Mohamedan Association. The two Mohamedan bodies have replied, fully supporting the proposed provisions, and copies of their letters are submitted herewith. The replies of the other public bodies have not been received; but, as these may be delayed, the submission of the report of this Government is not further deferred. The officers consulted have generally approved of the section. Copies of the reports received from Messrs. Buckland, Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, B. L. Gupta, Officiating Legal Remembrancer, and Babatyal, Magistrate of Bogra, who have noted their views at some length, are annexed. Their suggestions have received the consideration of the Lieutenant-Governor, whose own views and conclusions are now expressed.

The necessity for the proposed legislation is unquestionable. Ever since the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act, the Native Press has been, from year to year, growing more reckless in its mode of writing about the Government, Government officers, and Government measures. Doubts having been always felt by the law officers as to the scope of section 124 A of the Penal Code, the general policy has been to ignore these attacks. But within the last few months the barefaced seditious promulgated in the Native Press of the Bombay Presidency has forced that Government to institute prosecutions, and has led to the conviction of some of the offenders; an editor has also been similarly convicted in the North-Western Provinces; and at Lucknow a Mohamedan preacher has been required to furnish security to keep the peace for seditious language used at a meeting. These convictions have shown that the offence of sedition can be punished under section 124 A of the Code as it stands; but they have involved much discussion of the explanation to the section, and the interpretation of the Courts before which the cases came, has been challenged by the Native Press and the native community generally, who have themselves expressed a desire that the law should be made more precise. In Bengal the only Press prosecution for seditious writing has been that of the *Bangabashi* newspaper, instituted in 1891, in which the jury disagreed, and which terminated eventually in the acceptance of an apology by the Government from the offending editor. The absence of other prosecutions cannot, however, be urged as evidence that seditious writing is rare in Bengal, and that an alteration of the law is not, therefore, called for in this Province. Resistance to the Government by violence has, it is true, not been directly suggested in the Bengal Press, and a sufficient reason for this may be found in the character of the writers who belong to, and whose readers are, a people wanting in the warlike spirit of many other races of India; but there has been incessant writing tending to bring the Government, whether in itself or through its officers, into hatred and contempt; and such writing, though not immediately leading to resistance by force to the Government, cannot fail by its cumulative effect to create disaffection and ill-will, and thus produce such a state of feeling as may eventually prove dangerous to the maintenance of order and find its culmination in active resistance. If it be agreed that the danger is not so serious in Bengal proper,

## It Is Remarkable.

SAYS MR. W. WILSON, the popular Chemist 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.,

with its timid and unwarlike population, as to demand exceptional measures, it must be borne in mind that other parts even of this Province have a population of higher spirit, and that the writings of the Bengal Press and the public utterances of Bengal speakers have circulation frequently in other Provinces. Any law dealing with sedition must, moreover, be general; and the condition not of Bengal alone, but of all the Provinces of the Empire, must be taken into account. Whether, then, we look at the objections which have been taken by the people themselves to the interpretation of the present law by the Courts, or to the nature of much that has been written in the Native Press, the necessity for an amendment of the law is clear. The proposed amendment, it is true, proceeds further than the mere removal of ambiguity from the law as it stands, but legislation being necessary, it is obviously advisable to take the opportunity of correcting other defects and supplying deficiencies, so as to render the law thoroughly effective, in the judgment of the Government for the checking of sedition or of conduct tending to the disturbance of public order. The proposed amendment not merely of section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code, but also of section 505 of the same Code, and of the Code of Criminal Procedure, is therefore justified. It was very strongly urged by many competent authorities in 1881 that some such amendment of the law ought to have accompanied the repeal of the Act of 1878, commonly known as the Vernacular Press Act, and the Lieutenant-Governor himself has always been of this opinion.

Opinion may differ as to the principle which should guide the Government in dealing with the present state of things. It may be held by some that a purely preventive measure, such as the repealed Act of 1878, is preferable to punitive provisions, but Sir Alexander Mackenzie thinks that the Government of India have rightly decided not to re-enact a special Press law. The publicity of a trial for sedition, which brings the seditious matter forming the subject of the charge into wider notice, is doubtless undesirable; but even with a preventive law on the Statute Book, the Government might be constrained in serious cases to resort to a prosecution, and publicity would thus not always be avoidable. The proposed legislation would, moreover, render it possible for the Government to avoid the wide dissemination of seditious matter which must attend a public trial. The Government would, in fact, possess preventive as well as punitive means of meeting sedition, the proposed section of the Criminal Procedure Code for the demand of security for good behaviour being of the former character; and it is well for the people themselves that this dual power should exist. It is obviously to their advantage that the Government should not be forced in every case to appeal to the penal provisions of the law. The fact that the proposed legislation is both preventive and punitive is a feature which specially commands the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor.

Section 124 A.—The Hon. Member in charge of the Bill has explained that the section, as now drafted, reproduces the English law of sedition, and this is borne out by reference to Sir James Fitzjames Stephen's Digest of the Criminal Law of England, which may presumably be accepted as a reliable authority. It has, however, been urged that, while the section does not require that the seditious matter should amount to direct incitement to disorder and violence, Sir James Fitzjames Stephen has himself expressed, in his History of the Criminal Law of England, the view that such incitement is an indispensable element of sedition; and the following passages from that work have been quoted:—

Volume II, page 375.—"In one word nothing short of direct incitement to disorder and violence is a seditious libel."

Same volume, page 381.—"The question would be whether the writer's object was to procure a remedy by peaceable means or to promote disaffection and bring about riots."

This view of the law, it is argued, is, in fact, embodied in the present section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code, and the argument, no doubt, receives support from the speech delivered by Sir James Fitzjames Stephen when moving in 1870, that the final report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Indian Penal Code, which became Act XXVII of that year, be taken into consideration. In Sir Alexander Mackenzie's opinion, however, the question whether or not the draft section strictly follows the English law is not material. If the section is in strict accord with the English law, all criticism of it loses weight since there could be no reasonable objection to the enactment for India of the same law of sedition as is in force in England; if it is not, there is in the very great difference in the conditions of the two countries, ample justification for any deviation from the English law necessary for effectively checking the offence of sedition in India. It is clear that a seditious law which is adequate for a people ruled by a Government of its own nationality and faith may be inadequate, or in some respects unsuited, for a country under foreign rule and inhabited by many races, with diverse customs and conflicting creeds. It is impossible in India to accept the test of direct incitement to violence or intention to excite rebellion, and limit the interference of the Government to such cases. It is not the apparent intention of the writers or speakers so much as the tendency of the writings or speeches which has to be regarded and the cumulative effect of depreciatory declamation on the minds of an ignorant and excitable population, to which attention has been brawn above, has to be taken into consideration. The Lieutenant-Governor does not think, then, that objections to the draft section based on alleged divergence from the English law should carry weight.

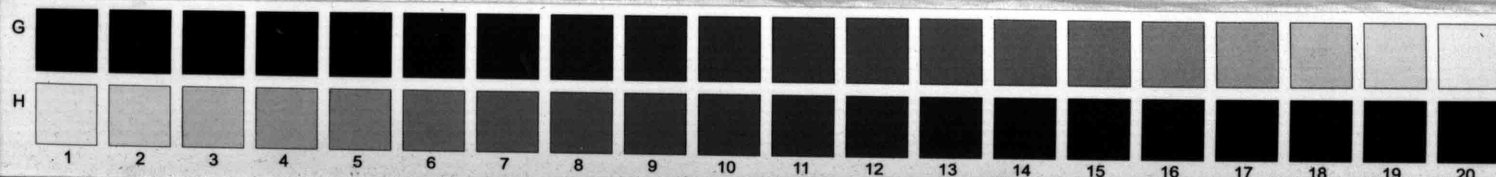
Apart from such objections, it may be urged that the section does not exempt persons who may act in good faith; but the very nature of

## 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.

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the conduct made punishable by the section postulates the absence of good faith. The Code lays down (section 95) that "nothing is said to be done or believed in good faith which is done or believed without due care and attention." Under no circumstances could a person who brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards Her Majesty, or the Government or promotes or attempts to promote feelings of enmity or ill-will between different classes of Her Majesty's subjects, be found to have acted with due care and attention.

The terms of the section have also been said to be sufficiently wide to render liable to prosecution persons who, in criticising the Government in the ordinary intercourse of life, make use of expressions calculated to bring it into contempt or to produce ill-will towards it. The application of the section will, however, be subject to the general exceptions provided in Chapter IV of the Code, and among these is the provision in section 95, which protects conduct the harm resulting from which is so slight that no person of ordinary sense and temper would complain of such harm. The Government, whose sanction to every prosecution will be required under section 196 of the Criminal Procedure Code, may be credited with the ordinary sense and temper which would prevent it from instituting prosecutions for unfavourable remarks against itself which may be disregarded; and if, nevertheless, prosecutions were instituted, the persons proceeded against could appeal to the section just quoted. It may also be claimed for the judicial officers that they will possess sufficient independence and impartiality not to convict for the use of language which can do no appreciable harm.

It has also been suggested that to "the measures of the Government" should be added "the constitution" of the Government in Explanation 2. There is no objection to this addition being made provided that, as in the case of measures of the Government, comments on the constitution must be made without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection. Such comments are in fact mentioned in Sir James Fitzjames Stephen's Digest as admissible under the English law.

It may possibly further be suggested that the acts mentioned in the section should not be punishable unless they are done with intent, that is, that the word "intentionally" should be inserted before "brings," "excites," or "promotes." The answer to this is, first, that "intentionally" is not in the existing section, which has been the law since 1870; and, secondly, that the proof of intention, which the insertion of the word would throw on the prosecution, would be so heavy a burden to discharge that a conviction could rarely be obtained. Intention would, in any case, always be considered by the Court, but as is laid down in Sir James Fitzjames Stephen's Digest, "in determining whether the intention with which any words are spoken, any document was published, or any agreement was made, was or was not seditious, every person must be deemed to intend the consequences which would naturally follow from his conduct at the time and under the circumstances in which he so conducted himself." The use of the word "intentionally" would further have the effect of inducing want of care and caution in writing and speaking, through the consciousness that intention would have to be proved, and would be difficult of proof in a prosecution.

To Sir Alexander Mackenzie's mind the main objection to the section lies in the inclusion of the offence of promoting ill-will between sections of the community. He considers that the section should be confined to offences directly aimed at or affecting the State as such; and although exciting ill-will between classes is seditious libel or conspiracy in England, it ought in His Honour's opinion, to be treated in India as an offence against the public tranquillity. It ought, in fact, to be treated as on all fours with and linked to section 153 of the Indian Penal Code, "Wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot," which is a cognizable offence. A new section (153A) should be inserted dealing with the offence of promoting ill-will between classes whether this results in open violence or not. The body of the draft section being lightened by the removal of the words "or promotes or attempts to promote feelings of enmity or ill-will between different classes of Her Majesty's subjects," Sir Alexander Mackenzie would also safeguard, more effectively than the present section does, the legitimate freedom of the Press, and he finds a suitable model in the draft of the English Law Commission of 1879, and especially in the provisions of their section which follows:—

A seditious intention is an intention to bring into hatred, or contempt, or to excite disaffection against the person of Her Majesty, or the Government and Constitution of the United Kingdom, or of any part of it as by law established or either House of Parliament, or the administration of justice, or to excite Her Majesty's subjects to attempt to procure otherwise than by lawful means the alteration of any matter in Church or State by law established; or to raise discontent or disaffection among Her Majesty's subjects or to promote feelings of ill-will and hostility between different classes of such subjects; Provided that no one shall be deemed to have a seditious intention only because he intends that good faith to show that Her Majesty has been misled or mistaken in her measures; or to point out errors or defects in the Government or Constitution of the United Kingdom or of any part of it as by law established, or in the administration of justice with a view to the reformation of such alleged errors or defects; or to excite Her Majesty's subjects to attempt to procure by lawful means the alteration of any matter in Church or State by law established; or to point out, in order to their removal, matters which are producing or have a tendency to produce feelings of hatred and ill-will between different classes of Her Majesty's subjects.

With suitable modifications these provisions would sufficiently protect fair criticism

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in the Press. I am to draw attention to the fact that bringing into contempt the administration of justice was at one time a very common practice of the Bengali Press, and should be guarded against.

Section 505.—The Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Government of India as to the necessity for amending this section also. The statements with which it deals are calculated to cause serious mischief, especially in times of excitement, and it is necessary to remove the difficulty in applying the present section which has been mentioned by the Hon. Member in charge of the Bill. The draft section enlarges the existing section by including statements of a new character, that is those which incite or are likely to incite any class or community of persons to commit an offence against any other class or community. Such statements are particularly dangerous in view of the facility and rapidity with which excitement may be raised in various sections of the population, owing to ignorance, prejudices arising from caste and custom, and religious fanaticism. It is very desirable, therefore, that penal consequences should be attached to the publication or circulation of them. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, offers below a suggestion as to the place which the provision relating to these statements may be given in the Code.

As drafted, the section may apparently be interpreted thus: first true statements will not constitute an offence if they are made, published or circulated without intent to cause the results mentioned in clauses (a) and (b) or to incite to the commission of offences as in clause (c), although the statements are likely to cause such results or to produce such incitement; secondly, true statements will constitute an offence if they are made with the intent stated; and thirdly, all false statements will constitute an offence, not only when they are made, published or circulated with such intent, but even when the intent is absent, provided, in these cases, the statements are likely to cause or to incite as stated. This interpretation invites no comment so far as the statements made with intent are concerned. They should obviously be made punishable. As regards true statements made without intent but likely to produce mischievous results, it is best, on the whole, that they should be excepted. A provision to make such statements punishable would prevent the publication of much news, and be a serious embarrassment to journalism.

As regards false statements, however, the provision of the section as above construed, it must be admitted, open to reasonable objection. The construction arises from the use of the word "or" after "cause" in clauses (a) and (b), and "incite" in clause (c). This provision might, for instance, expose to punishment an editor who publishes a false statement received from a correspondent whom he has no reason to disbelieve, or the falseness of which is due entirely to the accident of a printer's error, such as the omission of a negative. The section would thus undoubtedly involve a risk to persons who give publicity unknowingly or accidentally to false statements of a mischievous nature. None of the general exceptions of Chapter IV of the Indian Penal Code would afford protection in such cases. On the other hand, it may be said that printers and publishers are, in fact, now liable to civil damages or penal punishment for the mere publication, without intent, of defamatory matter. It may further be assumed that in any prosecution under the present section the absence of knowledge would always be weighed by the Court in deciding as to the penalty to be imposed. Still the section is undoubtedly calculated to cause hardship in certain cases, and it seems desirable to obviate the risk of such hardship. Two alternative courses suggest themselves. The first is that intent should be made an essential element of the offence in all cases. This is, however, open to the objection that the effectiveness of the section in checking the publication of mischievous statements would be materially reduced. The fear of prosecution being completely absent so long as there is no intent, mischievous statements may be published recklessly and without care to verify them. The second course which may be taken is to provide that, in every case, the person making, publishing, or circulating a false statement must act with the knowledge, or have reason to believe, that such statement is likely to have mischievous results. This would be consonant with the spirit of the Code, which provides, when the likelihood of a certain result is an element of an offence, that there must be knowledge or belief, or reason to know, or believe, that such result is likely to ensue. The provision would further attach a certain degree of responsibility to the publication of statements of a possibly mischievous tendency, and ensure the exercise of care in publishing such statements. It may be introduced by the insertion of the words "he knows or has reason to believe" after "or which" in the three clauses (a) (b) and (c).

The modification just suggested would have the further effect of removing the following objection to the present wording of the section. The use of the word "or" in the three clauses also suggests that a statement will constitute an offence even when it is not likely to cause or to incite as stated; in other words, the offence will be committed if there is mere intent to cause or to incite, although no mischief will result. It can hardly be assumed that this is intended. The statements against which the section is aimed are those only which are likely to produce mischievous effects, and obviously, should be such only.

The modification in the paragraph before last has been suggested for consideration. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, must express his preference for a more radical change. In His Honour's opinion it is too great an onus to throw on the accused to require him to prove the statement made by him to be true. All that can be reasonably required is that he should show that he did not publish objectionable matter wantonly and recklessly. Sir Alexander Mackenzie would, therefore, make the exception run in its latter part thus: "When such statement, rumour or report is made, published or circulated in good faith and without such intent as aforesaid." With this modification the rest of the section might remain unchanged.

The Lieutenant-Governor further inclines to suggest the moving of both clause (c) of the present section and the words which he recommends for omission from section 124A to the Chapter of the Code on "Offences against the public tranquillity," and their insertion there as section 153A. There may be a danger, if the clause in question is left in this section,

of prosecutions being freely instituted by one class against another, and the very evil which the Government is trying to stay would thus be aggravated. The danger would be reduced, if this particular offence were included in Chapter VIII of the Code, and in a class of cases which are generally taken up on the initiative of the authorities. His Honour would, indeed, distinctly make this initiative necessary in respect of prosecutions under the new section 153A.

#### TWO BUCKETS AND A PIPE.

TAKE two common water-buckets; connect them at the bottom with a small pipe. Now undertake to fill one of them with water; you perceive at once that the water tends to fill the other pail also.

"What's the use of saying that?" you ask me. "Every fool knows that water in connected reservoirs will assume the same level." Quite so. Yet the wisest men on earth didn't know it once. If the ancient Romans had known it they wouldn't have gone to the trouble and expense of building their great aqueducts. Oh, dear! oh, dear! After a thing is pointed out what a lot of people are able to see it.

But to see it the first time? Ah! that takes eyes. To explain it the first time? Ah! that takes brains. The blood circulated through pipes in the human body thousands of years before anybody even suspected it. Isn't that queer? Now there is a matter—But let's have an example or two first and the theory afterwards.

A father writes thus about his daughter:—"During the summer of 1890 my daughter, Rebecca, got in to a weak, languid way. Her appetite was poor, and after eating she had so much pain at the chest and sides that she didn't know where to put herself. She also complained of pain in the pit of the stomach, in the throat, and at the back of her neck. Cold, clammy sweats used to break out all over her. Her breathing became short and laboured, and at times she could not even lie in bed on account of it. She consulted two physicians, who prescribed for her without avail."

"This was her general condition until January, 1893, when she began taking Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. This preparation certainly had a remarkable effect. One bottle alone greatly relieved her. She relished her food, and got stronger. By simply continuing to use this medicine in three months she was completely cured. Since then she has been well as ever she was. My married daughter, who has suffered from indigestion for a long time, seeing what this remedy had done for Rebecca, took it also, with the same good results. Yours truly, (Signed) Bartholomew Bell, Grocer, &c., Brompton, Northallerton, October 25th, 1893."

"All my life," writes a woman, "I have suffered more or less from sickness and spasms. I always felt weak, tired, and languid, and had no desire for company. I had a bad taste in the mouth, and frequently felt sick and prostrate. I had no relish for food, and after eating, had pain at the chest and side. Such was my manner of life for years. Two years ago my sister told me of Seigel's Syrup; I tried it, and even a few doses relieved me. I continued taking it, and soon my appetite improved, and my food digested. Since that time I have felt quite a new being—so light-hearted and strong. What a pity for me that I didn't know of Seigel's Syrup years before. But better late than never. Yours truly, (Signed) Mrs. Annie Goodger, 20 Bardsley Street, Leicester, May 10th, 1893."

"From childhood," says another, "I have suffered from indigestion and sick headaches. I never felt as if I wanted food, and after eating I experienced the usual pains and distresses of the confirmed dyspeptic. The attacks of sickness and headache were often no less than dreadful. So-called medicines and remedies were, at the best, only temporarily useful. In January, 1892, a friend, living at Hackney, told me of Seigel's Syrup. I used it, and it cured me. I never felt so well in my life as I do now." (Signed) Miss L. White, 92, Barnsbury Road, Islington, London, April 20th, 1893."

Now, see. Evidence like the above (though much more impressive) proves that Mother Seigel's Syrup either cures or relieves almost every known complaint. Yet it never was (nor is it now) recommended for any disease except indigestion and dyspepsia. What is the inference? That nearly every known complaint is caused by indigestion and dyspepsia. Is, indeed, a symptom of it.

But everybody believes that nowadays," you say. Not every body but very many. The rest will lie-by-and-bye. Although the fact is old as Adam, the discovery of it is new. Yet the principle will presently be as obvious to all as it now is to few.

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**The "Mundul Flute"**  
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#### Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

PERTABURGH, FEB. 25.

The Hon'ble. Rajat Ram Pal Singh has been elected representative of the Pertaburgh District Board. He is again a candidate for a membership of the local Legislative Council for the third time.

(FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.)

LONDON, FEB. 22.

The Irish Local Government Bill has been introduced into the House of Commons. The Liberals and the Nationalists have received it cordially.

LONDON, FEB. 23.

Lord Salisbury, in the House of Lords, replying to a question, said that M. Hanotaux had informed Sir Edward Monson that if the incident regarding the French advance in Sokoto had occurred, which he doubted, it was against the wishes, and instructions of the French Government.

The Sudanese mutineers have crossed the Nile, and no further news has been received regarding them.

The Foreign Office has issued a statement confirming the Times' Peking telegram of the 21st instant regarding Chinese concessions, which are due to representations made by Sir Claude Macdonald. The internal waterways are to be opened in June. Moreover, the Inspector-General of Customs will be a Britisher so long as British trade at Chinese ports exceeds that of any other Power.

China has concluded a loan of sixteen millions sterling at four and a half per cent. interest with the Hongkong and Shanghai and German Asiatic Banks.

The guarantee of the Chinese loan includes the unpledged portion of the Customs and part of the Likan.

The Times' Peking correspondent states that the Taotai of Yenchow, who was removed in 1895 in connection with the outrage on Bishop Anzer, has been reappointed, and replaces the Taotai who was dismissed in connection with the late murder of the German missionaries. Germany has demanded an immediate cancelling of the appointment.

The death is announced of Mr. Wootton Isaacson, member for the Tower Hamlets.

LONDON, FEB. 23.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Samuel Smith moved that the expenditure on frontier operations should not be chargeable entirely to India. Lord George Hamilton admitted that the mass of the people of India were very poor, but said that their condition was improving, and that the Indian Government had telegraphed that the prospects of the coming year justified the anticipation that expenditure could be met without additional taxation or undue increase in the deficit. Lord George added that it was impossible to content that the operations were an imperial matter.

Sir Henry Fowler dissented, and, moreover, said that the resolution was wise, as a matter of policy. The motion on being put to the vote was negatived by 188 against 96.

M. Zola has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment, and to pay a fine of three thousand francs. The sentence is the severest that French law permits, and has been hailed with frantic enthusiasm in Paris. Throughout the trial, the audience was allowed to cheer and shout unrestrainedly.

LONDON, FEB. 23.

The London press in discussing the sentence passed on M. Zola, are unanimous in the opinion that it is a triumph of the military over the civil power.

News from Uganda, dated the 20th of January, states that Major Macdonald has defeated and dispersed Mwanga's forces.

The transport "Dilwara" has sailed for Bombay.

The Times' Peking correspondent states that China, replying to representations made by Japan, has informed the latter that Russia has declared that the withdrawal of the Russian fleet from Port Arthur in the spring would be opposed to the interests of China and Korea.

LONDON, FEB. 24.

The proposed changes in the administration of the Chartered Company of South Africa have been published, and leave the Company to control the country under stringent Imperial supervision.

LONDON, FEB. 24.

There was almost a panic to-day on the New York Bourse owing to strong rumours that the enquiry that is now proceeding is proving that the explosion on the cruiser Maine was not accidental.

Lord Salisbury in the House of Lords said that M. Hanotaux had since informed Sir Edmund Monson positively that no French force had entered Sokoto.

Mr. Curzon in the House of Commons read a note from Count Mouravieff declaring that any port which Russia occupies in China will be open to the ships and commerce of the world.

Mr. Curzon, in reply to a question in the House of Commons, said that the Imperial Government bears the expenses of Indian troops sent to Mombassa.

Lord George Hamilton, in reply to a question, said he believed that the Dumb-Dumb bullets were not opposed to international law or the customs of war.

BOMBAY, FEB. 25.

The English mail steamer was signalled this morning at 4-15 A.M. The mail is expected to arrive in Calcutta on Sunday at about 2-40 A.M.

The Bank of Bombay has raised its rate of interest on demand loans on Government paper to 13 per cent.

It is rumoured that the Kashmir Resident's winter headquarters at Sialkot will probably be changed. Strictly speaking the Resident should remain within the State territories as Residents in other Native States do.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to the *Rangoon Gazette*—The Rangoon Jail has this year commenced to bake bread for the consumption of prisoners. The bread turned out is a full pound loaf, the cost being only an anna; whereas the contractors hitherto charged for half that size just double the price.

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THE SECOND EDITION.  
New & Enlarged.  
Of that well-known socio-comical  
DRAMA.

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#### ACIDITY PILL

ACIDITY and DYSPEPSIA are the two most common disorders of the day, and very few are so fortunate as to declare their immunity from these. In view of the fact that though apparently harmless in the embryo stage, Acidity and Dyspepsia shatter and undermine the constitution in the end and lead to its total wreckage, it must be held that they are dangerous in their insidiousness.

After years of incessant toil and experiment, I have discovered a medicine which, I can confidently say, will cure the patient of acidity, and its worse stage, Dyspepsia, in a short time, effectively and radically. However chronic and long-standing the complaint, however violent its attack, the Acidity Pill will give instant and permanent relief as has been proved in hundreds of cases. Here are a few unsolicited testimonials:—

**Babu Amrita Krishna Mullick,** B. L. Pleader, Calcutta Court of Small Causes, writes: "I have very great pleasure to testify to the efficacy of your Acidity Pills. I have used the above and I can recommend the same to others suffering from acidity and dyspepsia."

**The Amrita Bazar Patrika** says:—Dr. H. Biswas's Acidity Pill has an extraordinary digestive power so that men suffering from Dyspepsia may give a fair trial. It is exclusively prepared from some active herbs and hence is perfectly safe.

**Kumar Hemendra Krishna** of the Sovabazar Raj family, writes:—"I am glad to state that I have derived much benefit by the use of a box of your Acidity Pills. Really I did not expect so happy a result. Kindly send me two more boxes."

**Babu Nitraya Gopal Dutt,** Zeninder, Mozilpur, writes:—"I have used your Pill and can bear testimony to its marvellous effects. Before I had used your Pill for a week it cured me of acute Acidity which all other remedies failed to cure."

**Babu Nilmoni Dey,** Assistant Settlement Officer, from Camp Patpur, Dr. Mozafferpur:—"I have tried your Acidity Pill and found them to be an excellent remedy in removing acidity immediately. They are a great boon after a heavy dinner. They are invaluable in the Mofussil. They should find place in every tourist's bag. Please send me two boxes immediately."

**Babu Hari Pada Mukherjee,** Pleader, Barasat, writes: "I have derived much benefit by the use of your Acidity Pills. Really I did not expect so happy a result. Please send me without delay one box per V. P. P."

**Babu P. De,** B. A., Head-Master, Shipburi, H. C. E. School, writes:—"Dr. H. Biswas's Acidity Pill is a sovereign remedy for Acidity and Dyspepsia in general. It is prepared from innocent drugs, and therefore, perfectly harmless. Those that have been suffering from Acidity and Dyspepsia will find in the said Pill a speedy and permanent cure. Dr. Biswas deserves the patronage of the public at large."

**Babu Kalipada Chatterjee,** Pleader, Palamou, writes:—"Many thanks for the Acidity Pills sent by you. They have so far done much good to my mother-in-law, who has been for the last few years a constant sufferer from Acidity and Colic pain. Please send me by V. P. P. one box of the Acidity Pills without delay."

**Babu Poonath Banerjee,** Executive Engineer, writes:—"The acidity pills have proved a charm in the case of my relative for whom they were procured. Many valuable Allopathic and Homoeopathic medicines were before tried, but they failed to cure the complaint permanently. It was after the use of your pills for a fortnight that the patient is now free from acidity for more than two months, and consider this relief to be stable."

**Pundit Satya Charan Sastri,** the well-known author of the lives of Pratapaditya and Sivajee, writes:—"I have hardly seen a more efficacious medicine than Biswas's Acidity Pill. It not only cures acidity and dyspepsia, for which it is a sovereign remedy, but also proves of great use in cold. I believe every household should keep a box by him."

The Acidity Pill is a vegetable preparation. We guarantee a cure and—

**Return the Price in case of failure.**  
Price: Rupee One per box; V. P. charge, annas 4. Do not fail to give it a trial when every other medicine, patent or prescribed, has failed to give you relief. You will realise its worth by a week's use only.

DR. H. BISWAS.

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The Improved Tabla and Banya.

By this new discovery of new invention, a decidedly popular instrument of national music, namely the Tabla, has undergone a marvellous and happy transformation. It has cast off the clumsy pieces of colored wood which surrounded its body, fastened to it by means of a cord or string, leather-like bandages on a sick person. And now stands, as if by the touch of magic, adorned with ornaments of bright German Silver so skillfully made, arranged and adjusted as to make the task of regulating the tune far more easy and simple than was the case before, while rendering its outward appearance truly beautiful and attractive.

The Banya too has put on a new garb of modest beauty, befitting its position as the inseparable companion of the renowned Tabla, now come out radiant with the lustre of what may well be called military uniform.

We solicit therefore an early inspection.

**CERTIFICATE.**

From Sir Maharaja Bahadur Jotendra Mohun Tagore, K. C. S. I.

The Prasad, 13th August, 1897.  
"I have much pleasure in stating that Messrs. P. C. Dass & Co. have supplied me with their improved Banya and Tabla. After giving them a fair trial, I am able to speak to the merits of the improvement in these instruments. The innovation is, in certain respects, superior to the ordinary ambling process of tuning."

(Sd.) JOTENDRA MOHUN TAGORE.

**Prices.**  
No. 1 Tabla 16 Ghats ..... Rs. 20/-  
No. 2 Tabla 8 Ghats ..... Rs. 10/-  
No. 1 Banya ..... Rs. 10/-  
No. 2 Banya ..... Rs. 5/-

Packing and money-order Commission Rs. 1-50  
Railway or Steamer fare extra.

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THE HON'BLE MR. ANANDA CHARLU'S  
SPEECH.

In that charming novel of Goldsmith, which every one has read in his school-boy days, the Vicar of Wakefield, it is humorously stated that Mrs. Primrose sent out her children on market days, with a guinea in the pocket of each but with strict injunctions not to change or spend it. I am involuntarily reminded of this, in reading the explanations 2 and 3. They practically hold out a gift with the left hand and snatch it away with the right hand. The set of words I ask to be scored out and the rest of the explanation seem to me to naturally destroy each other and, like the famous Kilkenny cats, leave nothing behind. We have had to discuss a good deal as to what is and what is not English law of Sedition. But there can be no dispute about this, that the incubus, imposed by the words I complain of is surely not English law. Here at any rate India does not get the English commodity. Carefully examined these explanations might well be erased and none will be the worse for it. The section says 'Create hatred, create contempt, or create disaffection and you go to jail.' The necessary implication of this without more, is the nagation "don't create hatred, don't create contempt, don't create disaffection, and you can walk the earth without let or hindrance." To this necessary implication what do the so-called explanations add? How do they improve the position one single whit? I must own that I am too blunt to notice any difference between their presence and their complete omission. The peculiar nervousness and, I may add, the singularly lingual puritanism, a penchant for which they

others again whose blunt honesty makes them prone to call a spade a spade. These classes are in our midst as among other people. But they are nevertheless loyal to the backbone, however intolerable they might be to men of irascible temper, weak nerves or of the skin. To rouse callous men is often the aim of strong writing. Having regard to all these considerations, one may fairly hold that which has been addressed to the jury by an eminent modern Judge may well be taken for an aptrophe to Legislatures in India, if it states "you should recollect that in the public political articles great latitude is given. Dealing as they do with the affairs of the day, such articles, if written in a fair spirit and on *bonafides*, often result in the production of great public good. Therefore, I advise and recommend you to deal with these publications in a spirit of freedom and not to view them with an eye of narrow criticism. You should not look merely to a strong word or a strong phrase but to the whole article. You should recollect that you are the guardians of the liberty of the press and that while you will check its abuse you will preserve its freedom." Viewing ourselves as thus addressed, we cannot help declaring as my clear and honest opinion, that the words "without exciting hatred or contempt" while verging on mere literary prudery, will amount to a virtual withdrawal of the gift and that, without settling the law, either for the lawyer or for the layman, they will only unsettle men's minds—fraught with this further and real danger, that what is forbidden to be openly said will, surreptitiously and through subterranean means, pass from mouth to mouth, and from ear to ear, until the imaginary danger of to-day becomes a real one under those unwholesome conditions which are bound to grow up if human nature will not be quelled, as it cannot be, by the statute and its pains and penalties. Its dreadfully evil consummation it is the stern duty of us all to beware of.

A LARGE and enthusiastic meeting was held Swindon last Saturday (January 29) in support of the Liberal candidate for the Ricklade division, Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, who is brother of Lord Lansdowne, late Viceroy India, but unlike Lord Lansdowne a true liberal in politics. The candidate himself, Lord Edmond, spoke on home politics, and Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt, C.I.E., spoke on Indian affairs for nearly an hour, during which he was repeatedly interrupted by prolonged and enthusiastic cheers.

to the next period of six years, 1874-1880, when the Tories were in power, when a foolish Viceroy was sent out to carry out a foolish policy which ended in disaster. He pointed to the third period of six years, 1880-1886, when the Liberals were in power, and India enjoyed peace once more under the efficient administration of Lord Ripon, to whom no better or more popular Viceroy had ruled in India. And he pointed to the last period, 1886 to the present date, when the Tories were in power with brief interruptions and during which successive Viceroys—Lord Dufferin, Lansdowne, and Elgin—had wasted the revenue of impoverished India in making unprofitable annexations, useless roads and forts beyond India's natural frontiers, weakening the frontier, and making enemies of friendly tribes. (Cries of "Shame.") Mr. Dutt then referred to the calamities which had crowded on India during the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee—a famine, plague, earthquake, a storm-wave sweeping away thousands of men, a needless and iniquitous war. Amidst these complications, in the face of the vast expenditure which had been incurred for the relief of the famine and prosecution of the war, India expected some help, some relief from the British Exchequer. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had given some hope of relief about a month ago, and had then turned round and said that the Indian Government did not want the money from the British Exchequer. The reason of their sudden change had leaked out through a paper in India, which had mysteriously access to the views of the Indian Government. This paper had said that Parliamentary interference in Indian concerns had done mischief in the past, and it was undesirable to let the British workman pay for the Indian war, lest he be required too minutely into the causes and the necessity of the war. It came to this, that the Indian Government were so afraid of the British public enquiring into Indian wars and Indian administration that they would rather have no help from the British Exchequer than ask for help which might be followed by enquiry. (Cries of "Shame.") But he hoped that the British public would enquire into Indian questions, and he hoped that his hearers would support that great Liberal party which had in the past identified itself with peace and domestic improvement in India.

THE manner in which a woman has

fame,—on Mr. Chamberlain and his support elevation to peerage, and alleged electioneering fancifulness, of course—to have been found under the chair of his who had recently visited the constituency on behalf of the Conservative candidate was particularly entertaining. I heard many stories and incidents in connection with elections, past and present, in the course of our sitting, which were very interesting, if not instructive, to me. Among other things I was told that there were many elections in which there was not an amount of personation, and I heard some amusing stories in connection with it. I wonder what our authorities in India would do if this was the case there. I was told, too, an ingenious form of bribery in the guise of betting on the results of the election, which was not unknown. When I retired with Christopher for the night, we left some of our friends still discussing the election. Very early the next morning, I was called from my bedroom to the telephone-room downstairs where the Agent, who was a long way off Stockton-on-Tees, the Central Office of the Liberal candidate, wished to speak to me. Curiously enough this was my first experience of the telephone, though in the course of the election it was not the last. The Agent told me that he would be glad to have a personal conference with me at Stockton, and also that several letters and telegrams were waiting for me at his office. Accordingly after breakfast, I sailed to Stockton, had talks both with Mr. Corrie, the Agent, and Alderman Richardson, the candidate, and a fine tall elderly man—with whom I lunched at his club; and then left by train to Darlington where I was announced for a meeting that evening. At Darlington I found the carriage of my host there, Mr. Hodgkin awaiting me at the station; the next morning I was with Sir Theodore Fry, after which I was the guest of Mr. Cavendish. From Darlington I went to Newcastle, where I had an interesting interview with Dr. Spence-Watson, leader of the Liberal party outside Parliament as President of the National Liberal Federation; thence to Sunderland, and thence to Seaham Harbour, where I addressed a meeting, and finished my four days' work. It is not possible to give the details of the different meetings, which I had the privilege of addressing on behalf of my country, though I wish I had the time to do so. In one word I will say that they were crowded meetings, some of them crowded to suffocation, and the enthusiasm and the kindness with which they received me, surpassed my most sanguine expectations. There was no interruption while I spoke—a thing not very usual in election meetings when feeling runs high—and there were cheers after every few sentences. And the scene when I sat down, loved me deeply. Mr. Samuel Storey, a name well-known in the North of England, and who had had long experience in Parliament, himself one of the finest speakers, I have heard, was present at two of my meetings, and spoke, in the highest terms, of my addresses. Mr. Mendhl who sits in Parliament for Plymouth, having just captured that seat from the Tories, said he had been richly rewarded for his travelling 300 miles to attend the meeting, and the brilliant oration which he had heard from me. Lady Millbank spoke in similar terms.

But there was an incident which touched me in a way which I can hardly describe. I told you that I was stopping one night with Mr. Hodgkin at Darlington. After the meeting and before retiring for the night, Mr. Hodgkin had as usual his little family worship. And the burden of his prayer that night, and the next morning before breakfast, was that the morning words of eloquence, which they had heard from me in favour of justice, and righteousness might abide with them and move their heart and conscience of England, and he prayed for safety to me and to the dear ones I had left behind.

"How I wish our rulers had a little more Christianity in them—a little more of the golden rule, which the founders of their religion preached—a little more of the sublime line of love, service, sacrifice, and heroism while he lived on this earth. It is indeed so much of our trouble in India that it vanishes as before a magician's wand, and is halfy deeper than any that lives at this day in the world, and happiness and progress, and tent, take the place of the present, unjust, panic.

properly placed before an English constituency—direct and face to face—our appeal will meet with a generous response from every true British heart. But the battle will not be won in a day. There is need for patient, persevering, loyal and earnest work for many a long day. You may be interested in the following extract from the letter of my friend, Lord Ripon, which I received when starting on my trip. "Indian questions," he writes, "need, at the present time, the most serious attention of all who take any part in public affairs. I rejoice that you have consented to speak for Alderman Richardson in S. E. Durham. He is an old friend of mine." I don't know what the result of the election will be. There are so many local influences at work, and specially the uncertain and most hostile element of the votes of what are known as out-voters, whom one cannot reach by argument and who in this case muster large. The result will be known in the course of this afternoon. But whatever it may be, I rejoice to have had this opportunity of pleading the cause of my country before so many audiences, and I am convinced that at least in some hearts—I believe in a good many—a feeling of sympathy has grown for India which did not exist before.

A PRELIMINARY note on the wheat crop of Bengal in 1897-98, states:—In previous years only the principal wheat-growing districts furnished the Land Records and Agriculture Department with returns of the wheat crop; but as all wheat-growing districts showed the area under wheat in their forecasts of the rabi crop, it has been thought advisable to include their returns in the present note, so as to bring the figures in it into accordance with the figures which will appear in the "rabi" forecast to be issued by this Department later in the year.

The figures for the normal area have been revised on the basis of the returns of actual cultivation submitted during the past five years. Further inquiries are being made with a view to ascertaining the correct figures to be given under this head. Where a cadastral survey has been completed for the whole of a district, the figures compiled in the course of that survey have been adopted. The district returns show that all the districts had sufficient rainfall during the season, except Murshidabad, Shahabad, and Balasore, but even in these districts the outturn will not be materially affected by the deficiency. There was copious rainfall over the greater part of the Province in September and October. This chiefly accounts for the large area under wheat this year. December and January have, been, however, practically rainless, and this may have a prejudicial effect on the outturn. There was no rain in the Patna division in the months of November, December, and January, while in the Bhagalpur division there was only scanty rainfall in November, and no rainfall in December and January. As these are the chief wheat-growing divisions, the condition just described will be a considerable effect on the general outturn. The area sown this year (1,137,900 acres) is much larger than that sown last year (1,361,600 acres). The increase is 212,000 acres, or more than 15 per cent. over last year's area. The wheat-growing area in the Patna Division is 791,100 acres, or just half, and in the Bhagalpur Division 20,000 acres, or about one-fourth of the whole wheat-growing area of these provinces. The only important wheat-growing districts in the other Bengal are Murshidabad, Rajshahi, Nadia, and Rangpur, which show 150,500, 76,900, 31,400, and 30,700 acres, respectively, under this crop in the present year. With the exception of Jessore, where the area under wheat is very small, all the districts expect at least a 10-anna crop; Ramparnan returns a number or 20-anna crop; 13 districts return an average of 15-anna crop; Patna and the Sonthal Divisions return a 15-anna crop, the remaining districts return an outturn varying from 14 to 10 annas. Estimating by divisions the Patna division expects something over an average crop, the Bhagalpur division a 15½-anna crop, and the rest of the divisions to return about a 13-anna crop. The general outturn may be estimated at 15-annas against

The richest woman in the world is probably Nora Casuso, who owns most of the copper mines in Chili and Peru. She is supposed to be worth £200,000,000, while her annual income is supposed to reach £1,000,000. Her personal characteristics are thus summed up: "She is about fifty-five years old, tall, dark and still useful."

THE "Japan Times," the editor of which has just appointed the Japanese Premier's confidential secretary, published a leading article tending to show that Japan will seek no alliance with a European Power. The paper says: "It is unallowable for us to choose any one over. We will content ourselves by saying that the friends of peace are our friends."

A BARRING act of embezzlement has just been perpetrated at the Mercantile Bank of India in Colombo, when a man presented a cheque, the proceeds were taken by another man, the cheque was drawn by, Messrs. Volkart & Co. in favour of W. Julian Fernando Rs. 1,268-0-2. Fernando presented the cheque at the bank and went for his break. In the meanwhile the cheque had been cashed, and the proceeds were appropriated by another man, who called himself Fernando. When the real Fernando came for the money, the cashier said that the cheque had been paid. The case is now in the hands of the police.

ONE of America's latest inventions is a gun which shoots electricity. The inventor is Mr. J. Hartman, who devised the carbine socket which has been used in the United States. It has been used for 16 years. He claims to have discovered "conditions by which the rays of a flashlight can be charged with electricity, a beam of light thus taking the place of an ordinary wire." The new gun has been tried on rabbits, and the experiments made with current from a lamp of only 50 voltage have led in several of these animals being killed within a distance of 50 feet.

R. PAUL KNIGHT of Calcutta "Statesman" has applied to the Mysore Government for a mining lease. Gladstone.





