





THE Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, MARCH 6, 1898.

SECTION 108 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE BILL.

SECTION 109 of the present Criminal Procedure Code is generally known as the budmash section. It is enforced in the case of budmashes or bad characters who misbehave themselves, and who are bound over and required to find sureties to be of good behaviour for a term of six months.

the section, which is given below:— 108. Whenever a Chief Presidency or District Magistrate, or a Presidency Magistrate or Magistrate of the first class specially empowered by the Local Government in this behalf, has information that there is within the limits of his jurisdiction any person who within or without such limits, either orally or in writing, disseminates or attempts to disseminate, or in anywise abets the dissemination of—

- (a) any seditious matter, that is to say, any matter the publication of which is punishable under section 124A of the Indian Penal Code, or
(b) any matter the publication of which is punishable under section 153A of the Indian Penal Code, or
(c) any matter concerning a Judge which amounts to criminal intimidation or defamation under the Indian Penal Code,

such Magistrate may (in manner hereinafter provided) require such person to shew cause why he should not be ordered to execute a bond, with or without sureties, for his good behaviour for such period, not exceeding one year, as the Magistrate thinks fit to fix.

Just ponder on the situation. The Magistrate is empowered to punish not only one who disseminates, but who attempts to disseminate, nay more, who in anywise abets the dissemination of any seditious matter. But he is to decide whether the matter is seditious or not? Why, the same Magistrate.

And who is to decide whether any prosecution should be instituted under the section or not? Why, the same Magistrate again! So, the District or Presidency Magistrate is the originator of the prosecution; he is also the prosecutor; and he is the final Judge!

But the beauty of the arrangement has not yet been half explained. When any seditious case is brought against any person under section 124A of the Penal Code, the sanction of the Local Government is required. But this safeguard is taken away with regard to prosecutions under section 108 of the new Criminal Procedure Code. One has simply to inform a District Magistrate or a Presidency Magistrate that there is a man within his jurisdiction who talks sedition, and the Officer will be justified, under the proposed law, to haul him up and punish him. The informant of the Magistrate might be anybody—from a detective to a beggar in the street, and the Magistrate would be quite within his powers to proceed upon the information thus supplied to him.

Now we put it to the Government, where would be the safety of the Indians, if the section were really made a law of the land? Would not then society be turned topsy-turvy, if only a few over-zealous detectives or unscrupulous men were to take it into their heads to hunt out sedition in the country and inform the Magistrates of it?

There is scarcely a social gathering or an assemblage of persons where the acts or the measures of Government are not freely criticised. There, the conduct of particular rulers is either censured or praised; and the District Magistrate or the Presidency Magistrate, within whose jurisdiction the party live, may also come in for his share of abuse. A detective in plain cloth, happens to join the company. He hears all, and at once runs to the Magistrate and informs him that so and so were speaking rank sedition. We need not describe the rest. Some leading men of the town are at once called upon to show cause why they should not execute a bond for good behaviour. They cannot deny that they had freely condemned certain measures of Government, or that they had used unparliamentary language against certain officers. They thus stand self-condemned, according to the Magistrate, and a whole town is emasculated.

In the above, we have not exaggerated the real position in the least. If the section be passed, it is not mere journalist or public speaker who will be in danger of being pounced upon by the executive, but every educated Indian who takes interest in the political welfare of his country. Either the people of this country must, therefore, cease to talk about politics, or they must render themselves constantly liable to be dragged before the Magistrate and bound down in heavy securities like budmashes.

But we have not yet told all. No appeal lies against the decision of the Magistrate! His order is final! The Select Committee have been good enough to recommend that the High Court, of its own motion as well as on the petition of the aggrieved, should be empowered to revise the orders of the Magistrate. But, this means very little, as High Courts do not generally exercise their revisional powers; and when they do so, they do not enter into questions of appreciation of the weight of evidence.

We again put it to Government what have the Indians done to deserve such a drastic law? Have our good rulers taken note of the fact that if such a law were really fastened upon them, they would gradually forget to talk about the affairs of their country, and that in their own parlours they would feel as if "the walls had ears?"

We will now draw the attention of the reader to sub-section (c) of section 108. This part of the clause is, so to speak, even more dangerous than sub-section (a) which deals with seditious matter. It provides that a person, who disseminates any matter concerning a "Judge", which amounts to criminal intimidation or defamation under the Penal Code, is liable to be prosecuted under section 108. A "Judge" is thus defined in the Penal Code:—

19. The word "Judge" denotes not only every person who is officially designated as a Judge, but also every person who is empowered by law to give in any legal proceeding, civil or criminal, a definitive judgment, or a judgment which, if not appealed against, would be definitive, or a judgment which, if confirmed by some other authority, would be definitive, or who is one of a body of persons, which body of persons is empowered by law to give such a judgment.

- (a) A Collector exercising jurisdiction in a suit under Act X of 1859, is a Judge.
(b) A Magistrate, exercising jurisdiction in respect of a charge on which he has power to sentence to fine or imprisonment, with or without appeal, is a Judge.
(c) A member of a Panchayat which has power, under Regulation VII, of 1816, (b) of the Madras Code, to try and determine suits, is a Judge.
(d) A Magistrate exercising jurisdiction in respect of a charge, on which he has power only to commit for trial to another Court, is not a Judge.

So, almost every officer is a Judge except the policeman. And whoever will speak against a Magistrate or a Collector, may be hauled up and punished as a budmash! Of course, it must be criminal intimidation or defamation under the Penal Code. But as it is the Magistrate who will decide, and as there is no appeal against his order, it is not absolutely necessary that the criminal intimidation or the defamation, with which one is charged, should exactly amount to what is laid down in the Penal Code. "I intend exposing the high-handed proceedings of such and such officer in newspapers", says a man. He can be at once charged with criminal intimidation under section 108, and punished.

We do not know; but is there any country in the world where such a law prevails? Granting it does, do we not live under the enlightened rule of the British people? Surely, there is no such law in England, or in any of its dependencies. Why should the Indians, who are so loyal and law-abiding, be singled out and subjected to this cruel treatment? Why should this disability be voted to them? We implore Lord Elgin to take stock of the measures already passed for purposes of repression, and then to proceed with this additional innovation.

THE FAMINE COMMISSION.

The Famine Commission, which is now sitting in the Bombay Presidency, is engaged in a very agreeable work. It is to record the evidence of officials, or of persons put forward by them, in support of the famine administration of the Government. These witnesses come, one after the other, and declare the same thing, namely, that no man died of starvation, that everything was done to alleviate the sufferings of the affected people, and that there was no hardship of any kind imposed upon

the wretches who sought Government help. This is all right, so far as it goes; but, would it not have been more satisfactory if all this praise had come from independent parties?

Those who administer the affairs of this country, are certainly very intelligent men; but, some of the methods of their work are simply amazing. What is the value of this official or semi-official testimony about a matter which is viewed in another light by the general public?

According to official estimate, no man or very few men died of starvation. They are right from their stand-point of view. But the question should be judged from a different standard also. For instance, the official view is that, unless a man is reduced to a skeleton for want of food and dies without showing any symptom of a disease, he can not be said to have died of starvation. Even if he is reduced to the last stage of exhaustion for want of nourishment and gets a stool before he breathes his last, his death, according to the official notion, is to be credited to diarrhoea and not to famine.

If you look upon the subject in the above light, then, of course, very little fault is to be found with the administration of famine in any Province of India. But is that the proper way to approach the question, in which the lives of millions are concerned, and then to arrive at a conclusion?

As we said, the popular view of the question is different. In the opinion of the general public, the authorities should have commenced to feed the people as soon as there were the first signs of starvation. This was, however, not done, as a rule. Government help was offered in many cases, only when people had actually commenced to die or reached a state of exhaustion when no amount of nourishment could save them. At least, this was the case in the Central Provinces; but as the same policy was adopted, more or less strictly, everywhere, other Provinces might have fared in the same way, though perhaps not to the same extent as the Central Provinces.

The pittance which was allowed to the famine-stricken, was, then, not sufficient to keep their body and soul together, specially when they were made to work for 7 or 8 hours daily, under the burning sun of April, May and June. In some districts of Bombay, we believe, the emaciated starvelings were even made to break stones. Now, it is a miracle if the people did not die under these circumstances. Perhaps many died, and, as stated above, their deaths were attributed to cholera, fever or diarrhoea, which resulted from starvation.

There is no doubt of it that the Indians are deeply grateful to the Government for all that it has done in this connection. It is equally true that none but an enlightened Government like that of the English could have coped successfully with the gigantic famine with which the country was overtaken. But, what we contend for is that, as no human organization is perfect, so there were a good many defects in the management of the last famine. The duty of the Commission ought to be, therefore, to discover these defects through independent sources, and not to secure only praise for the different Governments through official witnesses.

The most important questions before the Commission are, (1) whether or not the pittance doled out to the famine-stricken were sufficient to keep human beings in health; (2) whether or not the tasks imposed upon them were not beyond the capacity of people in their circumstances; (3) whether or not gratuitous relief should have been given to them as soon as the first symptoms of starvation had appeared in their midst.

The other important question before them is the improvement of the condition of the agricultural classes who have been totally or partially ruined by the famine. We think, the 80 lakhs of rupees, saved from the Charitable Funds, ought to be entirely devoted to their benefit. But we shall return to the subject in a future issue.

The Pioneer has published a most important document. It is the Minute of dissent which was signed by Sir Antony MacDonnell as Home Member, Sir J. (then Mr. J.) Westland as Finance Minister, and

Sir Charles Pritchard as the Public Works Member, and appended to the despatch of the Government of India, relating to the Frontier policy of India in 1894. The dissent, with the remarks of the Pioneer upon it, are published elsewhere. The perusal of the Minute will strike even the most indifferent reader that, apart from the facts that Lord Elgin was only three months in India when the Despatch was sent, that Sir Alexander Miller was as incompetent to pass any opinion on the subject as the newly-arrived Viceroy, and that the two military members of the Executive Council, Sir George White and Sir H. Brackenbury, were bound to support a policy of military advance, the position assumed by the minority was unassailable, and the arguments advanced by them, simply unanswerable. And the minority, in the present case, was merely in name, for it was by his casting vote that Lord Elgin carried the despatch. What Sir A. P. MacDonnell and two of his colleagues urged, was nothing more or less than the adoption of the non-intervention policy of Lord Lawrence. It will be remembered that the latter laid it down as his deliberate opinion that it would be an act of folly to attempt to establish British influence beyond the natural boundary of India. But his advice was not heeded, and now we find British jurisdiction extending to regions, hundreds of miles north and northwest from the northernmost limit of the Punjab, though at the almost total financial ruin of India. What Sir Antony and the two other dissentient members submitted, was that we must stop where we were and should not go further. For, if we were to go on establishing military posts after post in a mountainous country, inhabited by warlike races, we would invite their wrath and find ourselves in an interminable and ruinous warfare with them. What they specially objected to, was the establishment of military posts inside Waziristan and thus give offence to the Waziris. Both they and Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, the late Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, urged that, all that was necessary to be done was to "keep within our present frontier line" and "moderate the ardour of those of our civil and military officers who are eager for an advance." In the concluding paragraph of their dissent, Sir Antony and his colleagues give a graphic description of the disastrous results likely to follow from a policy of aggressive activity. "The need for a policy of unaggressive watchfulness over the frontiers," they say, "is indicated as much by the feeling of unrest which is perceptible in India as by an overwhelming need for economy in all branches of expenditure. No expenditure would be more distasteful to the public in this country, or in our opinion more unjustifiable, than expenditure incurred in attempts to subjugate those independent frontier tribes." But all these arguments and earnest appeals were completely lost upon the Secretary of State for India. He sided with the so-called majority and sanctioned further advance. And the inevitable result has followed. Hundreds of officers and soldiers, both English and Indian, have been sacrificed and crores of rupees expended, and yet almost all the independent tribes beyond the frontier are up against us. And Heaven knows when this interminable warfare will be brought to a termination.

The other day we quoted a letter from the Englishman over the signature of "An Englishman," who complained that non-official Europeans in India, had absolutely no voice in the administration of the country, and suggested that a public meeting should be held for protesting against the new Sedition Act and the manner in which it was passed. We understand that some prominent Englishmen of Calcutta, belonging to the commercial line, fully shared the views expressed by us in this connection; and they deplored the fact that there was not one European in Calcutta like the late Mr. Clarke, to bring about the movement. In another column, we reproduce a letter from the Pioneer, signed by "M." who also ridicules the so-called debate on the Sedition Bill. The writer says that non-official Europeans know more about the state of the country than the rulers of Provinces and the members of the Government, and that the latter only show their ignorance and render the administration of justice more unpopular when they "sneer at" European Associations as irresponsible nobodies, and pass such a law as the Sedition Act. If the Indians show apathy and want of pluck when their rights and privileges are taken away from them, it is because they have absolutely no control over the deliberations of the irresistible authorities of the land, armed, as they are, with irresponsible powers from head to foot. But why should non-official Europeans tolerate this state of things when they are not helpless? In the interests of the Empire, they should move, and see that India is governed well and the vast mass of the people are kept contented.

HERE is a great anomaly. Is it too much to expect of the Hon'ble Law Member to remove it when passing his new Criminal Procedure Code Bill? The recent Bombay cases brought this anomaly, involving, as it does, the liberty of the Indians residing in the Presidency towns, conspicuously to the front. Indeed, trial by jury is almost a farce to an Indian resident of the Presidency town, specially when he is tried by a special jury. We call it an anomaly,

because a different rule prevails in the Muffasil.

First, as regards Europeans and Americans. Under section 451 of the Criminal Procedure Code, Europeans and Americans have the right, both in the High Court and in the Court of Sessions, to be tried by a jury, of whom not less than half the number shall be Europeans or Americans. Then, under section 451A, in trials before a District Magistrate, either in a warrant case or even in a summons case, Europeans and Americans have likewise the right to be tried by a jury, of whom the majority shall be Europeans or Americans. Then again, under clause (6) section 451A, even in a petty summons case, the procedure in a trial by jury before a Court of Sessions shall, as nearly as may be, apply, as if the District Magistrate were a Sessions Judge and the accused had been committed to his court for trial.

Thus, the Europeans and Americans possess the right to be tried by a majority of their own countrymen, in all the courts of justice, both in the Muffasil and the Presidency towns.

The Indian has this right only in the Muffasil Courts of Sessions under section 275 of the Code of Criminal Procedure; but he has no such right in the High Court. Is this not a queer arrangement?

But the anomaly becomes all the more glaring when we refer to section 452 of the Procedure Code. Under this section, in the case of a European and an Indian tried jointly, in the High Court as well as in the Muffasil Sessions Court, the Indian is given the option of a separate trial, so that he may not have the disadvantage of being tried by a jury, of whom the majority may be Europeans. In the event of such a case, the Indian can claim a majority of non-European jurors under section 275 of the Procedure Code in the Court of Sessions in the Muffasil; but, if the trial happens to be held before the High Court, he is at once deprived of that right.

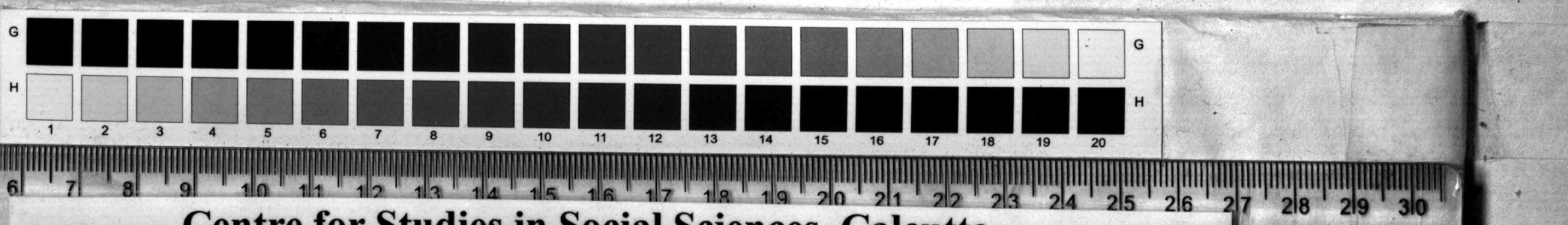
When the Legislature admits the soundness of the principle of section 275 of the Procedure Code, as well as of para. 2 of 452 that an accused person should be tried by a majority of his fellow-countrymen, by what logic can the principle be sound in the Muffasil and unsound in the Presidency towns in the case of the Indians, specially when the principle has been admitted to be sound everywhere in the case of the Europeans? Here is a subject which deserves the serious attention of the Indian members in the Council, who, we doubt not, will bring it to the notice of the Government in the shape of an amendment.

While on this subject, we should draw the attention of the public to another important matter. In the Presidency towns, the special juries consist mainly of Europeans. Now, as all serious cases in the High Court are tried by a special jury, so, this means that when an Indian is accused of a grave offence and hauled up in the High Court, he is tried practically by a European jury. In Calcutta, the last year's special jury list consists of 197 Europeans and 101 Indians. Is this not scandalous, considering that the number of educated Indians, fit to serve as special jurors, is ten or fifteen times larger than of those to be found among the European community? It was Mr. Jackson who drew the attention of the Chief Justice Sir Comer Petheram to this scandal during the Bangabasi trial, and Sir Comer took strong notice of it in his charge to the jury. Thanks to Mr. Apar, the Clerk of the Crown, for the improvement that has been effected since then; but he will find that the proportion between the Indian and European jurors is yet far from satisfactory; indeed, the reverse of what now exists ought to have been the fairer position. In this we think, our own people are more to blame than the Clerk of the Crown; for, we have been assured by several gentlemen that Mr. Apar would be too glad to add to the list of the special jurors, provided names of educated Indians, occupying respectable position in society, were supplied to him.

It is to stop disaffection,—the spread of hatred and contempt against the Government—that the press has been gagged. This is what the authors of the measures say. But are not the measures themselves calculated to do the same mischief for which they are alleged to have been introduced? This is what Capital said:—

Surely if this Bill were passed as it stands, and the logical result attained, the first persons to be brought before the tribunals of this country would be Lord Elgin and Mr. Chalmers themselves; for, are not they, by their words and signs, bringing into hatred and contempt the Government of the country, promoting feelings of enmity and hatred amongst the people, and exciting disaffection towards the Government among all classes of Her Majesty's Indian subjects? Surely, the only answer which a jury of their countrymen could give, would be that this has been the result of their ill-advised legislation.

The position is thus reversed. It is for the protection of the country from "native newspapers" that the measures have been introduced. Is it not? The same newspapers find themselves now in a position to have to protect the country from the sedition inadvertently committed by the Government itself. The nation is now in blank despair, because of the measures of the Government. We have now to show that the nation has no reason to despair. Our publicists have now to infuse hope; to defend the Government; to prove that if the repressive measures have come rather successively from the British Go-



ment, they are mere accidents, and the Government itself is sound; and if there is universal mourning now, the day is not far distant when the gloom of night would disappear and bright morning would dawn. It is not mere poetry that we speak. We quote below a line from the letter of a friend in England, a man of considerable influence in that country:—

"The country is Liberal to the backbone." Now what does the above mean? It means that the vast majority in England are on our side. What we have to do is to seek the help of the English public. We have not done that hitherto. Let us do it now in earnest. The task has seriously devolved on the native papers, of defending the Government for its attempt to gag them!

WHAT are the grounds which have led Sir Alexander Mackenzie to propose such radical changes in the constitution of the Calcutta Municipality? We have sought for them in vain in his speech. The elected Commissioners have been exercising the privileges, conferred upon them in 1876, to the satisfaction of the general body of the rate-payers. The Calcutta of the present day is surely a quite different city from the Calcutta of thirty or twenty-five years ago, when the official and nominated Commissioners had everything in their own way. This is a stern fact, and no amount of abuse of the elected Commissioners by the head of the Government can alter it. How would it then be possible for Sir Alexander to justify his forthcoming Bill, in which he proposes to reduce the elected Commissioners to non-entities and strengthen the executive, as if the executive are not already too strong, that is to say, to return to the old order of things, which was voted a failure, unless he chooses to close his ears against all reasonable representations and does not see things as they are? The proper course for His Honour was to carry the citizens of Calcutta along with him, by proving conclusively that the powers, vested in their representatives in the Corporation, have been abused by them. But he ignores them altogether; indeed, it does not seem to occur to him at all that, as it is they who mainly maintain the Municipality, they ought to have at least some voice in the settlement of the question which has exercised Sir Alexander so much. His Honour is anxious to secure European co-operation in the Municipal administration of the town. That is, no doubt, a very laudable object; but, can he tell us why the Europeans took no interest in the Municipal affairs of Calcutta before the introduction of the elective system? Can he also tell us why the Europeans refuse to stand as candidates, though their successful return is guaranteed by the native voters? And is it just that the European element should preponderate, considering that the entire cost of the Municipality is practically borne by Indian, and not European tax-payers? We want no favour but justice and fairness, from the present Lieutenant-Governor. His predecessors had never thought of curtailing the powers of the Commissioners in the way he means to do. It is, therefore, meet that, before His Honour seeks to disturb an arrangement which has existed this quarter of a century, to the satisfaction of the bulk of those who maintain the Municipality, he should satisfy them by facts and figures that a radical change of the kind proposed by him, has become absolutely necessary. He has, of course, the privilege of treating public opinion with utter contempt and carrying everything he likes at his sweet will; but, surely, such a procedure is unworthy of an enlightened and intelligent ruler. We can assure His Honour, the contemplated Municipal Bill has created a feeling of deep disappointment in the country. The people never expected that such a retrograde measure could emanate from one who wrote the famous local self-government Resolution of the Government of Lord Ripon. If we had the privilege of counselling Sir Alexander Mackenzie, we would have implored him to drop the Bill and thus avoid universal unpopularity.

We have said above that famine deaths are sought to be credited to some disease or other. Here is a cutting from the evidence of Mr. R. P. Barrow, the Collector of Thana, before the Famine Commission:—

Sir James Lyall: Death from simple starvation, I suppose, is a very rare thing, because unless you shut a person up in a stone cell or send him to sea in an open boat, long before he dies of starvation, he will fill his stomach with something or other which will lead to his death?

Mr. Barrow:—I do not know. I have never seen a case of starvation, and have only heard of three, which occurred in the district of Thana, where I have since been working. Did you see many cases of deaths from famine diarrhoea?—We had a lot of deaths from diarrhoea, but I put them down as being really due to cholera, which was concealed. You do not think they were due to people filling their stomachs with bad food, because their ordinary food was not obtainable?—I do not think so. I saw nothing to lead me to believe that such was the case. So, it was diarrhoea or cholera, and not famine, which caused "a lot of deaths"? In reply to Mr. Monteith, another official witness said, "cholera, which broke out, was responsible for the decrease in the number of persons on the works in Bijapore." Mr. Barrow was, however, very frank about the loss of cattle in the Bijapore district. He said:—"I put the loss down at 50 per cent. I have seen cases where it was 75 per cent. A great portion died before the relief works

were open at all." So, no relief works were started before 50 or 75 per cent of cattle had perished, that is to say, the agricultural population had been ruined! And does the Bombay Government want praise for this also?

THE *Englishman* very much resented the action of the authorities in asking for opinions on the Sedition Bill and then ignoring them. But the Legal Remembrancer of the Government of Sir A. P. MacDonnell was equal to the occasion. The opinion that he gave, was the best that could be concocted, considering all circumstances. Here it is:—

With reference to G. O. No. 4186—VI-954-C, dated 29th December, 1897, forwarding for my opinion a copy of the papers relating to further amendments to the Bill to amend the Indian Penal Code, and Statement made by the Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers, I have the honour to say that I have no criticisms to make.

The next best was that of the High Court of the same Provinces. It says:—

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of G. O. No. 4185 VI-954-C, dated 29th December, 1897, and its enclosures, and in reply to say that the Court approves the proposed amendments of sections 124A and 503 of the Indian Penal Code.

Nothing like a silent vote! It takes away the necessity of finding argument for supporting a measure which is untenable. If all those who had supported the measure, had followed the advice of the High Court of the North-West, a good many reputations might have been saved. Fancy Sir James Westland going to prove that all those who opposed the measure, were only the three tailors of the Tooley Street and that it was he and his colleagues who alone represented the people of India! Fancy Sir Alexander Mackenzie asking for powers to protect his Government from his own people! And then you can see the danger that besets one who has to give reasons for his opinions. The two Mussalman Associations supported the measure and they acted wisely. They knew that the Government would not listen to them if they opposed it, even vehemently. So they thought that the best thing would be to give such an opinion as would be accepted. Sir J. Westland poohpoohed the opinions of the opposition; but this is what Mr. Labouchere says:—

The gagging of the press will shut down the only safety-valve for native opinion of India, and remove the sole check upon despotism. No surer means of promoting popular discontent and encouraging secret conspiracies could be devised. If incitements to sedition are published, the existing law affords ample power to deal with the offender. But as Sir Richard Garth, formerly Chief Justice of Bengal, has testified, it is not on account of sedition that the Government of India brings forward the drastic measure for silencing the Press. "I read native papers myself week after week," wrote Sir Richard, "and never see anything there approaching sedition or even disloyalty or disrespect to English rule. What I do find, and what I rejoice to find, is thoroughly well-deserved censure of the arbitrary conduct of many of the Government officials. I am afraid this is exactly what the Government would wish to repress." There, in a few words, is the true explanation of the action the Government of India is taking.

How is it possible to ignore the above?

We pointed out the other day that, if section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code Bill became law, every man would be placed at the heels of the District or the Presidency Magistrate. Indeed, any unscrupulous person might inform a Magistrate that so-and-so, residing within his jurisdiction, was disseminating seditious or defamatory matter, and he might be at once hauled up and bound down, without his ever being able to obtain justice, as the order of the Magistrate is final on the subject. When the sedition law was first introduced in 1870 and objection was taken that it might be used for malicious prosecutions, Sir James Stephen sought to remove the apprehension on this score with these remarks:—

This, however, was completely answered by the provision that no prosecution should be commenced under this section except under the authority of the Government.

But, even no such safeguard, incomplete as it is, is provided in the present section. It is the District Magistrate who will start the prosecution, who will conduct the case, and who will finally dispose of it. The other safeguard against sedition cases instituted under section 124A, and when tried by a Magistrate, is that an appeal lies against the decision of the lower court. But, as stated above, the Magistrate's order is not appealable under section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Is not the arrangement monstrous?

If the Government is determined to pass the section, then, we hope, it will be pleased to concede the above two safeguards, namely (1) no prosecution shall take place without the sanction of the Government, (2) an appeal shall lie against the order of the Magistrate, and thus protect the liberty of the subject, at least to some extent.

AN English correspondent of the *Englishman*, over the signature of "Loyalty", thus resents the sneers of Mr. Chalmers and other Hon'ble members at the opinion of the Anglo-Indian Associations against the Sedition Bill:—

When the Hon. Mr. Chalmers the other day blandly referred to the support which heads of administrations gave to his Sedition Law, as the support of informed and responsible rulers, and the opposition of various associations as that of irresponsible commens-

tators, the learned gentleman was delivered of a saying that was full of meaning; but what did it really mean? In India, the number of Englishmen who are constitutionally loyal and support the Government by instinct, is increasing rapidly. But the strain thrown on their loyalty is unnecessarily tightened when, on the very few occasions on which they oppose the Government, the whole significance of the fact is overlooked, or what is worse, made game of.

Without admitting that English Associations in Calcutta have very much to learn about the administration of justice in the moffussil, I may respectfully solicit the attention of Mr. Chalmers, when he can spare a few moments from codification, to a plea in one of the published letters of one of the public bodies, asking for time to ascertain the views of planters throughout the country. Before this could possibly be done, supposing it to be necessary, a Bill, opposed by everybody not in the official play of the State, was hurriedly done into law. Even if, as some suppose, the opposition was mistaken, such tactics are of the nature of blunders, which no mere party vote in the House of Commons can ever absolve of their inherent unwisdom: still less promote to the rank of wise strategy; whereas if, as I fear, the opposition was in the main sound, and the amendments mostly unwise, in spite of the crisp sayings of Secretariat Doctrinaires, what can be said of such tactics? Resembling, as in that case they would do, unions of brilliancy with error they fall into the category of marriages made in haste to be repented of at leisure. But when the time for leisurely repentance arrives, the "responsible" authors of it will have retired into titled or pensioned irresponsibility at home, while the consequences will have to be borne by the "irresponsible" critics or their heirs, or assigns for ever. One has to pay for being not only, as was once upon a time playfully remarked, a citizen of no mean city, but the subject of what, in spite of its innate greatness, is being made to look a rather mean empire, an empire whose salaried custodians do not recognise the moral support they obtain from the volunteer loyalty of all Englishmen in the country; and sometimes the price seems a little too large.

Yes, the beauty of the whole thing is that neither Mr. Chalmers nor any of his colleagues will be in India when the disastrous effects of their doings will begin to affect the Empire. "It will last my time," is the policy which guides most of our wise statesmen of the present day. They sow the wind, and their successors reap the whirlwind.

The election of Lord Edmund Fitz-Maurice is a glorious victory for the Liberals. The cheering news will infuse hope into the minds of the Indians who are now sinking into what is pectically called "the ocean of despair." The Liberal victories at Durham and Cricklade shew which side the scale is turning, and that if a general election were to take place now, the ministry of Lord Salisbury would probably be swept away. A correspondent writes from England:—

"I am sorry to inform you that Mr. Ananda Mohan Bose is suffering from something like an attack of influenza. He has been requested to go to North Wilshire, and help the candidature of Lord E. Fitz Maurice who is a brother of Lord Lansdowne, but who is not a Unionist. He (Mr. Ananda Mohan) is going there next Friday to support him."

And we may come to know that as in Durham so in Cricklade, his services had been of great help in the victory obtained by the brother of Lord Lansdowne. Mr. Richardson, the victorious Liberal return by Durham, writes to Babu Ananda Mohan thanking him and promising "Anything I can do for India, I shall do." This is the first time that such a testimony has been borne to the value of Indian help in the party conflicts of England.

THERE is no doubt of it that Sir A. P. MacDonnell has done much in the way of reforming the criminal administration of justice in the N.W Provinces, which was rotten to the core. Before his advent, the executive officers, as a rule, carried every thing in their way, law or no law. Indeed, when we unearthed and published the whipping circular of the late Government of the N.W Provinces, enjoining on Magistrates to sentence accused persons to whipping generally, it created such a noise here and in England that it formed the subject of interpellation in Parliament. The result was, the circular was knocked on the head. We regret to learn from our Benares correspondent that in some places, the District Magistrates are still in the habit of exercising undue influence over their subordinates by issuing orders to them, and suggesting how particular offences are to be dealt with. The matter deserves the attention of His ur. Honour.

LORD and Lady Kinnaird and Lord and Lady Methven have left for England.

The delimitation work of the Burma-Chinese frontier will be continued for another month.

THE *Morning Post* says that the Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers goes home in the spring for three months, and that the Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans will officiate for him.

THE appeal of Raja Narendra Bahadur Singh, of Haraha, has been accepted by the Sessions Judge of Lucknow, and the conviction of the lower court has been set aside.

IT is anticipated that the opium crop in Behar will be a very bumper one this year. This is all the more satisfactory, as Government stocks have fallen very low at present.

IN compliance with a representation on the subject, the date of the Convocation of the Allahabad University has been altered from the 8th to the 10th instant, the first-named day being *Dole Purnima*.

THE Maharaja Jagadindra Nath Ray of Natore and the Hon. Mr. J. G. H. Glass, have resigned their seats in the Bengal Legislative Council. Mr. Buckley, who succeeds Mr. J. H. G. Glass as Public Works Secretary in Bengal, will be nominated for that gentleman's seat in the Council. A resolution appears in the *Calcutta Gazette*, of the 2nd instant relating to the election of a member in the Maharajah's place.

TWENTY-ONE European officers of the Poona Punitive Police have been sent to Bombay for plague work; and this is not the first draft from that force to do work outside Poona. The fact itself is an indirect admission on the part of the Bombay Government that, like the attachment of the moveable property of the Natu brothers, the imposition of a police force at Poona was a mistake. But, why not formally disband the punitive police force which has been found to be unnecessary, especially in view of the fact that the Government is now meeting the cost from its own pockets and that it will find it hard to make Poona repay its debt soon, in consequence of the ravages of famine and plague there.

AN influential deputation of Hindus waited upon His Excellency the Governor of Bombay at Malabar Hill and drew attention to the hardships which their community would be subjected to, if strict rules were applied to find out the cause of all deaths. His Excellency promised to give the matter his attention. This reply not being considered satisfactory, a public meeting of the Bhatias was decided upon. This meeting was called on Tuesday, the 1st inst., at Mahajanwali; but as late on Monday night, the 28th ultimo, His Excellency informed Dr. Balchandra that he was not in a position to give a reply till the 6th March, the meeting was postponed and will probably be held to-day.

HERE is a plague story, brought to light by a correspondent of the *Indian Spectator*. The correspondent had an occasion to visit the Hindu Plague Hospital at Bombay, when he "came across a patient, who, with face as bright as my own and with spectacles on his eyes, was sitting on his cot and reading a novel." Though a non-medical man, the correspondent could not persuade himself to believe that the man was a plague patient; and, on enquiry, he was told that he was quite correct in his surmise. The patient then narrated how he found his way to the hospital. He had a sprain on his leg, which produced a little swelling; but it was not glandular. Yet, on the strength of some fever, the case was pronounced to be one of plague; and notwithstanding certificates to the contrary of two medical men and a bone-setter, he was removed to the hospital where, by rule, he had to be detained till perfectly cured.

THERE is no doubt that many Zemindars have a dreary time of it, they having left the management of their estates to paid officials and having themselves no serious work to do. But are they not entirely to thank themselves, if they have to lead such purposeless lives? Providence has given them opportunities of doing good to themselves and to others, if they only utilize them. Let them devote a portion of their time and money in introducing agricultural and industrial reforms in their estates. By this means not only will they benefit themselves, but do good to lots of people placed in their care. Will a zemindar try to ascertain by experiments, which is the best manure for paddy-producing land? Vast areas of land in Bengal being used for paddy, the importance of such a discovery cannot be over-estimated.

THE correspondence between the Government of India and the Government of Bombay regarding the plague expenditure, has been published. It shews that the former do not hold themselves liable to lend money to the Municipalities for plague expenses, nor to relieve the Municipalities generally at the cost of the State, nor are they prepared to sanction any considerable extension of the period for the repayment of such loan as may be granted. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council recognizes, however, the financial difficulties into which the Government of the Bombay Presidency have been brought by the disasters of this and the past year, and accepts the view of the Government of Bombay that some time must be given for recovery before a true estimate of the possibilities of repayment in each case can be made. He considers, therefore, that for the present loans should be made on a stipulation that the principal will be repaid during the five years from the 1st April, 1900, to the 31st March, 1905. Before this period begins, it may be hoped that the Municipalities concerned may have to a large extent, recovered their normal position, and it will be possible to judge, by the examination of each case, whether sufficient cause may exist for an extension of the period of repayment.

THERE were 151 attacks and 169 deaths from plague in Bombay on Wednesday.

MR. F. J. ROWE, Officiating Principal, Presidency College, shortly proceeds on fifteen days' privilege leave.

MR. J. KNOX-WIGHT, District and Sessions Judge of Patna, shortly proceeds on three months' privilege leave.

SIR CHARLES LYALL, Chief Commissioner in the Central Provinces, will probably proceed on leave during the hot weather.

THE Czar of Russia has, it is said, ordered the establishment of a course of instruction in Hindustani at Tashkend in the military district of Turkistan.

A BOMBAY telegram informs that on Saturday a small military search-party were stoned by a crowd of Mahomedans. Several arrests were made, and one person has been fined Rs. 20.

IT is said that Sir William Lockhart intends taking three months' leave home from the 12th instant, if the negotiations with the frontier tribesmen are successfully concluded by that time.

IN Hyderabad, the plague returns show an increase of the epidemic in the infected villages, and in the Aurangabad District it is very bad, 70 deaths having occurred on the 26th ultimo.

THE Collector of Godavary wires that a disease, known as "Black Blister," has broken out among the inhabitants of Mangapet in the Pakhal Taluqa, Nizam's territory, where the death-rate from this fresh affliction is 50 a day.

A LAHORE telegram to the *Indian Daily News* says that Sirdar Gurdial Singh, Divisional Judge of Sialkote, has been suspended under the orders of the Lieutenant-Governor, pending an inquiry into certain charges of bribery and corruption.

THE distress in Nellore is still on the increase. The numbers on relief in the district have risen from 6,766 to 7,979. The Board of Revenue reports that prices remain steady, or are slightly easier, but generally there is no improvement, except in one taluqa of the Kurnool District.

THE Viceroy during his walk from Mussoorie to Simla, will halt on the following stations on the following dates: 1st April, Sanji Sanhar; 2nd, Nagthal, Chaurainpani; 3rd, Deoban; 4th, Mandali; 5th, Kathyair; 6th, Tyuni; 7th, Mirach. A temporary telegraph line will be erected along this route.

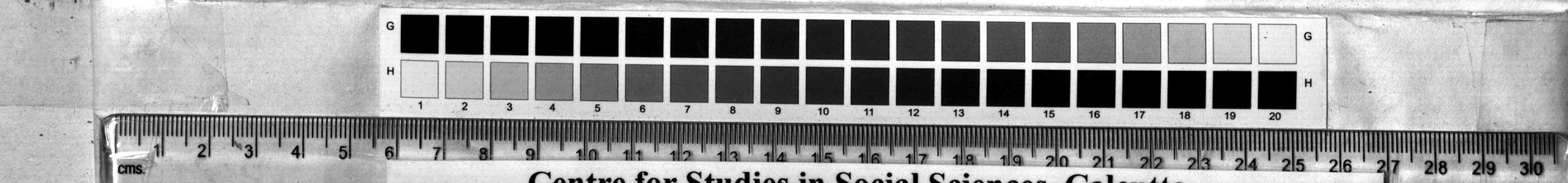
YET another appointment of an ex-official *Sahib* in a Native State. It is said, Mr. Bradshaw, District Superintendent of Police at Jhelum, who shortly retires from the British Service, will be appointed Personal Assistant to the Commander-in-Chief of the Kashmir Army for advising him in the direction of the police administration of the State.

A PESHAWAR telegram to the *Englishman* of Wednesday's date, says:—The tribal negotiations are proceeding slowly, but it is anticipated that the Kambar Khel and Kuki Khel Jirgas will arrive to-morrow or next day. These tribesmen are in possession of land and are dependent upon agriculture. They are anxious for a settlement, and are moving to influence the others. Ten days will probably see the business on a definite footing, as all clans are anxious to re-build their homes, but will not begin work until the threat of invasion is withdrawn.

A DEPUTATION, headed by the Maharajah of Ajudhya, waited upon Sir Antony MacDonnell at Allahabad on Wednesday, and presented a memorial, urging the substitution of the Nagri for the Persian character in the courts and public offices of the N. W. Provinces. The memorial contends that Nagri being the character generally understood by the mass of the people, the exclusive use of the Persian character as the language of the courts and Government Offices, not only leads to administrative abuses, but operates as a distinct encouragement to primary education.

SOME time ago Babu Rajani Kant Chowdhuri, nabib of a Dacca zemindar, sought protection of what may be called the High Court against official harassment. His story, which is extraordinary, is to the following effect. A ryot lodged a complaint against him in the court of the Sub-divisional Officer of Naraingunj with having wrongfully detained him, and he took up the case with more than usual zeal. The accused had failed to appear in court on the first day of the hearing. The result was, a warrant was issued for his arrest. Of course there was nothing objectionable in this procedure. But what followed was extraordinary. The accused at last surrendered to the court, when it came to light that the complainant and the accused had made up their differences. Indeed, the complainant filed a petition to that effect. The Magistrate, however, would not allow him to do this, for, according to him, the law stood in the way. Accordingly the case was proceeded with. Next followed a series of strange proceedings on the part of the Magistrate. The official was trying the case at camp at a place which was two days' journey from the sub-divisional head-quarters. The accused found great difficulty to get legal help there. So he applied for the postponement of the case, but the Magistrate rejected his application. This action of the Magistrate naturally reminds us of the famous Resolution of Sir A. Mackenzie on official tours. In that document occurs the following sentence, which Sub-divisional Officers, while on tour, ought always to bear in mind:—"The main point to be kept in view, is to reduce to a minimum the inconvenience and trouble which the tour of a Sub-divisional Officer must unavoidably occasion to parties, witnesses and pleaders." Has not the Sub-divisional Officer at Naraingunj violated, in letter and spirit, the instructions of His Honour, as embodied in his Tour Resolution, by his action referred to above? Be that as it may, after rejecting the application, the Magistrate formed a charge against the accused, and asked the new Mooktear, whom the accused had engaged, to proceed with the cross-examination. The Mooktear had not studied the case; so, he expressed his inability to do it. The next day, the petitioner's former Mooktear appeared. He wanted to cross-examine the witnesses for the prosecution, and made a petition for recalling them. But, for reasons best known to the Sub-divisional Officer, the application was rejected. In distress, the nabib moved the High Court, and a rule has been issued upon the Sub-divisional Officer to show cause why the nabib should be refused to cross-examine the witnesses through his Mooktear.

THE Government of India is pushing the laying of railroads in Burmah with great energy. Over one crore of rupees has been allotted to be utilised during the coming official year for covering Lord Dufferin's acquisition to the Empire with a network of railroads. In Burmah, as in other parts of the Indian Empire, there has been famine prevailing throughout a considerable portion of last year, and the entire earthwork for the Meiktila-Myingian extension was completed with famine labour. The famine, it would appear, is not altogether an unmixed evil, for does it not give plenty of half-starved coolies at cheap wages for the advocates of the "railways under all circumstances" policy?—*Hind.*



Calcutta and Afossil.

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PROVINCIAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF - General Nairne assumes charge as Provisional Commander-in-chief on the 21st instant...

LOSS OF EYE-SIGHT - A correspondent writes to the Goutbarta to say that some of the inhabitants of Ratna lost their power of sight from the time following the late solar eclipse.

A WEAVING MANUFACTORY - Babu Kailas Chandra Bannerjee has established a Fly Shuttle Loom Weaving Manufactory at his residence at Arrah for training native weavers to do their work on a more improved plan.

THE P. W. CESS - It is notified that the rate at which the Public Works Cess shall be levied for the year 1898-99 in all the districts in Bengal to which the Cess Act has been extended...

PLAGUE OBSERVATION CAMPS - The number of persons examined and detained during the week ending the 6th of February at the respective camps of Mairwa, Chausa, Dumukdia, and Khurda were as follows...

A DARING DACOITY - A correspondent from Raneejun writes to the "Burdwan Sanjibani" about a terrible dacoity which took place in the house of Babus Mohes Chandra and Umes Chandra Mukherjee at the village Banmarrah...

OIL SEED CROP IN BENGAL - From the return of district officers it seems that out of the 45 districts of these Provinces, one district, Champaran shows a 19-anna crop...

SETTLEMENT OPERATIONS IN TIPPERAH - The Dacca Gazette says: "The settlement operations of the estates of H. H. the Maharaja of Tipperah are being rapidly pushed through by Mr. Cunningham..."

CLOSURE OF A NEWSPAPER - Babu Lalit Mohun Ghosal writes: "It is with the utmost regret that I inform your readers that 'Sahachar', one of our veteran friends and counsellors, is going to take leave of its subscribers and the public in general..."

MORTUARY RETURNS - The total number of deaths registered in urban Calcutta during the week ending 26th February was 293 against 250 and 218 in the two preceding weeks...

MONSTROUS BIRTH - The Sarawak Patra says that the wife of one Tarak Nath Das, of God Chamat, Faridpur, gave birth to a dead child of a rather extraordinary nature...

CALCUTTA CORPORATION - It is officially notified that Mr. W. R. Bright, Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, takes leave for eight months and nine days from the 7th March...

FIRST LADY GRADUATE IN MADRAS - The name of Miss Kamala Ratnam Krishnam appears on the list of successful candidates for the History Branch of the last B. A. Degree Examinations of the Madras University...

CROP PROSPECTS IN BENGAL - There was no rain during the week ending the 28th ultimo. The general prospects of the rabi and other crops on the ground continue favourable...

A LUNAR PHENOMENON - The new moon on Tuesday evening presented a peculiar phenomenon to people returning home to dine after the usual gathering at the Lahore Institute...

THE RAJSHAH PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY - The annual meeting of the Society came off on Sunday last under the Presidency of Babu Sasi Bhushan Sen, B.A., Head Master...

AN ARRIVAL - His Highness the Maharaja of Tippera on his way back from Allahabad, arrived at the Howrah Station on Wednesday at 10-23 A.M.

THE NEW INFLUENZA - The Indian Daily News says: "Influenza, which has been prevalent lately in Calcutta, has, according to the British Medical Journal, its types of which at present there are three..."

AIDS TO ELOQUENCE

THE House of Commons is a very temperate assembly as far as intoxicating liquors are concerned, but nevertheless, there is a very frequent and steady demand for pick-me-ups during every session of Parliament.

As a rule, there are three occasions in the life of a Parliamentary man when he requires the "Dutch courage," which alcoholic pick-me-ups are designed to supply - the first when, as a new member, he timidly advances up the floor of the House to take the oath...

In fact, the House of Commons is so much impressed with the importance of temperance that it is contrary to the standing rules for a member while making a speech to drink anything stronger than water. This rule - teetotallers will be sorry to hear - is more honoured in the breach than in the observance.

When Mr. Gladstone was in the House of Commons he was the principal offender in this respect. Whenever he intended to make a big speech he would produce from the recesses of his capacious pockets a small glass bottle with wooden stopper filled with a mysterious compound looking like violet or bear's grease.

The late Lord Beaconsfield used to consume a bottle of 48 port on the occasion of a great oratorical effort. Just before taking his seat in the House he would rush off to the refreshment bar, drink half a bottle of his favourite brand, and then return to the bar at the conclusion of his speech to finish the bottle.

THE favourite pick-me-up of the Irish and Scotch members is whisky and water. On this stimulating fluid they can orate with wonderful vitality. This beverage on one occasion caused a scene in the House which has not yet been forgotten.

After dining well and wisely the late Major O'Gorman came into the House one night in the thick of an excited debate. The major, a big burly fellow, with the true instincts of the fighting Irishman, wanted to make part in the fray.

He sprang to his feet, and began a furious attack on one of the parties. Becoming thirsty he asked a friend to get him a glass of water "with something in it."

DISORDERLY SPEECH IN THE HOUSE - A MEMBER SUSPENDED

AFTER the meeting of the Piece-Goods Association, the Deputy Commissioner had authorised the Secretary, Municipal Committee, to inform the Delhi public by means of a notice that the Deputy Commissioner would be glad to hear any proposals regarding plague regulations from the public on the 19th instant in the Town Hall...

Never Knew It To Fail

MR. R. JOHNSTON, Rawalpindi, says: "I have personally tried Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea Remedy, and have given it to travellers who were passing through a hotel, and I must say I never knew it to fail..."

A SECOND MOON

SOME months ago the world laughed, and shook its wise old head dubiously, when it was announced that a Hamburg astronomer had discovered a second moon of the earth.

So long have we been satisfied with our familiar satellite that the idea of a rival was regarded as a joke "made in Germany." The discoverer, however - Dr. George Waltemath - still believes in his find, and promises that the hitherto unobserved satellite of this earth will be visible on July 30th next.

It is not improbable that some unreflecting body, larger than a meteor, but of the nature of a meteor, is revolving round this planet, and has escaped the vigilance of astronomical observers. Dr. Waltemath, in an interesting article contributed to the "Globe," says that this new satellite has been observed, and that it sometimes reflects the light of the sun.

Early in the morning of November 19th, 1762, two gentlemen saw a little under the centre of the sun a large black, round spot. A year and-a-half later the Inspector of the Forest at Gotha saw the same, or another black spot on the rising sun, moving slowly from north to south, and the same phenomenon was noted by an anonymous correspondent, who wrote to a London journal in 1761.

THE Delhi and London Bank issued a notice the other day that the Bank was prepared to receive jewels and other valuables from the public, in case they are obliged to segregate, on a commission of 2 per cent, which property would be given back to the owners on their or their wearers' return from the Camp.

THE following changes have been made in the P. W. Department: - Mr. Hartwell, Traffic Superintendent, acts for Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson as manager of the Oudh and Rohilkund Railway. Mr. Hebbert, Agent of the Burma Railways, is appointed Consulting Engineer at Lucknow when his services are available.

BAKHSI DEVI DITTA MAL, employed in the Kashmir State, was accused of contempt of His Highness the Maharaja's private court. He was sentenced the same day by a Magistrate to four months' simple imprisonment and Rs. 400 fine, in default to one month's further imprisonment. The appeal was heard by Rai Bahadur Pandit Bhag Ram on the 24th ultimo.

NEWS from the Burmo-Chinese frontier says that the northern portion of the Delimitation Commission is proceeding slowly but fairly satisfactorily. Their task is comparatively easy, as the agreement lays down the boundary line in that section very precisely, and there is not much room for differences of opinion.

THE wealthiest church in the world is without much doubt, Trinity Church, in the Broadway, New York, for its possessions are at the present time estimated to be of a value of nearly £2,000,000. This enormous property has come to the church owing to the great increase in the value of land in New York, an old farm on Manhattan Island, which was two centuries, and more ago made over by Royal grant to Trinity, being now in the very heart of commercial New York, and a succession of magnificent thoroughfares are now to be found where once the cattle grazed.

Recommended by a Medical Friend. THIS is how Mr. J. SHAIL, the well-known Manager of LAURIE'S HOTEL, AGRA, commenced to use Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Says he: "About six months ago I was suffering severely from a bad cough and cold, and a medical friend recommended Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to me. I bought one bottle and it effected a complete cure. Since that time, whenever I have the land cough, I procure Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and the results are always satisfactory."

CHINA UP TO DATE.

REUTER'S Agency has been sending a special correspondent to the East, and in a telegram from Shanghai he says: -

"I was greatly impressed with the appearance of Shanghai. It is an immense prosperous town, its approach by the river resembling the Mersey. It has splendidly built houses, and the river is lined with huge cotton mills. Most of these are owned by the Chinese; but the machinery is all British, though it is often ordered through German agents. The Chinese show great capacity in business affairs. Some are extremely rich and own luxurious residences in the suburbs, fitted with electric light and other modern appliances."

"As a sign how quickly the Chinese absorb foreign ideas, I may mention that Chinese ladies who, twenty years ago, were locked up in harems may now be seen bicycling through the town."

"German merchants are in excellent accord with the British, whom they look upon as the pioneers in China. They therefore hope that Britain will succeed in her task, knowing that freedom of trade will follow. They say they will refuse to attempt to settle in Kiaochow, because they possess greater facilities here than under their own flag."

An Anglo-Chinese paper further tells with delight of a recent "semi-public dinner" at Shanghai, at which "Chinese ladies of distinction from various parts of the vast empire" sat down with some fifty or so European ladies, and partook of the foreign fare, "in regular European style, knives and forks, champagne, and flower spread table-cloths all included." Our Anglo-Chinese contemporary exults that "even a couple of years ago" no one would have believed that such a thing would come about, at least in modern times, and finds it a matter of much satisfaction that "the dinner was excellent and well served"; "and the entertainment was a complete success." During the feast "women servants waited behind many of the Chinese ladies to light their pipes for them."

THE FORTUNES OF FINANCIERS.

SOME PERSONAL WEALTH STATISTICS.

AS short and simple as the annals of the poor are often the deeds by which very rich men dispose of their wealth. The length of them is often in curiously inverse ratio to the amount of the testator's fortune. A couple of closely-written folios may, of course, be devoted to instructions to executors with respect to the securities in which they may or may not invest funds of not more than £7,000 or £8,000. The late Mr. Walter Hayes Burns, of J. S. Morgan and Co., whose personalty in the United Kingdom has been valued at nearly £800,000, gave in two or three lines liberty to the trustees of his estate to choose just such investments as they may think desirable. As he had retained his citizenship of the United States, his property out of this country (England) will be, presumably, exempt from the English death duties. He gives to his son and his daughter equal shares in his wealth. Each had £100,000 to begin with. The son is to have the first option of the purchase of the testator's North Mysore estate, but otherwise he takes no greater portion than his sister of his father's property, excepting - and the exception is considerable - that he has a partnership in the business of his grandfather, the late Mr. Junius Spencer Morgan.

Mr. Morgan's personalty in this country was valued, when his will was proved in 1890, at £2,022,000, and that of Mr. Charles Cubitt Gooch, a former partner in the firm of George Peabody and Co., to whose business J. S. Morgan and Co. succeeded - was valued in 1889 at £592,122. The late Mr. Walter Hayes Burns came over from New York, it will be remembered, to establish the London house which became known as the merchant banking firm of Morton Rose and Co. Sir John Rose left in personalty £303,493, and Mr. Pascoe Dupre Greenfell, of the same firm, whose will was reported last year, left personal estate valued at £146,820. Mr. George Milne, who had retired from the firm of Morton Rose and Co. for some years died in 1896, at the age of eighty, leaving £44,180 in personalty. Amongst other merchant bankers' fortunes, upon whose death duties have been levied, have been those of Baron Herman de Stern in 1887, £3,544,970; Hugh McCalmont, in the same year, £3,121,931; and Sir Alexander Matheson, £243,760; Charles Loyd Norman, of Baring Brothers and Co., in 1889, £998,000; and Thomas Charles Baring, formerly of the same house, in 1891, £811,521; James Jardine, of Mathesons, in 1893, £332,590; and Charles Magniac, of Mathesons, in 1892, £199,454; Charles T. Hambro, of C. and T. Hambro, in 1891, £28,090; Marianolde Zuluetta, of Zuluetta and Co., in 1889, £27,038; and F. G. Dalgety, of Dalgety and Co., Limited, in 1894, £479,974.

THE wealthiest church in the world is without much doubt, Trinity Church, in the Broadway, New York, for its possessions are at the present time estimated to be of a value of nearly £2,000,000. This enormous property has come to the church owing to the great increase in the value of land in New York, an old farm on Manhattan Island, which was two centuries, and more ago made over by Royal grant to Trinity, being now in the very heart of commercial New York, and a succession of magnificent thoroughfares are now to be found where once the cattle grazed. The income from this property has been used for many purposes other than supplying the church's own needs, for besides a number of chapels which have been built in different places, twenty-four poor parishes are receiving grants from Trinity's coffers.

HAD the rheumatism so badly that I could not get my hand to my head. I tried the doctor's medicine without the least benefit. At last I thought of Chamberlain's Pain Balm; the first bottle relieved all of the pain, and one-half of the second bottle effected a complete cure. - W. J. HOLLAND, Holland, Va. Chamberlain's Pain Balm is equally good for sprains, swellings and lameness, as well as burns, cuts and bruises, for sale at all drug stores. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2. Gen. Agents: - SMITH STANFRED & CO. AND B. K. PAUL & CO. Cal.

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A PROTEST AGAINST THE FORWARD POLICY.

SIR ANTONY MACDONNELL AND SIR JAMES WESTLAND'S VIEWS.

We quote the following Minute of Dissent by Sir Charles Pritchard, Sir James Westland, and Sir A. Macdonnell, from a despatch from the Government of India to the Secretary of State, dated Simla, July 1894. The despatch is just published in Volume I of the "Papers regarding British relations with the neighbouring tribes on the North-West Frontier of India, and the Military Operations undertaken against them during the year 1897-98."

political influence into direct administrative control over the tribe. The above were the instructions on which Sir M. Durand proceeded in the conduct at Kabul of his negotiations concerning Waziristan. The agreement arrived at with the Amir defines the limits of the kingdom of Afghanistan and stipulates for the demarcation of a boundary line beyond which the Amir on the one side and the British Government on the other is not to advance territorial claims.

along the Afghan border, between the positions in Spin and at Sherana, as has in fact been proposed by Mr. Bruce and other frontier officers. The Agent to the Governor-General and Chief Commissioner of Baluchistan, who is the officer chiefly concerned in the protection against Waziri raids of the Zhoib district and the Gomal caravan route, has urged the establishment of an additional post on the northern bank of the Gomal and the strengthening of the garrisons on that river and in the neighbourhood of the Gomal Pass. We would support Sir James Brown's recommendations in this matter, and give them a fair trial before committing ourselves to an advance to Spin.

absorption, is that having fixed a border we must control the country up to that line. We find this doctrine first definitely put forward in the despatch of 1894. "We conceive" so runs the despatch, "that by reason of the agreement made in November, 1893, between the Amir of Kabul and Sir Mortimer Durand, by which agreement His Highness has undertaken at no time to exercise interference in the territories lying beyond the boundary line on the side of India, we have assumed a measure of responsibility for the peace of the Afghan border which has not hitherto been ours, and which, under present arrangements, we have no adequate means of discharging. We understand that Her Majesty's Government concur in this view."

November 17th in Sayeed Akbar's house (which we published) I believe the attack was fanatical in its origin, and I am glad to say, not ingratitude. How bitter than a serpent's tooth, etc. While all this was going on, the Orakzais began prowling round the Samana outpost and sitting under a Mulla. On October 20th, you told me these reports were exaggerated (but you were wrong as usual), and on that very night the Orakzais burnt a village in the Kurram. The same night I heard of Ali Musjid. You again informed me all was quiet; but two days after, Fort Lockhart was attacked, and then Saraghari, and no time was lost in driving the Orakzais into the Khanki Valley; but you will had no option but to have a Tirah Expedition.

THE 28TH JANUARY DESPATCH.

THE 28th January despatch by Lord George Hamilton is probably considered a State document of importance, at all events to the present Cabinet. It consists of 23 paragraphs. The author has had to sit down and gasp for breath at frequent intervals, and at the 5th para. he says: "I do not consider it necessary to follow minutely, etc." At the 10th: "I do not propose to dwell at length, etc."

"THE MURDER IS OUT NOW."

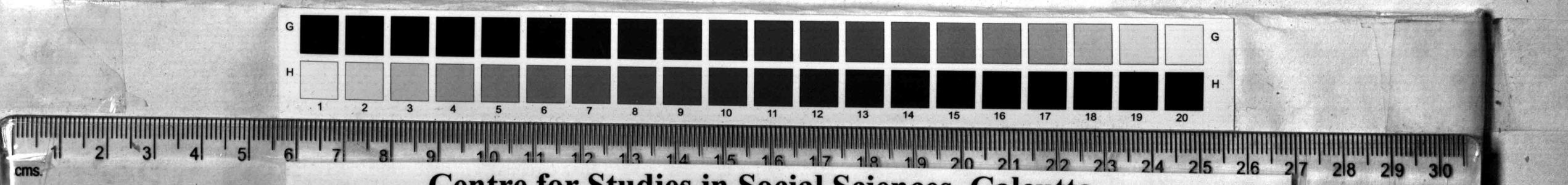
It was scarcely credible that all the members of the Government of India could always have supported the half timid, half bold and wholly disastrous policy which has been the cause of so many needless complications on the North-West Frontier during the past few years. From a Minute of Dissent, signed by Sir Antony Macdonnell, Sir J. (then Mr. J.) Westland and Sir Charles Pritchard, it is now clear that in 1894 the Government of India stood at the parting of the ways: casting vote of Lord Elgin, then only a few months in India, they deliberately chose the wrong path. The despatch to which this very remarkable minute was appended was dated Simla, 10th July, 1894, and reviewed the situation on the North-West Frontier in the light of the recent agreement between the Amir and the Government of India for the demarcation of the border. As our readers are aware, one argument which has frequently been advanced of late by the advocates of advance and

Good-bye, yours, G. Hamilton.

RAIN is again delaying the Panjab Lieutenant-Governor's tour. He is now weather bound at Bannu.

REGARDING the contemplated plague rules in Bombay, the "Advocate of India says": "From enquiries made there is no doubt that the Mahomedan community is greatly disturbed by the news, and that there is a good deal of serious irritation under the surface."

PRINCE MYOUNG OKE, a Burmese official detainee, who was kept under police surveillance at Berhampore, and used to get a monthly allowance of Rs. 1,000 from Government, died on the 25th ultimo of malarial fever. The Prince was a step-brother of late ex-King Theebaw, and brother of



Pamphlet of Assansole Outrage Case. As. 11 by V. P. P. Apply to D. N. ROY, Bagbazar, Calcutta.

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1. Dr. C. S. David, Gold Medalist, &c. says:—By the administration of K. M. Devi's Medicines I have perfectly cured three cases of worst form of bleeding piles.



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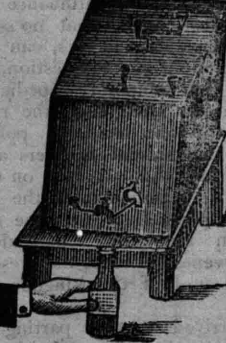
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