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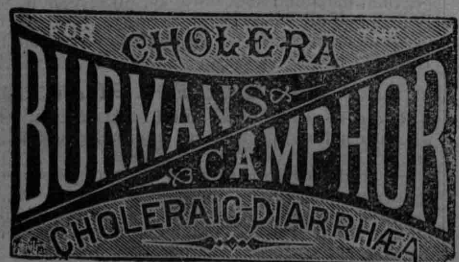
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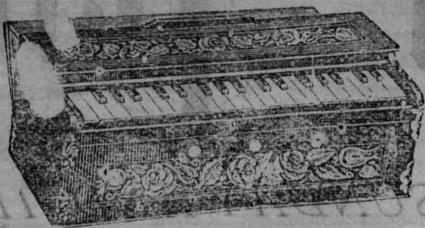
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করিবেন। ইহার পুস্তক পাইতে আসল ব

তাহারা স্বল্প করিয়া নিম্নলিখিত চিকিৎসা

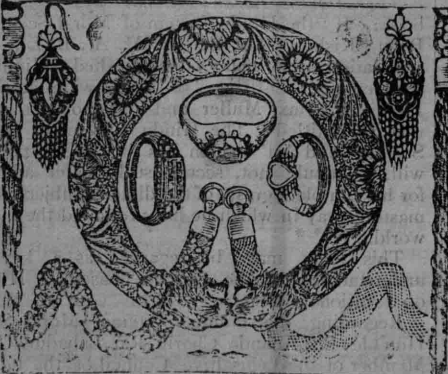
কবিপ্রাণ মহাশয়ের পত্র লিখিয়া বাধিত

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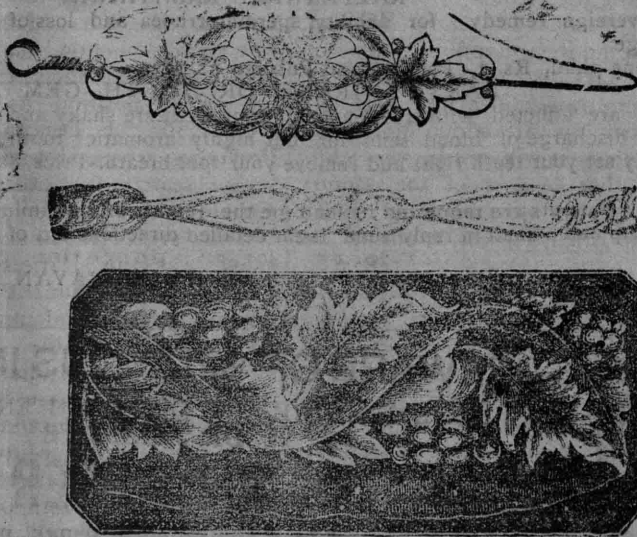
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THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

(CALCUTTA, APRIL 7, 1898.

THE PROPOSED ADDRESS OF THE
B. I. ASSOCIATION TO SIR
A. MACKENZIE.

A RUMOUR was prevalent the other day in the town to the effect that it was all but settled that a valedictory address would be presented to the retiring Lieutenant-Governor by the British Indian Association. To make ourselves sure whether there was any foundation for the rumour or not, we wrote to a member of the Association, and here is his reply:—

This is altogether absurd. I never heard of it, nor can I believe it.

The Committee, or whoever they may be, can never venture to do it, without consulting us; and I assure you, I have not yet received any intimation of it. I further assure you that I shall do my best to oppose the movement. This will never take place. It is all moonshine.

The writer, however, counted without his host; for, at a Committee meeting, held on Thursday last and attended by a very few members who have the privilege of the personal friendship of the Lieutenant-Governor, the question of the address was settled against the vehement opposition of one of the members. We wrote to another member of the Association, and in reply, he said that he did not attend the Committee meeting of Thursday last because there was nothing in the letter of invitation to indicate that the matter of the address would be discussed. The subject of discussion, noted in the letter of invitation, said he, was "the retirement of the Lieutenant-Governor" and this naturally misled him, and he did not think the meeting sufficiently important to require his presence.

No Lieutenant-Governor did greater mischief to the country at large, and to the Zemindars specially, than Sir Ashley Eden. For, it was he who imposed the Public Works Cess, and thus practically demolished the Permanent Settlement. In return for this service, the B. I. Association voted him a statue. It would thus be quite in keeping with its traditions, if the Association were now to present an address to Sir Alexander Mackenzie who, in the brief period of his 1½ year's rule, had managed to render himself even more unpopular than Sir Ashley Eden, whom he calls his *guru*, was able to do in five years.

Sir Ashley, at least, did not destroy the elective Municipality of Calcutta; but his disciple would not leave the shore of Bengal unless he had seen his Municipal measure well in the hands of the Select Committee. Another act of Sir Alexander is to extort eleven lakhs of rupees from the Government of India for the purpose of building a hospital for the special use of the European residents of Calcutta. Now mind, these eleven lakhs were raised from the pockets of Fechoo Shaiks and Ramswamees,—all of whom are dying by lakhs every year for want of medical aid; but, the huge sum is to be devoted to the maintenance of an institution which will be availed of by only Johns and Jones who contribute nothing or very little to the Imperial Exchequer. As for the general attitude of the retiring Lieutenant-Governor towards the people, his speeches are on record. It was the "Hindu Patriot," the organ of the B. I. Association, which remarked, while criticising His Honour's utterances, that "an official who cannot rule his tongue, is unfit to rule a Province." Indeed, Sir Alexander Mackenzie looks upon the educated Indians, with the exception of a few special favourites, with the greatest contempt possible, and he never makes a secret of it.

Such a ruler, who has done no service to the people, but who, on the contrary, has done everything in his power to create seething discontent throughout the country by his acts and utterances, is, in the opinion of half-a-dozen members of the British Indian Association, entitled to an expression of gratitude from them! Be it so; but, fairness requires that this half-a-dozen members should distinctly declare, when honouring Sir Alexander Mackenzie with an address, that, it is they, the half-a-dozen members, and not the general public, not even the whole body of the British Indian Association, who are presenting it to him. No one will, then, take any exception to their conduct. Nay, they are perfectly free to vote even a golden statue for Sir Alexander and pay for it from their own pockets.

It is said that the address-givers will take their stand upon the ground that Sir Alexander Mackenzie has done great service to the Zemindars as a class by his Tenancy Act. Firstly, in this matter, there is a difference of opinion. There are a good many Zemindars who do not make any difference between themselves and their ryots. They hold the doctrine that the prosperity of the tenants means the prosperity of the Zemindars; therefore, Sir Alexander, in their opinion, has injured both the Zemindars and the ryots by his measure. Secondly, what could be a greater condemnation of the rule of the Lieutenant-Governor than if His Honour were told that he had furthered the interests of one class as against those of another? The address-givers will thus, instead of elevating the character of Sir Alexander as a ruler, only lower it in the estimation of the world, if they really intend to praise him for his beneficial clauses in the Tenancy Bill in favour of the land-holders.

Then, a public address should contain both the good and bad points of a ruler. It is not fair that a particular act of his should be mentioned, and several others, which affected the public equally or more widely, should be omitted. Surely, Sir Charles Elliott did more than one good act; but, why did not the B. I. Association come forward to give him an address when he retired? If it be really true that the Tenancy Act has benefited the Zemindars, acknowledge it by all means; but, then, for fairness' sake, mention also that it has done the greatest mischief possible to lakhs of human beings who reside in the Khas Mahals, by placing them unconditionally at the mercy of the Revenue officials. Mention also that Sir Alexander Mackenzie leaves behind him a legacy in the shape of the Municipal Bill, which, if passed, will deal a deadly blow at local self-government, and throw the progress of the country half a century back. The gift of eleven lakhs of rupees purely for the benefit of the Europeans, also needs prominent notice.

As the address-givers are not likely to carry out the suggestions noted above, so the next course open to them is to present the address on their own behalf. By adopting this course, they will have one great advantage, namely, they will be left quite unfettered to sing the virtues of their idol to their hearts' content. If they, however, seek to give the address a public character, in spite of the fact that the people, nay, many of their own colleagues, do not want to honour Sir Alexander Mackenzie in that way, then it will not be very difficult for the other leaders of the country to get up a counter-movement, or send a telegram to the English press, exposing the whole thing.

We must confess, with sorrow that we did not expect this false move on the part of some of the leading members of the Association; for, we have the highest respect for their political foresight. How will they defend their action before their countrymen and their own colleagues? Even, our brother *Patriot* will be placed in an awkward position. For, he himself bore testimony, not once but several times, to the fact that Sir Alexander Mackenzie was no friend of ours. Nay, our contemporary accused His Honour of being inimical even to the B. I. Association. For, in one of his leaders, he indignantly declared that the Association did exist before him and shall survive his taunts and abuses. Is there no way out of the difficulty? There is no doubt of it that the usefulness of the Association would be very much marred if the address were presented in its name.

We have not yet told all. It is not only an address but also a bust which they are going to present to Sir Alexander Mackenzie. It is said that they at first thought of giving a simple address; but nothing short of a bust would satisfy Sir Alexander, and so his obliging friends have no help in the matter.

THE PROPOSED ADDRESS TO
SIR A. MACKENZIE.

WHEN life is about to depart, softer feelings obtrude themselves; and such is the case with a man when he is on the point of being shorn of his absolute powers. Then comes the reflection whether he had used or abused the power—the rare privilege—of promoting the happiness of millions of God's creatures, committed to his care; whether he had done his duty well, or whether he could not have done it better, and last of all, whether the people over whom he ruled would bless him or curse him after his departure,—whether they would retain a pleasing remembrance of his short and beneficent rule, or put him down for a dreadful nightmare whose departure was an agreeable deliverance. The hankering after an assurance from the people that he leaves a pleasing impression behind, becomes intense as the time approaches to part with the sovereign powers with which he was invested.

Then comes the opportunity of the people. Then comes their turn of giving reward or awarding punishment. The most haughty Governor then finds himself at the mercy of the people whose feelings he had disregarded and whom he had tormented in the hey-day of his glory. The final address is, then, an instrument which they can make use of for the advantage of their country. But the instrument must be kept sharp and unsullied. It becomes blunt and valueless when used indiscriminately, and it cuts its owners when it is indiscriminately applied.

The Indians are said to be an address-giving nation. We do not, however, see any harm in their being so. There is no folly or immorality in presenting addresses; but the immorality or folly lies in their abuse. Our fault consists in not being an address-giving nation, but in throwing addresses broadcast for the benefit of those who may pick them up. If we had all along used this great agent discriminately, indeed, honestly, we could have rendered it powerful enough to keep our Governors somewhat in check. But if an address follow as a matter of course, whenever a Governor retires, it not only demoralizes the nation but renders a powerful agent in our hands utterly useless, nay, detrimental to our interests.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie is anxious to secure not only an address but also a bust from the people of Bengal, as a recognition of his services to them. But if he nourished such a wish in his breast, why did he abuse them so violently only a month

and a half ago? And then, what prevented him from doing at least one good act during his rule, to enable them to remember him with gratitude? Sir Alexander Mackenzie calls Sir Ashley Eden his master. Verily, he tried to follow him step by step. The Indian press was an eye-sore to Sir Ashley. He took advantage of a durbar to condemn the vernacular papers of Bengal, and showed his contempt for them by declaring that "nobody reads them, nobody cares for them,—they are an unmitigated evil." Sir Alexander Mackenzie similarly compared the conductors of Indian newspapers and other public men in India to "carrion-kites" in his seditious speech.

Sir Ashley Eden did his very best to knock the elective Municipality on the head, but failed because Lord Lytton resigned and Lord Ripon came. In this matter, the disciple has outdone the master; for, if his Municipal Bill be passed it is all over with local self-government in Bengal.

By his Act VIII of 1879, Sir Ashley Eden reduced the tenants of Khas Mahals to such a deplorable condition that Mr. O'Keefe, the then Legal Remembrancer, refused to act under it. The Tenancy Act of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, as we pointed out the other day, has now placed them absolutely at the mercy of the revenue officials. Indeed, these Khas Mahals ryots of Bengal, who could somehow manage to keep their bodies and souls together, are now to be in the same position as the Government tenants in the Deccan and the Central Provinces, whose lot is to experience a severe scarcity in every five years and a terrible famine in every decade.

The great monument of Sir Ashley Eden was the Darjeeling Hospital, and the greater monument of Sir Alexander Mackenzie is the Calcutta General Hospital for the benefit of the European residents at the cost of the Indian tax-payers.

It is quite true that Sir Ashley imposed a cess and Sir Alexander has not; but, then, one cannot positively say what he would have done if he had been allowed to serve out the full term of his office.

With such a record of administrative acts before him, how can Sir Alexander expect the Bengalees to give him a laudatory address?

The British Indian Association committed a great blunder when they voted an address and a statue for Sir Ashley Eden. But, it is not at all necessary that they should repeat it in the case of Sir Alexander. India will never rise in the scale of nations if their leaders do not do the duty expected of them. When you give a puff to a bad administration, you only hold a premium to bad Government, and deal a deadly stab to your country. We sincerely trust, the leaders of the B. I. Association, who have initiated the movement of giving an address to the retiring Lieutenant-Governor, will yet see their way to back out from the false position they have taken.

As for Sir Alexander Mackenzie, we put it to him to consider whether the contemplated address and bust will really do him any honour or not. The address and the bust will not be voted by the people at large, or the general public, or any section of the public, or even by the British Indian Association itself, but by only half-a-dozen of its members, who are his personal friends and who are perhaps under some obligations to him. Lord Lansdowne canvassed for an address for himself. We do not know whether Sir A. Mackenzie is doing the same or not. But there is no doubt of it, he is in communication with his friends and admirers who have promised him an address and a memorial. Have such an address and memorial, made to order, any value? An address and memorial are worthless, unless they are voted by the public. It is said that Sir Alexander Mackenzie has no humbug in him. If so, the straightforward course for him is to decline the proposed address.

In the case of Sir Ashley Eden, a similar difficulty also arose. The B. I. Association had at first intended to call a public meeting and vote an address and a memorial for him. The public, however, strongly resented the idea. So the public meeting was converted into a meeting of "friends and admirers." The public were shut out of the meeting, and "the friends and admirers" sat to worship their hero. The "friends and admirers" of Sir Alexander Mackenzie may also adopt the same course. They, the half-a-dozen members of the Association, may assemble in their Committee room, prevent the other members from joining them, and then vote an address. And if they must have a bust, let them have it,—only let the names of those who subscribe for it, be engraven on it.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF SIR
A. MACKENZIE.

THE *Englishman* devotes nearly two columns of its space in defence of the administration of Sir Alexander Mackenzie. Our contemporary begins his article by quoting the following sentence from this journal:—

"Sir Alexander Mackenzie has not been able to do one good act during his rule of nearly two years." Such is the sweeping verdict of a native contemporary upon the tenure of office of the present Lieutenant-Governor which is now drawing to a close.

Our contemporary then makes an attempt to refute us by recounting the good acts of the retiring Lieutenant-Governor. Let us see what they are. First, we are told, he laid down certain

"methods and principles" in combating the late famine in this Province. We were not aware that Sir Alexander was the originator of those methods and principles. But is our contemporary aware what they were? We shall refer to some of them presently. But before we do it, let us quote here the rebuke which Sir Alexander Mackenzie administered to us at a meeting of the Legislative Council, held on April 4, 1896, because we said that the proceeds of the Road Cess were misappropriated:—

He (Sir A. Mackenzie) saw in a Calcutta paper the other day a most libellous statement to the effect that the Government had made use of, and diverted to other uses, funds which the District Boards had charge of, for the purpose of water-supply.

When we were charged with having made "a most libellous statement," we requested His Honour to bring a case of libel against us, and undertook to stand or fall by our allegation. We also wrote a series of articles on the Road Cess Fund, and the Bengal Government was interpellated on our statements by Babu Ananda Mohun Bose. The result was that Sir Alexander Mackenzie had to make the admission that the Cess money was really misappropriated. Indeed, His Honour not only admitted that the Road Cess was unjustly devoted to the support of dispensaries and schools, but that a sum of about ten lakhs of rupees, belonging to the cess-payers, was swallowed up by the Government, by throwing the joint collection charges for the Road Cess and the Public Works Cess mainly upon the District Boards. It was the duty of the Government of Sir A. Mackenzie to refund this large sum to the District Boards when the startling discovery was made that it had been unjustly wrung from the cess-payers for the purpose of benefiting the Government; but, of course, nothing of the kind was done. What, on the other hand, was done was to throw the charge of alleviating distress, caused by famine, upon the District Boards, and thus starve all the public works which it was the legitimate duty of the Boards to do with the money of the cess-payers.

Thus, one of the "methods" of Sir Alexander Mackenzie to administer famine-relief, was to divert the Road Cess Fund and convert it into a Famine Fund. Sir Alexander was angry with us when we made this charge against the Government; but he saw no harm in doing what he had himself condemned. Surely, the Road Cess was not imposed for the purpose, of giving succour to the famine-stricken. It was imposed for definite purposes, and famine-relief was not one of them. Yet, under the method of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, which has elicited so much praise from the *Englishman*, the fund was diverted to this object, which was illegitimate on the face of it. It is quite true that the Famine Code provides that the District Fund should be devoted to famine purposes; but, this provision is quite against the letter and spirit of the Duke of Argyll's Despatch on the Road Cess.

The other method of fighting the famine, was to employ a large number of Europeans on princely salaries to distribute relief in Behar. A greater scandal could not be imagined. The large amount which these Europeans swallowed in salaries and allowances might have saved thousands of poor ryots from starvation and ruin. Educated Indians on one-fourth of the salaries might have been employed, and they would have certainly done much better than the Europeans who, in spite of their best efforts, could not be expected to feel as much sympathy for the poor ryots, or understand their real needs to the same extent, as their own countrymen. And then, how could Sir A. P. MacDonnell do without European agency in the N. W. Provinces, though he had to cope with a far greater monster than the one which visited Behar?

We are next reminded by the *Englishman* that Sir Alexander has attached an agricultural class to the Shibpur College, and that he was a friend of scientific and technical education. Does the *Englishman* really believe that these agricultural classes will be of any practical benefit to this country? At one time, agricultural scholarships were established to enable Indian youths to proceed to England and learn scientific agriculture in that country. Several brilliant Indian students obtained these scholarships, and returned to India, after several years' training in the Cirencester College, with the knowledge as to how to grow cabbage and French bean! Indeed, our *chachas* know much more about the agriculture of the country than the professors who will teach the classes in the Shibpur College. Sir Ashley Eden strongly condemned the diffusion of this so-called agricultural knowledge of the West in this country; and we wonder how Sir Alexander, trained under him, got a taste for it.

As for Sir Alexander Mackenzie's love for technical education, he displayed it in a remarkable manner in the Central Provinces as Chief Commissioner. There is a College at Nagpore, called, we believe, the Morris College, which teaches up to the M. A. standard. The College was supported mainly by private subscriptions and a grant from the District Boards. One of his first acts on assuming the Chief Commissioner-ship of the Central Provinces, was to demand the abolition of the College and the conversion of the same into a technical school. The proposition naturally caused great consternation among the leading Indians of the Province; for, they could at once see that their College, if converted

into a so-called technical institution, would mean this that their children would be debared from the advantages of high education, and that, in return, they would acquire only some elementary knowledge in mechanics and wood-work, which will be of very little use to them. In short, they saw that the sons of the respectable classes, who ought to learn science and literature of the West, would be converted into only a race of ordinary carpenters and smiths, if Sir A. Mackenzie had his own way in the matter.

The authorities of the Morris College, therefore, intimated to Sir Alexander that they could not carry out his order without the consent of the donors. Sir Alexander was very much surprised; for, did he not know better than these donors how their money could be best utilized? There was, however, no help in the matter. A meeting of the donors was held, and Sir Alexander Mackenzie presided. He asked them point-blank to demolish their College and build a technical school upon its ashes. His wonder and disgust knew no bounds when the votes showed that with the exception of three or four, who were officials, the majority of the donors were against his proposal. And he immediately left the meeting in a pet!

Sir Alexander Mackenzie had, however, his revenge upon the Nagpore people shortly after. The meeting, alluded to above, was held in the morning, and the same evening he had to preside at the prize distribution ceremony of a local school. He availed of that occasion to read a severe lecture to the assembled gentlemen in terms as choice as those used by him in his seditious and other speeches. The speech was published in one of the local papers, and yet exists. But this was a small matter. Sir Alexander caused the District Boards to withdraw their grants to the Morris College; and further donations had to be raised for its maintenance. Sir Alexander had, however, sufficient fund to pay a sum of Rs. 10,000 to a school at Nagpore which belonged to the missionaries.

By technical education we understand that education which enables those receiving it to manufacture lucifers, to construct steam engines, to build ships and the like. Was Sir Alexander Mackenzie for imparting this sort of education to the people? Or, the object of his technical school was to convert the *bhadralokes* into *chachas*, carpenters, blacksmiths and coachmen?

As for his desire to develop scientific education in this country, the encouragement given by his Government to Professors Jagadish Chander Bose and Profulla Chander Rai is a sufficient answer to this assertion. These two scientists, specially the former, have obtained a world-wide celebrity. In any other country, they would have been given every pecuniary help to carry out their scientific researches with ease; but here they have been left utterly in the cold shade of neglect. Then, we know that a physical laboratory for advanced scientific teaching and research is a great want in Bengal; but, Sir Alexander could not find Rs. 60,000 for its establishment, though he could extort eleven lakhs of rupees for a General Hospital, for the sole use of a particular section of the community.

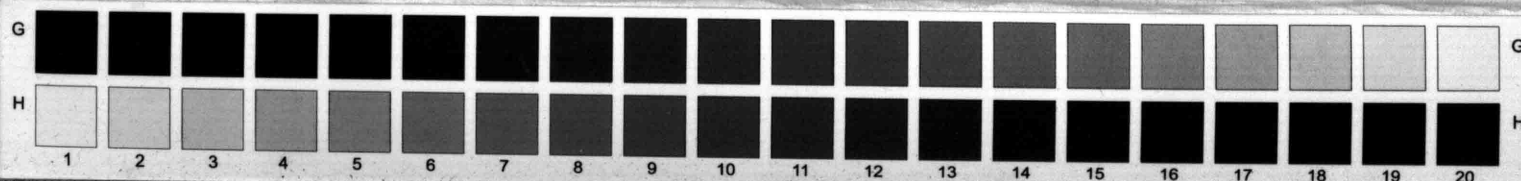
The *Englishman* refers to the Tenancy Act of the retiring Lieutenant-Governor. Is our contemporary aware that it has done the greatest possible harm to the poor ryots of Khas Mahals? No measure can be said to be good, which can affect so injuriously the interests of lakhs of poor men.

The *Englishman* will thus see that we did not exaggerate when we said that Sir Alexander had done nothing to deserve the gratitude of the people. On the other hand, his Municipal measure and general attitude entitle them to regard him more as their enemy than as their friend.

Our contemporary says:— That the quotation with which we have begun, represents the true sentiments of any appreciable section of the people with regard to Sir A. Mackenzie, we do not for one moment believe; we believe that the people at large, European and Native, are at one in feeling regret for his departure and sympathy for the cause which has necessitated it.

Our contemporary can speak of his own community, and we verily believe that Europeans have every cause to be grateful to Sir Alexander Mackenzie for all that he has done and promised to do for them. But he has no right to represent the views of the Bengalee public in this matter. We know what the real feeling of the country is regarding him. Ask any Bengalee gentleman, excepting a few members of the British Indian Association, and he will tell you that Sir A. Mackenzie has proved a failure. We bear no malice to him. On the other hand, we gave him a hearty welcome when he came here, and have always treated him with respect, in spite of his bad measures and abusive epithets applied to our countrymen. But now that the question of the recognition of his services has been raised, it is our duty to tell the sad truth that he has grievously disappointed the people of Bengal.

—A SERIOUS disturbance is reported from Jwalapur, near Hardwar, owing to the attempted removal to hospital of a plague-stricken patient. It appears that Mr. Kendall, Assistant Magistrate, and Surgeon-Captain Elphick, on receipt of information, proceeded to the spot to see to the removal, but were set upon by the crowd. Dr. Elphick received a lathi blow; but eventually both officers who had no escort, managed to make their escape. A detachment of troops was immediately ordered in from Roorkee.



WE accord a hearty welcome to Sir John Woodburn, our Lieutenant Governor elect, who returned to Calcutta on the morning of the 4th inst. from Simla. As we have said, we expect better things from him. He left a sweet fragrance behind as Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces. Indeed, people speak highly of his sympathetic rule in those Provinces. It is not likely he will disappoint us.

"I AM convinced," says Lord George Hamilton, in reply to a question by Sir J. Fergusson, "that the Bombay disturbance has not been the result of any excessive or unnecessary application of the plague regulations." We Asiatics have a faint conception of the privileges of a Minister when giving replies to questions—how far he may go in his misrepresentations. The above reply, we fear, is very much like a misstatement. The Bombay Government assured the Secretary of State that if any one says that there is unrest in Bombay, tell the English people that the statement is not true. Two days after this assurance, the riot broke out in Bombay! Such is often the value of official assurances telegraphed from here, and such are the assurances, which are not only accepted as gospel truth by the Secretary of State for India, but which he asks the English public to accept as such. As regards the recent Bombay riot, everybody in India knows that its proximate cause was the attempt to remove an Indian girl to the hospital under the terms of the plague regulations.

THE following question and answer remind us of many things:—

Mr. Schwann asked the Secretary of State for India what was the result of the recommendation which he was understood to have made in the summer of 1897 to the Government of India in support of the establishment of a physical laboratory in the country for advanced scientific teaching and research; and what sum was to be allocated to that object, and when would the work be commenced.

Lord G. Hamilton said, the Government of India forwarded him a despatch, which he received last week, in which they stated that the initial cost of such an establishment would be Rs. 60,000, and they regretted that in the present state of the finances, they were unable to entertain so costly a scheme.

The Government has not a very small sum of money to spare for science; but it has money to spare for the purpose of migration to the hills, of not only the Viceroy but a host of various subordinate officials. It has millions of money to spare for the forward policy. Let us see what this forward policy is. The British loss is thus enumerated:—

Lord G. Hamilton: The total casualties from June 10, 1897, to date are:—Killed (including those who have died of wounds): British officers, 44; British non-commissioned officers and privates, 136; native officers, 6; native non-commissioned officers and privates, 320—a total of 506. Wounded (not including those who have died of wounds): British officers, 93; British non-commissioned officers and privates, 404; native officers, 30; native non-commissioned officers and privates, 845—a total of 1,378. Died of disease: British officers, 10; British non-commissioned officers and privates, 250, natives of all ranks 220—total, 480.

How the lives of Englishmen are valued in India, the murders of Messrs. Rand and Ayerst have shewn to the world. More than a thousand Englishmen were, however, killed in furtherance of the policy for which India has been impoverished. The advantages derived, are *nil*. The Government now declares that it has not the means to spend a trifle for science. If that be the case, how could Sir J. Westland say that he was not in need of pecuniary help from England? Of course, if the necessities of Government had compelled it to cut the salaries of the Viceroy and the members of the Council, then they would have seen the necessity of asking for help. But it was only science, and every one is not a lover of science like Sir A. Mackenzie.

WHEN the post of Legal Remembrancer was given to Mr. B. L. Gupta, we suggested that he should have been elevated to the Bench of the High Court. We are, therefore, extremely glad to find that he will officiate for Mr. Justice Ghose during his leave. It is no exaggeration to say that there is not an able man in the whole Civil Service than Mr. Gupta; and it goes without saying that he will make his mark in his new career. The arrangement has only one defect which should be mentioned. The seat, vacated by Mr. Justice Ghose temporarily, belongs by right to a Vakeel of the High Court; and the matter has, therefore, provoked some feeling among the Vakeels. The proper thing for the Government was to have given Mr. Gupta a lift when a seat had been vacated by a Civilian Judge, and not to allow the seat, belonging to the Vakeels, filled up by a Civilian. Be that as it may, we congratulate Mr. Gupta on his appointment.

BAKSI Ram Labhaya is proprietor of the *Dost-i-Hind*, of Bhera (Punjab). Somehow or other, he incurred the displeasure of the local Police and the district official, and got into trouble. The *Tribune* has given one instance out of many, by way of illustration. One Abnashi Ram, a distant relation of Baksi Ram, was arrested by the Police on a charge of committing nuisance in public at the Dussera fair. He was tried by Mr. A. E. Elliott, District Magistrate of Shahpur, and convicted. The following passage is taken from the judgment:—

accused is the son of a cousin of

intrigues. *** The file amply shows that accused did commit the nuisance, being drunk. His identity is well-known to the police and to others, as being under the protection of Ram Labhaya, who is the editor of the *Dost-i-Hind* newspaper, and a terror to all in Bhera. *** I accordingly sentence Abnashi Ram, to undergo one week's rigorous imprisonment, under Section 34, Police Act.

Even a child can see that the accused was sacrificed because he happened to be the son of a cousin of Baksi Ram, the fomentor of all intrigues and terror of all in Bhera. In short, such was the kindly feeling entertained by Mr. Elliott for Baksi Ram that since he could not touch the latter, he sought to teach him a lesson by passing an exemplary sentence upon his cousin's son. As we are to be expected, the sentence was quashed by the Chief Court. Here is the order:—

Accused has simply been convicted of committing a nuisance by making water, being drunk. The judgment does not state where, as it should. The sentence of a week's imprisonment for such an offence is preposterous. The accused is discharged.

As an offshoot of the case, Baksi Ram was charged with obstructing the Police. On the date of the hearing of the case, the Magistrate (Mr. Elliott) recorded:—

The case having been called on for hearing the accused is found absent. The court allows a wait till 12 A. M.

Before that time, the Counsel for the accused appeared and submitted a certificate, signed by Surgeon-Major F. Perry, stating that the accused was too ill at Lahore to attend court. The Magistrate then recorded the following:—

I have very strong doubts as to the genuineness of this certificate. I am compelled to ask the Advocate for the accused to send a telegram to ask if Dr. Perry really gave any certificate. I cannot understand how he got this certificate as I personally know Dr. Perry.

The following order was afterwards given:—

The case will now stand postponed till the 30th November, 1897. In the meanwhile, there will be issued a warrant for the arrest of the accused that he may not again escape justice. The case remains for my successor.

The successor, however, saw through the whole affair, and Baksi Ram was saved. While acquitting the accused, he made some severe remarks as to the way he was being pursued by the Police.

WE are quite at one with the *Englishman* when he says, with reference to the speech of the Hon'ble Mr. Turner on the Municipal Bill, that it was a "temperate" one. We also agree with him that Mr. Turner expressed his views "with singular force and clearness." But we are sorry we cannot agree with him when he says that the speech was "a reasonable exposé of the utter uselessness of the Municipality as it is at present constituted." Indeed, reason or argument is not to be found in the speech. For instance, Mr. Turner quoted a paragraph from our paper and commented upon our remarks in a way which can hardly be called reasonable. Here is the passage:—

It has been urged in some of the Anglo-Vernacular papers that the present constitution of the Municipality is a complete popular representation, that enormously good work has been done in the past, multifarious improvements have taken place in the city by the construction of new roads, the opening of congested areas and bustee reclamations; and one particular journal goes on to say: "The Commissioners are the elected representatives of the people, who do their work from a sense of pure public spirit. But the head of the Government is not on their side, nor are the members of the Anglo-Indian community. And do you know what are the Commissioners for? It is to keep the Europeans in comfort and luxury at the cost of the general body of rate payers. They, the Europeans, must have more water, more gas, wider and cleaner streets and better conservancy,—all at the cost of the Indian tax-payers. In short, the Commissioners exist not to do duty to their constituents, but to pander to the convenience of the European community." Now, sir, if an educated journalist can write in this unfair and absurd manner, of matters which vitally affect the city and the country at large, is it possible for us to convince him or his friends of the necessity for absolutely perfect sanitation and for improvements which, no human being of ordinary intelligence can deny, are sadly and urgently needed?

Now, what we urged was, that the city has improved under the management of the elected Commissioners. Is this a fact or not? Of course, Mr. Turner does not venture to deny it; so he remains silent over it. Similarly, we said that Municipal funds are devoted mainly to the maintenance of the European quarters in a first-class style. Mr. Turner cannot deny this fact also. How can he, then, charge us with having written in an unfair and absurd manner? If he could controvert our allegations by facts and arguments, then, of course, he deserved the compliment of the *Englishman*; but what he does, is to make assertions, and, assertions are not arguments. Indeed, he leaves all these relevant points aside, and tries to crack a joke at the expense of Moulavi Abdul Zuhur, because, as a pious Mussalman, he attributed all insanitary evils to the hands of the Providence, which is, however, a fact.

THE provision, subjecting, say, a native of India, to punishment, who would preach "sedition" in England or Canada, attracted the notice of *Truth*. As the object of the Government is to provide against sedition in every possible way, the clause, referred to above, was inserted to make things sure. After having made the Empire safe from home-made sedition, the statesmen, who now rule our destinies, sat to provide against sedition imported from abroad. Thus when the famous copy of *Justice* reached India, the Government was anxious how to stop people reading it; for, if the people had

only read it, the Empire would have been shaken, probably more violently than Assam was during the late earthquake. And in their distress, the authorities asked men in leading position not to read it, and ask others to do the same. Well, to provide against the possibility of such a calamity the Post Office Act was amended; but then, there was another class of sedition which also could be imported, namely, sedition manufactured by natives of India in London and sent out to India. And *Truth*, referring to the clause providing against the latter class of sedition, calls it "peculiarly iniquitous." *Truth* is sure that the whole question would be "threshed out" in Parliament; so, you see, there is home-made sedition, and sedition manufactured abroad. But whether indigenous or foreign, it is always dreadful; or the Government would never have taken so much care to protect itself from that monster. "Papa," said a lad of eight, "I dreamt sedition!" "What do you mean?" asked the half-amused and much-astonished papa. Now, you must know, that this was in the house of a gentleman where the sedition measures of the Government were much discussed, where many Bengalee Babus sat and talked on the measure, and devised means how to avert the doom. It also must be borne in mind that the dream was dreamt at a moment when the feeling on the subject was raging very high. The lad had heard the word 'sedition' repeated often, and repeated with aversion and fear by those who came to see and consult his papa. So he had come to regard sedition as something very hideous. In reply to papa, he said: "I dreamt a very black thing with claws and a tail and sharp teeth. It showed its teeth at me and I got frightened." Truth to tell, it was not only lads, but elderly men also who have been led to dream sedition under the rule of Lord Elgin and his ministers.

THE half-a-dozen members of the Committee of the B. I. Association, who voted an address and a memorial to Sir Alexander Mackenzie, are Maharaja Jotindra Mohun, Maharaja Narendra Krishna, Raja Peary Mohun, Mr. Rustomji, Babu J. Ghosal and Babu Hari Charan Bose. Babu Charu Chander Mullick opposed the movement. One informant writes to us to say that Babu J. Ghosal and Babu Hari Charan also opposed; but, we believe, he is mistaken.

MONDAY'S was the last meeting of the Council over which Sir Alexander Mackenzie presided. He made a little speech; and he might have, if he liked, alluded to his coming departure and expressed a few words of sympathy for the people. But he did not choose to do it. As usual with him, he indulged in some statements which were extravagant. For instance, referring to the present constitution of the Corporation, he said, that "he believed that even the angels from heaven could not work it." Sir Alexander should have added that, his proposed constitution was such an improvement upon the existing one that even demons from the netherlands would be able to work it. In another place, he said he "wished solemnly and emphatically now to say that it would not be right to assume that plague would not come to Calcutta." Yes, the fervent wish of Sir Alexander is that plague may visit Calcutta and test the efficiency of his Municipal measure. Here is another quotation from his speech:—

If he thought that under the new Bill the Municipality would be deprived of the services of men like these (Babus Kali Nath Mitter and Nolin Beharee Sarkar) he would have thrown the Bill into fire.

Is Sir Alexander really in earnest? Well, we can at least speak on behalf of one of the gentlemen, alluded to above. Babu Nolin Beharee Sarkar has given his word that he will have nothing to do with the Corporation if the Bill be passed. We have not sounded the other gentleman; but surely, he will never go against the wishes of his countrymen. Will Sir Alexander, before he leaves here, send for Babus Kali Nath and Nolin Beharee, and question them on the subject? And if they say that they will cut off their connection with the Corporation, will His Honour throw his Bill into fire? But, of course, Sir Alexander does not always mean what he says.

A CLIQUE of Anglo-Indians succeeded in "hissing" Lord Ripon out of India, to use the elegant expression, used by them in connection with the departure of his Lordship from India. Still Lord Ripon has this unique distinction. Not only do the Indians call him the best of Viceroy, but half of England also says the same thing. Where is the Viceroy who has been able to obtain that distinction even from the English people? Of course, when Lord Lytton was here, they called him the best; but then, when he had disappeared from the scene, he was forgotten. So at one time Lord Lansdowne was the best of Viceroy. The fact is, it is he alone, who has been able to gain the confidence of the Indians, who retains anything like a permanent reputation. Mr. Stevens, although he was only for a short time the ruler of Bengal, won the hearts of the people. And this fact will be of use to him in his country. An organization was made to do him honour; but official jealousy intervened and he was not allowed to take part in it. Some friends of Sir Alexander Mackenzie are trying to enliven his last days by a congratulatory address and a bust. They are welcome. But will not such a petty thing emphasise his failure as an administrator?

Calcutta and Mofussil.

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THE POLICE COURT.—Mr. T. A. Pearson took his seat on Saturday as Chief Presidency Magistrate, on his return from leave.

RAILWAY PROSECUTION.—The assistant Station-Master of Joyrampore, who was prosecuted in connection with the late collision on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, has been acquitted.

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.—Dr. Surjee Coomar Sarbadhikari has been elected President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Bengal, in place of the late Dr. Juggubundhu Bose.

OFFICIAL CHANGES.—Mr. C. M. W. Brett, Judge of Bhagalpur, will officiate as Legal Remembrancer in place of Mr. Pratt; while Mr. C. P. Caspersz and Mr. T. W. Richardson will be the Judge and Additional Judge, respectively, at Alipur. The latter's appointment to the Dinapore Judgeship will be cancelled.

AGRI-HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Sir Patrick Playfair has been elected President of the Agri-Horticultural Society of India, vice Mr. C. C. Stevens, resigned. At the last meeting of the Council of the Society, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the retiring President, who has done so much to advance the interests of the Society.

HIGH COURT JUDGES.—Mr. Justice Macpherson has decided to take eight months' leave from April 18, instead of the three months' furlough previously announced. Sir Henry Prinsep will also proceed on leave after rejoining his appointment in the Court on the expiry of his special duty with the Government of India. Mr. J. Pratt and Mr. B. L. Gupta will act as Puisne Judges.

BENGAL PROVINCIAL RAILWAY CO. LD.—The approximate earnings of the Bengal Provincial Railway for the week ending 26th March 1897 were: Coaching Rs. 1234, Goods Rs. 113, miscellaneous Rs. 8, total Rs. 1355 or Rs. 43 per open mile. In the corresponding week of the previous year the total earnings were Rs. 1012 or Rs. 32 per open mile. Total for 12 weeks from 1st January 1898 Rs. 1763; as compared with Rs. 14,512, total for corresponding 12 weeks of 1897.

STORM AT DARJEELING.—As already briefly telegraphed by our Calcutta correspondent, a thunderstorm of considerable violence visited Darjeeling about 4.30 p. m. on the 29th ultimo. The storm swept down from the north from the direction of Kinchinjunga, and a magnificent spectacle was presented by the masses of dark clouds sweeping onwards and filling up the steep valleys, to the accompaniment of rolling thunder and frequent flashes of lightning. At 5.10 p. m. Surgeon-Major and Mrs. Moore, with a native servant were standing in the porch of the house at Jalaphar, looking out at the scene, when the house was struck, and all three, with two fox-terriers who happened to be on the spot, were instantaneously struck down insensible. It appears that Surgeon-Major Moore was standing facing the outer door of the porch, with the chuprassie about a yard to his left, while Mrs. Moore and the two dogs were at the back, on the top of the three wooden steps which lead into the house. Mrs. Moore was the first to recover consciousness, and at once called for help. By the time the other servants arrived from the back of the house Dr. Moore had also regained consciousness, but was in a dazed condition. The chuprassie was lying as though dead, outstretched on the ground. The chuprassie, it appears, remained unconscious for about an hour, when he was conveyed to the hospital which is just across the road. He is much burned about the face, has severe pains in the head, back, and limbs and it is feared that the sight of one eye is lost. Surgeon-Major Moore is greatly shaken, and one of his eyes was burned, though not severely, and it is hoped no bad consequences will follow. He is still suffering from the shock and from severe pains in the head and back. Mrs. Moore suffered least of all, but for an hour an arm was paralysed from the elbow and the soles of the feet numb. On the arm the trace of the lightning could be plainly seen in a narrow red branching line. The dogs howled at the first shock. But beyond being much cowed for the rest of the evening did not appear to suffer. Surgeon-Major and Mrs. Moore are to be congratulated on this truly miraculous escape. The house, curiously enough, does not appear to have suffered any damage—it was carefully examined by the Engineer Officer the following morning. The "bolt" which struck the house was noticed as a very severe one by many people in the vicinity, the flash and the report were simultaneous, and many exclaimed that something close by must be struck. There is no other damage reported and no one else on the hill appears to have suffered.—*Pioneer*.

THE matter between Mr. Mitra, proprietor of the "Deccan Post" and also a Vakeel practising in the High Court of Hyderabad, and the Judges of that Court, has had a satisfactory termination. It would be remembered that Mr. Mitra incurred the displeasure of the High Court for having had occasion to criticise certain proceedings of one of the Judges, and was called upon to show cause why he should not be disbarred for having contravened an order of the High Court that Vakeels should not practise any other profession except that of pleading. Mr. Mitra appealed to the Minister; and it is now stated that His Excellency has quashed the circular of the High Court and has said that the Judges have no authority to issue such an order without the consent of the Government.

Law Intelligence.

HIGH COURT: CRIMINAL BENCH.—APRIL—5.

(Before Justices Ameer Ali and Henderson.)

A HUSBAND MURDER CASE.

THIS was an appeal by Shama Sundari Chandolini from the decision of the Additional Sessions Judge of Mymensing sentencing her to transportation for life for poisoning her husband to death. It appeared that one evening the accused called some of the neighbours to come to the house quickly. They went and found the deceased very ill, they sent for a Kabiraj and also made him vomit. He died the same night. The next day his body was taken to the thana, the accused was also taken deceased having implicated her. The viscera of the deceased and vomited matter were sent to the Chemical Examiner who reported that salt of mercury had been found in them. The accused in the meantime was taken under arrest and placed before a Deputy Magistrate to whom she made a statement confessing that she had poisoned her husband being influenced by one Kunjo Bhadra with whom she had an intrigue. This confession was retracted on a subsequent day when she had occasion again to appear before the Deputy Magistrate. In the Sessions Court she again retracted the confession, stating that it was made partly because she was threatened by the Police to make it, and partly because her neighbours told her that by making the confession she would implicate Kunjo Bhadra and the latter would be punished. This plea was, however, not believed and the jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the Judge accepting it sentenced her as stated.

Their Lordships, after going through the papers, declined to interfere.

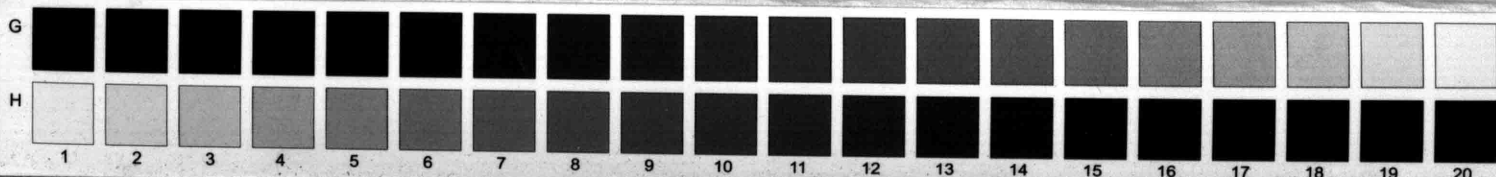
ADMINISTRATION OF A MAHARAJA'S ESTATE.

SIR GRIFFITH EVANS applied for a rule on Thursday last upon Mr. Ahmed, District Judge of Rungpur, to show cause why so much of his order, dated the 10th December 1897, as directs that Beni Madhub Chatterjee, be associated with the Maharanee Sarat Sundari, widow of the late Maharaja Gobinda Lal Roy Bahadur of Rungpur, as guardian of the property of his minor son, Kumar Gopal Lal Ray, during his minority as also so much of his order of the 2nd March 1898 as makes the probate order to be granted subject to certain conditions and suggestions made in the said order, should not be set aside. During the course of his argument, the learned Counsel pointed out that the late Maharaja Govinda Lal Roy Bahadur who died from the effects of an accident on the occasion of the late earthquake left a will bequeathing his property to his minor son, and appointed the Maharanee and others as executors who duly applied to Mr. Ahmed, the District Judge, for the grant of a probate. Mr. Ahmed, in granting the probate, made certain conditions and suggestions not at all warranted by law. The most important of these conditions were the retention of the services of a Mr. Keighly late manager of a silk factory, as manager and Beni Madhub Chatterjee as accountant through whom all accounts were to be submitted to Court. It was pointed out by the learned Counsel that, after the Maharanee had advertised for a manager of the Estate, the District Judge asked her to appoint a European manager, but the Maharanee wrote a letter to the District Judge, declining to accept that proposal. Thereupon the District Judge wrote a letter to her, insisting upon such an appointment, and the Maharanee was compelled to appoint as manager Mr. Keighly who did not apply for the post nor was he known in any way in Rungpur, and also to execute an agreement in favour of the said Mr. Keighly, the terms whereof were settled by Mr. Ahmed who gave Babu Ram Krishna Mahata, the father of the Maharanee and also an executor, to understand that the execution of the agreement was a condition precedent to the grant of the probate. For various reasons and in the interest of the estate, the Maharanee and her father sent a letter of dismissal to Mr. Keighly, dispensing with his services from the 23rd March last. Sir Griffith Evans very strongly pointed that Mr. Ahmed sitting as a Probate Court could not impose any condition or suggestion to the grant of a probate. The conditions imposed by him in the present instance were wholly illegal and "ultra vires." The learned counsel further pointed out that the appointment of Beni Madhub Chatterjee as guardian of the property of the minor in the probate case without any application from him or issuing any notices to interested parties as required by Act VIII of 1900, was wholly illegal. An affidavit showing many illegalities and irregularities of Mr. Ahmed was put in in support of the application.

Their Lordships, after hearing counsel and perusing the papers, granted a rule on the District Judge in the terms prayed for.

AN extraordinary hailstorm occurred in the villages under the jurisdiction of the Jaldi police station, Chittagong, on the 22nd March last. The hails fell heavily without cessation for two hours from one o'clock at noon, and covered up the landscape about ten to twelve inches deep. The hails were of various sizes, representing a tiny marble as well as a one-seer big ball which took nearly six hours to melt completely. A moderate-sized basket which was kept outside, became well-nigh filled up with hails. After the hailstorm had ceased, it was found that there were a good many men and women lying at several places in an unconscious state, being badly wounded by the heavy beating of the hails, a few having actually died. It has done harm to the standing crops.

It is interesting to learn from the "Madras Standard" that two Madras Hindus, who settled in Russia, have just died there. It is a mystery how they did not only go there, but acquire property. The deceased have some relatives in Madras; for, on hearing of their death, they applied to be put in possession of their estates. But a legal difficulty has arisen. The tribunals of Russia are precluded from giving relief on Indian certificates of heirship, in the absence of a special convention between Great Britain and Russia for carrying out judicial sentences; and the claimants have been requested to address themselves personally or by proxy to the proper Russian Court.



Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

BIRHAMPUR, APRIL 4.

A grand public meeting was held under Prince Ananash Chandra Chatterji. The President highly eulogised the guest, who made a highly impressive and suitable reply paying tribute to his host Mr. Bhaskute. Intense enthusiasm prevailed.

GYA, APRIL 4.

The Bhumihar Brahman Sabha was held to-day at Gya for social and educational improvement. The Dulhinsabha, Seven Annas Raj, granted a subscription of Rs. 200 monthly and a house for boarding purposes.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, APRIL 2.

Spain's reply to America had been published at Washington. It agrees to an armistice in Cuba if the insurgents request it, and accepts American help for the reconcentrados (the starving peasants who were penned up in the towns by General Weyler's orders.) and proposes that the insular Government shall arrange a honourable peace.

LONDON, APRIL 2.

The reply is considered in America as tantamount to a rejection of America's demands. The situation is, in consequence, most critical. President McKinley is preparing a message to Congress on the subject.

LONDON, APRIL 2.

The latest news from Peru states that the prospects of getting off the "China" are much better.

LONDON, APRIL 2.

Fifty thousand steam coal miners are idle, and are demanding the abolition of the sliding scale.

LONDON, APRIL 2.

Mr. Cecil Rhodes has arrived in London.

LONDON, APRIL 2.

Advices from Pekin state that Sir Claude Macdonald is holding important conferences with the Tsungli Yamen, and is demanding concessions from China to redress the balance of power which has been upset by the concessions made to Russia. In the meantime the British fleet is gradually converging on the Gulf of Pechili.

Consols fell five-eighths in London to-day. The sentence passed on M. Zola has been quashed.

The Spanish American situation is in suspense, pending President McKinley's message to Congress on Tuesday next.

LONDON, APRIL 4.

Great Britain has demanded of China the lease of Wei-hai-wei when the Japanese evacuate it, as compensation for disturbance of the balance of power in the Gulf of Pechili owing to concessions made to Russia. It is believed that Japan regards the arrangement favourably.

The British Squadron quitted Chefoo on Friday last, but its destination is not known.

Both Spanish and American statesmen express the gravest fears regarding the political situation. The work of preparing the armies and navies of both countries for war is being actively continued day and night. The Spanish army is now ready for mobilisation at any moment.

LONDON, APRIL 4.

The lease of Wei-hai-wei to the British was negotiated with the knowledge and consent of the Japanese Government, though it was kept a profound secret till concluded. The British squadron has not left Chefoo but only changed its anchorage.

It is understood that President McKinley's message to Congress favours the recognition of Cuban independence and eventual forcible intervention to arrest hostilities, and declares that the Spanish reply is unsatisfactory, leaving little hope of a diplomatic settlement.

LONDON, APRIL 6.

Mr. Balfour made his promised statement regarding our policy in China, in the House of Commons last night. He said that by acquiring Wei-hai-wei, which we had no intention of turning into a commercial port, Britain had prevented the Gulf of Pechili from falling under the undisputed control of any Power. He hoped China would maintain not only nominal but real suzerainty over her vast dominions. British and German interests were, he said, identical, and he hoped they would work together. Great Britain had no reason to complain of Russian commercial policy in China, but unfortunately Russia thought it necessary to acquire Port Arthur, which was a purely naval port, giving her undue influence in the councils at Pekin. Great Britain therefore protested, and offered that if Russia abstained from Port Arthur, Great Britain would take no part in the Gulf of Pechili. This offer was not accepted, and Great Britain therefore arranged for the occupation of Wei-hai-wei.

The Duke of Devonshire made a similar statement in the House of Lords, and added that there was no reason to suppose that the occupation of Wei-hai-wei would excite any opposition on the part of Japan. His Grace said that China in granting the concession asked for facilities for Chinese warships, and also for the training of Chinese naval officers under the British.

LONDON, APRIL 6.

There is ceaseless diplomatic activity at Rome and Washington over the Spanish American question. Mr. McKinley has postponed his message to Congress until Thursday. Meanwhile peace is not despaired of.

LONDON, APRIL 6.

Parliament has been adjourned until the 21st of April for Easter.

ADEN, APRIL 5.

The P. and O. Company's steamer Clyde, with the English mails of the 25th ultimo, left here for Bombay at 3 P. M. to-day.

MR. DONALD SMEATON, Financial Commissioner, Burma, has been appointed a member of the Burma Legislative Council.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS.

Mr. C. A. Wilkins, I.C.S., is allowed furlough for eight months.

Babu Tulsi Charan Pal, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Rangpur, is allowed leave for two months and fifteen days, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Prasanna Kumar Datta, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Dakshin Shahazpur, is allowed leave for one month, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations. Babu Jagadis Chunder Sen, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Jhenida, acting for him. This cancels the order posting Babu Jagadis Chunder Sen to Jessore. Babu Narendranath Chunder Sen, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, on excise work, Lohardaga, is allowed leave for one month and eighteen days, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Mr. Devendra Nath Mookerjee, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Vishnupur, is allowed leave for three months. Babu Nityananda Bhar, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, acting for him.

Babu Bagala Prasanna Mazumdar, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Chittagong, is allowed leave for three months. Babu Shoshee Bhoshun Dutt, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Rajshahi, acting for him.

Babu Surendro Lal Mitra, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Coll, in charge of the Mainaguri Tahsil, is allowed leave for two months, under article 273 (a) of the Civil Service Regulations. Babu Manasa Ranjan Sen, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Midnapore, acting for him.

Babu Parua Chunder Nag, sub pro tempore Dy Magte and Dy Coll, is posted to Barisal.

Maulvi Sayed Ali Ashraf, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Bihar, is transferred to Arrah.

Babu Satyendra Nath Das, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Malda, is transferred to Purnea.

Babu Ram Niranjan Prasad, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Saran, is transferred to Malda.

Babu Nadia Chand Dutt, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Coll, in charge of the Khurda Tahsil, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations. Babu Haris Chunder Rai, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Cuttack, acting for him.

Mr. A. J. Ollenbach, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Coll, is posted to Champaran. This cancels the order posting Mr. Ollenbach to Purnea.

Mr. J. A. Reuther, Inspector of Schools, Burdwan, Circle, is transferred to Eastern Circle vice Rai Sahib Dinanath Sen retired. Babu Abinash Chunder Chatterji, Assistant Inspector of Schools Patna Division, acting for him.

Babu Jagat Bandhu Laha, Head Master, Dacca Training School, is appointed to be Assistant Inspector of Schools, Patna Division. Babu Mukund Chandra Bidiabagish, Head Master, Calcutta Training School, acting for him.

Babu Barada Prasad Ghose, Head Master, Rungpur Training School, is transferred to the Calcutta Training School. Babu Jay Gopal Day, Professor, Chittagong College, acting for him, and Babu Ashutosh Chatterjee M. A., acting for the latter.

The following promotions are sanctioned in the Provincial Educational Service with effect from the 1st April, 1898:

Promoted substantively to Class I. Mr. J. A. Reuther.

Promoted substantively to Class II. Babu Mathurath Chattopadhyay.

Promoted substantively to Class III. Babu Chandra Mohan Mazumdar.

Promoted substantively to Class IV. Babu Bepin Behari Gupta.

Promoted substantively to Class V. Babu Brajendra Kumar Guha.

Babu Rajendra Nath Banerjee, Head Master of the Ravenshaw Collegiate School, Cuttack, is transferred to the Hooghly Branch School. Babu Hari Das Banerjee, Dy. Inspector of Schools, Sonthal Parganas, now Offg. Head Master of the Rangpur Training School, acting for him.

Maulvi Syed Anwar Hasan, Special Sub-Registrar of Dacca, is allowed leave for one month, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations. Maulvi Wajiduddin Ahmad, Rural Sub-Registrar of Munshiganj, acting for him.

Babu Gopal Krishna Ghose, Munsif of Bolpur, is appointed to be a Munsif of Balasore.

Babu Lal Behari Dey, Munsif of Balasore, is appointed to be a Munsif of Pabna.

Babu Mahendra Lal Das, B.L., Munsif, is appointed to be a Munsif of Comilla, but to be on deputation as an Addl Munsif of Bankura.

Babu Beeroja Charan Mitra, Munsif of Comilla, who is now on deputation as an Addl Munsif of Bankura, on leave, is appointed to be a Munsif of Hooghly.

Babu Kayash Chunder Mazumdar, Munsif of Hooghly, who is now acting as Sub Judge of Khulna, is appointed to be a Munsif of Patuakhali, but to continue to act, until further orders in his present appointment.

Babu Narendranath Nath Dhar, Munsif of Patuakhali, on leave, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Gaya.

Babu Saroda Prasad Sen, Munsif of Gaya, is appointed to be a Munsif of Lakhimpur.

Babu Bepin Behari Das, Munsif of Lakhimpur, is appointed to be a Munsif of Bajitpur.

Babu Dino Nath Dey, Munsif of Bajitpur, is appointed to be a Munsif of Phulbari.

Babu Hari Das Bose, Munsif of Phulbari, is appointed to be a Munsif of Jhenida.

Babu Manmatha Nath Chatterjee, Munsif of Jhenida, is appointed to be Munsif of Nabinagar, but to continue to act, until further orders, in his present appointment as officiating Subordinate Judge of Dacca.

Mr. Sultan Sayyid Saudat Hossein, Barrister-at-Law, is appointed to be a Munsif of Kasba, but to act in his present appointment as Sub Judge of Tippera.

Babu Durga Kanto Roy, now acting as an Additional Munsif in the district of Mymensingh, is allowed to act as an Officiating Additional Munsif in the district of Mymensingh.

Babu Chandrar Kumar Roy, Sub Judge, Rajshahi, is allowed leave for two months, viz. thirty days under article 309 of the Civil Service Regulations, and the remaining period under article 306 (b) of the same Regulations.

Babu Aswini Kumar Guha, Munsif of Faridpur, is allowed leave for twenty days, under article 306 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 15th April, 1898.

Babu Gopal Chandra Bose, Sub Judge of Tippera, on deputation as an Offg. Addl. Sub Judge at Mymensingh, is allowed leave for one month, under article 307 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Bepin Behari Mookerjee, Munsif of Mymensingh, acting for him. Babu Promotho Krishna Singh, Munsif of Netrakona, acting for the latter.

The following promotions, confirmations and appointments are sanctioned in the Judicial Branch of the Provincial Civil Service:—

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 STANISTREET & CO., AND B. K. PAUL & CO., Calcutta.

Promoted substantively to the first grade of Sub Judges. Babu Radha Krishna Sen, with effect from the 15th February 1898.

Promoted substantively to the second grade of Sub Judges. Babu Karuna Das Bose, with effect from the 15th February 1898.

Confirmed in the third grade of Sub Judges. Babu Girindra Mohan Chuckerbutty, with effect from the 13th December 1897. Babu Kartik Chandra Pal, with effect from the 15th February 1898.

Appointed substantively pro tempore to the third grade of Sub Judges. Babu Manmatha Nath Chatterjee, with effect from the 18th December 1897. Babu Mati Lal Haldar, with effect from the 15th February 1898.

Confirmed in the first grade of Munsifs. Babu Nundo Lal Dey, with effect from the 13th December 1897. Babu Hari Nath Roy, with effect from the 15th February 1898.

Promoted substantively pro tempore to the first grade of Munsifs. Babu Har Mohan Bose, with effect from the 13th December 1897. Babu Mohendra Nath Mukerji, with effect from the 15th February 1898.

Confirmed in the second grade of Munsifs. Babu Kali Dhan Mookerjee, with effect from the 13th December 1897. Babu Ambika Charan Mukerji, with effect from the 15th February 1898.

Promoted substantively pro tempore to the second grade of Munsifs. Babu Dandadhar Biswas, with effect from the 13th December 1897. Babu Narendranath Dhar, with effect from the 15th February 1898.

Confirmed in the third grade of Munsifs. Babu Asutosh Ghose, with effect from the 13th December 1897. Babu Shama Churn Chuckerbutty, with effect from the 15th February 1898.

Promoted substantively pro tempore to the third grade of Munsifs. Babu Parua Chunder Sirkar, with effect from the 13th December 1897. Babu Mohendra Nath Dutt, with effect from the 15th February 1898.

Appointed to the fourth grade of Munsifs. Babu Mohendra Lal Das, B.L.

Confirmed in the fourth grade of Munsifs. Babu Bepin Behari Das, with effect from the 13th December 1897.

Appointed substantively pro tempore to the fourth grade of Munsifs. Mr. Sultan Sayyid Saudat Hossein, Barrister-at-Law, Babu Sarat Chandra Bose.

Babu Kartik Chandra Pal, Munsif of Nabinagar, sub pro tempore Sub Judge of Birbhum, Faridpur, is confirmed in his present appointment as Subordinate Judge of Tippera.

Babu Behari Lal Malik, Sub Judge of Tippera, who is now on deputation as an Addl Sub Judge at Faridpur, is appointed to be Subordinate Judge of Dacca but to be on deputation as an Addl Sub Judge of Saran.

Babu Manmatha Nath Chatterjee, Munsif of Jhenida, who is now officiating as Sub Judge of Dacca, is appointed to be sub pro tempore Addl Sub Judge of Birbhum, Faridpur and Saran, but to continue to act in his present appointment as Subordinate Judge of Dacca.

The services of Babu Mati Lal Haldar, Addl Munsif of Mymensingh, who is now acting as Subordinate Judge of Tippera, are placed at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

Babu Binod Behari Mitter, Munsif of Pabna, is appointed to be a Munsif of Bolpur.

India and England.

LONDON, MARCH 18.

THE "GLOBE" ON SIR W. WEDDERBURN.

THE "Globe" has always passed as the special organ of the Conservative gentlemen and is the favourite paper of the Service and other aristocratic Clubs. It has always been very severe in its censures of the Indian Vernacular Press—indeed, it is to its editor we are indebted for the coming of that favourite expression, "Reptile press." I do not, however, think that the most ignorant and seditious editor of a vernacular journal, is capable of spitting out such venom as the following paragraph which appears in the "Globe" this week, about one of the gentlest and best-liked members of the House of Commons:

"The House has learned to appraise Sir W. Wedderburn's wisdom at its proper value. The publisher of Gokhale's falsehoods, the man who would whitewash the real authors of the Poona murders, the idol of the disloyal spouters of Montague Mansions, was treated with but scant notice when he last ventured to address Parliament on an Indian question. He has now the assurance to use a mild to-term—tender his advice to the public through the columns of a contemporary on the subject of the recent riots in Bombay."

What an Indian Civil Servant, whose obnoxious fads went far to bring contempt on his Service, and whose public life at home has given his fellow-legislators such ample grounds for distrust, should pose as an instructor, is nothing less than ridiculous. An urbane and nodding doll, who chatters when the Indian Congress chooses to touch the spring, may be all very well in the temples where they worship such things; but times are too serious just now for the British public to regard it.

It is perhaps hardly worth while to point out the silly lies this foul-mouthed and ignorant creature writes about a man whose single-hearted patriotism is above the least breath of suspicion, who insults the religion of pious Hindus by describing the objects of their reverent worship as "chattering and nodding dolls." He speaks of Sir William Wedderburn as the publisher of "Gokhale's falsehoods," well aware all the time that the publisher was the editor of the "Manchester Guardian," a journal whose world-wide reputation for honour and fair play is only rivalled by that of the "Globe" for malevolence and venom. He speaks of the Indian Parliamentary leader of the Congress party as a man who would whitewash the real authors of the Poona murders, i.e. the Deccan Editors and Sirdars, ignoring the fact that a high tribunal in India has sentenced the real author of the Poona murders to death, after full trial in open court, in which not a shred of evidence was forthcoming to justify this malignant innuendo. This editor describes Sir William as the idol of the disloyal spouters of Montague Mansions, when he knows quite well that Sir William Wedderburn was not present on the occasion

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 travellers who were passing through a hotel I managed, and I must say I never knew it to fail, and all it is supposed to be in its effects. It is a medicine I can recommend, and one that everybody should keep."

CHAMBERLAIN'S Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea remedy is the most successful medicine in use for Dysentery, Diarrhoea, Colic, Cholera-Morbus and Cholera, and is for sale everywhere. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2.

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 least cough, I procure Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and the results are always satisfactory."

CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY is sold every where. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2.

to which he points, and that he cannot produce a single utterance of the man he vilifies to justify the charge of disloyalty. He then attacks Sir William Wedderburn's Indian Civil Service record, as a career of obnoxious fads which brought contempt on his Service. Had this editor only reached out his hand for the "India Office list," which lies on his desk, for handy reference, he would have seen that Sir William Wedderburn rose by steady and unvarying promotion through 25 years of service to the distinguished position of Acting Chief Secretary to the Bombay Government. But enough. I only wish to give an instance of the blackguardism to which an otherwise reputable journal can descend, when Anglo-Indian prejudice and hatred of "Niggers" sits enthroned in its editorial chair. I am thankful, however, to be able to say in his own words, "times are too serious just now for the British public to regard it." I am quite certain, the very last man to pay the smallest heed to it, is the upright, honourable and patriotic man who is the object of this mendacious spite. I only soil your columns with it to show how insanely malevolent men of this kind can become, and as a fitting note to this month's "Review of Reviews,"

MR. STEAD ON INDIA.

There can be no dispute about this—the man, who is most competent to speak on behalf of British journalism with regard to any question touching the liberty of the press which is one of the pillars of our liberties, is Mr. W. T. Stead. I have seen a good deal of him the last few weeks, and find him filled with passionate sympathy for his oppressed brother-editors in India, and determined to do everything in his power to stand by them in the present crisis of their history. He strikes a fine note in this month's "Review of Reviews," under the head line of

"THE BETRAYAL OF BRITISH INDIA TO RUSSIA."

Day by day it is becoming increasingly difficult to recognise the Government that exists in the Indian Empire as a British Government. Judging from the new law of sedition, which cuts up by the roots the liberty of the press, India might have already been conquered and annexed to Russia. Lord Elgin and his colleagues certainly seem to be diligently preparing for the advent of the Cossack. A few more Bills like Mr. Chalmers' press gag, and the Tsar will find himself as much at home in Calcutta as in Siberia or Poland. But it is not only in suppressing the liberty of the press and stifling freedom of speech that the despots of India are approximating the Government of Russia. Nothing is more opposed to English principles, nothing more abhorred by English sentiment, than the abominable practice of imprisonment without trial by order of the Government. But the Natu brothers of Poona have been in gaol since last August, untried, with no opportunity of clearing themselves from the charge which has never been formulated against them, and with no chance of being heard in their own defence. Their detention is in flat violation of Magna Charta and Habeas Corpus and all the principles of law and liberty and justice which are to Britons what Britain means. Yet Lord George Hamilton refuses either to release them or to send them for trial, alleging the usual formula of the authors of *l'ordre de cachet*. But this is not merely to endanger England's rule in India. It is to dethrone it and to put Russian rule in its place. For my part I love Russia, but I don't believe in paying Lord Elgin to govern India on Russian principles.

This is pretty strong meat, but Mr. Stead threatens an article next month specially dealing with Mr. Chalmers' new legislation and is only waiting for its full text. I should not wonder if he deliberately and of set purpose breaks every provision of the new law in the course of the article, and sends 'an advance copy to the Post Master General of India and the Viceroy, inviting them to seize and suppress all the copies of the "Review of Reviews" which come out by the following mail. This would be a very interesting experiment to make, and will put the Government in a cleft stick with regard to their Post Office clauses. Mr. Stead tells me that never till now has he felt any special duty towards India; but his wrath is so moved by recent events that he is considering the possibility of issuing a special Indian "Review of Reviews" on the same line as his Australian and American edition, with a certain proportion of its space specially devoted to India, publishing it in Bombay, and practically becoming an Indian journalist, incurring all the responsibilities attaching to that somewhat risky position. Anyhow he tells me he fully hopes to visit India in the autumn and see the country and its peoples for himself. If he carries out his intentions, you may look for lively times; for, when Mr. Stead makes a break in any direction, he is not an easy man to stop. He feels very strongly that some English journalist ought to come to the rescue of the Indian Editors, and take up on their behalf the gage which the Government has thrown down in their Press-gagging legislation. He is not yet satisfied that he is the right man; but if he once makes up his mind that he is, nothing but death itself will turn from any purpose which his conscience dictates to him.

LORD SALISBURY'S HEALTH.

Lord Salisbury continues in very bad health; and his doctors tell him it is the result of the great strain upon him of the Foreign Office and the Premiership. He cannot do his work without inducing fever, and as soon as he is able to travel, he will go to the South of France for complete rest. It will be curious that, with all the silly talk which is going on about possible war with France, that the Queen, the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, will all there be the guests of France for the next few weeks. Everybody sympathises deeply with Lord Salisbury in this failure of physical strength, and trusts he may soon recover. But all the same the opinion is universal that it is eminently unwise that the Prime Minister of this Great Empire should also take on himself the added burden and worry of the greatest and most wearying of the Secretaryships of State. It has been arranged that Mr. Arthur Balfour shall be acting Foreign Secretary during his illustrious uncle's illness, and it could not be in better hands; but the opinion everywhere prevails, that on his recovery Lord Salisbury will

have to appoint a Foreign Secretary. The general wish is for Lord Cromer in the first instance, and failing him, Lord Dufferin. This would obviate the necessity of any shifting of office within the Cabinet and either of these men would make a welcome addition to its strength.

THE WAR RUMOURS.

Your readers may disregard safely all the rumours of war between this country and France or Russia. That there has been a warm war-sentiment in the Metropolitan Press, is the result of the strenuous controversies in which our Foreign Office has been engaged with France about her aggressions in the African Hinterland, and with Russia about her advances in Northern China, cannot be denied. But of all countries in the world there is none whose public opinion is so little dominated by its metropolitan press. The great provincial journals like the "Manchester Guardian," "the Leeds Mercury," the "Yorkshire Post," the "Bradford Observer," the "Liverpool Post," the "Birmingham Daily Post," the "Newcastle Chronicle," the "Scotsman" and the "Glasgow Herald" sway and influence provincial opinion and have circulation equal to and often greatly exceeding that of the London press. The country is never so easily moved as the metropolis on such matters as Foreign policy, and keeps a level head through all these warlike rumours and scares. The nation at large is far too sensible, and the same may be said of France, to allow its ministers to quarrel with another great Power over the occupation of sterile and unprofitable wildernesses in the back regions of Central Africa; while the advances of Russia towards Part Arthur are only in response to friendly invitations given repeatedly by British Cabinets in the past, and are only the outcome of the perfectly natural desire on the part of Russia to find a port for the terminus of her greatest national enterprise, the Siberian Railway, that shall have warm water all the year round for her ships and commerce. There is absolutely no case for war between Russia or France or both, and ourselves. That there are disputes afoot is undoubted; but they are all of a nature that lends itself with ease to statecraft, diplomacy or in the last resort, to arbitration. All these foolish, wicked wars scare find their origin mainly in military and naval circles. The British Empire is spending some seventy millions sterling every year on armaments; and the vested interests involved are like the daughter of the Horse-leech continually crying out "give! give! give!" Their demands this year are a little more exorbitant than usual, and they get up war scares to stimulate the fears of the general public and get the money out of their pockets the easier. With our vast and complex Empire, we are always at loggerheads with some or other Power and there is always material for such scares. We have been at peace with France for over 80 years and I have no doubt we shall be for another 80; while the very last thing in the world that Russia desires, just as she reaches the accomplishment of the greatest enterprise of her history, the Siberian Railway, is a quarrel with the most powerful naval force in the world, that could with perfect ease and a minimum of national loss thwart and destroy that accomplishment. Common sense, however, has never been a characteristic of the Jingo.

MR. MORLEY'S MOTION.

Mr. John Morley yesterday gave another proof of the warm interest he feels in Indian questions, by moving for a return setting out (1) wars and military operations on or beyond the borders of British India, in which the Government of India has been engaged since 1849, in chronological order; (2) the causes of such wars or operations; (3) the locality in which troops operated; (4) the results obtained; (5) the numbers, approximately, of troops employed; (6) the cost of such wars or operations (where shown separately in the accounts of the Government of India); and (7) the amount of any contributions, towards such cost from the British Treasury.

The motion was agreed to. Now this identical return was moved for by Mr. Herbert Roberts three weeks ago, and refused by Lord George Hamilton on the score of the impossibility of giving it with any degree of accuracy. But a good deal has happened since then, and now the Secretary of State dare not refuse to a Front Bench man the return he refused three weeks ago to a back-bench member. Lord George all over!

WE are glad that Mr. Stewart-Wilson, the Deputy-Director-General of Post Offices, has placed Babu Dwarka Nath Goswami, Superintendent of Post Offices, Chittagong, in charge of such an important Division as Patna. We would have been more glad if his place at Chittagong had been filled in by appointing a native, instead of Mr. Hughes.

A private, named Kilik, belonging to the East Surrey Regiment, stationed at Fyzabad, will be placed on his trial at the next sessions of the Allahabad High Court, to be held on the 18th instant, for the murder of a native. The facts are stated to be as follow: On the 12th February, the accused shot a peacock at Pipargaoon. The villagers remonstrated, and hot words passed between them and the accused. They would not part with the dead peacock; and upon this, the accused stabbed one of them with a knife, resulting in his death from the effects of the wound.

ANOTHER outbreak of Moplahs is reported from Panditad, the well-known scene of former outbreaks. A gang numbering 20, had waylaid and beaten to death, on Friday night, a wealthy Namudra land-owner of Ennad. The cause of this outrage appears to have been ill-feeling, roused among certain Moplah tenants against the landlord. Four are reported to have been arrested. The remainder burned a Hindu temple and determined to become martyrs. The district authorities are taking vigorous measures to arrest and prevent the spread of the outbreak. The gang is reported to be poorly armed and troops have, therefore, not been requisitioned as yet.

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India and England.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

THE NEW PLAGUE POLICY.

LONDON, MAR. 18.

THE Bombay Government, judging by the telegrams sent to Lord George Hamilton and the press this week, are coming to a sane state of mind about the plague administrations. When sinners repent and bring forth works meet for repentance, it is best to accept the fact thankfully and not rake up the ashes of the past more than is necessary. On Monday, in reply to a searching question from Mr. Herbert Roberts in the House of Commons, Lord G. Hamilton said:—A limited number of picked European soldiers have been employed on search parties at Bombay. This experiment had been tried with great success at Poona, and, so far as I am aware, had caused no friction whatever. I am, however, informed that, in Bombay, British soldiers had ceased to be thus employed a few days before the beginning of the recent disturbance. A large instalment of papers concerning the plague has been in the press for presentation to Parliament since February 3 last. I hope they may shortly be in the hands of hon. members. When they are distributed, I will consider what further papers can be presented.

Mr. Maclean.—Can the noble lord say whether he has any further information as to the plague at Bombay?

Lord G. Hamilton.—Yes; I received a telegram this morning to this effect:—"Bombay quiet. Dock labourers not yet returned to work. Total arrests in connexion with riot about 200."

On Wednesday, Reuter telegraphed as follows:—

"At a large meeting of Justices held in the Town Hall to-day, the Governor delivered a speech on the subject of the proposed new measures for dealing with the plague. He stated that search parties were to be abolished experimentally and all suspicious cases were to be reported by the headmen of the various communities. There would be no inspection of corpses or measures, entailing delay in the performance of funeral rites."

From this it is clear that the grave blunder perpetrated at Poona, of employing British troops in plague search parties, has been repeated at Bombay,—an act of surprising folly which has brought its own consequences and punishment in the recent riots. I am not surprised therefore to learn that a few days before the disturbances developed, this disastrous policy was abandoned, though too late to prevent the outburst of popular rage and the lamentable loss of life which followed. I think, for cool audacity the statement of Lord George Hamilton, that the employment of British soldiers at Poona had "caused no friction whatever," beats his record; and he has a good one. The later news that entirely new measures for dealing with the plague are to be adopted, that would throw responsibility more upon the heads of the various communities, has given lively satisfaction in this country; and I trust those heads of communities will fully justify the confidence, so far too long delayed, which the Government places in them and will prevent any necessity for a return to the condemned methods.

In justice to Lord Sandhurst and his colleagues it must be said that the responsibility for these plague measures, which has proved so unpopular, rests upon the Secretary of State for India, the Government here having been subjected to the severest pressure from the great Powers of Europe, whose sanitary advisers firmly believe that India is the generating and endemic abode of cholera and plague. In consequence of strong representations made to the British Government, they in turn passed them on to India whose Government protested, but in vain, that they would exasperate the people and produce resistance, passive, if not active, that would render these extreme sanitary regulations nugatory and futile. However popular agitation on the Continent became so acute and the threats of extreme quarantine were so dreaded by British merchants, that the India Office put the screw on the Indian Government. It is right enough that the Secretary of State should lay down the principles on which the administration of India is to be carried out; but until Lord George Hamilton brought his fidgety nature to the India Office, the arrangement of detail and methods were left entirely to the local Governments of India. It is this fatal change which is mainly, if not entirely, responsible for two-thirds of the unrest and trouble which has beset India for the last two years; and it is a great relief to find that Lord Sandhurst has been able to break through India Office bonds, and reverse a policy respecting the plague, which, in his heart of hearts, he can never really have approved.

The leaders of the native population in Bombay must be well aware that no Government can tolerate or make terms with rioters, who have to be sternly repressed in the interests of the entire community, and punished whatever may have been the provocation. But the news this week, if correct, indicate a desire on the part of the Bombay Government to learn the lesson which the riot teaches; and it is the duty of every Indian leader in Bombay society to give hearty co-operation and make it easy for them to do right and difficult to do wrong. It is a great opportunity for the educated and cultured natives of Bombay to show that they can and will reason with and influence the more ignorant members of their respective communities, to do for themselves as effectually what the Government have failed to accomplish by methods approved by scientific research and experience. If I read the telegrams aright, Lord Sandhurst has virtually said to the Bombay leaders of native opinion and action—"very well, you repudiate and resist methods of suppression and precautions against the spread of plague which have the sanction of all sound authority, because they inevitably clash with and outrage the most sacred feelings of communities saturated with long ages of caste, rule and custom. We withdraw these objectionable methods, and look to you to persuade those over whom you, as educated men, exercise so much influence, to help us to substitute other, though less effectual, methods of suppressing this awful pestilence." It will go hard with these leaders in the public estimation of this country, if it can be shown that they have been unable or unwilling to rise

to the responsibility thus, as it appears, now thrown upon them.

I send you a number of press cuttings which will illustrate the trend of public opinion in this country with regard to the Bombay riots, and I think you will be struck with the moderate tone displayed by both political sides. I do not think any of them are worth reproducing at length in this letter, except perhaps the following extract from a powerful article in the "Spectator," which with great ability summarises the talk of practical men on this important question. The Editor asks:—

"What ought to be done? As usual, there are three courses open to us, either of which would be effectual, though to each there are serious objections. One, which ought not to be rejected summarily, is to suspend all sanitary measures, and allow the plague to ravage until it has killed out all who are liable to its ravages. That course would be certainly popular, and we do not know that we are bound merely as Christians to save a population which does not wish to be saved, from dying a little earlier than usual of a disease which we did not introduce. It is, however, certain that we are bound, as civilising and vivifying rulers, to make the attempt, and that to give it up, because of opposition, is to give up the one solid excuse for our sovereignty in India, and to reduce our presence there to something unpleasantly like a highly successful dacoity. We must save the people if we can, to prove to ourselves that we are wiser than they, and in saying them we must rely on our own ideas and our own science. The second course is to hold down Bombay by sheer force, to make the doctors absolute, to shoot down those who resist, and to wait steadily through months of disorder, suffering, and humiliation until the disease shall take itself away. That is the plan approved here; it probably will be the plan adopted; and it has this merit, that we shall do at any hazard what we believe to be our duty. If we were sure of success, it would be the only plan; but as success is doubtful, statesmen may well consider that it involves a frightful deepening of the cleavage between the rulers and the ruled, that it may have to be pursued permanently, the plague reappearing from year to year and that if the visitation marched through India the plan would overtake our strength. We simply have not the force to carry out such regulations in cities full of Sikhs and distant from the coast, two of which would at any moment hold down Bombay if it were seething with insurrection. The third course which, if practicable, is free of all these evils, is to consult the best moolahs and pundits as to the rules which really affect religious faith or the Indian ideas of honour to withdraw these and to devote all strength and attention to the thorough cleansing of the city, remaking all drains, opening all quarters impervious to the wind from the sea, burning the floor of the streets, exterminating all rats, closing all chawls—the vast tenement-houses with five hundred inhabitants, which are packed like sardine-boxes—and burning down remorselessly every house in which an inmate has died of the plague. Those measures, unaccompanied by segregation, have been successful in Europe, and as science is not local they ought to be successful in Bombay. It should be intimated to the people at the same time that the demands of their religions having been satisfied, any further attempt at license would be put down summarily by soldiers as well as the police. Order must be maintained in a city like Bombay, whatever the expenditure of lives, but to a reasonable man there is something very depressing in being compelled to kill her Majesty's subjects with bullets in order to persuade them not to suffer themselves to be killed by buboes."

I think I fairly interpret public opinion in this country when I say that the prevalent view of the situation is that the third course suggested, or something akin to it, is the one that forms the best and wisest to pursue; at all events that the first course being impossible to a civilized and humanitarian Government, the second having been tried and failed from lack of the popular support which is needed for its success, at any rate a fair trial might be given to some new scheme that would dispense with or reduce to a minimum all sources of provocation to resistance, and work along the lines of Asiatic, rather than European methods. If, as seems now likely, this course be pursued, and the native educated leaders withhold their active co-operation, the Government will have no alternative if it fails in consequence but that of falling back on the second course, and they will have British public sympathy at their back.

If in this new departure Lord Sandhurst gets this support loyally and is not hampered at every turn with fidgety interference from the Secretary of State, then with firmness and tact and with the help of a reconciled and placated Municipality, success should follow. I hope fresh complications will not be raised by savage punishment of the rioters; where it can be brought home that any one is guilty of inciting to riot and murder, let the punishment be as severe as possible, but it will be wisdom to let those arrested escape with short sentences, fines or reprimands.

The people of Bombay will make a great mistake if they think that these concessions are made to riot and outrage. They are not and Englishmen are the last to be moved by such arguments. The Government has probably been swayed not in the least by the rioters but by a very great deal by the passive and quite justifiably passive resistance and protest of closed shops and bazaars and the fifteen thousand dock and railway workmen who have struck work. If I might venture on a word of advice to the Editors of Indian journals and other leaders of public opinion, it would be to urge them to drop useless recrimination and let the dead past bury its dead. The whole plague administration from the first has been a muddle, and there has been blame all round in which Government, Municipality and the people's own leaders have had and must bear their share of blame. One thing anyhow is certain, and that is that the plague has hopelessly beaten the administration, that the administration at last acknowledges defeat and proposes a fresh campaign. Hitherto the plague administration has been tainted with distrust of the people's natural leaders and contempt for the religious feeling of the people. Now, if the telegrams fairly interpret their intentions, the Government seek to enlist the co-operation of these leaders themselves, and to carry out their plague adminis-

tration in sympathy with the most sacred feelings of the unhappy victims. It is pleasant to know and believe that this was the intention of the Government before the riot broke out, and that they have been strong enough to hold to it afterwards.

Nothing has pleased us here so much for a long time past than Lord Sandhurst's telegram last week to the effect that the news of the riot reached him while he was actually conferring with native gentlemen and devising means for combining efficiency with the greatest possible regard for native susceptibilities. Indians are capable of large-hearted gratitude and affection and will be ready enough to forget the past and accept the new regime. We may wish that these means were adopted 12 months ago, without being ungrateful that they have been adopted to-day. If this new departure of Lord Sandhurst means that he has learnt at last that no country not even India can be successfully governed by suspicion and distrust of the people and that he is going boldly in for a policy of confidence and trust, I believe he will be pleasantly surprised by the loyal response he will receive. If he perseveres in that policy he will get the abuse of the "Globe" and the "Pioneer" and the gratitude of the civilized world. I know him and think him equal to it.

THE RETIREMENT OF SIR JOHN EDGE.

(Communicated.)

SIR JOHN EDGE leaves these shores for good after the lapse of nearly 12 years, during which he was Chief Justice of the N. W. P. High Court. It is customary, on the retirement of a high functionary of State to whom are committed sacred and important trusts, affecting the welfare of millions, to review his career and to see how far he has discharged his commission faithfully and satisfactorily; and this can never fail to be profitable.

The period of Sir John's incumbency was perhaps the most eventful, nay, stormy period in the annals of the N. W. P. High Court. Sir John Edge was in some respects an extraordinary man; and we should not be surprised if some of his doings were also extraordinary. That Sir John was a strong-minded man, laborious and painstaking, energetic and straightforward, his worst enemies would not deny. It must also be freely conceded that he did good service as Vice-Chancellor of the Allahabad University and as President of the Provincial Famine Committee; and he left his mark on the Volunteer movement.

For these he deserves well of the community. But he rendered those services to the community not in the discharge of his legitimate duties as Chief Justice, but as a worthy member of the community. The functions of a Chief Justice are in the main judicial, though he has some administrative work to do. Sir John's reputation to be permanent, must be based chiefly upon judicial work.

It is a significant fact that during Sir John's term of office, the N. W. P. High Court showered Full Bench rulings—more Full Bench rulings emanated from that Court than from all the other High Courts taken together during the same period. If those rulings could finally dispose of the questions dealt with therein, the time and money spent in their production would not have been thrown amiss. Unfortunately it so happened that the soundness of some of the judgments was doubted soon after their delivery. The rulings relating to insufficiently-stamped petitions and the rulings applying Sec. 373 of the Code of Civil Procedure to execution of decree cases, upset long-established practice and necessitated legislative interference to set matters right and called forth a well-merited censure from the Privy Council. So that in spite of the expenditure of time and energy, caused by the very large number of Full Bench rulings, the result was far from satisfactory. They did not improve matters much, nay, they rendered confusion worse confounded. Many of those rulings, not already reversed, will have to be considered over again sooner or later.

It is to be regretted that most of the leading cases decided by Sir John Edge, are destined to be wiped off. Sir Antony MacDonnell, in his speech at the farewell dinner, held in honour of Sir John Edge, declared that Sir John brought to his high office "a wide range of legal learning and strong grasp of legal principles." But in spite of the high authority of the Lieutenant-governor, the decided cases did not establish it. Their lordships of the Privy Council, in reversing some of the leading cases decided by Sir John, made remarks, not very complimentary to his "strong grasp of legal principles." Thus it is evident that he did the judicial part of his work indifferently indeed, and he will not rank in public estimation with the best Indian Judges.

Sir John's judicial errors were due in a great measure to his inability to view calmly the four corners of a question and to his inability to brook contradiction. He could not bear even his colleagues on the bench taking a different view from his own. A little show of independence on the part of any of the puisne Judges, often called forth from him unseemly scowls. Disrespect for others, opinions might be a trait in a great man; but it is certainly not conducive to a fair administration of justice. Strong-mindedness is a highly desirable quality, but, if dissociated from a well-balanced judgment and calmness of temper, it degenerates into strong-headedness and leads to errors. The consequence was that Sir John was often swayed by first impressions, and first impressions are not always right.

Sir John was equally, if not more, conspicuous in administrative matters. It would be useless to rip open the incidents leading to the resignation of Justice Mahmood—a thing unparalleled in the history of Indian High Courts. He had his shortcomings, like all mortals. But the general impression is that if he had been a little less independent and a little more subservient to the wishes of the Chief Justice than he was, that would have covered a multitude of sins and the public would probably have been spared the scandal of his retirement.

To Sir John Edge is mainly due the credit of recasting the old rules of practice and framing a body of new ones, somewhat evolutionary in character. How far these rules will prove beneficial and stand the test of time it remains to be seen. After their promulgation additions and alterations had to be made repeatedly; and it is uncertain whether they have yet been made perfect.

Sir John's efforts to purify the profession by stamping out toutism, were highly laud-

able. He acted from the best motives; but here, as in so many other cases, he misconceived the true nature of the malady and the remedy applicable. Sir John probably believed that human nature could be purified by codification or by framing and enforcing rules. He forgot that the object of penal laws and the machinery for their application was prevention, not cure. In this connection he had recourse to measures, which, however, pardonable in a police officer, could never be so in a Judge. With a view to stamp out toutism, espionage was encouraged; and the Chief Justice would sometimes form opinions of persons practising in the High Court upon *ex parte* and irresponsible statements. He did not stop there. A deadly blow was aimed at the independence of the bar, ostensibly to eradicate toutism. He covertly classified the practitioners and allowed costs, in cases conducted by them, to some on the higher scale and to some on the lower scale, while to others he allowed none at all. Award of costs was entirely stopped in the case of certain practitioners without even an explanation being ever taken from any of them. This is an English, to say the least. In British Courts no person is ever condemned unheard; but in the Allahabad High Court certain persons were thus condemned without an opportunity being ever given to them to afford an explanation. But the question is, after what has been done to eradicate it, has toutism been stamped out? Have people become purer in heart in consequence of the rules? Opinions highly differ as to this. A number of vagabonds prowling through the streets of Allahabad and misleading poor and inexperienced clients, were marked out and forbidden to approach the Court precincts. But toutism in its more refined and insidious form is as rampant now as it ever was before. If the rules by stopping to some extent diffusion have brought on an intensified congestion, it is an aggravation of the evil.

Sir John Edge was chiefly instrumental in elevating a few Vakeels to the status of Advocates, and those gentlemen must be highly grateful to Sir John. But whether this was done as a reward of merit or good service, is not very clear.

The Library of the Allahabad High Court, which was very meagre when Sir John took his seat as Chief Justice, is now a splendid one; and the credit is certainly due to the retiring Chief Justice. Both sections of the bar are equally indebted to him for this.

No review of Sir John's Indian career can ever be complete without mentioning one very important trait in his character, that is, his freedom from race-prejudices. He never made any invidious distinctions between natives and Europeans, whether they were practitioners, suitors or persons coming before the Court, charged with any offence. This was particularly gratifying to the natives, and they will cherish his memory, if not for anything else, at least for this.

Sir John was a good-intentioned man all through. He always meant to do right, and his mistakes were not due to lack of motive to do right, but to other causes. All honour is due to him who, like Sir John, acts from honest motives, though he may err and fail to secure the result desired. Now that Sir John proceeds home after 12 years' residence in India, during which he not only laboured incessantly in the High Court, according to his lights, but held several honorary appointments, sometimes joining even young men's debating societies and encouraging them by advice and example, we wish him God-speed.

"GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN."

"TELL me the story again"—pleaded a small childish voice, and the man paused in his feverish pacing to and fro to smile down at the tiny white face and dark-lashed eyes upraised to his.

"What, again, Basil?" he said, with a forced laugh. "How many times have I told it, little one?"

"Don't know," chirped the child; "but I never grow tired. Tell me again, Lylie." He seized the strong brown hand in his tiny wasted fingers, and looked up coaxingly. "Wonder if I'll ever grow up to be such a big brave man?"

The man shuddered as he caught the child in his arms, and seated himself on the solitary rush chair that his prison hosted. He knew, though the child did not, that their days were numbered. The two had been prisoners since the time of the rising at Mian Mir, when the blacks had fired the English settlement and forcibly carried off Desmond Lisle, the second lieutenant, and little Basil North, the Colonel's youngest child, in revenge for the execution of their chief, Lotafee, and on the return of his brother Ranunoo it was the intention of these inhuman fiends to offer the two captives to the injured chief as victims to avenge the murder of his kinsman.

Though Desmond Lisle was kept securely watched and guarded the little one was allowed to run wild, though always under the eyes of his captors. With the aid of a rusty nail and a piece of blue cloth torn from his capulet, Lisle managed to trace a message, using the blood from a scratch in his arm as ink:—

"On the north bend of river, in the marshes—help—speedily.—Lisle."

His idea was to obtain a piece of cork or a small bottle to which he might attach the cloth, and get the child to throw it in the river, but Basil could find neither, and so the last forlorn hope had failed.

For the fifth time he related the story of the brave warrior who had held the fort against fearful odds and at length had died within sight of the relief party, and the child listened with eager eyes and bated breath till he got to the part where they buried his hero—

"An' they carved a wooden cross," he broke excitedly, "an' cut some words in the wood for the 'scription.' I member the words, but I can't say them, Lylie; say them again."

"Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend," quoted Desmond softly.

Basil's eyes grewed. "Wish I was a man," he sighed wistfully.

"So you will be some day, I hope," said the man, consolingly, bowing his head on the child's brown curls and registering a silent oath to end the tiny life with his own hands rather than see him fall into the hands of the torturers.

A dizziness that had been threatening many days began to steal over him—a daily faintness which he vainly strove to master; the awful suspense and torture of the last few days were beginning to tell on his strength and courage. Still holding the child in his arms, he staggered to a corner, and a heap of dried turf did duty for a bed, and falling down, sank into unconsciousness. For a few minutes the child lay quiet, then, thinking his companion slept, he sat up and pushed the curls out of his eyes—a vague idea took shape and form in the baby brain, he thrust his little fingers into the pocket of the unconscious man and drew out the scrap of blue cloth.

"I'll be the bottle," he murmured. "Jaja said

bodies floated as well as bottles," remembering some gruesome tales told by his ayah.

As he spoke he thrust the bloodstained cloth into the folds of his little tunic and bent over his friend. "Tell me the words again, Lylie," he whispered.

"I'm member what it means but I can't say it," Lisle moved restlessly and groaned, and Basil's brown eyes, filled with tears. "Got a pain," he whispered, "poor Lylie."

That even, just after sundown, a tiny form darted out of the wooden structure unseen by the guard and vanished like a shadow among the long grass.

At dawn the next day a party of English officers were bathing in the creek adjoining the encampment when there suddenly hove in sight a canoe, apparently empty. The youngest of the bathers swam towards it with the intention of investigating.

"Take care," called one of the party; "it may be one of those black devils in ambush."

In less time than it takes to relate the whole party were on dry land and bending over a tiny form. It was a curious fact that, though a knife had been plunged into the baby's breast, no trace of fear or agony was to be seen on the calm face. One little hand clutched the folds of his dress where his treasure lay hidden, and a smile played round his small red mouth. "He died by drowning," said the military surgeon unsteadily, as he drew out the cruel blade; "this was done after death; the little one suffered no pain."

As he spoke his eye caught sight of the piece of blue cloth that lay against the small white breast, and amidst breathless silence he read the blood-stained message.

Before another sunset Lisle was rescued, and dire vengeance fell upon the would-be murderers. It was months before the sick man grew well enough to tell what had happened, and only then did the garrison learn the true story of little Basil's heroism.

A cross of gold would not have been sufficient reward in the estimation of all who had loved the little one, but Desmond said it should be a wooden cross, and with his own hands he cut the inscription that had fired the baby's heart with such dauntless courage.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend Basil North, aged five years."

BULL-FIGHTING.

BULL-FIGHTING has been the national sport of Spain for considerably over a thousand years. It was originated by the Moors in their early occupation of the country. The method in which it is carried out has undergone many changes, however, from time to time. The modern Spanish bull-fight may be briefly described. An immense amphitheatre is provided, and, as the hour draws near for the contest, this is crowded on every tier with eager spectators, comprising members of both sexes and of all ranks in life. Some of these amphitheatres are capable of holding 20,000 people. The ring is cleared, a fine military band plays some spirited selection, and a procession of toreros slowly advances, each bowing low before the president of the sport. Then there is a shrill blast of trumpets, a gate at the side of the ring swings open, and the bull, decorated with bright-coloured ribbons, enters the ring. He is immediately surrounded by the "lidiadores," who goad him to excitement by flaunting their coloured cloaks beneath his nose. He makes a series of desperate charges, and marvellous nerve and dexterity is shown by the "lidiadores" in evading those terrible horns. Next comes the "picador," a mounted man, armed with a spiked lance, to further excite him. This is a very dangerous part of the performance, the man being often heavily thrown and their horses killed. After this, at a signal from the president, several "banderilleros" leap into the ring, each carrying a pair of short barbed sticks, ornamented with coloured paper. With these the bull is again goaded to fury, and then when he is most angry and most dangerous, the "espada" or swordsmen enters the ring to face the enraged animal, single-handed and on foot. He bows to the President, then advances steadily towards the bull, baiting him with a bright red cloak. For a time he plays the animal, and the scene is indeed an exciting one. A single false step, a moment's dimness of vision, a second's failure of nerve, and he is a dead man. But the espada has nerves of iron, and they seldom fail him. He points his long glittering sword, and at the right moment drives it home to the hilt in the bull's shoulder, and the plucky beast sinks to his knees, conquered at last. The espada or matador is the idol of the people, and many of them amass great fortunes. It was stated recently that one of the most popular received as much as £1,000 for each performance.

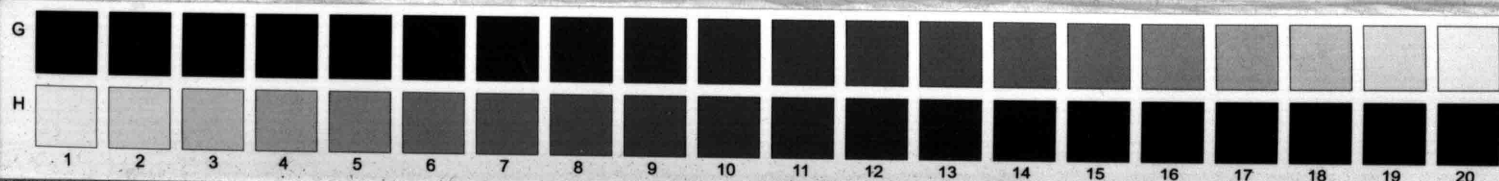
A MADRAS telegram, dated 3rd April, states, in the profession tax case Mr. Hamick's solicitors have asked the Presidency Magistrate who decided this matter to state a case for the High Court and have deposited the necessary costs. A case will accordingly be stated.

Two Companies of the 6th Native Infantry have been ordered to Hardoi on plague duty. There is no plague there at present, but in order to preserve order and see that sanitary arrangements are carried out, the two companies have been sent.

The result of the enquiries instituted by the Nizam's Government in the matter of the statements made by Private Thomas Albert Douglas of the 1st Battalion, Cheshire Regiment, to the effect that he wilfully waylaid and murdered a village postman in a village in his Highness' Dominions, and that he was concerned in the death of Mr. R. P. Franklin at Mylaram, is that the confessions of the private are void of truth. In fact, it has been found that Mr. Franklin died of some serious disease long after Private Douglas was arrested when in a state of desertion.

The Madras Legislative Council met on Monday morning, when owing to the absence, through illness, of Sir Henry Bliss, the Hon. Mr. A. J. Arundel, Chief Secretary to Government, presented the Financial Statement. The non-official members congratulated the Madras Government on the able and successful administration of last year during the famine. His Excellency, the Governor and the members of Council move for the hills to-morrow.

A SUMMARY of the District Officers' reports on the rice-crop prospects on the 28th February, 1898, in the fourteen chief rice-producing districts of Lower Burma shows that the area under crops has increased by 79,542 acres from the area reported last month. The districts which show increases are Hanthawaddy, 11,543 acres; Pegu, 5,640 acres; Tharawaddy, 2,318 acres; Thongwa, 14,496 acres; Bassein, 12,719 acres; Henzada, 9,609 acres; one Myaungmya, 31,495 acres. The areas reported from Akyab and Prome are less by 5,845 and 4,786 acres, respectively. To counterbalance these increases in area, the estimate of the crop has decreased in Hanthawaddy and Pegu, and increased in Amherst. The estimate of the exportable surplus is 1,930,000 tons of cargo rice, equivalent to 32,711,900 cwt. of cleaned rice.



THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Council met on Saturday morning at eleven o'clock at the Council Chamber in Writer's Building. There were present:—The Hon'ble Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal (presiding), the Hon'ble Sir Charles Paul, Advocate-General of Bengal, the Hon'ble W. H. Grimley, the Hon'ble H. H. Risley, the Hon'ble Rai Durga Gati Banerjee, Bahadur, the Hon'ble J. Pratt, the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Amir Hossein, the Hon'ble M. Finucane, the Hon'ble W. B. Oldham, the Hon'ble R. B. Buckley, the Hon'ble Shahbazada Mahomed Bakhtyar Shah, the Hon'ble M. C. Turner, the Hon'ble Norendra Nath Sen, the Hon'ble Saligram Singh, the Hon'ble Kali Churn Banerjee, the Hon'ble Surendra Nath Banerjee, the Hon'ble Jatra Mohan Sen, and the Hon'ble Mr. Spink.

THE BENGAL TENANCY BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. Finucane moved that the report on the Bill to amend the Bengal Tenancy Act, 1885, be taken into consideration, and that the clauses of the Bill be considered in the form recommended by the Select Committee.

The motion was put and agreed to.

There were a large number of amendments moved but a very insignificant portion of them were either accepted or carried, the majority and the more important ones being lost.

The Hon'ble Kali Churn Banerjee moved that the words "or in neighbouring villages" be omitted from section 2 of the Bill. He said the object of introducing these words in the section was to give further facilities to landlords to prove their case when they sought an enhancement. Nothing was shown why further facilities should be placed at their disposal, but, on the contrary, there was every reason why the area should not be extended.

The Hon. the Advocate-General thought that the word "neighbouring" would be very useful, as in practice the word "adjacent" had been found to be very vague.

The Hon. Mr. Finucane also opposed the amendment.

The Hon. Surendranath Banerjee supported the amendment, as he thought that the introduction of the words alluded to in the Bill was a practical abandonment of the concession to the ryots which had been admitted when the original Bill was passed. Not a shadow of a case had been made out for this important alteration, and, therefore, he thought, the words, which would give considerable powers to landlords, should be omitted.

His Honor the President remarked that this question of the prevailing rates had always been a vexed one upon which different opinions had been held by different classes of people. So far from the adoption of the section as it stood in the existing Tenancy Act being intended as a concession to the ryot, it was intended and declared to be a concession to the zemindar, for many authorities were at that time in favour of leaving out the prevailing rates altogether. His Excellency's Council, however, distinctly inserted the amendment as a concession to the zemindar. Now it was proved from experience that that section, as it stood in the Act, was unworkable, and was more or less a fraud upon the zemindars, and hence it had been for many years urged by many competent authorities, among others by Sir Charles Elliott and the Board of Revenue at different times, that some alteration was necessary, and this alteration had been carried out in the present Bill.

The amendment was put and lost.

The Hon. Norendra Nath Sen moved that section 31A in section 4 of the Bill be omitted, and he did so for three reasons: (1) That it would be difficult to work the section; (2) that it would be extremely difficult to classify the lands and the rates of rent which prevailed; and (3) that it would give opportunity to the zemindars' agents to manipulate the rates of rent.

The Hon. Mr. Finucane opposed the amendment, on the ground that the reasons given were not the same as those given for the amendments which had just been lost.

His Honor the President said: This question of "prevailing rates" has always appeared to be an extremely difficult one, and this section is an attempt to find a workable basis for it to be worked upon. It has been strongly supported by very many experienced Revenue officers, and it is also strongly supported by Sir Charles Elliott, who was an old experienced Settlement Officer himself. But I am myself so nervous as to the possible results of it that I thought, especially in Behar, it desirable to safeguard it by the provision with which it opens, and also by the addition of a section which provided that, when once the prevailing rate has been ascertained in this way, it shall not be enhanced again except upon the ground of a general rise in prices. With these safeguards I think the section will be workable, at any rate our Settlement Officers, who are also Revenue Officers, and who have considered the Bill in all its stages, have assured us that it will be safely worked in many parts of Bengal Proper. I have no doubt that the Government of Bengal will, before introducing it in many districts, make careful inquiries as to the probable effect of the reference to the rate existing in these districts, and it will be worked, I am convinced, under those circumstances.

The amendment was lost.

The Hon. Kali Churn Banerjee moved that the procedure for settlement of rents and decision of disputes in estates under settlement of land revenue be the same as the procedure for settlement of rents and decision of disputes in permanently settled estates.

His Honor the President ruled the amendment out of order.

The Hon'ble Norendra Nath Sen moved that after clause (g) of section 104H in section 7 of the Bill the following be added, namely:—“(h) That the alteration made in the existing rent by the Revenue Officer has not been made in accordance with, or is not justified by, the provisions of this Act regulating such alterations.” He said that the one question of the most vital importance to the tenant was the rent which he has to pay, and when this has been enhanced, and as he was not permitted to contest its justice or legality by a regular suit, it would be idle to confer on him the right to bring on matters of far less importance to him. He asked the Council to make this most important concession in favour of the ryot, as it was the only resource open to him against the powers conferred by this Bill on Settlement officers. He would appeal to the sense of justice and fairness of His Honor the President. If the section were not altered, as suggested by him, it would prove a source of great oppression to the ryots.

The Hon'ble Surendranath Banerjee who had also given notice of a similar amendment, but which he withdrew in favour of Babu Norendra Nath Sen's, said that the question was of vital importance to the ryots. The question was whether the reign of law was to be maintained or reign of discretion was to prevail. This amendment aimed at maintaining the reign of law and giving the ryots the power to test the correctness of the assessment in a court of law.

The Hon'ble Mr. Finucane opposed the amendment, as it was in direct contravention to the principle of the Bill. He was surprised to see that some of the members would work under a certain notion of things. They unnecessarily took up the time of the Council by a reiteration of a conception of their own.

The Hon'ble S. N. Banerjee: I hope the Council will allow me—

President: Let me point out.

The Hon'ble S. N. Banerjee: As these remarks are personal I think, sir, I am entitled to speak.

President: Will you please sit down?

His Honor the President resumed his seat.

His Honor the President observed that as the modifications of the Bill with regard to this matter were referred to the Select Committee without their being brought before the Council, the Hon'ble members were perfectly justified in discussing the point and he could not say that their observations on it were all out of order. As regards the amendment, he would say that the section did not affect the ryots of the permanently settled districts where the existing arrangement would prevail.

The amendment was lost.

The Hon. Jatra Mohan Sen moved that at the end of sub-section (1) of section 9 of the Bill, the following be added, namely:—“Provided also that a suit may, within three years from the commencement of this Act, be instituted in a competent Civil Court to contest the correctness of any settlement of rent made in an uncontested case, or the correctness of any decision of a dispute.”

The Hon. Mr. Finucane said: I oppose this amendment. Section 107 of the Tenancy Act declares that every decision of a Revenue Officer in settling rents or on a dispute shall have the force of a decree. The honorable member would let them have the force of a decree where the parties have contested the decision, but where they have agreed to it and not contested it, he would invite them to litigate now, and go on litigating for the next three years, thus ripping up everything that has been settled and accepted without contest. I cannot conceive what benefit anybody would derive from such a provision except lawyers. In Chittagong, from which the honorable member comes, rents have been settled and accepted for the most part without contest or litigation, because the enhancements have been very moderate. But not only have the new rents been settled, but they have been actually paid. Those who were dissatisfied with the rents settled or decisions passed had an opportunity of appealing to the Special Judge under section 108 (2) of the Tenancy Act, and did appeal within the period prescribed in that Act. The effect of the honorable member's amendment would be to extend that period for no reason that I can see by three years.

His Honor the President remarked that whatever the impressions of the people may have been, the fact remained that in Chittagong the rent was moderate, and was not only accepted, but was paid.

The amendment was put and lost.

The Hon. Mr. Finucane moved that the Bill, as settled in Council, be passed. He said: In proposing that the Bill, as now amended, be passed, I shall only say very briefly that I hope the Bill in its present form will effect the objects in view in introducing it, namely, that it will afford reasonable facilities for enhancement of rents where they ought to be enhanced without justifying affecting the interest of ryots, and that it will clear up doubts and difficulties that have arisen in the working of the existing law. The methods by which rents are to be settled under this Bill are electric and elastic, and I hope one or other of them will be found to suit the various conditions of the different parts of these vast Provinces; but, above all, I hope that the law of landlord and tenant, as now settled, will remain unaltered for a generation, and that there will be no more unsettling of, or interference with, the rent law for a long time to come.

His Honor the President then summed up the debate briefly. He said it was stated that the provisions of the Bill were more favourable to the zemindars than to the ryots. He did not deny that, but he believed that the concessions were reasonable and certainly not extravagant. These concessions really met the intention of the Legislature in 1885.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Hon. Mr. Risley laid on the table the Financial Statement for 189-99, with explanatory notes. The discussion on the Statement will take place on 16th instant.

CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

The Hon. Mr. Risley moved that the Bill to amend the law relating to the Municipal affairs of the town and suburbs of Calcutta and to authorise the extension of the same to the town of Howrah, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon. Rai Durga Gati Banerjee, Bahadur, the Hon. Mr. Oldham, the Hon. Mr. Buckley, the Hon. Shahbazada Mahomed Bakhtyar Shah, the Hon. Mr. Turner, the Hon. Norendra Nath Sen, the Hon. Surendra Nath Banerjee, the Hon. Mr. Spink, and the mover.

After some discussion on the Bill the Council adjourned for the day and would resume its sitting on Monday.

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

The adjourned meeting of the Council was held on Monday at 11 A.M. There were present: His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, president; the Hon'ble Mr. Grimley, the Hon'ble Mr. Risley, the Hon'ble Rai Durga Gati Banerjee, the Hon'ble Mr. Pratt, the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Ameer Hossein, the Hon'ble Mr. Finucane, the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham, the Hon'ble Mr. Buckley, the Hon'ble Shahbazada Bakhtyar Shah, the Hon'ble Mr. Turner, the Hon'ble Norendra Nath Sen, the Hon'ble Kali Churn Banerjee, the Hon'ble Surendra Nath Banerjee, the Hon'ble Jatra Mohan Sen and the Hon'ble Mr. Spink.

There was a hot discussion on the motion. The official members generally speaking, were in favour of the Bill, the non-official elected members entered a strong and vigorous protest against the principle of the Bill and against its reference to the Select Committee.

His Honor the President then summed up the discussion briefly. He said he had listened with extreme pleasure to the speeches made in the Council. There was no doubt whatever that much good had been done but almost every Chairman of the Corporation had made objection to the system on which the Corporation was based. They read Sir Henry Harrison's note they would find his scathing criticism against the constitution of the Corporation. His Honor next gave a solemn warning that the plague would come here. Experience showed that whenever plague had broken out in a country it existed there for some years. It did not break here it would prove very dangerous. His Honor informed the Council that stringent instructions had been issued to the medical officers in charge of Observation Camps to see that not a plague case escaped their hands or they would be held responsible for it. His Honor next observed that he was aware that there were some very good men in the Corporation. They picked out two such men to work on the Building Commission and His Honor had ample reasons to thank them for the services rendered by them. There were however other men who sought election not for the purpose of serving the public but their own interest, and they all knew that jobbery and corruption prevailed when an appointment had to be made. It was said that Calcutta now presented a fine spectacle and that was the work of the Commissioners under the elective system. His Honor admitted that to be perfectly true, but he was sure that no one would deny that the Corporation had no reason to be proud of what was beneath the surface. His Honor's theory of the essential principle of the Bill was that the ordinary work of the Corporation would be in the hands of one man. The Secretary of State entirely agreed with him in strengthening the executive. Referring to the remarks of the Hon'ble Babu Kali Churn Banerjee His Honor observed that the system that was in vogue was not a popular system at all. To talk about the poor rate-payers was absolutely nonsense, because under the new measure the poor would have to pay the less. In conclusion His Honor remarked that he was content to have the Bill in the hands of the Council where it would be quite safe, and he hoped that the Select Committee, to whom it was going to be referred, would carefully consider all representations on the subject and would meet the Bill in a fair and businesslike spirit.

The motion that the Bill be referred to the Select Committee was then put and declared to be carried. On the motion of the Hon'ble Surendra Nath Banerjee the Council was then divided with the following result:

Ayes (for the motion).—Mr. Grimley, Mr. Risley, Mr. Finucane, Nawab Syed Ameer Hossein, Shahbazada Bakhtyar Shah, Mr. Spink, Mr. Turner, Rai Bahadur Durga Gati Banerjee, Mr. Pratt, Mr. Oldham, and Mr. Buckley.

Noes (against the motion).—Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee, Babu Kali Churn Banerjee, Babu Norendra Nath Sen and Babu Jatra Mohan Sen.

The motion was accordingly carried.

The Council adjourned to 16th instant.

LIVING ANIMALS IN THE POST.

We know from the Postmaster-General's annual reports that living animals are frequently sent by post. Amongst these have been specified snakes, rats, frogs, and a kitten provided with a feeding bottle with tube attached. Now the suffering which transmission through the parcels post entails upon the poor creatures committed to the Post Office can scarcely be appreciated by those who are ignorant of the exact workings of that great department of the State. Let us draw aside for a moment (says a writer in *Nature Notes*) the veil which divides the official from the unofficial world! We will suppose that a parcel of frogs is handed in at a post office, say in the vicinity of Great Andrew-street. The parcel is neatly packed in a small box, with no indication upon it as to the name of the sender, or as to the nature of its contents. It is placed amongst other parcels, with no regard necessarily, to which side is uppermost, so that the frogs may be just as likely upon their backs as upon their legs, and probably packed in such a way that it is impossible for them to right themselves; there they await the collecting van as it goes its round to the various offices in the district. The parcel, unless it be marked "fragile," is counted with others into a bag or sack, and it may be placed in any conceivable position or place in the sack. The sackful finds its way into the van, either by being lifted carefully thereinto, or by being swung upwards with a "one, two, three," like a carcass of butcher's meat. The parcels marked "fragile" are carefully eliminated in the counting process, and if the frogs be so marked they escape the trial of the sack, and the sole discomfort they would then have to sustain is a series of minute jars in the handling, since they would be packed separately and not inside the sack. Thus their first stage of transport is completed, and they arrive at one of the parcel depots. Here they are de-carried, in much the same way as they were carted, and if "fragile" are carefully stacked, heads or tails uppermost, and, if unmarked in any way, are probably emptied out upon the floor to undergo the process of sorting. After a series of gyrations they finally come to rest, and when sorted, are again packed in a locked hamper destined for the head office of the district in which the consignee resides. If for Oxford and a few other places the frogs would have the benefit of a journey by coach; if for a town not served by coach, they would have a more merciful journey by rail. The frogs would probably require a few days' rest in which to recover their normal spirits. All this, of course, only supposing the parcel in which they are packed does not come to pieces *en route*. Sometimes, however, the packing falls to pieces, and then of course the suppositively packed creatures are exposed to view. We do not hesitate to say that the despatch of living creatures by this means is wrong and is utterly indefensible.

Many an exciting chase has taken place in a post office for some innocent unoffending frog or lizard. At other times more deadly animals have been discovered, and have had to be disposed of; scorpions from the scorching plains of Egypt have at times been met with. A box containing pigeons was once returned to the sender, after some delay in obtaining his address. Mice are not at all unusual passengers by Her Majesty's mails, but for the sake of the dutiful post office officials it is particularly pleasing to learn that only one consignment of 500 leeches has, at present, been discovered on its journey through the parcels post. When a consignment of living animals is discovered *en route*, the delay in obtaining the address of the consigners, and in returning it to them, adds still more to the cruelty of the practice, and only when the animals happen to pass through the hands of a more tender-hearted official than usual, is it likely that they will obtain any kind of nourishment beyond sawdust and carbolic acid. It may be within the recollection of some that a lizard was discovered in the process of passing through the post office at the Guildhall, on the occasion of the jubilee festivities ten years ago. The ridiculous action of the sender was, however, surpassed by that of presumably one of the sorters, who, being under the impression that water was its native element, placed the poor creature in a jar of water in full view of the public. But what is the regulation of the post office on the matter? No living creature, nor anything likely to injure any officer of the post office, may be sent by post at all. If it be tendered at a post office, it is refused or if detected in transit it is detained. The contents are liable to be dealt with in such manner as the Postmaster-General may direct and the sender is liable to prosecution by the department. If it be distinctly understood that the senders are liable to prosecution, and if the regulation be enforced with due severity, the cruel practice of sending living creatures by post will perhaps be stopped.

INSECT SELECTION.

AN INTERESTING DISCOVERY.

Some experiments recently carried out by Professor Plateau, of the University of Ghent, have an interesting bearing on the theory of the origin of flowers by insect selection. This view so intimately associated with the names of Sir John Lubbock, Mr. Grant Allen and H. Muller, supposes that insects choose for their visits those forms and colours of flowers which suit them best, and so evolve the various species. Just as to use Sir J. Lubbock's comparison, gardeners by their selection have produced the varieties of the garden, so insects by their selection have produced the species of our wild flowers. This theory depends on the belief that different insects have different colours and forms of flowers which they prefer to others, bees being supposed to have a special taste for blue. Now, Professor Plateau's conclusions are directly opposed to these views, for the claims to have shown that insects are indifferent to the colours of the flowers they visit, and that, in fact, they are guided to them in a very subordinate way by sight. The experiments and observations upon which these far-reaching conclusions are based are the following:

When gaily-coloured single dahlias were covered with bits of green leaves insects still came to visit them. It was this result, so contrary to the generally received opinion that insects are attracted chiefly by colour, which led Professor Plateau to start his exhaustive series of observations, and experiments. So, in the next place, the brightly coloured corollas were removed from such flowers as lobelia, evening primrose, foxglove, etc., leaving only the green parts. In spite of the lack of colour these were freely visited by insects. Again certain brightly-coloured flowers, which are seldom or never visited by insects were provided with honey. Among those experimented with was the common geranium of our garden. When a drop of honey was placed on these bees were at once attracted to them, but passed over blossoms which had not been so provided. In a similar way, when honey was placed on certain inconspicuous wild flowers, rarely, if ever visited, insects were at once attracted.

Another experiment consisted in removing the honey-bearing part of the flower. This was accomplished with the single dahlia, of which the inner florets containing the honey were removed, leaving the outer showy ones. No insects came to visit these honeyless flowers. But as soon as a drop of honey was placed on them insects came as before. Artificial flowers made of bits of green leaf, and having a little honey in them, were visited. But artificial flowers made of coloured materials were not visited, even when provided with honey. And besides these experiments, Professor Plateau claims certain facts with regard to the ways of insects in visiting flowers as also supporting his conclusions. Thus, on a bed of different coloured varieties of the same species growing in a garden they will pass from colour to colour with seeming indifference. Again, they visit freely quite a large number of green and greenish flowers, also many inconspicuous ones of various colours.

If we accept Professor Plateau's facts we can scarcely avoid his conclusions that insects care little for the colours of the flowers they visit, and that sight plays only a secondary part in guiding them.

It is stated that the defalcations recently discovered at the Colombo Post Office, and for which Mr. Hunter, the late Telegraph Master, is held accountable, is much more serious than at first imagined.

THE Madras paddy crop is reported to be damaged by insects in parts of the Godavary and Malabar Districts, diseased in North Arcot, and withering in the Carnatic District. Elsewhere the condition of the crop is reported to be fair.

THE Mysore Government has entrusted the survey of that portion of the proposed railway from Nunjungud to Erode, which runs through the Mysore Province, to the South Indian Railway Company. The survey work is progressing rapidly, and it is said, will be completed by the end of July next.

THE final subscription list in connection with the Famine Relief Fund has been published. It shows a grand total of Rs. 1,67,17,080-4-3.

WE understand that the next Departmental Examination for Superintendentships of Post Offices will be held in November next. It is believed that this time the Examination will not be a secret one like the one held last year, in which only a favourite few were admitted.

Is it a fact that Mr. Clifford, who could not pass the last Departmental Examination for Superintendentships of Post Offices, has yet been retained as a Superintendent? We can't believe that the Director-General and the Deputy-Director-General of Post Offices, who are reported to be just, have given their sanction to such an arrangement.

HERE are the particulars of a curious incident, furnished to us by our Benares correspondent. A few days ago, Mr. Denhurst, the Joint Magistrate, was going from his house to the kutchery on a bicycle. He had not gone far when his progress was all on a sudden arrested by the extraordinary conduct of a boy of 14. The latter made it a point to stand just in front of the cycle, thus stepping to its directions. Whether Mr. Denhurst took the cycle to the right or to the left or the middle of the road, sure enough the boy was there, blocking his way. At first, Mr. Denhurst took the situation in a funny spirit; but he grew impatient at the persistent conduct of the boy. He at last got down; upon this, the boy took to his heels. The Joint Magistrate then ran after him, and, after a regular chase, succeeded in capturing him. But if his conduct was extraordinary, the tone and the manner of his replies to the questions put to him, surprised Mr. Denhurst more. To the remark of the Magistrate that he was a "be-man," the boy took serious objection and retorted that his freaks never affected his "iman." Questioned as to who he was, he said that he was the son of the Joint Magistrate's Clerk. Mr. Denhurst now breathed more freely and let him go. Father of the boy and related to him his exciting adventure in detail. He then gave irreverence on the part of youths of day towards their elders and the baneful effects of English education.

HUMAN FLIGHT.

MR. PERCIVAL SPENCER, as followed his success in crossing the Channel in his balloon with an interesting article in the "Humanitarian," in which he discusses the possibility of human flight. Aerial navigation is a subject which from time immemorial has been occupying the consideration of countless minds. Soaring above the realms of cloudland, was a favourite theme in mythology. Ovid tells the story of Daedalus and Icarus with wings made out of feathers fastened to their bodies with wax, flying away from Crete to avoid the wrath of Minos. In the thirteenth century Roger Bacon expressed his belief that some flying machine might be made, so that a man sitting in the middle of the instrument, and turning some mechanism would be able to put in motion artificial wings, beating the air like a bird flying. Soon afterwards many projects were instituted, attended, however, as a rule, with fatal results. Monks and ecclesiastics conceived ideas and worked the theoretical part, whilst mechanics made more or less successful machines. The discovery of hydrogen and its properties by Cavendish was a decidedly good stepping-stone to master the air, and Cavallo in 1782 experimented with this gas for aerial purposes. The following year the brothers Montgolfier gave to the world its first balloon. They ascended from Paris and travelled a distance of thirty miles in two hours. After this invention numerous ascents were made. It required no great imagination to dream about crossing the oceans, and connecting countries thousands of miles apart by an aerial postal service. There were writers in that period who contemplated voyages to the moon and stars. The next step in aerial navigation was the introduction of coal-gas, and its adoption for ballooning purposes. Among the first to put it in practice was Charles Green, who, making his ascent from Vauxhall, remained aloft in the air eighteen hours. The balloon, says Mr. Spencer, can rise aloft, float in the air, moving in accordance with the wind, and descend after a lapse of time according to conditions. No other means has yet been discovered to compete with it. Several attempts have been made to propel balloons, and to direct their course from the direction of the wind. A pair of gigantic oars were first tried, but found to be of no use. The screw propeller has been only the device which has yielded any satisfactory result. Renard and Korb have shown that, with its proper use, there is no inherent difficulty in the propulsion and guidance of a balloon. Mr. Spencer is of opinion that the idea embodied in the use of the parachute represents the principle in embryo of the aerial navigation of the future. The parachute was invented by Garin in 1785, who, with its aid, made several successful descents. It was used, later on, by Baldwin with equally satisfactory results, and still later by Mr. Spencer and his brothers. The principle of the parachute is embodied in the "Aeroplane Flying Machine," a machine which Mr. Spencer looks upon as the true line along which progress must be made. Mr. Hiram S. Maxim has discovered this fact and his mechanism, although it was never permitted to attempt a free flight, demonstrated in its tethered trials that sufficient power was developed to give it ascensional force. With a moderate sized aeroplane Herr Lilienthal has been able to glide through the air from an elevation, and Langley's experiments in America have resulted in the construction of a machine capable of flying creditably.

MR. MANECKJI BAJRORJI, editor of the *Bombay Samachar* for thirty-five years, is dead.

THE Bombay Legislative Council met on Saturday afternoon, when the Improvement Bill was read for the third time and passed.

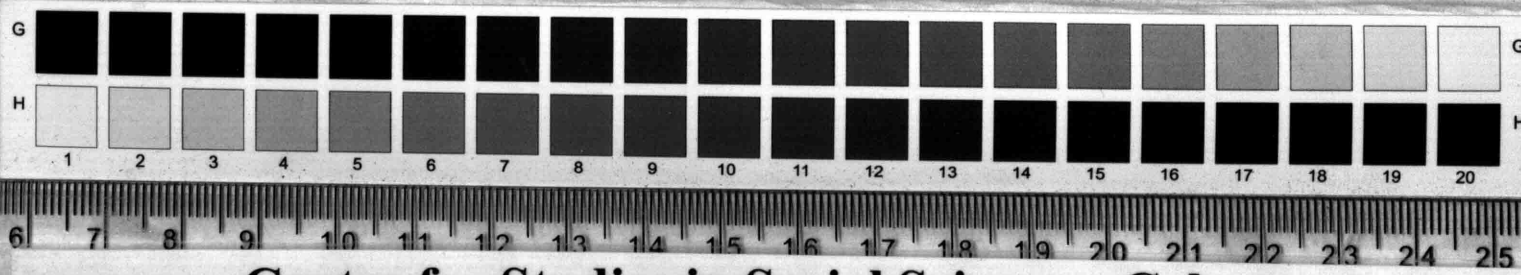
AN earthquake lasting some six seconds and preceded by a loud rumbling occurred at Banmank, Upper Burma, about 3.30 on the afternoon of the 27th March. Again before 2 A.M. on the 28th instant, a violent shock lasting 12 seconds occurred; and once again at 11.15 P.M. on the night of the 29th instant a shock lasting 4 seconds was experienced. No damage has been done.

AT a meeting of the Sir Syed Ahmed Memorial Fund, held in Aligarh, it was resolved to raise ten lakhs of rupees for the endowment of a Mahomedan University, and to form Committees for the purpose of furthering the project in all parts of India. Khan Bahadur Barkat Ali and Shah Din were appointed to act as President and Secretary of the Lahore Committee, and the Nawab Imad-ul-Mulk and Mahomed Aziz Mirza were elected in similar capacities on the Hyderabad Committee.

IT appears from a telegram sent from Rangoon that Captain Reid, of the Chinese steamer *Cornelia*, was stabbed while returning to his steamer from his house at Mergui, on the morning of the 30th ultimo. As far as can be ascertained at present, Captain Reid's supposed assailant is a Burman, who has been arrested. Captain Reid, later on in the morning, was in a dangerous state. The *Cornelia* is detained in Mergui, awaiting another Commander.

SOMETIME ago, the Poona correspondent of the *Bombay Gazette* entertained its readers with a sensational story about Damodar and Mr. Tilak. It was stated, among other things, that Damodar wanted to see Mr. Tilak; the latter refused to comply with the request, whereupon Damodar called Mr. Tilak a coward. The *Bombay Gazette* has now come forward to contradict the statement of its Poona correspondent. According to it, what actually happened was this:—Damodar simply asked that Mr. Tilak, being ready with his pen, should draft his petition for commutation of sentence. Mr. Tilak replied that he was willing if the Superintendent of the Jail consented. The Superintendent said he would consider the matter; but shortly afterwards Mr. Tilak slipped and broke his arm and was therefore incapacitated.

THE Central Executive Committee of the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund concluded their labours on the 25th ultimo as the famine is over, and the money, which when all was added up, amounted to a sum exceeding 170 lakhs of rupees, has all been distributed. Unspent balances, amounting to nearly five lakhs, of which nearly three were contributed by the North-West Provinces and Oudh, have been invested as the nucleus of a future fund to which will be added the refunds of Provinces which have not yet sent in their accounts, amounting to perhaps Rs. 75,000 more. The money will be deposited with the Comptroller-General, and a small Committee, of which the Chief Justice of Bengal is Chairman, and the member in charge of the Home Office one of the members, are empowered, with the consent of the Government of India, to spend the money when distress amounting to famine again occurs. Meanwhile the Comptroller-General will invest the interest as it accrues. Mr. Parsons, the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, has, with the permission of the Chamber, will be the Honorary





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