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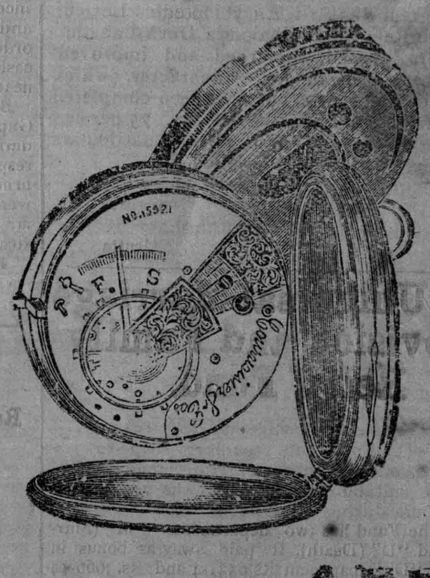

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THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, APRIL 17. 1898.

LEGAL ASPECT OF THE ROAD-CESS QUESTION.

It was Mr. Romesh Chandra Dutt, as Commissioner of the Orissa Division, who first officially brought the question of the diversion of the Road Cess Fund to the notice of the late Lieutenant-Governor. He drew the attention of the Government to the Proclamation of Sir George Campbell, published in these columns at the time and re-produced the other day, and submitted that the Fund should not be applied to any other objects than those mentioned in that document. The result was a reply from the Municipal Secretary, the Hon'ble Mr. Risley, in which the Government view of the question was embodied, and the arguments of Mr. Dutt sought to be traversed. Elsewhere is published this important paper.

First of all, let us summarise a portion of our last article on this subject. The Duke of Argyll, when imposing the Road Cess, gave a solemn pledge to the effect that the proceeds of these rates shall be spent only for "the direct, immediate, and palpable benefit" of the cess-payers; and he enumerated some of the objects to which the funds should be applied. What was the nature of those objects? Let us quote the very words of the Duke. Says His Grace in para. 23 of his Despatch that, in addition to the making of village roads, "the making and improving of wells and tanks and other works of irrigation, affecting comparatively small areas of land, are the operations which probably comply with the conditions." "Comparatively small areas" mean, of course, villages or limited rural tracts. The Duke further promised that the entire proceeds of the cess would be placed at the absolute disposal of the representatives of the cess-payers.

Sir George Campbell made the above points still more clear by a Proclamation in which he solemnly promised (1) that, every pice of the cess would be "applied to the village roads and local paths or water channels," and (2) that "not a pice of the cess would be diverted to any other purpose."

The landholders had raised a great out cry against the impost; but, when the assurance, in such a distinct form, came from such a high quarter as the Secretary of State for India, and was re-iterated by the Local Government, they accepted the situation without further grumbling. Indeed, after these assurances, the people were bound to be impressed with the conviction that "rather the sun would rise from the West than that the authorities would ever violate their promises," so solemnly and so unequivocally given by the Duke of Argyll and Sir George Campbell, on behalf of the English Government.

The sun has not risen from the West; but, alas! the British rulers in India have forgotten all about the promises, noted above. We beg to refer the reader to the reply of Mr. Risley to the communication of Mr. Dutt; and it will be seen how the solemn pledges of the Secretary of State and the Government of Sir George Campbell have been shattered into a shapeless mass by successive Lieutenant-Governors, and how their actions have been sought to be justified by a sort of specious reasoning.

Mr. Risley cannot deny the existence of the pledges, alluded to above; but, he tries to get out of the difficulty by propounding a new and strange theory. He says that Government "gave no pledge that the law would never be changed, and in fact, seven years later, a material change was introduced." Quite so; but, has the Government, which is a moral and Christian Government, any right to make such changes in the law as to place itself in the position of a pledge-breaker? Would not this be an immoral act? And can our enlightened Government afford to do an act which is not based on the principles of morality? Where would then be the safety of the people, if the pledges, given by one Secretary of State and one Local Governor be broken by another Secretary of State and another Local Governor in the name of law? According to this theory, the Permanent Settlement of Lord Cornwallis can be scattered to the four winds to-morrow by a legislative enactment.

The way was shown by Sir Ashley Eden. He did the greatest possible injury to the landholding classes in Bengal by imposing the Public Works Cess in 1877; and three years later, he committed the further act of injustice by legalizing the diversion of the Road Cess Fund. He and his councillors sat together and passed a "law" The law provided that the objects of the Road Cess were other than those for which they were imposed. And a number of duties were thrown upon the Road Cess Committees, in violation of the solemn pledges of the Duke of Argyll that the Government would not meddle with the fund and that the proceeds of the cess would not be applied to any purpose without the consent of the cess-payers.

In 1885, again, a further havoc was made upon the promises of the original founder of the cess, and the cess-fund was altogether abolished by another law! And Mr. Risley now comes forward to declare that no such thing as the Road Cess Fund exists; that like the Famine Insurance Fund, it has been merged into a common fund, called the District Fund; and that this fund may "legally" be spent on any purpose the Government likes!

But was it not solemnly promised by the Duke of Argyll and Sir George Campbell that the Cess Fund belonged to those who paid the cess and not to the Government? Surely, that fact cannot be ignored; for, like the Cornwallis Settlement, the Despatch of the Duke of Argyll yet exists, and so does the Proclamation of Sir George Campbell. That being the case, was it a proper act on the part of the Government to pass what it calls a "law", deprive the people of what belonged to them, and claim the same as its own? Be it also remembered that when Act IX of 1880 and the Local Self-Government Act of 1885 were passed, and the Cess Fund converted into Government property, the cess-payers were neither consulted nor was their sanction taken.

Needless to say that the thing was done in the usual way. The Government possesses the power of legislation; and it used those powers to legalize a wrong. In this way, the Government may pass any law and possess any property of the subject. But it does not do it, because such a law is immoral. We wonder, Mr. Risley should bring forward arguments which can not be defended on moral grounds. The real fact is, there is no loop-hole in the pledges which protect the Road Cess Fund; and it was thus a vain attempt on the part of Mr. Risley to justify the unjustifiable.

"For my part," says Mr. Stead, "I love Russia; but I don't believe in paying Lord Elgin to govern India on Russian principles." There are men in England, whose faith in the present administration has been very much shaken. They fancy that India has got almost all that she would have got if Russia had possessed her. Thus, for instance, an Englishman, a constant reader of this journal, writes to us by the last mail to know whether the Indian authorities tamper with the newspapers and letters, sent out from here! We shall quote from his letter:—

I am sorry to say that I have had no *Amrita Bazar Patrika* by this mail. It is always a great disappointment to me when any accident happens to them. I suspect your whole British Mail has gone wrong, for, on calling at a friend's and asking him if he had received his copies, he said that he had not; and I find that when I wrote to you before on this point, he also, like myself, got two sets in the following week. I think, you ought to look a little to your postal arrangements; and it may be worth your while to see whether there is anything in your leading articles which the authorities might wish to keep back from your English readers. You, of course, will know at what time you posted them; and I think you should lodge a complaint, if you yourselves have been blameless in the matter.

Of course, things have not come to that pass yet. Years ago, we were informed when Mr. Bradlaugh was making himself disagreeable, that letters, which seemed suspicious, were opened in the ship which carried the mails. To be candid, the belief prevails that the custom even now exists. But such a practice can never be adopted without the sanction of the higher authorities, and the higher authorities will never sanction it. It was the arrangement, made to vest the Postal authorities to open letters and newspapers which seemed to them suspicious and destroy them, that led to the suspicion, expressed by our correspondent. The belief now obtains in many English circles that the Indian Government has thrown off many of its English instincts to the four winds, and is just now governing India on Russian principles. The sedition measures; the sedition prosecutions; the attempt to extort "affection" for the Government by force; the incarceration of the Natu brothers; the amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code; the Post Office Act—a big record, is it not?—have created the impression, referred to above. Indeed, a good deal of work has been done in a very short time, and that by a Liberal Viceroy, no doubt; but yet the Russian methods, we are glad to say, have not been imported in any appreciable degree.

In reply to a question about the Kirkee murder case by Mr. J. H. Roberts, Lord George Hamilton said:—

I have seen a newspaper report of the case, mentioned by the hon. member, and much regret the incident to which it related; and I would remind him that, according to that report, Gunner Piper had no right to be out shooting as he is said to have had no pass. Passes to go out shooting are only given to men of good character, and, under very stringent regulations, and I am not disposed to prohibit this practice.

His Lordship expressed "regret for the incident." We thank Mr. Roberts for having extorted this expression of contrition from Lord George. It shows that if the subject could be pressed home to his Lordship, we may get some real remedy for these "accidents," even during his term of office. Lord George Hamilton, it seems, is not aware that though stringent regulations exist to the effect that no soldier should go out with guns without a pass, yet the rule is honoured more in the breach than in the observance. And this is mainly why so many "accidents" take place It is not at all necessary for Lord George to discontinue issuing passes to soldiers, but simply to order that the standing regulations are strictly observed, Then, there is another way by which these "accidents" may be appreciably checked. It is by punishing the offending soldiers adequately. The manner in which they are let off with no or inadequate punishment, has naturally created an impression in their minds that they can take away the lives of the natives with impunity. We know how O'Hara exulted because there was one "d—d black ba——rd" the less, whom he had shot dead, and how subsequently he escaped justice. Surely, they would behave in a different way if they were dealt with more severely. Even in this matter, Lord George Hamilton need not take any initiative. All that he need do, is to revive the Fuller Minute of Lord Lytton and impress upon the officials to deal out justice in cases between Indians and Europeans, in accordance with the spirit of that document. For the information of our Secretary of State whose knowledge about Indian matters is not profound, we may in a few words narrate here the history of the famous minute. One Mr. Fuller kicked his syce to death. He was convicted and let off with a fine of Rs. 30. The extraordinary leniency with which Mr. Fuller was treated by the trying Magistrate, filled Lord Lytton, then new to the country, with so much moral indignation that he penned a minute, since then called the Fuller Minute, in which he strongly condemned the growing tendency on the part of a certain class of Europeans to undervalue the lives of Indians, and censured the practice of law-courts dealing leniently with European offenders, found guilty of laying violent hands upon the Indians.

In this connection, it will not be out of place to record here two cases, just reported, —one from Cawnpur and the other from Poona. In one case, one Mr. Tresham, of Messrs. Cooper, Allen and Company's Cawnpur establishment, kicked a native employe, resulting in his death. The accused has been let off with a fine of Rs. 200. This is the second case of the kind that has occurred at Cooper Allen's. Here are the particulars of the other case:—

On Thursday afternoon last two soldiers, belonging to the Durham Light Infantry, Lee-Corpl. Thack and Private McGurk, employed in the Regimental Coffee-shop, were driving down Main Street, Poona, and discharging an air-gun which they had with them at the posts and shop fronts. Whilst so amusing themselves, they managed to hit a tailor, residing in the street, in the arm and injured him. They did not stop, however, but drove off; and on approaching the barracks, McGurk is said to have shot at a woman and a man, both of whom were hurt. All these persons were taken to the Sassoon Hospital, where the pellets were extracted, and where they still remain progressing favourably. Private McGurk was handed over by the Military to the police authorities in whose custody he now remains.

Mr. Roberts might ask for a return, showing the number of Indians killed or wounded by Europeans during the past ten years.

The *Pioneer* has learnt from Bombay that the Government has rejected the appeal of the Natu brothers to be liberated from jail. The last statement of Lord George Hamilton about the brothers was that they would be released when their release would not, according to the Government, imperil the safety of British rule in India. Does the Government then seriously believe that the Empire would be endangered if the brothers were set free? These Natus must be more powerful than the invincible army which protects the Empire and keeps the Russians at bay! A more ridiculous position for the Government cannot be conceived.

While on this subject, we see that the *Champion* has unearthed some curious facts in connection with the famous stories of Lord George Hamilton, namely, that the Natus were deported because one of them had played tricks with a nurse and tried to corrupt a policeman. The information which the Secretary of State gave, was meagre; and so a question was put in the Bombay Council for more particulars. But the Government had no further information to furnish. This led our Bombay contemporary to make inquiries; and here is the result:—

Let us take the policeman first... One of the nearest places to Poona is Parvati. Parvati is a village, two miles from Poona. About April, 1897, a tale went about that a corpse of a low-caste woman was found under one of the arches of a drain on the Singhur Road, about a hundred yards from a soldiers' camp. This alleged discovery led to all sorts of wild stories in Poona... The Poona people thought, this woman was the victim of an outrage. When Prof. Gokhale's statement was published, and Mr. Lamb asked the leading citizens to make enquiries, many remembered the corpse on the Singhur Road. We remembered it too, and recognised at once the awful mistake that Mr. Gokhale had made. However, the elder Natu, knowing of the episode of the dead woman, and having been generally requested to make inquiries, thought that he might try and find out the truth or otherwise of this case, as that might be the one Professor Gokhale had in his mind. Moreover, as he was a managing trustee of the Parvati Temple, we suppose it seemed to him a natural thing that he was the proper person to make the investigation, as the woman had been found in the vicinity of the Temple. In the course of this investigation, he would naturally make inquiries of the patel of the village, which, we are told, he did. He naturally went to the patel of the village, and asked him about the dead woman. Can this be the patel or sepoy, we wonder, referred to by Lord George Hamilton, when he said that the elder Natu had attempted to corrupt a policeman? Now we know absolutely nothing of what passed between Mr. Natu and this patel. No one knows but the parties concerned; but, surely, before putting Mr. Natu in prison, some chance should have been given him of cross-examining the patel whom he is alleged to have corrupted, or rather to have attempted to corrupt. Is it not possible, we ask, knowing human nature—especially Indian human nature—as we do, that this incident may have been so twisted as to have misled the authorities?

As regards the nurse story, the *Champion* says:—

Let us now see how much we can conjecture about the nurse. The presumption is that she is a midwife. In fact, if we remember correctly, Lord George stated in the House that that was her occupation. Now, is there in Poona any lady answering to that description, who has had anything to do with any or both of the Natus? We are informed that a few years ago a lady—a midwife by profession—was a tenant in a house belonging to the Natus. This lady and the elder Natu had a dispute about rent, so we are told; and he filed an action against her for some money,—nearly two hundred rupees; the evidence of the lady and her husband was that the money had been paid, but the Court thought differently and she was ordered to pay Rs. 15 per month. In addition to this private quarrel or dispute, the elder Natu on one occasion is said to have met this lady, while he was working as a volunteer in a search party, and words passed between them about some plague matters. Possibly the altercation was an angry one, because, as can easily be imagined, their relations were not of the most amiable character. Can this, we wonder again, be the nurse, referred to in Lord George Hamilton's reply?

"I am your friend",—Sir A. Mackenzie informed us on two occasions,—at the Science Association, and in reply to those unfortunate gentlemen who had gone to give him an address,—the only two occasions he had, after he had thrown off his disguise by his memorable sedition speech. "I am your friend",—says he. But did Lord Ripon ever put forward any such claim on his behalf? He did not; for, it was not necessary for him to do it. He remained quiet; and others did it for him. Those who are true friends, have no need to volunteer the information that they are so; they, besides, scorn to do it. It is only he who has to pose as a friend while he is not so, and when he has been found out, that shouts to the top of his voice that he is a friend. Sir Charles Elliott was more honest. He knew he was not a friend; and he never put forward the claim. Those who announce themselves as friends, have a motive behind. Those who have deeds to back them, have no need of assertions to prove their friendship. Those who have no deeds to prove their friendship, have to resort to assertions. Sir Charles Elliott was the friend of the Mussalmans; Sir A. Mackenzie was a friend of the Europeans. The world subscribed in order to save the famished here from death by starvation; and that was an opportunity for Sir Alexander Mackenzie to invite Europeans for a share. One of the methods of the late Lieutenant-Governor, as we pointed out the other day, was to appoint a large army of Europeans on big salaries, to distribute relief. Here is a partial list of those employed in Behar, as supplied by a reply to an interpellation on the subject in the local Council:—

Non-official—District Shahabad Mr. G. C. B. Birch, Rs. 200; Mr. D. Smith, 200. District Saran—W. C. Lang, Rs. 200. District Champaran—Mr. C. Still, Rs. 600; Mr. J. Finzel Rs. 600; Mr. H. Christian, Rs. 300. District Muzaffarpnr—Mr. C.C. Clare, Rs. 300; Mr. J. C. Crozier, Rs. 300; Mr, A. E. Gibson, Rs. 300; Mr. B. E. Lomax, Rs. 300; Mr. H. B. Wilcox, Rs. 200. District Darbhanga—Mr. J. Burton, Rs. 300; Mr C. J. Wright, Rs. 300; Mr. W. E. Davies, Rs. 200; Mr, C. A. Manson, Rs. 200; Mr. H. E. Wild, Rs. 200; Mr. C. Kelly Rs. 200.

Besides, they were allowed Rs. 100 per month as horse allowance.

This was one of his methods; but the other rulers managed without a European agency at all. He had money for many things, but none for the purchase of scientific apparatus! By-the-bye, we forgot that, according to his uncorroborated testimony, he is not only our friend, but a friend of science. Where is the apparatus? As we said, for that he had no money!

Sir Ashley Eden had a very low opinion of the Bengalees. His idea was that the Bengalees were a set of sycophants and time-servers, without any self-respect, and that the proper way to deal with them was to follow the advice "*Agu lath, pechoo bath*." Sir A. Mackenzie was likewise imbued with precisely the same idea. He began his *lath* first in his speech on the Sedition Bill, and then he opened his *bath* to—— to secure for himself an address. The *lath* had its effect at least upon some members of our society.

While on this subject we beg to draw the attention of the reader to a communication, published in the *Indian Mirror*, over the heading of "the British Indian Association and the *Patrika*", and re-produced in another column. Our contemporary is an ardent admirer of Sir Alexander Mackenzie; so much so indeed, that he followed him up to the railway platform to bid him a farewell, which even very few members of the B. I. Association did. For him to publish such a scathing letter in his columns, proves conclusively that the action of the address-givers has given great offence to the general public.

It must be borne in mind that there is none to whom our Financial Minister has to render an account. His work is to meet the requirements of those in the Government who are powerful, and to declare that the Finances are in a solvent condition. If he can do that, he proves himself a successful Minister. Sir J. Westland has performed these two functions, and so he is necessarily an excellent financier. In this country the responsible rulers do not know whether the Empire under their charge is prospering or going to ruin. One party says that it is all right; the other party says that it is all wrong. Such a thing is possible only when there is no certainty about anything. So uncertain a factor is the financial condition of the country, that every one has acquired a right to pose as an authority on the subject—even that school-master of Allyghur, Mr. Theodore Beck. Men can write most upon matters which they know least. Every writer has the same claim of giving an authoritative account of the condition of affairs in the planet moon, because none knows anything about them. Is it to be a deficit? And the Minister is agreeable. He manipulates his figures, and shows a deficit. Is it to be a surplus? All right, cries the Finance Minister; and he shews a surplus. The fact is, there is none to take any real interest in the affairs of the country. The English people have only this much interest that the Empire be no way endangered. If the Empire is safe, the English people are satisfied, and will not care to go into details. The officials will not look beyond the time when they hold office. "The Empire will surely endure my time"—thinks he, and his interest does not go further than that. There are people in the country, who consider Sir J. Westland merely an arithmetician without any idea of the science of finance. There are others, nottably the discredited military clique, who consider him to be one of the best financiers. No one is certain whether he is a genius or a humbug, as no one is certain whether there is a surplus or a deficit. As long the people of the soil are not taken to participate in the control of the affairs of the State, so long the affairs of this magnificent Empire is likely to be managed in this half-hearted manner. It is not that the officials are incompetent, but they have taken an impossible task in their hands. How is it possible for officials, who come out here to rule and make money and then go home after securing their pile, to feel any lively interest in the affairs of the State? Sir James Westland, after ruling India for five years, leaves it for ever in September next! Every reasonable being takes stock of his own financial position, except the Government of India. It is not done for two reasons: one is, there is none to take account or compel the Minister to give one; the other is, the authorities themselves are afraid to go deep into the matter lest they dig out any information which is disagreeable.

We have always held that, in several respects, the Provincial Conferences are more useful than the Congress. The Congress is a big affair. It deals with big questions, some of which one more academic than practical in their nature. The Congress costs nearly a lakh of rupees, while many of the real leaders of the different Provinces cannot attend its sittings owing to divers circumstances. One of the main objects of these organizations is the political education of the country. But this can hardly be obtained from the Congress, the operations of which are confined to the upper ten of the educated Indians. The Provincial Conferences, on the other hand, deal with the masses of the Province. They take up only local questions, and are thus more in sympathy with the vast body of the people in a Province than the Congress. Indeed, these Conferences, if properly managed, may be utilized as a very effective means for imparting political education to the country. Then, again, the authorities are likely to pay more attention to the deliberations of the Conferences than to those of the Congress, as large principles of policy are not involved in the former. The Congress cannot be a permanent institution in the country for various reasons; indeed, we think the sage advice of Mr. Hume should have been heard and the Nagpur Congress ought to have been the last of the Congresses. In due course, however, the Congress is bound to be closed, and the arena of our political fight transferred to England. We are, therefore, glad that almost every Province is holding its Conference and thus trying to give to its people a political training. The Punjab had its Provincial Conference this time at Umbala on the 8th and 9th of March, and, as expected, it created great enthusiasm. Babu Jogendra Chander Bose, a leading Vakeel of the Chief Court, presided, and delivered a most eloquent and impressive speech. The speech has been published, and we must say, it is a very able one. Then, a very successful Conference of the people of Southern India was held at Kumbakonam on the 8th and 9th of April last under the presidency of Mr. Adams, the well-known Barrister of Madras. The Conference was attended by very many leading men of the Province, amongst whom were some distinguished Mussalmans. In Bengal, the Conference will be held this year at Dacca; and we are glad to learn that preparations are being made in the usual style to accord a suitable reception to the delegates. As in previous years, the Conference will sit during the Muhurrum vacation. The Muhurrum comes in a few weeks; and Muffasil districts should, therefore, lose no time in electing their respective delegates.

In his letter, our London correspondent gives a long paragraph regarding the annual meeting of the National Liberal Federation at Leicester, and the part that Babu Ananda Mohan Bose was permitted to take there There were two Indian delegates present on the occasion,—Babu Ananda Mohan Bose and Babu Romesh Chundra Dutt. O-

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correspondent observes that "the long, earnest, closely-reasoned speech, with an eloquent peroration, of Babu Ananda Mohan Bose, was greeted with prolonged and hearty cheering, and fairly electrified his audience who responded to every sentence with vigorous applause' Our correspondent further says that "Babu Ananda Mohan carried off the honours of the day, and the impression, made upon the delegates, was profound, and will last." Let it be borne in mind that the audience was composed of the pick of the Liberals in England, about one thousand strong. Both Babus Romesh Chandra and Ananda Mohan are doing splendid service for their country. We hope, the British Committee of the National Congress will find their way to pay the travelling and hotel expenses of both these illustrious sons of India. As we said the other day, Babu Ananda Mohan has left behind a lucrative business, and is working at his own expense, which is terrible, not a farthing having been paid to him by his country. We shall in a day or two, give a more detailed account of the proceedings of the Federal Association and of the doings of Babu Ananda Mohan at Leicester.

MR. C. G. H. ALLEN, who has just taken over charge of the 24-Pergannas District as Magistrate, comes from Chittagong with excellent reputation, after ten years' service. Though entrusted with the most unpopular work of settlement and survey, Mr. Allen succeeded in gaining the approbation of all with whom he came in contact in the performance of his duties He had no hand in the shaping of the settlement policy which has ruined the Talukdars and tenants of the Khas Mahals, as he took charge of the work late in the day; but nevertheless he tried to afford people as much relief as he could, within the four corners of that policy. Judging from an article in the local paper, the *Jyoti* a translation of which will be found elsewhere, it will be seen that Mr. Allen is a man of great ability and energy,—large-hearted and full of sympathy with the people.

PRINCE Ranjitsinhji has arrived in Ceylon, and intends spending a month or so there. According to present arrangements, he will remain in this country for some months.

IT is certainly no good news for Indians that "the export trade in wheat from India," as says the *Pioneer*, "promises to be very large this year, it being calculated that at least a million tons will be shipped." Free trade must not be permitted to have a full swing, in regard to the exportation of Indian food-grains.

THE conviction of Mr. Eusuf Hussan Khan, Barrister-at-law, by the Assistant Commissioner of Hardoi for contempt of court, has been set aside on appeal by the Sessions Jndge of the place, and the fine of Rs. 200 ordered to be returned.

DAMODAR Hari Chapekar's appeal to the Viceroy has been rejected, and the execution will take place on Monday next. Chapekar was brought into the Jail Office, and Mr. Brierley, Officiating Superintendent of the Yerrowda Jail, informed him about his petition. Chapekar then requested Mr. Brierley to permit him to send a petition to the Queen-Empress, and he also requested that Mr. Tilak should be allowed to write the same on his behalf. The Officiating Superintendent acceded to the request.

BEFORE leaving Bajaura on Wednesday their Excellencies Lord and Lady Elgin witnessed an interesting ceremony called the Matia dance, performed by the men of Kulu. The three local gods of Shamshi, Kothkandi and Balan in gorgeous attire with a large following of attendants put in an appearance, and joined in the festivities connected with his Excellency's visit to the nearest camp to the capital of Kulu. The whole place was *en fete*, and songs and dances were loud and prolonged.

A COMMERCIAL writer in the *Bombay Gazette* says:—The belief expressed in some quarters that in the event of war between America and Spain there will be a material rise in the value of Indian cotton is based on a very incomplete view of the principal factors in the situation. As is well known the American crop this year is the largest on record and the quantity already shipped is proportionate. In Liverpool one and a quarter million of bales have been received and on the Continent stocks are correspondingly large. Therefore even if it be assumed that Spain will exercise to the fullest extent the liberty she possesses, being, like her enemy, outside the Declaration of Paris, a long time must elapse before Spanish interference with cotton ships that she can seize will lower the visible supply in Europe sufficiently to lead to a rise in prices. By far the greater part of the cotton of the United States is shipped in British vessels, and French and German vessels also carry a good deal. A fortnightly line of cotton steamers now runs between the Gulf Ports and Japan, but if this service is interfered with the Island kingdom will have it in her power by interference in Manilla to add to the anxieties of the Madrid Government just when it will be needful to concentrate its defensive resources in and around Cuba. Japan too has on hand a large quantity of cheap American cotton, some of it negotiated through a well-known Bombay house. Under all the circumstances of the case it does not seem likely that war between the two countries would result in such an increased demand in Europe for Surat or other Indian varieties, as to lead to any very material rise in the local prices. Those prices have remained remarkably steady during the last few months, in spite of a limited enquiry from Europe, and expert opinion inclines to the belief that if war is declared there may be some little fluctuation in price and the tendency may be upwards, but this will only last a short time. The receipts in Bombay are likely to be brisk during the next few weeks, as large quantities of cotton have been held back. The demand for it will be steady as apart from foreign trade local mills will toward the end of next month lay in their usual stocks

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ARMY REMOUNT DEPARTMENT.—Major. H Goad succeeds Colonel Deane as Director of this Department.

NOR'-WESTER AT CHANDPUR.—On Monday evening, there was a regular nor'-wester at Chandpur, causing a good bit of damage among the fishing boats. There was also a considerable delay in the arrival of the mail boats in consequence of the rough weather.

THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.—The Syndicate of the Calcutta University have recommended to the Senate the names of the following gentlemen to be President of the different Faculties for 1898-99: Arts, Dr. C. A. Martin; Law, Maulvi Mahomed Yusoof Khan Bahadoor; Medicine, Dr. Surja Kumar Sarbadhicari; Engineering, the Hon'ble Mr. R. B. Buckley.

LAND SURVEY.—Regarding land survey in Behar and Northern Bengal, the outturn of work for the year ending September 1897 amounted to 908 miles of traverse survey, 845 miles of cadastral survey, record writing for 845 square miles and topographical survey in all for 410 square miles. With regard to Muzafferpur, which has nearly been concluded the district has been surveyed in over four million plots, and over a million tenancies or parcels of land have been recorded.

MONGHYR KYASTHA SABHA.—A correspondent writes:—The 9th anniversary sitting of the Monghyr Kyastha Sabha was held for three days from the 8th to 10th instant, at the premises of Babu Joggannath Sahay, pleader. The assembly on the first day was not very large due to bad weather. The next two days, the audience was large. Munshi Shyam Kishore, Kyastha Updeshak from Allahabad, gave a good impressive lecture on need of self-help and mutual help amongst the Kyasthas. Swami Hans Soarup, in his eloquent lectures showed the necessity of Sanskrit knowledge amongst the Kaysthas. He also proved the absolute necessity of *Sandhya*. Munshi Ram Sahay, General Secretary of the Sabha, made a statement as to the income and expenditure of the Sabha fund for the year and made a short speech on the usefulness of the Sabha. The prominent feature of the past year's working of the Sabha, was the maintenance of seven helpless Kyastha widows and the giving education to five orphan Kyastha boys.

HIGH COURT.—The following distribution of business amongst and constitution of Division Courts will take place on and from Monday, the 18th instant: *Presidency Group*—Justices Ameer Ali and Pratt; *Rayshaye Group*—Justices Rampini and Henderson; *Patna Group*—Justices Trevelyan and Stevens; *Burdwan Group*—Justices O'Kinealy and Gupta; *Criminal business*—the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Banerjee, Justices O'Kinealy and Gupta will take the Privy Council Department. Justices Jenkins and O'Kinealy will preside on the two courts on the Original Side.

HEROISM OF A BALUCH LADY.—At the time of attack some months ago on the Survey party in Mekran, Bibi Ganji Jah, wife of Sardar Jah Mouhamad of Chambor, was in Chambor Fort, her husband being away She took in ten khalasis of the Survey party and gave them shelter. Baluch Khan, the Chief, who was principally concerned in the attack on the camp, hearing of this, went to Chambor Fort and demanded that the men should be given up to be killed. Their protectress refused point blank to do anything of the kind, and told Baluch Khan that, though she was only a woman without her husband, he should not touch one of the men unless he stepped over her dead body. Baluch Khan thereupon departed, and the brave woman eventually sent the khalasis to the coast under an escort of her own men.

BENGAL PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE.—Our Dacca correspondent writes:—Work of the Provincial Conference is progressing steadily. Babu Ambica Charan Mazumdar, of Faridpur, paid us a flying visit and much helped the Working Committee with his advice and instructions. I am glad to tell you that Mr. Lal Mohun Ghose has kindly consented to be President of the Reception Committee. It is the general opinion here that no beter selection could be made. I hear that Mr. Shafaruddin, Bar-at-Law of the Bankipore Bar, is likely to preside at the meeting of the Conference. Nothing, however, is definitely known yet. You will be glad to learn that the schism of our Mahomedan brethren in the matter of the Conference, is likely to disappear. I understand that the Mahomedan gentry of the town will join us in giving a hearty reception to the delegates to the forthcoming Conference here.

UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING.—At today's meeting of the Calcutta University Senate the Registrar will lay before the Senate the Report of a Committee, appointed by the Faculty of Arts to consider a Memorandum from Mr. A. Pedler, F. R. S; and Dr. P. K. Ray, on the position of Science in the Scheme of University Education in Bengal and certain other papers relating to the subject; also the following Resolution passed by the Faculty of Arts on the Report of the Committee:—"The Faculty resolve to remit the report of the Committee, the Memorandum from Mr. A. Pedler, F. R. S. and Dr. P. K. Ray, and Mr. Griesbach's proposals as embodied in Mr. Pedler's scheme, to the Syndicate with a request that the Syndicate may refer the whole matter to the Senate with such observations as to the Syndicate may seem fit;" also a letter from Dr. P. K. Ray and Mr. A. Pedler, F. R. S., submitting an amended scheme for the institution of Degrees in Science.

EXTENSION OF SERVICE.—Mr. B. C. Seal, the Judge of Beerbhoom, has applied for one year's extension of his service, which ends in June next.

QUITE A CHANGE.—Dr. Simpson, late Health Officer, of the Calcutta Corporation has been appointed a jointeditor of a new medical journal, entitled "The Journal of Tropical Medicine".

PRESIDENCY GENERAL HOSPITAL.—Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Ranking has been appointed to act temporarily as Surgeon Superintendent of this Hospital.

E. I. R.—It is expected that at least one thousand goods wagons will reach India from England for the East Indian Railway during June. Additional engines have also been requisitioned.

OFF TO MOMBASSA.—Six thousand additional coolies will be sent from India to Mombassa, as it is considered desirable to push on the construction of the Railway line as quickly as possible.

CORONER OF CALCUTTA.—Mr. F. G. Wigley, Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Legislative Department, is appointed to be Coroner of Calcutta, with effect from the 13th instant.

AN INDIAN F.R.S.E.—Mr. S. C. Mahalanobis, B. Sc., F.R.M.S, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Mr. Mahalanobis is Demonstrator and Assistant Lecturer in Physiology at University College, Cardiff.

A POINT OF LAW.—Firms who give their pianos out on the hire-purchase system will be concerned to learn that the District Judge at Colombo has just disallowed the claim of Messrs. Cave and Co. for a piano seized under a writ. It had been taken by the defendant on the hire-purchase system, and the instalments had not been paid up in full.

THE WEATHER.—There is excessive heat over India generally at the present time, the highest temperature being in the Punjab, Upper Sind, and Rajputana. At Jacobabad the thermometer rose on the 10th instant to 112, being over 13 degrees above the average. It is, of course, too early yet to venture on conjectures regarding the coming monsoon, but so far as the snowfall and pressure conditions are concerned, there are no unfavourable signs.

PLAGUE EXAMINATION.—"A Ditcher" writes to the "Indian Daily News":—Two Ceylonese arrived by rail in Calcutta on Saturday last. They were detained at——for five days as suspects. After that they managed to buy their liberation, they say, for Rs. 10 only. This being the case with the plague authorities, it is not to be wondered at that the dreadful scourge will be in our midst in no time. They should waive all considerations whatever that human weakness can hold out and accept.

DEATH SENTENCE REDUCED.—The hearing of the appeal in the case of Empress vs Gridhari Marwari, in which the accused had been convicted by the Sessions Judge of Sahabad of abetting the murder of one Chuni Lall some twelve years and sentenced to death, was concluded to-day. Their Lordships, Justices Amir Ali and Henderson, of the Calcutta High Court, up-held the conviction but reduced the sentence to one of transportation for life.

APPEAL AGAINST ACQUITTAL.—Mr. Pugh on behalf of the Government of Bengal, applied for the admission of an appeal against the order of acquittal passed in the case of Empress vs Bhairab Nath Chuckerbarty, Surendra Nath Banerjee and Khetter Mohan Ganguly by the Sessions Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs in concurrence with the unanimous verdict of the Jury, the principal ground was that the Sessions Judge misdirected the jury. Justice Amir Ali and Henderson of the Calcutta High Court, admitted the appeal and ordered that under Sec. 407, C. P. C. warrants would be issued for the apprehension of the accused, but they would be enlarged on bail, during the pending of the appeal to the satisfaction of the District Magistrate.

AN OPIUM-EATING SAMBHUR.—A correspondent writes to the "Madras Mail":—Dogs, fowls, and monkeys have often been known to relish alcoholic liquors, but I was astonished the other day to hear of a sambhur hind which exhibited a decided liking for opium. It happened in this way. A Syrian Christian ryot in these parts became the happy possessor of a young sambhur hind which, after a time, growing older, showed a tendency to take to its native woods. The thought struck him that the opium "habit" once formed in the animal, it was bound to return daily for its modicum of the drug. He commenced giving the animal a little opium every day, at a particular time, with a little sugar, and strange to say the animal took to it and turned up daily for its dose of the drug. Sugar, salt and other animal dainties were tried previously in vain. The poor creature was ultimately shot by mistake for a wild sambhur.

WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.—There was no rain during the week ending the 11th instant, except ·90 at Alipur Duars. Rain is generally required for ploughing and early sowings. In some districts the spring crops are also in need of rain. In Orissa the *dalua* or spring rice is ripening, and cutting has been commenced in places. The harvesting of the *rabi* crops is being rapidly completed, and the outturn is generally expected to be good. The planting of new sugarcane is going on. The *mahua* crop in the Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur Divisions is being gathered, and promises to yield a good outturn. There has been no important change in the price of rice since the last report. Cattle disease continues in Lohardaga and Angul, but is subsiding in the latter district. Cattle-disease is also reported from parts of Burdwan, Hooghly, Pabna, Tippera, and Purnea. Deficiency of fodder and water is reported from places in Central and Eastern Bengal and in the Sonthal Parganas.

BASIRHAT STEAM TRAMWAY.—Sometime ago Messrs. Martin and Company obtained sanction from the District Board of Alipore to construct a light steam tramway from Barasat to Basirhat. But before they could obtain the final sanction of the Local Government, the District Board of Alipore was informed by the Local Government that it had already given sanction to Messrs. Barry and Company to construct a railway from Chandipur to Taki, touching at all the places through which the proposed tramway was to pass. As the object by the District Board was answered by the latter project, which had also the support of the Local Government, the District Board stopped Messrs. Martin and Company from further work. It should be remembered that Messrs. Martin and Company have already surveyed a portion of the line and incurred some expeneses.

SETTLEMENT PROCEEDINGS.—The *Englishman* writes:—Settlement proceedings in Bengal will doubtless attract the attention of Sir John Woodburn, himself an old Settlement Officer, and probably with advantage. We read in the "Bengal Gazette" of April 10 that rents in the Kolhan Estate in Singbhum had been raised from Rs. 64,828 to Rs. 1,77,300, or by 173·5 per cent. No comment is made upon this except that the "large increase" reflects great credit upon the Settlement Officer. Now this proceeding, "conducted under no specific law" we are told, seems to deserve explanation. Such an enormous increase of demand from the peasants of 911 villages implies apparently a large amount of discontent and unrest in remote Singbhum. A glance at the Gazette will show how petty details are chronicled minutely, while no explanation is given of what at first sight appears a grave hardship and a piece of unwise maladministration. Why should Government pose as a rackrenter on this gigantic scale? To the increase in Orissa, 16 per cent., no exception can be taken, but there are many other passages in this report which indicate that these proceedings require further supervision by such an expert as Sir John Woodburn.

A FUNNY CASE.—Our Gya correspondent writes:—There is rather a funny case pending before the Criminal Courts these days in which the Magistrate of the District figures as the complainant. The story is that on a certain day, the Magistrate saw a boy taking some fruits from his compound. The Magistrate came out and questioned the boy about the plucking and the removal of the fruits. The usual result followed. The boy got frightened and ran away. The Magistrate chased him; and in his eagerness to overtake him, he ran ahead of the boy and at last threw himself down causing severe pain and scratches to his own body. Soon after that he got up and brushed off the dust from his cloth and sent for the Sub-Inspector of Police, and lodged first information against the boy on a charge of theft of fruits. The Police has sent up the case as true, and it is pending trial. It is very rarely that a District Magistrate comes forward as a complainant; but the most interesting part of the affair was, of course, the chasing. The Magistrate of the District running on the public streets after a common boy, crying out thief! thief! and then cutting a somersault with a thud is a sight for the gods to see!

PLAGUE REPORT. A report on the plague in India in 1896-97 is issued by the Home Department, the Government of India dealing mainly with the period of the epidemic from August 1896 to July 1897. The main object of the report is to furnish an account of the epidemic, of the conclusions arrived at with regard to the nature of the disease, and of the measures best calculated to check and stay it, and of the operations carried out in Bombay and elsewhere. As the main object of the report is to serve as a book of reference, an account of remedial and preventive measures has been given in considerable detail. In all there are four volumes, the first of which contains sixteen chapters, and deals with the causes and characteristics of plague, its history, the measures adopted in Bombay and outside that city, the measures adopted to prevent its spread by land and sea, details regarding military and medical staff regulations enforced in foreign countries, and the pilgrimage to Mecca, while in chapter sixteen a brief summary is given of the conclusions with regard to the best means of combating plague derived from the present and past epidemics. Attached to the report are a set of appendices consisting (1) mainly of orders issued by the Government of India and local Governments; (2) of the selection of papers from official correspondence on the subject of plague; and (3) reports submitted by officers in charge of operations at important centres. Volume four consists entirely of maps and charts showing the intensity of the plague in various quarters, the plague inspection stations, the mortality caused by the disease, etc. These have been excellently prepared by the Survey Department in Calcutta. The four volumes have been admirably compiled by Mr. R. Nathan, Indian Civil Service, Under-Secretary in the Home Department, and the Government Printing Office in Calcutta is to be congratulated on the manner in which the report has been turned out.

AT the Bombay Criminal Sessions on Thursday, the trial of five Mahomedans, charged with the murder of Lance-Corporals Turner and Evans, of the Shropshire Light Infantry, was concluded, after occupying the attention of the Court for two and-a-half days. After Justice Budrudin Tyabjee had summed up, the Jury, after consulting together for an hour and forty minutes, were divided by six to three. Being again asked to retire, they left the Court for another forty minutes; but on returning, the foreman stated that the majority was unchanged The Jury then returned a verdict, by six to three, of guilty of murder and rioting against all the accused. His Lordship, in passing the sentence of death upon Mohamed Ali, the fifth prisoner, said he had been found to have used an iron bar. As the other prisoners had only used sticks, he sentenced them each to transportation for life. The accused, after the sentence had been passed, were removed from the dock with difficulty, one of them attempting, it is said, to bite off the nose of one of the European constables.

Mofussil News.

KHULNA, APRIL 14.

DAY before yesterday, there was a shower of rain with high wind.—The annual anniversary of the Khulna *Anjya Dharma Sava* was celebrated with great *eclat*. Pandits were invited to give religious instructions, and on the last day a feast was given to those who were present.—The Khulna Union Sporting Club has this year opened its new session by a friendly foot-ball match with the Zilla School boys.

FORT SANDEMAN, APRIL 7.

THE 5th Bombay Cavalry arrived here last month in place of the 7th Bombay Lancers, who left for Quetta last week. The 5th Cavalry are a good Regiment. The native Infantry Regiment here also belong to Bombay. The Mountain Battery is no longer here, but considering the recent disturbances, it is true that there should be a Mountain Battery as well at Fort Sandeman.—The Khan of Khelat has made very good arrangements for the government of his State if the reports, which are received, be true. The old Khan is at Loralai, and the reason why he has been sent there is well-known to your readers.—It is time that Fort Sandeman should be made a pucca cantonment and a Cantonment Magistrate appointed. In the Cantonment of Loralai there is a separate Cantonment Magistrate.—The weather is delightful.

LORALAI, APRIL 6.

THE days are extremely clear; and since the 1st of the current month, we are getting a fresh supply of vegetables and fruits. Loralai is in the District of Thalchotiali, and the necessaries of life are comparatively cheaper here than in other parts of Baluchistan, except Sibi. The climate of Loralai is more English than Indian. The winds are the only draw-back here, especially in the summer months. In some cases, these resemble the nor-westers of Lower Bengal, which are so troublesome in the summer months, especially in the afternoon.—The question of water-supply will shortly come before the Agent to the Governor-General. At present water, is obtained from the Karezes which become sometimes dry.—The new Cavalry Regiment have already joined here. There is no European regiment here.

MEHERPUR, APRIL 13.

EXCEPTING a few cases of influenza the general health in and out of the town is, on the whole, good. Yesterday we had a few drops of rain after four or five months. We are sadly in want of heavy showers for cultevation. The mango fruit is falling off the trees for want of moisture.—The present Municipal affairs have become a subject of discussion in general. The assessments have created a great sensation throughout the length and breadth of the town. Applications for remissions are daily filed in numbers before the Appellate Committee. The assessors, in order to seek their own interest, have excluded some of the rate-payers from their capacities of voting by a reduction of a few annas from the minimum rate Rs. 1-8, although they did not put forward any grievance before them for this reduction. Now they are filing applications before the Chairman to have this injustice remedied.—A Mahomedan woman has filed a case against Mehir Ali Mallick, the local Sub-Registrar, before the Sub-divisional Officer; but the cause is still a mystery to us. The public are anxiously waiting to know the mystery and the result of the case.

DACCA, APRIL 13.

MR. SHIRRES, the District Magistrate, is shortly going away on leave. Dacca will not, I am afraid, feel his loss, as his presence is scarcely felt now that he is here. It was, I think, Mr. Toynbee, late Commissioner of Dacca, who observed, referring to the inactivity of our present Magistrate, just after the late earthquake, that the people of Dacca could not know for some time that there was a Magistrate of the District to look after them. A senior man with working habits, should be placed in charge of such an important district as Dacca. We had not a drop of rain for a long time, and there were fires in several parts of the town. Night before last, however, we got a good shower which has considerably cooled down the atmosphere. Sowing was also much delayed for want of rains. Some cases of cholera have occurred in the Shakhari Bazar, which is the veritable plague-spot in the very heart of the town. It is a standing disgrace to the Municipality as well as to the authorities that no attempt whatever is made for the improvement of this dirty locality while about 30 thousand rupees are going to be spent for a park (within 2 minutes' walk from the riverside) for which there is no need at all.

TAMLUK, APRIL 12.

THERE were a few cases of cholera in the town, some of which, terminating fatally, caused a panic among the residents. There has been no fresh case for the last 7 or 8 days, and the panic has subsided. There are yet a few stray cases of influenza which was in full swing a few days ago.—Owing to the addition of Gumdhar Thana—which was formerly within the jurisdiction of Contai—to Tamluk, the importance of the place has greatly increased. There are now four Munsiffs, instead of three.—The Bar Library is making rapid progress towards completion.—Babu Mahesh Chandra Chakraburti, the social reform preacher, paid lately a short visit to the station and delivered two lectures at one of which, held on Thursday last, Babu Gopi Kissen Bannerjee, 1st Munsiff, presided.—A plague meeting was held on Thursday last under the auspices of the Sub-divisional Officer to consider what steps and precautions should be taken to save the town from the dire visitation and how the plague rules should be applied in the event of its breaking out.—Courts and schools are now held in the morning.—Coarse rice is selling here at 3-4 per maund. There was a drizzle here this morning; the sky is still dotted over with clouds, promising a healthy shower in the near future.—The Baruni *Snan* on the Chait Sankranti day drew a large number of pilgrims.—The Local Hari Sabha is making great preparations to celebrate its anniversary. Pundit Ram Chandra Nayaratna will deliver lectures on the occasion.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

GAYA, APRIL 14.

WE have these days a new Judge and a new Magistrate. Mr. Drake-Brockman is officiating as a Judge, and Mr. Oldham, of the Bengal Secretariat, is our Magistrate. The former is very calm and quiet sort of man, comes to the court with down-cast eyes, scarcely raises his head upwards, hears the pleaders very patiently and then dismisses the appeals generally. He is quite young and new; and therefore, probably he thinks it is better to be on the safe side, to agree with the findings of the Lower Courts which have better experience, and not to interfere with their judgments. Be that as it may, this procedure of the Judge will lessen perceptibly the number of appeals, which means pecuniary loss to the members of the legal profession. He is wanting in experience, and after he has gained it, he may probably interfere; but it requires time for him to do so.

The latter, again, is very young, so much so that his juvenile nature has not yet left him and he is very fond of indulging sometimes in jokes and merriments. He laughs very often and does business very calmly and in an easy-going manner. He knows Persian and Hindi well, and likes to talk more in the Oriental languages than in his own mother-tongue. He is very inquisitive and likes to get at the root of every word, uttered by those who have occasion to see him. He holds his court generally in his private room, attached to the court house, where he shuts all the doors except one, through which he receives the clients and their legal advisers. He never sends for the pleaders and the mukhtears when the cases are up for hearing, but calls the suitors out. If they are present, he hears them in person, or dismisses the cases when the least delay is caused in the attendance of the pleaders or the mukhtears. He will not wait for them, nor will he allow them to come to the room and take their seats before their cases are actually taken up by him. I don't know if that is done under direction of the Magistrate or the orderlies themselves do it to please the Magistrate. Be that as it may, this practice puts the pleaders and the mukhtears to very great inconvenience. They have to dance attendance in the verandah for a long time in the interest of their clients in the scorching heat of the Gya sun without getting any seat. The Magistrate will please look to this and see that no further inconvenience is caused to them whose cause I have espoused in this letter.—The District Superintendent of Police had gone out on tour. He was camping somewhere in the interior, when, at night, all his utensils were stolen and removed by thieves! The matter was taken up by the Police in right earnest; and after the labour of full two months, they sent up a batch of about 20 men, 12 of whom have been convicted and sentenced to undergo various terms of imprisonment, varying from 6 months to 2 years.

THE PLAGUE.

THE Collector of Karachi has suggested the employment of British soldiers for sanitary purposes. The Plague Committee concur in this proposition, and have requested the General Officer Commanding to take the necessary action.

FROM the statistics of plague mortality in Bombay during the last week, it appears that the virulence of the pestilence is spent there and that a period of decline has set in.

UNDER telegraphic instructions from the Government of India, the Government of Madras has ordered that plague regulations as to quarantine should be imposed at all ports in the Madras Presidency against arrivals from Karachi.

ASSISTANT-Surgeon F. J. Salts, of the Indian Subordinate Medical Department, has been dismissed from the service for grave misconduct, while employed as an inspecting officer under the Epidemic Diseases Act at the segregation camp at Khana Junction on the East Indian Railway.

ORDERS have been received from the Government of Bombay that the whole organisation of the existing Plague Committee shall be wound up by the 31st. The Committee is to send in a proposal for a new organisation and plan of operations, after consultation with the Municipal Commissioner. There is reason to believe that this proposal will be to the effect that the Municipal Commissioner shall take over charge of the operations and the services of the officers now on plague duty.

THE Bombay Presidency plague returns to April 8th are as follows:—Cities: Bombay, 738 cases and 616 deaths: Kurrachee, 20 cases and 13 deaths; Poona 7 cases and 5 deaths. Districts: Ahmedabad I case and I death; Kairo, I case, but no deaths; Surat, 84 cases and 74 deaths; Thana, 60 cases and 45 deaths; Ahmednuggur, 1 case and 2 deaths; Khandesh, 20 cases and 10 deaths; Nassik, 24 cases and 17 deaths; Poona 4 cases and 4 deaths; Satara, 36 cases and 21 deaths: Sholapore, 21 cases and 8 deaths; Kolaba, 40 cases and 39 deaths; Ratnagiri, 43 cases and 41 deaths; Belgaum, 33 cases and 33 deaths; Bijapore, 1 case and 1 death. Territories: Baroda, 158 cases and 130 deaths; Kathiawar, 2 cases and 2 deaths; Kolhapore 145 cases and 123 deaths; Cutch, 6 cases and 6 deaths; Rewa Kantha, 3 cases and 5 deaths; Palampore, 27 cases and 19 deaths; Sachin, 1 case, but no deaths; Janjira, 3 cases and 2 deaths; Aundh, 1 case and 1 death; Bhor, 12 cases and 6 deaths. Total, 1,492 cases and 1,224 deaths. The deaths up to date number 82,400.

LORD SANDHURST visited the plague hospitals in Bombay on Tuesday and met the representatives of the five District Working Committees whom he cordially welcomed. Addressing them, he said he wished to instil in them a spirit of emulation. He hoped that each member of each Committee would try to do better than his neighbour, and so get rid of the plague. He rejoiced to find for the past few weeks that the plague seemed to be steadily declining, but this must not cause them to relinquish their efforts, and they must not rest contented until it was stamped out altogether. In order to do this they must keep constantly in touch not only with the districts, but with the people, and become acquainted, not only with the new cases, but with the deaths from plague, of which it was necessary to keep a strict account. This could only be done by unremitting personal attention. The Governor then paid a deserved tribute to the members of the Plague Committee, mentioning particularly Mr. James, Dr. Dimmock, and the Municipal Commissioner who had all worked heart and soul from the very start. Whatever might be said of the success of their operations, they must all recognise, as he did, that they had laboured faithfully and disinterestedly for the good of the people and the city of Bombay.

HERE is one more amusing instance, illustrating the present working of the principle of relaxation of quarantine rules. A gentleman, who has been living at Sion for months past, and is therefore as free from suspicion of infection as any one can be, had to send his grown-up sister to her husband at Poona, and he went to Mr. Du Boulay for a pass for her and for himself, as he wanted to personally escort her safe through the numerous quarantine and examination ordeals to be undergone in the way. Mr. Du Boulay told him that he was sitting in the Town Hall to give passes to people going "on business," that he could well understand that the gentleman had business—namely, that of escorting his sister, but he could not consider that going to her husband's was any "business," for a lady. Consistently with the fine distinction he had thus drawn he offered to give a pass to the brother—to enable him to escort his sister, be it remembered but declined to give a pass to the sister, for escorting whom the brother was given the pass. The gentleman could not succeed in moving Mr. Du Boulay, and in despair applied to the Plague Commissioner, who, we are glad to state, readily gave passes to both the sister and the brother. There was one more funny incident in connection with the experiences of this gentleman. When he first applied for a pass, he was asked to bring the usual guarantee of bona fides. He brought a letter from Sir James Campbell, to the effect that the gentleman was himself a well-known leader of society, and that it was unnecessary to take any guarantee from him. His word was as good as any guarantee. The remark made upon this letter was that the gentleman was asked to bring a guarantee, and not Sir Jam s Campbell's letter!—"Indian Spectator".

THERE were 104 attacks and 61 deaths from plague in Bombay on Thursday. At Karachi, plague is steadily increasing. Thursday's returns showed 16 cases and 7 deaths, the totals up to that date being 77 cases and 42 deaths.

FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

THE "Pioneer" understands that more questions are to be put in Parliament regarding abandonment of the Khyber last August.

THE Haddah Mulla whom the reader will remember as one of the foremost figures at the late frontier disturbance, has now announced that he had done with the affairs of the world and intended to spend the rest of his days in prayer.

NOTHING further will be done regarding the settlement of the future policy with regard to the frontier until the Viceroy arrives at Simla.

MR. A. F. D. CUNNIGHAM took over the duties of Chief Political Officer to General Symons on the 13th instant. As everything remains quiet in the Khyber, all picquet duties have now been made over to the Khyber Rifles from Jamrud to Fort Maude.

QUEER BOYS OF ZULULAND.

JOHN L. Dobe, the young native Zulu missionary who is at present studying in this country, says, that the life of the Zulu boy is not all play. At the same time that our boys are started out for school, often feeling very much injured because the day is bright and they would rather play football, the Zulu boy, without any breakfast, is sent out into his father's field, where the crops are growing.

The work assigned to him there does not in the least resemble any chores that a boy might find to do here, for it consists in chasing away the monkeys and baboons which come out of the forest and prowl about with designs on the ripening pumpkins and other fruits. This is lively work, for monkeys are notably quick in their movements and unless the youngsters are on the alert the monkeys pounce upon their booty and carry it away under the boys' noses.

At other times of the year it is not the baboons but the birds that must be kept from the ripening grain. After a morning of such lively exercise the boys are ravenous for their noon meal, the first food that is given them during the day, for they only eat twice in twenty-four hours, with not so much as an afternoon tea between times.

The whole aim of a Zulu boy's training is to make him a dauntless and victorious warrior. This being the case, the most important of their games is one in which they learn to throw sharpend sticks with skill. It is played as follows: One of their number ascends a small hill while the others, with their sticks in their hands, range themselves in a row down the side. The lad at the top then throws past the boys with all his force the huge, soft bulb of a large African lily. This bulb is a foot in diameter, and as it goes by the first boy he flings his stick at it. If he fails to pierce it, the next boy, quick as lightning, throws, too, and if he fails, the next one tries it, and so on until one of them sends his stick into the heart of the bulb, and as a reward he is allowed to go higher in the line, displacing the boy above him.

Though they consider it a great hardship to be obliged to chase the birds from their father's crops, the boys will pursue them from bush to bush and from tree to tree, until they actually tire their game out, when they knock the birds on the head and kill them. If a Zulu boy were told to put salt on a bird's tail he would not find it such a very difficult feat.

When the young Zulu has become tired or heated from other sports he runs to the nearest river, into which he dives. It is not necessary for him to stop to take off his clothes, because he never wears any, and at such a time he must find it very convenient. Zulu boys have been in the water so much from their very infancy that they seem almost as much at home in it as the fish themselves. Many of their strokes in swimming differ greatly from ours, and with them they are able to make headway against the swiftest and strongest river currents. This is very necessary, because the South African rivers all flow swiftly and there are few opportunities for still-water bathing.

They are especially proud of the length of time that they are able to remain underneath the water, and they learn to swim for a long distance without coming to the surface. But perhaps their most wonderful accomplishment in the water is an ability to swim with their shoulders. They do not use their arms at all, but simply call into play the powerful muscles of their little backs.

THE *I. D. News*—Simla correspondent writes:—There is still a certain amount of anxiety, lest the plague should make its appearance in Simla, so many of the carpenters, who inhabit the Lukker Bazar, coming from the infected Jullunder Division. A public meeting was held last Monday in the Town Hall, under the presidency of Colonel Grey, the President of the Municipality, but nothing was settled. The natives of the place appeared to think that segregation and house visitation had been sprung upon them suddenly, and without warning, and they asked that the meeting be adjourned in order that they might consider these to them novel ideas. After the public meeting, the principal natives held a meeting among themselves, and the members declared they would rather their women died than were examined by strange doctors.

THE RECENT MOPLAH OUTBREAK.

THE first overt act in this outbreak which, happily for all parties, is now over, was as we announced in our last issue, the murder of Maranat Nambuderi whose life was attempted in the last outbreak. A gang of Moplahs waylaid him on Friday last at dusk in a paramba near his Illom in Pandikkad and mortally wounded him. He had two attendants with him—one a Nayar and the other a Moplah, both of whom were wounded and are now in the Hospital. On Saturday the gang was heard to sound their usual war-cry when they burned the Karayi temple in the adjoining amsom of Vettikkattiri. This temple was burned in the outbreak of 1894 and was since re-built. On Sunday night they entered a Nayar house and looted it. The inmates appear to have fled and no harm is reported to have been done to any of them. On Monday morning they similarly looted the house of one Kuman Nair and afterwards took shelter in a temple at about 8 A. M. Here they were surrounded by the Police. They had no arms but knives with them, and finding the hopelessness of their position some of them surrendered themselves in an hour or two and eventually the rest of gang did the same. This surrender of the gang has thrown some doubt in certain quarters on the character of the rising itself; but it is premature to give any dewided opinion on the point. We could only state that we have heard it boldly asserted in private conversation that in former outbreaks the Police sometimes came sufficiently near the fanatics and might have had an engagement with them if they had felt equal to the task. If there be any truth in this, the firm and determined action of the Police on Monday last has been the sole cause of averting a protracted outbreak with all its attendant evils.

Mr. Vibert, the Special Assistant Magistrate, and Mr. Wilkinson, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, with the Malapuram special force, must have reached the scene on Saturday. The news was received in Calicut on that day, and Mr. Dance left with 50 reserve Police by the evening train on Sunday for Tirur, *en-route* to Pundikad via Malapuram. Both Messrs. Dance and Wilkinson are known to be strongly in favour of employing the Police alone to suppress Moplah outbreaks and of capturing them alive at all cost and thus preventing the fanatics from meeting with their end in the manner they desire. In the present instance they do not perhaps intend to stray beyond the Penal Code to bring the offenders to justice, as there are two eye-witnesses to the murder. Mr. Dance no doubt has some knowledge of the Moplah character. But intimate as that knowledge is in many respects he has shown that, like many of his predecessors, he has yet to learn a good deal about the Mop. He took Puthiya Malikkal Thangel alias Malapuram Tangal, with him and asked the Malapuram Tangal to meet him on the way so that they may help him in suppressing the outbreak. The prestige of Government is often maintained at all costs and in many ways. But what must have become of its prestige now among the ignorant Moplahs when to perform the first duty of every Government—the protection of life and property—it has to bring to the front two Tangals. Among the many difficult questions that will have to be decided in connection with this outbreak, not the least complicated will be the one about the reward these Tangals are to receive. Mere thanks will not do, as Government's thanks have become cheap since they began to be bestowed on persons who go out of their way to pick holes in the work of their predecessors. Any of those empty titles which those who have no chance of getting them may well laugh at, are out of the question, since even the most vivid imagination will not be able to trace any connection between the fruitless journey of one of these Tangals aud the surrender of the fanatics on Monday last Sound as the advice as that is given by Hindus on this subject, it falls flat on European officials who set little store by it and rush to the conclusion that it is due to race prejudice.

All the usual preparations were ordered, but have been cancelled. The military were warned to be ready. Spare policemen were ordered from every part of the District. Mr. H. A. Stuart had intended to leave Madras for the scene of the outbreak. The District Superintendent of Police was far away in Wynaad, more than fifty miles distant from Calicut when the news reached him. He rode all the distance on his bicycle on Sunday last and had intended to leave on Monday for the disturbed parts, when hearing that the District Magistrate would be returning yesterday he has decided to remain in Calicut for the present.

Later information confirms our report in all details except with regard to the attendants of the Nambudri. It was on his return after a bath that he was waylaid. He made some resistance; and hearing his cries a servant rushed to the rescue, who wounded a Moplah and was in his turn also wounded. It is these persons that are in the Hospital.

Mr. Dance and the Reserve Police had only reached Manjeri when they heard the news of the surrender and did not proceed further. It was in Payyanat temple that the fanatics took shelter. The Police were accompanied by the Malapuram Tangal and his attendants and also by the Urvampuram Tangal. Four of the men who had gone out for provisions were captured by the Police. The rest (six) were induced to surrender by the Malapuram Tangal who is reported to have held out all sorts of hopes to them. They are supposed to have surrendered to the Tangal on condition that they would be deported to Arabia. The Tangal has also promised to get the Collector to put a stop to the oppression of the Jenmies.

The immediate cause of the murder is alleged by them to have been the unbearable oppression of the tenants by this Jenmi who, to build a new Illom, was cutting down many of their jack-trees. The persons concerned in the murder appear to have been working as coolies and received their usual wages that very day from the Namburdi.—"Malabar and Travancore Spectator."

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—There was a vacancy in the Municipal Council of Srirangam. Mr. Sambasiva Aiyar, Inspector of Police of the Srirangam Division, has been appointed as a Municipal Councillor. Several protests were sent by the public to Government but of no avail. The Inspector-General of Police thought it undesirable that he should be in the council. But the Collectors Messrs Macleod and Shipley thought otherwise and also the Superintendent of Police. The Government concurred in the view of the Collectors and the local head of the Police that the Police Inspector of Srirangam should be in the Council from an administrative point of view. He has been attending the Council since December last. Only a few days ago the matter was finally settled by Government.

THE scarcity of rice in Kwangtung province and the high prices prevailing have in several districts led to riots. In Shekloong the rice hongs were raided by the populace just when there happened to be a full stock on hand, and property amounting in all to a value of about $80,000 was stolen or destroyed. In Sanhui also the rice hongs were raided, and four men were killed. In other places similar riots have taken place. At Canton the charitable institutions are selling rice to the poorer classes at the rate of 40 catties for $1, which is considerably below the market price. A portion of the rice so disposed of has been brought down by gunboats from Hupeh and Hunan, and a portion consists of grain seized by the authorities while being illegally exported, the export of rice from China being prohibited.

THE INDIGO CRISIS.

THE Germans are now apparently sanguine about the success of the artificial or synthetic indigo, which is being made by the Baden Anil and Soda Fabrik and is being placed upon the market. Though they hesitate to prophesy that it will altogether oust or supersede natural indigo, they nevertheless maintain that the artificial variety will force down prices to an extent which will prove perilous to the indigo planters. As the industry is one of the great importance in India, we have taken the trouble to make some inquiries in Germany, and though we do not pretend that the information we have obtained is exhaustive, we hope its publication may be found useful.

The exact composition of these artificial indigo, is a secret; but it is known to be derived from coal tar, which has already yielded so many of the best artificial dyes known to commerce. The present variety is by no means the first artificial substance which has been placed on the market as a substitute for natural indigo. German scientists have for several years been experimenting with a view to producing a chemical which would be superior to natural indigo as a dyeing agent; and as far back as 1881 the Baden Factory of Anil and Soda came out with their "proprial acid," a substance which was stated to be capable of replacing indigo so far as the dyeing of cloth was concerned. After this the salt of indigo of Halle and Company of Biebrich was produced with reputedly similar qualities. The prices of these chemical articles, however, were practically prohibitive: moreover they imparted an offensive odour to articles dyed by them. The Baden Fabrik now brought out "indophor" which was supposed to be free from these drawbacks and the dye works of Hchster invented a chemical which it was claimed possessed similar advantages: but these substances could dye only cotton, and were thus unable completely to supersede indigo. Now, however, the Baden Fabrik claim to have an article which is altogether superior to natural indigo.

A brief comparison of the relative merits of the natural and artificial varieties will serve to reveal the weak points and advantages of each, and to indicate how the latter is supposed to be superior to the former. As is well-known, the dyeing property of natural indigo is due to the presence of a blue colouring matter, called indigotin or indigo blue; and the scientific explanation of its preparation is that the indigo plant contains a glucoside, styled indican [chemical formula $C_{52}H_{52}N_2O_{34}$] from which colouring matter is produced. This indican is a brown syrupy liquid, soluble in water. Under favourable conditions solution of indican ferments, and one of the products of this fermentation is indigo blue, or indigotin [$C_{16}H_{10}N_2O_2$]. This indigotin is insoluble in water, and consequently cannot be used at this stage; but if it is subjected to the action of a reducting agent, it becomes indigo white [$C_{16}H_{12}N_2O_2$]; and this latter substance is soluble in water. If, therefore, a solution of it is put on cloth, and if this cloth be then exposed to the air, indigo white becomes oxidised into indigo blue. This, as already stated, is the scientific explanation of the evolution which takes place; but in actual practice a number of impurities are included, and the proportion of indigo blue becomes a very variable quantity.

The quality of natural indigo of course depends on the contained proportions of indigotin or indigo blue. In the finest Java indigo we find 80 per cent of pure blue colouring matter, while at the other extreme—viz., in Manilla indigo, we get as low as 15 per cent. Next to Java indigo comes good Bengal indigo, with 60 or 70 per cent of pure blue colouring matter. Then follow Guatemala and various sorts from Tirhoot, the N. W. P., Bimlipatam, Cuddapah, etc., with proportions of indigo in or blue colouring matter, ranging from 50 to 30 per cent and even lower. It is of great importance to the purchaser to know the exact percentage of indigotin contained in any particular sample; for upon the quantity of indigotin present depends the quality of the sample in question. Unfortunately, as already explained, the proportion of indigotin is very variable and very uncertain; and there is no simple, practical method for discovering the exact proportion present. The permanganate method is often used. Indigo is dissolved in sulphuric acid, and is then treated with solution of permanganate of potash of given strength, until discolouration takes place. This is an extremely simple process; but unfortunately permanganate of potash also discolours all organic matters contained in the coarser sorts of indigo; so that, if we judge by the amount of discolouration, the percentage of indigotin is indicated as much higher than it really is. Various reductive processes have also been used for ascertaining the proportion of indigotin, but the test proposed by Mr. Christopher Rawson is perhaps the best. The sample of indigo to be tested is reduced by means of hydrosulphite of soda and then filtered. Air is then blown through it, and indigotin or indigo blue now falls down. The latter is purified with warm nitric acid and weighed, and the proportion present is thus indicated. Notwithstanding this excellent test, a quick and sure method of ascertaining the proportion of blue colouring matter has yet to be discovered, and the purchaser of natural indigo is consequently very much at the mercy of the seller with regard to its exact quality. Several refined samples of the natural variety have been placed upon the market with a declared value of about 90 per cent of blue colouring matter.

The pure indigo—artificial or synthetic—of the Baden Anil and Soda Fabrik is, it appears, an improvement on the best refined sample of natural indigo which has been produced up till now; for it is declared to contain nearly 100 per cent of blue colouring matter, and the percentage is guaranteed constant. The artificial indigo is delivered in the form of powder or paste. At first certain drawbacks were noticed; it was found that when cotton was dyed and washed, more colouring matter fell away than when the stuff was dyed with natural indigo. The colouring matter thus washed away was a loss and so determined efforts were made to discover means of lessening or altogether preventing the loss. After long continued experiments it was found that natural indigo contained some substance which increased the affinity between the cotton fibres and the colouring matter—in other words, which had a mordant action. This substance was isolated from indigo, and was added to the dyeing vats of the artificial variety, and by these means the colouring matter was fixed to the cotton fibres. A further step has since been made, and a special mordant has been discovered, which, it is said, acts more efficaciously than the mordant in natural indigo; and now the mordants used for dyeing cotton are a variety of protain stuffs—casein, albumin, gluse, gelatine, gums, soaps and an unpronounceable substance called "turkischrothol." These mordants are either added to the dyeing tubs, or they are first dissolved and then added.

If this artificial indigo really possesses the qualities which are claimed for it, and if it can be sold at sufficiently low prices, there can be little or no doubt that it will prove a formidable rival to natural indigo. Briefly speaking the advantages claimed for artificial indigo are, that it is pure and contains a very high and constant percentage of blue colouring matter or indigotin; whereas natural indigo, even at its best, cannot be said to be pure, and contains a variable and practically unascertainable proportion of indigotin. The Behar Planter's Association, it is understood, have now engaged the services of Mr. Christopher Rawson, who is perhaps the best expert in the chemistry of indigo, and he will doubtless try to effect what is possible for the improvement of the quality of natural indigo. If he can succeed obtaining a high and constant proportion of indigotin in the natural variety, and if the latter can be sold at sufficiently low prices, then natural indigo will be able to hold its own. In the meanwhile the prices of indigo have gone down considerably; and in many quarters it is feared that evil days are in store for the Indian indigo planter. From inquiries, however, in Germany from persons who are actually in contact with the manufacturers of artificial indigo, we have elicited the following expression of opinion:—"The general impression seems to be that artificial indigo will not drive natural indigo out of the market, but it will reduce the prices of natural indigo; and the profits from indigo may not hereafter be so high as heretofore, in presence of the competition of artificial indigo. So far as can be gathered, the natural indigo has a long life yet before it, although its money-value may be reduced in succeeding years. If sellers will lower their prices, they will still hold the market." Unfortunately lowering the prices may cut the margin of profits too fine—"Pioneer".

AMUSING BREACH OF PROMISE CASE.

AT the London Sheriff's Court, before Mr. Under Sheriff Barchell and a Jury, the case of "M'Lean v. Matthews," an action for breach of promise of marriage, remitted from the High Court for the assessment of damages, came on for hearing. The plaintiff was Miss Harriet Ann M'Lean, a laundry assistant, residing at Northumberland Heath, Belvedere, Kent, and the defendant, Mr. Francis Charles Matthews, greengrocer, of College-place, College-green, Bristol.

Mr. H. A. Forman was counsel for the plaintiff, and the defendant was represented by Mr. Barnard, solicitor.

Counsel in opening the case on behalf of the plaintiff, said that the defendant had treated the young lady in a most heartless manner, and his conduct merited substantial damages. The plaintiff was of 32 years of age, and defendant 30. Ten years ago he became acquainted with defendant while visiting Bristol, and immediately they began to be on very affectionate terms. Miss M'Lean met the defendant frequently at Paddington station and on one occasion in 1890 he proposed to her at the terminus, and he was immediately accepted. It was agreed on the spot that the defendant should complete the proposal by purchasing the engagement ring without further delay, and the two repaired to a jeweller's shop in Bayswater, where the plaintiff selected a ring. It was not intended, however, that the marriage should take place at once, as the couple were quite willing to wait until there was an improvement in the defendant's pecuniary prospects. In 1894 the defendant commenced business in the boot line on his own account in Bristol, but apparently he was as unsuccessful with his boots as he was with his love affairs (laughter). Subsequently he became a clerk to his brother, who was a large miller in Bristol, and now he was in business for himself as a greengrocer. In December 1892 the defendant presented the plaintiff with a keeper's ring and made in the presence of a witness the following vow: "I solemnly promise not to marry anyone else but my Annie." That vow, however, so solemnly made, was never fulfilled for, on Nov. 1, 1897, he married another young lady at a church at Bristol, although a few days before the ceremony he came up to London on a visit to plaintiff. A day or two before the marriage the plaintiff received an intimation to the effect that the defendant was to be married at Bristol. She went to Bristol unknown to the defendant, and was present at the church when the defendant was married to another girl. The plaintiff returned to the defendant all his presents and the engagement ring, but the same was not done by the defendant, who kept all the presents he had received from Miss M'Lean.

Miss M'Lean, the plaintiff, substantially bore out the Counsel's opening statement.

Mr. Forman.—How many letters have you received from the defendant?

Plaintiff.—One thousand and thirty (loud laughter).

Mr. Barnard (for the defendant).—I should like to know how old this young lady is.

Plaintiff.—I am 32, and defendant is 30.

Mr. Barnard.—Would you be surprised to learn that he is only 22 now?

Plaintiff. I most certainly should. Why I have been engaged to him ten years.

Mr. Forman (to the Jury).—Ten years ago, gentlemen, the defendant, who would then be only twelve years of age, wrote to the plaintiff's mother asking for the necessary permission to become engaged to the plaintiff. The suggestion, gentlemen, is absurd. Can you imagine a boy, a mere stripling of twelve years of age, writing in a serious manner to the mother of this young lady? (loud laughter.)

The Under Sheriff.—The suggestion is absurd. He would be only a mere child when he became acquainted with the plaintiff.

Let the Jury see this young man and judge for themselves.

Mr. Barnard.—He isn't here (laughter).

Continuing her evidence the plaintiff stated that when she purchased linen in view of her approaching marriage the defendant requested her to mark it "A.M." instead of in the initials of her maiden name, so that she should not have to remark it at a future date.

The Jury assessed the damages at 150*l.*, and judgment was given accordingly with costs.

THE *Morning Post* says that two English boys, Walter Williamson and Eugene Fitzgerald, have been sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment each by the Joint-Magistrate of Ghazipore for assaulting the police and rescuing a sweeper-girl in Mrs. Williamson's employ from custody. The accused have appealed to the Sessions Judge.

SERIOUS inroads are being made by the sea on the foreshore of Tellicherry on the Malabar coast, and a scheme has been propounded for building a monster sea-wall. The only difficulty that appears to exist relates to the apportionment of the cost. The foreshore belongs to the Crown, but immediately in rear of it lies private property. To charge the cost of the sea-wall to Government, it is argued, would be to protect neighbouring private property at the expense of the State. On the other hand, to thrust the burden on the adjacent property-owners would be to protect Crown land at the expense of a few individ-

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Telegrams.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, APRIL 12.

The majority of newspapers agree in the opinion that while President McKinley has shown a personal desire for peace, his Message to Congress must lead to war unless Spain withdraws from Cuba. President McKinley has practically renounced any responsibility in the matter, and leaves the decision to Congress.

The Cuban insurgents refuse to accept the armistice.

LONDON, APRIL 12.

The "North China Daily News" states that a formidable conspiracy has been discovered in the Imperial Palace at Pekin, and that the lives of some of the highest people are endangered.

LONDON, APRIL 12, MIDNIGHT.

It is believed that the report of the Foreign Committee of the Senate is in favour of declaring the independence of Cuba and demanding that the Spanish forces quit Cuba, and instructing President McKinley to employ all the forces of the country to execute these resolutions.

LONDON, APRIL 12.

Fifteen non-commissioned officers and men of the Medical Staff Corps have been ordered to Egypt.

LONDON, APRIL 13.

The Emperor William has wired to the Queen his congratulations on the British victory over the Dervishes on the Atbara river.

The British Brigade has arrived at Dars mali and goes into summer quarters there and at Essilem. General Maxwell's brigade is going to Berber.

LONDON, APRIL 13.

An abortive conference has been held at Cardiff of the employers and miners on strike, the latters' delegates having no plenary powers.

LONDON, APRIL 13.

The Committees of the Washington House of Representatives and the Senate, to whom President McKinley's message to Congress was referred, have both reported in favour of immediately requesting Spain to withdraw from Cuba, and instructing the President to use all the forces of the United States to secure Cuban independence. The Committees in their reports scathingly denounce the Spanish atrocities in Cuba, which they compare to those committed by the Turks. The wording of the reports is manifestly calculated to provoke Spanish pride to the utmost.

LONDON, APRIL 13.

President Faure to-day paid a visit to the Queen at Nice.

MADRID, APRIL 13.

The Spanish Cabinet have considered President McKinley's message to Congress, and have decided that the doctrines contained therein are not compatible with the rights of Spain. Spain will, however, wait till the declarations of the President and the resolutions of Congress are translated into acts.

LONDON, APRIL 14.

Owing to the large number of speakers the vote of the Washington Senate on the Committee's report will not be taken before to-morrow, and even then the issue is uncertain, as the Senate's resolution must agree with that of the House of Representatives which is milder, before President McKinley acts. Nevertheless war is regarded as scarcely avoidable. The Spanish Cortes will re-assembled on Wednesday. Owing to the crisis it is reported that the Powers contemplate again mediating on more definite lines.

The Emperor of China has consented to treat Prince Henry of Prussia as an equal. This concession is unprecedented and breaks down the last barrier of Chiness exclusiveness.

Reuter wires from Teheran that one of the murderers of Mr. Greaves has been captured and another killed.

LONDON, APRIL 14.

The House of Representatives to-day passed the report of the Committee on the President's message by 322 against 19 votes.

LONDON, APRIL 14.

The United States Navy Department has decided to purchase the American liners Saint Louis and Saint Paul, which will be turned into auxiliary cruisers.

LONDON, APRIL 14.

Don Carlos has issued a manifesto in which he says that if the Spanish Government will not take up the glove thrown down by America, he will come to Spain himself.

A DARING dacoity is reported from Kyouk taga, a station on the Sittang section of the Railway. A Burman ex-policeman, at the head of a band of about a dozen men, entered the house of a villager and demanded a large sum of money, representing that he was collecting taxes for Government. The villagers, it is said, resisted the dacoits, and one of them was shot dead, while another was hacked to death. The dacoits then fled, taking with them large sums of money. The Pegu police are scouring the country for their arrest. The bodies of the villagers were brought into Pyuntaza.

—The *Morning Post's* London correspondent writes :—The domestic troubles of the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Hesse have culminated in the separation of the couple, and the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (the Duke of Edinburgh), father of the Grand Duchess, is going to Cimiez in order to try, with the help of the Queen, to heal the troubles in the Grand Ducal household, the Emperor William's offer to intervene having proved fruitless, the Grand Duchess declaring that nothing on earth will induce her to return to her husband. The result has been to set on foot a movement to secure the succession of the Dukedom to the Grand Duke's eldest sister, the Princess Louise, of Battenbarg,—an arrangement which is favoured at Windsor and Petersburgh, and not much objected to

MR. ALLEN, LATE SETTLEMENT OFFICER.

(*The Jyoti*, Chittagong.)

MR. C.G.H. ALLEN leaves this district, after serving it for ten years. During this long period, we have not heard it ever said that he treated any one roughly. The business of a Settlement Officer is an unpleasant one—the *nyabad* settlement in Chittagong is not only so, but ruinous to the landholding classes; yet we have never heard of any unfavourable remark about Mr. Allen. Almost every man here has got his own bit of *nyabad* land, and almost every such man has come into contact with Mr. Allen; it is, therefore, no mean compliment that Mr. Allen is loved and spoken well of by all as a Settlement Officer. It is in everybody's mouth that Mr. Allen has done all that he could for the unfortunate *nyabad* Talukdars and Jotedars, consistently with the Government policy, and has protected them from the unjust and rigorous proceedings of the Assistant Settlement Officers whose one object seemed to be to show an increase of revenue, for their own advancement in the Service, though to the ruin of the people.

It was for all this that the people here did not think it proper to let Mr. Allen leave them and their district without giving a public expression to their gratefulness to him; and on the 28th March, the leading members of the Chittagong Association waited on Mr. Allen in a deputation, and thanked him and wished him a hearty farewell and god-speed in his onward career in the Service, on behalf of the people. No other Settlement Officer was so honoured except Sir Henry Rickett. Mr Allen had long conversations with the members of the deputation, and they were all charmed with his kindly expressions of sympathy for the people.

We congratulate Mr. Allen on his having been placed in charge of the foremost district in Bengal, viz, the 24-pergunnahs, and hope and trust that he will not forget the unfortunate people of Chittagong and will see that they are not required to pay the cost of the survey and settlement, which will indeed be too much for them in their present distressed condition, in consequence of the recent terrible calamities.

It is not for his connection with the settlement operations alone that the people of Chittagong are grateful to Mr. Allen. When he came over here as Assistant Magistrate, there was considerable trouble to the people from incendiarism. Mr. Allen travelled from village to village and made inquiries, and at last succeeded in crushing the miscreants. Last year, when incendiarism was rampant in the town, Mr. Allen took great pains in suppressing it. Later on, when the terrible cyclone swept over the southern part of the district, his report as to the distress of the people was full of sympathy for them, and was mainly instrumental in inducing the Government to grant a loan of a lakh and-a-half for their relief. But Mr. Allen did not stop here; and it is said he has made a strong recommendation to Government to make a remission of revenue for two years in the affected areas.

We shall conclude with an instance of Mr. Allen's large-heartedness. Sometime ago Babu Prasanna Kumar Ray, a well-known Zemindar, was on a visit to his Zemindari at Mahiskhali which is two or three days' journey from the town of Chittagong. While there, he was taken seriously ill. Mr. Allen was at Mahiskhali at the time on business. On hearing of Prasanna Babu's illness he at once placed his steamer at the latter's disposal, which brought him to the town where the best medical aid and nursing and attendance were available.

That every one should feel extremely sorry at the departure of such an officer, is but natural. We pray that Mr. Allen might soon come here as a Divisional Commissioner and that the Belvedere *gudee* might be in store for him in the fulness of time.

THE Declaration of Paris, which was signed in 1856 by the representatives of all the great Powers who attended the Congress of Paris with the exception of the United States, Spain and Mexico, laid down that "privateering is and remains abolished." It follows that for the United States and Spain privateering is still permissible in war, and very probably if the present crisis ends in a conflict between these two Powers letters of marque will be freely issued on both sides. In this connection it is interesting to recall the circumstances under which the United States declined to sign the Declaration of Paris. In communicating this refusal on the part of his Government Mr. Marcy stated that, as it was a cardinal principle of national policy that the country (the United States) should not be burdened with the weight of permanent armament, the right of employing privateers must be retained unless the safety of the mercantile marine could be legally assured; but he offered to give it up if it were conceded that "the private property of the subjects of one or other of two belligerent Powers should not be subject to capture by the vessels of the other party, except in cases of contraband of war." This extension of the principles embodied in the Declaration of Paris, how ever has not yet been accepted as a maxim of public law, though in 1871 a treaty was concluded between the United States and Italy by which it was stipulated that private property should not be seized except for breach of blockade or as contraband of war. In a contest between the United States and Spain the chances are that the employment of privateers would be more damaging to the former than to the latter. The value of the imports and exports of the United States last year was 341 millions sterling: that of the combined imports and exports of Spain was only 63 millions sterling. There, must therefore, be greater opportunities for a Spanish than a United State's privateer.—*Pioneer.*

Recommended by A Medical Friend

THIS is how MR. J. SHAIL, the well-know 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 on 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 he results are always satisfactory."

CHAMBERLAINS COUGH REMEDY is sold every Price Re. and Rs. 2.

THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION. AND THE *PATRIKA*

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "INDIAN MIRROR."

SIR,—In the leading article of your to-day's issue, you have given utterance to certain sentiments, which appear to me to be as strange as they are illogical. The drift of the article is that we, Indians, must not criticise and expose each other's folly because there is a common country—a common cause—to serve. I have not quite been able to make out as to who has been fighting whom, as I have not had any opportunity of reading many newspapers during the Easter holidays; but I can almost hazard a guess that the fight you refer to is between the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the great and fearless champion of popular rights, and exposer of official folly and vagaries, and the *Hindu Patriot*, the authorised organ of men with long purses and empty brains, over Sir Alexander Mackenzie, our ex-Lieutenant-Governor. The *Patrika*, in consonance with its traditions, has refused to say a kind word of a Lieutenant Governor, whose administration was an utter failure, and whose policy was ever actuated by motives of repression and retrogression; whereas, on the other hand, the British Indian Association, or rather a few of them, who had succeeded in hoodwinking or deceiving the rest, manufactured an address in the name of their Association, which no man with a little of patriotism or self-respect can for one single moment lend countenance to. I submit, Sir, that the *Patrika* was perfectly justified in thoroughly exposing the discreditable, dishonorable, if not dishonest dodges which were shamelessly and unscrupulously resorted to for getting up the address, in order to show the utter worthlessnes of it and of the man who, with unenviable self-complacency accepted it in all seriousness. A few members of the Britsh Indian Association put their heads together in order to take in the rest, and this they succeeded in doing by sending out a notice of a meeting of its members couched in vague language, and the result was that most of those who were not in the secret of the cabal did not attend. The confederates of this contemptible junts met in soild phalanx, and carried their reprehensible object amid the loud and strenuous protestations of the honest minority, who were quite taken unawares by the enormity of the proposals of the preponderating crew of Rajahs and Maharajahs. I have myself heard, Sir, the same complaint from two or three of the few honest men, whom the Association can claim as its members. If to test and expose such manoeuvres in the light of day is tantamount to sundering the ties, which unite the different sections of our community in Bengal, then it is a hundred times desirable that there should exist no unity at all. To present a Governor, like Sir Alexander Mackenzie, who seldom missed an opportunity for pouring forth vials of vulgar and vituperative abuse on the devoted heads of the Bengalis, with an address bristling with fulsome flattery, clearly indicates how far the habit of paying undue homage to the official gods in the country can carry people, and it is only right—it only shews fellow-feeling and charity for our neighbours that the folly and moral cowardice of these official-worshippers should be pointed out to them with an eye to their political redemption. You have got hold of a trite and handy saying, when you say that "nothing is to be gained by washing our dirty linen in public". But you forget, that there are dirty linens and dirty linens. There are occasions, when by exposing the dirty linens, such as those of the British Indian Association, you do no honest man any harm, but, on the contrary, conduce to the welfare of your country; and, on occasions like these, to remain silent is a political sin, for which there is neither pardon nor justification. It is, to my mind, the paramount duty of every honest citizen to thoroughly condemn and expose the title-hunters of the country whose political humbuggism is eating like a canker-worm into the vitals of the body politic of this country. The indelicate eagerness, with which these people pay honor, where honor is not due, is positively disgusting, and it is high time that they were told so in plain and unvarnished language. One should have thought that after the coarse language which Sir Alexander Mackenzie had used towards the Bengalis, he would have been cut by and all of us. But by some strange irony of fate that was not to be, so far as a certain section of our community is concerned. This portion of the community was determined to act as a man did after a sound thrashing had been administered to him with a shoe. The thrashing being over, this man jumped up, and expressed his anxiety for the shoe, and, after examining it, congratulated his belabourer upon its uninjured condition and good quality. In England, Sir, Magna Charta and some of the most dearest privileges of an Englishman were obtained by the nobility, but for our wretched country a different order of things is ordained. Here our so-called nobility—mushroom nobility whose peerage in most cases is at best a decade or two old—but possessing enough wealth to waste upon the statues and busts of worthless men are ever ready to do what is calculated to bring discredit and ignominy upon their race, and tends to tighten the ties of our political bondage. If these are ever to be our political companions, if we are ever to make a virtue of political necessity, and thus be compelled to get into their "strange company," we must try to raise them up to the same respectable level, which our more advanced and genuine patriotic leaders occupy, and administer to them, from time to time, such castigation and that *remorselessly*, as may be necessary to bring about this salutary object.

Yours, &c.,

BON DE-PADAY.

The 12th April, 1898.

SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

THE "MAINE" EXPLOSION.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Morning Post* writing from Madrid on March 21st says:—It is almost safe to say that there is not in Spain to-day a man whose opinion would be seriously considered who would dare to make openly the proposition the acceptance of which is the only solution of the Cuban Question without recourse to war—namely, the sale of the Island to the United States on terms determinable by mutual agreement or by arbitration. The demonstrated success of autonomy would be another solution if the United States Government were to wait long enough to give Home Rule in Cuba what Spain would consider a fair trial. But it does not look at all as if the United States will do so, notwithstanding that the preliminary actions of the Autonomist Government indicate, in the Spanish view, a measure of success. This being the position of affairs, the outlook as it presents itself here is the very opposite of peaceful. Only one impression can be formed from the declarations of prominent persons in political, commercial, or other circles, and that is that Spain intends to fight rather than surrender Cuba. Warlike preparations are being pushed on here as vigorously as, according to all reports, they are being pushed on in the United States. Transports are leaving almost every week with troops and munitions of war for the West Indies. Conscription and enlistment are active, and in the great arsenals of Ferrol, Cartagona, and Cadiz work goes on night and day. But, in spite of all this, it is very generally admitted by the most solid opinion of the country that the fight would be without hope of success for Spain, and that not only would she lose Cuba, but Puerto Rico and the Philippines too. Hope that the United States will give colonial autonomy a sufficient trial is not yet abandoned by the Colonial Minister, Senor Morety Prendergast. He is without question the most advanced, as he is also the strongest, Spanish statesman of the day; and autonomy is his savourity theory. He is so convinced of its power to satisfy the needs of Cuba that he relies on the patience of the Washington Government to see it fairly put to the test. One constantly hears it pleaded by those who follow Senor Moret that Spain has given way to every demand made by the United States, thereby acknowledging the justness of them—and that there are no more discredited men in Spain to-day than General Weyler, Senor Depuy de Lome, and Senor Romero Robledo, the Conservative leader. With all this, however, it is at best very doubtful whether United States Government will wait for a demonstration of the success of autonomy in Cuba beyond the beginning of May.

FEELING IN AMERICA.

The same journal's New York correspondent wired two days later: It is well that European onlookers should be prepared for a wide-spread clamour for war within the next few days, and that the probable practical outcome of this clamour should not be exaggerated. The text of the Court of Inquiry's Report may be public in a few hours. It may be taken as a plain fact that the explosion is adjudged to be due to an external cause. The War Party and all sections of sensation mongers have managed to elaborate this known fact into a detailed judgment the findings of which would, as many already believe render hostilities between the United States aud Spain unavoidable. The activity in the Departments controlling the National Defences is made to have the gravest bearing on the expected sequel to the report.

There is undoubtedly a feeling of suppressed excitement in political circles at Washington but it is rather of anxiety as to how the country will receive the report than of any set intention on the part of the Government. There is to-day the usual quantity of interviews with Congressmen, and even with Members of the Cabinet. The drift of these undoubtedly conveys the belief that war is imminent, but the gravity of many utterances really rest on the framing of the question and makes the opinions hypothetical. The most evident fact of all is that President M'Kinley is not convinced that it has come to war. His conservative attitude is doubtly important, because he has not only gained great prestige from his firm, cool-headed handling of the entire question, but he is justifiably regarded as the embodiment of that great mass of opinion which has not clamoured for anything, but is content with the way in which the country's policy is being directed. A despatch from Washington this afternoon, which says that the president hopes that war may be avoided, declares also that he is at present sounding Senor Sagasta, the Spanish premier, in the hope of arranging a Diplomatic alternative to hostilities. A contrary report has it that the Government has issued a warning to all shipowners pointing out the gravity of the immediate future as regards ocean traffic. The sentimental view of the Anglo-Saxon Alliance finds little favour here. Even the administration organs which are at present best disposed to the idea, confine themselves to the practical advantage to this country of British policy in China.

The *New York Herald*, on March 21st, publishes the following telegram from its Washington correspondent: "Having positive knowledge that the report of the Court of Inquiry will show that the *Maine* was destroyed by an external agency, President M'Kinley is formulating a Note to Spain and a Message to Congress on the subject". The same newspaper publishes the following from Havana *via* Key West; "The first official intimation that the *Maine* was destroyed by an external explosion and that the Court so finds is conveyed by the secret instructions to Captain Sigsbee to return to active duty. If the Court found otherwise it would mean that Captain Sigsbee would have to be tried by Court-martial."

Never Knew It To Fail

MR. R. JOHNSTON, Rawalpindi, says: have personally tried Chamberlain's Coll Cholera, and Diarrhoea remedy, and have given it travellers who were passing through a hotel I ma aged, and I must say I never knew it to fail, and all it is supposed to be in its effects. It is a medicin I can recommend, and one that everybody should keep

CHAMBERLAIN'S Colic, Cholera and Di rrhoea 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

HOW TO MAKE A MICROSCOPE.

WHILE almost every one has heard of the wonderful powers of the microscope, yet but few have ever had an opportunity to look through one, and fewer still have been able to possess a really good instrument. A simple pocket lens is in itself sufficiently wonderful, but one who has only looked through a magnifying glass can have but a faint idea of the enormous magnifying powers of a microscope.

The high price of the instrument will always prevent its common use, for a serviceable microscope cannot be purchased for less than 25, while the more expensive ones cost several hundreds. And yet a very excellent little microscope, may be made at home in a few minutes by any one and at a cost of next to nothing.

First of all, from some dealer in optical goods, a small quantity of canada balsam and a dozen cover glasses should be bought. These cover glasses, as they are called, are used in mounting objects for the microscope, and are about as large around as a cent and as thin as a sheet of writing paper. This is all that requires to be purchased and should cost but a few cents.

To make a microscope take a clean cover glass, and in the centre place a small drop of balsam. Your microscope is now complete; that is the part that does the magnifying is finished. It is therefore very important that this part should be well done. It is best to use a common steel needle for the operation. Dip it well into the balsam and on raising it you will find that the balsam runs slowly down to the point very much as molasses would. The drop thus formed should be placed carefully in position, and great care must be taken to make it exactly round. A number of these microscopes should be made of different sizes. Each one will then have a different magnifying power, the rule being that the smaller the drop the more it will magnify.

The microscope, as thus made, can be used just as it is, but it is best for ease in working to have some kind of a mounting. A very good mounting may be made as follows: In a piece of paper, the size of a cover glass, cut a small circular hole, not quite as large as the drop of balsam Paste this on the reverse side of the cover opposite the drop. This forms what is called a diaphragm and prevents the light from the edges of the drop interfering with the accurate working lens. Next, make a small circle of thin wood and in the centre of it bore a hole a little larger than the drop. Gum the cover glass on to this so that the drop shall come on the inside. Thus you will not only be able to handle the delicate cover glass freely, but you will also protect the drop from dirt and touching with the hands while hardening.

After having made your microscope, the next question is how to use it. For examining mounted transparent object or slides, it may be used like an ordinary magnifying glass. Hold the slide up toward the light, and as the distance between the object and the lens for a clear definition, or, in other words, the focus of all these microscopes, is very short, the microscope should first be placed against the slide and then moved slowly away until the proper focus is reached. The eye should be placed very closed to the lens. These mounted objects, however, although very beautiful, are apt to be rather expensive and to the average student will not be half so interesting as the millions on millions of tiny animals and plans to be found in common pond water.

Those who wish to examine the water animalcules, as they are called, may use the following simple device. A plain slide may be made from common window glass, about three inches long and one inch broad. A cell or round ring of wax may be easily made in the centre of the slide small enough to be covered with one end of the circular glass covers and deep enough to contain a good-sized drop of water. This slide will answer all the purposes of a store made affair costing $2 or more. To use it, put the drop of water that you wish to examine in the wax cell and drop a cover glass upon it, thus nattening the curved surface of the drop so that it may be examined without the image being distorted thereby. The slide may now be viewed just like any mounted object.

The magnifying power, as has been said, varies with the size of the crop of balsam used. A drop one-quarter of an inch in diameter will magnify to about fiteen diameters; a drop half that size about thirty diameter, while powers of one, two, or even three hundred diameters may be readily obtained.—*Inter Ocean.*

THE official figures for the past week give a total of 12,341 persons on relief works or in receipt of gratuitous relief, as compared with 3,704 in the previous week,—9,650 belonging to the Bombay Presidency and 2,691 to Madras.

NO BUILDING BIG ENOUGH.

PROBABLY the two women whose names we are about to mention (by their good will and consent) never saw or even heard of each other. A broad bit of sea-water rolls between the places where they severelly live. Still the world is getting smaller every day, and it is quite possible they may meet; if they do, they will have a common subject for a talk. Without waiting for that, however, we will let the reader into the secret (so far as it is a secret) right on the spot.

The first lady to be named resides at Bishop's Nor on, neer Kirton, Lindsey, Lincolnshire, and in a letter dated the 16th of the blustering month of March, 1893, she says, "*I trembled from head to foot.*"

This would scarcely be worth mentioning if it had been simply the result of a fright and therefore bound to pass off in a few minutes. But it lasted for a long time and did not arise from a fright or from any other form of excitement. It meant sheer weakness and a wholesale upsetting of the nerves. "I was constantly sick and dizzy," she says, "and had a dull pain between the shoulders. I had no appetite, and the effect of what little I did eat was so bad and gave me so much distress that after a time I hardly dared touch any food or drink. During this period I may just mention that I was terribly constipated, intervals of ten days sometimes elapsing between the actions of the bowels. No laxatives or enemas availed to relieve this condition, and I became more feeble and prostrated day by day. My illnese began in August, 1892, and after four months' suffering I was completely cured in December by your remedy. Indeed it was not necessary for me to take quite one bottle. If any one who reads this little statement of mine wishes to know more about my case, I will gladly answer inquiries. (Signed) Mrs. M. G. Walsham."

The second lady, writes from her home No. 12, Horgan's Buildings, College Road, Cork, dating her letter the 27th of the sunny month of June, 1893. She says, "Everything was a trouble and a burden. For nights together I got no sleep. I couldn't bear the noise of the children. I had no desire for company; I wanted to be alone in my misery. I often thought I was going to die. I was in this way for nearly twelve months."

Now this was bad; very, very bad. When a woman cannot bear the noise of her own children—which of all noises is least observed by a mother's ear—why her nerves are, as we might say, all gone to pieces. And, inasmuch as the nerves are only a part of the body, it follows that the whole system is badly out of order. And so it was. "The complaint," she says, "came on in October, 1890." It was marked by failure of the appetite, pain and weight in the chest after eating, a sinking feeling at the pit of the stomach, biliousness, flatulency, and other signs with which the readers of these articles are so sadly familiar.

Of the progress of the malady and how low it reduced her she has already spoken. The end of it all - a happy end, thank Mercy—was like this. "In September, 1891," she adds, "my husband persuaded me to try a medicine he had heard and read so much about. I did so and soon found relief - a relief that none of the other medicines I had used were able to give me. My lost appetite came back, and my food digested easily and strengthened me. You hardly need be told that I continued taking the medicine, and soon I was well as ever I was in my life and have ailed nothing since. Yours truly, (Signed) Mrs. Lucy Carrol."

Woman, like men, never agree on all the topics which come up in conversation. It would be a dull world if they did. But these two will agree that they were afflicted with the same complaint—indigestion and dyspepsia: and that Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, which restored them both to health is one of the very best friends in time of trouble that their sex ever had.

And what is more, if all the women in this kingdom who think the same were collected in one meeting, no building could be found big enough to accommodate them.

"LINSEED COMPOUND," Trade Mark of KAY'S COMPOUND ESSENCE OF LINSEED.

"LINSEED COMPOUND," a demulcent expectorant for Coughs, Colds, and Chest Complaints.

LINUM CATHARTICUM PILLS, digestive, corrective, and agreeably aperient.

KAY'S CUE CEMENT.—Tips Billiard Cues firmly. "Your Cement is the best I have ever used."—JOHN ROBERTS (Champion), 1866.

KLINX.—New white inorganic Cement, almost hydraulic, for Pottery, Porcelain, &c.

COAGULINE.—Transparent Cement, for all broken articles. Manufactory, Stockport, England.

CHESHIRE BIRD LIME.—For Mosquitoes and noxious insects. In tin boxes. To spread on paper, twigs, twine. KAY BROTHERS, LTD., Stockport, England.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE ROAD CESS QUESTION

No. 1284L. S.G. dated Calcutta, the 30th March, 1896.

From—H. H. Risley, Esq. C. I. E., Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal, Municipal Dept. To the Commissioner of the Orissa Division.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 32T., dated the 17th January 1896, with which you submit copies of correspondence which passed between your predecessor and the Director of Public Instruction on the subject of the educational allotment of the District Board of Balasore for the year 1895-96. You give reasons for differing from Mr Cook on this subject, and you go on to recommend that in this and other districts, where the Local Self-Government Act is in force, formal recognition should be accorded to the principle "that the proceeds of the road-cess should be spent on roads, bridges, and water channels only, and that education and medical charity should be supported from other sources of income". In order to give effect to this principle, you propose that a separate account should be kept of the income derived by the Boards from road-cess and of the expenditure incurred by them on the roads.

2. In reply, I am to point out that your letter discloses some misapprehension of the legal aspects of the question which you raise. The Proclamation relating to the expenditure of the road-cess, which was issued under Sir George Campbell's orders in 1873, had reference mainly to section 90 of Bengal Act X of 1871. It stated in popular language that the funds raised under that Act would be spent within the district on the local roads, canals and rivers, and would not be diverted to any other purpose. It gave, however, no pledge that the law would never be changed, and in fact, seven years later, a material change was introduced. By section 109 of Bengal Act IX of 1880, the objects on which road-cess funds might be spent were substantially enlarged, so as to include the payment of leave allowances, gratuities or pensions, the planting of trees by the roadside, the improvement of the supply of drinking water, and the provision or improvement of drainage. At the same time the limitation to objects within the district on which stress was laid in the Proclamation of 1873, was expressly extended, so as to enable the District Road Committee to construct, or charge of, or contribute towards any means and appliances for facilitating communication within the district, or between the district and adjacent districts.

3. The Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885 effected a further change. The second schedule of that Act, read with section 2, remodelled section 109 of Bengal Act IX of 1880. Nearly the whole of the first clause, making the cost of collection and valuation and the indemnification of the Collector a first charge on the District Road Fund, was re-enacted, and the rest of the section was replaced by a provision laying down that "the balance, after payment of such expenses, shall be credited to the District Fund of the district." Section 53 defined the application of the District Fund, and the fifth clause of this section made the fund applicable to the "payment of expenses incurred by the District Board in the performance of the duties imposed by this Act." In other words, while the Cess Act of 1880 had authorised the expenditure of road-cess on pensions, water-supply and drainage, the Local Self-Government Act of 1885 made a further departure from the principles of the Act of 1871, merged the road-cess in the District Fund, and added pounds, education, medical relief, sanitation, vaccination, famine relief, the destruction of noxious animals, fairs, and agricultural exhibitions to the list of objects to which the fund might be applied. From that time forward the income of the District Board, from whatever sources derived, has been one fund and may legally be spent on any purpose provided for in the Act.

4. The view of the law, which is explained at length above, is that which has been taken by the Government on various references which have been made from time to time on the subject. It is a mistake to suppose that the orders issued in 1888, settling the educational expenditure of different districts and allotting grants from Provincial revenues, contemplated any separation of road-cess funds from the general incomes of the Boards. The form in which those orders were passed was determined by considerations of financial convenience, and has no bearing on the general question now raised by you. At the same time, although under the law the District Boards, subject to the direction of the Commissioner, possess ample discretion as to the purposes upon which they may spend the District Fund, the Lieutenant-Governor considers that, on grounds of expediency and quite apart from any legal obligation, it is desirable as a general rule that an amount approximately equivalent to the proceeds of the road-cess should be devoted to the objects which the Legislature had in view when Bengal Act X of 1880 was passed. Special attention is urgently called for at present to the improvement of the supply of drinking water. Under section 48 of the Local Self-Government Act, the Commissioner can exercise full control over the District Board budget, and it is for him to see that effect is given to the principle laid down so far as the special conditions and needs of the district admit.

ACCORDING to "Invention," a Glasgow botanist has constructed a timepiece out of growing fire trees. The trees are planted in such positions that they shade special parts of the house at known hours of the day. For instance, the "one o'clock tree" shades the dining room during lunch, while the "four o'clock tree" secures a shady drawing room for afternoon tea, and so on during the day.

UNDER sanction of the British Government, His Highness the Maharajah of Pudukoti has appointed M. R. Ry. Vijia Raghunadha Dorai Rajah Avergal, B. A. as 'Councillor' t conduct, conjointly with the Dewan, the affairs of the State during His Highness' absence in Europe.

THERE was a curious item, says the "Hindu" among the receipts of Government last year. It was an unclaimed amount from a swindler, a fakir from Malabar, who established himself in Tinnevelly and promised to return double the amount to any one who would deposit money with him. When he was arrested he had accumulated Rs. 98,000. Of this Rs. 52,800 were returned to depositors. The remainder went to Government.

WE learn that owing to the numerous suspensions and dismissals in the Medical Department by Surgeon-General Sibthorpe, the Madras Government have restricted his powers. The Government have ordered that the Surgeon-General shall not, in the case of Civil Apothecaries, suspend any of them for more than a month or impose a fine of Rs. 10 and in the case of Hospital Assistants, suspend them for over a month or inflict a fine of more than Rs. 5.

THE question of water-supply at Simla for the present hot season has assumed a serious aspect. The hydrants are about to be closed in the station save from six to nine in the morning, and five to seven in the evening The pumping station on Tuesday only supplied 122,000 gallons against 193,000 the same day last year. The scarcity is caused by the absence of rain and snowfall in the winter. The construction of extra reservoirs at the Water Works is now being carried on with all expedition at a cost of about two and-a-quarter lakhs, but these cannot be ready before December. The active co-operation of all the resdents to prevent waste has been earnestly invited.

GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

Mr. L. F. Morshead, Magte and Coll of Jessore, is allowed furlough for eighteen months. Mr. H. F. Samman, Magte and Coll, Bogra, acting for him.

Babu Haripada Ghosh, Offi. Dy Magte and Dy Coll, is allowed leave for three months, under Article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Gangan Chandra Das, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Dacca, is allowed leave for three months under Article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, Babu Fakir Chandra Chatterjee, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, acting for him.

Babu Nava Kumar Chakravarti, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Magura, is transferred to Dacca, Babu Gati Krishna Neogy, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, acting for him.

Babu Bhupati Chakravarti, Dy Magte and Dy Coll, Backergunge, is allowed leave for three months, under Article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Kedar Nath Biswas, Dy Magte and Dy Coll Nadia, is transferred to Purnea.

Mr St. Quintin Byrne, Offi. Dt. Supt of Police, Burdwan, is allowed special leave for six month under Article 14 of the Civil Serviee Regulations.

Mr. N. B. Stuart, Dist Supt of Police, is posted temporarily to Shahabad.

The Chief Commissioner of Assam empowers Mr. H. C. Barnes, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner and Magistrate of the first class, to try summarily the offences mentioned in section 260 the Code of Criminal Procedure (Act X of 1882)

Babu Uma Nath Ghosal, Munsif of Habigang, has obtained leave of absence for one month, under article 306 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations, Babu Jogendra Nath Chakravarti, Munsiff of Chikandi, acting for him.

Mr. Nagendra Nath Banerjee, Dty Magte and Dy Coll, now employed as Asst to the Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal, is granted leave for 15 days under Article 29 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Sasi Bhusan Bosu, Munsif of Sudharam, is transferred to Raghunathpur, Babu Triguna Prasana Basu, Munsif of Raghunathpur, acting for him.

Babu Jogendra Nath Deb, Munsif of Monghyr, is transferred to Katwa.

Babu Gobinda Chandra De, Munsif of Katwa, is transferred to Pirojpur.

Babu Nagendra Nath Ghose B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Ghatal.

Babu Roma Prosad Moitra, M.A., B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Tamluk.

Mr. F. W. M. Scott, Ex Engineer, Rajshahi Division, is granted furlough under Article 340 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations for one year. Mr. F. A. A. Cowley, Asst Engr, Cossye, acting for him.

Mr. W. A. Inglis, Superintending Engineer, Orissa Circle, is granted privilege leave, under article 261 of the Civil Service Regulations, for three months, Mr. A. S. Thomson, Executive Engineer, Darjeeling Division, acting for him.

Babu Jadu Nath Das, Sub-Deputy Collector, Jessore, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Taruk Ghandra Ganguli, Sub-Deututy Collector, on leave, is posted to Deoghur.

ARTIFICIAL WINES.

THE British Consul at Naples, referring to the subject of the production of artificial wines from barley, which he mentioned in his report for 1896, summarises an account of the process from an important Italian agricultural journal, which compares the revolution likely to be caused in wine-growing countries by this discovery to that caused by the discovery of beetroot sugar. It seems that a large factory is at work at Wandsbek, near Hamburg, producing the so-called Malten-Weine, which have the characteristics of the wines of Southern Europe, owing to the entirely new process of fermentation to which they are subjected. The factory is said to produce about a quarter of a million gallons per annum. The discovery was due to Pasteur, who, however, never carried it beyond the theoretical point; and it was left to Mr. Hanson, a Dane, and Dr. Sauer, a Geeman bacteriologist, to carry Pasteur's theory in practice. The barley is malted and carried to the point of fermentation, when lactic acid and vinous ferments are introduced, the mass being subjected to sundry variations of temperature. Sherry port, Tokay, and Malaga have thus been closely imitated. When fermentation is completed, the liquor is put into huge vats of about 4,500 gallons, and thence into casks of 1,500 gallons, when it is artificially matured by being raised subs- to a high temperature. The transformation of the tances which give the liquor its taste and bouquet is thus accomplished in a few weeks instead of requiring as many years and at the same time all extraneous matter derived from the ferments is sterilised and rendered innocuous. The liquor can then be drawn off into small casks or bottles, and in three or four months it is ready for consumption. These artificial wines have a large percentage of alcohol, 19 per cent or even more, being derived wholly from fermentation. "It is notorious that alcohol is added to most of the wines we drink, few wines being sufficiently rich in spirit to keep for a long time without such addition. The artificial wine should, therefore, be theoretically at least purer than the natural wine, and, at any rate, wine-growers have no disloyal competition to complain of, while to barley-growers the discovery may be of vast practical utility, as forming a new market for an article which agricultural depression has sorely depreciated." The product is sold as "highly fermented barley wine." The medical reports in Germany on these wines seem to have been very favourable. In a Hamburg hospital, Tokay, sherry, and port were used in the course of last year. "These wines were taken almost without exception very willingly by the sick and preferred even to Greek and other southern wines. The favourable influence of the malt wine on the general health of the patient and on an exhausted nervous system and the acceleration of the action of the heart all showed themselves in the same way as is the case with other wines containing a similar amount of alcohol. In cases of disease of the stomach it has been observed that the mild malt wines are easily digested while other sweet wines proved troublesome. The opinion that only wines made from grapes should be given to invalids is unfounded prejudice All wines equal in alcohol to the malt wine are so dear that they can only be prescribed for a few patients, and very few other wines contains the degree of nourishment of these malt wines: hence we may greet their preparation as an unexpected triumph of our technical fermentation. The invention is at present only in its infancy, and it may well be that the wine is insipid to the palate of the connoisseur, though it is use by a large number of hospitals and invalids in Germany. Our barley being so much superior to German barley, our malt wine might also be superior to theirs."

KALA-ZAR is making steady progress up the Assam valley, in those districts where it has unhappily gained a footing, and once established it does not release its deadly grip until it has decimated villages and wrought havoc and distruction all around. Then, and only then, it creeps onwards to pursue the same deadly course elsewhere.

IT seems clear that the metric system has come to stay. At a meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce held in London recently, a resolution was passed in favour of the compulsory adoption of the metric system in England. Conservative England is at last beginning to take an interest in this important question.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PREVENTING FAMINE.

THE following memorial of the Zemindar Association, Mozuffernugger, N. W. P., has been submitted for the consideration of the Famine Commission:—

The Famine Commission has invited the public to put before them any information on the subject, and the Association has made the following suggestions:

IRRIGATION FROM WELLS.

Irrigation is the only thing that can be relied upon as a safeguard against famine. Canal irrigation is a system which can be utilised where circumstances permit, and upon which the Government has already devoted its full attention, but it is beyond human power to extend it all over the country. Irrigation from wells seems to be the only safeguard provided by Nature against famine. Now it is to be seen whether it would be more advantageous to the people if canal irrigation were to supersede well irrigation. In the opinion of the Association this should not be allowed on the following grounds. The lands irrigated from wells are not in any way more benefited by canal irrigation, and therefore, the quantity of water used in such lands lying near the mouths of canals, can be spared with great advantage for dry lands which lie at a greater distance from the mouths of canals, and where water does not reach now. It is an admitted fact that the climate of a country is corrupted to some extent by the abundance of anal-irrigation. If canal irrigation be not permitted in lands which have the advantage of containing good wells, it will check the above evil, to some extent, as the lands irrigated from wells are not allowed to absorb so much water as the canal, irrigated ones do. Wells, when not used for irrigation, are getting out of repairs day by day, and therefore cannot be used even in times of emergency. When the people and bullocks give up the practice of well irrigation, they cannot take advantage of the existence of a well when they want to do so. The people of the country use the water of well for drinking purposes. When the wells are kept in use for irrigation, their water would be always fresh and pure; but when they are not so used, the water becomes polluted, foul, and unhealthy. As has been done by the Government to improve the quality of potable water in large towns by the introduction of the expensive system of water-works, so will it prove advantageous to the poor village people if their wells are kept in use for irrigation. It is an admitted fact that the productive power of lands irrigated from canals, is decreasing day by day, and the cause is attributed to the fact that canal water is not used so sparingly as ought to be. The cultivators are so often advised by the Government officers, and different steps are taken by the canal officers to prevent watering in excess, but to no purpose. However, if people will actually see in practice that a definite quantity of water from the wells yields a better crop than an excessive use of canal water, it will give a good lesson for canal irrigation, and the proverb "Example is better than precept" will bring about an effective result. The last and the most conclusive argument in favour of the above allegation is that the Government has also admitted this theory. When the Doaband Ganges Canal branch was opened, it was made a condition by Government that well-irrigated lands will not be allowed canal water; but that order remains a dead letter as yet. This fact can be ascertained from Government records, or the Association can prove it, if it is required. During the present troubles of famine, the want of more wells was recognised by the Government officers, and active efforts were made to have more wells sunk, and taccavi was advanced for this very purpose; but it was not a task to be accomplished in a day. There should be constant efforts made in this respect. For the above and other similar reasons it is of great importance that wells should be sunk, repaired, and kept in use on as large a scale as possible, and that this has the first claim upon the Famine Insurance Fund.

The people themselves, both Hindus and Mahomedans, consider the sinking of wells a charity of the best kind, and their religious precepts ordain them very strictly on the point. Accordingly they are always bent upon sinking wells for drinking as well as irrigation purposes, but there are some difficulties and drawbacks in their way, as of getting good sinkers and instruments, etc. If the Government be pleased to help them in this respect, the Association has no doubt that many more wells can be sunk by the people themselves every year. It may also be added here that, in a pecuniary point of view these wells will not only be beneficial to tenants or at the famine time only, but will cause great improvement in rental and revenue, to the benefit of both the landholders and the Government all the years round of plenty and scarcity.

IMPROVEMENT OF BREED AND NUMBER OF CATTLE.

The importance of this subject cannot be denied, ; but the question is, what the Famine Commission has to do with it? The Association beg to point out that even wells and canals are of no use without the active help of bullocks. If a tenant has a good well for irrigation, and is possessed of a sufficient number of bullocks, he can feed not only himself, his family, and his bullocks, but can provide food for a good many of his neighbours, however keen the famine may be; and therefore this question is most relevant. Everybody knows the importance of this subject, but nothing can be done without the Government help. The Government has done very much in improving the breed of horses to meet the requirements of the Military Department, and it can adopt similar suitable measures to improve the cattle-breeding also. It will be mere waste of time of the Commission if we mention in detail why the condition of bullocks is so poor in the country, and how it can be improved. These are things for future consideration But it should be admitted that it also deserves the full attention of the Famine Commission.

To sum up: The proposals of the Association are the following:—(1) Suitable measures should be adopted to encourage sinking of wells, and to have them repaired and kept in use. (2) Those lands which can be irrigated from wells should not be allowed canal water. (3) Suitable measures, such as starting cattle-studs, providing pastures, etc, should be undertaken in order to improve the number and breed of bullocks. (4) As all the above proposals require money, a rule may be laid down that at least one-fourth of the Famine Insurance Fund, raised in every district from landholders, be devoted to these and similar other purposes.

THE Maharaja of Mysore has declared his intention of starting a transport train in addition to his lancer regiment. It will be on the same method of organisation as the Gwaliar and Jeypur trains.

NEWS reached Calcutta, privately, yesterday morning, of a most daring and murderous assault at Cawnpore by a native on a young lady, Miss Mabel Gonsalves, sister-in-law of Mr. Forbes, a local pleader. It appears that Mr. Forbes accompanied by his wife and Miss Gonsalves, were driving in a phaeton to the Bandstand, when a native armed with an iron-bound lathi, suddenly rushed up to the conveyance, and mistaking the young lady for Mrs. Forbes, struck her two heavy blows on the head with it, inflicting two severe wounds on her head, rendering her unconscious. The assailant was at once secured. The young lady is in a precarious state, and her assailant in hajut. —*I. D. News*

A LEOPARD IN A PARIS THEATRE.

WHILE engaged in the rehearsal of a little play, the performers at a place of entertainment situated in the Monmartre district, suddenly beheld a spectacle which made them beat a hasty retreat, the actresses taking the lead, while the representatives of the sterner sex, after waiting a moment to protect them in the event of an attack, hurried after them. The apparition (says the Paris correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph") which had been the cause of this scare, was not a mere unsubstantial phantom evoked by some timid spirit; it was a living creature with plenty of go and energy about it, and of this there could be no doubt, as it bounded over stalls and started on exploring expeditions into boxes, visiting every nook and corner with the utmost complacency. A superb leopard of ferocious aspect, and quickly recognized as the chief ornament and attraction of a neighbouring menagerie, had jumped down upon the stage, and, after gazing for a second or two at the amazed and affrighted players, had gone off at a tangent in the manner described. What was to be done? A council of war which lasted a fairly long time, was held behind the scenes, and while a messenger was despatched in search of the keeper of the beast, a small party, composed of the stoutest hearts which the troupe could boast, sailed forth in serried ranks, armed with various weapons some of which had been improvised in honour of the occasion, and little by little contrived to drive it into a corner. At this very moment, as luck would have it, the tamer arrrived on the scene of action; and after some skillful manoeuvring, the animal was captured and conveyed back to the cage from which it had wandered. With the sole exception of a member of the company who was so taken aback when he beheld the leopard that he started violently and fell prone on the boards, bruising his thigh, no one sustained any injury whatever, though some nerves were sorely tried.

MR. R. C. Dutt contributes an article on the "New Sedition Law of India" to the current number of the "Asiatic Quarterly Review."

IT is practically settled that there is to be a meeting of the Madras Legislative Council at Ootacamund at the end of May. The business that will be brought up will be the Madras Tenancy Bill, and the Malabar Tenancy Bill if it is ready.

THE inquiry which is to be undertaken by the committee of officers recently nominated is not to extend to the conduct of the Khyber rifles, but to be confined to desertions from the native regiments of the regular army during the frontier operations.

IT is not unlikely that the vacancy in the Chief Court of the Punjab caused by the approaching retirement of Sir Charles Roe, will go to Mr. T. G. Walker, who has been serving an apprenticeship in the judicial line, for the past two months, as Divisional Judge of Lahore.

A TREMENDOUS hailstorm occurred in Poona on Wednesday evening, the like of which has not been seen for many years. The afternoon had been very sultry, clouds gathered, and high winds prevailed. Rain fell in torrents, accompanied by hail-stones as large as pigeon's eggs. The temperature consequently has fallen considerably.

MR. STYAN, Superintendent of Telegraphs, Oudh and Rohilkhund Division goes on furlough immediately for about six months; Mr. Henderson from Assam officiates. Mr. Chappel, Superintendent of the Rajputana Division, also proceeds next month on leave for eight months and Mr. Hudson on return from furlough succeeds.

WE understand that Mr. B. Bauliah Naidu, formerly Agent to H. H. the Maharajah of Vizianagram, has taken out a Cook's ticket with a view to making a tour round the world accompanied by his son and wife, and leaves Madras for Colombo on Monday evening by the S. I. R., embarking for Europe by the S. S. Oriental. We wish him a safe voyage and return.

INFORMATION has reached Poona from Rewangaon, a large village in Baramati Petha Bhimbadi taluka in the Poona district, that a serious affray took place between dacoits and the district police on Tuesday in the jungles near Rewangaon. The armed gang of dacoits was estimated at about fifty. The Mamlatdar of Baramati, who was with the police party at the time when they encountered the gang of dacoits, had his scull smashed by them, whilst two dacoits were killed on the spot. The scene of the occurrence is about twelve miles from the town of Baramati, the nearest railway station being Borebail on the G. I. P. Railway between Dhond and Dexal. Some dacoits have been captured.

THE news that the *India*, *the Champion* and the *Mahratta* have been boycotted in the Baroda College Reading Room has not come upon as us a thunderbolt. For ourselves we rather welcomed it, for while one copy in the library sufficed for hundred readers we hall obtain so many individual subscribers now that copy is unavailable: Some years ago if we remember rightly, our brother of the 'Kesari' was similarly boycotted in the household of a native prince and soon after there was a demand for half a dozen copies of the paper in the zanana of that prince. So we can look with perfect equanimity on the action of the Principal and professors of the Baroda College who have thus given an unsolicited advertisement to our paper. "Mahratta".

THERE have recently been two murders in the Kisoregunj sub-division—one at Atkapara, and the other at Jangulbari. The local Sub-Inspector of Police investigated the former and the Inspector of the Division the latter. In connection with the former one man was chalanned on suspicion but he has since been let off, the prosecution saying that there was no evidence against him. The poor man was kept in hajut for about 3 weeks. We beg to enquire who is responsible for this piece of zooloom. If there was no evidence against him, was it not culpably rash to have chalanned him at all? In connection with the Junglebari murder, the police are prosecuting a Mahomedan and an up-countryman. The case has created quite a sensation. Mr. Ghose and Babu Ishan Chundra Chakravarty of Mymensingh have been engaged to defend the accused.—"Dacca Gazette."

SIR Alexander Mackenzie's anxious disposition made him terribly anxious about the Bengalis. He has always liked Bengal and the Bengalis and it was because he was away for a few years from Bengal that he became ill. And having been away from Bengal he must have been in bad company—among the "petty traitors" who thrive in abundance everywhere else than in Bengal. He likes the Bengalis so immensely that he wishes to be frank with them—hence those candid criticism and those stories about the eagle and the carrion crows of which we had heard so much. If he had cared, Sir Alexander could have been popular even with that terrible fire-eater, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. But, no, he did not care for it. And the pity of it! the pity of it, oh!—But, seriously speaking there has not been a weaker ruler than Sir Alexander Mackenzie in all India. Carried away by enthusiasm, he once made reckless statements about the Bengalis. The next moment, when he found he had to leave India, he thought it better to make peace with them and hence all the silly things he said in his farewell speech. "Madras Standard."

SMART PHILADELPHIA CAT.

A WOMAN residing on Fifth Street, near Spruce, is the owner of a cat which she considers endowed with more sagacity than that possessed by the ordinary feline. The cat came into the owner's possession about two years ago.

At that time her attention was attracted by the antics of some boys in front of her residence, and she discovered they were teasing a poor, helpless kitten. By a donation of 10 cents., she persuaded the boys to refrain from their brutal sport and took the cat into her house.

After pussy had been given a bath, a child's nursing bottle was procured. For this bottle the cat soon learned to look, and if by any chance her mistress failed to fill it, kitty would carry the bottle to any part of the house, and with a plaintive meow lay it at her mistress' feet. The name of Trilby was given to the cat, and, encouraged by the incident of the bottle, an effort was made to teach Trilby a few tricks. So Trilby was taught to stand and walk upon her hind legs, and to carry a baton "allee samee" drum major.

When asked to show how the good little girls walked, Trilby would promenade on her hind legs, hanging her head demurely; but when the request is made for an example of the ways in which naughty girls promenade, Trilby tosses her head coquittishly over her shoulder. At times Trilby acts the part of lady's maid to her misstress by assisting her to take the hair pins from her hair. Jumping up on the bureau, she will take pins from the cushion and pass them to her owner.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

UNCLE SAM'S HOMING PIGEONS.

THE small and dainty carrier-pigeon will play an important part in the affairs of this nation, should it ever be plunged into another war. Upon the endurance of this bird, its speed, and accuracy, will depend the victory or defeat of the great strategic movements at sea, and, what is scarcely of less importance, the people on shore must rely on the pigeon to bring news of the approach of the enemy's fleet and the result of some great sea-fight. There are at present six pigeon stations along the coast, being situated in the principal navy yards—Portsmouth, N. H.; Boston, Mass; Newport, R. I.; Brooklyn, N. Y.; Norfolk, Va.; Key West, Fla.; and Mare Island, Cal.

The pigeon cotes are 12 × 12 feet size, two stories high, and painted with red and white stripes to make them conspicuous from a long distance. The lower story is used for breeders only, with a large aviary attached for their use during warm weather; the upper story is fitted up with nesting boxes, drinking fountain, feeding hoppers and the trap, where the youngsters are given their first lesson when they are a month old, which consists of a series of drills to accustom them to passing through the bob wires in the trap to the cote.

These bob wires are thick wires suspended from a horizontal bar in the top of the trap, and serve as a grating for it, and are so arranged that when a bird has once passed the bobs with a message, it cannot escape until the person in charge removes the message and lets the bird into the cote. It is extremely important in the training of carrier-pigeons for use in the navy that the birds should learn to enter the trap immediately upon their arrival with an important dispatch, pushing the wires aside readily in order to enter the trap, the wires falling back into place immediately upon the bird's entrance. Until the bird masters this lesson it is useless as a messenger as much valuable time would be lost in securing the message attached to the bird, unless it immediately enters the cage, where a sailor is waiting to relieve it of its charge.

The next series of drills are intended to develop the pigeons' staying powers in the air, to strengthen their wings, and to enable them to fly long distances without being overcome by exhaustion. This is done by means of a white flag attached to a long pole. By fluttering this among the birds, they are startled into a circling flight about the cote, which is kept up as long as the trainer sees fit. For two months the birds are drilled every morning in this manner. At the end of that time they are given their first "fly." The first journey is from a point several miles from the cote in a closed basket, where the birds are liberated. This successfully accomplished, the distance is increased each flight. Whenever flown, a message, secured in an aluminium capsule, weighing only eight grains, is attached to each bird's leg, and is secured immediately upon its arrival at the cote.

After a course of training for two months, with an average of two flights per week up to fifty miles, they are put aboard ships in wicker baskets holding one dozen birds each, and liberated at sea at a greater distance than they had been tossed previously. It is a rule that the pigeons for use in the navy must, in training, be flown constantly over water in order to accustom them to it. The cotes are so arranged that when a pigeon returns it walks on a small treadle, thereby pressing a button which rings an electric bell in the library of the receiving ships at the respective stations, thus announcing its arrival to the person in charge of the cote.

The fact that the Government has at last been induced to make use of the pigeon as a message-bearer from ship at sea, is attributed to the success of the cote at Annapolis Md. In these experimental flights the best long distance toss was made by a pigeon, which was released from the United States steamship Monongahela when 102 miles off Cape Henry, or about 250 miles from the home loft. The pigeon was out over night, and it had about twelve hours of daylight from the time of its liberation till its arrival at the home loft, thus making an average of about twenty miles per hour for the 250 miles. In the swiftest flight the pigeon was liberated at Norfolk, Va., and arrived at the home loft three and three-quarter hours later, thus making an average of forty miles an hour for 150 miles.—*Inter Ocean.*

MR. AZAM-UD-DIN, editor of a Mahomedan paper called the *Magalroom-i-Dakkan*, published in Bombay, recently made his way up to Hyderabad. He has now been banished from these dominions, together with the ex-Assistant Private Secretary to the Prime Minister. Both of them are publicly accused by the Nizam's Government of writing and publishing extremely indecent and seditious articles in the abovenamed paper.

IT will be a matter of surprise to many to know that on the average about a thousaned rifles are stolen annually from the guard-rooms in the cantonments of European and Native troops throughout India, and that not ten per cent. of those are ever recovered. These figures are from monthly returns submitted to head-quarters by every regiment. The military authorities are in despair over the matter, as, in spite of every precaution taken, rifle thieves are so clever, and the methods they adopt are so resourceful that it has been found to be an impossibility to put a stop to these thefts. Needless to say the great majority of these thefts takes place in cantonments on the North-West frontier, though they are also common in the Bombay and Madras commands. Dogs have been set to watch the arms rack; steel chains have been used to lock the rifles in, and sentries are ever present to see that the arms are safe; but all to no purpose.—"I. D. News."

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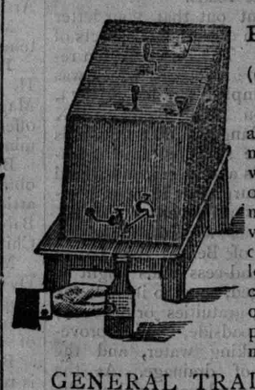

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