

# Amrita Bazar Patrika

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NO. 35.

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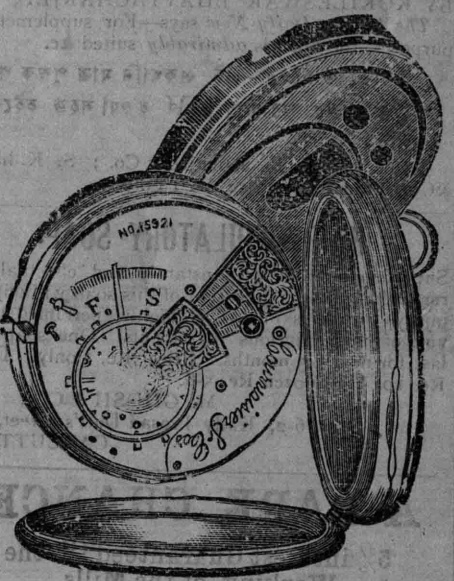
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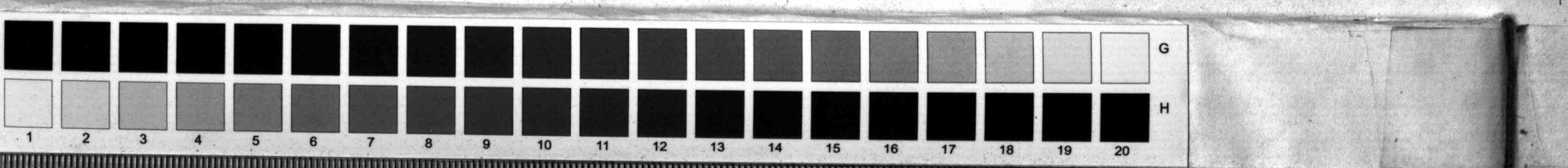
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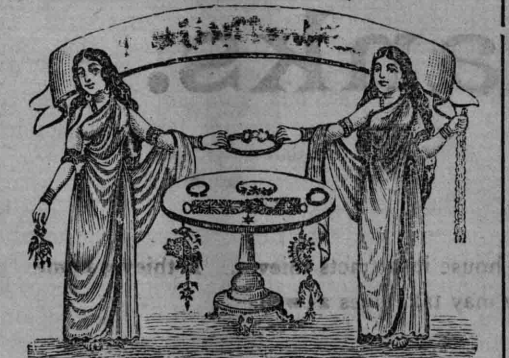
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After years of incessant toil and experiment, I have discovered a medicine which, I can confidently say, will cure the patient of acidity, and its worse stage of Dyspepsia in a short time, effectively and radically. However chronic and long-standing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

Babu Hoho Tosh Bannerjee, Deputy Magistrate of Dacca, writes under date of 6th March, 1898—Many thanks for your Acidity Pills. I was suffering from Dyspepsia and Colic-pain of the last 18 years. I tried many kinds of medicines to no effect. Some of them gave me temporary relief only for a day or two. But since I have been taking your pills (3 weeks or more) I have not had any attack for a moment even during this time. The pill is an excellent medicine for is msty disease which is very painful. Please send me three boxes of the Pills per V. P. P. at your earliest convenience and oblige.

The Amrita Bazar Patrika says:—Dr. H. Biswas's Acidity Pill has an extraordinary digestive power so that men suffering from Dyspepsia may give a fair trial. It is exclusively prepared from some native herbs and hence is perfectly safe. Babu Nityananda Biswas, Zindabad, Mozipur writes:—I have used your Pill and can bear testimony to its marvellous effects. Before I had used your Pill for a week it cured me of acute Acidity which all other remedies failed to cure.

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

Babu Nilmoni Dey Assistant Settlement Officer priet from Camp Patepur, Dt. Mozafferpur writes:—I have used your Acidity Pill and found them to be an excellent remedy in removing acidity immediately. The vore a great boon after a heavy dinner. They are reliable in the Mofussil. They should find place every tourist's bag. Please send me two boxes immediately.

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

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

Babu Hari Pada Mukherjee, Pleader Barasat, writes:—I have derived much benefit by the use of your Acidity Pills. Really I did not expect to be happy as I had kindly send me two more boxes.

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

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

\* The Acidity Pill is a vegetable preparation. We guarantee a cure and Return the Price in case of failure.

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

DR. H. BISWAS, 11, Ananda Chatterjis Lane, Bag-Bazar, Calcutta

Cure for Dysmenorrhoea.

It is a sure and infallible specific for Dysmenorrhoea—a common disease from which many women suffer. The pain disappears as soon as it is used and for a radical cure it should be used for four days.

BARREN WOMEN

anxious to get a child ought to try once. Its ingredients are simple and no evil effects are produced and obtained from Hony Kang. Thousands have been cured and many unsolicited testimonials are coming in from all quarters.

Price Rs. 2, V. P. Extra. DR. H. BISWAS, 11, Ananda Chatterjee's Lane, Bagbazar, Calcutta.

The Universal Marriage Provision and Family Relief Fund.

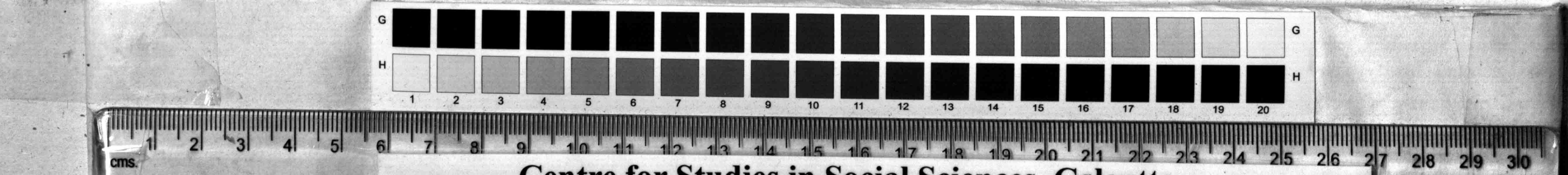
ESTABLISHED—MAY 1894. OBJECTS:—(1) To afford pecuniary help to the marriages of nominees of its members. (2) To make suitable provisions for the nominees of its members during life-time or after death.

Thus the Fund has two departments—"M" (Marriage) and "D" (Death). It paid away as bonus in "M" and "D" Department Rs. 6534-4 and Rs. 3666-14 in 1896 against Rs. 3318-8 and 1038-0 in 1895, respectively. Agencies in Amritsar, Mehlana, and other places in the Punjab, at Sylhet and Dhuri in Assam, in Bengal, in the Central Provinces and in Burma. For particulars, Forms, Rules, and Reports, Apply with one anna postage stamp to SARAT CHANDRA GHOSH Secretary.

Office—17, a Mohun Basu's Lane, Muid Bari Street, Darjipara, Calcutta.

ENLARGE! Sabdakalpadruma.

THE great Sanskrit Encyclopaedia Lexicon of the late Raja Sir Radhakanta Deva Bahadur K. C. S. I., revised, enlarged and improved, printed in Devanagari character, which is issuing in parts, has now been completed in 5 quarto volumes. Price Rs. 75 per set, exclusive of postage. For further particulars, the undersigned may be applied to. Baranaprosad Basu & Haricharan Basu, Proprietors, 71, Patbariaghata Street, Calcutta.





Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, APRIL 24, 1898.

ROBBED OF HALF THEIR SAVINGS.

EVERY Indian should read the letter of Mr. Grenfell on the closing of the Indian mints, re-produced elsewhere from the Daily Mail, and realize for himself the character of the grave injustice done to the unfortunate people of this country by the currency measure. The letter was published the very morning the motion of Mr. Vicary Gibbs on Indian currency was made; but, as usual, it had no effect upon the apathetic members of the House of Commons, and the Committee, for which Mr. Gibbs fought so hard, was not appointed. Indeed, both the Front Bench members, the Government as well as the Opposition, vied with each other in praising the present currency policy of the Government, which, as both Mr. Grenfell and Mr. Gibbs point out, has almost ruined India, the result being that the useless resolution of Lord George Hamilton was adopted. The Daily Mail thus remarks on the letter of Mr. Grenfell:

Mr. Grenfell makes a very strong case in our columns to-day for the re-opening of the Indian mints. It is difficult to exaggerate the consequences of closing them. If to raise the rate of exchange and keep it high, was the object, the closing has been successful. But coined money has been made terribly rare; and when that happens, it is the very poor who feel the stringency first. No doubt, budgets look better for the change; but the people look worse. If only the Government had the courage to face it, the India currency question clamours for a real and final settlement.

The real situation has been so graphically and truly described by Mr. Grenfell that we need add very little to it. When the Right Hon'ble Mr. Chaplin brought the charge of "spoliation" against the Government of India in 1893 in connection with this question, the London Times had nothing but pure and unadulterated abuse for his noble-hearted countryman, who, from the purest of motives, had defended the cause of the helpless people of this country. Just about that time, Mr. O'Conor, an official of the Indian Financial Department, published a paper on silver bullion, in which he had the audacity to declare (1) that there was very little uncoined silver in the possession of the people of this country; and (2) that there are vast hoards of coined silver in the country which the Indians hide in secret places!

The Times took the above statements for gospel truth and arrived at the conclusion that "the spoliation charge of Mr. Chaplin may now be dismissed from all reasonable mind." Mr. Chaplin was, however, not smashed. On the other hand, in reply to the strictures of the Times, he said: "I am afraid I cannot share that amiable illusion" of the Times. The illusion would have been amiable, indeed, if it were not fraught with great mischief to the native population of India.

Mr. Chaplin further asked,—who was the greater authority in this matter, Sir David Barbour, the Finance Minister, or Mr. O'Conor, a subordinate official, of the Government of India? It will be remembered that Sir David deposed before the Gold Commission that there were stores of at least one hundred crores worth of silver in India.

Those who have practical knowledge of this country, cannot but be amused with the statement of O'Conor that the uncoined silver among a population of 250 millions, who have been using silver long before the advent of the English into this country, amount to only some lakhs worth of rupees. The statement is absurd on the face of it, when it is remembered that there is scarcely an Indian who has not got some uncoined silver with him. It is immaterial whether he has got this silver for ornamental or other purposes; for, the question before us is whether or not he has got a certain quantity of uncoined silver in his possession, and whether or not this property has been rendered almost valueless by the change in the currency.

The other statement of Mr. O'Conor is still more startling. He says that "there are vast hoards of silver in the country, but these hoards consist not of uncoined metal but of coined and current rupees;" and as the value of the rupee has been artificially raised, so, according to Mr. O'Conor, the Indians have suddenly grown richer by the closing of the mints! But where are these hoards of coined rupees? Mr. O'Conor is ready with his answer: "The hoards and savings which they (the Indian people) put away for use in cases of necessity, are rupees hidden away in supposed safe places, instead of being placed in a bank, as is our custom." Again, says Mr. O'Conor: "What the ordinary Indian does, if he is of a cautious and saving habit, is to put his rupees in a hiding-place." But, where is this hiding-place? Mr. O'Conor says, it is in the floor of the ryot's hut. But the great Times knows better. He assures his readers that the Indian peasant hides his rupees in his that!

To us, natives of the country, it is, of course, a news that an Indian ryot has a hiding-place to conceal his rupees, or that he can perform the impossible feat of hiding his rupees in his that. It is known to every Indian that what the poorer Indians do, is to convert their savings into ornaments which they present to their wives who, occa-

sionally on festivals, wear them on their persons, but, as a rule, lock them up for use in times of need. Then, the higher classes, as a rule, invest their rupees in landed property, Government or other securities, or in commercial business. It is thus absolutely incorrect to say that either the higher or the lower class Indians have hoards of rupees, and that they hide them in secret places. In short, the only property which the vast body of the Indians possess is in the shape of uncoined silver which has been estimated at 1,000,000,000 oz.; and, as Mr. Grenfell puts it, the money value of these hard earned savings of the poorest of the poor, have been halved by a single stroke of the pen!

There is another aspect of the question, which has not been touched by Mr. Grenfell. It is that the currency change is in the direction of reducing the prices of commodities. This means that the possessor of rupees will gain at the cost of the poor ryots, who will have to buy rupees with the produce of their fields, for the purpose of paying rent in hard cash. The effect of the Currency Act is thus the imposition of a fresh burden on the ryot, already bent double with the weight of taxation. The friends of the ryots ought to be now up and doing. Is the energetic Secretary of the Indian Relief Society dead or alive? His petition to Parliament, four or five years ago, on the currency question, created some stir. He should open communication with Mr. Chaplin, Mr. Vicary Gibbs, Mr. Grenfell, and others who have been taking such lively interest in the question, and supply them with facts.

ENGLISH OPINION ON THE PLAGUE RULES.

The remarks of our London correspondent, regarding the new plague policy adopted in Bombay, deserve special attention. He gives an extract from a powerful article in the Spectator which, with great ability, summarizes the talk of practical men on this important question. The article speaks of "three courses open to us, either of which would be effectual, though each there are serious objections."

The first course is "to suspend all sanitary measures, and to allow the plague to rage until it has killed out all who are liable to its ravages." The objection to this course is that Government is bound, "as civilized and vivifying rulers, to make the attempt (to save the people); and to give it up, because of opposition, is to give up the one solid excuse for our sovereignty in India and to reduce our presence there to some thing unpleasantly like a highly successful dacoity. We must save the people, if we can, to prove to ourselves that we are wiser than they; and in saving them, we must rely on our own ideas and our own science."

The second course is "to hold down Bombay by sheer force, to make the doctors absolute, to shoot down those who resist, and to wait steadily through months of disorder, suffering and humiliation, until the disease shall take itself away." The objection to this plan is thus stated: "If we were sure of success, it would be the only plan; but, as success is doubtful, statesmen may well consider that it involves a frightful deepening of the cleavage between the rulers and the ruled; that it may have to be pursued permanently, the plague re-appearing from year to year; and that, if the visitation marched through India, the plan would overtax our strength."

The third course, "which, if practicable, is free from these evils, is to consult the best Mullahs and Pandits as to the rules which really affect their religious faith and Indian ideas of honour; to withdraw these, and to devote all our strength and attention to the thorough cleansing of the city; re-making all drains, opening all quarters impervious to the wind from the sea, burning the floor of the streets, exterminating all rats, closing all chowls, tenements and houses which are packed like sardine boxes, and burning down remorselessly every house in which an inmate has died of the plague."

"These measures, unaccompanied by segregation," continues the Spectator, "have been successful in Europe; and, as science is not local, they ought to be successful in Bombay. It should be intimated to the people at the same time that the demands of their religions having been satisfied, any further attempt at licence would be put down summarily by soldiers as well as the police. Order must be maintained in a city like Bombay, whatever the expenditure of lives; but, to a reasonable man there is something very depressing in being compelled to kill Her Majesty's subjects with bullets in order to persuade them not to suffer themselves to be killed by buboes."

Our correspondent adds: "I think, I fairly interpret public opinion in this country when I say that the prevalent view of the situation is that the third course suggested, or something akin to it, is the one that is the best and wisest to pursue; at all events, the first being impossible to a civilized and humanitarian Government; the second course having been tried and failed from lack of the popular support that is needed for its success; a fair trial might be given to some new scheme that would dispense with or reduce to a minimum all sources of provocation to resistance, and work along the lines of Asiatic rather than European methods."

We have given the above quotations at some length, because they may fairly be taken as embodying the views of the majority of thinking and impartial English-

men. It is a most encouraging vindication of the views that have all along been expressed, not only by all Indian journals, but also by those sections of the people that have spoken out on the subject to find that those views agree completely with those embodied in the above quotations. The people of India never objected to the right or duty of Government to take measures for the protection of the people against the plague. If they cried out sometimes to be let alone, it was simply an expression of despair regarding the impracticability of the measures that were adopted by Government. Their objections were all directed against those measures which, though put forward in the name of science were bound to fail, on account of their utter disregard, in the matter of enforced segregation in public hospitals, not merely of the religious and social prejudices of Hindus and Mahomedans, but of the tenderest and most powerful of the feelings that actuate humanity in all countries,—in Europe as well as in other parts of the world. Those measures were destined to fail on account of their uncompromising attitude of antagonism towards the people, and their having had, in consequence, to be enforced by the rigorous exercise of absolute powers; and also on account of the liability of the absolute powers, that had to be given to large numbers of subordinate agents for carrying out the measures, being grievously abused, because the numerous agents, that were required, could not be selected from among such experienced and considerate people as alone can be safely entrusted with such powers.

Those who are acquainted with what the natives of the country have all along been saying in respect of the plague measures, know very well that it is the third of the above-mentioned courses that they have been advocating from the very beginning. The Spectator says that these measures, viz. those enumerated under the third plan, "unaccompanied by segregation," have been successful in Europe. Now we, along with other exponents of Indian thought, have always in our advocacy of the real measures of sanitation, mentioned under the third plan, goes further than what is said to have been successful in Europe. Instead of opposing segregation in any shape, we have always advocated home-segregation. Hindus and Mahomedans do not object to segregation in itself; for, their religious and ethical principles enjoin strict separation in the case of contagious diseases. What they object to, is that the drastic system of segregation, which probably no European Government would like to adopt in their own country, and under which women and children are ruthlessly dragged away—from home and from their nearest and dearest relatives, who are actuated in their ministrations by the strongest feelings of affection and self-sacrifice—to the strange and uncomfortable surroundings of temporarily-improvised hospitals, where, fright alone, together with the incidents of forcible removal, is sufficient to kill the patients outright. And this kind of segregation is enforced, not after deliberate examination and pronouncement of opinion, in each case, by medical men of ripe knowledge and experience, but on mere suspicion, and that of subordinate agents who cannot all be fully trustworthy on account of so many of them having to be employed for the work. What the suspicion of these men is like, would be apparent from the fact that, during the first year of plague operations in Poona under the late Mr. Rand, some 10 or 12 times as many people were taken to the segregation hospitals on suspicion of being attacked, as actually died of the disease. A comparison of the numbers attacked and those killed by the disease for that period, will prove this. Further, of the tens of thousands, who were detained on suspicion in the segregation camps, attached to selected railway stations, scarcely any were found, in the end, to have had the disease in them.

Our only hope now is that public opinion in England will rise to a true knowledge of the facts, and of the hopeless failure of the plan of operation, which is the second among those mentioned by the Spectator, and be sufficiently strong to lead to the adoption of the Spectator's third plan, which is precisely the one that the people of this country have been urging the Government to adopt from the beginning. The Spectator began by saying that all the three plans had objections of their own; but in stead of pointing to any objections to the third plan, it concludes by saying, what is strongly in its favour, viz. that it has been successful in Europe without being accompanied by any measures of segregation.

We would take objection to the remark of our correspondent to the effect that the failure of the plan, adopted in India, was due to the want of that co-operation on the part of the people themselves, without which the measures could not be expected to succeed. You may as well say, in the case of a boy who gets young ones from a bird's nest and kills them by the sheer rigour of his ignorant and bungling efforts to feed them and make them comfortable, that those efforts were not successful because the poor young ones did not lend a helping hand towards their success. Then, again, both Bombay and Poona have shown, when native co-operation was honestly sought, that the people were not only willing and ready to co-operate, but they worked better and in a far satisfactory manner than even the European officials did.

The one view is that the Europeans in Calcutta wanted supreme control over the Municipality, and found a willing tool in Sir A. Mackenzie to carry out their wishes, who, in turn, found a willing tool in Lord George Hamilton. And thus the Calcutta Municipal Bill was introduced. The other view is that the Calcutta Municipality is in the hands of the natives who, with all their vaunted education, are but barbarians at heart, without any notion of the postulates of European civilization. Calcutta, therefore, is in a filthy condition. And as plague is encircling India, the natives should at once be expelled from power and the Municipality put in the hands of the Europeans. Let us see what are the facts. The only Municipality in India in which the Indians have any voice, is the one in Calcutta; and it is as yet free from plague, at least it has hitherto been able to keep off the monster from its doors. On the other hand, Poona, Bombay and Karachi, etc., where the Europeans have supreme voice, have been decimated by plague, and in addition, a good many Europeans have been murdered and wounded. Who knows that if the matter had been left entirely in the hands of the Indians, the plague might have been stamped out of India by this time? Anglo-Saxon energy is willingly admitted. Yet Europeans are strangers here. They have, therefore, to learn everything by bitter experience. Lord Sandhurst has, no doubt, learnt much; but then, at what a cost!

When Mr. Roberts asked whether or not Sir A. Mackenzie had compared certain classes of Indians to the carrion-kite, Lord George Hamilton was pleased to reply that he could not prevent members of Council quoting poetry. And there was laughter. But Mr. Roberts' question had no reference to the point whether Sir A. Mackenzie spoke in poetry or in prose. It was whether he did or did not make the odious comparison. It, however, did not serve the purpose of Lord George Hamilton to take notice of the point at issue, and so he stopped the mouth of Mr. Roberts by raising an irrelevant issue. To a question of Sir W. Wedderburn whether he would allow Parliament to re-consider the new Sedition Act introduced in India, Lord George Hamilton said he was prepared to take upon himself the full responsibility for the measure. This seemingly bold challenge would have been really bold, if the Indians had any vote. Our best friends in Parliament have only a secondary interest in the affairs of India; and it is this that makes Lord George Hamilton so very bold in his challenge. Sir A. Mackenzie's own justification for the language used, is this:—

I have always been perfectly frank and honest with those in whom I am interested. If one of my officers goes wrong, I tell him the truth to his face and do not score him up behind his back; and because I look upon the Bengalees as my friends, and found that some of them were wandering what seemed to me into wrong paths, I thought it right to take them to task as I did. But like much good advice given in this world, it has apparently only for the moment served to stir up evil passions. I feel sure that as tempers cool with them, all this will pass away and my suggestions will be judged on their merits, and perhaps bear good fruit. I leave my reputation to the care of those who have sense enough to judge impartially about public measures and public men.

The reply shows what a thorough disciple of Sir A. Eden had Sir A. Mackenzie made of himself. That was always his plea for the use of harsh expressions. The fact is, from frankness to rudeness there is but one step. A man in the awful position of a ruler should weigh well his words before giving expression to them. There is no generosity in the act of pelting stones at passers-by from a terrace above the reach of the latter. Besides, we cannot admit that because Sir A. Mackenzie rose to the position of a Lieutenant-Governor, therefore, he was entitled to think himself better than his fellows. Because Sir A. Mackenzie is a Lieutenant-Governor, therefore, he is more intelligent, more honest, more able: that is what Sir A. Mackenzie claims when he informs us that he tells everybody his faults to his face. What he calls faults, may not be faults at all. Those whom he thinks mistaken, may not be mistaken at all. It is oftentimes more advantageous to be found fault with, than to find fault with others. Those who take upon themselves to find fault with their fellows, forget that they themselves are only puny creatures, with all the failings that attach to frail humanity.

The reply of Mr. Finucane to the question why a bonus of sixty-seven thousand rupees is to be paid to Mr. Ruskin, the retiring manager of the Hutwa Raj, is apparently conclusive. The reasons, by which Mr. Finucane justifies this munificent gift, are:

(1) It is reported that the late Maharajah wished to give Mr. Ruskin a liberal pension.

(2) His wife, the Maharanee, has expressed her regret that the gift was so small as only Rs. 67,000.

(3) It was done according to the rule of the Government Service, relating to commutation of pension.

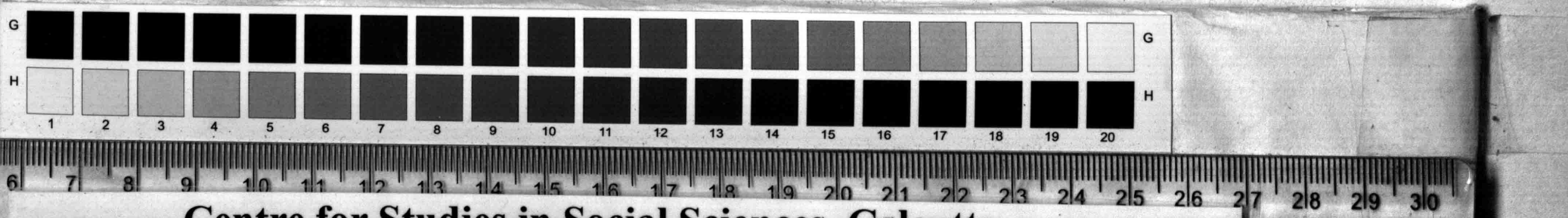
It is "reported," is it not? What grounds Mr. Finucane had for supposing that the report was correct? The Maharanee is brought under requisition. What grounds are there for supposing that she is a free agent, and that she expressed the regret at all? And what justification had she to dispose of the money in this manner, which belongs to the minor and not to herself, that minor being a ward of the Government?

Is it not the custom that mothers or wards, who are under the charge of Government, are allowed no voice in the administration of their estates? Why was, then, an exception made in the present case? Then what is the nature of the services Mr. Ruskin did, which entitled him to the magnificent gift? Mr. Finucane is silent on the point. Then what salary did he get during the life-time of the Maharajah? As for following the practice of the Government, the public servants accept employments on the understanding that they will get pensions after a meritorious service. Did Mr. Ruskin enter the Raj service on that understanding? Apparently not. Pensions are never paid to their servants by private parties, except under special circumstances. The Government practice, therefore, can never be a precedent in dealing with the servants of private zemindars. Can Mr. Ruskin sue for his pension? Apparently not. It is a favour,—this gift,—pure and simple. Then, is Mr. Finucane absolutely sure that the rules of Government Service allow its servants to commute their pensions into lump sums? Of course, when he says so, we are bound to take him at his word; but if this be the rule, why do the Government servants accept pensions and not a lump sum? A pension-holder of, say, Rs. 600 per mensem, may die after enjoying the pension for only one year. But, he will leave a handsome fortune to his heirs if he be allowed to commute it to Rs. 67,000, as in the case of Mr. Ruskin. Again, by a judicious investment of this sum, he may derive an income of Rs. 500 a month. A lump sum is thus more advantageous by far than a pension; and one should think, every one would prefer the former to the latter. But can Mr. Finucane show any instance in which a Government servant has been allowed to commute his pension into a lump sum? Considering the helpless condition of the Maharanee and the minor, and the fact that the authorities hold the property of the latter as a sacred trust, the whole business looks ugly. We need hardly say, the amount was sanctioned during the rule of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the friend of the British Indian Association. We believe, it is in consideration of this service that the Hutwa estate will be asked to contribute its mite to the proposed memorial of the late Lieutenant-Governor!

WHAT Mr. Stead threatened, the Champion has accomplished: this paper is proving a thorn by the side of the Bombay Government. This is what it says:—

True Government consists in statesmanship. Administration without statesmanship is simply synonymous with administration by a clique of superior but still clerks.

Now, so long the Bombay Government does not make a satisfactory settlement of those standing evidences of their panic—the incarceration of the Nattu brothers and the posting of the punitive police force at Poona,—it remains open to attacks from all sides. Of course, the Government is safe from any virulent attack from Indian papers; but the Champion is not an Indian paper, and the editor has no need to apprehend transportation for life for advocating what it considers the cause of good government. Chapekar has paid the extreme penalty of the law, which shows that he was sincerely believed to be the murderer of the British officials. Well, he was kept in Police custody and in the custody of the jailor for several months. Every effort was made to make him confess his confederates, but without success. It then comes to this that this man, half sane and half mad, murdered two British officers, of his own accord, under say, a sense of wrong. He has now been hanged. Why are then the Nattu brothers in jail? And what is the further necessity for the punitive police, if any necessity ever existed at all? It is wrong to keep a man in jail on mere suspicion. But in the case of the Nattu brothers, there is, even no suspicion. It is wrong on general principles to post a punitive police force; for, it means the punishment of the innocent along with the guilty. An arrangement like that suits only a country which is in an unsettled state. But there at Poona we have plenty of Magistrates and constables to be able to keep the peace. A punitive police force at Poona cannot be justified under any circumstances. But the execution of Chapekar shows that there was nothing extraordinary at Poona, and the posting of a punitive police force was a mistake from every point of view. On what grounds does the Government still stick to the arrangement? Then, again, if outrages were committed in Poona, worse outrages were committed in the city of Bombay. Why is not then a punitive police force quartered in that town? The Champion talks of statesmanship. Well, they began to rave about the Maharatta Brahmin, of the scoundrel Tilak who was heading the Afridis, and all such nonsense in England. Lord George Hamilton was ambitious of proving a strong ruler; and so, energetic steps were taken, one after the other, to the infinite wonder of the gentle and sober people of this country. And hence the Bombay Government finds itself in a fix. Let the punitive force be stationed for two years—that was the fiat! But why two years? Why not till it pleased the Government? Of course, the Daily Mail, the Pall Mall and others of the same mould have the privilege of talk nonsense; but the Government bay was on the spot. Did it





LORD GAURANGA

SALVATION FOR ALL

BY BARU SHISHIR KUMAR GHOSE. ... To be had at the Patrika Office, Calcutta.

LAW'S DELAY.—A Burdwan correspondent writes to us that a case is pending in the local Sub-Judge's Court for four years.

OBITUARY.—We regret to have to record the death of Mr. Henry Giraud Cooke C.S., Commissioner of Orissa, at 10-30 P. M. on Wednesday night at the Continental Hotel.

BENGAL SECRETARIAT OFFICES.—The Bengal Secretariat will probably move up to Darjiling about the 7th of May, His Honour following as soon as Lady Woodburn arrives.

ASSAMESE AS SECOND LANGUAGE.—A correspondent writes: In reply to a petition submitted by certain residents of Debrughar, praying for the introduction of Assamese language in the educational institutions of Assam, and to move the University to recognise Assamese as second language at the Entrance Examination, Mr. Cotton said that he could not do that because that would break the link of union between the Bengalees and Assamese.

INDIAN LADIES AS MEDICOSES.—Among the forty-six students who passed the recent final or diploma examination from the Campbell Medical School, there are no fewer than seven Indian ladies. The Dacca Medical College furnished only one successful female student, the Cuttack Medical School two, and the Temple Medical School, Patna, the same number.

BENGAL PROVINCIAL RAILWAY.—The approximate earnings of this Railway for the week ending 16th April, 1898 were Coaching Rs. 1375; Goods Rs. 95; Miscellaneous Rs. 6. Total Rs. 1476 or Rs. 46 per open mile. In the corresponding week of the previous year the total earnings were Rs. 1532 or Rs. 44 per open mile. Total for 15 weeks from 1st January 1898 Rs. 22,392 as compared with Rs. 18,864 total for corresponding 15 weeks of 1897.

THE PLAGUE COMMISSION.—Mr. E. R. Gardner, Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Public Works Department, is appointed to be Secretary to the Plague Commission, Bengal, vice Mr. W. Banks Gwyther, on furlough. The Lieutenant-Governor has appointed the following gentlemen to be members of the Plague Commission, Bengal:—Surgeon-Major R. H. Charles, vice Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel J. Lewtas; Surgeon-Captain H. W. Pilgrim, vice Surgeon-Major A. W. D. Leahy; Surgeon-Lieutenant Colonel R. D. Murray, vice Brigade Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel J. O'Brien.

A POLICE OFFICER IN TROUBLE.—On Friday before Babu Dhonesh Chandra Ray, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore, Rahamatulla, a Sergeant of the Calcutta Police, was charged with having embezzled about hundred rupees, being the amount realised from one Mahomed Gan, a horse-dealer in Chitpore, by the accused in execution of a distress warrant. The case was originally heard by the Deputy Magistrate of Sealdah, but subsequently, on a motion by the accused, the case was transferred to the Alipore Court. The complainant was on Friday, absent, and so were his witnesses; and the accused claimed to be discharged under the circumstances. The Deputy Magistrate, however, granted a fortnight's adjournment, when the evidence will be recorded.

CAPTURE OF PESHWARI DAKAITS.—The residence of a wealthy money-lender, Saroda Prosad Ganguly, of Gora Gatcha, in the Serampur sub-division, was the scene of a daring dakaity committed on Wednesday by a gang of Peshwaris. At dead of night about five or six of these men entered the Babu's house, fell upon him and stabbed him with a knife. They then assaulted his wife, wrenching off her gold ear-rings and taking forcible possession of other articles of jewellery and a cash box decamped. Head Constable Ram Churn Ghose, of the Bengal Police, on Thursday morning captured four of these Peshwaris at Kona in the Howrah District, and recovered from them all the stolen properties, excepting the cash box, which has not yet been traced. The other members of the gang are still at large, but the police are on their track. The complainant has been placed under medical treatment.

THE LATE SHOCK OF EARTHQUAKE.—The slight shocks of earthquake, which oft and anon are being reported from Assam and Eastern Bengal, are stated by experts not to be indications of a fresh seismic upheaval, but the lees, so to speak, of the great shock of the 12th June, 1697. We should be glad to believe this true, but a shock which was felt at Goalpara at 5-10 A. M. on the 19th instant is calculated to shake our confidence. According to a correspondent it lasted for thirty seconds, and was most severe. He writes: "Although we are getting used to them, not a day having past since 12th June last year without several, this was a long way out of the ordinary, hence I bring it to your notice, in case other stations should have felt the same, though we are supposed to be only eleven miles from the centre of the disturbance." Further information on the subject would be decidedly interesting. In this connection it is significant that a slight shock of earthquake was experienced at Naraingunge on the 18th instant.—I. D. Neuis.

THE EARTHQUAKE AND THE GAROS.—Mr. H. Luttman-Johnson, lecturing before the Indian Section of the Society of Arts on the earthquake that caused such great devastation in Assam last June, spoke entertainingly of the behaviour of the native population. The

lieve that there was a Maharatta plot for the subversion of the Empire, and that the Brahmins were privately aiding the Afridis?

TALKING of the Natu brothers, we doubt not the petition of Lakshmbai, wife of one of the brothers, submitted to Parliament and published in another column will create some stir in England. The lady narrates the facts of the case in all their naked horror, and appeals to the chivalry of the Commons,—the pick of the British nation,—for bare justice. Let us summarise the tale she relates. She says that, after the unaccountable deportation of her husband and his brother, the whole family property was taken possession of by the Government, and she and other members were left without provision until, later on, a moderate allowance was settled upon them, which, however, was quite insufficient to maintain them. (2) Owing to a hitch between the Poona Collector and the petitioner's brother-in-law, not a single instalment of that allowance has yet been received. (3) Though the moveable property of the family was ordered to be released from attachment, it has not yet been wholly given back, and several applications on the subject remain unanswered. (4) The petitioner's husband and his brother are kept in separate prisons at Ahmedabad and Thana respectively; that they are strictly prohibited from seeing each other or their friends and relations or even their legal advisers; and that they had to suffer the greatest hardships in the matter of food and living. (5) The old mother of the prisoners died of the shock soon after their arrests, and that the whole family is in mourning. The following sentences from the petition will, we doubt not, touch every English heart:—

The Hon'ble members of the House of Commons can easily form an idea of the extreme grief and mental suffering caused to the petitioner and her family by the sudden arrest and deportation of the prisoners. They have only to realize what their own wives and children would have felt if any of them were similarly treated. For a time we were paralysed and sunk in dismay. But the following appeal is still more pathetic. The petitioner says that if her husband is not released, then she most respectfully begs that she and her infant daughter at least may be permitted to remain in the prison along with her husband. To minister to his comfort and to do her duty towards him as enjoined by the Shastras, is now the only solace of her life. To a Hindu lady in the position of your petitioner, separation from her husband is practically equivalent to death and disgrace. Your petitioner is put under a social ban for no fault of hers or even that of her husband. And she cannot yet believe that a chivalrous Government like the British, who have so often championed the cause of Hindu womanhood, would intentionally allow an innocent lady to suffer the pangs and miseries which make even life a burden.

This time the appeal goes straight from the heart of a woman,—a devoted Hindu wife,—who is willing to share the horrors of an Indian jail with her husband, and ought to be, therefore, irresistibly powerful. We doubt not, it will move even Lord George Hamilton, though he may not, for political reasons which cannot be defended on moral grounds, grant the prayer of the petitioner. The best course, however, for the Government is to set the brothers free at once, and thus obliterate one of the standing monuments which are constantly reminding the people of the blunders of the authorities.

BEFORE the Government seek to change the present constitution of the Calcutta Municipality which has been existing since 1876, they should see whether or not all the alleged defects can be removed under the present arrangement. If they are removable, there is, of course, no need for disturbing the constitution and thus unsettling men's minds. But, if they cannot be removed, then, there is no help but the constitution must be altered. Now the case for the contemplated change in the law, is contained in the following extract from the speech of the Hon'ble Mr. Risley:—

While the Bill, making the necessary changes in the law, was being put into shape, it was reported that a case of plague had occurred in Howrah, and the Medical Board, now the Plague Commission, was appointed for the purpose of checking the spread of the disease. In exercise of the powers then delegated to them, the Board deputed six Medical Officers to make a sanitary survey of the town and suburbs of Calcutta, with reference to certain points indicated for enquiry. The reports of these officers disclosed an appalling state of things; but I do not propose to drag the Council through all this mire. I will merely read a summary which omits the detailed horrors of the reports:—

I.—Overcrowded and badly-built houses.—In many parts of the town and suburbs, they found that both pukka houses and bustee huts were dangerously overcrowded, and were built in a manner which rendered proper ventilation and efficient conservancy almost impossible.

II.—Defects of public latrines.—The public latrines and urinals were in many cases faulty in construction; they were imperfectly cleaned and their number was insufficient to justify even a limited application of the penal provisions of the law in regard to nuisances.

III.—Defects of private latrines.—The private latrines were in many cases so constructed that they could not be properly cleaned, nor could the conservancy officers get access to them; and consequently many of them were choked with accumulations of filth.

IV.—State of house-drains and down-pipes.—The house-drains and down-pipes were in many cases broken, choked, and out of repair.

V.—State of surface drains.—The surface drains were blocked with foul matter, latrines

were allowed to discharge into them, and the drains themselves were often used as latrines.

VI.—Neglect of road scavenging.—The scavenging of the roads was imperfectly carried out; the staff was inadequate for the work; and the subsoil had become dangerously polluted.

VII.—State of compounds and courtyards.—The condition of the compounds and courtyards of houses, was in many cases, extremely filthy.

VIII.—Pollution of wells.—Wells in courtyards were contaminated by the percolation of sewage impurities from the soil.

IX.—State of cowsheds and stables.—Cowsheds and stables were situated in thickly-populated places; their construction was faulty; they were greatly overcrowded, and their flooring was soaked with sewage which polluted the wells on the premises.

X.—State of hackney-carriage stands.—The number of hackney-carriage stands was wholly insufficient to meet the current requirements of the town, and they were imperfectly flushed and cleaned.

XI.—Condition of bustees.—Most bustees were badly drained and imperfectly ventilated; the huts were too close together; the latrine arrangements led to the pollution of the soil; the roads and lanes were too narrow and conservancy was imperfectly carried out. Granting that all the charges contained in the above are true, does the remedy lie in a radical change in the constitution? Let us see. We are told that many houses are dangerously overcrowded. If so, under the present system, the executive may find them out and ask the occupiers to vacate them, or remove a portion of their family elsewhere. Similarly, the executive may discover those public and private latrines, house-drains, cowsheds and stables that are defective, and compel the owners to remove the defects. Where is, then, the need for the change? Surely, the Commissioners cannot be held responsible, if the latrines are not properly cleaned or the drains sufficiently flushed. To blame the Commissioners for these defects is as fair as to blame the Local Government for the shortcomings of a District Magistrate, or to blame a District Magistrate for the shortcomings of a Choukidar. If there is filth in the town, it is the Health Department, which is highly paid, which ought to be held responsible for it. The Municipal Bill proposes to place all powers in the hands of a General Committee, composed of twelve members. We fancy, it will not be their duty to visit latrines and drains, and they will not be held responsible if unclean latrines are found out here and there. What do you, then, gain by the change of the present system? Mr. Risley talks of "an appalling state of things" and "omits the detailed horrors of the reports." But is not London the best city in the world? Is it not considered an ideally perfect town? Here is a description of a part of this city, taken from "The Bitter Cry of Outcaste London", published in 1883:—

We do not say, the condition of their homes—for, how can these places be called homes, compared with which the lair of a wild beast would be a comfortable and healthy spot? Few who will read these pages, have any conception of what pestilential human rookeries are, where tens of thousands are crowded together amidst horrors which called to mind what we have heard of the middle passage of the slaveship. To get into them you have to penetrate courts, reeking with poisonous and mal-odorous gases, arising from accumulations and often flowing beneath your feet; courts, many of which the sun never penetrates, which are never visited by a breath of fresh air and which rarely know the virtue of a drop of cleansing water. You have to ascend rotten stair-cases which threaten to give way beneath every step and which in some places have already broken down, leaving gaps that imperil the limbs and lives of the unwary. You have to grope your way along dark and filthy passages with vermin swarming. Then if you are not driven back by the intolerable stench, you may gain admittance to the dens in which these thousands of beings, who belong as much as you to the race for whom Christ died, live together. Have you pitied the poor creatures who sleep under railway arches, in carts or casks, or under any shelter which they can find in the open air? You will see that they are to be envied in comparison with those whose lot it is to seek refuge here.

Can Mr. Risley show any portion of this city, which answers to the above description, or one-hundredth part of it? No quarter of Calcutta presented anything like the above, even in the good old days of the Justices, when the town was characterised as "a disgrace to civilization." Sir Alexander Mackenzie has gone to England. He should try to introduce his Bill in London, and leave the poor Indians alone.

So, the German Chirurgical Society have denounced the Dum-Dum bullets! But, if a man is to be shot dead, what is it to him whether he is shot from behind or from front? It is no wrong to kill a fellow-being; it is no wrong to kill him even when he is fighting for religion, country, wife, children and his corn. But it is wrong to kill him with Dum-Dum bullets! "Thou shalt not kill"—commanded God. Moralists came to the rescue of the murderers with the proviso that it is no murder to kill one in self-defence. Be it so. But are not millions killed purely for greed of material gain? Civilization applauds war, conquests and domination; but it cannot permit Dum-Dum bullets! They plant a couple of Maxim guns and set the machine a-going. When the smoke has been swept away by the wind, the spectacle seen is that hundreds and thousands are lying dead or are dying. Civilization allows that, but not Dum-Dum bullets!

In a few pithy sentences, our London correspondent describes the situation which India cannot meet its liabilities and is getting poorer!

I must say that of the quick remedies prescribed for poor India's financial complaints, all appear palliatives and not cures; we can only be thankful that time at any rate is given for consideration and consultation before fresh treatment is ordered for the suffering patient. The cause of the disease is bleeding! Eighteen solid millions sterling in gold must be drawn yearly from the exhausted veins of the patient; and until that drain is stopped, I have little hope of any permanent recovery. If India provided her own army from her own sons, used her educated men in her civil administration, manufactured her own stores, found her own capital out of her hoarded wealth, in fact, kept the eighteen millions in India, there would be no currency question.

Yes, the cause of India's poverty is well-known, and the remedy likewise. But the true remedy means loss of British interests, and, therefore, experts have to resort to quackery for its cure. Yet, England is wealthy enough to afford to be just to India.

THE Englishman is supposed to be the leading organ of the Anglo-Indian community. It cannot, therefore, afford to be petty-minded or write nonsense. We expressed a hope that the petition of Lakshmbai, the wife of the elder Natu, submitted to Parliament, would secure for her the sympathy of every generous-hearted Englishman. The chivalrous editor of the Englishman, however, is very severe with the unfortunate lady, because she alluded to the "loyalty and attachment" of the Natus to the British Government, and concluded a long leaderette on the subject with these words:—

The sooner the Natus realize the fact that they are suffering a just punishment for one of the gravest of political crimes; the better for their peace of mind.

When Lord George Hamilton was questioned to mention the crime for which the Natus had been punished, he at first declared that they had a hand in the murder of Mr. Raud. Damodar Chapekar, however, demolished the beautiful edifice, built up by the authorities. Lord George Hamilton was again pressed for a reply; and this time he said that one of the Natus played tricks with a plague nurse and sought to corrupt a police constable, and therefore both were deported under the Regulation. The Bombay Government, however, could give no information either about the nurse or the policeman, and Lord George was interpellated for the third time on the subject. On this occasion, His Lordship frankly confessed to the effect that he did not know for what offence the brothers had been arrested and kept in custody. Indeed, His Lordship replied, to the amazement of the whole world, that the Natus were not brought on their trial because there was no evidence to prove that they had committed any crime! One with ordinary intelligence should understand this to mean that the Natus were deported upon mere suspicion, but that subsequently it transpired that they were innocent; and that if they were detained, it was because the Government, from a fear of losing prestige, could not release them. It was, however, left for the intelligent editor of the Englishman, which is said to be the exponent of the Anglo-Indian community, to discover that the Natus "are suffering a just punishment for one of the gravest of political crimes." But, pray, what is this "one of the gravest of political crimes?" The Englishman shows equal intelligence in dealing with the subject of the Calcutta Municipal Bill; but, of this hereafter. Our contemporary should know that mere fine writing is not logic, nor are assertions, arguments.

REFERRING to the plea that over-population is the cause of Indian poverty, India observes:—

Finally, when one hears of "over-population" as a cause of Indian poverty, it is meant that the people are too numerous for the land to supply them with food? Food is exported from India every year, so that cannot be the meaning. Is it meant that they cannot purchase foreign goods, having in consequence of the pressure of numbers to expend all their energies in raising food? The export of raw cotton, opium and jute is sufficient to pay for the cotton goods, which are the only foreign manufactures the mass of the Indians use. The Indians need no foreign luxuries; they export food, and yet one is told there is "over-population." But there is one thing one has forgotten. There is one foreign luxury, the most expensive of all luxuries, and in that the people of India are forced to indulge the luxury of alien Government and alien exploitation.

Mr. Grenfell's letter on the currency question, published in another column has also dealt with the question of India's poverty in an exceptionally able manner. When will the conscience of the English people be awakened to the fact that their duty is to enrich and not impoverish India? When the officials succeeded in persuading that ever-memorable Viceroy, Lord Lansdowne, in closing the mints, by which all the uncoined silver hoards in India, the only property of "the poorest people on earth," were made valueless, and, at the same time, in granting the officials what they call "compensation allowance," as if the people of India had in any way wronged them and owed them compensation, one civilian had the courage to denounce the attempt in these words:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "ENGLISHMAN." SIR,—The low rate of exchange has undoubtedly produced great hardship among married officers; but, for bachelors like me, the case is different. I will ask any other Co-

venanted Civilian who is a bachelor and did not petition for compensation, and who, like me, considers that he is amply paid already, and that compensation in his case was quite uncalled-for, to join me in a promise that he will either not draw the "compensation," or give it away in charity. There are plenty of people in this country who have a greater claim upon Government for charity than we Civilians.

The reform should begin with the Civilians, following the generous advice of Mr. Lee, and giving up what they call "compensation." But it is not the Civilians who are so responsible for the poverty of India as the military clique. This is what Colonel Osborne said in the columns of the Calcutta Statesman:—

At this time, (1878) India had been scourged by a series of famines. . . . But with an Afghan war on their hands, the Government could not afford to be either just or generous. The Revenue Collectors were ordered to go out among the famished villages of India and wring from the wretched inhabitants the utmost farthing that was due from them. To satisfy those demands, the starving peasant was compelled to sell even the household utensils which enabled his family to cook their scanty meals. In the North-West Provinces no less than a million and a quarter of men, women, and children perished of hunger, the Government wringing from them in this season of dire distress no less a sum than two million pounds. . . . It is no exaggeration to say that for every hundred Afghans whom we have slain in this unrighteous war, we have caused a thousand of our Native fellow subjects to perish of want and hunger. And all for what? For no other purpose, than to destroy that impregnable barrier which fenced off our Indian Empire from the possibility of aggression in Central Asia.

This is what Mr. Grenfell says in his letter, alluded to above: "Well may an Indian native loyal to the English connection, say, 'Without any intention or wish and with every desire for the good of India, England has in reality been the most disastrous and destructive foreign invader of India, and, under present lines, unceasingly, and everyday continues to be so.'"

THE parties who are undoubtedly most interested in the question of widow-marriage, are the widows themselves and the maids; and surely, their views on the subject ought to carry greater weight than those of men. An American spinster has just contributed an article to a magazine, headed "Ought widows to marry?" in which, after making various remarks, she thus delivers what should be taken as correctly representing the views of a large body of the female population, roughly speaking:—

Personally, I would willingly allow a widow to bury as many husbands as she likes—I speak impartially, however—but considering that hundreds of thousands of girls must either get married or lead a weary and disappointed existence, waiting like Micawber, for something to turn up which never does, it seems scarcely consistent with modern ideas of fair play that those, who have already had husbands, should be such conspicuous runners in the matrimonial stakes.

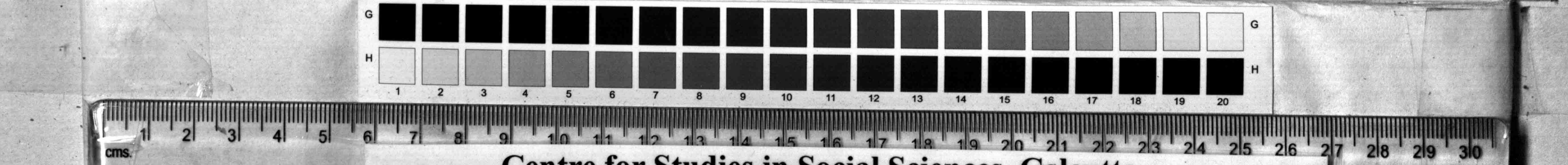
We have been saying the same thing since a long time. Every widow had a fair chance; and she has no right to take a second husband, and deprive a maid of her right. Sentimental grounds apart, even on economic considerations the re-marriage of widows cannot be supported. The American spinster says that, in the United States, the female population outnumbered the male, the numbers being 19,496,638 and 18,384,126 respectively. That is to say, the number of women in the United States exceeds that of men by ten millions. The only way to dispose of this surplus female population, is to introduce polygamy in the States. The much-abused Mormons thus did a real service to the American people. At least, widow marriage ought to be abolished from the States; for, the re-marriage of every widow creates a spinster.

In reviewing the revenue report of irrigation and navigation works of Bengal in 1896-97, the Government of India remarks that the total length of canals in operation was 916 miles, of which 495 were for irrigation and navigation and 343 for irrigation only, and 178 for navigation only. There were 2,600 miles of tributaries, capable of irrigating 1,572,000 acres. The result of working of the major works was very satisfactory, the percentage of net revenue on capital outlay having risen from 0.19 to 0.83 in the year. This was chiefly due to the improvement of revenue from the Sone canals.

THE East Indian Railway has a busy time before it in the matter of extensions. Work on the Mogul-Sarai-Gya line is proceeding satisfactorily, and the 126 miles should be opened for traffic next year. The Secretary of State has sanctioned the construction of the branch from Dehri to Daltonganj, 84 miles, and the Shikohabad-Farukhabad line, 66 miles. The other extensions which have not yet received sanction, are: Bhagulpore-Baidyanath, 90 miles; Ahmadpur-Baidyanath, 63; Hughli-Cuttwa, 61; and Burdwan-Cuttwa, 34. The total mileage here set down, is 524; and the lines are so arranged that they are certain to bring a large amount of traffic to the main line. The latter is to be duplicated from Burdwan to Howrah, giving four lines of metals instead of two.

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

Gen Agents—SMITH STANISTREET & CO., AND B. K. PAUL & CO., Calcutta.





Garos, of the hills, he said left their fields and retired into their houses to await further catastrophes. The Garo belief is that the world is a square flat body, hung up by a string at each corner. There is a squirrel always trying to gnaw these strings, but to prevent it, a demon was appointed. This demon, however, neglected his duty, and in order that his attention might not in the future be diverted from his work, he was struck blind. Now that he can't see, the squirrel, of course, has the best of it, and it is feared that when one or two of the strings are gnawed, the earth will be turned upside down. Another story is that Her Most Gracious Majesty, not content with the last earthquake, has ordered another and more vigorous one, to be followed by a cyclone. That it is in the power of the "Maharajah" to do so is never doubted. One man asked for a *parwana* to forbid the hill behind his house from slipping down on to him. Had the houses of the European officials in Tura not been wrecked, the Garos would have made their minds without doubt that the recent catastrophe was the work of the "Sahibs" and excited by the wild stories in common circulation they might have given some trouble.

**ENTERTAINMENT TO THE LEUTENANT GOVERNOR.**

The entertainment given to His Honor Sir John Woodburn, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, on Friday night by Babu Romanath Ghose on the occasion of the wedding of his son was a splendid success. The palatial residence of Babu Romanath Ghose, at Paturbari, Calcutta where the entertainment was held, was tastefully decorated with all the paraphernalia which make an artistic show and was brilliantly illuminated with electric light. On passing along the Chitpore Road the gate temporarily improvised for the purpose at the head of the Paturbari-ghata street and the crowd of persons standing at the place betokened that something of an unusual occurrence was taking place in the locality. The street from the gate to the house was lighted with electricity as well as the inside of the house. The programme of entertainment provided for the occasion was of a varied nature. It included the theatrical performances, feats of strength, the usual nauches, exhibition of phonograph and Rontgen Rays. His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, accompanied by Mr. Gayer, his Private Secretary, arrived at quarter past six and was received at the gate by Babu Romanath Ghose and some other gentlemen and conducted to the Reception Room, where the Classic Theatrical Co. entertained the audience for about fifteen minutes with songs and nauches. The party then went to the spacious quadrangle where various other entertainments were provided for, the most noticeable feature of which was the display of extraordinary strength by Prof. S. K. Banerjee. His feat evoked loud applause from the assembly. The assembly then adjourned to the upper drawing room, where Kumar S. Sinha exhibited the phonograph and Dr. A. Ghose the Rontgen Rays. A string band played select pieces of music throughout the evening His Honor was highly pleased with all he saw and left after a stay of about an hour and a half. Besides His Honor there was a large attendance of European ladies and gentlemen and native gentlemen.

The Hon. Mr. Hughes, Chairman of the Port Trust, Bombay, goes on leave on May 1 and Mr. C. T. Burke will hold the acting appointment.

A VIOLENT storm, attended by thunder, lightning, and rain, broke over Hyderabad (Deccan) at 3 o'clock on Saturday after-noon 16th instant. Several buildings in the native quarters collapsed, and huge trees were uprooted. Hail stones were found in heaps in outlying places.

MR. DOBBS, Private Secretary to Sir Antony Macdonnell, continues to act in the same capacity during Mr. La Touche's tenure of the Office of Lieutenant-Governorship of the North West Provinces, Lieutenant Strachey acts as A.-D.-C.

The long-discussed scheme for a two-penny postage, between the Colonies, England, and India is likely to come into force this year, the formation of a British Empire League for the purpose having been agreed upon. The rate for Home letters from India will be simultaneously reduced to two annas.

The Government of India have sanctioned the imposition of octroi duty in the Cantonnements of Murree, Sunny Banks, and Clifden, and arrangements will be made to establish the same octroi limits for Cantonnements as for Municipalities, the net receipt from the tax being divided between the Cantonnement and Municipal funds in proportion to the population. The rates to be imposed are those already current in the Murree Municipality.

THERE seems some doubt as to the real name of the new Sipah, Salzar, who left Kabul for Asmar on the 6th instant to command the Amir's forces in Eastern Afghanistan. He is spoken of as General Mir Ahmad Khan, Ata Mahomed Khan, and Mir Ata Khan. He is a Herati, but nothing is known in India regarding his capabilities.

CONSEQUENT ON Mr. E. Oliver, Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government in the Central Provinces, going on furlough for five months from the 21st of May, the step to Chief Engineer goes to Mr. Nightingale in Assam, Mr. E. Penny succeeding Mr. Oliver in the Central Provinces as Secretary to Government with the rank of Superintending Engineer. Mr. Higgins, Executive Engineer, officiates as Superintending Engineer and Secretary to the Resident at Hyderabad, vice Mr. Perram, who goes on furlough for six months.

THE proposed constitution of the Committee to inquire into the gold standard scheme is an India Office secret at present. It is, however, possible that the Government of India may have a representative upon it. According to Lord George Hamilton he will have nobody on the Committee who is a faddist or an extreme controversialist, or who has a direct personal interest in exchange. On the other hand, he wants gentlemen associated with banking and commercial interests. Apparently this combination of negative and positive attributes is difficult to find, or we should not still be waiting for the Committee to be constituted. —Pioneer.

MR. H. M. STEURT, Traffic Manager of the B. B. and C. I. Railway, was run over and killed at the Church Gate Street, (Bombay) level crossing on Wednesday night. Mr. Steurt had left the Yacht Club to catch the train from Church Gate to Bandra. On arrival at the level crossing he found the gates closed, and the gateman advised him to wait until the train, which was approaching, had passed. Mr. Steurt, seeing that the train was some distance away, opened the gate and was crossing the line when his heel caught in the rails and he fell. The train passed over him, and he was picked up lifeless, his body being shockingly cut about. At the inquest held last morning, a verdict of accidental death was returned.

**HIGH COURT, N.-W. P.**  
**CRIMINAL SESSIONS.**

(Before the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Burkitt).

**THE CHARGE AGAINST A SOLDIER.**  
(A SUMMARY FROM THE PIONEER.)

At the Criminal Sessions at Allahabad the trial of Private H. J. C. Killick, East Surrey Regiment, Fatehpur, who was indicted on a charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, and also on a charge of unlawful intimidation, was concluded on the 20th instant. Mr. Ryves appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Boys defended the accused. When the jury was empanelled, Mr. Boys challenged every Hindu who was called, as he said, the trouble in this case had arisen from the shooting of peafowl which was sacred in his estimation. So, in the end, a jury was empanelled consisting entirely of Europeans and Eurasians.

In opening the case for the prosecution Mr. Ryves related the story of the case to the following effect:—The prisoner and another soldier went out shooting birds with Lee-Metford rifles. They brought down several peafowl with bullets, and either because of the strong religious objection among Hindus to the slaughter of these sacred birds, or because the prisoner was trespassing, a Hindu field labourer named Janak Singh went up to stop the sport and to get possession of the dead birds. The prisoner refused to give up his "bag," and walked on, Janak Singh following and remonstrating. Presently, Janak Singh, who was a particularly big and powerful man, took hold of the birds, whereupon the prisoner let them go, drew a large hunting knife from his belt and inflicted a wound upon Janak Singh's arm. Janak Singh, who was carrying a *lathi*, retorted with a swinging blow across the prisoner's back, which knocked him forward on his hands, and made him drop his rifle and lose his helmet. There other field labourers who had followed at a short distance, listening to the altercation, ran up, and one of them got hold of the rifle. Springing to his feet, the prisoner brandished his rifle again and frightened the native who had seized the rifle into dropping it again. Then the prisoner and his comrade (who had stood aloof all the time) gave up all the peafowl they had and went off. Meanwhile the wound in Janak Singh's arm was a very serious one, the main artery having been severed, and in the absence of proper attention he was rapidly bleeding to death. One of the labourers ran off to report the occurrence, but long before he came back Janak Singh had expired from loss of blood.

The two charges of "culpable homicide not amounting to murder" and "unlawful intimidation" was that given by natives of a very low order of intelligence, who had not only contradicted each other on material points, but had made statements irreconcilable in part with their own previous evidence in the subordinate court at the preliminary hearing of the charges.

Three statements which had been made by the prisoner on different occasions during the preliminary proceedings in the Magistrate's Court and in the military court of inquiry were now read out by the Registrar. Up to the time of the knife incident the story was exactly the same as that related by Private Rolf. From that point, however, the prisoner's narrative was to the following effect:—After I had winged the peafowl which Rolf captured, some natives armed with *lathis* surrounded me. I shouted to Rolf to come to my help, but instead of doing so he ran away. I drew my knife, with the object of frightening off the natives, but one of them came on and struck me a heavy blow across the back, which knocked me down. I was carrying a peafowl in the same hand in which I was holding the knife, and while I was on the ground a native made a snatch for the peafowl. Possibly in that way he ran his arm against the knife. I don't know. At any rate I didn't strike him with the knife. After I had chased the man who ran away with my rifle, and made him drop it I kept the crowd off by clubbing the rifle and swinging it over my head. Afterwards when I rejoined Rolf I asked him why he had run away, and he made no answer.

It was ten minutes to four o'clock, and as the Court was to rise at four, Mr. Boys asked the Court to allow him to begin his speech for the defence the following morning.

The learned Judge agreed, remarking that in any case the trial could not be concluded that day as he had yet to sum up to the jury.

The Foreman of the Jury: My lord, the jury would like to know whether they can bring their verdict now, supposing they are agreed, instead of coming here again to-morrow.

The Judge: That depends. If the jury are going to convict the prisoner they cannot do so until they have heard the counsel for the defence.

The Foreman: And if the contrary is the case, my lord?

The Judge: Then I don't think there can be any objection. You have no objection, Mr. Ryves?

Mr. Ryves: No, my lord.

The Foreman: I do not promise your lordship that the jury are agreed but I believe they have made up their mind, if your lordship will allow me to ask them.

The Judge: Perhaps it will be convenient for the jury to retire for a few minutes.

The jury retired accordingly, and returned in five minutes with a verdict of "not guilty" on both charges.

The Judge: I am bound to say the verdict has my entire approbation. I don't think the jury could have come to any other conclusion. (To the prisoner) You are acquitted. You may go.

THE Bezwada-Madras line of the East Coast Railway was linked up as far as Nellore on Thursday. It is hoped that the whole line will be linked up before the end of July. But for the difficulty of procuring sleepers, the line would probably have been opened by this time.

ON March 20 Drs. Jeaffreson and Lowry left St. Petersburg for Hango with 70 northern dogs brought from the Samoyeds and destined for the expedition in English expedition to the South Pole which is being fitted out by Sir George Nevnes. These sledge dogs will be shipped from Hango, the nearest ice-free port from St. Petersburg, and taken on board the boat to be employed in the expedition, now lying at Christiania. Dr. Jeaffreson has been travelling during the winter in the wilds of the Petchora and the tundras of the Kanin Peninsula. This latter region he found had been given up almost entirely to a colony of pirates who are probably the descendants of Russian criminals formerly banished to the region of Archangel. Last year they wrecked a Russian schooner, and the bodies of the crew were subsequently found by the help of dogs buried far off in the interior. Dr. Jeaffreson also explored the interior of the Valmal Peninsula or Samoyed land which has hitherto been almost unknown and he intends, if possible, to organize an expedition to Novaya Zemlya.

It is not at all surprising that an interpellation should take place in the House of Commons about Gunner Piper's case which is so typical of its kind. Though Gunner Piper has been acquitted of the guilt of murder of the village yet we are told to hope that Government would do substantial justice in the case by dealing with Piper as he deserves. Our readers are perhaps aware that the District Magistrate of Poona has been in correspondence with Government on the subject. It is a matter of curiosity what ultimately comes out of this correspondence. —Mahratta.

**WHAT THE SUBMARINE SAILOR SEES.**

To an observer in the turret of a submarine boat like the Argonaut at Baltimore, or the Holland craft at Elizabethport, things seem as uncanny as any glimpse Alice had in Wonderland. A veritable new world is unfolded to his astonished gaze.

As soon as the "jingle bell" sounds the vessel lurches slightly, then vibrates in rhythm with the whirl of the screw blades, swiftly revolved by the electric motor. The water ripples and surges, by lapping the sides of the cylindrical hull. Then the command, "Sink her ten feet," is heard.

A shivery feeling creeps over one as the daylight merges into the twilight of the depths. There is a gradual subsidence of the surface, swells into a heaving, choppy, coverlet, "Make it fifteen," the navigator calls. It grows darker and darker without. The gleam of the tiny electric bulbs in the chamber down below gives a weird effect and the man in the conning tower feels the gooseflesh perceptibly rising all over him. He breathes hard to see if there is plenty of air about. It is not suffocation creeping over him, only a mental torture gradually growing more severe. The ears first feel the increased pressure as the boat descends lower and lower. The eyes next seem staring and straining in their sockets and the heart beats faster.

Then a dreamy sensation steals over one. The hiss of escaping air alone, recalls the mind to the present, for the hum of the machinery seems like distant chimings and lulls the mind to sleep. All seems ghostly strange.

A bit of water-logged timber scrapes the sides of the boat with a rasping sound like a file. This rouses the desire to see. First the murky water all about the conning tower seems like a dense gray-green fog. Speed has been lowered and only the current carries the boat. Slowly the sight becomes more accustomed to the new surroundings.

Not a fish is to be seen, not a living moving particle. This is due to the presence of the strange new density of the deep, its queer propelling power, illumination and the hiss of compressed air finding a vent here and there scaring off all the funny tribe. The boat is allowed to settle gently on the bottom. Then the 4,000 candle-power search light flashes about, a huge Cyclopiam optic, revealing strange shapes, misty forms and irregular, abnormal outlines on every hand. All outside of the segment of light is inky black.

After a short period of quietude the curiosity of the fish leads them nearer to investigate. The divers inside who have been down in Lake Erie, the Connecticut River, the ocean shallows, the opalescent depth of St. Lucia and other spots, declare that the largest fish now observable is only a tiny or twenty-two inches long; but to the unpractised eye of the landlubber each appears as big as a shark. This is due to the magnifying effect of the fluid all about. A shell on the bottom no larger than a small saucer looks as big as a platter. The utmost distance any object was distinguishable according to the navigator was sixty-five feet. This was when the sun was shining and the boat was boring a path thirty-five feet below the surface. The current rolled tiny shells, stones, and other objects along like the wind blowing down a country lane.

The currents and eddies of the deep affect the marine growths likewise. They sway and swirl, curve and rise, like a field of wheat on a summer day. Seaweed, anemones, sponges, deep water ferns, coral sprays and dozens of sorts of minor growths give variety to the darkness hidden from all but a favoured few. Dark-green, brown, maroon, yellow and drab are the prevailing colours. Contrasts quite as vivid and entrancing as any landscape garden of the earth are these submerged fields.

With the boat resting tranquilly on the bottom a fuller realization of the wonders of submarine observation comes to the calmer mind. Not a wave nor ripple stirs the water. Except for its density the outlook seems not unlike the blurred atmosphere found on Scottish moors at dusk. The compass pointed as true fifty feet below the surface as it would at an equal distance above it. The swinging pendulum in the chamber below the conning tower shows that the boat is on an almost even keel. The indicators show that the external pressure increased fifty-two and a half pounds to the square inch at every one hundred feet of immersion. The thermometer reads a few degrees lower than at the surface, but this is due to the season of the year. At other times the subsurface temperature is above that of the land. The air within is so light and fresh from the compressors that a cigar burns freely when lighted.

Five tanks nearly filled with the water, together with detachable weights on the bottom, brought the vessel down to the level desired. When a higher plane was to be reached the compressed air injected into a compartment simultaneously with the ejection of the water by a pump served to raise her.

The glass plates in the observatory or conning tower were made to withstand a pressure of 130 pounds to the square inch, so that a depth of nearly 270 feet could be reached with safety.

When the propelling power is turned on the noise sounds like the rattle of a steam radiator before it warms up. There is always more or less escape of air. There is a hissing sound, rather intimidating at first. A triangular "drag" hung above the rudder, shows whether the boat has held to her course, for the steersman has no landmarks to guide him as soon as the conning tower is submerged. All the steering is done by compass, together with estimates of the distance covered within a certain period with the motive force exerted to a certain degree. When the boat moves forward in a straight line the "drag" hangs over the rudder. If she swings to port or starboard the "drag" is at once thrown out of line with the axis of the boat, a condition deftly shown by an instrument within. The horizontal rudders or fins enable the navigator to raise or deflect the bow at will.

When the cover was lifted upon returning to the surface, like the skylight on a roof, the collision of the two atmospheres within, and without caused the ears to tingle as if they had been sharply slapped. On shore once more the ordinary conversation of those about seemed like whispers. The eyes were

blurred by the influx of natural light and the clearness of the surroundings. There was an irresistible desire to feel and touch things to see if they were real and not some impalpable, ghostly, grizzly object of the fancy.

Everything seems queer to one who has been in another world for an hour. —*New York World.*

**HUMAN BEINGS WITH TAILS.**

"THERE is every reason for believing that human beings once had tails," said Sir James Grant, K. C. M. G., M. P., of Ottawa, Canada, the other day. "Even now they are sometimes born with such caudal appendages. At a certain stage of its development, one finds in the human embryo four or five additional segments of backbone, which would constitute a short tail, if they did not disappear before birth. Sometimes they do not disappear, as in the case of a girl, twelve years of age, examined by Lissner, the anatomist, who had a tail more than four inches in length."

Scores of similar cases are on record, and there is evidence that abnormalities of the kind are already inherited by offspring from the parent. There is at the end of every human being's spine a dimple marking the spot where the tail should be, had it not become aborted.

Furthermore, traces of the muscles remain, which in the brute serve for the purpose of wagging the tail and for extending it. The spinal cord, presumably, did originally extend the entire length of the backbone; at present, in an adult human being it is only three-fourths as long. From the lower end of it, there stretches a mere thread of nerve tissue to the extremity of the spine, which is evidently a degenerated vestige of the cord. This portion has become rudimentary because there is no tail to wag, requiring nerves to direct the action of the muscles.

Anatomists to-day entertain no doubt of the fact that human beings once went on all fours. In truth, man seems to be so ill-adapted structurally for going about on two legs that this habit gives rise to so many diseases.

The quadruped's liver hangs suspended from the backbone, while that of man is hung actually from the top of the thorax and the base of the skull. This restricts the action of the diaphragm and confines the lungs. It must have an effect upon the aeration of the blood, and, consequently upon the ability to sustain prolonged muscular exertion.

Similarly, the circulation of the blood is interfered with. The difficulty of raising that fluid against gravity, produces congestion of the liver, dropsy of the heart and other disorders. It has been discovered that the valves of the veins are arranged for a position on all fours. Accordingly, the erect attitude occasions varicose veins, hemorrhoids and like complaints. It is unnecessary to go further into the pathological consideration of the subject. The trouble an infant has in learning to walk, is strong evidence that the bi-pedal accomplishment was acquired by the race late in history.

Nothing can be more interesting than to observe the alterations which the human head has undergone in the process of its development. The skull of the low-grade savage resembles that of the anthropoid ape; in civilized man you find its brain capacity increased and the jaw shortened. We at once recognize a brutal physiology by the projection and displacement of the great masticating apparatus, used by the ape as a weapon. The shortening has produced some remarkable changes.

Among the savage Australians, on the other hand, a fourth molar is not infrequently found. Evidence also exists that primitive man had six front teeth in the upper jaw, instead of four, which is the full complement in the present generation. The great canines, or "eye teeth" used by apes and other animals for tearing and holding, are in them longer and larger than the other teeth; and room is made for each of them in the opposite jaw by leaving an interval.

The projecting canines have disappeared in the normal human skull, and the intervals have accordingly closed up. Yet it is by no means uncommon to see the whole arrangement re-appear, especially in low-type skulls. Projecting canines, or "snag teeth," are very common, in fact, and would be more often seen were it not for the dentist's skill. It is a noticeable fact that the muscle which lifts the lip from over the canines and bares the weapon, is used by man when he sneers. As a matter of fact, the sneer is merely a modified snarl.

There can be no question that primitive man possessed certain organs of sensation, superior to our own. The sense of smell, for example, has become in human beings almost rudimentary, because no longer required for the preservation of the species. From generation to generation the size of the olfactory bulbs in the brain is diminishing. A curious structure discovered in many animals, combining, in a manner, the sense of smell and taste, is found in man also, reduced by disuse to a mere trace, the duct connecting it with the mouth still remaining.

The pineal gland in the brain was once a third eye. Each of our eyes has a rudimentary third eyelid, such as birds and lizards possess, covered with minute hairs. The external ear seems once to have been pointed like the quadruped's, and it has many now useless muscles which formerly were employed to control and direct it. You often see people even to-day who can wag their ears. —*Exchange.*

THEY are going to celebrate the annual Shri Sivaji festival as usual in Poona.

"TRUTH" writes on March 31:—"Lord Elgin is anxious for reasons of health to leave India in a few weeks, and I hear that he will be succeeded as Viceroy by either Lord Ashbourne, Lord Harris, or Lord Balfour of Burleigh."

PRIVATE MCGRUK, of the Durham Light Infantry, charged with shooting a woman and two men with an air-gun in Poona Bazar, has been handed over by the military to the police, and will be tried by the civil authorities.

THE efforts of the Jamnagar and Morvi police, and the co-operation of the Thakore Saheb of Morvi have proved successful in tracing the recent mail dakaiti. Immediately after the dakaiti foot-prints were traced, and it was found that the dakaitis, six in number, had gone into the limits of the Jamnagar State. Suspected places were searched, and an investigation was made with regard to the presence of a notorious character, with the result that six men of the Malia Police were reported absent from the lines. The pursuing parties pushed on, and it is to their credit that all six absentees were arrested on the 17th in Jamnagar territory, with property worth Rs. 3,000 in their possession. The enquiry is still in progress.

THE Pioneer's London correspondent telegraphs on 19th April that an epitome of the measures requisite to render a gold standard in India effective, was published in the *Sunday Special* of the 10th instant. Official and City opinion are generally unfavourable to the proposals. The despatch will shortly be laid before the House of Commons, when the names of the Currency Committee will be announced. Sir Henry Fowler will probably be the President. There is a growing distrust in London in India securities, Threadneedle Street apparently participating in it, which, it is feared, may affect the next sterling loan.

**"WHERE LORD SALISBURY HAS FAILED."**

This is the title of an article in the *Fortnightly* over the well-known signature, "Diplomaticus." That such an article should appear in such a magazine is a sign of the times. The writer of course has set himself a difficult task, for it would pass the wit of man to exhaust the subject. As *The Leader* puts it, it would be easier to say where he has not failed. "Diplomaticus" surveys the world from China to Peru, and wherever he goes he finds the wreckage of Lord Salisbury's feeble diplomacy. This, he asserts, is the cause of "the deep and growing dissatisfaction with the conduct of foreign affairs by the present Government," which is "scarcely less conspicuous among Unionists than among members of the Opposition." That dissatisfaction culminates this morning in the *Times*, which says to-day what *The Star* said on Saturday:—

Practically we have no Prime Minister and no Foreign Secretary.

The *Times* does not approve of the interregnum. It "cannot pretend to say that during Lord Salisbury's absence matters are left in a satisfactory state." It points out that since the days of Canning no Minister has attempted to combine the office of Leader of the House of Commons with that of Foreign Secretary, and that Mr. Balfour's temporary role as *locum tenens* is "not an element of strength." The *Times* then politely tells the Prime Minister that he is getting old, that "he has not been able to grapple with all the problems of the Foreign Office," and, worst of all, that he has not always performed those general duties of supervision which cannot be safely neglected by a Prime Minister.

That is a fairly severe wiggling, and the *Times* rubs it in with the nasty remark that "The feeling that matters have not been going as well as we all could wish may, to some extent, account for the recent discontent shown by the constituencies, which has even been visible in Middlesbrough."

And then at the tail of the article comes the sting:—

We trust that we shall hear before long that Lord Salisbury has devolved the work of the Foreign Office upon one of his colleagues. Poor Heaven-born Lath! "The Greatest Funk in Europe" has at last got notice to quit! —*The Star* 28, March.

The force now on and beyond the Peshawar frontier will probably be termed the Khyber Field Force, as the Tirah campaign is closed.

THE question as to whether any large permanent post is to be built at Landi Kotal will not be settled until after the Viceroy arrives in Simla. Communications on the subject will presumably have to pass with the Home authorities.

A REPORT which has been received to the attempted assassination of the Nawab of Dir last week, goes to show that intrigue is rife in the country beyond the Swat River. One of the Nawab's nephews with two accomplices were concerned in the attack, which ended disastrously for themselves, as they were captured and killed. The Nawab was only slightly wounded in the hand. Details of the affair have not yet reached India, but we need not be surprised at its occurrence. So far back as June 1866, Major Deane, Political Officer at the Malakand, wrote: "The Khan is at present on bad terms with his brother Sher Muhammad. His relations with other brothers and Khans are not satisfactory, nor is his position with the Paideh Khel clan and the Khel Akhundzadas on a good footing. His people generally, and in particular those in the Talash and Adinzai valleys, are a good deal oppressed by his agents and appeal in vain to him. . . . There is no present danger that I can see of any hostile feeling arising against Government from dislike to Government—the risk lies in the Khan alienating men whom he ought to keep with him, and of these eventually forming a strong faction against him in his own country." Major Deane, as we know, desired to tighten our control on Dir by taking over the administration of the Talash and Adinzai valleys; but the Government of India rebuked him gently for suggesting such a departure from the policy of non-interference. Nevertheless Major Deane was right; the rival factions will take care that if we don't leave them entirely alone, we shall be compelled to make our control more and more direct and effective. —*Pioneer.*

In many of its dealings with Transfrontier tribes the Government of India have to take into account the personal influence exercised by this or that Chief over particular clans. Thus in Chitral the old Mehtar, Aman-ul-Mulk, was an important personage in his day, and much depended upon his actions. The Gilgit Agency was first established. After his death, Afzal Khan came on the scene, a man thoroughly devoted to the British Government, and everything seemed to promise well; but Afzal was killed, and thereafter things went wrong until eventually the Chitral Expedition had to be undertaken. Then the man of the hour in the country between the Swat River and the Hindu Kush was Umra Khan, a Chief who seemed at one time likely to prove a useful instrument of Government, but whose career came to an abrupt end. His downfall gave his old enemy the Khan of Dir the opportunity for which he had been waiting. Mahomed Sharif threw in his lot with the British Government and he has had no cause to regret this step, for he is handsomely subsidised and has received the title of Nawab in return for services rendered. Upon him devolves the duty of maintaining the road to Chitral from Chakdara to the Lowarai Kotal, and his levies guard this important route. He managed to keep his subjects, or the great majority of them, from joining in the rising of last summer; and though he incurred the hatred of the *mullaks* and the scorn of all the local tribesmen for his alliance with *hairs*, he is now more powerful than ever, or his enemies have been severely punished by our troops. It is plain, therefore, that a good deal hangs upon this man's life; for if he were to die suddenly, either from natural causes or in the manner so common at the frontier—by assassination—the Government of India might find the safety of the new route to Chitral seriously imperilled. Only last week, as we know, the Nawab had a narrow escape of being killed by his own nephew. Had the attempt succeeded, fresh trouble would certainly have arisen in the Panjkora Valley, and this at a most inopportune time, for the annual Chitral Reliefs are just preparing to start. Fortunately the Nawab's time had not come, and he is still alive to play his part in the dangerous game of a few days ago goes to show in what a slender basis the Government have built up their fabric of "political control" over Dir. It is not even certain that the Nawab may always remain loyal, for like Umra Khan he may come to imagine himself strong enough to stand alone; but it is certain that if he were to be killed off now, there would be tumult and bloodshed in Dir. And yet despatches from the Government of India and speeches by the Secretary of State during the last two years teem with allusions to wonderful peace that fell upon Swat and Dir



Telegrams.

[ FOREIGN TELEGRAMS. ]

LONDON, APRIL 20. President McKinley has signed the Senate's resolutions, and the Spanish Minister at Washington thereupon demanded his passports.

LONDON, APRIL 21, AFTERNOON. It is understood that President McKinley's ultimatum will reach Madrid this afternoon, a reply to which has been demanded within forty-eight hours.

LONDON, APRIL 20. Senator Sagasta, the Spanish Premier, addressing a meeting of his supporters, said that the limit of concessions had been reached, and that the Spaniards would never submit to insults from America nor cede an inch of their territory.

LONDON, APRIL 21. In the House of Commons, Mr. Balfour, replying to a question, said that America had notified her adherence to the principles of the treaty of Paris, and Spain had not yet replied.

LONDON, APRIL 21. Hostilities between Spain and America have commenced.

LONDON, APRIL 21. The annual meeting of the Chartered South Africa Company was held to-day. he hall was crammed and hundreds of shareholders were unable to enter.

LONDON, APRIL 21. In the Commons this evening Sir M. Hicks-Beach introduced the Budget Statement which shows a surplus for the past year of £3,678,000.

LONDON, APRIL 22. Marshall Blanco has issued a proclamation calling upon the inhabitants of Cuba to repel foreign invasion by force of arms.

LONDON, APRIL 22. Frantic demonstrations took place in Madrid last evening. The immense crowds which thronged the streets insisted on the removal of the American arms from the buildings of American Companies.

LONDON, APRIL 22. The New York Herald states that a revolt has taken place in Porto Rico, and that there is rioting throughout the island.

LONDON, APRIL 21. It is officially declared at Washington that a state of war exists with Spain, caused by the latter's rupture of diplomatic relations.

The American Squadron left Key West this afternoon for the purpose of blockading Havana. The American troops will co-operate as soon as concentrated. It is reported that the American Pacific Squadron has been ordered to the Philippines.

Mr. J. J. COTTON, Madras Civil Service, whose services have been placed at the disposal of the Government of India in the Finance Department, will be posted to Calcutta as Assistant Accountant-General, Bengal, and joins his appointment at once.

PARLIAMENT has issued a Return of all Loans raised in England under the Provisions of any Acts of Parliament, chargeable on the Revenues of India, out standing at the commencement of the half-year ended on the 30th September 1897 with the rates of interest and total amount payable thereon, and the date of the termination of each loan, the debt incurred during the half-year, the moneys raised thereon during the half-year, the loans paid off or discharged during the half-year and the loans outstanding at the close of the half-year stating, and so far as the public convenience will allow, the purpose or service for which moneys have been raised during the half-year.

The Times of India is not satisfied with the sentence passed by Mr. Justice Bidrudin Tyabji on the five men found guilty of murder by six of the Jury. His Lordship sentenced the fifth prisoner, who had used an iron rod in beating the soldiers, to death, and the others to transportation for life.

THE PLAGUE.

THEN plague figures for the 21st instant in Bombay show that there were seventy-eight new cases and eighty-five deaths. At Karachi, the plague returns for the 20th show sixteen cases and twenty-three deaths, the totals up to date being 211 cases and 152 deaths.

PLAGUE OBSERVATION CAMPS.—The number of persons examined and detained during the week ending the 3rd of April at the respective camps of Chakradharpur, Chausa, Buxar, Mairwa, and Khurda were as follows:—Number of persons examined during the week from Monday to Sunday, 1,074, 7,888, 457, 2,443, and 1,343; total 13,205; number of persons examined since the plague observation camps were opened, 7,897, 152,841, 998, 17,589, and 32,908; total 211,234; number of suspects detained during the week, 78, 262, 22, 13, and 34; total 409; number of suspects detained since the camp was opened, 218, 2,893, 24, 554, and 1,815; total 5,504; number of persons detained in camp during the week, 354, 262, 9, 13, and 42; total 671. There were no deaths from plague.

DR. WEIR, Health Officer of Bombay delivered a public lecture the other day on the subject of plague. He strongly advocated the protective value of inoculation. As to disinfection and other measures adopted in Bombay, he said that there was little hope that any of the measures would prevent the spread of the disease.

THE official report on the plague in India contains reprints of old documents relating to the disease in by-gone years. One of the most interesting of these is a report by Dr. Gilder, Civil Surgeon of Ahmedabad, dated February 25th, 1820, which goes to show that the ravages of plague nearly eighty years ago were far more appalling than at the present day.

MUCH damage has been done to house property and trees at Moradabad by a hail-storm. NEARLY the whole town of Myitha, in the Kyaukse District, has been destroyed by fire, including the Myook's Court and the Civil and Military police lines.

A REPORT has been received from the Consul-General in Tunis that pilgrimage from Tunis to the Hedjaz has been prohibited for the present year for sanitary reasons.

IT is expected that the bridge of the Tirah Expeditionary Force now at Bara will be broken up at the end of this month. The Pioneer says: "It certainly seems waste of money to keep it in service."

THE Simla Municipality has written a letter to the Military Secretary to the Viceroy, saying that the supply of water to the Viceregal Lodge for the present year will be reduced from six thousand four hundred gallons to four thousand two hundred gallons.

A DACOITY was committed on Monday night in the house of a money-lender of Panchakhandia, in Sylhet, property valued at about fifteen thousand rupees in silver and gold ornaments, old and current coins and currency notes being stolen.

THIS is the first time that an Indian has been appointed Assistant Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam. Following the promotion of Mr. Abdul Majid to the Assistant Commissioner's grade, the appointment of Mr. Manmath Nath Ghose M.A., B.L., Extra Assistant Commissioner, Sylhet, as Assistant Secretary, is another act of Mr. Cotton's appreciation of the merits of the natives and for which the native public cannot be too highly thankful to him.

LI HUNG CHANG'S FURS.

LI HUNG CHANG is believed to be the richest man in the world. This belief certainly gains credit from a glimpse at one portion of his invested capital which has recently made its appearance in the City of London. Among other sources of income, the great Chinese satrap draws an annual tribute of precious furs from one of the Northern provinces. This is said to be the mountain and forest district of North-West Manchuria, whose "natural commodities" of fur-bearing animals are mentioned by the Emperor Kien Lung in the pious work in which the Imperial author describes the country still held sacred as the dwelling-place of the spirits of his ancestors.

IT has long been known that the Chinese furriers were the best in the world; and that except in the dyeing of seal-skins their treatment of the fur itself, especially in improving its tint and lustre, is unrivalled. It was not, however, suspected that they could improve on the work of Nature.

A GOOD deal of excitement has been caused amongst local Buddhists by the arrival in Colombo of the hermit priest, Sing Hui, who for the past seven years has been spending his time in prayers and meditations in a niche on the face of the Adam's Peak. Here, he has not moved from one position all the time, despite the fact that he was fully exposed to sun and rain.

RECOMMENDED BY A MEDICAL FRIEND. THIS is how Mr. J. SHAIL, the well-known Manager of LAURIE'S HOTEL, AGRA, commenced to use Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Says he: "About six months ago I was suffering severely from a bad cough and cold, and a medical friend recommended Chamberlain's Cough Remedy 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."

SCIENCE NOTES.

ANTS have brains larger in proportion to the size of their bodies than any other living creature.

THE latest fad in society is perfumed butter. The butter is kept on rose-leaves, from which it draws the perfume.

RECENT experiments to discover the best fire-resisting materials for the construction of doors are said to have proved that wood covered with it is better than solid iron.

A WONDERFUL fan is now being made in Paris for the Exhibition of 1900. It is to be composed of leaves of ivory, each of which is to be painted by a celebrated modern artist.

A NET of spiders' webs is being manufactured to be used as an experimental covering for a navigable balloon by the French military authorities in Madagascar.

A NEW kind of cloth is being made in Lyons from the down of hens, ducks, and geese. Seven hundred and fifty grains of feathers make rather more than a square yard of light waterproof cloth.

IT is said that the phonograph is now used in the Spanish telephone service. Messages are spoken into it, and the instrument repeats them to the telephone. They are also received on a phonograph at the distance station.

FRANK RITTER, a saloon-keeper of St. Louis, is gradually turning to chalk. His legs have become like those of a statue of chalk destitute of feeling. Already the doctors have found it necessary to remove his left leg, which they took off at different times, in eight chalky sections. The disease is caused by the accumulation of lime in the system.

SOME curious experiments with liquid air were recently made by Professor Barker, at the University of Pennsylvania, a couple of gallons of the substance having been dispatched from New York to him in a milk-can. The method of manufacturing liquid air is described as the compressing of ordinary air to 2,000 lb. per square inch, and cooling it in a coil and allowing it to expand, thus producing a temperature of 312 deg. Fahr. at which temperature air is a liquid at atmospheric pressure.

A CLOCK for the use of the deaf is the most interesting recent development of the science of horology. It has been designed for use in the school for the Deaf at Fairbank and consists of one central and "master" clock and ten subsidiary clocks which are worked by it. These clocks not only mark the time in the usual way, but display at the proper times the day's programme of work.

NOT KNOWING WHAT ELSE TO DO. To save ourselves trouble and suffering by learning from the experience of others—that is the wisdom of history. Otherwise every generation, and every man and woman therein, would have to begin back where their ancestors did.

"After my confinement," writes a woman, "in August of last year (1893), I could not get up my strength. My food did not seem to be of any use to me. In some way I was ill, but I could not give a name to the ailment. My tongue was swollen and thickly coated, and I was constantly spitting out the thick phlegm which gathered in my throat and mouth. No matter how little food I took—even a morsel—it gave me great pain at the chest and sides; and sometimes it would dart through my back between the shoulders.

"I saw two doctors who gave me medicines, but I only got worse. At the end of October (1893) I came by a small book telling about Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup and, not knowing what else to do, I sent to Mr. Baxter, the druggist, Brookhouse, and got a bottle. After I had taken it but a few days I was better. I could eat something, and it stayed on my stomach, and the pain was less severe. As I took dose after dose of the Syrup the improvement went on, all the bad feelings abated, and I gained strength. It wasn't long before the cough was quite gone, and I was well and strong as ever.

"After my recovery, a neighbour said to me, 'Mrs. Redhead, you have made my heart sad many a time when I saw you so bad.' " "Thank you," I replied, "and I was sad enough myself but Mother Seigel's Syrup has made me glad again, for it has given me back my good health."

"And in thankfulness for it I am very willing you should publish what I have told you (Signed) Mrs. Mary Jane Redhead, 73, Peter Street Blackburn, April 4th, 1894."

Never Knew It To Fail. MR. R. JOHNSTON, Rawalpindi, says: "I have personally tried Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea Remedy, and have given it to travellers who were passing through a hotel I managed, and I must say I never knew it to fail, and all it is supposed to be in its effects. It is a medicine I can recommend, and one that everybody should keep."

Mofussil News.

BANKPORE, APRIL 20.

Mr. Bourdillon, while Commissioner of the Patna Division, had a hobby for the amlans of the Saran Collectorate where he had once been Magistrate-Collector. A few months ago, he transferred Babu Ganga Prashad, his Sheristadar, to Gaya, and appointed Bhabani Babu, Head Clerk of the Saran Collectorate, as his Sheristadar. On the eve of his departure for home, he introduced another radical change in the Commissioner's office by the transfer of Babu Raghunandan Prasad, Peshkar, as Head Clerk of the Gopalgani Sub-Divisional office, and the appointment of Moulvie Hamid, Head Clerk, Siwan Sub-Divisional office, as the Peshkar of the Commissioner's office.

RAMPUR BOALIA, APRIL 18.

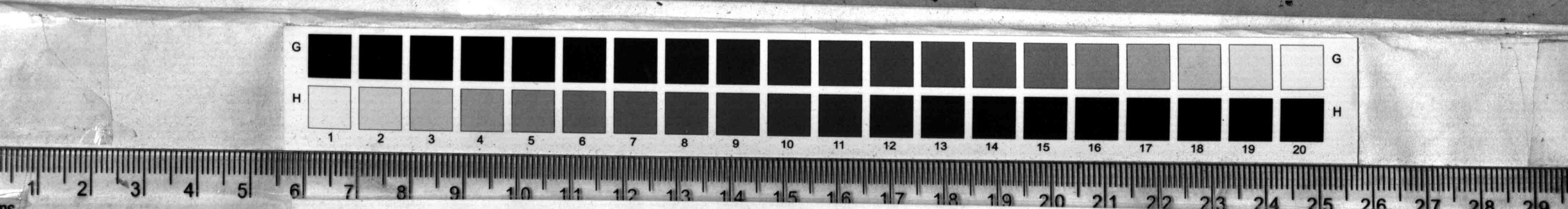
A great fire took place only recently in the heart of the town which has placed over half of it under ashes. The condition of the poor is simply pitiable—thousands rendered homeless and destitute under the burning sun of April. The loss of the Aridars amounts to over a lakh, all their chief godowns being reduced to ashes. Two sad deaths also occurred. Unfortunately, the District Magistrate was on tour that day; and we found Mr. Jeffries, our new Assistant Magistrate, up and doing, all alone, under the scorching heat and cloud of smoke, helping the destitute and suppressing the fire.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY HAS JUST HAD A REMARKABLE

proof of the mathematical genius of the Chinese. Some time ago much surprise was caused among mathematicians generally by the discovery among the papers of the late Sir Thomas Wade, of Chinese fame, of evidence that, in the time of Confucius, the Chinese knew an equation which only became known in Europe during the last century when it was discovered by Fermat, and has since been known as Fermat's equation. But the Chinese version recently discovered stated that the equation did not hold with regard to certain numbers. This puzzled the mathematicians, and all efforts to solve the point have hitherto failed. Now, however, says the London correspondent of the Manchester Guardian, a young undergraduate of Trinity College, Cambridge, has demonstrated that the Chinese were right, and his solution is frankly admitted by the experts to be perfect. The correspondent understands the result is shortly to be published at Cambridge in an authoritative way.

Never Knew It To Fail

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





THE NATU BROTHERS.

(This petition, signed by the wife of the elder Natu, has been addressed to the House of Commons.)

THE HONOURABLE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND. The humble and loyal Petition of the undersigned LAKSHMI BAL, wife of SARDAR BALWANT RAM CHANDRA NATU, of Poona, India, now confined in the Ahmedabad Central Jail.

Most Respectfully sheweth, That your Petitioner's husband, Sardar Shrinant Balwant Ramchandra Natu, 2nd Class Sardar of the Deccan, and some time Honorary Magistrate and Municipal Commissioner of the City of Poona, was arrested and deported from his residence on 28th July 1897, under the provisions of Regulation XXV. of 1827 along with his youngest brother Shrinant Hari Ramchandra alias Tatyia Sahab Natu.

2. That the whole family property, both moveable and immovable, was at the same time attached and taken possession of by the Collector of Poona under the orders of the Government of Bombay. Your Petitioner and other members of the family were since then practically left without provision until some time afterwards a moderate allowance was settled upon them. That allowance, however, was quite insufficient to maintain the family and keep up the position they had hitherto been accustomed to occupy in society, while owing to a hitch between the Collector and your Petitioner's brother-in-law, not a single instalment of that allowance has yet been received. The hardships and privations endured by the family under these circumstances can be better imagined than described. The moveable property of the family was subsequently ordered to be released from attachment on representations made by your Petitioner's brother-in-law, Srimanta Sadashiva Ramchandra Natu; but it has not yet been wholly given back in his possession, while his several applications remain unanswered.

3. So far as your Petitioner is aware, no charges have been framed either against her husband or his brother Tatyia Sahab, and that the only reply given to the several inquiries addressed to Government is, in the words of the Regulation, that they are imprisoned for exciting internal commotion among Her Majesty's Indian subjects. Your Petitioner also learns from letters written by her husband and his brother from their prisons that they too are equally kept in the dark as to the reasons of their imprisonment, and that no satisfactory answer is given to their several petitions that either they should be released at once or that they should be brought to trial on definite charges.

4. Your Petitioner's husband and his brother are kept in separate prisons at Ahmedabad and Thana, respectively. They are strictly prohibited from seeing each other or their friends and relations or even their legal advisers. They are thus deprived of every means of clearing their character or obtaining their release. Your Petitioner further learns that they had to suffer the greatest hardships in the matter of food and living, and although some concessions have now been made, they are still prevented from following their customary religious observances owing to the restraints put upon them.

5. The Honourable Members of the House of Commons can easily form an idea of the extreme grief and mental suffering caused to the Petitioner and her family by the sudden arrest and deportation of the prisoners. They have only to realize what their own wives and children would have felt if any of them were similarly treated. Accustomed as we have been to a sense of complete security under the British rule, the proceedings against the prisoners were too arbitrary and awful to be understood at once. For a time we were paralysed and sunk in dismay. The old mother of the prisoners died of the shock soon after their arrest, and the whole family, including your Petitioner and her now orphan daughter, are left helpless and disconsolate in the absence of their rightful guardian.

6. The Natus are a well-to-do and ancient family of Poona. They have always been known for their loyalty and attachment to the British Crown. They rendered invaluable aid to the British Government when the Maratha dominions were acquired from the Peshwa, and in subsequent times, and their services have been repeatedly acknowledged by eminent Indian statesmen. The two prisoners have always been loyal subjects and have taken active part in the civic duties of the city of Poona. No act or word has ever been alleged against them, having a tendency to subvert the British rule in India.

7. The Petitioner, therefore, humbly prays that the Honourable the House of Commons will graciously take the case into their consideration and immediately order the release of her husband and his brother. Your Petitioner learns that the Government do not intend to bring them to trial upon definite charges, and that they are to be detained in custody during the pleasure of Government. It is, however, humbly submitted that their continued imprisonment for an indefinite period, without any assignable cause, is totally repugnant to the common ideas of justice and humanity.

8. If, however, any of the above requests cannot be granted for some unknown reasons your Petitioner most respectfully begs that she and her infant daughter at least may be permitted to remain in the prison along with her husband. To minister to his comfort and to do her duty towards him as enjoined upon her by the Shastris is now the only solace of her life. To a Hindu lady in the position of your Petitioner separation from her husband is practically equivalent to death and disgrace. Your Petitioner is put under a social ban for no fault of hers or even that of her husband. And she cannot yet believe that a chivalrous Government like the British, who have so

often championed the cause of Hindu womanhood, would intentionally allow an innocent lady to suffer the pangs and miseries which make even life a burden.

9. Your Petitioner has approached the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in the hope that their noble and generous feelings, as well as their sense of justice, will prevail over all other paltry considerations. The prisoners have already suffered long, and their release will be hailed as a noble act of grace and justice. For this act of mercy the Petitioner shall ever remain,

Your most faithful and loyal subject, (SD.) LAKSHMIBAL, wife of SARDAR BALWANT RAMCHANDRA NATU.

JUSTICE FOR INDIA.

THE CLOSED MINTS AND THE MONEY FAMINE.

Mr. W. H. GREENFELL writes in the (London) Daily Mail:— In the House of Commons to-day a motion will be made to appoint a Select Committee or a Royal Commission to consider the monetary condition of India.

After the suppression of the Indian Mutiny Her Majesty Queen Victoria was declared Sovereign of India, and issued a proclamation to the Indian people which contains these words so characteristic of one whose long life has been bound up in the welfare of her people: "In their prosperity shall be our strength, and in their gratitude our best reward. And may the God of all our power grant to us, and to those in authority under us, strength to carry out these our wishes for the good of our people."

During the year in which the gracious Sovereign who uttered these memorable words has been celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of her reign over a loyal and contented people at home, our Indian fellow-subjects have been visited by plague, pestilence, famine, earthquake, and war. These sad events, combined with a monetary stringency which has greatly intensified their power for evil, have forced the problem of the Government of India into a first place among the cares of our Empire, and have compelled us to inquire how far we have succeeded in claiming India's gratitude, and how far our strength is founded on her prosperity.

Many of the results of our occupation of our Eastern Empire can be pointed to with just pride. India for the last forty years has been at peace with the exception of certain tribal difficulties on the remote frontiers; her soil has not been pressed by the foot of the foreign invader, nor has she been devastated, as before, by internal strife; her country has been opened up by railways, and her land rendered fertile by irrigation; her religions have been respected, while barbarity has been checked; disease has been arrested, life and property have been rendered secure, and above all equal laws have been equally administered for a population of 220,000,000 of people by the ablest and most upright body of civil servants who have ever been responsible for the Government of a country.

If, then, we have failed in realising the noble ideal proposed in the proclamation of 1858, where does this failure lie? It is to be found in the impoverishment of India under our rule. In the good old days of the East India Company India was plundered openly, and the spoil sent across the seas. Such exploitation is now impossible; but, nevertheless, owing to a variety of causes, a constant and increasing drain upon her resources is going on.

India incurred a large debt to pay for her conquest by us, and during the Mutiny and the two succeeding years there was a deficit of more than Rs. 300,000,000; large sums have been borrowed for railway and other works, the interest on which has to be paid in the equivalent of gold, and large sums are also remitted home by those in the military and civil services, pensioners, traders, and others whose primary interests are, after all, bound up in the country from which they come, and not in the country by which they are paid. In addition to this there is the most serious fact that India, whose standard is silver, has been tied to a country whose standard is gold, in consequence of which the burden of the gold debt which she has been made to borrow has been steadily increasing during the last twenty years, so that to the Indian people the loss in exchange alone is not less than £8,000,000 sterling a year, for the payment of which they get no benefit whatever in return.

The financial drain upon India, combined with the increased burden of her gold debt, which has rendered further borrowings necessary, has been so great, that if a fair valuation of her assets (including railways, irrigation works, and loans for productive works), and liabilities, were made, it would be found that she was in a state of insolvency while her debt was increasing and a limit of profitable taxation had been reached.

But this is not all. There remains a crowning act of open injustice. The Indian people are poor—poor beyond belief. While in England the average annual income per head of the population has been placed as high as £42, the average annual income in India is but from 20s. to 30s., and when we consider that in this sum is included the salaries paid to the official classes, from the Viceroy downwards, we can, to some extent, gauge the poverty of a people whose annual income per head is put down at such a sum. This frugal and docile people, having neither banking account nor stockings for their savings, have long been in the habit of storing their hard-earned rupees in the form of bracelets and ornaments against the day of trial, when they could be turned back again into rupees from which the day of trial came. For 80,000,000 of them were threatened with death in 1900, 40,000,000 with semi-starvation, and in this crisis of their existence they found that the mints had been closed to them by a British Government, and that, in many instances, they had been robbed of as much as half their savings.

The famine was always one rather of money than of food; early in its course the Viceroy had telegraphed that the former was wanted and not the latter of which there was sufficient in the country as a whole, and it was money of which this poverty-stricken people had been robbed. How many deaths were caused by this great famine will probably never be known, but it is a significant fact that while it raged, a pound of rice in India was cheaper than a pound of wheat in London. The hoards of the Indian people, in the form of the bangles, ornaments, and bullion have been estimated at 1,000,000,000 oz., and to have by a stroke of the pen the money value of these hard-earned savings of the poorest of the poor is not the way to earn their gratitude, as desired by the Queen-Empress. Was ever such injustice perpetrated by a humane Government on a defenceless people? How does it differ from a direct confiscation of half the deposits in the savings and other banks in this country?

But this is not the only result of this monetary policy; to meet the difficulty of defraying the home charges, and to avoid the loss of income to the many servants of the Crown, 200,000,000 of people, besides being deprived of a large portion of their savings, have been put upon an artificially contracted monetary standard, which differs from the standard of every other country in the world, hampers their trade, and injudiciously increases the burden of their taxes. Well, may an Indian native loyal to the English connection, say, "Without any

intention or wish, and with every desire for the good of India, England has in reality been the most disastrous and destructive foreign invader of India; and, under present lines, unceasingly and every day continues to be so."

Is this act of spoliation to be perpetrated, or is it to be remedied? The fact that the Indian Government have recently spurned the means offered to it by the Home Government to procure a just solution would seem to show that its heart is hardened; famine and black death have brought the injustice suddenly home to the Indian people; it is no sentimental grievance, but one which must be faced, and faced quickly, by all who believe that security is to be found in doing justice, and that our strength in India lies in the prosperity of our fellow-subjects.

THE FAR EAST.

MR. MARKS asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he could state on what terms Ta-lien-wan, under the Russian occupation, would be open to foreign trade; and whether Port Arthur, under the Russian occupation, would be open to foreign trade on any terms.

Mr. Curzon: On Jan. 27 the Russian Ambassador communicated to her Majesty's Government the assurance, which I have before quoted in this House, that any port acquired by Russia on the coasts of the North Pacific would be open to the ships and commerce of all the world, like other ports on the Chinese littoral. On March 16, Count Muravieff authorised Sir Nicholas O'Connor to inform her Majesty's Government that in the event of the Chinese Government consenting to lease to the Russian Government Ta-lien-wan and Port Arthur both ports would be open to foreign trade like other ports in China. The telegram conveying this assurance was submitted to Count Muravieff before he was despatched and received his approval.

Mr. Marks inquired whether the right to send ships of war to Port Arthur, a right which we enjoyed together with other Powers under the Treaty of Tientsin, still held good and could that right still be exercised when the occasion should arise; or whether the cession of Port Arthur with the territories adjacent thereto and the territorial waters dependent thereon, to Russia would effect the rights of Great Britain in this respect.

Mr. Curzon: In the telegram of March 16, already referred to, Count Muravieff further authorised Sir N. O'Connor to assure her Majesty's Government that there was no intention on the part of the Russian Government to infringe the rights and privileges guaranteed by existing treaties between China and foreign countries. Those privileges include the right, under Article 52 of the Treaty of Tientsin, to send ships of war to all ports within the dominions of the Emperor of China.

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett asked the right hon. gentleman whether he could now state the terms of the Agreement which was signed between Russia and China on March 27.

Mr. Curzon: The exact terms of the Agreement concluded between Russia and China cannot be in our possession until they have been communicated to us by the Russian or by the Chinese Government. They have been asked for.

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett asked the right hon. gentleman whether the Russian flag had been already hoisted over Port Arthur and Russian troops landed to occupy the forts, and whether the Russian Government had formally withdrawn the pledges which he stated, on Feb. 24, that they gave to her Majesty's Government with regard to Port Arthur.

Mr. Curzon: The Russian Ambassador's Note of March 28 states that Port Arthur and Ta-lien-wan will be occupied at once by Russian troops, and the Russian flag hoisted by the side of the Chinese flag. The answer to the second question is in the negative. The pledge alluded to has not been withdrawn.

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett: In view of the answer given I wish to ask if we are to understand that her Majesty's Government still consider the pledge that Port Arthur will be a free and open port binding on the Russian Government.

Mr. Curzon: My answer has been perfectly intelligible, and there is not a man in the House who has not been able to understand it. (Loud Ministerial cheers and Opposition laughter.)

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett: I shall repeat that question on a later day. (Opposition laughter.)

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett: I wish to ask the First Lord of the Treasury a question—of which I have given him private notice—whether her Majesty's Government can permit Port Arthur, which dominates the Gulf of Pechili and the capital of the Chinese Empire, to be converted by Russia into a fortified naval base? Mr. Balfour: I have promised a statement on the policy of the Government and the situation in the Far East before we separate for the holidays, mentioning Tuesday next as the day on which it will probably take place. I think my hon. friend will agree with me that it would be extremely inconvenient to have detached fragments of that debate before Tuesday comes round. (Cheers.) I may say that I have received no notice of my hon. friend's question. (Opposition laughter.)

VATICANA is the name given to one of the latest asteroids discovered, No. 416, in honour of Fater Bocardri, of the Vatican Observatory, who has computed its course.

THE Maharaja of Kashmir has determined to name the eldest son of Raja Sir Amar Singh as his heir to the gaddie. The ceremony is to take place in Jammu on the 20th Baisakh.

THE guard of a train and a station-master of the Burma Railway, charged with negligence in causing a collision, in which a goods train was derailed, were tried at Pegu. The station-master was acquitted, and the guard was sentenced to one month's rigorous imprisonment. It appeared the guard took away the line clear pass without asking the station-master's permission.

DISTRESS is being felt in Cuddapa district, where the Madras Government is reopening its famine relief operations on a limited scale with the idea that relief will have to be given until the monsoon in June. Should this fail, the very worst is feared for the district. An eye is also being kept on the districts of Chingleput, Anantapur, North Arcot and South Arcot and particularly on the Nellore District, but with a view only of being prepared to start operations in June, if necessary, and that only in the event of the failure of the monsoon.

EXECUTION OF DAMODAR CHAPEKAR.

POONA, APRIL 18.

DAMODAR CHAPEKAR was hanged at 6-40 this morning at the Yerwada Jail.

A body of Punitive Police and Native Police were present. There was a very small attendance of the general public.

The execution passed off very quietly. A few Brahmin students and Press representatives and a sprinkling of Europeans were present in the gallows-yard situate outside the front gate and now enclosed by a high wall. To one side of this the public were admitted, but the gallows was screened off so that nothing was visible after the body fell.

At about 6-20 the City Magistrate, Mr. Carvalho, arrived, when a party drew up at the entrance of the prison, consisting of Surgeon-Captain Jackson, Superintendent of the Jail; Mr. Brierly, Head Jailor; and Mr. Carvalho, City Magistrate.

The prisoner was led down the centre walk, escorted by European and Native warders, followed by Mr. Guider, Assistant Superintendent of Police. The big doors inside were opened and admitted them and were then closed.

During these proceedings the murderer, who was dressed in prison garb and held by the warders, was singing "Narayan Jai, Govind Hurry" in a solemn and mournful monotone.

The officials then stepped forward and the operation of pinning was gone through. He was allowed to remain in his hands, which were fastened behind him, a copy of the Bhagwadgita lent to him by Mr. Tilak.

Notwithstanding the prisoner's easily discerned attempt at nonchalance, it was quite apparent that he had almost reached a stage of collapse from fear of his approaching death. He held himself erect with difficulty, his lips quivered, his eyes stared wildly and his face was livid.

The murderer having been pinioned, Mr. Brierly, the Jailor, stepped forward and commenced to read the death warrant.

Damodar at once stopped his chanting and asked to be relieved of the ordeal of hearing the document read, but the formality was proceeded with.

Mr. Carvalho, the City Magistrate, then asked the condemned man if he had anything to say, to which Damodar replied, "Kai Sangaicha? (What am I to say?)"

The massive gates were then pushed slowly back, and the procession resumed its journey towards the scaffold.

Damodar recommenced his solemn chanting, and left the precincts of the jail proper with a hurried and wild look round. The remaining few yards towards the scaffold enclosure he traversed with his eyes fixed at the sky.

The procession at length reached the foot of the scaffold and with one despairing look upwards Damodar boldly mounted the structure without assistance until he reached the last step, where he faltered for a moment. He, however, soon recovered sufficient composure to continue the ascent and raising his voice louder than before in prayer, "Narayan Jai, Govind Hurry" he took his stand under the beam.

The culprit's legs were quickly bound, the cap drawn over his face, and the noose adjusted round his neck. At this moment Damodar appeared to have given way entirely to fear, his singing stopped, his legs gave way, and he had to be supported from behind by warders while the hangman made his last preparations. The executioner stepped quickly back, the signal was given, the lever was pulled and Damodar was launched into Eternity. The body went through the trap huddled up as if to avert the coming shock. He dropped seven feet six inches. There was a convulsive tremour, the chest heaved heavily, and the body straightened and became rigid. Death must have been instantaneous.

As soon as death was certified by the Medical Officer, the gallows-yard was cleared and locked up. The body was left hanging for an hour and cut down. The relations of the dead man came forward and laid claim to the body, which was handed over on a promise being made that it would be cremated at the river side near the Bund.

A singular circumstance was that the shock of death was not sufficient to loosen Damodar's hold on the book he was allowed to carry with him to the gallows. The Bhagwadgita lent to him by Mr. Tilak was retained fast in his grasp and was carried away with the body.

A rough bamboo stretcher was quickly provided and the corpse placed upon it and borne away to the river, accompanied by a guard of police.

Immediately before the hour of execution Mr. Guider, of the Poona Police, had a conversation with Damodar. He said he had slept well and had taken food yesterday for the last time.

He had wished good-bye to Mr. Harry Brewin on Saturday, and wished to die in peace with all men.

Asked if he had any message for his father or his family, he replied "Tell them I died joyfully."

Asked if he had anything to say about the murders, Court above. In reply to the suggestion that he had better die with the truth on his lips he responded that neither he nor truth mattered much now. It mattered little about his dying. Mr. Rand died from the pistol shot, others from falling off horses. His lot was to be hanged.

Asked if he had any message for his brother, Damodar said "Where will you go to see my brother?" Mr. Guider responded that he might see him some day, but Damodar said he had no message for Bakrishna. Chapekar then remarked that it was getting late and the sun had risen. Mr. Guider replied that he was waiting for the Magistrate and that the execution was at seven o'clock. The prisoner said he thought punctuality was always observed by the British Raj; they were paid to be punctual.

During all this time the prison kept cheerful by very great effort.—Advocate of India.

A VIOLENT storm took place at Secunderabad on the 18th. It continued with one short abatement for about seven hours, blowing down huge trees in the principal thoroughfares, and swamping some streets with rain and hailstones.

The following story from the Ladies' Pictorial will no doubt raise a smile even on the face of Miss (Dr.) Hamilton, who has related some rather true stories of the doings at the Court of Abdul Rahman since her return home from the capital of Afghanistan:—

The new woman has penetrated even to the harem of the Ameer of Afghanistan, where she wears male attire and dresses precisely as she pleases. The Ameer picked her up on his return journey from the northern part of his dominions a good many years ago. She had been brought before him by an indignant father and proposed husband for punishment. She would not conform to the usage of the country and enter the married state, though she had then reached the age when it became incumbent upon her to do so. The girl declared she had run wild all her life, and did not wish to give up her freedom and be shut up in a harem. She sought the Ameer's protection and obtained it. "All right," he said, "since you want to be free, you shall be, but free you must also remain; that is your punishment. You wish to live like a man; you shall live one, and for your own protection you must wear men's clothes." On her arrival in Cabul, she was given the title of Oider, or chief, and was made the harem's messenger. She comes and goes as she pleases, or as ordered, both by night and day, and no one even in slanderous Cabul has ever breathed a word against her fair name.

Correspondence.

COLONEL OLCOTT, SWAMI VIVEKANANDA AND DR. BURROWS OF CHICAGO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE A. B. Patrika.

SIR—The following letter was sent to the Indian Mirror, but not published, as the editor wishes to stand in with both Colonel Olcott and Swami Vivekananda,—that is, run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. I would, therefore, feel obliged to you if you will make room for it in your paper.

Kulja, Kangra A. T. BANON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE Indian Mirror.

SIR,—It is now rather more than a year ago since Swami Vivekananda, at a public meeting in Madras, accused Colonel Olcott of writing in a letter to some one in America: "I hope the winter's cold will soon kill that Devil (Swami Vivekananda)." Colonel Olcott promptly met this accusation by giving it the lie direct. Thereupon Swami Vivekananda and his disciples gave the world to understand that they were prepared to produce the letter in question. When a letter appeared to this effect in the Indian Mirror, signed "S. S. S." I challenged the writer to produce the letter and prove its genuineness. Needless to state that though a year has since elapsed, no such letter has ever been forthcoming. As I then wrote, so still insist that if Swami Vivekananda wishes to be considered an honest man, he will now, even at the eleventh hour, publicly admit the falsehood of his accusation and tender a very humble apology to Colonel Olcott, after the excellent example set him by Professor Gokhale of Poona. Colonel Olcott's forbearance and patient long suffering contrast most favourably with the Swami's petulance, self-conceit and disregard of truth.

I understand that Swami Vivekananda is at the present time in Calcutta, collecting money for the "conversion of America." A very "tall order" this. We are given to understand that the Swami's previous successes in the missionary line have been so phenomenal that it is now only a matter of a few hundred rupees, and all America will have become Hindu! A clear case of "tuppence more and up goes the Donkey." Now Dr. Burrows of Chicago, who has never yet been accused of lying and slandering his opponents, says very plainly that so far from being a phenomenal success, Swami Vivekananda was never anything better than "good copy for the American press, ever hungering for novelty and sensation." Louis Stevenson, in one of his latest novels, has told us that there is nothing the average American so much delights in, as making a "holly show" of himself. In the country of Brigham Young and Thomas Lake Harris,—an even bigger fraud than the Mormon prophet,—where is the difficulty in getting half-a-dozen deluded "cranks" of both sexes to adopt the novel masquerade of a Hindu Sanyasi? Dharm Pala, of Buddha-Gaya fame, has never yet claimed the "coming conversion of America," although every year he personally conducts his Yankee Countesses and other republican greenhorns to Adam's Peak in Ceylon, and there converts them to Buddhism amidst the enlivening music of tom-toms and cholera horns.

Dr. Burrows of Chicago has stated over his own signature that, when in America, Swami Vivekananda used, somewhat ostentatiously, to devour beef. As this statement of Dr. Burrows has never been authoritatively contradicted, we may assume it to be true. And Hindus, when asked to subscribe, should remember that one of the means relied on by the "Swami" for the "conversion of America" is the ostentatious devouring of beef in public! Charity begins at home; and before essaying the conversion of America, Swami Vivekananda might collaborate with Colonel Olcott in the humbler and less quixotic task of converting the Pariahs and other Panchamas of Madras.

A. T. B. [We would not have published the letter if the Indian Mirror had done it. But, as our contemporary has withheld its publication, we give publicity to it for the sake of fair play.—Ed. Patrika.]

The spring having been unusually dry in Kashmir, the rabi crops have been withering for want of rain. About an inch fell on the 14th and 15th which will serve some portion of the crops, but more is needed.

WE are enabled to give our readers some further information regarding the resumption, by Government, of the Nawab Vazir's estates. It appears that Nawab Anis-ud-Dowla who was originally a musician of Delhi, went to Lucknow, where he got into favour with the reigning Nawab, and soon rose to the title of Nawab Vazir, and amassed a lot of money, some of which he invested in landed property in Delhi, Lucknow, and elsewhere. After the Mutiny he was deported to Calcutta, and lived until his death, in 1894, at Garden Reach; but his property was not confiscated. A few years before, on the death of one of his wives, he and Mirza Mahomed Hussein both applied as heirs for administration of her estates to the High Court; but on his admission to Mirza Mahomed Hussein his son, and on his withdrawing his claim, Letters of Administration were granted to Mirza Mahomed as his son. On the death of the Nawab Letters of Administration to his estate also were granted to Mirza Mahomed Hussein as his son in 1896 by the same High Court, and in virtue of these letters people in Delhi purchased the property here without diffidence. In consequence of some information, the Deputy Commissioner of Lucknow held a sort of enquiry, and coming to the conclusion that Mirza Mahomed Hussein not being the son of Nawab Anis-ud-Dowla, the latter died without heirs, and his estates consequently escheated to Government, he ordered all property in Lucknow to be seized, and sent similar instruction to the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi—who, notwithstanding protest, proceeded to carry them out. On representation, however, being made to the Commissioner, he ordered that agreements should be taken from the present holders of the property to hold it on behalf of Government until they are ousted in due course of law within six months. We understand that appeals are being made to the Commissioner of Lucknow and the Board of Revenue, N.-W. P., and await further developments.—Morning Post.

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta. Includes a ruler and a grid for scale.



