





THE Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA MAY 26, 1898.

THE CAUSE OF THIS OPPOSITION.

THE Government is being violently opposed by the populace in carrying out its plague policy, though its motives are excellent and though it has already given ample proofs of its excellent intentions.

It is, however, not difficult to find out the cause of this unrest and distrust. The fact is that the masses are labouring under a sense of wrong and fanciful impressions, and these lead them to lose temper whenever they see a ticcavalla Sahab or an ambulance cart.

Dr. Bose in his evidence in the Dharmatalla case, says that the first accused, Ashutosh, first addressed him in these words: "Being a respectable man, why do you oppress the people?"

Thus they assault a ticcavalla Sahab or one whom they fancy to be a ticcavalla. Why? Because they sincerely believe that these men carry poison with them to kill people.

The impression about ticcavallas carrying poison is so ridiculous that it is destined to disappear in a short time by itself. So what the authorities have to do is not to permit the ticcavallah Sahabs to expose themselves for some time to the violence of the unreasonable populace.

There is another impression which leads the populace to burn ambulance carts. It is that there is no plague in Calcutta and that the ambulance carts forcibly carry away people to plague hospitals, who are not suffering from plague at all.

This impression, be it noted here, is not confined to the ignorant classes. A large body of educated Indians and Europeans share in this belief, to a considerable extent.

Then, the unsatisfactory and evasive way in which the Chairman of the Corporation sought to dispose of the questions of the Municipal Commissioners, Babus Nolin Behari Sarkar and Mohinee Mohun Chatterjee, only confirmed the impression that it was not all right with all these plague cases.

Well, if there is a divided opinion amongst the educated classes as to the existence of real plague, it is generally believed by the populace that there is none whatever in the city, and hence this crusade against ambulance carts.

Let it be proved to the people that none who has not the plague has any fear, and there will be no longer any riot.

THE LOWER CLASSES AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

THERE is no doubt of it that the officials who rule India are not only honest, but able, and not only able, but well-inten-

tioned. The desire of every one of them, without exception, is to leave behind him a fragrant remembrance. How is it, then, that the rumour came to be circulated that the Government has conspired to kill the people by inoculating them with poison?

It will not be wise to dismiss the wild rumours that were current in the town last week as mere ignorant gossip or idle superstition. They are deeply significant. They mean that after nearly two centuries of beneficent administration, the British Government has not been able to impress the people of this country with reality of its good intentions.

During exterminating wars when the passions are highly inflamed, nations accuse each other of cruelty and treachery. Thus during the Anglo-French War, in the days of Napoleon, the French and the English accused each other of having poisoned their opponents.

But no such condition exists here. If the plague is decimating the country, the authorities are not responsible for it; and this even the lower classes know. They know, at least, they ought to know,—that the authorities are doing their best to protect the people from the scourge.

Neither are the rulers of the country strangers to them. In the beginning of British rule, the people entertained queer notions of the white men who had taken possession of the country. But now British rule in India is two hundred years old. They have seen Englishmen administering justice without partiality.

It is a serious crime to create hatred and contempt against the Government; but who is it that gave so atrocious a character to the Government as to be capable of doing what is alleged by the lower classes its intentions are? It cannot be said that the Indian newspapers did it.

As we said the other day, the authorities do not know the minds of the populace. They know something of those of the higher classes through the newspapers. It is through the latter they come to see that there is a good deal of discontent in the land.

It was a sad mistake to gag the Indian newspapers. There are other serious and subtler causes at work to create this deep distrust against the authorities. Considering this deep distrust that prevails, and considering the odious nature of the rumours circulated against the Government and believed in by the masses, the newspapers were real friends, even when they wrote strongly, nay, the most rabid of them; for, however serious the libel circulated against the Government by rabid newspapers might be, they yet showed infinite times more respect for it, than is shown by the declaration that the object of the Government is to kill people by a subtle poison.

We think that sound policy requires that the rulers of the land should encourage the growth of newspapers in the land. A free press alone can educate the masses to be able to see things in their true light. And besides, the

condescend to mix more freely with the people. They now stand aloof; they are unapproachable; their atmosphere does not encourage any friendly advance. Let Englishmen allow themselves to be known by the people; let the people know that within his rough exterior, an Englishman has a kind heart, and they will cease to believe the rumours that the rulers are not human beings but ogres.

A good many years ago, when proceeding towards Bombay, we found a nice young Englishman in our compartment. A relation of a Tirhut planter, he had come out here to make his bread. The planter succeeded in finding for him an employment in the Bombay Survey Department, and he was going there to join his appointment.

The notion is that Europeans lose their prestige by coming in contact with the people of this country! That may be so. But it is not desirable that the hundreds of millions in India should entertain the notion that their rulers are only ogres.

Anyhow the rulers have made mistakes somewhere in governing the country. They ought to know what these are.

The tragic incident at Bhowanepore, a report of which is published in another column, will, no doubt, send a thrill of horror through the frame of every man, Indian and European. The badmashes who meant mischief, escaped; but two lads, aged 12 and 18 respectively, fell victims to the revolver of Dr. Laing!

We deplore the riot at Ghattal and the massacre. We say 'massacre,' because it is understood that the Police fired without authority. In this matter, namely, suppression of riots, our motives are not likely to be misunderstood. We do not like mob-rule. None who has any property, can. Mob-rule means insecurity of life and property, outrage and plunder, and therefore, it ought to be put down with a strong hand.

THE Poona papers are quite reticent about the alleged Committee of Press Censorship in Poona. The Bombay Gazette, however, denies its existence, though it practically acknowledges that such institutions have been really ordered to be started.

THE HON. A. M. BOSE. TO THE EDITOR OF THE DAILY POST. Sir,—Will you allow me to call the attention of your readers to the

sincerely that these Committees will conduce to the well-being of the Maharatta papers, as they will eliminate all that is objectionable in their writings and keep what is good for all. This reminds us of the proposal which the late Sir Ashley Eden had made to the conductors of the A. B. Patrika. He controlled the policy of the Hindu Patriot; but the Patrika was a great clog in his way. So when he came across the editor of the Patrika, he sought to win him over with these sweet words: "Your paper is, no doubt, conducted with much spirit, but it has one defect. It cannot deal with a question from both official and popular points of view for lack of sufficient information."

We gather the following from the English papers to hand by the last mail. At the annual meeting of the Anglo-Indian Temperance Association, one speaker remarked that the Indian name of this Association has but one syllable—Caine. This philanthropist and disinterested friend of India is thus affectionately described by the Temperance Watchword:

He (Mr. Caine) is bon. sec. and treasurer, and read the report in a cheery, explanatory way, characteristic of himself. Time only makes him more handsome as the grey of his beard deepens, but his eye not dimmed nor his natural force abated. The report contained many a pleasantly ironical passage, in particular that which described the sale by Government in India of an "innocent and innocuous stimulant," which in England is sold only as poison, and, without the proper label, would bring the vendor three months' imprisonment.

The chair was taken by Mr. Samuel Smith, M. P. and the other speakers were Sir William Wedderburn, Mr. Herbert Roberts, M. P., Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, Lieutenant-Colonel Pringle, M. D., and Rev. Arthur Parker, of Benares. So you see, India's best friends were brought together on the occasion. And neither was Babu A. M. Bose absent. Judging from the following account of the meeting, which appears in the paper named above, it appears he made a brilliant speech on the occasion:—

Tea was served at a buffet at 5-30, and very general conversation followed until 6-30 when patriarchal Mr. Samuel Smith, M. P., took the chair. After the reports had been read, he made a speech, in which he assured the Indian people of the great sympathy of England in their recent calamities.

recently a member of the Legislative Council of Bengal. He is a man of the highest culture, a graduate of Cambridge, and a barrister in leading practice in Calcutta. To hear from such a man a sober criticism on the relations of the British Government to the Indian natives, is in the highest degree interesting and instructive. Mr. Bose's recent address on the frontier war was remarkable not only for the force of its argument and its wealth of statement, but for the extraordinary command which he displayed over the English language in its richest oratorical forms.

On the second occasion of his visit to Liverpool, he was given a reception. This is what the Liverpool Inquirer says in all eading article, headed "Mr. A. M. Bose":—

At the recent annual meeting of the Liverpool and Birkenhead Women's Peace and Arbitration Society, the principal speaker was Mr. A. M. Bose, of Calcutta; and Sir John Brunner, M. P., and Lady Brunner availed themselves of the opportunity to give him a reception at the Unitarian Institute on the following day. On both occasions, as well as in private intercourse, Mr. Bose produced a deep impression on the minds and hearts of all those who heard or met him.

We are further told that "there was a large attendance at the reception." We wonder what will some "members of the ruling race" here think of a leading English gentleman and an M. P., giving a reception to a native! The same paper announces in the end:—

To-morrow (Sunday) Mr. Bose is to be again in Liverpool, and at the evening service in Hope-street Church, will speak on the social relations of England and India, so that much larger numbers will have an opportunity of hearing his noble and eloquent appeals for just and righteous government and a truer international brotherhood.

The fact has been made patent that Babu Ananda Mohan has succeeded in creating some position in the Imperial country—a position established on a sound basis. We say 'sound basis' because he is now sought, and by so many parties that he has to decline invitations. Indeed, it is a laborious task to enumerate the many addresses that he has been made to deliver before English Electors at the request of the latter.

This meeting condemns the injustice of taxing the Indian people with the whole of the cost of the recent war beyond the north-west frontier of India. The meeting further sympathises with the people of that country in their present troubles, many of which are, in its opinion, due to the defects of the present system of government, which requires to be popularised by the inclusion, in the higher ranks of administration, of a much larger number of Indians, and a thorough reform of the Legislative Councils, by which means the Government would be strengthened, the people benefited, and the best interests of the empire promoted.

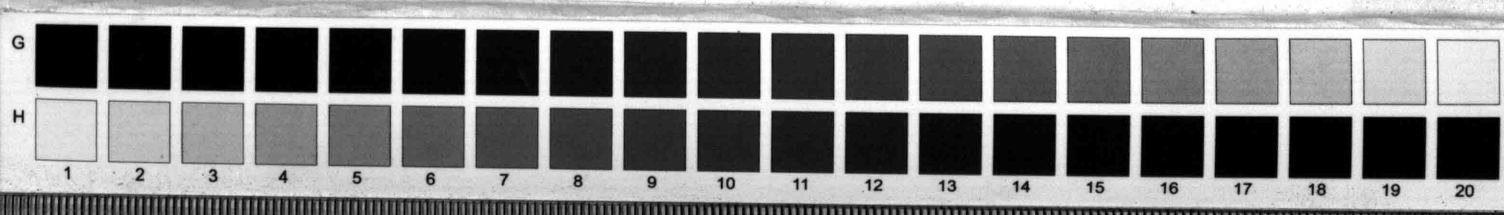
HOLLINWOOD LIBERALS ON MONDAY NIGHT hardly expected such an oratorical treat as they got from a Hindoo gentleman, Mr. Bose. No subject is more calculated to inflame a man's eloquence than his country's wrongs; and Mr. Bose's utterances were something of a revelation as to the proper use of stately English. Platform-speaking of such high order is very welcome after the common-place stuff which one usually hears. Mr. C. E. Schwann, the only Liberal Parliamentary representative Manchester has just now, also addressed the Hollinwood meeting.

THIS was what the Englishman said:—

The strange cult of Shivaji, which recently sprang among the Maharattas, has not commanded all the attention it deserves. Shivaji was the very prince of swash-bucklers. His was the hand that struck the Mogul Empire its first mortal blow. By a life of black treachery and assassination he gained for himself the practical supremacy of Western India, and gorged his people with the wealth of the Peninsula. Of his blood were Peshwas and their descendants, whose record is stained with the blackest crimes known to history. And this is the man whose life is being held up—even in Government-aided schools—as a pattern to the young, and regarding whom a vast mass of pious legends are already springing up. It is no exaggeration to say that almost throughout Western India, owing to the persistence of the Brahmins, Shivaji is now regarded as a saint and his crimes looked at with admiration. The noteworthy point is that this Shivaji-worship is of very recent date, and the conclusion cannot be avoided that the cult was started and is being sedulously maintained by interested persons.

And this is what the Maharatta says in reply:—

The Englishman calls the Maharattas "free-booters," and falls foul of Shivaji and styles him as "the very prince of swash-bucklers and free-booters." The Englishman even runs into historical proposition. "By a life of black treachery and assassination," says the Englishman, he gained for himself the practical supremacy of Western India, and gorged his people with the wealth of the Peninsula." We suppose this writer had an ancestor who was caught hold of by Shivaji in the sack of Surat; otherwise there is no reason why he should be so furious against a hero, born and dead two hundred years ago. As to charges of black treachery and assassinations against Shivaji, they are already stale and threadbare. And what if they are true? They only prove that a nation of soldiers like the Maharattas killed some persons just as a nation of shop-keepers will practise forgery and false swearing in order to win an empire. The free-booting of the ancient Maharattas, so far as morality goes, was certainly less culpable than the practices now fashionable in Africa or the present diplomatic negotiations on the Chinese coast. Surely, the passage in the Englishman is just sort of thing the Hon. Mr. Chalmers



Calcutta and Mofussil

GEOL. Mr. Griesbach, Director Geological Department, has gone to Simla to consult with the Government regarding the economic work of the Department during the year.

EXAMINE RECIPIENT.—The numbers in receipt of relief for the present week are 1,100 in Calcutta, and 14,000 in Bombay, being 19,000 more than last week.

METEOROLOGICAL.—Mr. John Elliot, Meteorological Reporter with the Government of India, has been granted an extension of his appointment for three years to the 31st of March, 1910.

RECEIVED.—A large number of letters have been received from the various districts regarding the plague and the measures to be taken for its prevention.

FOR FEMALE PASSENGERS.—We are informed that some gentlemen of Howrah, having written to the Agent, East India Railway for a separate passage to the up platform of the Howrah Station for female passengers, the Agent has intimated his intention of giving the matter his prompt attention.

CURE FOR LOCK-JAW.—It is announced that Dr. Roux, of the Pasteur Institute at Paris, has discovered a cure for lock-jaw, which after being most successfully employed in experiments on animals, has now (April 30) been used with signal success in the case of a man brought in for treatment at the Institute.

THE DACCA CONFERENCE.—We are requested to announce that Babu Hem Chunder Roy, M.A., Barrister-at-Law, Dacca, has been authorised to collect subscriptions for the Conference in Dacca. Those who are willing to pay will please send their contributions to the said gentleman without further delay.

LEGISLATION.—The principal Legislative measures to be passed in the Viceroys Council at Simla this season are the Stamp Act and the Central Provinces Tenancy Bill. The Hon. Mr. Chatterjee is expected in Simla next August to present the views of the Central Provinces' zemindars in connection with the latter. Further consideration measures are also likely to be introduced.

THE MANDALAY ON THE LINE.—The driver of the Mandalay (down mail) of Monday left his engine, coupler with some heavy object on the line, but the night being dark he could not see what it was. On examining his engine, he found, fixed in the bogie, what appeared to be an elephant's tusk. The cow-catcher was damaged and one of the lumps and brackets were carried away. When another train was passing some hours later, a large elephant was found lying dead on the line, and no doubt, the elephant was killed in its collision with the mail train.

SOMETHING LIKE A GUN.—A Tyneside engineer, Mr. James Judge, has patented a gun which he believes when perfected, will discharge the enormous number of 30,000 bullets per minute. The gun discharges its missiles by centrifugal force, being, in fact, a wonderful development of the ancient sling. A disc works within a case at 15,000 rotations per minute, and from its circumference project two hands. The bullets are powered into the case from a hopper, and as they fall, are caught by the hands which in coming round rein them out in a continuous stream. The inventor's idea is to use this gun upon an armoured motor-car which should also have projecting blades like the ancient war chariots, with this difference, that they would be moveable. The gun would propel bullets with tremendous muzzle velocity, and at close quarters would, Mr. Judge declares, mean absolute annihilation to an enemy.

A KIND-HEARTED GOVERNOR.—The Ootacamund correspondent of the Hindu writes:—An incident that occurred last week on the A. B. C. ground at Ootacamund displays the kind and charitable heart of our present Governor. A Mahomedan merchant of Hyderabad, who says he came here with a grievance, on seeing His Excellency alight from his carriage, went up to him and made a statement. I am not in a position to say whether His Excellency understood the petitioner or the language in which he spoke, but he gave him a patient hearing and permitted him to kiss his hand. An officious Policeman, if present, might have interpreted the latter act as an attempt at assassination or something approaching to it, but the Governor received it with much consideration and finally handed over the Mahomedan to Mr. Sim, the Private Secretary, who gave him an equally patient hearing, furnishing him with advice to put his grievance or grievances on paper and send them to His Excellency when they will be enquired into.

It is the Government of India... Calcutta... The following letter has been addressed to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce by Messrs. Mitchell, Bardsley and Co., in connection with the... On the 10th instant, we wrote to you... The present Plague Regulations...

field means disaster, not only to the... Another man dropped him, saying that he had no business to speak in that way... The following letter has been addressed to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce by Messrs. Mitchell, Bardsley and Co., in connection with the... On the 10th instant, we wrote to you...

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

