Amrita Bazar Patrika

BI-WEEKLY EDITION---PUBLISHED EVERY SUNDAY AND THURSDAY.

VOL. XXXI. CALCUTTA, SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 1898. NO. 4.

পদকল্পতরু।

সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে

মূল্য ৩॥০ টাকা।

পরিশিষ্ট যন্ত্রস্থ।

অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য।

অনুরাগবল্লী।

শ্রীমনোহর দাস প্রণীত।

এ খানি উপাদেয় বৈষ্ণব গ্রন্থ। দুই শত বৎসর পূর্ব্বে লিখিত।

মূল্য ছয় আনা। ডাঃ মাঃ অর্দ্ধ আনা।

অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য।

শ্রীঅদ্বৈত-প্রকাশ।

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মূল্য বার আনা। ডাঃ মাঃ এক আনা

অমৃত বাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য

শ্রীশ্রীবিষ্ণুপ্রিয়া পত্রিকা।

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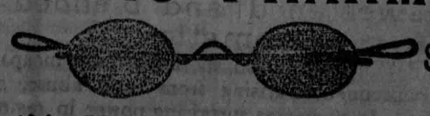
BEST PEBBLE  STEEL FRAME RS. 5,

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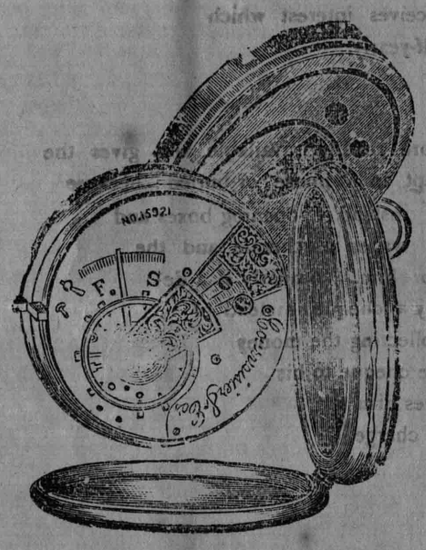

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THE
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CALCUTTA JUNE 5, 1898.

WANTED A PURE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

THE British produce the best Judges but the *Indian Daily News* sometime ago sounded the tocsin of alarm in these words :—

The fact is, as Lord Wellesley observed eighty or ninety years ago, that the best codes fail unless you get a supply of the best men to administer them. If Judges are appointed because they have stood in the Liberal or Tory interest for Parliament, or because they are uncles of Unionists or Home Rulers or nephews of retired Indian statesmen, or are in the way of people you desire to push, or are Swedenborgians, or for any of the other hundred and one bad reasons for creating persons Judges, you do not get the best men to administer the laws and the laws, are thus brought into contempt; and this, according to some people, has always been the policy of the Executive Government of India.

The London *Star* thus deplored the want of attention, displayed by Lord Halsbury, the Lord Chancellor, when hearing the appeal of Mr. Tilak,—a case which affected the vital interests of three hundred millions of the Queen's subjects :—

One does not know whether Lord Halsbury heard Mr. Asquith or not. But if he was paying attention, his manner did him an injustice. Throughout the morning he was receiving and sending messages—reading and writing letters. An on-looker suggested that this ostentatious disregard of Mr. Asquith's argument was Lord Halsbury's revenge for Mr. Asquith's recent description of the Darling appointment as a most startling exercise of political patronage. Be this as it may, Lord Halsbury's demeanour contrasted curiously with the demeanour of Lord Hobhouse, who paid the closest attention to Mr. Asquith's speech from first to last, and industriously noted in the margin of the official report of the proceedings at Bombay the references which Mr. Asquith mentioned.

Needless to say, the people of India were thrown into despair when they came to know that the Lord Chancellor, who was pleased so summarily to dispose of the application, was all the while reading and writing letters when Mr. Asquith was addressing on behalf of the three hundred millions of India.

In India, it is difficult for Europeans to administer justice which is absolutely pure. First, the Europeans know not the colloquial of the people ; they know not the habits and instincts, the manners and customs, of the country. Oftentimes they have to avail themselves of the services of interpreters, to understand what they are required to do. Fancy, all the sédition cases were tried by European Judges who had no or very imperfect knowledge of the language in which the alleged seditious articles were written.

Then, it is a difficult matter for a European to forget his political feeling in India. He cannot divest himself of the idea that he is an Englishman, and the party or parties before him are Indians, though he is required to keep his mind as white as a blank sheet of paper for the purpose of being able to do his duty properly. But, how can he perform this feat? Suppose an Indian appears before a European Magistrate and charges a European with the murder of a relative. What is the first feeling of the Magistrate?

His first feeling is disgust at the conduct of the Indian. What business had the native to put him into the trouble of trying a countryman who happened to be in a strange land? Of course, he tries to conquer his feelings, and often puts his countryman on trial. But it is absolutely cruel to ask an English Magistrate to try an Englishman on a charge of murder.

Take the alleged sedition cases. The dispute was between the British Government and the subject native. The charge was sedition. Now, did not the Judges find themselves in a queer position? Of course, British Judges are immaculate, and they are above human feelings ; but yet it would be a difficult feat to persuade any outside their own ranks to believe so. Who can be more pure than a Judge of the High Court? And is not the Chief Justice of a High Court the purest of all? It is believed that the Chief Justice of Bombay was so mortified at the interpretation given to section 124A by Mr. Justice Strachey that he was led to take up the cases himself for the purpose of giving a better one. No consideration could lead Chief Justice Farran from the path of strict justice ; but yet he could not altogether obliterate political feeling which naturally sticks to every Englishman here. This is what the Chief Justice said in his summing-up in one of the sedition cases :—

But both in England and India, it (the press) is subject to the law ; that is to say, it must not publish matter which is seditious, or otherwise tends to the injury and disgrace of Government. Of course, gentlemen, there may be doubts whether it was wise to give such a power to the press in India, but, upon that I can say nothing ; that is not my province, nor it is your province.

In the above, the distinguished Chief Justice began as a Judge ; but the man got the upper hand of him for a moment,—only for a moment—when he gave an opinion, indirect, no doubt, though in a distinct manner, that it was unwise on the part of the Government to give freedom of speech to the press in India. But the Judge immediately detected that he was travelling beyond his province, and he checked himself with the remark that "that is not my province, nor it is your province."

So you see, how difficult it is even for our highest Judges to keep their minds free from political feeling. And this will appear more clear from what followed. After having confessed that the remark whether, the law was wise or not, did not fall within his province, Chief Justice Farran again forgot himself and began the next sentence thus :—

Whatever may be the advantage of such a press in the Presidency towns, where articles can be met by other articles, and where opinion may be met by opinion, it may be doubted whether it is desirable that each village and town throughout this mighty land,—that small towns and villages—should each have its organ, uncontrolled practically by public opinion, and uncontrolled by an answering press, and the editor of which may publish practically what he pleases.

So, his Lordship repeated what he had said before and what, he had immediately said, did not belong to his province ; and he repeated it in a more pronounced and emphatic manner! The fact is, pure as the British Judges are, they are yet men, and can not absolutely conquer their human feelings.

GOOD OUT OF EVIL.

WHAT Dadabhai Naoroji began, has been accomplished by the proceedings of the Government itself, adopted last year in passion and panic. The defects of the system of rule which obtain in this country, have been at last thoroughly laid bare, for the benefit of Englishmen at home. This is what our London correspondent says :—

However, Poona may console herself with the thought that the blood of martyrs is the seed of freedom. The dark days through which she is passing, have rung the death-knell of the *lettres de cachet*, at any rate ; and I am quite sure that no citizen of British India will ever again be imprisoned by "administrative order," nor will the detestable system of punitive police force long survive the bitter indignation of the British democracy. In the certain downfall of the Salisbury Administration—now only a question of time,—there has been no more disintegrating element than their belated and panic-stricken policy in India.

We could have never convinced the British public of the fact that the Indians have their grievances, merely by sending patriots like Naoroji and Ananda Mohan. From Lord George Hamilton down to the meanest elector in England, they have all come to see that the Indians have their wrongs which deserve to be attended to. The *Saturday Review* remarks that it is a wonder, India is yet loyal to the Government! The *Times* admits that the costs of the Frontier war ought to have been, at least partially, borne by the British Exchequer. Indeed, one of the causes of the unpopularity of the present Tory Government is their proceedings in India during the last year.

This is what the *Star* says :—

We hope the public sees what it is that is responsible for the appointment of another Committee upon Indian currency. To the man in the street, currency is a remote, unattractive and shadowy abstraction, possessing the substance, though not the savor, of cigarette smoke. We sympathise with this temper, and shall not commit the subtle intellectual conceit of expressing an opinion about bimetallism. But the root facts are as clear and simple as a b c. India, as Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji has been insisting for a generation, and as almost everybody now understands, is frightfully poor. Yet, under the present system of Government, she is compelled regularly to pay in London enormous sterling liabilities. Mr. Mill has shown the economic effects of this very real tribute. It not merely removes from India every year a large sum of money for which India receives no commercial return, but also depresses the price of Indian commodities through the necessity of making the payments at stated times. Follow out the maxims of the Queen's Proclamation—the Magna Charta of India—loyally endeavour, as far as possible, to employ Indian agency in the work of administration, abandon schemes of Imperial aggression at India's expense, and in these ways reduce the Home charges to a bagatelle—and then we shall hear no more of currency committees. These things "do but skin and film the ulcerous place." Our statesmen really need to deal with what John Bright called the "fundamental defect" in Indian administration. To this end no new principles,—no startling innovations of theory,—are necessary All that is necessary is that effect should honestly be given to principles and maxims of policy already formulated and announced.

In the above, the cause of India's poverty is laid bare. It is not enough that the Government is just and enlightened. How can India bear this frightful drain? When talking of the condition of India, let none forget of this frightful annual drain. The *Star* has gone into the bottom of the affair. This "real tribute" means something more than "annual removal of a large sum of money for which India receives no commercial return, but it also depresses the price of Indian commodities.!" The Indian ryot is forced to sell his paddy and wheat to foreign merchants at half price, to meet this inexorable demand of the State.

This annual drain, however, is not the only burden that India has to bear. This is what the *Manchester Guardian* says :—

If in twenty years the people of India have been compelled to pay 714 millions of rupees for the cost of the frontier wars, they have been grievously oppressed, indeed. Thirty-five million rupees a year have been withdrawn from the use of commerce, and the promotion of industrial and mercaatile progress. The Indian people have been mulcted in that amount in order to maintain our Imperial claim to rule over them and to save them from a change of masters. If we want to retain Indian trade in our hands and to expend it as we undoubtedly do we should honestly pay for our monopoly. In the interest of our mercantile position, the duty of bearing a share of the financial burden imposed by the military operations for the protection of our trade position, is so obvious as to need no argument. At present our policy in India is only a political interpretation of the game of beggaring your neighbour.

Fancy, the Indian ryot has been made to pay 714 millions of rupees for the cost of the Frontier wars in twenty years! And what has India gained in return? The *Guardian* says:—

We compel them to bear the financial burden of our policy in the East, and thus empty their pockets. How can we expect them to pay for the goods which we send them, or to extend their purchasing power?

Here the *Guardian* speaks from the point of view of the British merchant. But the matter can be viewed from another standpoint. If India is compelled to bear the financial burden of the policy of the Imperial country in the East, and thus to empty its pockets, how can the Indians expect to maintain the costly service, both civil and military, recruited from a foreign country? For, be it remembered that the service is paid here in a princely style.

The only lucky circumstance is that the Indians can live upon half rations, and to whom good food and drink or luxury in any form are unknown.

We have here to stop mints to make rupees scarce ; we have to appoint Currency Committees ; we have to devise means to make the rupee more valuable than it is. We have to do all this by artificial means. If India is only justly treated, the currency would right itself without any tinkering from outside.

THE PLAGUE POLICY AND ITS CRITICS.

As we are for conciliation, and the *Englishman* for violent repression, with regard to the plague policy of the Government, we were obliged frequently to combat the views of our contemporary, which were, generally speaking, couched in coarse language, and therefore served no useful purpose, but only inflamed the minds of the people against the authorities. That paper now pours forth its vial of rage upon our devoted head, and seeks to have his revenge in the usual way, that is to say, by raising the cry of sedition. We quote his long leader elsewhere ; will he have the manliness and fairness to quote what we say in reply, in his columns? We shall see. He begins by stating that the *Patrika* is "unknown &c., &c." In this statement he has gone too far to be believed. At least, he has given proofs that he himself is a diligent and voracious reader of this journal, as will appear from his article in question, which is founded upon extracts, culled from a dozen issues of our paper.

Our attitude to the plague policy of the Government can be explained in a few words. We have expressed, along with the country, our deep gratitude towards the rulers, in unmistakeable tongue, for the generous policy inaugurated for the purpose of stamping out the plague. This is our principle Number 1.

No. 2.—Taking our cue from the generous assurance of the Supreme and Local Governments, which recognized the necessity of not separating wives from husbands, &c., we have advocated home segregation.

No. 3.—As regards inoculation, our mind is open. We have never unfairly opposed inoculation ; on the other hand, we have not let slip an opportunity of putting in prominent place any good point in regard to it, brought to public notice.

No. 4.—Along with the general public, the medical men included, we believe that the plague, in its real form, has not as yet appeared in Calcutta. But yet, we are not sure. We are, therefore, grateful to the Government for having taken prompt steps in putting a stop to its progress as soon as a suspected case was discovered. We think, however, the Government was little hasty in proclaiming the plague. We, have, therefore, urged on the Government, along with the Chamber of Commerce and others, for an inquiry.

No. 5.—We have advocated drastic measures for *badmashes*, but a gentler treatment for those who had broken the law under the wrong impression that they were doing it to save themselves and their fellows.

The *Englishman* differs somewhat from the confession of creed, laid down in the above. He is for stronger measures ; the importation of the Bombay method ; strict segregation ; the posting of a punitive police force ; severe punishment for all who break the law, and immediate whipping of the people found on the spot where a riot occurs ; &c. &c. Indeed, the *Englishman* is so much for violent measures, that because the Government showed some sympathy for the people, this did not meet with its hearty approval. He thought that the "concessions" made, were enough or more than enough.

Now the plague is a common danger—a danger common both to the ruled and the rulers; and it is besides altogether a non-political question. Is it not, therefore, ridiculous to talk of "concessions," "when dealing with such a calamity?" The *Englishman* would treat us as a subject race ; but we would, on the other hand, treat the Government as our own, and, therefore, thought it our duty to give it honest advice with the utmost freedom.

Of course, the *Englishman* seeks to fasten sedition upon us, and quotes from our columns to prove his position. But that he does by unfair means. One or two examples will show this. We said, in describing the present situation :—

As to the danger of the situation, frequent mishaps and disasters have proved it conclusively. Where is the safety of the citizens when the town is in the possession of plague officers, who feel themselves in the midst of belligerents, with loaded revolvers in their hands, ready to fire upon the people at the slightest disturbance? And where is the safety of the plague officers who have to roam in the midst of thousands of an excited populace in a state of exasperation? Goes a plague officer by a bye-lane, and a number of mischievous urchins follow him with the cry 'there goes the *ticcawala saheb*,' and pelt stones at him. The plague officer takes fright and fires his revolver, and kills some innocent people. In the interests of both the plague officers and the citizens, a more satisfactory arrangement ought to be made. It would tax the highest ingenuity of Sir J. Woodburn and his minister, the Hon'ble Mr. Risley, to be able to do it.

But the *Englishman* omits all that, and begins from the middle of our paragraph and quotes the sentence, beginning with "where is the safety of the citizens, &c.," as if we were inflaming the minds of the citizens against the plague officers!

We said that the belief in Calcutta is that the real plague had not yet luckily appeared. We gave reasons for this belief among the community. First, a Medical Association did not believe in the appearance of the real plague. The Chamber of Commerce urged the same view. In this manner, we gave other reasons for the prevalence of this belief, and then said :—

It is thus people have ceased to believe in the existence of the disease in this city, and therefore, they have little sympathy for many of the energetic steps, which entail suffering, taken by the Government to stamp it out. On the other hand, a good many have come to feel that it is a duty that they owe to God, to the State, to the country and to themselves, to oppose what they fancy the "oppressions" of the plague authorities upon the people.

* * *

Knowing, as we do, the good motives of the authorities, we submit again, what we have submitted several times, that along with the adoption of precautionary measures, they should at once ascertain the fact whether it is the true plague which has visited the city.

The *Englishman* omits the words "it is thus", and begins with "people have ceased to believe," thus making us responsible for this belief of the people! The object of the *Englishman* is to make out that we were thrusting our own belief into the heads of the people.

The *Englishman* thus summarises :—

Always intent on embarrassing and annoying the Government, this paper, ever since the appearance of plague in Calcutta, has been consistently, by means of editorial remarks and garbled reports, attempting to induce the population to resist the wise and moderate measures undertaken by Sir John Woodburn and his advisers to check the progress of the disease.

The above is not only a tissue of mere assertions, but untrue. We have accorded support and nothing but support to the Government. The difference between the *Englishman* and ourselves lies in this. His writings, urging on the Government to take violent measures, only inflamed the people and created suspicion in their minds ; while, what we sought to do, was to persuade the Government to enforce all its rules, but in a way, not needlessly hurtful to the susceptibilities of the people. The *Englishman* talks of our garbled reports. But we dare not do it. Our reports are always correct, as far as they can possibly be. Was it not the *Englishman* which said that "the rioters rushed up to the stair-case" while neither Dr. Laing himself nor Dr. Sarkar supports this view in their evidence? The fact is that much of the mischief that the appearance of plague has caused in Calcutta, is due to the mistakes of Anglo-Indian papers, notably the *Englishman*.

Yes, we have written much on the subject of the plague ; but our sole object has been to endear the Government to the people. The *Englishman*, on the other hand, has tried his best to inflame their minds against it. If newspaper writings do harm to British Government in India, it will come from the effusions of the violent Anglo-Indian papers, and not from those of the Native Press. The other day, the *Englishman* abused grossly the national hero of the Maharattas, Sivaji. And what did he gain, pray, by thus wounding a nation at its tender point? And we are now told, it is we who provoke racial antipathies!

The articles of the *Englishman* regarding the plague, created an impression in the minds of the public that violent and strong measures were in store for the citizens of Calcutta; and this gave a great impetus to the scare. He was angry at the "concessions," granted to the people. He advocated the Bombay segregation and isolation ; he advocated the posting of punitive police; he advocated the immediate flogging of people, found on the scene of a disturbance,—a method of punishment which the *Indian Daily News* considered brutal ; he indirectly proclaimed that search-parties would in time be composed of military men, and thus the people were so frightened as to induce a large number of them to fly from the city and lead some too to take the law into their own hands in desperation. All this the *Englishman* did, while we preached to the people to trust in the good motives of the Government; and it is now that the arch mischief-maker turns round and accuses us of having inflamed the minds of the people against the authorities!

THE enforcement of plague measures in Calcutta has made two facts very plain. One is the feeling of ownness of the educated classes for the Government, and the other is the distrust of the lower classes in the authorities. Never was the Government actuated by purer and more benevolent motive than when the plague policy was first announced by Sir John Woodburn. The words that His Honour uttered on the occasion, gushed out from the very bottom of his heart. And their effect was instantaneous. The educated Indians were powerfully moved by the generosity of their Governor, and they felt an ownness for the British Government, which perhaps they never did before. They expected quarantine, segregation, isolation, search-parties and house-visitation, in all their horrors ; but here was a *ma bap* who not only inaugurated a policy of hope, but promised them protection against the separation of the members of their families and invasion of their zenanas in the event of the outbreak of the plague. So they became delirious with joy, and took advantage of a public meeting, convened to protest against the Calcutta Municipal Bill, to pass a resolution, expressive of their fervent gratitude to Sir John. The exemption of the inoculated from removal of Isolation Hospital, was also considered a great concession, and the Government was thanked for it. In short, the Government and the educated Indians felt that they were one and the same, and they should combine and fight the common enemy which had entered their city, though not in an epidemic form. The Government required the unpaid services of the educated classes, and they offered them gladly. The Government wanted to take the supreme control of the management of the plague measures in its own hands, and the Municipal Commissioners agreed to the arrangement without a protest. The adage is, "good cometh out of evil". The plague bridged up all the differences between the authorities and the educated Indians ; and never was the fact brought to the front more prominently that the interests of the two are indissolubly bound up together, It is quite true that the educated Indians hold Congresses and abuse the Government now and then through newspapers ; but, in their heart of hearts, as has been proved conclusively on the present occasion, they are as loyal to British rule as Englishmen themselves. In short, in times of trouble the Government can rely upon the help of the educated Indians with as much confidence as they can rely upon the co-operation of Europeans or their own officials. This fact was never recognised by the Government, at least, a large section of the ruling class. But this time it has been made plain to the apprehension of everybody.

The other fact is most disappointing. The officials had always a notion that, if the educated classes were a disloyal lot, the masses were quite happy and contented under their rule. But the film has at last fallen from their eyes. The vast body of the illiterate people have not only not appreciated the benefits of British rule, but they have been saturated with such distrust of the rulers as to horribly misinterpret their best motives, and endanger their lives and liberties to protect themselves from imaginary evils! This plague inoculation was introduced mainly for their benefit; for, plague is a poor man's disease, and the higher classes, both European and Indian, are, as a rule, immune from it. Then again, inoculation was not made compulsory. All this was explained to the masses through newspapers, and educated Indians and Europeans. Nay, Sir John Woodburn himself was one day surrounded by some three hundred boatmen, and His Honour gave them his word as Governor of Bengal that inoculation would not be forced upon anybody. Why then these murderous assaults upon so-called *ticcawallas*? It has been alleged that it is the work of a few *badmashes*. This is all nonsense. Millions of people cannot be moved in this powerful manner by the advices of a few *badmashes*. The fact is, the masses have seen very little of the bright side of British rule. Anyhow the fact is there ; and it has been emphasised on the present occasion that the masses, who form the vast majority of the nation, entertain the notion that plague officers carry poison with them to kill them. The discovery of the fact will, no doubt, give a rude shock to those Englishmen who think that they deserve nothing but gratitude from the people of India ; but, it is better, they should realize the truth and provide against it.

THE National Congress annually sent a telegram to Mr. Gladstone, not to thank him for his services to India but to remind him of the fact that there was such a country as India under the British Crown. The fact is, apparently he was not aware of the existence of this country. And when reminded of it, he showed that he did not like to be reminded of this fact. During the whole course of his long rule, he never did, as far as we are aware, anything for India. The *Indian Spectator*, which has a kind word for every one, damns him with faint praises in the following words :—

In India Mr. Gladstone always took kindly interest. But beyond that he would not go. When appealed to, he would explain that India was altogether a different civilization to him from what he had been accustomed to, both as a scholar and politician, and that he was too old to study Indian questions. Even with veteran colleagues like Bright, Cobden and Fawcett, he could go only a small way on these questions, and then mostly on those relating to finance. Poor, patient, long-suffering India! What could he do for her when men, half his age, run away from the very mention of her name? Verily, the Indian Problem puzzles and baffles the best of Englishmen.

To such an extent did Mr. Gladstone carry his policy of non-committal with regard to India, that when this writer appealed to him to endorse Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji's candidature for Central Finsbury, or to help him in some formal mark of approval in his uphill work, he courteously declined to do so, although he felt Mr. Dadabhai had been badly treated

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not only by the Conservatives but also by his own party

Of course, Mr. Gladstone is the greatest man of the century; but, frankly speaking, Indians have nothing particular to thank him for.

THE Bombay Municipality is on the verge of bankruptcy. And why? Because of the extravagance of the Plague Committee! The Bombay Corporation was superseded; and the above Committee, appointed by the Bombay Government, was entrusted with the management of the plague. The result of their labours is now known to the world. They failed to check the disease; while the unsympathetic manner in which they caused the plague rules to be enforced, entailed terrible sufferings upon the people, and brought about riots in which many lives, both European and Indian, were lost. As regards the financial aspect of the question, they spent money like water; and the Bombay Municipality, as we said, is now practically bankrupt. The campaign was commenced in October, 1896, when the Municipality had large balances in hand. But these had entirely disappeared by the end of the last financial year, when the total amount, by which the loan funds had been overdrawn for purposes other than those for which they were raised, was over 23 lakhs. By that time the plague expenditure had aggregated 25 lakhs; it is estimated that by the end of September, the total will be 33½ lakhs. The expenditure has already brought the surplus cash balance down to a little more than half a lakh—"a perilously low figure" as Mr. Snow, the Commissioner of Bombay, justly calls it; for, as a rule, the Municipality had previously a cash balance of eighteen to twenty lakhs in hand. "A Municipality, with annual out-goings of considerably over seventy lakhs, cannot", says a Bombay paper, "possibly work with so small a balance as this; and it is a matter of rudimentary necessity to bring up its surplus cash balance to a figure, consistent with the everyday requirements of the administration." Mr. Snow proposes to bring it up to about Rs. 4,33,000, and then to finance the plague expenditure debitable to the Municipality, either wholly by loan, or partly by loan and partly by increased taxation. The prospect before the citizens of Bombay is thus gloomy in the extreme.

Like the Corporation of Bombay, the Corporation of Calcutta has also been superseded by the Bengal Plague Commission. At least, the Municipal Commissioners have no control over the expenditures that are being incurred in connection with the plague. With the experiences of Bombay before them, those who are responsible for the administration of plague measures in Calcutta, will, we hope, avoid the blunders of the Bombay Plague Committee, so that the Calcutta Municipality might not be landed in bankruptcy like the Corporation of Bombay.

THE remarks of the present Sessions Judge of Maimansing on the local Police case, may be fairly taken as emphasizing some of the popular complaints against the criminal administration of justice. One such complaint is that subordinate Magistrates possess no judicial independence, but that they often act up to the dictates of the District Magistrates, in spite of the distinct orders of the Secretary of State on the subject. And the Sessions Judge of Maimansing confirms this impression by his remarks. According to him, the finding of the Deputy Magistrate of Maimansing, in acquitting the accused Police Sub-Inspector, was "dishonest;" and he partially holds the District Magistrate responsible for this. Here is a quotation from his judgment:—

With regard to the diaries, I may point out that although the Deputy Magistrate seems to have acted, to some extent, under pressure from the the District Magistrate, yet it was very clearly his duty to resist the pressure.

So, according to the Sessions Judge, the Deputy Magistrate acted under pressure from the District Magistrate. The Sessions Judge is perfectly right when he says that the Deputy Magistrate ought not to have yielded to pressure. But then it must be borne in mind that it requires more than ordinary moral courage for a subordinate to go against the wishes of his superior.

ANOTHER popular complaint is that the Police is the pet dog of the executive head, and there is no remedy when a policeman is the wrong-doer. The District Judge of Maimansing has said the same thing, as the following extract from his judgment will show:—

The remedy provided by the Legislature in the case of improper orders of acquittal, is an appeal on behalf of the Local Government, under section 417 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. To the Local Government, therefore, if this order of acquittal is to be recognised at all, Kairat Sheik must go. Now the remedy provided by the Legislature, if this be the remedy, as in a case like this, is an illusory one. In practice, Local Governments do not appeal against orders acquitting Police Sub-Inspectors on charges of this kind.

The significance of the above, coming from an official in the position of Sessions Judge, can not be exaggerated.

THE proceedings of the Standing Committee on Law of the House of Commons, which has had under its consideration the Prisons Bill, will be read with interest by the Indian readers; for, they expect good of them to themselves. Under clause 2 of the new measure, power is to be given to the Secretary of State in the Home Department, to make rules for the government of local and convict prisons. The rules are not to be put in force until a draft of them has lain on the table of each House of Parliament for thirty days; and they are not to be proceeded with if either House presents an address against them. Sir M. W. Ridley claimed that these arrangements would have the advantage of leaving the hands of the Home Secretary tolerably free in the matter of modifications and reforms relating to jail discipline, which might seem to him advisable, while at the same time preserving the authority of Parliament. The House of Commons has accepted the contention; and the Committee had no difficulty in rejecting the amendment, seeking to control the power of the Home Secretary. A second amendment was moved by Mr. Lyod Jones that there should be a proviso to the clause to the effect that the rules to be framed under it should not give any power to the governor or other official of any local or convict prison, to order any prisoner to be punished by means of corporal correction; thus leaving the Secretary of State alone to sanction rules for jail floggings. When pointed out that such was the law at present, Mr. Jones proposed that the Committee should recommend to the House that the practice of maintaining discipline in jails by flogging should be wholly given up. He pointed out that the local prisons in Scotland and Ireland were all administered without this form of punishment; and he failed to understand "why on earth it should be necessary to keep it up in this country". He denounced "the brutality of this form of punishment" and put before the Committee some instances of the effect produced by it on prisoners. He was warmly backed up by Messrs. Davitt and Dillon; and even the first speaker on the opposite side, Mr. Goulburn, took his side.

At an adjourned meeting of the Committee it appeared that neither the present Home Secretary nor his predecessor, Mr. Asquith, was prepared to accept the principle of Mr. Jones proposal. But Sir M. W. Ridley had considered the matter in the interval, and expressed his desire to make some concession. He announced that he was ready to provide that "flogging should be ordered in cases of mutiny and grave cases of personal violence." But he would not go beyond that. It was at this point that Sir Henry Fowler came to the rescue of Mr. Jones. He said that he wished that corporal punishment in prisons were abolished altogether. But the Committee could not hope to get that from Parliament with the two Home Secretaries against them. He was, therefore, anxious not to lose possible reforms, in a vain pursuit of one which appears to him to be for the present impossible. "What I hate", he went on to say, "is the secret flogging which now goes on. The governor and warder ought to be taken out of this matter altogether, and there should be an impartial tribunal, open to public criticism." Sir M. W. Ridley at once accepted the proposal of Sir Henry Fowler. Here is a triumph for the cause of humanity; and one might hope that its effect will be far-reaching.

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON who is chivalrous enough to take all responsibility upon himself for the blunders and oppressive acts of his subordinates, has at last found reason to believe that discretion may sometimes be better than valour. Says our London correspondent, regarding the release, or, rather partial release, of the Natu brothers:—

However, though I feel disappointed that so important an episode, as a debate raised on the presentation of a petition, has not come off, I can only rejoice in the fact that the mere threat of such a debate has accomplished the release of these cruelly-treated men, which ought to have been brought about by the mere conviction of Damodar.

Lord George Hamilton, though very honest, had no experience nor knowledge of India; and he therefore placed himself entirely at the disposal of the authorities here. He felt that the Indian authorities would not betray him, and even if they did, his packed majority in the House of Commons would protect him from any possible danger. But his late experiences must have made him a wiser man. He, no doubt, feels now that he ought to have hesitated twice before sanctioning the wild proposals of the authorities in India, submitted evidently at a moment of passion and prejudice. His Lordship also must have found out by this time, that even a packed majority can not protect a British statesman from the consequences of his blunder. In reply to the questions of Messrs. Roberts and MacNeill, His Lordship was pleased to say:—

As regards question 3, I am unable to add anything to the statement which I have already made in this House, relative to the reasons which induced the Government of Bombay to take action under the Regulation of 1827.

Of course, our readers see that this question meant an explanation from Lord George Hamilton as to why he had deported the Natu brothers. Here is a question to which, however, Lord George Hamilton can never give an answer; for, he has none to give. They were deported under the impression that this arrangement would secure the elucidation of the mystery of the murders committed at Poona. The Bombay Government never thought the after-consequences of their violent act. The poor victimized Secretary of State was persuaded to believe that the deportation of the brothers would not only secure the detection of the murderers, but also the unveiling of the conspiracy which the Poona Brahmins had formed for the purpose of doing something dreadful. With such promises, Lord George Hamilton was, no doubt, persuaded to give his sanction to the deportation. We hope, the Secretaries of State who follow Lord George Hamilton, will profit by the lesson, which is that it is impossible for any statesman, however strongly supported, to override law and justice.

OUR Bombay correspondent has supplied us with the following particulars about the Press Committee in Poona:—

As to the Press Committee in Poona, I have very little to inform you. Similar Press Committees are being appointed in all districts. In Bombay City, the task of organizing a Committee is entrusted to the Police Commissioner, who begins work from to morrow (29th May). Generally speaking, the work is assigned to Deputy Collectors; but as there are several newspapers in Poona, non-official Honorary Magistrates are taken in to assist. The papers are divided among the Committee, and the order changes by rotation of 2 months in Poona. Each member is to read the papers entrusted to him, and report objectionable passages with translations to the District Magistrate, who may, if he likes, call upon the editor for an explanation, or he may browbeat the editor under the pretence of giving him information.

If the information of our correspondent be correct, it is hardly in keeping with the reply of the Secretary of State in connection with this matter.

WHEN the last mail left England, Sir William Wedderburn and the Indian Parliamentary Committee were arranging for a full-dress debate in the House of Commons on the new Sedition Bill. It is said that Sir William Harcourt is inclined to support Sir William in the matter. It is further reported that not a few Tories have signified their intention of joining Sir William.

MR. LAMB, District Magistrate of Poona, has informed the Editor of the *Maharatta* that the statement, published in the issue of that paper of the 17th April, that a shooting pass was given to Gunner Piper, is not correct. The Gunner went out without a pass, and has been punished by the military authorities. We are not told about the nature of the punishment awarded.

HERE is an off-shoot of the case of Mr. Durant which is now being heard by the Chief Presidency Magistrate of Bombay, and to whose extraordinary conduct, while in Court, we referred the other day. On Tuesday Mr. Durant forwarded to Mr. Justice Strachey an application in which he complained of misconduct against the trying Magistrate and the officers connected with the case for the prosecution. The application was delivered at the bungalow of Mr. Justice Strachey. It will be considered to-day when Mr. Justice Parsons and Mr. Justice Strachey will preside over the appellate Court.

SEVERAL correspondents have made inquiries of us, regarding the system of recruitment of Superintendents of Post Offices. We may state for their information that the post of Superintendent is not given at once to an outsider, at least, to an Indian candidate. A register is kept in the Office of the Director-General, in which names of eligible candidates are noted down. Any one who wishes to be enrolled as a candidate, should apply to the Director-General. Out of these candidates, the Director-General selects some on the occurrence of vacancies, and appoints them as Probationary Superintendents on Rs. 100 a month. These Probationary Superintendents and other persons who hold permanent posts in the Postal Department, are allowed to appear at the Departmental examination. By passing the Departmental examination, an officer only becomes eligible for employment as a Superintendent; he has no claim to be appointed as a Superintendent.

HERE is a story, hailing from Poona. Shortly after the deportation of the Natu brothers the elder one made a representation to the Government, charging Mr. Kenned, the District Superintendent of Police, with having used abusive language towards him. Whether the petition was read or not, nobody can say. But this far is certain that no action has been taken under it. Now when the *Champion* of Bombay published the correspondence between the Government and the Natu brothers, the *Maharatta* reprinted the petition, referred to above. This had an electric effect upon the Poona officials. The District Magistrate of Poona asked the Editor of the *Maharatta* to substantiate the charges, embodied in the petition. It did not occur to him that the *Maharatta* only reprinted the official matter, and at the worst, he could only be an abettor, and the proper party to whom they ought to have referred in this connection, was the Natu brothers. The Editor of the *Maharatta*, as was to be expected, expressed his willingness to withdraw the charges, if a contradiction came from Mr. Kennedy; but, as Mr. Kennedy has not come forward with a contradiction, the matter stands where it stood before the District Magistrate of Poona interfered.

MR. LE FANU has been appointed as acting fourth member of the Board of Revenue and Commissioner of Land Revenue of Madras.

THE Kabul bazar has never been fuller of North-West Frontier Pathan which looks significant.

THE Government of Bengal has appointed Marine Court to sit and investigate the circumstances attending the collision between the B. I. S. N. Company's steamers Lindula and Mecca off the Sandheads. Saturday has been fixed for the sitting.

REPORTS from various districts show that the rice weevil—a destructive and dangerous pest—is evidently spreading and becoming seriously active in the paddy stores. There is no doubt that the insect, which is rapidly distributing itself throughout Ceylon, is of the same species as that found in India, the destructive powers of which are well-known.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

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POLICE.—Mr. F. C. T. Haliday, Assistant Superintendent of Police, is posted to Serampore.

THE CHAPPAHATI RIOT.—The accused in connection with this riot, a report of which already appeared in this paper, will be placed on their trial on Monday next before Mr. Forrester, Joint-Magistrate of Alipore.

THE CALCUTTA MEDICAL COLLEGE:—Surgeon-Major G. F. Harris, Civil Surgeon of Nagpur, succeeds Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel G. Bomford, who takes one year's furlough, as Principal of the Medical College, Calcutta.

TIR PROCESSION AT GAYA.—The Shias of Gaya held their Tir procession on Wednesday morning without the least friction or opposition from the mob. Great credit is due to Mr. Oldham, District Magistrate, and Mr. Halliday, District Superintendent of Police, who personally accompanied the procession, for their excellent police arrangements.

NEW RAILWAY PROJECTS.—Among important New Railway projets to be carried out is a line from Midnapur to the Jherria coal-fields, which will be built by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Co., from Jherria. The line will be eventually extended to Hazaribagh and Chota-Nagpur platue, which will be served by two branches on the two-foot gauge.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—A Bengalee woman, while crossing the lines on Tuesday near Agarparah Station, was run over and killed by the up Darjiling mail train.—An Engineering Department coolie was knocked down at Sealdah Station by a Pilot Engine, and was so seriously injured as to necessitate his removal to hospital where he is detained.

MOHURRUM FESTIVAL AT HOOGHLY.—A correspondent writes:—"It is gratifying to see that the Mohurrum has brought forth the charitable spirit of the rich and well-to-do members of the Mahomeden community at Hooghly into full play. The munificence displayed on Wednesday at the Hooghly Emambara is worthy of special notice, the Moslem community having distributed charity with an unstinted hand.

A TAIZA OF ICE.—His Highness the Maharajah of Scindia has conceived the happy idea of putting up a *taiza* to be made entirely of ice of variegated colours, and Messrs. John and Co. of Calcutta, have despatched by a special train one thousand maunds of coloured ice in blocks for the purpose to the capital of His Highness.—*Advocate of India.*

A SNAKE STORY.—The *Manorama*, a Calicut paper, says, that in the Iruvanji river, which forms the boundary between Calicut and Ernad, some hitherto unknown green snakes have made their appearance. Three or four persons where bitten by these snakes and died. Some others who also were bitten were successfully treated by a Moplah physician named P. Kader.

A BIG-LEGGED SNAKE.—The *Bankura Darpan* says, that some cow-boys killed the other day a big snake of the *Dhonra* species, seven culits long, on the bank of a tank near Ramsagar. The snake, curiously enough, had two legs at the lower part of its tail. Every-one of the locality who saw it expressed his surprize at this peculiarity of the snake. The snake has been kept hanging for public show.

SOME NATURAL PHENOMENA.—A correspondent writes from Sinpur that on the nigh of the 21st ultimo, a little before 9 P. M., a very peculiar dazzling light shot out, accompanied by a roaring thunder. The inhabitants of the place were dumb-foundered by the intensity of the light. The *Pallibasi* says, that on the 28th ultimo, at about 7-45 P.M., a meteor came down towards the south of Raneegunj like a flaming fire. As soon as it appeared to fall on the ground, a sort of peculiar thundering sound was heard.

THE RAVAGES OF WILD ANIMALS.—A Goonda and a Tusker elephant, both "must," have been causing damage in the villages in the vicinity of Barpathar, in North Lakhimpur, by breaking into granaries, trampling on cultivation, and chasing men and cattle, and a reward of Rs. 50 for each animal is offered to anyone killing them. The Goonda is about nine feet high and very heavily built, tail complete, and massive head, which it carries very high. The Tusker is about nine feet high, tusks showing about 18 inches below lips, but not so heavily built as the Goonda; tail is complete.

ON the 25th May three men of the Middlesex Regiment entered a tobacco shop in Cannanore (Malabar) and made themselves disagreeable. Report was sent to the Officer Commanding who had them arrested,

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Pandicad:—A Moplah lad who, for having taken part in the outbreak of 1894, was sent to the Chingelput Reformatory, has come down here, this being his native place, for a holiday. He reads and writes English well and goes about trying to teach his co-religionists the folly and futility of indulging in fanaticism.

A MALABAR paper reports that some days ago a gang of hillmen attacked a party of native ladies who were going from Waluvanad to a distant place for a wedding ceremony. The ladies had no men in their party. The robbers took advantage of this circumstance and began to ease the travellers of their jewels. At this juncture, a couple of Police men happened to come along, and they, finding no other means of arresting the robbers fired on them, pretty severely wounding one who was sent to the Angadipuram Hospital, where he is now being treated. The matter is under enquiry.

THE PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

OFFICIAL RETURNS.

On Wednesday, one Ram Bharaj died at 3 p. m. at Jaggernath ghat near Howrah Bridge, reported by the Medical College authorities.

On Thursday, three cases were reported by the Medical College, the Campbell School and the Police authorities respectively. The last named patient found at 51 Bentinck Street, died in the night.

A DEATH.

THERE was another case on the 2nd instant. Bindu, a Hindu female of 55 years of age, residing at 24-1 Goopee Mohon Bose's Lane, died on Thursday at the Campbell Hospital.

A SEIZURE.

Surban, 10 years, male, Hindu, from 6, Marquis Street, detected by the Medical Officer of the district.

DETAILS OF PATIENTS.

The details of the three cases reported on the 2nd instant are as follows:—(1) Etwarri—26 years, female, Hindu, from 60, Cowies Lane, died. (2) Sahebjan, 27 years, male, Mahomedan, from 51, Bentinck Street, died. (3) Sobrathi, 20 years, male, Mahomedan, from 44, Tiretta Bazar, is lying in the Medical College Hospital.

PLAGUE EXPENSES.

The Municipal plague hospitals and segregation camps have, between them, cost pretty nearly a lakh of rupees. The officers, nurses, and others employed by the Municipality will have to be paid by the Corporation; disinfectants have been purchased in large quantities; the conservancy establishment, now under the Engineer, has been supplemented by two Royal Engineer officers. Altogether the financial outlook for the Calcutta Municipality, with a depleted treasury, is not very assuring.

THE COOLIE DIFFICULTY.

ON account of scarcity of coolies in Calcutta several mercantile firms, such as Messrs. Bird and Co., Ralli Brothers and Co., made an experiment of employing Eurasian beggars as coolies on high wages. The experiment is, however, said to have been a total failure, as the lot, after working for a few days, bolted, declining to work, and preferring to beg.

PLAGUE HOSPITAL FOR THE MEHTARS.

THE mehtars in some of the Wards of the city are, with the consent of the Ward Commissioners, erecting plague hospitals for their families and themselves.

THE SHORT STREET CASE.

IT now transpires that the case of the man, a ice-seller, who was found dead in his house at No. 1, Short Street, and whose body was sent to the Campbell Hospital for *post mortem* examination, was not one of plague at all. He was a foot-ball player, and the state of his groin arose, his father states, from a fall on the foot-ball field. He died from either tonsilitis or dysentery.

An eye-witness writes to the *Indian Daily News*:—With reference to the report in your columns of Tuesday last as to the man who died of plague in Short Street, I hope you will kindly allow me to give the following particulars:

On Saturday the man seemed quite well. On Sunday the door was closed all day and up to mid-day on Monday, when the neighbours heard a noise and groaning in the godown, they forced an entrance and found the man in very high fever. At 5 P. M. a European lady took upon herself to go and see the sick man to satisfy herself whether it was plague or not. She saw the man but found no swelling of the throat. As he seemed very weak and unable to speak, she drove to the police thana in Park Street and reported the case there, when two native policemen were sent, one of which remained all night at the door of the godown watching the sick man. The man died between 7 and 8 on Tuesday morning in great agony. Dr. Pittifer arrived after death, and had the body removed. Later on Dr. Frank Clemow arrived and had the place disinfected.

My object, Mr. Editor, in writing the above is to ask why was no medical aid sent to this poor man between 7 P. M. on Monday night and 7 or 8 A. M. on Tuesday morning, when he expired? Can you inform me also what is the difference between this burriffwalla and the Government House sweeper, who was attended to with such prompt care? I understand that the man's goods and chattels are still in the godown. If it was a case of plague should not the things have been burnt to keep the disease from spreading?

TRAMWAY COMPANY'S DIFFICULTIES.

IT must have been rather annoying to one of the Veterinary employes of the Tramway Company, to be compelled to feed the horses at certain depot at 11 P. M. in consequence of the regular native servants having deserted their posts on account of the plague scare. But this what actually happened says the *Indian Daily News*, a couple of nights ago. The Tramway Company are now very shorthanded the majority of their syces having deserted them.

THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE CASE.

THE case of the mehtar who was found suffering from plague in the servants' quarters of Government House turns out to be one of real plague. The officers of the Health Department proceeded to Government House on Wednesday to have all his effects burnt, but his relatives objected to this. Inspector Phelan had the whole place thoroughly disinfected, and some of the things removed.

PRAYER TO GODDESS KALI.

About 200 Adhyapaks gathered at Kalighat Temple on Thursday morning to offer prayers and make sacrifical offerings to the Goddess Kali for the suppression of the plague.

EXODUS FROM CALCUTTA.

Arrivals and departures during 24 hours to midnight of 2nd June:—Howrah: Departures—100, arrivals—500, both short of normal.—Sealdah: Departures 474 short of normal, arrivals 2097 excess of normal.—The arrivals at Sealdah are said to be in excess in consequence of the courts and offices opening after the holidays.

CORRECTIONS IN DAILY PLAGUE LISTS.

The Secretary to the Calcutta Corporation sent to us the following for publication under Thursday's date:—(1) Death in Ward No. 4 on 10th May, 1898:—This death occurred at Manicktolla Hospital in Ward No. 4, but was afterwards corrected and placed in Ward No. 19, the man's residence being 170 Lower Circular Road.

(2) Seizure in Ward No. 4 on 15th May, 1898:—In this case the number of the house was not given. The Commissioner after a searching enquiry has come to the conclusion that the case did not occur in Ward No. 4.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

DEATH OF A BHOONAWALLA

THE bhoonawalla, who was found dead in his hut, at No. 1, Convent Road, Entally, is reported to have died of the true plague, and his hut and all his belongings, a large store of grain and other seed, were, on Thursday burnt, and the hut disinfected.

INOCULATIONS.

Several respectable Mahomedans, residing in Komedan Bagan Lane, have sent in applications to the Health Officer offering themselves for inoculation.

TREATMENT IN THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Babu Atul Chandra Ghose, Member, Vigilance Committee, Ward No. IV, writes to us under date the 2nd instant:—Sir,—Will you or any of your numerous readers, conversant with the facts, enlighten me on the following points:

(1) What sort of medicine is being administered to persons removed to isolation hospitals who are suspected to be suffering from plague?

(2) What is the effect of administering medicines prescribed for bubonic plague to persons who are not actually suffering from that disease?

(3) If there is any death or acceleration of death by reason of wrong diognosis and wrong application of medicine, or want of proper treatment and nursing, in the case of any person forcibly removed to the isolation hospitals, who can be held responsible for the same, if any, and if not, why not?

THE CROSS CASE.

The following letter appeared in Thursday's *Indian Daily News*, regarding the Cross case:—SIR,—Will you or any of your numerous readers kindly oblige me with the following information for the satisfaction of my brother-in-law, Mr. J. H. Cross, Telegraph Master, Karachi, who has lately lost his wife (my sister), and one of his daughters, Fanny?

(1) When and where have the remaining children of the said Mr. J. H. Cross been removed? They were under the care of Mrs. Spain, of No. 62, Bow Bazar Street from whom I could not get this information.

(2) At whose instance and under what circumstances have they been so removed?

(3) If they were removed to any of the plague hospitals, what is the name of that hospital, and how are they doing there at present?

I am very anxious for the above information, as the children have been removed *without my knowledge*, and as I have been earnestly requested by their father to send him this information as soon as possible.—Yours, etc.

WALLACE E. GODFREY,
Coroner's Court House,
309, Bow Bazar Street.

Calcutta, the 2nd June, 1898.

INTIMATION has been received at Bangalore that four indigenous plague cases have appeared at Ganeshpet, Hubli.

THE Plague Committee of Karachi has asked the Commissioner in Sind to issue a notification under the Epidemic Diseases Act forbidding crews of vessels arriving from Europe landing at Karachi. A similar order has been passed for vessels arriving from Indian ports.

A DISTURBANCE occurred in the Kuddah quarter of Karachi owing, it is said, to the refusal of the people to allow a patient to be removed to the Plague Hospital. A detachment of Grenadiers accompanied by the General and three officers, were soon on the spot, the men going by tramcar as far as practicable.

THE Bombay returns for June 2 show that there were only two attacks and eight deaths from plague reported on that day. The total mortality from all causes was 84, as against 89 on the same date last year and 86 the year before. The Karachi returns on the same day show 20 cases and 20 deaths. The totals to date are 2,663 cases and 2,099 deaths.

ON Monday the Vigilance Committee of Andul Road, Howrah, while out on their usual visit, found a man suffering from fever, and suspecting him to be suffering from plague, removed him to the plague hospital. In the hospital the man was examined by Dr. Bovil, Civil Surgeon of Howrah, who pronounced it to be a case of ordinary fever.

The "Burdwan Sanjibani" says:—A syce in the employ of the District Magistrate, told the Station Master the other day that a European inoculator was expected that day in the town. On being asked as to the source of his information he said that he had heard it from the Magistrate himself. Upon this the Station Master wrote to the Magistrate who put the syce on his trial and sentenced him to three months' imprisonment.

PLAGUE SCARE AT BENARES.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Wildest reports are current in the city with regard to the Plague regulations. It is useless to give them here; but I am sorry that no attempt is being made to re-assure the public mind by the authorities. You have given room to letters discussing the Municipal affairs at Benares. It is a great shame that the Municipal Board should be sitting idle with the plague near at hand. The lethargy of the Board has become proverbial; but it was unexpected that it won't wake, even when awakened by bubonic plague. The cleansing-up of the entire town has become indispensable. The Board cannot put it off for another day. No place requires more cleaning as those behind the Municipal Office itself. There are mohallas where drains are allowed to flow perpetually and which the Board is neglecting to repair. I know of places close to the Municipal Office, where it is impossible to live owing to filth and stagnation. It should be made the duty of the Board to take up the cleansing of those places immediately. I have no fault to find with the officers of the Board. The Health Officer, I know for a fact, has recommended many reforms, including the repair of the drains above mentioned; but the City Fathers themselves have refused to allot funds.

Benares, A GOOD RATE-PAYER.

ACCORDING to the latest reports from Kabul, the Amir has steadfastly refused to see any of the numerous tribal maliks who are now in that city. They are hospitably entertained, but no other encouragement is given them to remain.

WE understand that Babu RamBrohmo Sanyal, Superintendent of the Zoo, has left Calcutta by Wednesday's mail for Europe, to acquire experience for the improvement of the Zoo. He is likely to remain there for four months.

SEDITION IN THE NATIVE PRESS.

(The Englishman, 1st June, 1898.)

IT is with extreme reluctance that we refer again to the flagrant way in which a certain section of native press in Calcutta is attempting to rouse racial animosity towards the English in India, a cource of conduct malevolent and evil at all times, but especially malevolent and evil at the present moment considering the excited state of the town. In writing the other day on the same subject we stated that it was foreign to our purpose to particularize offenders, but we now consider it our duty—because the paper in question has absolutely overstepped the bounds of all decency—to draw attention to the chief mischief-maker. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is a sheet unknown, expect perhaps in name, to Europeans and natives of high position, but it has a certain circulation among the more rabid of our citizens, and, we have reason to believe, is largely quoted from by the cheaper vernacular prints both in town and the mofussil. Always intent on embarrassing and annoying the Government, this paper, ever since the appearance of plague in Calcutta has been consistently, by means of editorial remarks and garbled reports, attempting to induce the population to resist the wise and moderate measures undertaken by Sir John Woodburn and his advisers to check the progress of the disease. Shielding itself under such phrases as "it is said," "the people believe" the *Amrita Bazar Patikra* without making any specific denial of the truth of the statements, has been giving currency to the wildest rumours that have spread panic and terror, and anger, throughout the town, and has covertly encouraged those who offered violence to the plague authorities. Here is a sample paragraph taken from the issue dated the 27 h of May: "People have ceased to believe in the existence of the disease in the city, and, therefore, they have little sympathy for many of the energetic steps, which entail suffering taken by the Government to stamp it out. On the other hand, a good many have come to feel that it is a duty that they owe to God, to the State, to the country, and to themselves, to oppose what they fancy the 'oppressions' of the plague authorities upon the people. Of course, there are a good many *budmashes*, but there are honest men, too, who are fired by a high and noble feeling to adopt this policy of opposition." The paper then goes on to refer in terms of praise to the conduct of Ashutosh Chackravarti, the ruffian who has just been sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment for assaulting Dr. S. N. Bose of the Health Office.

We scarcely care to make further quotations, but it is necessary that Europeans who never see these native papers and are opposed on general grounds to repressive legislation should know the source of the strange and gross disaffection apparent in Calcutta and its vicinity. Referring to the plague rules, the *Amrita* writes: "Already the Government has made 'great concessions,' says the *Englishman*, with regard to its plague policy. 'Concessions'—is it? Despotic rule in India has so demoralized a certain class of Englishmen that they cannot forget for a moment that they are masters. Self-willedness is the breath of their nostrils: If they speak a kind word they make concessions; if they agree in one simple particular with the Indians, they make concessions. They think that as the Government enjoys absolute authority, its duty is to exercise it always, and to make the people feel it always, and they make concessions when they make them feel for one moment that they and the Government are the same. What a demoralization for the inhabitants of England, the birth-place of freedom!" But it is in connection with the Bhowanipur disturbance that the *Amrita* has made the most outrageous attacks upon the plague officers and upon the Government. Distorting not only the reports that appeared in the English-edited papers, but also the evidence given before the Magistrate of Alipur, it calls on the Government to put on his trial before the Sessions Dr. Laing who was "the cause of the death of two creatures of God who had gone there not to murder the sahib but to see the fun." One of the "creatures of God" was a young man, deposed by Dr. Laing to have appeared about twenty-two years of age, armed with what looked like an iron bar, and the "fun" was an attempt by a furious and angry mob to hound the doctor to the death. Again referring to the same outrage the same paper writes: "Where is the safety of the citizens when the town is in the possession of plague officers, who feel themselves in the midst of belligerents, with loaded revolvers in their hands, ready to fire upon the people at the slightest disturbance?" But it is not only in connection with the plague that the *Amrita* has been attempting to set the populace on fire against the English. Throughout its career the paper has been ransacking the corners of India to find instances of "alleged" brutality, cruelty, and oppression—afterwards dilating on them, in spite of all evidence to the contrary, as if they were proved facts.

As case recently came up for revision before the Allahabad High Court in which a European was charged with killing a native at Cawnpore. The evidence conclusively showed that there was no doubt the unfortunate fatality was due to an accident, and so Mr. Justice Aikman found. On this the *Amrita* writes: "It is quite true that he, (the European in question) did not mean to kill but the illiterate masses judge a man from his acts and not intentions. The object lessons presented to them frequently are these: They see one of their fellows kicked or shot to death by an European. The European is made to go through a sort of trial and then allowed to go scot-free. Similarly they see that in rioting cases, innocent spectators are sometimes either shot dead or punished severely as *budmashes*. Those who killed hese innocent men, however, get no punishment whatever. Naturally they come to believe that when so little value is put on their liberties and lives, it is quite possible that ticca-wallahs have been let loose to kill them with a subtle poison!" The above quotation exactly illustrates the methods of these journals. It is a comment—remember—on an accident and the outrageous reflections are put in the mouths of the "illiterate masses". Now we know very well that the illiterate masses do not think as the *Amrita* suggests. That paper attempts to put these ideas into the heads of the poor, and in doing so shows its own disloyalty and disaffection. Put in plain words the suggestion is that there is no law or justice in the land. "The European is made to go through a sort of trial and then allowed to go scot-free. Such a statement is not merely gross contempt of court: it is an extremely seditious and dangerous utterance. And baleful words like these are not mere exceptional remarks called forth by exceptional occurrences, but are uttered day after day and week after week by the same journals. They are read by the literate to the illiterate, and are gradually, in spite of their untruthfulness, sinking deep into the hearts of the masses in the bazars, with what dire results we already know.

It is an affection among the seditious journalists to urge that neither the Government here nor the people in England look on their remarks as disloyal or dangerous. So far as the Government of Bengal is concerned, this is what the Chief Secretary wrote to the Government of India on the proposed amendments to the Indian Penal Code:

"There has been incessant writing tending to bring the Government, whether in itself or through its officers, into hatred and contempt; and such writing, though not immediately leading to resistance by force to the Government, cannot fail by its umulative effect to create disaffection and ill-will, and thus produce such a state of feeling as may eventually prove dangerous to the maintenance of order and find its culmination in active resistance" Sir Alexander Mackenzie's half-expressed fear has proved prophetic. The disaffection and ill-will created by papers like the *Amrita* has culminated in active resistance to the authorities. But the feeling that a certain section of the native press is really becoming a danger to the Empire is not confined to this country. Sir John Woodburn, speaking in the Imperial Council Chamber on the sedition amendments made use of the following words, and having come as they did from the man who is now ruling this Province, it is well that the people in this Province should pay heed to them: "In quite recent issues of respectable native papers it has been asserted that disloyalty does not exist. On this matter I should like to say one word as to the effect produced in England by this language. The interest in India has never been so keen and so universal as it is in England now. Sympathy was aroused by the unprecedented calamities which befell this unfortunate country last year. But an active organization, I understand, circulated in England the argument that the utterances of Mr. Tilak were not sedition. Now the ordinary Briton is a simple man who pins his faith on facts when he can get them. He asked himself: What is this? The Queen's Privy Council presided over by Her Majesty's Lord Chancellor has held that Mr. Tilak was guilty of sedition. Is it the case that the Indians, who profess to be men of leading and the representatives of enlightenment in this country, think and hold that disloyalty is their privilege? Is it for this that the British Government has patiently persisted in its policy of education, and has from step to step advanced them in the administration of the country? I do not like to speak of the dark resentment which this attitude I speak of roused in the minds of people in England. It is a result which every friend of India and the Indians must deplore." We have shown that the Government and the people of England are fully alive to the fact that sedition does exist in India, and actual and painful occurrences have proved—in a form far more weighty and cogent than mere printed words—how very hurtful to the welfare of the Empire that sedition is. It is needless, therefore, to write further.

THE announcement regarding Lord Elgin's successor is expected to be made early next month.

IN Mussoorie, four men have been arrested on a charge of preaching sedition in the Landour Bazar, and in consequence, a general feeling of unrest prevails.

A PECULIAR case of some interest is pending in the Court of the Deputy Commissioner of Simla. A few days ago, Mr. Hensman, the *Pioneer's* correspondent, while attending a cricket match, lost his watch and some other articles from his coat pocket. He reported the loss to the Police. A few days after, the latter, on getting certain information, arrested a European lad who confessed the theft. The juvenile accused is now on bail..

A SERIOUS riot took place at Mooltan between the Hindus and Mussalmans on the last day of the *Maharam*. Knives were freely used by the disputants, and altogether thirty-six persons were injured, some seriously, including one Hindu who received a severe knife-wound in the abdomen, and is in a critical condition. Captain Egerton, Deputy Commissioner, and Mr. L. N. Broome, District Superintendent of Police, were on the scene; and a squadron of the 9th Bengal Lancers was called out. The scene was one of the greatest excitement; and fifty-two Mahomedans and two Hindus were arrested. The city was patrolled all night, but no further outbreak occurred.

THE Queen has approved of the appointmen, of Sir Philip Percival Hutchins, K. C. S. It at present Secretary in the Judicial and Public Department of the India Office, to be a member of the Council of India in succession to Sir Alexander Arbuthnot. The Secretary of State has chosen Sir Charles James Lyall, K. C. S. I., C. I. E., at present Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, to succeed Sir Philip Hutchins as Secretary in the Judicial and Public Department, the vacancy thus caused in the Chief Commissionership of the Central Provinces will be filled by the appointment of Mr. Denzil Ibbetson, C. S. I., at present Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture. Mr. J. W. Holderness, C. S. I., at present on special duty with the Famine Commission, will be appointed Secretary in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture, in place of Mr. Ibbetson. Sir Charles Lyall will leave India in the middle of July, and other changes consequent on his departure will not take place until that time.

The following is the version of the Ghatal riot, as reported in the *Englishman*:—

"Ghatal, the abode of several wealthy merchants, and a sub-division of Midnapore, was the scene of a most determined riot, a few days ago, over the proposed building of a segregation hospital. About a biggah of land, a little distance from a rich rice-merchant's house, was taken up for the hospital; but he raised an objection, and as usual, this objection was so distorted and exaggerated to the rabble that they decided at once, in the spirit of their brother-oppositionists of Calcutta, to take the law into their own hands, and forthwith marched out, in a body of about two thousand strong, to dismantle the partly-erected structure, shouting, as they went, that they would beat the Deputy Magistrate's head if he attempted to build the hospital or introduce inoculation. The small police force at the disposal of the Sub-divisional Officer proved far too weak to cope against such odds; and, after a very courageous attempt to disperse the crowd and a few slight casualties, reinforcements were telegraphed for from Midnapore. The Magistrate himself left head-quarters the same night with a body of about 50 armed constables in charge of an Inspector for the scene of the disturbance. The crowd, however, on seeing the Magistrate and armed police approach, dispersed evidently in very bad humour at being thwarted. All is now quiet, and the hospital built up. The 50 armed police have been stationed at Ghatal to suppress any further disturbance, which may break out afresh on the arrival of the first psuedo-inoculator. Three of the wounded rioters have since died, and 37 arrested are awaiting their trial at head-quarters."

The *Englishman* writes also a short paragraph in this connection. There are, however, some curious discrepancies between the facts given in the report and those in the paragraph. For instance, according to the report, "the crowd, on seeing the armed police approach, dispersed," while in the paragraph we read "a further armed force was called out, but as the crowd did not disperse, the police had no alternative but to fire on the mob, killing and wounding several". Then, regarding the encounter between the local police and the alleged rioters, the report says that "there were a few casualties," while according to the paragraph, "the police were severely assaulted." Which are we to believe?

A UNIONIST M P.'S REVOLT.

SEVERE CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT.

THE reasons which led Mr. Finch-Hatton to resign his seat in the House of Commons where he represented Newark have recently been published in the Home Press. They are contained in a letter addressed to Lord Newark which, although dated April 5th, was kept private in order that it might not affect the bye-election. It runs:—

My Dear Newark,—It is with profound regret that I have come to the conclusion that it is no longer for the advantage of my constituents that I should continue to represent them in Parliament, and I have therefore decided to resign my seat.

The fact is I find it impossible to support the present Government any longer, since it has now become quite apparent that both their foreign policy and their domestic legislation are entirely opposed to the traditions and to the principles of the Conservative party, to which I have always belonged, and are, in my opinion, injurious to the best interests of the nation.

At the general election of 1895 from every platform came assurances of what the Conservatives would do for distressed agriculture if they were returned to power, but up to now thy Government has done absolutely nothing, except to pass the Agricultural Rating Act, A measure so ill drawn that it has, in the case of many small holders, increase, the evil which it was intended to diminish.

A solid majority of 150 rendered Mr. Arthur Balfour independent of the Irish vote, and gave him an opportunity, unique in history, of settling the Irish land question on a just and reasonable basis. Instead of this, however, he elected to pursue the course of making further concessions to the Irish faction, a course which necessity made imperative upon his predecessors, but for which, in his case, not even a plea of expediency can be urged.

Home Rule, we are told, is to be killed with kindness, and in furtherance of this extraordinary delusion the property of the Irish landlords, and with it the most elementary principles of justice, have been flung into the insatiable maw of Irish disloyalty.

The Irish Land Act of 1896 is founded upon principles which Mr. Balfour himself has condemned in the past as dishonest and unsound. Involving as it does confiscation of property and interference with the freedom of contract, it constitutes not so much an attack upon Irish landlords as a class, as upon the principles of honesty and justice, which form the only permanent foundations to civilised society.

As a precedent for future legislation its importance can hardly be over-estimated, and its evil effects will continue, to be felt, with events increasing severity, not only in Ireland, but throughout the United Kingdom.

If any further evidence were required that whatever the Government may be in name, they are Socialists in reality, it is to be found in the Employer's Liability Act of last season a measure which can only be described as punitive legislation deliberately aimed at capitalist as a class.

The foreign policy of the Government, as expounded by Mr. Chamberlain in South Africa, has warranted the assumption by other Powers that England will submit to any insult and put up with any injury sooner, than resort to force to protect the interest of British subjects.

The collapse of China in her struggle with Japan gave ample evidence that the time had arrived when her effete political system must give way to the more active influence of Western civilization, and a magnificient opportunity was afforded us of expanding our influence and consolidating our interest in China.

The opportunity has been flung away by our Government never to return while Russia acting on the assumption to which I have above alluded, that our country will submit to anything sooner than protect her interests, has secured concessions of enormous advantage to herself, and of such a nature as to be a standing menace, not only to British interests in China, but over the whole Pacific Ocean.

Mr. Balfour's statement in the House of Commons that the impotence of China had come as a sudden revelation to him, was probably one of the most amazing confessions of incompetence that ever fell from the lips of a responsible statesman.

The small concessions which the tardily awakened interest of our Government has been able at the last moment to extort from China are in no way to be compared to those obtained by Russia, and do not palliate the unpleasant fact that the negligence of our Government has resulted in the crushing defeat of British diplomacy in China, which is of all countries in the world the one whose markets will in the near future be the most valuable to the producers of the West.

I consider that the present Government sought for and obtained the suffrages of the electors at the last election under false pretences. Their legislation at home consists for the most part of attacks upon capitalists and owners of property as a class, and their conduct of foreign affairs may rank with the most effete and pusillanimous era of Radical administration.

For these reasons I can no longer give my support to this Government, and I do not think that it is for the advantage of my constituents that I should continue to sit in the House of Commons and vote continually against Government measures.

Into the personal element of the matter I will not enter. . . . . In the whole length and breadth of the land I do not believe there is a sounder Conservative seat, nor one where the relations between the member and his constituents are so pleasant. It is, in fact, an ideal constituency. . . .

Believe me, yours sincerely,

(Signed) HAROLD-FINCH-HATTON.

A BILL to make better provision for securing house accommodation for officers in Cantonments is under the consideration of the Government of India.

ON Saturday two European soldiers, stationed at Kasauli, used violence to a cartman who was carrying barrels of whisky because he refused to supply them with the wine. They threw the whisky cart, the bullocks and the man down the *khud*. The offending soldiers will be put on their trial at Umballa.

THE *Tribune* complains that Lieutenant-Colonel Rennick. Deputy Commissioner of Jullundur, is occasionally given to abusing people who do not salute him, and striking them with his whip. The conduct of the official is all the more extraordinary, because he is not a boy-official, but one who has seen 25 years' service. The same paper has unearthed the facts of an old case, which show how jealous the officials are of the *ijjat* of an erring brother-official. A Mahomedan brought a suit against a Hindu in the court of an Assistant Commissioner of Peshawar for the recovery of a debt. The official wished to refer the parties to arbitration, but the defendant would not agree to this arrangement. Theroupon he was ordered to be put in the lock-up, and was released after two days' detention. The man appealed to the Divisional Judge, mentioning the fact; but the appeal was struck off on some technical ground. Some time after, a third man applied for copies of the record of the case. But he failed to obtain it. He then sought the help of the Chief Court and the Lieutenant-Governor, but with no better result.

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAMS.]

SIMLA, JUNE 3.

C. P. CHIEF COMMISSIONERSHIP.

The appointment of Mr. Ibbetson to succeed Sir Charles Lyall as Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces has caused much heart-burning among officers here; but the public opinion holds that a better selection was impossible in view of the work in connection with the re-assessment and land settlement in those Provinces.

UNIFORM HEAD-DRESS.

After the experience gained in the Frontier war, the Government of India decided to provide uniform head-dress for European and Native Officers of the Native Regiments; and already drawings and samples of turbans have reached the authorities here.

THE SIPI FAIR.

The Sipi Fair commences to-day and will continue for two days.

OFFICIAL CHANGES.

SIMLA, JUNE 3.

Mr. M N. CHATTERJEE, Deputy Accountant General, Punjab, is granted seven weeks' leave, Mr. Jnan Saran Chakravarty, attached to the Office of the Accountant General, Bengal, officiates for him. Dr. Bomford, Principal of the Calcutta Medical College, gets one year's privilege leave. Mr. Anderson is appointed Judge of the Punjab Chief Court.

MOSHK AND TIR PROCESSION.

GYA, JUNE 2.

The Sheas of Gaya carried out their long-cherished Moshk and Tir procession this morning without the least friction or opposition by the mob. Great credit is due to Mr. Oldham, the District Magistrate, and Mr. Halliday, the District Superintendent of Police, who personally accompanied the procession, for the most satisfactory and well-planned Police arrangement, which made any friction impossible. Moulvi Mohamed Kharshaid, the Inspector, and Babu Kishoon Giwan Doobay, the Sub-Inspector, went also, very zealously performing their duties. The whole Shea community feel highly grateful to Government, and to the above-named officers for the restoration of thier religious liberty.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS]

LONDON, JUNE 1.

A despatch from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, states that a squadron of fourteen ships under Admiral Sampson commenced a fierce bombardment of the forts and harbour of Santiagode Cuba yesterday afternoon. The Navy Department at Washington, however, has received no confirmation of this news.

The *New York World* publishes a telegram stating that two Spanish torpedo vessels made a desperate but unsuccessful attempt about midnight on Sunday to destroy the American vessels now employed in blockading the port.

LONDON, JUNE 1.

A severe monetary crisis has arisen in Spain. The Cortes has passed a bill prohibiting the export of coined or uncoined silver.

LONDON, JUNE 1.

A British force has occupied Wei-hai-wei, and measures are now being taken to improve the fortifications.

LONDON, JUNE 1.

The official despatches, received at Madrid confirm the news received from Port-au-Prince of the American attack on Santiago, and state that Admiral Schley, began the bombardment of the ports. The Spanish ironclad Colon guarded the entrance to the harbour and replied to the Americans, who were repulsed, and admit that one of their auxiliary cruisers was seriously damaged, but claim that they have silenced and distroyed the principal Spanish fort and killed many who were manning the batteries. Nevertheless no official despatches of the engagement have yet been received by the Navy Department at Washington.

LONDON, JUNE 1.

Spain is arranging for an internal loan of one hundred million pesetas.

LONDON, JUNE 2.

According to a telegram from New York, the American squadron withdrew after attacking Santiago, but has now returned, and a fresh bombardment is expected. Despatches from Havana, received both in New York and Madrid, state that the ironclad Colon was the only Spanish warship at Santiago during the Tuesday's bombardment, and the other ships of Admiral Cervera's squadron were not there during the attack.

LONDON, JUNE 2.

The scarcity of silver in Spain has been provoked by a run upon the Bank of Spain for the exchange of Bank notes into specie. If this demand continues, it is anticipated the Bank will be unable to assist Government.

LONDON, JUNE 2.

M. Deschanel (Moderate) has been elected provisional President of the French Chamber of Deputies, having secured 221 votes against M. Brisson (Radical), who obtained 278 votes. The result of the voting shows the weakness of the Cabinet which supported M. Deschanel's candidature.

LONDON, JUNE 2.

It is explained in New York that Admiral Schley's sole object in bombarding Santiago on Tuesday was to prevent the erection of fortifications at the entrance of the harbour, and when the new defence were destroyed he sheered off with his squadron. It was no question of being repulsed.

LONDON, JUNE 2.

The latest report says that 3,000 insurgents are attacking Santiago from the land side, and that a bloody battle is proceeding.

LONDON, JUNE 2.

Piper Findlater has been made a gate-keeper at Balmoral Castle.

LONDON, JUNE 2.

Russia intends deepening and enlarging the harbour of Port Arthur.

LONDON, JUNE 2.

Marquis Rudini has formed a new Italian Ministry. which is colourless,

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE DACCA CONFERENCE.

SPLENDID SUCCESS.

(From our Special Correspondent)

DACCA, JUNE 2.

AFTER three days' sitting, the Fourth Provincial Conference, which met this year in the beautiful city of East Bengal, came to a close yesterday. If the attendance at the meeting and the enthusiasm displayed by those who took part in the deliberations of the meeting, and the devotion shown by them to the cause, display any indications of the success of the session, the Dacca Conference can be pronounced, without any hesitation, a most successful one. Not only this, the holding of the Conference this year in the ancient city of Dacca, where people had been leading, to all intents and purposes, a life dormant of political activity, infused spirit in the dry bones and thus managed to make a political revival among them. On a very inauspicious day, the day on which the whole Bengal, specially the East Bengal, had been convulsed to an extent, the like of which it had never experienced before Dacca issued forth her invitations to the delegates assembled at the Nattore Conference to meet at the ancient town this year. Events which successively followed since that time only emphasised the fact, and it was believed so largely, that the sitting of the Conference would have to be postponed inasmuch as the Conference would be bound to be a failure if it had been held at a time when plague was, according to the officials, making slow but sure progress not only in the town of Calcutta but in other places as well. The Dacca people, however, rose equal to the occasion and entirely agreeing with the views of one or two eminent individuals in Calcutta, were determined to hold the Conference at the usual time leaving the success of the cause to the cause itself.

The Conference was thus held, though amidst many difficulties, during the Maharrum holidays, on the 31st May and 1st and 2nd June. It was apparent for a very long time that the number of delegates would not be so large as in the previous sessions. The arrangement made for receiving the delegates, however, was grand. Three or four houses were secured for delegates from different quarters, and they were lodged and boarded very comfortably. Students of local colleges and schools served as volunteers and they were very willing workers. The one important feature of this year's session among others was the sale of a large number of tickets for admission into the pandal. The anxiety to secure a ticket was so great that all the tickets were sold one day before the Conference sat. The number of people present in the pandal, on the first day, including about 200 delegates, was about fifteen hundred; but this number would have for exceeded if the capacity of the pandal permitted. Although not even a standing position was left unavailed of and terraces of surrounding houses and trees round the place were not without thin crowd of occupants, many had to go away disappointed.

A nicely and tastefully decorated pandal, at a cost of nearly eight hundred rupees, was erected for the meeting of the delegates. A platform was raised on one side on which seats were provided for the President, Chairman of the Reception Committee, members of the Reception Committee and a large number of delegates. About a score of Europeans, and about a dozen Mahomedans, most of whom were members of the Reception Committee, had also their seats on the *dais*. Mr. Kemp, Editor of the *Bengal Times*, an uncompromising foe of the Congress and Conference, attended the Conference every day, and he was so far led away by the proceedings before him that on a request from the chair he made a very good speech on plague and plague measures voicing forth the popular view on the question.

The first day's proceedings were opened punctually at 12 o'clock on Monday, Babu Rabindra Nath Tagore, the sweet singer of Israel, as the President called him later on, singing a national anthem in Bengali. Babu Guru Prosad Sen, whose native home is in the district of Dacca, as Chairman of the Reception Committee. then welcomed the delegates assembled with an impressive speech. While the Chairman was addressing the house a storm of some violence broke out, and Babu Guru Prosad's speech was considerably drowned in the whizzing sound of the wind. The proceedings of the meeting were, to a great extent, marred by the storm, and there was a fear at one time of adjourning the meeting, as it might not be considered safe to remain at the time in the pavilion. The Chairman's address being over, a resolution was formally moved proposing the Hon'ble Kali Churn Banerjee to the chair. The motion was enthusiastically carried, and the President on rising to address the assembly received a perfect ovation. The deafening cheers being quieted, the President addressed the assembly for about an hour, with a speech unparalleled in eloquence, rich in suggestions and sober but at the same time dignified in tone. It was, in fact, a master-piece of its kind and it kept the audience spell-bound during the whole of the time it was delivered. The opening portion was a little indistinctly heard on account of the storm that was still blowing, but as it grew in eloquence like mists which melt away before the rising sun the storm vanished, and the spacious hall, though constructed without any attention to acoustic quality, resounded with the manly melody of a speech whose electrifying effect was felt on every heart. The President's firm conviction in the success of the movement created hope in many minds; his firm belief that though greatly fallen his country and his countryman were, God would not altogether forsake them, if they had belief in Him, and it was that hope which had induced him to identify with the movement, which raised glimmerings of hope in many hearts. When he sat down after a perroration worthy of the speech the whole audience was found to be visibly moved. It was recognised on all hands that the selection ofthe President was the happiest that the Dacca people could make. Commenced in many and serious difficulties the Conference thus had a very hopeful future before it. The day's proceedings concluded at 5 P. M.

The second day's proceedings commenced at 12-30. There were nine resolutions on the *agenda* paper, but as some lengthy speeches were made not more than six could be taken up that day. The resolutions are all given below. The first resolution was moved from the chair and it was adopted by the whole assembly standing up. Ths speech of the day was the speech of the Rev. Mr. Kerry, a member of the Reception Committee. He expressed his hearty sympathy with the object of the Conference. The Hon'ble Surendra Nath Bannerjee was entrusted with the resolution on the plague and plague measures. The resolution being duly seconded and supported was unanimously adopted. The resolution on the new Calcutta Municipal Bill was ably moved by Mr. J. Chowdhuri.

On the third day the Conference had to consider a large number of resolutions, the most important among them being the question of preserving and developing indigeneous industries. The resolution was ably moved by Babu Trailokya Nath Bose, who in a telling speech, pointed out the importance of the subject. A suggestion had been thrown out from the Chair of appointing secretaries for recording all available informations on a subject and to embody it in a report to be submited to the Congress, as by that means subject could be thoroughly considered. As the appointment of secretaries were not considered practicable at present, the Conference requested the Congress Committe to secure information and to spread Congress views among the masses.

The proceedings concluded on Wednesday. Babu Guruprosad Sen, on behalf of the Reception Committee, thanked the President and the delegates, and the President in another soul-stiring address returned the thanks. It was announced before parting that the next Conferrence would be held in the district of 24-Parganas.

The reception of the delegates was, as has been stated, grand, and nothing was left undone. To add to pleasantness of the occasion two evening parties were given, one by Babu Jogendra Nath Ray, son of Babu Janaki Nath Ray, of Bhagyakul, on Tuesday evening on board a steamer in the beautiful river on which the town of Dacca is situate and another in the magnificent building erected in honour of Lord Northbrook's visit to Dacca, Various amusements were provided on both occasions, and the delegates were highly satisfied.

The Calcutta delegates, as well as the Faridpur, Pabna, Rajshahye, and Kustea delegates left by the morning train on Thursday. Delegates from other quarters also left on that day.

The following are the full text of the resolutions unanimonsly adopted :—

Resolution I.—That this Conference desires to place on record its deep sense of the great loss which England, India, and the world at large, have sustained by the death of Mr. Gladstone, the great Apostle of Liberalism, whose sympathies were always enlisted on behalf of British subjects aspiring for the rights of British citizenship. The Conference recalls with gratitude his sympathies, in particular, with the Indian National Congress and his services in connection with the repeal of the Vernacular Press Act.

Resolution II.—That having regard to the recommendations of the Public Service Commission and to the fact that there can be no possible political objection to the wider employment of the people in the higher appointments in the Minor Civil Services, *viz.*, the Survey, the Opium, the Police, the Public Works, the Customs, the Telegraph, the Forest and the Postal Departments, this Conference prays that speedy effect be given to those recommendations

Resolution III.—That having regard to the growing needs of the Province, the steady increase of its revenues and the inadequacy of the funds placed at the disposal of the Provincial Government to meet those needs, this Conference is of opinion that the present system of quinquennial contracts between the Government of India and the Provincial Governments be so modified as to enable Provincial Governments to spend a larger proportion of those revenues than is now the case upon purely provincial and local objects.

Resolution IV.—That this Conference, while recognising with gratitude the concession of Local Option, respectfully prays that full effect be given to it by investing local bodies with such powers as may be necessary in that behalf.

Resolution V.—That this Conference desires to place on record its deep sense of gratitude to the Government of Bengal for its sympathetic policy in dealing with the Plague; and notes with special satisfaction the noble words of Sir John Woodburn that "no wife shall be separated from her husband, no husband from his family;" and this Conference prays that the fullest effect be given to this principle in accordance with the sentiments of the people and the opinions of competent experts. Further, that having regard to the terms of the Venice Convention, *viz*, that—"No locality is to be deemed infected merely on account of the importation into it of a few cases of Plague which have led to no diffusion of the malady"—this Conference prays that Calcutta be declared to be a non-infected area.

This Conference also prays that the concessions by way of home segregation and the like, already made in Calcutta, be extended to the Muffasil in the event of an outbreak of the Plague and the rules originally framed in this connection be modified accordingly.

Resolution VI.—That having regard to the fact that the salaries of ministerial and menial servants have not been raised since 1865 and that in the meantime prices of provisions and of other necessary articles have steadily risen and that so far back as 1888 a Salaries Commission consisting of several high officers of Government recommended an increase of 75 per cent., this Conference prays that full effect be given to the recommendations of the Commission.

Resolution VII.—That this Conference while recording its appreciation of the reforms which the Government of Bengal has already introduced into the Police of this Province is of opinion that with a view to ensure the greater efficiency of the Pelice Force for the detection of crime, the recommendations of the Police Commission as regards the pay of Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors should be given effect to and that the natives of the country should be more widely employed in the higher ranks of the Police Service as Assistant and District Superintendents.

Resolution VIII.—That having regard to the steady growth of the Stamps Revenues, the Process and the Copying Fees alone amounting to over 15 lacs of Rupees, this Conference prays that relief be given in this matter, especially with regard to those fees which press heavily upon the poorer classes.

Resolution IX.—That having regard to the fact that the wholesale disarmament of Backergunge by depriving the people of an effective means of protecting their life, their cattle, and their crops has entailed serious loss and hardship upon them, this Conference prays that the order of disarmament may be withdrawn.

Resolution X.—That this Conference desires to record its protest against the principle of the Calcutta Municipal Bill as being retrograde, and reactionary and calculated to deal a fatal blow at the institution of Local Self-Government.

Resolution XI.—That having regard to the fact that date juice is at present exempted from excise duty in certain districts where it is not used otherwise than for the purpos of molasses, this Conference is of opinion that the said exemption should not be affected by proposed amendment of the excise law.

Resolution XII.—That the local Congress Committee be requested to take the necessary steps for the diffusion among the masses, of the principles of the National Congress and Provincial Conference and to undertake all such work as may be helpful to the cause.

Resolution XIII.—That for the purpose of affording further facilities for communication betweeen Goalando and Naraingunge, this Conference prays that the Railway line proposed from Archia to Munshigunge be taken in hand at an early date and that a branch line be opened from Dacca connecting the Manickgunge Sub-Divison.

Resolution XIV.—That the reasons set forth in the preamble to Act VII of 1862 (B. C.) for the imposition of a Postal Cess on landed Estates no longer existing, this Conference prays that the cess known as the Zemindari Dak Cess of Bengal be abolished.

Resolution XV.—That this Conference agreeing with previous Conferences hereby reaffirms the following propositions:—

I. Separation of Executive and Judicial functions.—That it is necessary, in the interest of the proper administration of Justice, that there should be an entire separation of Judicial and Executive functions, the Conference prays that speedy measures be taken to give effect to this much-needed reform.

II. Education.—That the re-organization of the Government Education Service practically excludes the natives of the soil from the Indian Education Service and entails special hardship on Bengal by making the minimum pay of the Bengal Provincial Educational Service Rs. 150 while that of almost all the other Provincial Service is Rs. 200.

III. Road-Cess.—That this Conference is of opinion that the money realised on account of Road Cess ought not to be spent for any purpose other than those for which it was originally levied, namely :—

(1). The construction and maintenance of village roads and local paths (Sir George Campbell's Road Cess Proclamation of 1873).

(2) Sinking and improving of wells, tanks and other works of irrigation affecting comparatively small areas of land so that the benefits to be derived from the Road Cess may be brought home to the cess-payers' doors and may be palpable, direct or immediate (*vide* Despatch of the Duke of Argyll's paras 22 and 23 and Sir George Campbells' Proclamation of July 1873) and that with a view to secure the above object the District Boards may be directed to keep a separate account of Road Cess funds, showing for what purposes the same are spent that in view of the admission of the Government in its reply to a question put by the Hon'ble A. M. Bose in August 1896 before the local Legislative Council, that ⅓ of the cost of collecting the Road Cess and Public Work Cess should be borne by the Provincial Exchequres, this Conference expresses its earnest hope that Government may be pleased to give effect to the above principle in the adjustment of collection charges of the Road Cess and Public Work Cess and also to restore to the Road Cess funds the sums appropriated by it since 1879-80 and in future to contribute half of the collection charges.

IV. Jury Trial.—That while thanking Government for the extension of Jury Trial to 4 districts, the Conference thinks that the system may with equal advantage be extended to the remaining districts, that the exemption of legal practitioners from serving as Jurors is calculated to weaken the system by depriving it of the services of a duly qualified class of men.

V. System of Local Self-Government.—That having regard to the success of the System of Local Self-Government whether tried in town or in rural areas, this Conference is of opinion that the time has come for a further expansion of the System and the Conference recommends for the consideration of Government :—

(*a*) That as regards the Municipalities they should be relieved of the constant and needless interference of the Executive authorities by conforming the contro exercised by the Commissioners of Divisions to the major heads of he Budget.

(*b*) That as regards District Boards the experiment of administering them by non-official Chairman and the majority of elected members should be tried in the case of a few selected Boards.

(A RIDER.)

That in the opinion of this Conference the elective system be introduced into the constitution of the District Boards in Districts which have no sub-divisions.

VI. Emigration.—That this Conference is of opinion that having regard to the facilities of communication which have now been established between Assam and these Provinces, the time has come when both Act XIII of 1856 and Act I of 1882 may with advantage be repealed and a supply of labour to the Tea Gardens in Assam be regulated by the natural law of supply and demand, subject only to such regulations regarding sanitary and other matters in the garden and during the transit of coolies as may be deemed necessary.

VII. Whipping.—That the sentence of whipping be made appealable.

Resolution XVI.—That having regard to the serious hardships from which the people in the tracts in the Chittagong District affected by the cyclone and the storm-wave are suffering, this Conference prays that the Government will be pleased to continue the relief which it so generously granted and to grant remission of rent in the affected tracts.

CHAMBERLAIN'S Pain Balm has no equal as a household liniment. It is the best remedy known for rheumatism, lame back, neuralgia; while for sprains, cuts, bruises, burns, scalds and sore throat, it is invaluable. Wertz & Pike, merchants. Fernandina, Fla, write: "Everyone who buys a bottle of Chamberlain's Remedies, comes back and says it is the best medicine he has ever used."

DURING the summer of of 1891, Mr. Chas. P. Johnson, a well-known attorney of Louisville, Ky., had a very severe attack of summer complaint. Quite a number of different remedies were tried, but failed to afford any relief. A friend who knew what was needed procured him a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhœa Remedy, which quickly cured him and he thinks, saved his life. He says that there has not been a day since that time that he has not had this remedy in his household. He speaks of it in the highest praise and takes much pleasure in recomending it whenever an opportunity is offered. For sale by.

A FLOATING HOSPITAL AT RANGOON.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made by the Rangoon Municipality to procure a loan of a river flat from the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company. This flat will be properly fitted up to meet the requirements of a hospital, and will be anchored in the river. The lower deck of the flat is being lime-washed from tem to stern, while the upper one will be similarly treated, The top portion has been matted in and equipped with other necessary arrangements. Lying alongside this flat is another but smaller flat-bottomed boat, which will be utilised as a disinfecting apparatus. To answer this purpose it has been equipped at one end with a machine and large boiler for generating steam, which will escape through a number of pipes into three reservoirs specially fitted up for facilitating the work of disinfection. At the opposite end two cells have been built, into which a pair of trollies will be run from the reservoirs with the infected linen, which will undergo a further process of disinfection under steam in an enclosed cell. The work of completion is being rapidly pushed.

NO MANILA FIASCO.

THE impending naval battle between Admiral Schley's squadron and that of Admiral Cervera is not likely to be a repetition of the Manila fiasco. The Spaniards are not likely to be caught napping again, and the fleets are more evenly matched than was the case at Manila. The Spanish cruisers are of the first class and of quite modern construction, and the torpedo-fleet is extremely formidable. Experts, however, express grave doubts as to the wisdom of Spain in risking a pitched battle with the American navy. With a fleet whose strength lies in her fast torpedo-boats and destroyers, guerilla tactics offered by far the most promising field of operations, and might have given the United States infinite annoyance and done much damage without the chance of effective reprisals. The Spaniards, however, have been blockaded in the fine harbour of Santiaga de Cuba, and there the battle will take place. There is practically no information as to the defences of the harbour. Powerful batteries defending the narrow channel which affords an entrance to the basin, might do the American fleet considerable damage, if not render Commodore Schley's task an impossible one; but it is not likely that the defences are in better order or more modern than those of Havana and Matanzas. As to the two squadrons, Admiral Schley's consists of two battleships, the "Massachusetts" and "Texas," four cruisers, "Brooklyn," "Columbia," "Mianeapolis," and "Newark," the dynamite cruiser "Vesuvius" and the steel ram "Katahdin." The "Massachussetts" is a first-class steel battleship, with twin screws, length 348 feet, breadth 69½ feet, draught 24 feet, 10,288 tons, h. p. 9,000, and her principal armament consists of 413-in. 88-in.. and 4 6-in, breech-loading guns, 20 6-pr. quick-firing guns: and she carries 7 torpedo tubes. She has a belt of armour 3 feet above and 4 1-2 ft. below the water line. Her crew consists of 32 officers and 438 men. She was launched in 1893, and has a speed of 16 knots. She has a low freeboard, and for that reason would be unable to fire all her guns in heavy weather. She has a more complete "all round" fire than many vessels, but like her sister-ships, the *Indiana* and *Oregon*, is terribly over-armoured, being a "whip creation" vessel with at least half as much armament again as she ought to carry for seaworthiness. The "Texas" is a second-class steel battleship with a length of 301 feet, a breadth of 64 feet 1 inch, draught 22 feet. She has a displacement of 6,315 tons, and 8,000 h. p. She was built in 1889, carries 30 officers and 362 men, and her principal armament consists of 2 12-in. 46 ton, 66 in. and 126 pr. quick-firing guns; she carries 6 torpedo tubes, and is said to have a speed of 17 knots, but it is doubtful if she could do 14. Experts question if she would be of much value in a battle. She recently sank in dock, owing, it is, said, to defective construction, and the strain of action would possibly produce a like result. With regard to the cruisers, the "Brooklyn" has a thin armour belt. Her length is 400 feet, breadth 64 feet, draught 24 feet, displacement 9,271 tons, h.p. 16,000. She was built in 1893 and her speed is said to be 20 knots, but no very reliable data exist on the subject. She carries 46 officers, and 515 men, and her principal armament is 88 in breech-loaders, 12 5-in. quick-firers, 12 6-prs., and 6 torpedo tubes. The "Columbia" and "Minneaplis" are twin vessels, unarmoured cruisers with protected decks. They were built at Philadelphia and launched in 1892 and 1893 respectively. Their length is 412 ft., breadth 58ft. 2in., and draught 22 feet 6in., their displacement is 7,475 tons, and their indicated horse-power 21,500, with a speed of 228 knots, Their chief armament is 18-in., 26-in. and 84-in. quick-firers, with 6 torpedo tubes. The Newark is a protected steel cruiser of 4,098 tons and 8,869 indicated horse-power, and her principal armament consists of 12 6 in. breech-loaders, and 4-6-pr. quick-firers. She was built in 1888, and her speed is 19 knots. The "Vesuvius" is a unique vessel. She is 253 ft., long by 27 ft. in width with a tonnage of 929, and her armament consists of three dynamite guns of 15-in. calibre and four Gatlings. She has a speed of 21½ knots, and carries six officers and 84 men. The barrels or tubes of the dynamite guns are 30 feet long, and protrude through the deck in the bow at a fixed angle and in one direction only. The steering of the ship, therefore, is responsible for the training of the guns, while atmospheric pressure regulates the range. The extreme range is one mile, but with minimum air-pressure, the projectile would simply tumble out of the muzzle and blow up the ship. From the turret amidships the commander is supplied with the needful machinery to steer, train, fire, and regulate the range. The Katahdin, again, is another experiment. She is 250 ft. 9 in, by 43 ft. 5 in. and has a draught of 15 ft. with a displacement of 2,155, and 4,800 indicated horse-power. She carries 7 officers and 91 men, was built in 1894 and has a speed of 17 knots. She is described as a harbour defence ram, and her designer believes that in the excitement of a battle such a craft as this, keeping under the protection of the battleships, could dash out against the heaviest armour-clad ship afloat and give her a fatal blow before she could bring her guns into position to injure her. Her one purpose is ramming and her sharp steel ram weighs 158 tons, while she can turn almost in her own length. She only carries 4-6-per quick-firing guns. Admiral Cervera's Squadron consists of the cruisers Cristobal Colon, Infanta, Maria Theresa, Vizcaya, and Almirante Oquendo, the torpedo-boat destroyers Turor, Tevror, and Pluton, and the torpedo boats Aerite Syor, and Rayo and the coaling transport San Francisco. The Cristobal Colon was bought in and is a fairly fine powerful vessel. She is, perhaps, taken all round the protected and best armoured cruiser in the Spanish fleet. A complete 6-in. nickel steel belt 8ft. 3in. wide encircles the ship, with above it protecting the womb of the ship for 120 feet and carried to the upper deck is the same thickness of armour. Bulk heads of 6 in. protect the bases of the 5 in. barbettes in which the heaviest guns fore and apt are mounted. The crews of every gun fight behind armour. Her tonnage is 6,840, and her horse power 14,000. She carries 2-10 in, gums and 10-6 in quick-fired, with 4 torpedo tubes, has a speed of 20 knots and a complement of 500 officers and men. The other three cruisers, as has been said, are all first-class belted cruisers of quite modern construction. They have each a displacement of 7,000 ton and 20 knots nominal speed; but as the Spanards are notoriously bad engineers 13 knots is probably nearer their actual speed at sea. They are all big editions of our Undaunted class with 10-55.in-guns in unarmoured battery amid ships, and 11-in, Hontoria gun in the bow end stern in barbetles, protected by armour. Each has a couple of submerged torpedos, the only kind likely to be used in battle. As to the torpedo flotilla it is extremely formidable, the destroyers carrying two 14pr. and two pr. Maxim-Nordenfelts, and two torpedo tubes. The Feror and Terror have a speed of 28 knots and the Pluton of 30 knots. The new Cazet and Hontoria guns of the Spanish fleet are superior to any of the American models; but the inferiority of the Spanish gunnery may, perhaps, equalise them. Spain has a very considerable fleet of gunboats of all classes in Cuban waters as well as the cruisers Alfonso XII, Renia Mercedos Conde de Venatito, Infanta Isabel, Isabel II, and the Marques de Ensenada, but it is not known whether any of these are at Santiago de Cuba, or in a position to take part in the forthcoming battle.

SCARCITY prevails in Mekran, and great numbers of Mekrani labourers have migrated to Karachi in search of employment.

THE pointsman who assaulted the Station Master of Lucknow has been awarded a month's accommodation in Her Majesty's common jail.

THE Police Fouzdar of Bandora, who was severely injured in the riots on Tuesday night, died from his injuries early on the morning of the 2nd instant. It is stated that 76 persons have been arrested of whom 72 have been released on bail, while four, alleged to have taken a prominent part in the assault, have been detained in custody.

REPORTS are received that the Mohurrum at Poona and at Karachi passed off quietly. At Poona the European Police were armed with revolvers and a half squadron of Cavalry and two companies of Native Infantry were kept in readiness for possibilities.

ACCORDING to the latest reports from Kabul the Amir has steadfastly refused to see any of the numerous tribal maliks who are now in that city. They are hospitably entertained, but no other encouragement is given them to remain.

A TELEGRAM from Bangalore on the 2nd instant, states:—Gunner Butler G. Battery Royal Horse Artillery, died here yesterday of tetanus, the result of a wound in the head, said to have been sustained during a quarrel with some 'budmashes' on the 22nd ultimo. The police were informed of the matter only this morning after the death. An inquest has been held and several arrests are anticipated.

WHILE the Calais mail packet was crossing the Channel on the morning of April 26th, a carrier-pigeon dropped dead from exhaustion on the deck. The bird, which had a cipher message under its wing, and is believed to be one of those with which the French authorities are making experiments on their ocean liners, is in the possession of the Customs at Dover.

HOUSEBOATS have become the fashion in Kashmir and are getting numerous, though the supply is yet far below the demand. For the increasing boat population it has now been thought necessary to introduce sanitary reforms in boats of which most of them were badly in need. The subject is now engaging the attention of His Highness the Maharaja and the State Council.

THE BOTTOM PRINCIPLE.

NOTHING "merely happens so." Always keep that fact where you can see it. Whatsoever comes to pass has an adequate cause right behind it. I don't say this as though it were a new discovery. Not a bit. It is the bottom principle of all knowledge. But we are apt to forget it—that's the point: we forget it, and so have a lot of trouble ther's no need to have.

Here is Miss Esther May, whom we are glad to hear from, and to know. In the matters set forth in her short letter she speaks, not for herself only, but for two-thirds of the women in England.

"In July, 1890," she says, "I had an attack of influenza, which left me in a weak, exhausted condition. I felt languid and tired. Everything was a trouble to me. The good apqettie that is natural to me was gone; and when I did take a little food it gave me a dreadful pain in the chest. There was also a strange sensation in my stomach. I felt as if I had eaten too much when perhaps I had scarcely eaten anything.

"Then, after a time, I begin to have a dry, hacking cough, and to break out in cold, clammy sweats. Not very long afterwards my ankles began to puff up and swell, so that when I stood on my feet it was very painful.

"I gradually got worse and worse. The medicines given me by the doctors seemed to have no effect. I lost flesh, like one in consumption, and I feared I should never be any better.

"In March, 1893, a gentleman told me about Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and said he believed it would help me. Although I had no faith in it I sent for the Syrup and began taking it. One bottlep relieved me and gave me some appetite. I ate and enjoyed my food as I had not done for years. I gained strength every day.

"I am now as healthy and hearty as I ever was in my life, and I owe it to Mother Seigel's Syrup. (Signed) Esther May, Buckingham Road, Northfleet, Kent, September 8th, 1893."

"In the Spring of 1887," writes another correspondent, "my wife got into a low state of health. She complained at first of feeling tired and weary, and could not do her work as usual. Her mouth tasted badly; she couldn't eat; and she had a deal of pain in her chest and back.

"Later on her legs began to swell, and soon the swelling extended to her body. With all this her strength failed more and more, until she could just go about the house in a feeble fashion, and that was all. No medical treatment did more than to relieve her as you may say, for the moment.

"This was her condition when Mother Seigel's Syrup first came under our notice. We read of it in a book that was left at our house. After she had taken the Syrup only a few days she was decidedly bettet. And, to conclude, by a faithiul use of the medicine the swelling went down, her appetite came back. and she was soon as well and strong as ever. Seeing what the Syrup had done for my wife, I began to take it for indigestion and dyspepsia, which had troubled me for years; and it completely cured me. (Signed) J. Heath. Orotava House, Alpha Road, Cambridge, June 15th, 1893."

We were speaking of nothing happening without a cause. The cause of all the suffering of these two women was one and the same—indigestion and dyspepsia. Men have it often enough, but this disease is especially the bane of women...with chronic constipation as one of its worst features. It is the cause af nearly all the ills and ailments they suffer from. Let every woman get the book which Mr. Heath speaks of and learn all about it. They can thus find out what the first symptoms are, and take Mother Seigel's Syrup the very day they appear.

ONCE TRIED, ALWAYS USED

If we sell one bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, we seldom fail to sell the same person more, when it is again needed. Indeed, it has become the family medicine of this town, for coughs and colds, and we recommend it because of its established merits—JOS. E. HARNED, Prop. Oakland Pharmacy, Oakland, Md. Sold by *

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

PARLIAMENT AND THE NATUS.

To the Editor of the Times.

SIR,—The brothers Natu of Poona have now been confined as State prisoners for more than nine months under warrants issued by the Bombay Government in terms of Regulation XXV of 1827. On the face of these warrants it is declared that the Government has acted "for good and sufficient reasons;" and if the nature of these State reasons had not been disclosed, we might complain of the secrecy, but it would be impossible to prove that the grounds of action were not good and sufficient. On the other hand if (as in the present case) reasons are tendered to the public, the position is changed, and the public becomes entitled to form a judgment regarding the merits and sufficiency of these reasont. Take a simple illustration. If the tax-gatherer demands from me a certain sum, and refuses all particulars, I may complain of arbitray treatment, but I cannot prove that the claim is unjust. On the other hand, if he volunteers reasons, and founds his claims on the allegation that twice two make three, and afterwards shifts his ground and explains that he relies on the fact that twice two make five, then I am in a position to affirm that the reasons he has given are neither good nor sufficient. This is exactly the Natus' case; for, the reasons given by Lord George Hamilton contradict each other, and are also inconsistent with admitted facts. What are these allegations? When the Natus were first arrested it was in connexion with the assassination of Mr. Rand, and Lord George Hamilton assured the House of Commons that a conspiracy existed, and that "the result of the proceedings will be to unravel the plot which had been formed," but no such plot has been unravelled during these nine months. On the contrary the existence of a conspiracy has been conclusively negatived by the evidence proving that the murder was an isolated act of fanaticism. It is upon this view of the case that Damogar Chapekar has been found guilty and executed. The idea of a conspiracy to murder has accordingly been abandoned, and Lord George Hamilton now intimates that the two brothers Natu were confined because one of them had obstructed the plague operations, and because it is not safe to release them until the plague is stamped out at Poona. In support of the charge of obstruction Lord G. Hamilton told the House of a midwife (name not stated) losing her practice, and a police subordinate having been tempered with; but enquiry into these stories was refused, while Sirdar Natu's correspondence with the Magistrate of Poona, which proved him to have been a zealous and useful plagueworker, was ignored. In any case the plague in Poona has now been subdued; and under the wise and sympathetic management of Colonel Creagh, friendly relations have been restored; so that the second alleged ground for detaining the Natus in goal has ceased to exist.

Now, a petition to Parliament has been received from Sirdar Natu's wife, who makes a pitiful appeal to the compassion of the House. That such a petition has not been before presented arises from the terror-stricken condition of all those connected with these unfortunate men. The lady sets forth the miseries of her family, and prays that her husband may be released, or brought to trial, or at least that she may be allowed to share his imprisonment. Under Rule 463 (standing order 80) "in the case of a petition complaining of some present personal grievance, for which there may be an urgent necessity for providing an immediate remedy, the matter contained in such petition may be brought into discussion on the presentation thereof." It is therefore proposed, in presenting this petition, to show that this indefinite continuance of these exceptional severities is, under existing circumstances, repugnant alike to humanity and common sense.

I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

W. WEDDERBURN.

House of Commons,
May 10, 1898.

THERE WAS NO CONSPIRACY IN POONA.

THE "Maharatta" has quoted portions of the famous speech of Mr. Lamb, delivered on the 29th June, 1897, and that of the Durbar Speech of Mr. Crowe in parallel columns. They are highly instructive. "They prove", says the "Maharatta," "on Governments own admission that Government began by assuming the guilt of the Pooua people and ended by absolving them of it completely.

(Extracts from Mr. Lamb's speech.)

"One method in which these atrocious murders are carried out clearly indicates a plot carefully planned beforehand and the time selected for the prepetration of the deed points not less clearly to deliberate intention on the part of the miscreants who conspired to commit it, to darken the celebration of Diamond Jubilee, and to convert into days of mourning what without these murders would have been a time of rejoicing and festivity.

"The hideous contrast between the honest-minded loyalty of the masses and the cowardly disloyalty of a secret band of conspirators and assassins—this it is which I want you to grasp to realise with your intellects so that there may be brought home to you the need, the imperative call upon you, to be not content with passively bewailing the foul blow that has been struck at the fair fame of the city, and through her at the still wider and more famous name of the "Maharatta" people; but to be up and doing in order that by the consensus of all right minded men, all the lovers of their country, all loyal subjects of the most gracions Majesty, the machinations and the monstrous deeds of that secret band of sedition-mongers and murderers which is found to exist in our midst may be laid bare and held up to universal condemnation.

"For if disloyalty and sedition, conspiracy and assassination go unchecked amongst you, then I have here to solemnly warn you that what you prove yourselves unable to check Government will inevitably adopt stern measures to check for you."

(Extract from Mr. Cowe's speech.)

"I allude to the tragedy which struck us all with horror at the beginning of last monsoon—the wanton cruel murders which deprived Government of two valuable servants. The hand of justice has overtaken the author of those crimes and he has met with the punishment he so richly deserved. I take the opportunity of referring to it now for the purpose of remarking that as the Judge who tried the case I watched carefully during the proceedings of the trial for any evidence to show that the perpetrator of those crimes was acting as a tool in the hands of some other disloyal and it may be more influential persons, and I am glad to be in a position to say that I found no indication of any conspiracy or design on the part of any section of the Poona community which could have prompted the crime."

THE LIFE AFTER DEATH.

SAYS the *Star*: The peace and comfort which, we are told, Mr. Gladstone derives in his last days from a favorite hymn finds a reflection in a poem written by him many years ago.

Though first published in *Good Words* in May, 1871, the poem was written as long ago as 1836, when Gladstone, though in the full swing of public life was still a young man of 27. It was a strange subject which prompted his muse—the death of "an infant who was born, was baptised, and died on the same day," but it afforded opportunity for an expression of the same strong faith in a future free from "doubt and charge" which at this moment sustains him. With such words as these he comforted those who mourned the loss of their child.

. . . . . and when we ask,
"Is all thy fate as dark
As is the pall upon thy limbs?
Is there no sun above, no saviour ark
That on the black sea swims,
And bears the children, loved of God and blest,
Unto the land of rest?"
We hear a voice from the high seats of bliss,
That answers, "Yes."

The happiness of an early release from human pain finds beautiful expression in the eighth stanza:—

How small the tribute, then, of human pain,
The Eternal Wisdom did ordain
Thy migrant spirit should be bound to pay
Upon its way,
Unto fruition of the immortal prize,
Purchased for thee by rain of scalding tears.
By agony indign,
By woes how heavier far than thine
Through more protracted years,
And deeper sighs.

The same contrasting note is touched more strongly in the eleventh stanza:—

We are amid the tumult and the stress
Of a fierce eddying fight;
And to our mortal sight
Our fate is trembling in the balances,
And even, it hath seemed,
The Tempter at the nether scale
Might over Love prevail!
But thy dear Faith can never fall,
Thou are redeemed!
The shadowy forms of doubt and change
Athwart thy tranquil fate no more may range,
Nor speck its lucid path
With tokens and remembrances of Death.

And the poem concludes in the twelfth stanza with the simple quatrain.

From morn to eventide,
In quick successive train,
An infant lived and died,
And lived again.

AN ADVENTURE WITH A MAN-EATER.

MR. R. P. COBBLE writes to the *Field*:—Last hot weather, when shooting in the Central Provinces, a native came in to say that a tigress had killed a wood-cutter at a place some twenty-five miles off, in a neighbouring State, on the borders of which my camp was then pitched; the beast had also mauled another man who had gone with a party to search for the first, and he had since died of his wounds. The Raja of the State in question had kindly given me leave to shoot in his territory if I wished to do so, so I instantly sent off a letter by hand to say that I proposed taking advantage myself of his permission.

The next day I sent off my ties undercharge of my shikari, and the day after started with my camp getting to my destination late in the afternoon. I found that a jamadar of police and some constables had been sent to help me in procuring beaters and supplies, etc.; they had selected a charming situation for my camp, in a "tope" of enormous mango trees, so thick that even at that time, which was the hottest month of the hot weather the sun barely penetrated; they had rigged up for the camp a regular line of huts, made of green boughs cut of the jungle.

It was the height of the mango season, but, alas! the mango crop was a failure, and there was not a fruit on the trees. Tents were soon pitched and I had time to have a look at the surroundings before it became dark. There appeared to be dense forest on three sides, and in the direction from which I had come, a small village about half a mile away from camp. After dinner my shikari appeared, bringing with him four local shikaries, who said they knew the haunts of the beast, which apparently had frequented the neighbourhood for some three years, and had caused a village, which was inside the boundary of the jungle, to be deserted, having killed the "Malguzzar" or headman, and one of his children, two years ago. This year they said, a large tiger had also come to the jungle, and that he, too, was in the neighbourhood somewhere: these two, between them, had killed some twenty of their cattle in the last two months; the people were afraid now to go near the jungle since the death of the two men, who, it appeared, belonged to a party of salt merchants who had been camped here for a few days. I told the shikaries to be ready at daybreak to go out with me to explore the jungle, and then turned in, much pleased with the news.

Next morning about 5 o'clock we started off. I found about half a mile from camp a wide sandy nullah, running east and west, dense jungle on both sides, and numerous branch nullahs running into it; there were three small pools of water about a mile apart, otherwise the nullah was dry. I was shown where the man had been seized and dragged into the jungle, and there were fresh tracks of two tigers, one an enormous "pug" and the other smaller, presumably the tigress I was after. The tiger from his tracks had a lame foot, and as I had heard that a large tiger had been wounded by the police officer in the foot some months before, in the direction I had come from. I had little doubt this was the same beast. Telling the shikari to go up one of the banch nullahs, I took two natives with me, and proceeded to explore another and to ascertain if there was any water. I found a pool about two miles up, and tiger and buffalo tracks round it, the latter only a few hours old. I decided to tie up here, though the jungle was very dense all round; and as there were no paths I did not see how a "hank" was to be arranged, even if the tiger was killed. The forest seemed enormous and the natives told me it extended for thirty miles without a village.

I got back to camp about ten o'clock, having had a long walk and very hot it was. After breakfast I held a conversation with my shikari who agreed with me that a "hank" was impossible, and that the only thing to do was to sit over the carcase if the tiger killed one of the ties. In the evening we tied up bullocks in half-a-dozen places, but with no result; nor was I more successful with a buffalo which I traced for many weary hours and eventually lost in long grass. I tied up continually night after night the most tempting of young bullocks, but since the day I had arrived the tigers seemed to have deserted the place, as there were no more fresh tracks. I noticed several times last hot weather that tigers left a place suddenly when camp arrived, and then returned when it had been moved on. I suppose they know that something unusual is up. On the fourth day of my stay the native shikaries said they would take me to a pool some five miles off in the middle of the jungle where there had formerly been a village and some cultivation. There was no path to the place, but they found the way somehow, and sure enough there was the pool and a clearing with signs of old habitations. It was an ideal place for game, and on examining the banks of the pool, which was a shallow muddy pond, I found tracks of buffalo and bison, and an old tiger "pug," besides deer of many kinds. Getting on the track of a buffallo I followed it some distance into thick bamboo jungle. The beast heard me before I saw him, and dashed before I could get a snapshot. and I heard his ponderous carcase crashing through the jungle for a long distance I followed him and caught a glimpse once, but only for an instant, and he was off again. Eventually I lost his tracks in long grass of an exceedingly stiff kind.

That night I had a calf killed by the tigress near a pool some three miles from camp, and, as soon as I received the news I went off to inspect the place. I found that the tigress had killed, but had hardly touched any flesh, and had only draggde the carcase a few yards up a little ravine. A "hank" was out of the question, as the beasts, having only killed and not eaten might be miles away, so there was nothing to do but to sit over the carcase of the slain bullock. I looked about for a suitable tree near. There was only one, and that was a dead one, but I thought it was strong enough. Returning to camp I sent out my shikari to tie up the machan, and about an hour before sunset I got up into my perch, telling my man to come and take me down with a ladder at dawn. There was not much keenness amongst the locals to stay with me, but I was not going to sit alone.

Nothing came while the light lasted. About 8 o'clock, so far as I could judge, a sumbhur stag came to drink, then absolute stillness for some time; except the grasshoppers, which were noisy. I began to feel sleepy and some mosquitoes were troublesome, but I dare not move even to brush them off, for who could tell but that the tigress was at that moment watching to see if all were safe. A cheetah barking roused me, and I listened intently, knowing that he would not bark unless something was on the move. I thought I heard far off a slight rustle which continued at intervals to approach, but so indistinct was the sound that it might have been a mouse rather than a tiger. I nudged the shikari who I saw was listening, and he whispered to me "Bagh ata sahib." The rustling ceased and I imagined that it must have been some small creeping lizard, when suddenly the tigress jumped from the bank into the centre of the nullah. She stood there for a minute looking towards the pool about eighty yards from me.

The moon was constantly being obscured by clouds passing over, and it was not worth risking a shot. Something apparently made her think all was not right as she crossed over and disappeared on the far side. I thought she would merely make a circuit and appeared again close by, so I sat in a state of breathless excitement with my ·577 ready on my knee, but not another sound. Later on in the night I fancied I heard the same rustle in another direction, but nothing showed. I dozed off, and he shikari dozed, too, both of us waking up at intervals. As soon as it was dawn we clambered down the tree, not waiting for the men to come with a ladder, and examined the tracks. The tigress had apparently made a circuit round the kill, but was suspicious of something and would not come to it

Getting down, cold and cramped, for the early morning is damp, I thought it would be a good opportunity to visit the pool where I had been the morning before as we were on the way to it. Following the nullah bed, we came on the tigress's tracks, a mile higher up; there were two large cubs with her—I had seen tracks of them before. The three had evidently gone in the same direction as I was going, as their tracks crossed the nullah several times as we proceeded. Leaving the nullah we struck off to the right through some burnt bamboo jungle, and here again were the tigress's tracks, and I put it down that, afraid of drinking, below near her kill, she had wondered up to the pond above. We soon got to the pool, but no tiger had been there, there was nothing to be seen but a fair-siezed bison had been drinking and getting on his spoor we proceeded to track him. We had gone a mile or two when I heard a nilghai below not far off, so as I had not shot one yet. I decided to leave the bison track for the moment and go for the nilghai. He kept on bellowing, so, taking the 303 from the shikari and handing him the ·557 to carry, I stepped on tip-toe towards the sound. Looking carefully ahead, I was surprised to see what to me looked like a cow cross my front about 100 yards off, but I very soon realised that it was the tigress. I stood quite still, but the beast passed across and never looked round or seemed aware of my presence; I was not going to risk a shot with the ·303, as I am not a believer in their stopping powers where dangerous animals are concerned. The nilghai went on bellowing at intervals, and no doubt the tiger was stalking it, and it had either seen or heard the enemy approaching.

The tiger getting behind some bushes and out of sight, I proceeded carefully, peering about everywhere to see if I could see where the tigress had disappeared to; the jungle was not thick, and I could see some way ahead. All of a sudden I heard the beast growling angrily some distance ahead; I put it down as 200 yards, as sound carries so far in an absolutely silent jungle. I went on slowly looking about to find a tree that I might get up to see where the beast was, as I imagined it was still stalking the nilghai, and did not think it had spotted me, as there was no wind to convey scent. I was very soon undeceived, however, for at that moment I saw the tigress coming straight towards me with an evil look on her face, evidently meaning business; she must have been eighty yards off, or perhaps more, when I first saw her. The native was close behind, and I beckoned him to give me the ·577, holding my hand out behind me and keeping my eye on the brute. I slid the safety bolt up, by which time she was within fifty yards. I did not believe that any tiger would go for a man unprovoked, unless drivene by hunger to do so, man-eater or no man-eater, and I thought she would turnoff and give me a side shot; in any case, I meant to let her come on near as I dared, as I have no confidence in my skill with a heavy rifle, and I felt that either I must kill her or she would certainly kill me.

Not an inch did she turn off, and then, before I expected, she charged, seeming to throw herself at me with angry snarl. I fired; the smoke hung, and I could not see, but I knew I was not down. The beast dashed by me on my left side with a couple of yards, and without putting the rifle up, I snapped at her through the smoke. She roared loudly two or three times, and disappeared in the jungle. Then I sat down, as it had been a nasty moment, and I must confess I was in a funk. The native had managed to get up a tree, and descended, and together we proceeded to see if I had hit her. The first shot evidently had hit her somewhere, as there was a lot of blood on the leaves and grass; but as I could only see her head and chest when I fired, I did not see how she had escaped being killed, and I was much puzzled. The second shot had also hit her, and that in the stomach, as there was a piece of gut on a tuft of grass and the mark of the bullet, which had evidently passed through her; but she had not gone away like a badly wounded beast. We followed the blood on the leaves for a hundred yards or so, and then I said I would not go any further, as the jungle became dense. The native was a plucky chap, and wanted to go on; but I would not, so I told him to go back to camp as hard as he could and fetch my shikari, armed with my 12-bore Ubique gun, and some men. The man cut me some shady boughs to sit under and went off as hard as he could.

It was now very hot, and I had no water left, and I was also very much in a jumpy state; every dead bough that fell made me start up at the ready, as I had read tales of wounded tigers making a circuit and returning at the sportsman's back. In about three hours, however, I heard the welcome sound of men approaching, and presently my shikari, armed with the Ubique, appeared, and a dozen men with him, including some Ghonds who are the pluckiest men out armed with bows and arrows. I pointed out the blood and he said "stomach wound," and we should get her. We proceeded slowly, men first climbing trees and searching the jungle in front to see if the tigress was to be seen, and on their reporting nothing in sight, we went on again. This went on for half a mile or more, and then one of the climbers shouted down he could see the tigress lying in a deep nullah some 200 yards in front. I went on gingerly, and looking down into a very deep nullah I saw the beast lying at the bottom with her head turned away from me. I took the ·303 and fired twice, but she did not move, and I knew she was dead. The men then came up, and the Ghonds went down to her, while I covered the beast with the ·577 in case of accidents; but she was quite dead, and most of her inside had come out in the sand where she died through the exit hole of the bullet. We hauled the body up with a rope and examined her. The first shot had struck her on the left of the lower jaw, which it had broken, and going through, had cut a deep furrow in her left shoulder—which I foresaw Mr. Rowland Ward would find difficult to disguise—but the ball had just missed the bone; the shock had turned her quarter right, and she had just missed me in her charge. The second shot had passed right through her stomach low down.

We carried her back to camp amidst a scene of much rejoicing, and the people of all the villages within a long distance came and had a good look at her, as the messenger who had gone to fetch my shikari had spread the news that I had wounded the beast. I got back about 3-30 P. M., and was glad of a drink and something to eat, as I had practically had nothing for twenty-four hours. The tigress was a large one, measuring 8ft. 10in. from nose to tip of tail, and was evidently a very old one, as she had very few teeth left. This event put me in luck, as the next day, or the day after, I got two buffalo right and left, one being asleep, but I never saw any more tracks of the big lame tiger, though I tied up for several days afterwards, making sure he would return to look for his lady, but he was ungallant enough not to do so. We took a native bullet out of the tigress, it had only just penetrated the skin, and was an old wound; she had evidently been hit by a native shikari from a machan at some time or other, and hence her unwillingness to return to her kill.

LORD SANDHURST has postponed his intended visit to Bangalore till his return to Bombay about the 21st instant.

REGARDING the Perambore strike, the hopes that were entertained as to the improvement in the situation consequent on the return from England of Mr. C. E. Phipps, Madras Railway Locomotive Superintendent, have been only partially realized, the majority of the strikers still refusing to return to work.

AN officer will shortly be deputed to carry out a bacteriological examination of the water-supply for the stations of the Punjab Frontier Force.

IN connection with the recent reorganization of their Public Works Department Secretariat, the Government of India has had under consideration the question of a further saving of labour and economy of power in the despatch of business by deputing larger power than they now possess to sanction expenditure on works to the Consulting Engineers controlling the guaranteed and State Railways. A schedule of enlarged powers relating to works on construction and open lines of railway has already been published and circulated, and the orders in respect of increased powers in stores and other matters will issue in due course.

THE *Bankura Darpan* says.—The man who had come from Calcutta to his native village, Sonamukhi, suffering from plague, died on the 16th. His house, together with all his belongings, were burnt. The incident naturally frightened the people of the village out of their wits; and there was a general stampede on the day following. The panic has, however, now subsided, and the people are returning to their homes. There is now a talk of paying compensation to the old father of the dead man for the property distroyed.

TROUBLE has again arisen at Mekran but is likely to resolve itself. It seems that the Bombay Infantry detachment of about sixty men, under a Subadar, were left at Tamp, after the recent operations, and were to follow the main force. They were unable to get transport, however, and hence remained. Since then some of the followers of the late Baluch Khan have returned, and seem likely to endanger the safety of the detachment. The Baluch Sirdars, however, have left Quetta for Tamp to pacify the people, and the latest news is that transport has been supplied, and the detachment is about to march to Gwadur, where mail steamer will pick it up. The man-of-war which was ordered to Gwadur to support the political authorities, has, therefore, been countermanded.

THE Bengal-Duars Railway Company will have its small open metre guage mileage 36·40 trebled by the contract which it has entered into with the Secretary of State for the construction and working of three xtensions. The present line, which has only been opened a few years, runs from the east bank of the Teesta opposite Jalpaiguri (which is over 300 miles from Calcutta) to Dum-Dum. The line is now to be extended in three directions—the first being from Malbazaar station on the existing railway to Hantupara, a distance of 46 miles; the second from Dum-Dum station to Bagrakote, a distance of 6½ miles, and next from Deomoni Hat to Lalmonir Hat, a distance of 69 miles. These additions to the Bengal-Duars system will greatly assist in opening up a part of Bengal that has been greatly neglected in the matter of railway extension. The average earnings per mile per week of the existing line, small as it is was Rs.146 during last year. No doubt with the new branches to be constructed the Company will be able to show still better results.

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SERIOUS RIOT AT BANDRA.

A CORRESPONDENT telegrams to the *I.D. News*:—A serious riot broke out on Tuesday night at Bandra during the procession of taboots. As the procession arrived at the lane leading to the level-crossing it struck one o'clock, when the Parsi fouzdar, Cawashaw, stepped forward and reminded the processionists of the order of the District Police Superintendent, that they were to cease playing the tom-toms and stop further ceremonies at one o'clock. After some expostulation the taboot was lowered and placed in the booth, but those who had accompanied the Khar and Bazar taboots refused to move without the Nagpada taboot. The fouzdar took out his watch and told the mob that it was already past one, and that it was time for them to retire. Words passed between the Mahomedans and the police, when the Mahomedans assaulted with lathis Cawashaw, the havildar, Mr. Biss, the naik, and three police sepoys who were then on the scene. Free use of sticks was made by the mob on the police who, looking to the adds they had to face, acquitted themselves honourably. The fouzdar, Mr. Cawashaw, was knocked down by a severe blow dealt him by a ruffianly Mahomedan, when Mr. Biss averted the same by leaning against a wall. The police havildar was also severely injured. Seeing the fouzdar and havildar lying unconscious on the ground and believing them either dead or dying, the crowd took to their heels. After the crowd had dispersed a Surti and two Mahars removed the fouzdar, and Mr. Adarji Naoraji Tavaria, on receiving information of the fouzdar's critical state, went up to the bungalow whither Dhunjishaw, the father of the fouz dar, who is a retired Police Superintendent, repaired immediately and removed Cawashaw to the bungalow, where he is now lying in a critical state. His head has been seriously injured, as well as his face and skull. Few hopes are entertained of his recovery. Mr. Biss on enquiry found the havildar ying in an unconscious state in the street, and removed him to hospital, where he is being treated. He has received serious injuries on his head, but is not in a dangerous condition. The Assistant Collector, Mr. Sheppard, who was in Bandra, on being apprised of the disturbance, forthwith repaired to the scene and rendered every assistance to the police. The tazias of Khar and Bazar were left in the street by the Mahomedans in the hurry and confusion, and were smashed to pieces during the scuffle. Only the Nagpada taboot is to be seen safe, as it was placed in its booth by the order of the fouzdar before the commencement of the disturbance. The police accompanied the butcher's taboot along the streets and it was eventually placed again in the booth without any further disturban e. Three of the police sepoys also received injuries and were treated in hospital. Mr. Barrow, the Collector and District Magistrate of Thana, and Mr. Austin, the District Superintendent of Police at Thana, with fifty policemen who were at Thana, on receiving intimation of the outbreak, arrived at Bandra by the local train at about daybreak and instituted enquiries, as a result of which about fifty Mahomedans were arrested as having taken part in the disturbance. As the police are engaged in making further arrests, instructions have been issued prohibiting all Mahomedans from proceeding by local trains to Bombay.

SCARCITY prevails in Mekran and great number of Mekrani labourers have migrated to Karachi in search of employment.

SURGEON-LIEUTENANT-COLONEL COATEES, Civil Surgeon, Lahore, proceeds on six months' leave and is succeeded by Surgeon-Major Cunningham from Multan.

IT is proposed to light the railway station at Lahore with gas instead of kerosine oil, at an estimate cost of something like half the cost of oil.

LAST Saturday evening passengers by the O. and R. R. from Cawnpore to Lucknow, had a rather uncomfortable time of it in the train, a terrific storm bursting so suddenly and fiercely that, despite the rapid closing of windows, the passengers were choked with dust, and all were painted or powder a dusky white. A deluge of rain followed, and the train got into Lucknow considerably behind time, the flooded streets and absence of carriages accentuating the forlorn condition of the passengers.

THE hitch which has occurred in the matter of the Simla-Kalka Railway is over, the purchase clause, under which the Government will, in future years, have the option of buying up the line. The points at issue are now under discussion between the promoters and the Secretary of State. As the alignment of the railway is practically decided upon from Kalka to near Solon, it would seem also that the work of construction might be put in hand on this section next cold weather.

LAST week we noticed the enormous increase in the gross earnings of India railways during the current financial year. The returns for the six weeks ending on May 14th are even more remarkable, for they show an improvement of nearly 57 lakhs of rupees over the corresponding period, or rather 43 days of 1897. The G. I. P. line alone shows an increase of nearly 17 3-4 lakhs, or about 3 lakhs a week, which must be pleasing news for its shareholders, who for many years past, have seen the earnings of the railway steadily decreasing. Taking the calendar year up to May 14th we find that the gross receipts of all the lines show an improvement of 108 lakhs, the North-Western coming first with 37 lakhs and the G. I. P. with about 29 lakhs. No such traffic has previously been known before on our Indian railways.

THE Finance and Commerce Department of the Government of India has just published a Resolution on the Finance and Revenue accounts for 1896-97. The accounts for the year closed with a deficit of Rx. 1,705,022. Famine in nearly all the Provinces of India on plague in Bombay were the chief facts during 1896-97; and according to the Comptroller-General the total loss of revenue due to famine and plague was Rx. 4,004,000, while the total increase of expenditure was Rx. 2,855,400. These losses were balanced to a small extent by a rise in the rate of exchange and an improvement in the estimates of revenue and expenditure in parts of India. The net result was a deficit of about a quarter of the total loss attributable to famine and plague. Under the head of Land Revenue the largest decreases naturally occurred in the Provinces where there was the greatest distress. Thus in the North-West Provinces and Oudh the decreases was Rx. 1,009,524, in Madras Rx. 351,328, in Bombay Rx. 296,198, in the Central Provinces Rx. 204,107, in Upper Burma Rx. 169,772 and in Punjab Rx. 127,345. The loss of Railway revenue was greatest on the North-Western, Rajputana-Malwa, Oudh and Rohilkhand and on the two guaranteed railways leading to Bombay. The irrigation revenue shows an increase due to drought. There was an important decrease of Rx. 486,062 under "Opium" as the trade declined and the prices realised in Calcutta were below the estimate. The excess in the Mint receipts is due to the gain on a large circulation of copper coinage caused by the famine. The increase in the working expenses of major irrigation works was necessary to earn the increased revenue; while the decrease on the railways was due to the falling off in the revenue. The Post Office, Jails, Police, Medical, and General Administration all show increased expenditure due to the famine and plague. The army expenditure shows a saving over the estimates of Rx. 218,7[illegible]

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ছত্রপতি শিবাজী ১॥০

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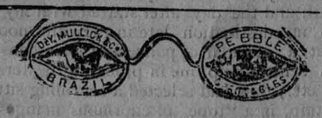

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Printed and published by K. L. Roy at the PATRIKA PRESS, 2, Anarida Chatterjee' Lane, and Issued by the PATRIKA POST OFFICE, Calcutta

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