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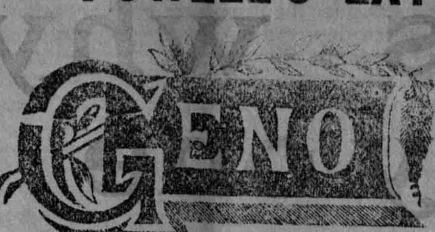
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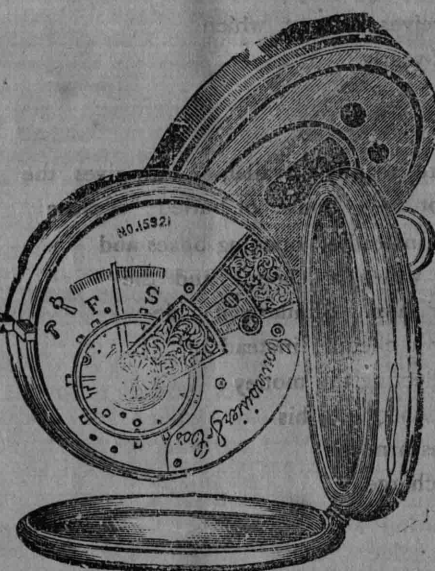
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THE
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CALCUTTA, JUNE 26, 1898.

THE PROPOSAL OF STARTING
A GOVERNMENT ORGAN.

Our correspondent "J", whose letter appeared in our last Tuesday's issue, does not think it possible for an Anglo-Indian paper to betray any sympathy for the people of this country, and, at the same time, retain the patronage of its Anglo-Indian constituents. We are told that "it is not the interest of these papers to write in the line you indicate." Their interest lies in going against the natives of the soil. Our correspondent, therefore, proposes that the Government should issue an organ of its own, for the purpose of explaining its motives, of removing the misapprehensions of the people, &c. &c. He is of opinion that if the Government can see its way of publishing such a paper, it can control the Indian papers without resorting to un-English and violent measures.

There is much truth in what "J" says, viz., that the interest of the Anglo-Indian press lies in adopting the tone of a violent party paper. A newspaper, which can abuse the natives of the soil in intemperate language, becomes at once the idol of the average Anglo-Indian. In confirmation of the views of "J" instances can be cited how Anglo-Indian papers, making the experiment of writing fairly, met with disaster. Thus the *Friend of India* lost its credit under the editorship of Mr. Routledge. That paper, under successive able Indian-hating editors, had acquired a peculiar tone. The taste of its constituents had been so vitiated by the intemperate writings of Smiths and Townsends that the fair utterances of Mr. Routledge gave its readers a nervous shock. Its constituents withdrew their patronage from the paper, and it soon became a bankrupt.

The *Statesman*, in the same manner, tried to keep the balance even. But it suddenly came to realize the fact that it is a little hard to please both parties. And so, that paper, to keep its position, practically eschewed political and party questions altogether.

Admitting that it is an exceedingly difficult task for Anglo-Indian papers to give up "abusing the native," yet, we think, they can do a vast deal of good to the Empire and humanity, without in any way injuring their private interests. For, this is a country of three hundred millions and is under the despotic sway of aliens. A newspaper here, therefore, is a more potent force for evil or good than elsewhere, especially those conducted by the members of the ruling classes.

Every one can see that the position that the Anglo-Indian newspapers assume in this country, is ridiculous in the extreme. As newspaper Editors, they have to appeal to the head and heart of their constituents. They belong to the common herd, and have to write as one belonging to the people, in the interests of the general public. But, in every line they write, they want to impress on the minds of their readers that they belong to the ruling race. Just now the Hon'ble Chief Justice and the Hon'ble Justice Bannerjee sit to hear criminal appeals. They know what their business is. Suppose, when doing business, the Chief addresses Mr. Bannerjee in this manner: "You see, Mr. Bannerjee, you are a colleague; that is quite true, yet you are a native, and I am an Englishman. That being the case, the arrangement is a farce, of associating you with me in this matter. Do as I dictate. That is the best thing that you can do. Don't you see it is giving me a rude shock to think that you are a colleague?" We think, if the Chief Justice assumed such an attitude, he would be, from one point of view, perfectly within his rights.

So, the Anglo-Indian paper is, from one point of view, perfectly within its rights, when it addresses the Indians as one of their conquerors and masters. But the administration of justice is reduced into a farce if a British Judge in India cannot divest himself of the idea of his being a member belonging to the ruling race. Journalism is similarly reduced into a farce if the Editor breathes his imperial relationship in every line he writes. It is the attitude of the Anglo-Indian papers that makes their utterances valueless, even when valuable, to the native mind. If it is ridiculous on the part of a missionary preaching Christianity, to base his claims to be heard on the fact of his being the conquering Englishman, it is similarly ridiculous on the part of a newspaper, who has to work, by appealing through the intellect, to place his claim on his being a member of the conquering community. Let them forget that they are Englishmen; let them write sense in lieu of sound and fury; and they can thus do yet a vast deal of good, without giving up their favourite pastime of "abusing the native". They just now do not heal but wound, unite but divide, soothe but irritate. What India is there, having some self-respect, who can go through a column of the Anglo-Indian papers of the average class, without feeling deep humiliation? Their pleasure consists in reminding the poor Indian of his conquered and helpless condition.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

The Currency question is such a difficult and complex problem that we freely confess we are not competent to deal

with it. But yet, we think, it is our duty to put the case of the Indians as clearly as we can, divested of all technicalities, for the consideration of the Committee, appointed in England. Many years ago we came across an old man who had attained the age of 105 years. We asked him to describe the state of the country when the English first came here. Among other things, he said: "We had no *tonkas* (rupees) in those days. We scarcely saw one of them. Indeed, I never saw one in my younger days. On the other hand, very many people had gold mohurs. I had eighteen which I kept in a net-bag, wrapped round my waist, concealed underneath my clothes. We used cowrees for market purposes." The question is: Where is all this gold gone, and how the large quantity of silver came into this country?

Leaving the above question to answer for itself, we shall proceed to show what fundamental changes were introduced in the country by its British rulers. When the Hindus and Mussalmans ruled, they remained in the country; but, when the English replaced them, they carried their earnings home, and thus Home Charges were created and fastened upon India. The circulation of money, like the circulation of blood, is good; but, then, both blood and money must circulate in the system and never go beyond it. We sent money to England; and if England sent its equivalent to India, there would have been no exchange difficulty. If blood leaves the heart and comes back to the same place again, the system is nourished. But, if we let open a vein and allow the blood to ooze out, the system is exhausted. The Home Charges have thus exhausted India. These Charges are increasing; and the increase of these Charges means the increase of the financial difficulty of India.

There was, no doubt, drain during the time of the East India Company. But the Company did not demand that stupendous fixed annuity which Her Majesty's Government have been claiming every year to meet their expenses in England. The Company took what it would earn by fair commercial and manufacturing enterprises. Besides, what they took was by what may be called the *utundi* system. If India could afford to pay anything to the Company, it was paid. If she could not, she did not. Now India must pay her tribute, whether she can afford to pay or not.

Thus it is, that the pinch of the drain began to be felt since Her Majesty assumed the direct government of India. Even then, for some years after that great event, the pinch was not felt to a degree of "excruciating pain". For, India had then a large uncultivated area of land. Everybody knows, India pays her annual tribute to England in kind. It is nominally paid in money, but really in its produce. Thus the drain in the beginning was for some years met by bringing waste lands into cultivation. These lands have now been exhausted. This has placed India at the mercy of even a slight freak of the weather. Now she is on the verge of starvation every moment.

But though India is in this terrible position, the change in the currency has caused a serious confiscation of her property. It is now a generally-admitted fact that there is about one hundred and fifty crores worth of uncoined silver in the country. When there were mints to coin private silver, there was a ready market for it. This market has been closed; and silver, deprived of its market, must fall in value, which means a severe loss to the people of India generally, and the poorer classes specially. In India, it is not the custom with the poorer classes to deposit their savings in banks; but, what they do, is to accumulate their savings, purchase silver with them, convert it into ornaments, and present these to their wives. This is the only valuable property of the poorer classes. By its Currency Act, the Government has, however, rendered this valuable property valueless to a considerable extent. But its value will be entirely gone, if a gold currency be introduced in this country. And then, where is the gold to come from, if the gold currency be substituted for the silver? There is no gold in this country.

So there was a scene in the House of Commons when Sir William Wedderburn rose to present the petition of the wife of the Sardar B. R. Nattu! The Opposition began to cheer, as he commenced reading the petition, while the Ministerialists would not allow him to proceed by cries of "order, order." Sir William was, of course, in order; otherwise, the Speaker would not have allowed him to read the petition, but the Ministerialists were anxious to save Lord George Hamilton from further humiliation, and hence they raised the cry of "order." They, however, failed in their attempt. Sir William Wedderburn not only gave a summary of the petition, but startled the House by the statement that while the Bombay authorities stated that the Nattu brothers had been released, the Secretary of State had informed the Members that this was not the case. Sir William also took the occasion to state that, "it was repugnant to justice and humanity to keep the Nattus imprisoned without trial for an indefinite period." The prayer of the petition, said he, was "the unconditional release of Sardar Nattu and his brother." The petition was at last presented amid cheers from the Opposition. A debate ought to be raised over the question.

The above reminds us of the case of Abdul Rasoul, who was deported from Bombay on suspicion of being a Russian spy in 1891. We have already referred to some questions and answers regarding him in Parliament. A regular debate, however, was raised over his case in the House of Commons on April 16, 1891. The debate was preceded by the following question and answer:—

Mr. Conyngham: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for India whether he has yet received the information from the authorities in India respecting the case of Sheikh Abdul Rasoul, promised on 16th February: if so, on what date was such information received and what is its purport; if not, will he explain the delay which has taken place in the obtaining of this information?

Whether he can now state what number of Her Majesty's Indian subjects have been imprisoned under the provisions of Regulation III of 1818, or deprived of their property since that date to the present time?

Whether he is aware that Regulation III of 1818, to which he recently referred, applies only to Bengal, and not to Bombay.

Would he state to the House what were the reasons of State, and upon what facts or evidence they were based, which necessitated the detention of Abdul Rasoul for nine months in gaol without trial?

And whether the Government still refuse to make any compensation to Abdul Rasoul for the treatment he has received.

As the Under-Secretary for India is in his place, perhaps he will answer the question.

Sir J. Gorst.—The statement made by me on the 16th of February was that a communication, addressed by Abdul Rasoul to the Secretary of State, had been forwarded to India and that the Secretary of State would consult the Government of India before taking any action thereon. The Government of India in the same month informed the Secretary of State that Abdul Rasoul, on being released from confinement applied to be sent back to Kashmir. On receiving this information the Secretary of State made the offer which I have already stated to the House. In answer to the next question I can only repeat the answer which I gave previously. The Secretary of State positively declines to say what number of Indian subjects have been imprisoned under the provisions of Regulation 3 of 1818 or deprived of their property since that date to the present time. With regard to the 3rd question the honourable member is right. Regulation 3 of 1818 applies only to Bengal and not to Bombay. It is still in force. In answer to paragraph IV, the Government of India are satisfied that Abdul Rasoul was employed as an emissary of the Maharajah Dhuleep Singh in issuing proclamation against the Queen. When he applied for his release, it was granted. In answer to the 5th paragraph, I have to say that the Government does not refuse to make compensation to Abdul Rasoul. As I have already stated more than once, if Abdul Rasoul demands compensation he must address himself in the first instance to the Government of India.

Mr. Conyngham: I have had cause to trouble the right hon. gentleman so frequently without obtaining a satisfactory assurance from him that I shall ask leave to move the adjournment of the House in order to raise the question.

The case of the Nattus is much stronger than that of Abdul Rasoul. Indeed, Sir John Gorst succeeded in turning the table on Mr. Conyngham on two unassailable grounds: The Under-Secretary of State for India said that the necessary information was wanting to enable the House to judge whether the Government of India had acted wisely in arresting Rasoul; (2) he quoted from a petition of Rasoul, showing that he was really employed by Dhuleep Singh and that he begged to be excused. No such plea could be urged with regard to the case of the Nattus. They were deported with the full knowledge and permission of the Secretary of State. Indeed, Lord George Hamilton has taken upon himself the entire responsibility of the deportation of the brothers. He is thus in a position to furnish the House with every information on the subject. As regards the other matter, the Secretary of State or the Government of Bombay has not been able to produce a title of evidence to connect the brothers with any political crime. It is quite true that the Tory Ministry is much more powerful now than it was in 1891, and the motion for adjournment of the House has therefore no chance whatever; but there is no doubt of it, a free discussion of such a case of gross injustice will have a very good effect upon the English public, and give another handle to the Liberals to weaken the influence of the Tories when the General Election takes place.

We regret we are being flooded with complaints regarding the management of the Central Bengal Railway, which runs from Calcutta to Khoolna. We ourselves had an occasion recently to travel by this line; and we must say, there are just grounds for these complaints. The train runs not only at a very slow rate, but, the first-class and second-class compartments sometimes contain no bath-room and water-closet. This is, however, a small matter, compared with other grievances. The following letter from a gentleman of high position in Jessore voices the opinion of the general public on the subject:—

1st grievance. There is no lady's compartment in the 2nd class. Gentlemen of position who ordinarily travel by the 2nd class, are, therefore, compelled, when travelling with family, to travel by the inter class which has a female compartment. They pay inter class fares, but the ladies are put to great discomfort, as 3rd class female passengers are allowed admission or rather put into the inter class female compartment in all the stations, there being no reserved accommodation for third class female passengers in the 3rd class. In fact, in the Bengal Central Railway there is no distinction between the inter and the 3rd classes; though middle-class people travel by the former class on payment of a higher fare. This is highly irregular; nay, it may amount to defrauding the inter class passengers of their money.

Remedy.—The Company should in all trains provide reserved accommodation for 3rd,

inter and 2nd class female passengers. They should also see that the guards and all station-masters do guard against any abuse of the privileges of the passengers of the respective classes.

2nd grievance. Jessore is the head-quarters of a district, and it is within the Presidency Division. Calcutta people work here for gain and come here on business. There are no trains by which they may leave Calcutta in the morning, reaching Jessore, at least, at noon and return to Calcutta the same night on or about 11 P. M.

The Company say that there are very few such passengers, and additional trains will not pay. This may be true, but there is a remedy still.

Remedy.—No additional trains are required. The 3 up and 4 down trains that run daily between Sealdah and Khulna may very easily be so timed as to remove the grievance.

It will perhaps be urged on behalf of the Company that the said two trains are at present so timed as to suit the convenience of those that travel to and from the East Bengal Districts via their line. The answer to this is: the said two trains may be made to reach Bongong about the same time as at present, and yet suit the convenience of the Calcutta people if only these trains run as fast as the 7 up and 8 down trains that have been discontinued from the 11th instant.

To this the Company may probably say that as they have no separate goods trains, they are compelled to make the existing passenger trains mixed, and they are necessarily slow. The answer is—that their mail trains are slow and they have local trains also. These may be utilised to make 3 up and 7 down passenger trains fast. All the through trains should not be made mixed and consequently slow. One up and one down passenger should at least be kept free to run fast for people who value time and with whom time is money.

The suggestions, embodied in the above letter, will, we hope, engage the prompt and serious attention of the authorities of the Bengal Central Railway. It is said that the line is not a paying one. If that be so, the Government should step in and take it up into its own hands. Indeed, the manner in which it is now being managed, is putting the travelling public to immense inconvenience; and something must be done speedily to put a stop to this state of things. A good deal of the inconvenience may be removed by increasing the speed of the trains. Another serious inconvenience is the want of accommodation for female passengers in every station. Ladies belonging to even highly respectable families, are seen to stand exposed to public gaze, which is so shocking to the sense of decency in this country.

The *Sudhakar* had no right to be offended with us for having done it a friendly service. His idea is that he is not responsible for the offences of his correspondent: probably, he is not a lawyer, or he would not have said so, but any lawyer will tell him that he is fully responsible for libels committed by his correspondents. By publishing the correspondence, he not only committed contempt of court, but libelled the Police Inspector, Lalit Babu and the Raja's people. Of course, editors are not responsible for opinions of the correspondents; but they are responsible for giving publicity to their offences.

"Is India nearly bankrupt?" That is the heading of an article in the *Statist*, over the signature of T. Lloyd, which is reproduced elsewhere. The writer, it will be seen, takes Lord George Hamilton severely to task for stating that, "India would have become bankrupt if the mints had not been closed." Indeed, he applies such strong epithets to the Secretary of State as that "Lord George Hamilton evidently has yet to learn the rudiments of economics." Lord George Hamilton and Mr. Lloyd are at the two opposite poles over this Indian currency question. While the former holds that the closing of the mints saved India from bankruptcy by artificially raising the value of the rupee, the latter is of opinion that the fall in the purchasing power of the rupee tends to increase its prosperity. Whom to believe? We in India, however, know this simple fact. By closing the mints, the value of the silver has depreciated to an alarming extent, and this means terrible impoverishment of the nation; for the only valuable property possessed by the vast masses in this country is silver. Like Lord George, Mr. Lloyd also speaks extravagantly when he says that the fall in the purchasing power of the rupee "made such an extraordinary advance in wealth that the accumulated trials of last year—famine, plague, earthquake and frontier war,—have not very materially thrown her (India) back. Already she is showing a remarkable recuperative power."

Mr. Lloyd, like many other Englishmen, are under the impression that India is growing in prosperity. But this fallacy can be removed by bringing forward one stubborn fact. If India is prospering, how is it that famine is a constant visitor in this land? Has England ever been visited by this calamity? Mr. Lloyd says that India is rapidly recovering from the calamities which beset her last year. The real fact, however, is that it will take her many years yet to attain to her former state. Heaven knows what would have been her condition. It was, however, a mere accident that she gathered a good harvest immediately after the famine. This bumper crop, no doubt, saved her from a yet more frightful famine; but she is still struggling hard to tide over the difficulties of the last year. The real fact is, a rise or a fall in the exchange means very little so long as India has to remit £19,000,000 to England annually. Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji has made this point very clear in his letter in

Commerce, which will be found in another column.

The *Pioneer*, in giving an account of the case of Gunner Davies, observes:—

The accused, when before the Magistrate, did not appear to realize the serious position in which he was placed, and kept smiling and laughing to his comrades throughout the proceedings.

The remark was, no doubt, made to court the observation that a European accused has not much dread of our criminal courts. In this particular case of Gunner Davies, there are factors which, however, do not entitle him to treat the matter as a joke. For, he was charged with the offence of having committed outrages upon, not only ladies, but European ladies. It is a case in which the public, European and Indian, are vitally interested. Talking of outrages upon persons in railways, it occurs to us that the railway is perhaps more unsafe as regards property than any other place, not only here, but, we presume, everywhere in the world. A railway guard wanted to break through a securely-packed railway parcel; but, though an adept in the business, he could not do it. His vanity was hurt; and, alighting at a station where there was a bilcock, he ascended the top of it, and jumped below with the parcel. His idea was that since he had not been able to open the parcel and had thus disgraced himself, he had no business to live, and, therefore, he made a final effort to break through the parcel, though the effort broke all his bones to pieces. Of course, the above story comes from America. Civilization has done much, but it has not been able to protect railway parcels from the depredations of a certain class of guards. Fancy the surprise the passenger when he was presented by a friendly guard with a bunch of fine leeches when, after inquiry, he came to know that they had been purloined by his friend from his own parcel which he had put in the brake van! This is the mango season, and, of course, frail mortals, having a liking for the luscious fruit, try to bring them by the railway. But alas! what is the good? The baskets come sure enough, but often without the mangoes!

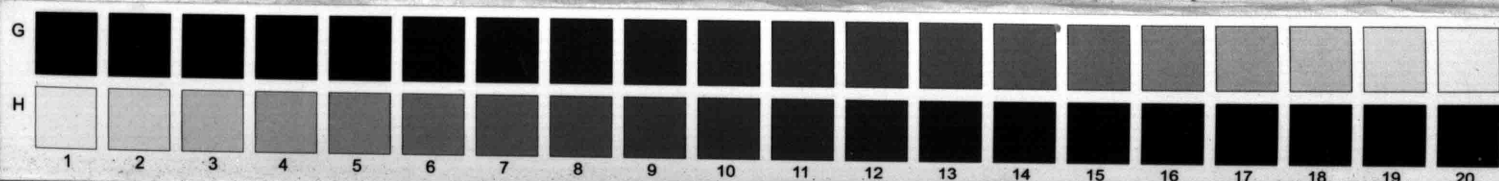
MR. STEAD, with his usual frankness, delivers himself thus in the last number of *Review of Reviews*:—

SPAIN OUR PREDECESSOR.—The spectacle at which we are now assisting, is of transcendental interest for all the world, but most especially, for us of Britain. Spain, which now, like one of her own tortured bulls in the arena, stoops to charge upon the sword of the American Matador, has been from old time our enemy on land and sea. It was upon the Spanish dons that our Elizabethan heroes fished the newly-forged trident of the English navy. Spain was our great precursor in Trans-Atlantic dominion. She was the pioneer of the nations in the conquest of the New World. She led; we followed. As a naval and a colonial world power, we stand to-day where Spain stood three centuries since. And it is impossible, even for the least reflecting Briton, not to think for a moment that as Spain is so some day we may be—while some of us even feel, as we witness the last expiring convulsions of the great Empire, that it is of the Lord's mercy that we are not to-day even as Spain. Certainly as Spain is, so we should have been, had the old Tory policy been persisted in; certainly, as Spain is, so we shall be if we carry much further the present policy of militarism and despotism which finds favour with the rulers of India. "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

England has no need of apprehending danger so long as it can produce men like Mr. Stead and many others whose names we can mention. What are we to Sir William Wedderburn and Mr. Hume that they should thus devote all their energies to the benefit of India? What is India to Messrs. Caine and Roberts that they should entertain such a brotherly feeling for the people of this country?

The gorgeous description, given by our London correspondent, of the procession which accompanied the remains of Mr. Gladstone, the greatest man of the age, is calculated to make the hardest heart melt. The master mind which conceived the arrangement, has our deep thanks. While going through the description, we felt the absence of Mrs. Gladstone. But no! she was there. It was a grand ceremonial, worthy of the great man who evoked such national feelings and worthy of the great nation which paid the tribute. To make the scene complete, Mrs. Gladstone ought to have died on the spot, and thus taken her place by the side of her husband! When will generous England let the Indians feel some of the joys of national life?

The action of the Vigilance Committee of Ward No. 8 ought to be followed and supported by all the Ward Committees in Calcutta. As expected, the *Englishman* calls it "extraordinary"; but every sensible man will approve of it. Indeed, we have been urging upon the Committees to take some such step since they have been brought into existence. Well, there is no denying the fact that, rightly or wrongly, an idea has gone abroad that persons suffering from diseases other than bubonic plague, are removed to the Isolation Hospital. With a view to prevent a scare, and without casting any reflection on the medical gentlemen engaged on plague duty, the Secretary of the Vigilance Committee of Ward No. 8 proposed to the Chairman of the Corporation to obtain per-



mission to have every case of plague or suspected plague examined by a competent European Doctor with all possible despatch, the fee for such examination being paid by the Ward Committee. He further proposed that in order to carry out the above purposes, either Dr. Sanders or Dr. Charles, with the President of the Vigilance Committee of the Ward, should be consulted, and that, in the event of such doctors declaring the case to be not one of plague, their opinion should be promptly laid before the Health Officer for such action as he might think fit to take.

It was expected that the proposal would be hailed with delight by the plague authorities, for, it would have given them an excellent opportunity to disprove the unfounded charges, which are, overtly or covertly, being brought against them, of dubbing cases of fever, cholera and other diseases as "plague". To the surprise of the Secretary of the Committee, however, the Health Officer flatly refused to comply with his reasonable request. And what are his grounds? His first ground is that the plague doctors are responsible for the diagnosis of the cases. His second ground is that plague medical officers are appointed by the Government of India, and they are thus not responsible for their action to other medical men. Are then the Bombay doctors empowered to do whatever they like? We are told, they are responsible for the diagnosis. But to whom are they responsible? Suppose they make a mistake. Who is to point this out to them and make them more careful in future? Surely, they are not infallible beings. Nay, at least a few cases have come to light where the diagnosis of some of them, was not correct. The plague doctors themselves should have thus shrunk from the serious responsibility imposed on them.

PLAGUE is a disease about which there may arise difference of opinion even amongst the most experienced experts, when it has not broken out in an epidemic form. The Bombay doctors are thus apt to commit mistakes, in spite of their best efforts. The chances of their committing mistakes would have been, however, reduced if they had the help of such distinguished medical practitioners of the town, as Dr. Sanders and Charles. But, no; the Health Officer would not have them! We must say, however, that Dr. Cook was ill-advised in rejecting the offer of the Committee. His action will only go to confirm the impression, noted above, namely, other than plague cases are returned as such. It is by such impolite steps that the scare about the plague is being kept up. As regards, the other ground, if it is really a fact that the plague doctors are invested with the supreme power of diagnosing a disease, the Government of India should be memorialized to associate with them some independent medical men. We mean no disparagement to the Bombay doctors. They may be first-class men in their line. But no human being is perfect, much less a medical person. They should have, therefore, of their own motion, suggested the proposal which emanated from the Vigilance Committee Ward No. 8.

BUT though the Health Officer has declined to comply with the request of the Committee, they are going to place the matter before the Government. Indeed, a resolution was passed by them to the effect that the Government be moved to appoint a Medical Board, consisting of medical gentlemen of established reputation to examine cases in which the diagnosis was disputed, with a view to prevent further spread of the prevailing idea that non-plague cases were isolated in plague hospital, and treated, to their detriment, as suffering from plague. Much credit is due to Babu Behary Lal Pyne and Dr. Bepin Krishna Coomarr for having proposed and seconded the above resolution. All Vigilance Committees in Calcutta, as we said above, should co-operate with the Committee of Ward No. 8 in this movement, by recording similar resolutions and submitting them to Government.

A STARTLING fact came to light at the meeting of Ward No. 8, held on the 22nd instant. The Chairman of the Corporation called for explanation from the Committee as to why several cases of plague in their Ward were not reported to the Health Officer. One of the members, Babu Manick Lal Dhur, rose and replied that one case was said to have occurred at 53, Medical College Street. He was, however, satisfied from enquiries that no such number was to be found in that lane, —the highest number in the lane being 61. Now who reported this case of the Health Officer? Was it the Bombay Doctors, or somebody else? The Health Officer is bound to disclose the name of the party who informed him that a case of plague had occurred in house No. 53, Medical College Street, whereas there is no such house in the street! The plague returns should show cases which have occurred, and not those which could not be traced.

We have already referred to the scene, enacted in the House of Commons, when Sir W. Wedderburn wanted to present the

petition of lady Natus. "This is a petition from the wife of Sardar Natus," began Sir William. Immediately there was an attempt to stop him. "Order," "order," cried the Government party. And why was this unseemly display? It was because the case was such a wretched one that those who supported the Government did not at all like to see the facts placed before the world. But how to stop the mouth of Sir W. Wedderburn? So his voice was sought to be drowned by noise. By-the-by, no Government is perfect in the world, —not even that of the British nation. Fancy the condition of those who call themselves "free Britons." Lord Salisbury needs the services of Mr. Chamberlain to maintain his position. But the Tories hold opinions, many of which differ diametrically from those of Mr. Chamberlain. Yet, what of that? His Lordship has to submit to the dictates of Mr. Chamberlain. Mr. Chamberlain is not to be blamed, if his speech has not occasioned a war between England and Russia. We fancy, however, English people find greater protection in public opinion than in Parliament. It is this fear of public opinion, which led the Ministerialists to interrupt Sir W. Wedderburn with loud cries of "order." Anyhow if the Natus have suffered, they have not undergone imprisonment in vain. It is impossible for any ruler, however strong, to do an unjust act, without being held responsible for it. Never will Lord George Hamilton venture again to commit an unconstitutional act.

WHILE describing the present condition of the Muffasil, we were led to observe that the old class of sympathetic officials are day by day disappearing. There is now no touch between the ruled and the rulers. There was the pedantic Mr. W. S. Seton-Karr, President of the Indigo Commission, and latterly Foreign Secretary, who was for some years Judge of a certain district. We, then a school-boy, wanted a bat and a ball, but had no money to purchase them: "Let us go to Mr. Seton-Karr for them," proposed we. But who bears the lion in his den? He was six feet and some inches in height, and his countenance did not invite familiarity. Well, somehow or other, the task devolved on us. With a beating heart we approached the great Saheb. Now it must be borne in mind that Mr. Seton-Karr had a notion that he was a Bengali scholar and knew the language better than a Bengali, which, of course, was not a fact, though all his courtiers never permitted him to know it. Indeed, he never spoke with a Bengali in any other language than Bengali. But we had not the slightest intention of addressing him in Bengali. We felt an ambition of speaking correct English to an Englishman; and we had, as a matter of fact, composed some choice sentences for the great occasion. The peons, however, would not allow the interview; so, we waited near the house, with the object of waylaying him. A little after Mr. Seton-Karr came out, and we ran to him in spite of the protests of his numerous retinue. We salaamed and told him in English that we students wanted a bat and a ball for outdoor exercise, and that as he was the *mao* of the district, he &c., &c. There was a smile in that hard feature. But remembering his resolution, he suppressed it immediately and bade us, in peremptory language, to speak in Bengali! Now here was a situation, indeed! Are all our fine sentences to go for nothing? Deeply hurt, we said, again in English, "You speak Bengali to a Bengali to learn Bengali; we must speak English to an Englishman to learn English." The great Saheb was staggered. To knock down the impertinent lad of 14 was out of the question. To acknowledge defeat, was still more out of the question on the part of an Englishman, a Civilian, and the head of the district. He, however, lost temper, and the result was, he forgot his Bengali and said angrily, "I won't listen to you unless you speak Bengali." Then we don't want your bat and ball," said we proudly and left the discomfited Saheb.

THE other students, when they heard the story, were very angry. "Why did you not speak Bengali, when by doing it we could have got the bat and the ball?" said all of them. That was quite true, and we had no reply to give. "You must go again," said some. Others said that if we did so, we would this time get a beating. We, however, resolved to go; for, a funny idea then led us to take the resolution. To make matters short, we found ourselves again face to face with Mr. Seton-Karr. This time, the Saheb, as soon as he saw us, accosted us of his own accord. "What does he mean? Does he mean assault?" we questioned ourselves. But no; the hard features shewed an apology of a smile. We stood before him trembling. He uttered only two words, viz, "Bengali" or "English?" We said "Bengali." "That is good. Now tell me what you want?" He said the above in Bengali. But, we said we had a wicked idea in mind, and it was to speak to him in Bengali which he had never heard and which he would never understand. In short, he had composed a sentence or two, made up of difficult and colloquial Bengali words. One word we remember: it was *doorabekshashan*, meaning, a telescope. How we managed to utilize that word in an address, the object of which was the begging of a bat and a ball, we have no recollection. "What is that? *door*, *door*, I can not catch the word," said he in English, forgetting altogether his resolution. We said *doorabekshashan*. "And what is it?"

"It means a telescope," said we. No sooner had we said it than he brought out a notebook from his pocket to note down the word and its meaning! "Well, you want bat and ball?" said he, "you shall have it. I see you are a very good Bengali scholar!" And sure enough, we had a complete set; nay, Mr. Seton-Karr now and then came to take part in the play.

Mr. Seton-Karr was a good Bengali scholar, so was one of his successors, Mr. Campbell, perhaps the brother of a late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. There was distress among the operatives in Lancashire and he wanted to raise a subscription here for their benefit. For this purpose he wrote a notice in Bengali, which he sent to us to be printed, we being then in possession of the only printing press on that side of India. With the printed slips we appeared before the Judge. The notice was written in very good Bengali. Yet we wanted to do a service to a great man like him, and we made very slight changes here and there. While presenting the printed slips, we had the candour of acknowledging the changes made in the language. "And why did you do that?" asked he, with an importunate face. Mr. Campbell was a very learned man, with a broad forehead and a philosophic presence. We replied innocently that his expression in one or two sentences was not quite idiomatic; and so we took the liberty of making the change. The philosopher immediately lost temper, which he betrayed by giving emphasis to the words he used. He said, "the expression was quite idiomatic." This he said, without making any inquiries as to the nature of the change. We then perceived that the apparently passionless figure before us had his conceit. We stammered out an apology. He accepted the slips, though he never inquired about the change we had made.

In those days many Europeans felt a pride in mastering the vernaculars. Perhaps the only European who can speak and write Bengali like a Bengali, is Mr. District Superintendent Harris, who has just been promoted to the grade of Deputy Inspector General of Police. He belongs to the old class,—shrewd, considerate, courteous and able. Did we not say that, generally speaking, the older classes of these Superintendents were more successful than their successors? And we said also that this was mainly due to the fact that they freely mixed with the people and confided in their Indian subordinates and sought advice from them. The name of Mr. Harris reminds us of his friend, Mr. District Superintendent Shuttleworth. He was also another excellent District Superintendent. The Detective Department, we fancy, is now one of the great institutions of the country; for, we now see detectives in plain clothes in every creek and corner. Mr. Harris, with his absolute command over the Bengali tongue, would form a formidable detective. With a *dhotee* and *chadder*, it would be possible for him, to pass as a Bengali, and mix with the Congresswallas unnoticed. But the mischief is that there is nothing to detect in the Congress camp, nor anywhere else. The detectives have no work in India,—the country of simple men—the highest object of whose ambition is to live an uneventful life in the service of God and the members of their family.

THE Indian Industrial Association have arranged for the delivery, on an early date, of a lecture on "Cassava Cultivation" by Mr. N. G. Mukerji, M. A. M. R. A. C., the well-known lecturer of the Shipbore College, Agricultural Department. Cassava is a kind of potato, not known in Bengal. It grows in Assam where it is called "Himal Alu," which means "Simul Alu," the leaves of the Cassava being like *bombax malabaricum* (semul tree) leaves. It may interest our readers to know that as a drought-resisting and readily utilisable crop Cassava has no equal. Mr. Mukerji has undertaken to illustrate the lecture with specimens from a growing plant to a ready-made "halua" made out of Cassava flour. This will contribute not a little towards rendering the lecture specially interesting to the public.

THE case of the three soldiers who stand charged with having caused the death of Dr. Suresh Chunder Sircar at Barrackpore, particulars of which appeared in these columns, is to come up at the next sessions of the High Court, which will commence on the 1st of July, and will be presided over by the Hon'ble the Chief Justice.

THE Allahabad paper says, it is now definitely settled that Sir James Westland will retain office until the end of March, in order to see the Budget through.

THE Government of India has been informed by the Australian Colonies not to encourage natives of India to emigrate there, now that a large number of pauper Asiatics have already gone there.

THE people at Karachi are said to be much inconvenienced in the jungles; and the sooner they are allowed to return to their houses, the better it would be for them. Under the circumstances, the Plague Committee ought to give greater attention, in order to expedite the disinfection of houses here.

It has been settled that no Indian Cavalry will be employed in the Khartoum Expeditionary force.

M. SIMONDS, as M. Yersin's chief assistant, is already known to our readers. It is understood he will shortly come to Calcutta to make experiments with the plague serum, prepared by the Pasteur Institute in Paris, and which is said to have been so successful at Karachi as a curative. M. Yersin, we hear, is now in Annam. He is reported to be endeavouring to solve the question of a cholera prophylactic.

THE Currency Bill, passed last January, providing for the issue of rupees from the Indian Currency reserve against gold deposited in London, expires on July 21st; and in view of the present circumstances of the money market and of trade, it is the intention of the Government to extend the Act for a time. Accordingly, the necessary legislation will be undertaken at a meeting of the Viceroy's Legislative Council early next month.

It is an interesting fact that the insurgents in Cuba number about 3,400 in all, and those under the direct command of Gomez are 200 men only. Their chief difficulty now consists of want of rations, for which alone they are in need of help from America. Gomez tells the Americans that if they will arm him and feed him and give him time—a good deal of the latter—he will drive the Spaniards into the sea. He has a natural ambition to remain in chief command, and is decidedly cool over the proposal to aid him with American troops.

THE Madras Municipality held a special meeting the other day, in pursuance of a requisition of the Commissioners, to discuss an article in the "Madras Mail" which contained strong criticism in regard to the Dhobie question, which was considered by them as an impeachment of the administration of the Municipality in that particular branch. Sir George Moore, President of the Municipality, left the meeting as soon as the question was brought up, as he was personally interested in the matter. A Chairman was elected for the meeting from among the Commissioners, and a resolution, recording the confidence of the Commissioners in the President, and declining to take any further action in regard to the "Mail's" article, was passed.

THE City Fathers of Bombay have so far recovered from the panic-stricken condition, consequent on the terrible attitude of the Government, as to declare at a recent municipal meeting that its policy in regard to plague has hitherto been a mistake. It now goes without saying that the Plague Committee, which superseded the Municipal Corporation, proved almost as great an evil to the citizens as the plague itself; for, if it did not help in the least to stamp out the disease or check its progress, it burdened the Bombay Municipality with liabilities, which are almost beyond its capacity to discharge, unless Government comes to its help. But it seems that the moral which the failure of the Committee taught, has been thrown away upon the authorities; for, they have formed another body, which is independent of the Corporation, to deal with the plague. Mr. Mehta characterized this body as worse than its predecessor, and considers its formation as illegal. It will be interesting to know what Lord Sandhurst has to say in reply to the strictures passed upon the new body, created by him.

SAYS the Satara correspondent of the "Maharatta":—"Plague, we believe, has left the city; but its terrors are still there. A plague case was discovered at Machi about the 5th instant, which proved fatal. On the following evening, near the City Post, a Municipal Karkun was seen to fall down in a delirious condition. Dr. Byron was sent for, and he ordered the removal of the patient to the Plague Hospital in the ambulance cart, in spite of the remonstrances of the Municipal Chairman who happened to be on the spot. The Doctor neither saw the necessity of taking the temperature of the patient, nor saw any harm in leading out the procession of the ambulance cart through the crowded bazaar. He ordered the procession on the mere hypothesis that 'it might develop into a plague case.' Ultimately, however, Drs. Thomson and Robertson found it to be an ordinary fever case, and discharged the patient after two days' detention. The matter has created immense panic in the city." In Calcutta, a general impression prevails that all the cases, which are officially termed plague cases, are not really so. The way to remove the impression, is to publish the clinical reports of such cases. But the plague authorities would not do it, and their unwillingness to do so has only tended to strengthen the impression. By-the-by, what are the Medical Committees appointed to examine plague patients, doing? They could, if they liked, disabuse the public minds of the impression, alluded to above.

THE recent reports from Midnapur state that the damage done, so far as is known up to the time, is considerable. During Saturday and Sunday the river could not be crossed at all. It is not yet accurately known how many lives were lost in this connection. One man, rescued by the police as he was carried along clinging on to a tree, states that his whole family, numbering seven persons, were drowned, and that most of the houses in his village were carried away by the flood. Several droves of cattle and roofs of houses were frequently seen to be floating down the river. The damage, done in Midnapur town, is said to have been confined to the streets near the Searner Ghat, C. S. N. Company. The P. W. D. Workshops have been severely dealt with: the sea-wall fell in, and the water was soon six feet deep among the steam lathes and other machinery. Numerous native houses have fallen in and on Monday, crowds of coolies could be seen, digging out household furniture from the debris of the collapsed houses. The water rose several feet above the gates of the Mohunpur lock on the canal. The canal itself is reported to be seriously damaged in many places, the loss having amounted to several lakhs. At Lakhipur, the Engineer in charge had a narrow

escape, the water having risen to six feet in his bungalow. He escaped in a boat. As was reported previously, the telegraph lines between Midnapur, Cuttack and Tamluk are said to be greatly damaged. Several breaches in the new railway embankment are also reported. What happened at Chatal and Tamluk, is not yet known.

THE Bank of Bombay on Thursday reduced its rate of interest on Demand Loans on Government Paper to nine per cent.

PROFESSOR KIELHORN, of Göttingen, has succeeded the late Hofrath Buhler as editor of the *Encyclopaedia of Indo-Aryan Research* published by Trubner, of Strassburg.

A PRIVATE of the Black Watch—a bar-waiter of the Army Temperance Association was taken ill at Benares on the evening of the 22nd instant, with heat apoplexy while at his duties, and died on the following morning.

THE load up Suffolk Hill is now finished. This arduous task had taken the 30th Pioneers and one company of Sappers three months' hard work.

No rain has fallen at Benares for some days and the weather is very hot, with a high west wind blowing all day. Several cases of cholera have occurred in the city. Fever, too, is very prevalent.

MR. IVER THOMAS, Superintendent of Telegraphs, Upper Burma, probably proceeds home on furlough next month. Mr. Meredith, from Madras, will officiate.

DR. MEHR CHAND, Rai Bahadur, has been appointed to officiate as Civil Surgeon of Amritsar.

ERICADIER-GENERAL ENGERTON was expected to arrive at Landi Kotal on Thursday from Peshawar. He takes over command of the Khyber force and political charge of the Khyber from Major-General Sir Penn Symons on the 24th instant. After that date the force in the Khyber will be known as the Khyber Brigade.

The punitive police force, posted at Dhokri consists of one sergeant and three constables, and the cost will be about Rs. 575. The force located at Jabhi, consists of one sergeant and six constables, and will cost about Rs. 886.

THE Lucknow *Advocate* learns that as an upshot of the Barabanki Arms case, the particulars of which were published at the time in these columns, Raja Raghubar Bahadur Singh, Talukdar of Harhah, has been deprived of the privileges granted him under the Arms Act. So, though the Rajah was acquitted by the Sessions Judge, he has been all the same punished by the executive authorities. We think, this is a fit subject for an interpellation in the N.W. P. Legislative Council.

A SUIT was lately brought against the Northwestern Railway Administration, by Mr. W. H. Freeman, late a District Traffic Superintendent on the line to recover the sum of Rs. 20,000 as damages for his alleged wrongful dismissal. The suit has now been thrown out *in toto* by the District Judge of Rawalpindi, on the grounds that Freeman can show no right to sue.

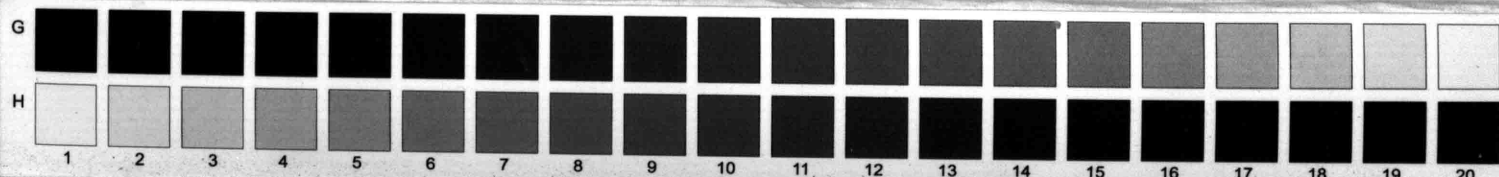
THE undermentioned Civil Medical pupils of the Agra Medical School, having passed their final examination have been appointed as 3rd Grade Hospital Assistants with effect from 1st May, 1898, the date passing their final examination:—Bind Madhav, Tulshi Ram, Narain Prasad Krishna Nand, Kashi Ram, Muhammad A. Latif, Sri Ram, Girdhari Lal, Sundar Lal, Jai Singh.

THERE was at Gurgaon, on the night of the 15th, a daring attempt at dacoity on passengers coming from the Railway Station. Aware of the approaching danger, the passengers, at once stopping all the carriages, unitedly fought off the dacoits, who ran for the village and looked on the way a party on five or six men. A woman had her ear torn off by the ornaments and a *Chowkidar* was severely hurt on the arm. In the former fight, a man named Kishan Lal was wounded on the head. The Police, it is stated, are making enquiries.

WE read in a Calcutta telegram that "three natives were sent to jail to-day for two years' rigorous imprisonment for assaulting Mr. Maxwell, Port surveyor." If any serious injury had been done to him the charge should have been one of grievous hurt, in which case the punishment of two years would be intelligible. But there is a theory among certain sections of the people in India that no punishment is too severe for "natives," especially when the injured party is a European; and we should wait to see whether this punishment is in accordance with that theory.—Hindu.

MR. MEREWETHER has been writing a book on the recent famine in India. In connexion with the inmates of the poor house at Bilaspur he mentions one curious fact:—"I here came (he says) across the first specimens of famine down, which is produced by long-continued starvation. At certain stages of want a fine down of smooth hair appears all over the bodies of the afflicted. It has a most curious look, and gives the wearer a more simian appearance than ever. When this has once appeared I heard from those learned in such matters that the *ultima Thule* of privation had been reached, and that there was no hope for the sufferer, except speedy release by merciful death. There were more than a score of souls who had reached this stage, and their bodies were covered from head to foot with the soft-looking black fur."

"FEAST to the Hindu poor from Mussulmans" is in bold type formed the heading of an ishtehar that was scattered broadcast in the city on Friday and Saturday. The message of good-will conveyed by the notice was as welcome to educated Hindus as the invitation to the banquet was to the Hindu poor. The Hon'ble Nawab Fateh Ali Khan in honour of the restoration of the old brotherly relations between Hindus and Mussulmans and in accordance with his practice of giving a feast to the poor in honour of Mohurrum and as a return-compliment for what the local Hindus did at Mohurrum, asked all poor Hindus to dinner in the compound of the Raoi Sahib on Sunday. Rai Mian Singh, Lala Ram Rattan and Bhai Mehar Singh Chawla, Municipal Commissioners, were in charge of the arrangements and provided a really sumptuous and excellently served meal to the hundreds of Hindu paupers in the city that attended in response to the invitation.—Tribune.



Calcutta and Provincial.

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LEGISLATION.—A Bill is likely to be brought forward immediately to prevent the introduction of the tick plague into India through the Australian horse trade.

THE BARUIPORE RIOT CASE.—The further hearing of the case against fifteen and eighteen villagers who are charged with rioting, being members of an unlawful assembly and assaulting several officers of the Salt Department and the police on the morning of the 27th May last at Chappahatti, near Barui-pore, was resumed on Friday before Mr. E. E. Forrester, Joint-Magistrate of Alipore. Babu Sonatan Chatterjee, a Railway guard, deposed that on the morning of the occurrence, while his train was nearing the Piali Bridge, he saw a mob chasing a Sahib who was besmeared with blood. He identified two of the accused. Both the cases were adjourned.

THE HIGH COURT.—Mr. Justice Chunder Madhub Ghose resumes his seat in the High Court on July 1, when Mr. Behari Lal Gupta, C.S., reverts to his substantive appointment as District and Sessions Judge. Mr. Justice Macpherson is due back from his three months' furlough on July 18, relieving Mr. Pratt, who is acting for him. It is understood, however, that Sir Henry Prinsep contemplates taking short leave on Mr. Justice Macpherson's arrival, and will not return to his duties until after the long vacation, in which case it is unlikely that Mr. Pratt will be disturbed in his Puisse Judgeship. The vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Justice Trevelyan is, we hear, to remain unfilled for the present.

DAKOTS IN GOVERNMENT PARK.—Six ruffians are just now in the custody of the Alipore Police on a charge of having attempted to commit dacoity in Government Park at Barrack-pore. The miscreants, on the night of the occurrence, with many others, who have since absconded, broke into the Park, and brutally assaulted the darwans. They then attempted to enter into the premises occupied by Babu H. C. Chatterjee, the officer in charge of the Park, but the latter was too alert for them. The Babu first attempted to scare them away by firing his gun, but when they came to close quarters, he wounded one of them with his sword who died soon after. The present accused will shortly be placed on their trial before the Deputy Magistrate of Barrack-pore.

MUNICIPAL MEETING.—A special meeting of the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta will be held at the Town Hall on Monday, at 4 P. M. the business to be brought forward is to sanction the borrowing by the Commissioners, in accordance with the provisions of Section 404 of Act II (B. C.) of 1883, of the sum of 30 lacs of rupees at a rate not exceeding 5 per cent., repayable in 20 years, for the construction of works of a permanent nature, as recommended by the Loans Committee held on the 17th June, 1898. Babu Satis Chunder Ghose will ask the following question:—Having regard to the difference of opinion that is being expressed in the papers and by the people as to the existence of plague in epidemic form in Calcutta, will the Chairman and the Health Officer be kind enough to say if rate-payers and other people who have left the town or who have sent their families and children out of town in consequence of the several scares may be advised to come back in our midst?

EDUCATIONAL.—Pending the arrival of Babu Mahim Chandra Chatterji, B.A., Deputy Inspector of Schools, Faridpur, under orders of transfer to Howrah, the following arrangements are sanctioned as a temporary measure until further orders:—(1) Babu Tripura Charan Banerji, B.A., Head Master of the Barrackpur Government School, to act as Deputy Inspector of Schools, Howrah; (2) Babu Bhola Nath Mukherji, Second Master of the Ravenshaw Collegiate School, to act as Head Master of the Barrackpur Government School; (3) Maulvi Waris Ali to act as Second Master of the Ravenshaw Collegiate School, Cuttack, and to be substantively *pro tempore* in class VI of the former Subordinate Educational Service in the vacancy arising from the retirement of Babu Latu Lal Malik, Third Master of the Krishnagar Collegiate School; Mr. Nagendra Chandra Mitra, B.A. (Cantab.), Barrister-at-Law, is appointed to be Deputy Inspector of Schools Cuttack.

THE "ENGLISHMAN" ON THE NATIVE PRESS.—Writing of the *Englishman's* attacks on the Native Press, the *Champion* remarks:—"We are not prepared to defend all things that appear in the columns of the *Patrika*, but had we to choose, we would rather be responsible for that journal than the *Englishman*. The *Patrika* is useful—it does enable the public to judge of what is passing in Calcutta, society, whereas the *Englishman* is a paper of the usual rabid Anglo-Indian type whose views, on any 'Native' matter, can easily be guessed, and it is, therefore, absolutely no guide to those who are anxious to know concerning what is passing in India. However, all this is away from the subjects; we sincerely hope, nay, we are sure, that the Bengal Government will be wiser than its self-appointed mentor. At present, the authorities in the Metropolis have quite enough worry on hand, without adding to their troubles, and as a sign of what is likely to happen, should the *Englishman's* advice be followed, we might point to the articles in the *Hindu* and *Madras Standard* which clearly indicate how Indian opinion is forming on this subject. And, after all, Indian opinion is something, and to us it seems to be of more value to an Indian Government than the support of a hundred papers similar to the *Englishman*."

RATE OF EXCHANGE COMPENSATION ALLOWANCE.—Under Rule VII of the Rules published with Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department, No. 2422 Ex., dated 31st May, 1897, it has been notified for general information that the market rate of exchange for the second quarter of 1898-99 has been fixed at Rs. 3 31-32d., the percentage of salary admissible on account of Exchange Compensation Allowance in that quarter being Rs. 6-5-9 approximately.

ANOTHER HEAVY FLOOD.—A Correspondent writes from Jehanabad, under date the 20th: On the evening of Saturday, the 18th June, the river, scarcely knee-deep during summer, began to rise. During the night it rose higher, and in the morning the people awoke to see the river full to the brim, the creeks, khals, and corners all full. At 5 P. M. on Sunday the river was still rising, and the Awahall Bai Road was submerged at the police quarters. People began to fear, and as night advanced, the water rose higher and higher and reports of falling houses were brought from the other side. The climax was reached at twelve o'clock at night, when many houses on both sides of the river (mostly kutchia) began to fall and the whole town except the bazaar was knee-deep in water. The sufferer sought shelter in higher land. The whole town presented a very dismal appearance during the night. The cries of the homeless, coupled with falling houses, was a woeful sight. Many respectable residents, including moonsiffs, pleaders, and others, took shelter in the local Moonsiff and school building and in the houses of two local pleaders who did their best to render help. The Vice-Chairman of the Municipality afforded shelter to many. The water abated the next morning, but it was not till Sunday evening that the sufferers began to return to their houses. No loss of life is reported, but one woman was buried in a fallen house.

Baids and Halkins.—The *Pioneer* says:—Sir William Foster, M. P., who asked the Secretary of State for India to take steps to prevent any but only duly qualified men from practising medicine in this country could scarcely have been aware of the impossibility, to say nothing of the inexpediency and undesirability of carrying out his proposal. The percentage of the population of this country attended by qualified medical men is infinitesimally small, less than 2 or 3 per cent, and there are large tracts of country where the only agency available is that of *baids* and *halkins*. The great mass of the population have not yet taken to our medicines and our system of treatment, and the absurdity of an attempt to force these on unwilling people is patent to anyone acquainted with India and her people. It is true a great number of ignorant men, who pretend to be *halkins* or *baids*, have scarcely any knowledge of the systems of medicine they profess to practise, but it is impossible for Government to do anything in the matter without recognising these systems and instituting regular examinations in them, and this, we submit, Government cannot undertake for obvious reasons. The question is one of the many connected with the social life and habits of the people of India, with reference to which the policy of utter non-interference is the best and safest that can be adopted.

SIR T. PLOWDEN, Resident at Hyderabad, will take leave for three months from July 30th.

ACCORDING to the Meteorological Reporter for Western India "there are signs, not pronounced as yet, that the conditions unfavourable to rain may not last long."

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Burma leaves Maymyo on July 2nd for a tour through Lower Chinawin, arriving at Rangoon on the 20th.

No rain has fallen at Poona, and the monsoon is persistently "keeping off." There is danger of the crops withering. If rain does not soon fall, the wind continues strong from the west, and the sky is cloudless.

The following extraordinary case has recently cropped up at Poona:—Two women, named Nuzar Begum and Alice, and Thomas Owen, have been arrested in Bombay on warrants issued by the City Magistrate of Poona, at the instance of Mr. Owen of this city, on charges of giving false information to public servants with the intent of causing injury and abetting each other in the commission of that offence. It appears that Owen was charged by the two women, the former his mistress and the latter his daughter, with committing a certain offence on the latter, a girl of fifteen years. Mr. Walker, the City Magistrate, at that time, acquitted Owen on the charge, as medical evidence was exonerating. The present proceedings are the outcome of these allegations. The case will be tried shortly.

OWING to the unprecedented export traffic in wheat for which the Spanish-American war is to a certain extent responsible, the export sheds at Keamari are now a-days full of animation and bustle. Some idea of the heaviness of the traffic may be had from the fact that the other day three loaded trains had to wait at Karachi city station owing to the way to Keamari being blocked with other goods trains. One half of the entire staff of the North Western Railway is said to have assembled at Keamari owing to this unprecedented rush of business. Export merchants are no doubt looking forward to large gains and immense profits.

ACCORDING to the *Advocate of India*, the following is causing much comment in the Punjab. It is alleged that some time ago a young judicial officer in a Punjab Cantonment applied to an Indian in his jurisdiction for a loan, but was refused. Shortly afterwards, the same Indian was charged before the officer with the breach of some cantonment rules; and in order, it is said, to save himself further trouble, he advanced the officer a loan of three thousand rupees, taking a promissory note in return. When this note became due, the Indian demanded payment within twenty-four hours and threatened, in default, to report the circumstances to Government. Upon this, the officer gave him a cheque which, on presentation at the Bank, was returned, marked "refer to drawer." The Indian immediately reported the whole case to the head of the Judicial Department; and the case is now pending before Mr. Justice Reid in the Chief Court.

PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

WEDNESDAY'S OFFICIAL RETURNS.

There were two seizures on Wednesday: one from Ward No. 6 and the other from Ward No. 9. There were two deaths: one in Ward No. 6 and the other in Ward No. 10. The total number of seizures up to date was 134 and of deaths, 100. The number of deaths in the city from all causes was 51, as against 50, the average of previous five years and 44 and 31 of Tuesday and Monday respectively.

THURSDAY'S RETURNS.

ON THURSDAY there was only one case, that reported by the Medical College authorities.

MEDICAL COLLEGE REPORT.

Up to 6 P. M. Thursday, there was only one admission in the Medical College Hospital:—Hashanoo, a Mahomedan lad, aged 14, living at Tirteta Bazar Lane. There was one death: Jummon, Mahomedan male, aged 60, a beggar, who had been removed from 136, Machooa Bazar Street on Tuesday.

A CORRECTION.

On Thursday evening we received the following from the Municipal Office: 1st Vital Statistics for 2nd June, one seizure and one death in Ward No. 15 should have been placed in Ward 13.

THURSDAY'S OFFICIAL RETURNS.

On Thursday there were two seizures: One in Ward No. 6 and the other in Ward No. 20. There was one death—in Ward No. 6. The total number of seizures up to that date was 136, and, of deaths, 101. The total number of deaths in the city from all causes was 51, as against 51 and 44 respectively, on Wednesday and Tuesday.

FRIDAY'S RETURNS.

Up to 7 p. m. Friday there was only one case reported to the Health Office by the Campbell Hospital authorities. There was one death among the old cases.

MEDICAL COLLEGE REPORT.

Up to 6 P. M. Friday one case was admitted into the Medical College Hospital: Mohana, a Hindu female aged, 35. There was no death.

IRRESPONSIBLE DIAGNOSIS.

The Secretary to the vigilance Committee, Ward No. VIII, have received the following reply from the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation regarding medical examination of suspected plague patients by medical men:—

"With reference to your letter to the Chairman, dated 8th June, I have the honor to inform you that the medical officers on plague duty are not prepared to accept your suggestion that other medical men should be called in to see a case of suspected plague before removal, seeing that they are responsible for the diagnosis. Further that I do not see how I could accept the opinion of medical gentlemen who have no responsibility against those of the official medical officers, whose services have been lent by Government for the purpose.

Yours most obdt. servant,
(Sd.) J. Cook."

INOCULATIONS.

Dr. Cook, the Health Officer, and Dr. (Miss) Traill Christie on Thursday last went to the house of a Hindu gentleman in 201, Bow Bazaar Street, and inoculated several male and female members of his family. Several Hindu females were inoculated on that day by Dr. (Miss) Traill Christie at 68-4, Cathedral Mission Lane.

THE TRAMWAY COMPANY'S STRIKE.

The Tramway Company has been working at a great disadvantage during the last few days, as several of their servants have gone on strike. These consist for the most part of the syces, pointsmen, drivers and others employed at the Company's depots in Kidderpur, Sealdah, and Bhowanipur. They received their wages on Tuesday, and immediately on receipt of them they left in a body, informing the Company's officers that they were leaving the city for fear of being removed to hospital on account of the plague. All the reasoning in the world, appears to have had no effect on them, and the Company was put to great inconvenience. The services of some Eurasians had to be requisitioned from Bow Bazar and other parts of Calcutta to fill the places of the men who had left, but this did not bring the number to its full complement.

HOUSE DISINFECTION.

Inspector Phelan on Thursday last disinfected No. 20, Bow Bazar Lane, on account of dead rats being found in the place. For similar reason, No. 23, Metcalfe Street, and 13, Sreenath Babu's 3rd Lane, was disinfected. Inspector H. Agar disinfected 83, Champatollah 2nd Lane from where a native had been removed to the Medical College Hospital suffering from plague. Inspector H. D. Mookerjee disinfected 83, Chandney Choke Street, in consequence of one dead rat having been found there. Inspector L. M. Mookerjee disinfected No. 151, Machooa Bazar Street, as a patient had been removed from there to the Medical College Hospital suffering from plague.

THE retention of the native mountain battery lines at Poona has been sanctioned by the Government of India for use as a segregation camp, in case the plague should break out among the native troops during the rains.

THE Straits Settlement Government has imposed quarantine against Amoy and Swatow which are declared infected with plague. Venice Convention regulations are imposed against these ports.

IN Bombay there were eight fresh cases, including two old cases which have been under enquiry, one from Rutlam by rail, and seven deaths reported on Thursday from plague. There were 82 deaths from all causes, as against 76 on the same date last year and 57 the year before.

THURSDAY'S plague returns at Karachi show three seizures and four deaths. The totals now stand: 2,949 attacks, and 2,719 deaths. There are about 150 patients in different plague hospitals, the majority of them being convalescent. About 5,500 persons have been inoculated.

OOTACAMAND has been declared a plague-infected station, although not a single case of plague has yet occurred. (We have a plague hospital and two plague camps, while every new arrival is ordered to report himself to the medical officer, and get a passport after ten days' continuous inspection.

PAPER HORSE-SHOES.

A TRIAL of paper shoes, for horses, is shortly to be made in London. Enthusiasts think it will have a great effect upon the business of farriers and horse-dealers. Snuggly reposing in a glass show case at Mr. J. A. W. Dollar's veterinary establishment in New Bond-street is a horse-shoe which looks strangely out of place in the glittering collection of shoes of all sorts, strongly nailed on to models of hoofs. The new horse-shoe is made of compressed paper; it requires no nails to secure it to the hoof, and, while lighter than the most fragile of racing plates, it is claimed to be nearly as durable as the solid iron shoes which have hitherto secured to horses immunity from the effects of constant travelling over rough surfaces. Mr. Dollar, who proposes to shoe a large number of horses experimentally shortly with the new shoe, which is a German invention, says that in Berlin, where cab and carriage horses have been shod with paper shoes for some time, good success has resulted. One of the first advantages of paper shoes for horses is the decreased cost. It is believed that a saving of 20 per cent. in the actual cost of keeping horses shod can be effected by the use of the new shoe. But the cost of keeping horses shod is the most inconsiderable burden of the old method, with iron shoes, with which all the world is familiar. The real tax of iron shoes is the danger of their use, from the necessity of their being nailed in place. The new paper shoes are secured with a very strong glue. It is no exaggeration to say that almost all hoof troubles are caused by improper or careless shoeing. By far the largest part of the evils of improper shoeing come from injury to the foot through bent or misdirected nails. Thousands of valuable horses have thus been injured for life. The facts that the new paper horse-shoes can be applied by any one, that they are slightly elastic, thus accommodating themselves to the natural contractions and expansions of the hoof, and are not capable of producing hoof galls, or cuts should one horse be kicked by another, are considered as among the other advantages which make horse owners—if not farriers—hope for the success of the coming experiments.

THE "BULLET-PROOF MAN."

A LETTER written by Corporal Laurie, of the Seaforth Highlanders, to his sister, describing the battle of Atbara, is published by the *Scotsman*. The corporal writes:—"I suppose you have seen me reported as slightly wounded and pictured me as an interesting invalid. Well, I was struck, but the effect was so small that I have often been worse hurt in a football match. But during the rest of the day and for some days afterwards I have been an object of interest and have been questioned by almost every officer and man in the battalion, referred to as the bullet-proof man, and asked if I would mind letting a section fire a few rounds at me to see if they could do me any harm. The fact is that I got most of the corners of my clothing shot off, while personally I was unharmed. Before I entered the zareba I was not struck, but shortly afterwards a bullet took off the toe of my left shoe without hitting my foot, the shoe being a size too big, for easy marching and sleeping at night. Then my bayonet was struck, and bent over at a right angle. Then a shot went through my sleeve, near my left wrist, tearing two holes, but not hurting myself. Then my rifle was struck while I was loading, the bullet splintering the butt and being stopped by an iron bolt which it met. This bullet would certainly have gone right into my body but for my rifle being there. Then a nigger in a trench let drive at me with a spear, missed my ribs by an inch and slit up my haversack. A bullet then grazed the back of my hand just enough to make it bleed. When I reached the river bank, which was nearly perpendicular, a shot came from the bottom, about twenty feet below and a little to the left, which caused the wound I am supposed to have got, and was so curious that I was paraded before the General. It entered through the lid of my right ammunition pouch, which was open, went into my right coat pocket, smashing a penknife and two pencils, tore four holes in my shirt, made a surface wound two or three inches long in my left breast, and came out near my left shoulder through my coat and ammunition pouch braces. In the afternoon I strolled over to the field hospital and got a piece of dressing on, and it has never troubled me at all; in fact, it was a farce to put it in as a wound, and was done without my knowledge by the colour sergeant. So you see I've really been, as I'm told by everybody, wonderfully lucky in getting off as I have done, while other poor chaps were given no chances."

COLONEL Dyce, Officiating Colonel at Multan, has taken the command of the Tochi Valley.

H. E. the Governor of Bombay will hold a levee at the Council Hall, Poona, on the 29th instant.

THE opium revenue continues to fall off at an alarming rate, and, to date, is Rs. 12,96,250 worse than the estimate.

SURGEON-CAPTAIN A. W. RUSSELL, Indian Medical Service, died at Bareilly on Wednesday morning, of heat apoplexy.

WE understand, Sir John Woodburn intends to return to Calcutta from Darjiling in the first week of July along with the Secretariat.

THE *Nasim* of Agra writes:—"It is rumoured all over city that a Magistrate publicly assaults the parties that go before him and now and then gets their hands and feet fastened to something. He is also known to throw paper-weights on people round him."

FURTHER news which has reached us from the Khyber goes to show that the Afidis who returned empty-handed from Kabul are not merely despondent, but are intensely disgusted at the stern refusal of the Amir to have anything to say to them. For generations they have prided themselves on their independence, and when they so far humbled themselves as to entreat Abdur Rahman to intercede on their behalf with the British Government, they were confident that their appeal would be successful. Now they find that their humility has been of no avail, and it is doubtful whether they will ever again turn to Kabul for help. They see that they must make the best bargain they can with the Government against whom they took up arms last autumn, and this conviction will act in a very wholesome way upon the more unruly spirits among them. Fortunately for them, as we recently remarked, the Government of India have no idea of imposing harsh terms upon them or of cutting them off from employment in the native army and the local corps of Khyber Rifles. The men who fought against our troops will make excellent sepoy, and, with proper handling, they should be kept true to their salt. If no political blunder is made in the matter of the final settlement of the Khyber, the Afidis may be won permanently over to the side of law and order, though it may take some years to achieve this end.—*P. S. G.*

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAMS.]

SIMLA, JUNE 23.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. The 8th of July has been fixed as the date for the first meeting of the Viceroy's Legislative Council here.

It is very probable that Mr. Cunningham, Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, will retire with the Viceroy. It is also probable that, in that case, Colonel Durand, the Military Secretary, will join the Foreign Office as Deputy Secretary.

BHAGALPORE, JUNE 23.

An enthusiastic meeting of the rate-payers and residents was held yesterday in the College Hall, under the presidency of Mr. Deep Narain Singh, a big landholder and Barrister-at-law. A most representative and influential Rate-payers' and People's Association was formed. The universally-respected Mohashai Taruk Nath Ghose was elected its permanent President. Impressive speeches were made by Mr. Deep Narain Singh and others on the necessity of forming such an association.

SIMLA, JUNE 24.

The estimated cost of improving the Simla water-supply scheme is four lakh and seventy-five thousand rupees.

Mr. Ibbetson, the Chief Commissioner-elect of the Central Provinces, leaves Simla on the 15th July to relieve Sir Charles Lyall.

The services of Surgeon Captains Clarkson and O'Kinealy are placed at the disposal of the Government of Bengal. The services of Mr. T. Browne Assistant Superintendent of Police, Bengal, are placed at the disposal of the Government of Assam. Mr. W. S. Meyer, officiating Deputy Secretary, Finance Department, is confirmed vice Mr. Dane. The Punjab Gazette notifies the first meeting of the Legislative Council on 8 July.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, JUNE 24.

An American official despatch states that the landing of troops in Cuba has begun, but no details whatever are given.

LONDON, JUNE 22.

A surgeon, attached to Admiral Sampson's fleet at Santiago, has certified that the bodies of the American dead have not been mutilated, as alleged, the wounds ascribed to mutilation being due to the Mauser bullets.

LONDON, JUNE 22.

A third American expedition for Manila will sail from San Francisco on the 27th instant. General Merritt, who has been appointed Commander of the American forces in the Philippines, will probably accompany this expedition.

LONDON, JUNE 22.

A Peking telegram announces that the Tsung-li-yamen has signed a contract with M. Luzzatti, representing the Anglo-Italian Syndicate, giving the Syndicate, exclusive control of all iron and coal deposits in the northern sections of Hunan.

LONDON, JUNE 22.

President Faure has summoned M. Peytral to form a Cabinet.

LONDON, JUNE 24.

The American troops at Daquiri have advanced inland to hold six miles of the country from the coast.

LONDON, JUNE 24.

The insurgents say that the defences of Santiago are very strong, but Admiral Cervera has telegraphed for men and guns, to assist in the defence, adding that the situation is critical. Admiral Sampson is landing big guns and camp paraphernalia, while the warship Texas is engaged in bombarding the forts near Santiago. Yesterday a shell struck the Texas, killing one man, and wounding eight, and damaging the vessel.

LONDON, JUNE 24.

The Spanish Minister of Marine has announced in the Cortes that a reserve squadron under Admiral Camara is going to the Philippines.

LONDON, JUNE 24.

In consequence of the defeat of Government, the Cape Parliament will be dissolved.

LONDON, JUNE 23.

The only accident which occurred during the landing of the American troops near Stantago was the wounding of a Cuban insurgent by the fire from the American ships. Six thousand troops are now encamped around Baiquiri.

LONDON, JUNE 23.

The Spanish official account says the landing was resisted, but the Spaniards were outflanked at Baiquiri and retired to the mountains.

LONDON, JUNE 23.

A vote of want of confidence in the Government has been carried in the Cape House Assembly by 41 against 36. The defeat of the Rhodes party is a great surprise after the recent division on the Redistribution of Seats Bill.

LONDON, JUNE 23.

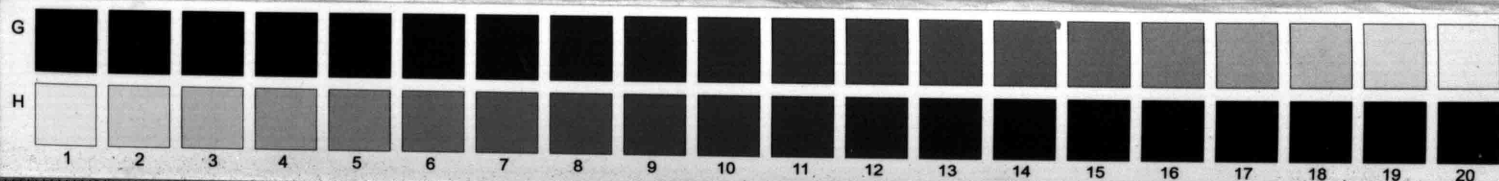
Mr. Chamberlain, in the House of Commons, announced that it had been decided to sanction the re-enactment in Hongkong of the Contagious Diseases Ordinances, but he was conferring with the Governor of the Colony regarding other measures for checking disease.

LONDON, JUNE 23.

The election of a member of Parliament for the East Division of Herefordshire has resulted in the return of Mr. Evelyn Cecil, the Conservative candidate, by a majority of 268 over Mr. Spencer, the Liberal candidate, the voting being: Evelyn Cecil 4,118. Spencer 3,850. At the last election Mr. Abel Smith, the late Conservative member, was returned unopposed.

LONDON, JUNE 23.

The India Loan Bill has passed through the Committee of the House of Commons. During the discussion on the Bill Lord George Hamilton said the excellent services rendered by civilians, medicals, military, and non-officials, in combating plague, would not be forgotten.



WASHINGTON'S VISION.

THE following facts were gleaned from a book-let found on a news table in Chicago in 1865, published by Everett of Philadelphia. Everett claimed to be intimately acquainted with George Washington, who confided to him his vision. He had one day instructed his sentinel to allow no one to interrupt him as he was engaged in writing a very important report to Congress. While engaged in this work he suddenly looked up and saw a beautiful woman standing before him. He was somewhat astonished at the unannounced presence of the lady, and awaited an explanation of her visit. The lady remained silent and he finally asked her the object of the unexpected visit when she replied: "I am of the Republic you shall succeed in establishing a self-government for the people. But America will have many more wars, which will bring much distress and suffering, but she will finally come out of all these troubles, and her people will be prosperous and happy." There was then spread out before his vision a panoramic presentation of the flourishing condition all over the land; the scene then changed, and he seemed to see the woman standing with one foot on America and one on Europe, and there came many ships filled with people who invaded the country, robbing, burning and devastating it. But our nation repelled them after a terrible struggle and the country again became prosperous; the benighted cities were rebuilt and the devastation on the farms overcome.

The following predictions seem to corroborate Washington's vision. The Dawning Light of May 1st, 1893 has the prophetic announcement of an old German hermit published forty years ago in a Bavarian paper. He foretold the Austro-Prussian and Franco-Prussian wars; the death of Pope Pius, and the Turkish-Russian debate at arms. Also that Germany would have three emperors in one year. The death of two United States Presidents by assassination. The following predictions are yet unfulfilled. When the 20th century opens New York city is to be submerged, Cuba will break in two and the western half with the city of Havana sink below the waves. Florida and Lower California will disappear. Ireland will be a kingdom and England a republic. The year 1900 will see Italy and France obliterated from the maps. These predictions were published in the Dayton, Ohio News, March 18th, 1832. The time for their fulfilment is near at hand. How near will they come to a literal fulfilment. C. E. Kr. in the "Dawning Light."

STORIES OF SOME WONDERFUL INVENTIONS.

THE accepted principle necessarily being the mother of invention is like many another maxim, misleading, and would be more accurately rendered by substituting for invention the world contrivance or device. The true meaning of the Latin invenire is to come or stumble upon by chance, and in this sense accident alone can claim legal parentage over any fortuitous discovery. Many things of the greatest service to the world in general (says a writer in "Chambers's Journal") owe their origin entirely to chance. The rubbing of a piece of amber "evoked," to use Faraday's words, "an invisible agent," which has done mankind far more wonderful things than the genie of Aladdin did or could have done for him; the uprearing of the lid of a cooking-vessel discovered the marvellous power of steam, and the falling of an apple from its parent stem demonstrated the law of natural attraction, the simple swinging to and for of a suspended lamp gave birth to the application of the pendulum to which the precision of modern astronomy owes so much; while the finding of the natural magnet lodestone "did more," said the grave philosopher John Locke, "for the supplying and increase of social commodities than those who built our houses."

HOW GUNPOWDER WAS REVEALED.

The manufacture of gunpowder, according to Sainte Foix, was thus revealed. An Augustinian monk, Berthold Schwartz, having put a composition of sulphur and saltpetre in a mortar, it took fire, and the stone that covered it was blown off with great violence, which accident led the chemist to think it might be used with much advantage in attacking fortified places. He accordingly added to it a quantity of charcoal to render it more apt to take fire and increase combustion.

THE DISCOVERY OF THE TELESCOPE.

One day, nearly three hundred years ago, a poor optician was working in his shop in the town of Middelburg, in the Netherlands, his children helping him or amusing themselves with the tools and objects lying about, when suddenly his little girl exclaimed:—"Oh, papa, see how near the steeple comes!" Anxious to learn the cause of the child's amazement, he turned towards her, and saw that she was looking through two lenses, one held close to her eye, and the other at arm's length, and calling her to his side, he noticed that the eye lens was plano-convex, while the other was plano-concave. Taking the two glasses, he repeated his daughter's experiment, and soon discovered that she had chanced to hold the lenses apart at the proper focus, thus producing the wonderful effect that she observed. His quick wit saw in this a wonderful discovery, and he at once set about making use of his new knowledge of lenses. Ere long he had fashioned a tube of pasteboard, in which he set the glasses at their proper focus, and so the telescope was invented.

SOME NOTABLE INSTANCES.

The following year, 1609, Galileo, while in Venice heard of the discovery; and being greatly struck with the importance of such an instrument, soon discovered the principle of lenses in a shifting tube, and made a telescope for his own use. To having been the first astronomer in whose hands so valuable a gift was placed, Galileo owed both his reputation and persecution. Among the many traditions concerning William Lee and the stocking-frame is one that he was expelled from the university for marrying, and that, being very poor, his wife was obliged to contribute towards the housekeeping by knitting. It was while watching the motion of her fingers that he conceived how to imitate those movements by a machine. Arkwright accidentally derived the idea of spinning by rollers from seeing a red-hot bar elongated by being passed between two rollers.

THE PHONOGRAPH AND THE PRICKED FINGER.

"I was singing," says Mr. Edison, "to the mouthpiece of a telephone, when the vibration of the voice sent the fine steel point into my finger. That set me thinking. If I could record the actions of the point and send the point over the same surface afterwards, I saw no reason why the thing should not talk. I tried the experiment first on a strip of telegraph paper, and found that the point made an alphabet. I shouted the words 'Hello! hello!' into the mouthpiece, ran the paper back over the steel point, and heard a faint 'Hello! hello!' in return. I determined to make a machine that would work accurately, and gave my assistants instructions, telling them what I had discovered. They laughed at me. That was the whole story. The phonograph is the result of the pricking of a finger."

THE appointment of Raja Shashi Shekher Roy Bahadur as a member of the Bengal Legislative Council has been gazetted. The Hon'ble Raja represents the Rajshahi Division, vice the Hon'ble Maharajah Jagadindra Nath Roy.

Correspondence.

DEAD CATS AND RATS.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—The last three days a dead cat was found rolling in Nilmoney Dutt's Lane, Ward No. 9, to the great nuisance to the neighbourhood, during these critical times. In this connection, let me observe it is noteworthy that the crows which generally feed upon such carrion have scrupulously kept themselves aloof from this dead cat, which has a protuberance just near his neck. Is it due to instinct or some other inexplicable cause in the nature? For now we generally observe that dead rats, though lying rotting in the streets for days together, are left untouched by crows, who formerly took them for their delicious dish. Will Dr. Cook and our City Father solve this riddle? X.

HOWRAH AMTA TRAMWAY.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Permit me, through the medium of your columns, to draw attention of the authorities to the inconveniences and hardships which the passengers of the Howrah-Amta Tramway line daily undergo since the opening of the line in last July 1897. The station buildings have been erected in such a manner that they can hardly afford protection to a score of passengers from the scorching sun and rains. The building erected at Howrah, the starting station of the two lines, namely, Howrah-Amta and Howrah-Shaekhala, has been roofed with corrugated iron, which becomes too hot at noon for the passengers to wait under them. Again there are only two benches which can be used only by a few of the large gathering assembled at every train time, while others are compelled to expose themselves on the public road. The station has neither water-closets nor latrines for the use of the public, which causes great inconvenience. When the number of carriages is too small to accommodate the passengers, who having no other alternative are compelled to travel in *malgarijs* packed with double the number of men fixed for each carriage.

At Kadamtola station the doors are not opened immediately after the arrival of a train; so passengers are unnecessarily detained.

The trains do not start at the proper time. On Saturday, the 11th June, the special train for Amta did not leave Howrah station before 17-15 although the fixed time in the time table was 16-55.

H. C. M.

It is said that the Governor General of Goa did not consider the question of substitution of English by Portuguese coin lightly. He studied it carefully and thought of something with regard to our commercial relations with the foreign countries. We are at a loss to discover what His Excellency plan can be. —*Boletim Indiano*.

THE Assam-Bengal Railway Company are arranging to put dining cars on the Chandpur Sylhet route, and one of these ran a trial trip the other evening. The cars are on bogies of the most approved principle. The exterior of the cars is handsomely decorated as is the interior.

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 there'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 appetite 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 began 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 bottle 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 20th, 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 better. And, to conclude, by a faithful 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, Orchard 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 of 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.

THE BRIDE OF THE PADISHAH.

1.—THE WOOING.

AHMED SHAH, the proud Padishah of Sind, was holding high festival in his cool palace by the Silver Lake, to which he retreated from his capital in the hot months of summer. He was a strong, handsome, black bearded man, in the prime of life, famous for his exploits in war and for his patronage of poetry, architecture and other arts of peace. As with some chosen comrades he sailed in his gilded pinnace among the wooded islands of the beautiful lake by moonlight and listened to the songs and music of the bards who accompanied him, he seemed to be exalted to the highest pitch of human happiness. The Mahomedan musicians in the boat with him sang of the Padishah's victories in war, of the Houries of Paradise, and of the loves of the rose and the bulbul. Then an Indian bard lifted up his voice in honour of a Rajput maiden, graceful as a gazelle and wise and beautiful and modest as Sita, the wife of Rama. The magic strains of his poetry, heard beneath the bewitching rays of an Indian moon, made the Padishah fall in love with the beauty of the maiden so highly extolled in golden verses. "When did she live, this pearl among women," he asked, "and what accused unbeliever was her spouse?" "She lives now and is still unwedded," replied the bard. "I celebrate the beauty of Lala, the only daughter of the Rajput chieftain, Purbat Singh." "If she is as lovely as you paint her, she must be my bride; if not, your head shall pay for your lying eulogy." Having so said, the king fell into deep thought and ordered his pinnace back to the marble landing-stage of the palace.

On the morrow Ahmed Shah sent for his principal Brahmin adviser, and asked for information about Purbat Singh's daughter. The Brahmin, in reply, gave in serious prose an account of her beauty and accomplishments, and the entirely confirmed the poetic panegyric, sung by the Hindu bard on the moon-lit waters of the Silver Lake. This was enough for the amorous heart of the Padishah. Without further delay he told the Brahmin to signify to Purbat Singh that it was his will and pleasure to make Lala his bride. However, the course of his love was not destined to run quite smoothly. Several Rajputs had allowed their daughters to enter the harems of Ahmed Shah and his chief nobles, but Purbat Singh was a Rajput of Rajputs, who prided himself above all things on his stainless pedigree. He thought it a foul scorn that a daughter of his should lose caste by marrying a Mahomedan, even though by so doing she should share the throne of a powerful monarch. Nevertheless, to gain time, he feigned compliance with the will of his suzerain. In the meantime he retired to his hill fortress, Ahore, and called all his relations and vassals to defend him and his daughter against the contemplated insult.

Ahmed Shah, getting wind of these preparations, mustered a splendidly-appointed army of ten thousand men, which might, according to circumstances, either storm the Rajput castle or form an escort for his Rajput bride. He himself led the army, seated in a silver howdah, on his State elephant, and accompanied by another elephant, gorgeously caparisoned, and prepared for the reception of the beautiful Lala.

In this manner Ahmed Shah rode boldly with his army, close up to the walls of Ahore and demanded admission. The answer to the demand was an arrow shot with unerring skill, which stuck quivering on the crown above Ahmed Shah's howdah. On the arrow was a scroll containing the following message: "The archer who shot this arrow into the crown above your head, could as easily have shot it into the brain of the monkey-faced barbarian who presumes to woo the daughter of Purbat Singh. Be warned in time and retire before a worse thing befalls thee." At the same time the rich dress that had been sent by the Padishah as *wazant* to his bride, according to the practice of Rajput marriage, was tossed contemptuously like a bundle of dirty clothes over the wall and fell in the dust before the feet of Ahmed Shah's elephant. Thus war to the knife was declared. The Mahomedan army, fearing that injury might be added to insult, retired from its exposed position with more precipitancy than dignity, lest a sudden discharge of Rajput arrows should follow the declaration of war.

Ahmed Shah's courtiers now took the form of a vigorously-prosecuted siege. Ahore was garrisoned by three thousand valiant Rajputs. The rich gifts of treasure, sent by Ahmed Shah, to conciliate his bride and her father, had been spent on strengthening the defences of the walls and providing the garrison with the best weapons that money could purchase. When the besiegers approached the walls, they were shot down by arrows or overwhelmed with huge stones that had been collected on the tops of the ramparts. Sometimes the scaling ladders were allowed to be erected in order that they might be pushed back by the long poles of the garrison, and in their fall, destroy the besiegers who were struggling up the rungs. Every attempt to storm the fort was foiled, until the besiegers, finding the place impregnable, gave up assaulting the walls and had recourse to a rigorous investment.

The capture of the fortress now became merely a question of time. After two or three months the supply of provisions began to run short and there was no hope of relief from outside. Purbat Singh might, no doubt, have obtained favourable terms of capitulation, if he had consented to his daughter's marriage with the Padishah. This, however, he entirely refused to allow, and without submission on this vital point, no terms of capitulation could be granted to the hard-pressed garrison.

The Rajputs determined to die rather than yield. But if they were killed, their wives and daughters would become the wives or concubines of the Mahomedan conquerors. This pollution could only be averted by the terrible rite of *johar*, which consisted in first immolating all the women and children, and then rushing to death in a desperate attack upon the overwhelming forces of the enemy.

The women professed their readiness to play their part in the great tragedy. If some of them in their hearts were inclined to prefer dishonour to death, they did not venture to express their base sentiments, which would have merely exposed them to opprobrium without saving their lives. Some few obtained permission to put on martial harness and join their husbands, fathers and brothers in the last battle of their race. The wife of Purbat Singh, with no trace of fear or regret on her countenance, told her husband that she and other women would destroy themselves on the funeral pyre and meet those near and dear to them in heaven rather than become the slaves of the Moslem. A huge funeral pyre was raised at night. Into this were first flung all the jewels and other valuables that were in the fortress. Then the women, old and young, leapt with their children into the flames or fell upon the sword until not a single Rajputni, old or young, was left alive.

In the morning it was the turn of the men to immolate themselves and find an easier death by the sword of the enemy. The great act of devotion had to be performed with all due ceremony. They put sprigs of the sacred "tools" (basil) in their helmets and tied the stone called "Sairam" round their necks and on their heads the coronet that symbolised their nuptials with the divine "Asparas," the fair ones of heaven. Then, 2,500 strong, they assembled, clad in saffron robes, at the great gate of the fortress at daybreak, and embraced one another tenderly as men who would never meet again. The gate was thrown open and, headed by Purbat Singh and his son and heir, the Rajputs charged forward in a compact body against the besieging army, directing their attack upon the central point, where the green standard of Mahomed

waved above the silken tent of the Padishah. That all might be in a position of equality in the agony of their race, Purbat Singh and Ram Singh were on foot like the meanest of their followers. The only distinction was that above the former's head rose the umbrella, symbol of sovereignty, a dangerous distinction that would attract in his direction the most determined efforts of the enemy. But after all, as everyone of them was bound to die, it was only a question of precedence in the path to "swarga."

The Mahomedan lines were protected by an earthen embankment. This was broken through without much resistance at the first onset, as the defenders were taken by surprise. Thus the Rajputs found themselves inside the hostile lines and viewed their way through the camp towards the king's tent. Ahmed Shah hastily mounted the howdah of his State elephant which formed a rallying centre for the Moslems, driven back by the fury of the Rajputs' first great charge. It took, however, a considerable time before troops from other parts of the besieging lines could assemble at the point of attack; and in the meantime the Padishah who stood his ground bravely, animating his followers with voice and gesture, and occasionally shooting arrows, at the advancing Rajputs, was in great danger of death or capture. His body-guard threw themselves in front of his elephant and fought on till almost every one of them fell. Then their place was taken by other forces arriving at the scene on action. Still, however, the Rajputs were always advancing, although their progress was disputed inch by inch. At last they were right in front of the royal elephant, whose howdah was bristling with the arrows and javelins they had cast at it.

At this point the valour of young Ram Singh nearly consumed Rajput vengeance. He dashed suddenly right under the belly of Ahmed Shah's elephant, and, with his dagger, cut the girths. The howdah toppled over and the proud Padishah rolled in the dust. One or two of the foremost Rajputs, Ram Singh and himself, pounced upon him like leopard on deer, but could not manage to kill him. He quickly spring on his feet, sword in hand, and defended himself by his skill in swordsmanship until his nearest followers came in large numbers to his rescue.

Meantime, the tide of battle had first become stationary and then began slowly to turn, as fresh troops from distant parts of the besiegers' lines gradually came up and joined in the fighting. When the Rajputs had advanced in their first furious onset, the Mahomedans had closed in on either flank and at last totally surrounded them. Then the Rajputs had to form in a circle, facing north and south and east and west, and defended against the superior numbers of the enemy by no better entrenchment than the dead bodies of the slain. They were, now no longer able to advance, and, as their numbers grew less and less, they had gradually to retire into a more and more contracted circle. Their swords were broken and blunted, and their muscles were becoming exhausted with continual fighting. Thus, they were presently compelled for the most part to give up the part of assailants, and stand on the defensive. Nevertheless, even now and then small knots of Rajputs would make desperate rushes into the thick of the Moslem ranks, and after killing as many as they could, meet the death they coveted.

Still Purbat Singh's umbrella of State rose above the dust, and shouting of the conflict, in spite of the most determined efforts of the Mahomedans to capture or overthrow it. When Purbat Singh, who through the terrible fight showed the courage of his warlike ancestors, fell pierced with an arrow and was laid dead among the bodies of his devoted vassals, Ram Singh, as his successor, took his place under the umbrella's shade, and renewed the desperate fight. When the young prince's sword was broken, he wrested a fresh unblunted one from the hands of a burly Khan who had arrived late on the field of battle. With this fresh unblunted weapon, he slew three foemen before himself, and the umbrella were overturned. The terrible battle was now finished. The dust settled down on the bodies of five thousand slain, and the Mahomedan shouts of "Din Din" were no longer re-echoed by the Rajput "Hur, Hur." All the Rajput Chivalry of Ahore had perished on the fatal field, but, ere they fell, they had sent an equal or greater number of their enemies to the shades below.

When Ahmed Shah entered the now undefended fortress to carry off his dearly-won bride, he found himself in a city of the dead. Inside as outside the walls, the whole air reeked with corpses. Here, as on many other occasions, the Rajputs showed that, though they could be killed, they could not be enslaved, and their heroic death, which men and women met with the same unshrinking fortitude, inspired in succeeding generations the unconquerable spirit that secured their liberty against the power of the great Moguls.

II.—THE BRIDAL.

AHMED SHAH was for a time much depressed in spirits at the tragic results of his wooing. His hopes revived again when he learnt from a spy that the beautiful Lala had after all not perished in the holocaust at Ahore. She had been secretly conveyed away before the siege and entrusted to the care of a neighbouring chieftain on whose honour Purbat Singh could depend. When Ahmed Shah heard this, he once more demanded the surrender of the girl whom he had determined to make his bride. Purbat Singh's friend was ready to defend her to the last, against all the power of the Padishah. But Lala herself refused to be the cause of any further bloodshed. "Since the Padishah is determined to marry me," she exclaimed, "let him have his wish and may he never repent of its fulfilment." She not only consented to marry him, but promised to send him costly robes, richly embroidered and decked with many jewels, to wear on his wedding day. The Rajputs uttered many a deep imprecation on the degenerate girl, who thus was willing to marry the exterminator of her race, and become the bride of the man whose hands were red with the blood of her father and brother.

The wedding was to be celebrated on the marble verandah of the Padishah's palace by the Silver Lake. For political as well as personal reasons, it was to be a most magnificent ceremony. It was to be a great feast of peace, by which Ahmed Shah hoped not only to gratify his own passion, but also to unite in harmony the Hindu and the Moslem, so that he might reign over a united kingdom. To further this purpose, an amnesty was proclaimed to all the Rajputs who were then or had ever been in rebellion against his rule. The marriage was to be arranged, as far as possible, in accordance with Hindu customs and thousands of Brahmins were to be fed on the auspicious occasion. From all parts of his own dominions and from foreign countries great crowds assembled to be present on the great day, and all were entertained with kingly hospitality.

Behold Ahmed Shah at last at the summit of his wishes! It is his wedding day. He and Lala are seated side by side, and the marriage garland hangs around their necks. The lovely bride is clad in white silk-saree, bordered and spotted with red, entwines her waist and is wrapped round her head, which is covered with a triangular head-dress representing a crown. The bridegroom is splendidly attired in the richly embroidered and sparkling with gems, that Lala had sent him as a wedding gift that very morning. To the disgust of orthodox Mahomedans he has taken her hand and a sprig of the sacred basil, and they are now man and wife.

When the ceremony is over, Lala rises gracefully from her seat, and taking her husband by the hand, leads him to the parapet of the verandah overlooking the Silver Lake. "Let my lord," she says, "stand forth in the sunlight and gladden his loyal subjects with his gracious presence."

As he looked down from this commanding point of view and heard the acclamations of the thousands clad in holiday attire, who greeted his appearance, it is no wonder that his heart was swollen with pride. The whole lake and its shores were crowded with his subjects, and as far as his eye could reach, he could see no plain and valley and mountain that did not belong to his dominions. Above all, he exulted in his beautiful bride, whom he had won from a hostile race, after overcoming all opposition by the power of his arms. But she looked strangely into his eyes with a look that was not the timid glance of a young bride and said solemnly to him "My lord, enjoy this glorious moment while it lasts. But remember that, when men are at the summit of prosperity, they are then most obnoxious to the power of the gods, and we, who are now in the full flush of health, youth and love, may, in a day, nay, in an hour, have ceased to be." Ahmed Shah replied with a smile of love and condescension. He was so deeply enamoured of his fair young bride that everything she said or did only made her appear still more lovely in his eyes.

The courtiers on the verandah and the crowds on the Lake below watched the fine that seemed to issue from the diamonds on the Padishah's rich vesture as the sun shone upon it. Suddenly to their surprise and horror, they saw a red flame flash from his right shoulder. They could scarcely believe their eyes, but there it was. The heat of the Indian sun had begun to work on the poisonous drugs with which Lala had anointed her bridegroom's robes. Ahmed Shah was a brave man in battle; but in face of the horrible death to which he had been doomed by the woman he loved, he was reduced to the level of ordinary humanity. He shrieked with pain as he rushed to and fro, trying to tear the envenomed cloth from his burning flesh. The struggle did not last long. The flames spread over his body with fearful rapidity and soon nothing was left of the proud Padishah and his rich attire, but a horrid heap of black cinders. In the meantime, Lala had calmly mounted the parapet, and, after watching with mingled feelings, the death agonies of her bridegroom and satisfying herself that the deaths of her father and her brother and the destruction of her race were fully avenged, plunged headlong into the deep waters of the Silver Lake. "Advocate of India."

GENERAL SANFORD will succeed General Nairne as Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces in Bombay next October.

It is publicly noticed that His Highness the ex-King Thebaw is incapable of entering into any contract so as to give rise to any pecuniary obligation on his part. The movable property of the ex-King having now been vested in the Secretary of State for India on behalf of Her Majesty, her heirs and successors, people are warned not to deal in it.

THE Madras Government's original estimate of famine relief expenditure in 1898-99 amounted to about 8½ lakhs. According to a revised estimate recently accepted, it would appear that the only district which an expenditure will be incurred, should the monsoon prove favourable, in Nellore, and even in that district the total amount now estimated for is only about Rs. 13,000.

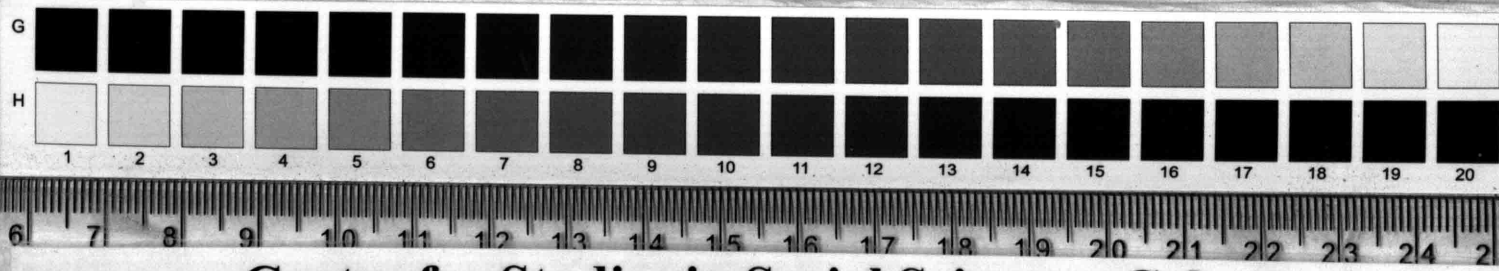
A VERY successful meeting was held in the 10th at the Station Terrace, Cawnpur, to render thanks to Lala Bishambarnath of Messrs. Ramnathan, Ramgopal for his munificent gift of five thousand rupees for a building for the Hindu Orphanage, Cawnpur. R. Clarke Esq. C. S., the Joint-Magistrate, presided. He and Mr. Ferguson, C. S., expressed their appreciation of the good work done by the Orphanage by subscribing rupees ten per mensem each in aid of the Orphanage.

A TRAGICAL death is reported from Comercolly. It is said that a native doctor of that locality prescribed and delivered two phials, one containing strong carbolic acid and the other an ordinary fever mixture for a patient of very tender years. It seems both phials were similarly shaped and bore no marks to distinguish them. At night, the mother of the child, mistaking the carbolic acid for the mixture, administered a quantity of it to the child. The child died the following morning.

The small plague conference at Simla continues to meet, and through its functions are understood to be chiefly departmental, and its deliberations private; the present is so critical a time with the epidemic that more interest than would otherwise be the case attaches to its proceedings. For it has now to be seen whether the advent of the rains, and the consequent crowding of the people into their houses at night for shelter, is to be followed by a general recrudescence of the epidemic, such as occurred last year, only on a far larger scale, in that the foci of the evil are now so much more numerous, or whether the trouble is at last really in hand, and the satisfactory diminution of the past month is to be sustained. Unhappily experience has not as yet been encouraging, so far as the large towns are concerned, though it has been abundantly proved that village outbreaks can be controlled.—*I. D. News*.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Purneah,—"A fever called by a new name, the 'kala dukh' has appeared in the Kissengunge Sub-division, and the Civil Surgeon was especially deputed by Government to enquire and report about the matter. The disease, it appears, is a severe form of chronic malarial fever, which, being untreated, plays havoc with those who are affected by it; its course seems usually to be from 12 to 18 months, when, enlargement of the spleen, dropsy, and darkening of the skin having set in, the patient dies; 100 cases were seen and examined by Surgeon-Captain Brown, and a special report has been sent to Government."

THE reaction among the Afridis, consequent on the return of their maliks empty-handed from Kabul and Jellalabad, is said to be very marked. They have at last realised that though venerable mullahs, such as Saïad Akbar, may be treated with respect and consideration by the Amir, Abdur Rahman has not the least intention of championing the cause of the tribesmen lately in arms against the British Government. His Highness did not, it is said, allow a single tribal headman audience at Kabul last month, though the city was swarming with representatives of almost every tribe on the borderland. Even the Mohmand jirgahs, who have generally been made much of in former years, found themselves left out in the cold. As to the Afridis, such of them as got past Jellalabad, were much disgusted at getting no more than subsistence allowance in Kabul and bare road expenses for the return journey. It is to be hoped that the tribes as a whole, will now see that their interests are linked up with those of the Government of India; but of course there are mischief-makers who will do their utmost in a contrary direction.—*Pioneer*.



PERSONATING A PLAGUE INOCULATOR.

THE JUDGMENT.

IN the case of Gopal Chunder Ghoshal, charged with having trampled into the house of Gopal Chunder Laskar and personated himself as a Government plague inoculator, Baboo Preo Nath Mukherjee, Deputy Magistrate of Sealdah, delivered judgment yesterday. After dwelling upon the evidence for the prosecution, the judgment went on to say:—

The defence is that he was removing from the neighbourhood and was caused to be arrested owing to some enmity one Gagan Sarkar bore him. He files a written statement, in para 4 of which he states that on the day previous to the occurrence he had been chased as inoculation informer or spy into Nitya Hazra and Bhoirub Manjee's house. Both these persons have been called for the defence, and they do not speak to any such occurrence. They say that on the Saturday previous (the occurrence took place on a Monday) accused had consulted them as to what was best to be done. Bhoirub referred him to Nityanand, and the latter did not give any definite advice. Sunday went by without any trouble. On Monday he took counsel with Nityanand and Nityanand advised him to take shelter in Ram Kristo Laskar's house. Of Ram Kristo Laskar there is no mention in the written statement. I presume that he was going to Ram Kristo Laskar's house when he was caught. The witnesses for the defence, however, say (and I have verified this by personal inspection) that Ram Kristo's house has to be passed long before one gets to Gopal Laskar's house, and it is inexplicable why, if the accused wished to go to Ram Kristo Laskar's house, he should go to Gopal Laskar's at all. Then no reason appears for Gopal Laskar bearing any ill-will to accused, and it is impossible to imagine that a whole neighbourhood should conspire against one unoffending individual for no reason whatsoever. Accused is a Brahmin and remembering the clannishness of castes in India, it is somewhat curious that he should think of consulting two low-caste men (Kobhoros) on the question of personal safety and of removing to the house of a Podhi, a still lower caste man. I do not say that this is impossible, especially when there are several families of Brahmins and Kayesthas in the neighbourhood. Then Ram Kristo lives, according to witnesses, about 200 yards from the house of accused. I found the actual distance a little more, but not exceeding quarter of a mile. What safety the accused meant to secure by removing a few hundred yards off is not clear to me. The inherent hollowiness of the defence is apparent, and when to that is added the discrepancies in material particulars among the two defence witnesses, I am afraid the story set up must be discarded as untenable. For instance, whereas Nityanand advises accused to leave the place and to go to Ram Kristo's, the accused tells Bhoirub that Nityanand has consulted him to stay at home and keep quiet. Placing the set of facts put forward and proved for the prosecution as against the set of facts for the defence, I must say that ocular testimony and probabilities of the case clearly point to the truth of the former and that it is not a question of balance of evidence at all.

The facts found being that accused posed as a public inoculator and wanted to inoculate complainant asking him to put out his hand for that purpose. We must now see how the law is applicable to the present case. Section 170 of the Indian Penal Code says:—“Whoever pretends to hold any particular office as a public servant, knowing that he does not hold office”

Now it is contended by learned counsel that as the office of a public inoculator does not exist, the accused can not be convicted under this section. Even if the section is strictly construed in the way, the fact is one of common knowledge that the Health Officer to the Calcutta Corporation and his assistants are carrying on plague inoculation and the present Municipal Act, section 51, has specifically made all Municipal servants within the meaning of Section 21 of the Penal Code. That the offence was committed in the jurisdiction of Manicktoah Municipality would be no bar to the application of this section as the office that is pretended to be held is not necessarily restricted to any particular locality. Then the difficulty that is raised that as accused had not brought out any lancet or liquid, his act had not gone beyond the stage of “preparation” and was not an attempt in the sense in what it is used in the Penal Code as no overt act was done towards the commission of the offence. Several cases are cited in support of this view. Now these cases are under Section 511 and 305 of I. P. C. where the words “attempt to commit an offence” are qualified by the words “and in such attempt does an act towards the commission of the offence.” There is no such qualifying phrase in section 170 I. P. C. and an “attempt” was certainly committed when accused told Gopal Laskar to put out his hand. So I think that there is no legal difficulty in the application of section 170 I. P. C. to the present case. Section 505 I. P. C. might also be held applicable, but I consider section 170, sufficient for all practical purposes.

It has been urged that as it had been publicly notified by beat of drum that there was to be no forcible inoculation and as accused was known in the place, would he attempt such a daring feat? The credulity of an Indian populace is well known. They can be made to believe almost anything except the truth. After some further remarks his Worship sentenced accused to one year's rigorous imprisonment.

TWO Privates, of the Welsh Regiment, at Fort St. George, Madras, quarrelled in a canteen on the night of the 20th instant and as a consequence at an early hour on the following morning the two proceeded to fight. One fell unconscious, and died on the way to the station hospital. The other has been placed under military arrest. An inquest was held on Tuesday afternoon, and resulted in a verdict of death from natural causes, namely, heart disease.

CHAMBERLAIN'S Pain Balm has no equal at 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. Wert & Pike, merchants, Ferdinand, Fla. write: “Everyone who buys a bottle of Chamberlain's Remedies, comes back and says it is the best medicine he has ever used.”

MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE MADRAS TENANCY BILL.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council, at a meeting on June 13, the debate on the motion made at the last meeting that the Madras Tenants' Bill be read in Council was resumed. The Hon'ble Mr. Ratnasabapathy Pillai led the debate with a long speech, in which he criticised the nomenclature of the classes legislated for in the Bill. He criticised the principles of the Bill; and in conclusion, in supporting the first reading of the Bill, advocated its consideration in Select Committee being deferred to the Madras Session of the Council.

The Raja of Bobbili observed that the question had been before the Madras public for the last sixteen years. Though its avowed object was to improve the condition and secure the rights of both landlord and tenant, yet in its zeal to help the so-called weaker party it made the stronger party weaker than the weakest. The tenor of some sections was to reduce the landlord's status almost to zero. He objected to the grant of occupancy rights to zemindary ryots and approved of the rules for the enhancement of the rent. The Bill gave the option to either party to apply for commutation of rent, but he thought no commutation should be sanctioned unless both landlord and tenant agreed to it. As to repairs of irrigation works the tenants should not be allowed to effect repairs by applying to the Collector, but should apply in the first instance to the landlord. In conclusion he deeply regretted the deaths of Mr. Ross and Mr. Grose, which had deprived the Council of very valuable assistance.

The Hon'ble Mr. Arnold White in combating the contention that it was premature to discuss the principles of the Bill at this stage, said that if the present was not the time that time would never come. If the Bill was a bad Bill it should be disposed of at once; if a good Bill the sooner it was passed the better. The tedious process of passing the Bengal Tenancy Act should not be taken as a precedent for taking similar time in passing this Bill. The way to legislate in this direction having been shown in the case of that Bill, the progress of this Bill should be quicker. Moreover that Bill was drafted by the most skillful drafter of the present day, and the Council could be sure in accepting the provisions of that Bill that they were accepting provisions worded as carefully as possible. Referring to public opinion on the Bill, he said the measure had only been criticised by two organs—the “Madras Mail” and the “Hindu”—of totally different views, and yet these two papers had welcomed the principles of the Bill if not with enthusiasm yet with cordiality. The Bill was by no means perfect, but its defects were such as could be rectified in Select Committee, and when it emerged from Select Committee rectified and as near perfection as possible, it would be a valuable addition to the Statute Book of the Presidency.

The Hon'ble Mr. Jumbulingam Mudaliar warmly supported the growth and encouragement of occupancy rights by ryots as tending to make them prosperous and independent and not the mere farm labourers of zemindars and other land-holders. He took exception, however, to the means by which this object was to be attained, as trenching upon existing private rights in an undesirable manner. It was a provision borrowed from Bengal which though equitable there was absolutely inequitable in Madras, owing to the difference in custom and procedure. The restrictions put upon zemindars would possibly have the effect of forcing zemindars to acquire lands and lease them out on short tenures to prevent the ryots taking their stand under the terms of the longer tenures. He opposed the principle of enhancement laid down in the Bill, on the ground that the zemindar was not entitled to the unearned increment of the rise in prices, which was necessarily the perquisite of the ryot. If the public exchequer did not benefit by this rise in prices the zemindar had no right to benefit. Mr. Jumbulingam said that regarding the ejection provisions he thought a difference should be drawn between non-occupancy tenants and occupancy tenants. The only grounds under which the latter should be ejected should be gross mismanagement and misconduct, and when they were ejected from this there was absolutely no reason why they should be compensated. He gave his unqualified approval of Chapters IX. and X. of the record of rights and the record of the proprietor's private lands, if properly worked. In view of the diverse opinions held by the authorities he again urged proceeding with caution with the measure. Otherwise he supported the first reading of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. Subba Row welcomed the introduction of the Bill into the Council, but deplored the embarrassment resulting from the conditions with regard to the occupancy of ryots imposed by the Government of India. These conditions were, he contended, vicious and unconstitutional, and in conflict with the provisions of the India-Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892, according to which, subject to restrictions imposed by Sections 38 and 19, this Council had perfect freedom to legislate for the needs of the people of the Presidency; and the Government of India's present restrictions did not come under the limitation. The next feature that struck him was the fact that while the Government of Madras was solicitous for the welfare of the ryots inhabiting one-fifth of the Presidency no legislation was considered necessary for ryots inhabiting four-fifths of the Presidency. He did not know how the measure would be viewed by ryots residing in the ryotwari tracts, whether as an instalment of a measure which in due course would place their interests on a satisfactory footing, or whether as a measure which showed the anxiety of Government to place the relation of zemindars and tenants on a satisfactory footing, but a disposition to leave the ryotwari tenants on their present unsatisfactory footing. The Bill, he could not conceal from himself, owed its origin to the Famine Commission, the recommendations of which advocated reform not only in zemindary tracts but also in ryotwari tracts. Another unsatisfactory feature was that it would open the flood gates of litigation, and would be followed by greater friction and unrest than prevailed at present, unless it was followed by legislation for the ryotwari tenants. He took exception to the unsatisfactory character of the definition of the status and rights of occupancy tenants, as not sufficiently defining whether such rights were confined to the surface or extended to minerals found in their property. As to the enhancement of any limit beyond which a Collector could not go. He urged in conclusion that the Select Committee would present such a revised Bill as would cause the minimum amount of friction between proprietor and tenant, and the minimum amount of litigation. He hoped the Select Committee would be able to avail itself largely of the provisions of Rule 34, and invoke the assistance of various gentlemen in different parts of the presi-

DURING the summer 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 Diarrhoea 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 to be much pleased to recommend it whenever impurity is offered. For sale by

dency, and after taking their opinion proceed to legislate in a manner satisfactory to all classes.

The Hon'ble Mr. Vijayaraghava Chari, after admitting the importance of the measure, launched into a very critical disquisition on the proprietorship of land in India, and in conclusion said that the Bill was unsuited to land tenures of this Presidency. On the whole the zemindar gained and the tenant lost—lost more than the zemindar gained. The question was whether Council should throw out the Bill so that a new one should be made, or whether the arduous task of revising the Bill should be left to a Select Committee. For his part he came determined to oppose the motion, but from what he had heard and seen in Council he felt that members were in favour of the motion being carried. If so he would only ask that members of the Select Committee would revise the Bill with due sympathy with the historic conditions of the Presidency. Finally he contested the statement that the conditions imposed by the Government of India amounted to a mandate. They were purely instructions and it was open to the Select Committee to submit to the Government of India that these conditions were incompatible with the conditions of this Presidency, and probably in that case the matter would not be pressed.

The Hon'ble Mr. Rungiah Naidu denied that the principles of the Bill, as assumed by the Advocate-General, were admitted by all. He also attacked the investing of revenue courts with jurisdiction in this matter.

The Hon'ble Mr. Crole spoke in reply. He expressed pleasurable surprise that the criticisms of the principle of the Bill were so kindly, though no doubt in details the Bill had been rather severely criticised. This, however, was a matter which would be attended to in Select Committee. He then proceeded, in a long written statement, to set out the objects of the Governments of Madras and India in introducing this measure, and to give from the earliest times the history of the relations and legislation in connection with landlord and tenant in this Presidency.

The Bill was then read in Council after which Mr. Crole moved that the following members be appointed as a Select Committee: Sir Henry Bliss, Messrs. Arundel, Arnold White, Jumbulingam Mudaliar, Ratnasabapathy Pillai, the Raja of Bobbili, Mr. Forbes and the mover, Mr. Bhashyam Iyengar.

The Raja of Bobbili, Mr. Jumbulingam Mudaliar and Mr. Ratnasabapathy Pillai for various reasons declared their inability to serve on the Select Committee, while at Colacumund, Mr. Subba Row accordingly moved a rider to the proposition, “provided that the Select Committee does not hold its sittings until the expiration of four months.” Mr. Crole refused to accept the rider. The Governor put the original resolution which was carried. The rider was then put and lost. Mr. Subba Row demanded a poll, which was taken.

The Council then dissolved after having sat for seven hours.

IS INDIA NEARLY BANKRUPT?

IN the debate on March 29 on Mr. Gibbs' motion, Lord George Hamilton is reported to have said that India would have become bankrupt if the mints had not been closed. It is a very grave, indeed a very alarming, statement, coming from the Cabinet Minister specially responsible for the Government of India. If it be true that our great Eastern Dependency not only imposes upon us a formidable military task, but may cast upon us likewise a very serious financial burden, it follows that Parliament is wrong in allowing trustees to invest in Indian Government stock, and further more, that the City puts altogether too high an estimate upon the credit of India. But is the alarming statement really true? It can be shown very easily, I venture to think, that it has no foundation in fact. Lord George Hamilton supported the statement by saying that if the rupee had been allowed to depreciate India could not have remitted the necessary sums to Europe without additional taxation, that additional taxation was impossible, and that, therefore, India would have either become bankrupt, or this country must have come to her assistance. Putting aside all questions as to whether India can or cannot bear additional taxation, I would ask the reader to consider very seriously Lord George Hamilton's statement, for not only does it affect a vast amount of British savings, but what is even more important, it calls in question the justification for, and therefore, the safety of, our rule in India.

Lord George Hamilton's statement comes to this—that if the rupee had fallen as much as silver fell India could not have paid the Home Charges. The Home Charges amount to 18 or 19 millions sterling every year. They are payable in sterling in London and it is worth while to explain at some length how the payments are made. The India Council, as it is called—that is, the Council in London of the Secretary of State for India—sells every week bills and telegraphic transfers upon the Presidency treasuries in India. These bills and telegraphic transfers are simply orders upon the Presidency treasuries in India to pay to the holders the amount in rupees specified therein. It is obvious that the Indian Government must hold in its treasuries enough of rupees to honour these orders, and therefore it is quite true that the revenue must be large enough to defray the requisite expenditure in India and to meet likewise the India Council's drafts. But the rupees are not sent out of India. They are simply collected by the Indian Government from the Indian taxpayers and paid over to the purchasers of the Council's drafts who lay them out again in India. Putting aside technicalities and intermediate steps, and using only the plainest and the simplest language that will be intelligible to those who have not given attention to such matters. I may say that the Home Charges are paid by the export of commodities from India, and not by exports of either coin or treasure. The exchange banks buy bills, as the phrase is. In plain language, putting aside intermediate steps, they lend upon the good that are shipped from India to Europe. When the goods are sold in Europe the exchange banks are paid out of the proceeds, and it is the money they so receive which enables them to buy the India Council's drafts. Thus it will be seen that it is the goods exported from India which pay the Home Charges, and therefore the exports from India must be large enough to pay for the imports into India and the Home Charges, if India is to keep all her engagements. Provided the exports are large enough for this, it does not really matter what the purchasing power of the rupee is. What is of vital importance to India is that her production should be large, and that the prices she obtains for it should be profitable.

It may be objected that though it is true the exports pay the Home Charges, yet the

banks buy drafts upon the Indian treasuries, and thus, in the end, it is the revenue that bears the burden. True, but it is to be recollected that the Indian taxpayers are not producers of rupees. They are farmers, traders, workpeople, civil servants, soldiers, and so on, and the taxes they pay are the produce of the goods they raise and the services they render. The real taxation of a man is measured by the quantity of good he has to sell in order to pay the taxes, or the length of time he has to work in order to earn the taxes. The rupee is a mere token—something to pass from hand to hand to represent the reality. What the taxpayer gives is the fruit of his labour, or the profit on his capital; and it is that which the Government takes from him. Provided the production of India is large, and grows more rapidly than the taxation, it does not matter one single bit whether the rupee depreciates in value or not. If a man, to pay his taxes, has to sell a quarter of wheat, that is the real tax he pays. If he raises altogether only 10 quarters, the tax amounts to 10 per cent of his total productions. If he raises 20 quarters, the tax amounts to only 5 per cent. Similarly, if a quarter of Indian wheat sells in London for a sovereign, India has to export the equivalent of 18 or 19 million quarters of wheat in order to pay the Home Charges. If, on the other hand, the price of Indian wheat rises to 30s. a quarter, 12 million quarters or a little more will pay the Home Charges. Now Lord George Hamilton argued, in the very speech in which he made the alarming statement, I am refusing, that every fall in the purchasing power of the rupee constituted a fresh bounty on Indian exports, enabled India, therefore, to export more largely than before, and consequently stimulated Indian production. If it be true that the fall in the rupee stimulated Indian production—in other words, increased the production of India—it is perfectly clear that the fall in the rupee benefited the country, and did not nearly bring it to bankruptcy. On the other hand, if India was brought to the verge of bankruptcy by the fallen rupee that fall could not have increased Indian production and could not have acted as a bounty on exports.

Lord George Hamilton evidently has yet to learn the rudiments of economics, and he has to clear his mind of the fantasies of bimetalism. It is to be hoped that he will be more cautious in future in speaking of Indian credit, at all events while holding the office of Secretary of State for India. He impugns the credit of that country. The real truth of the matter is that the fall in the purchasing power of the rupees did tend to stimulate exports, and consequently to increase production; that India, during the time when Lord George Hamilton says she was approaching bankruptcy, made such an extraordinary advance in wealth that the accumulated trials of last year—famine, plague, earthquake, and frontier war—have not very materially thrown her back. Already she is showing a remarkable recuperative power. Lord George would have the House of Commons believe that this extraordinary power is the result of a decree of the Government passed five years ago. He must be very simple, or he must have a very low opinion of the intelligence of the House of Commons, to put forward such a statement. Surely every child knows that in the course of five years and as the result of a mere Government ukase, a great population of nearly 300 millions does not pass from the brink of bankruptcy to such prosperity as elastically springs up again after a famine. Such prosperity must have been founded by long years of hard work, patient saying, and thoughtful foresight. And during at least five-and-twenty of these long years the purchasing power of the rupee had been continually falling. Yet at the end of the time every observer is surprised at the rapidity with which India is recovering from the calamities of the past year of famine, plague, earthquake, war, and dearth of money.—*The Statist*, 14th May.

T. LLOYD.

THE COMMITTEE ON CURRENCY.

THE following letter appeared in *Commerce* on May 11:

To the Editors of “Commerce”.

SIRS,—In *Commerce* of July 5, 1893, you were good enough to publish an interview with me by your representative with reference to the closing of the mints and the forcing up of the value of the rupee. May I request you to publish again that interview, as the views there expressed by me have proved true, and are as applicable to the present discussion. You will, I hope, allow me a few more remarks, to make my meaning clearer. It is said that by closing the mints and raising the value or exchange of silver in relation to gold, the Government have saved millions of rupees to the Indians. Nothing is further from the truth—the allegation is that by raising the exchange from about 12d. to 16d., India is saved 4d. per every rupee in her remittances for Home Charges of £19,000,000 every year. But it is not so. What Government has done is that the Government has introduced a fraudulent rupee, and compelled the taxpayer or the rayat to pay his tax in this rupee, i.e. to pay in a “rupee” that is worth 1s. 4d. instead of what he was in ordinary course liable for, viz., a rupee of 1s. In other words, what Government has done is that it has forced the poor rayat to pay one-third more taxation in a fraudulent way than he was liable for, or compelled the poor rayat to part with one-third more of his produce to provide Government with a higher valued coin by falsely calling that coin by the name of “rupee,” when in reality it is one and one-third rupee. What is, therefore, alleged to have been saved to the poor Indian is pure moonshine. The tax-payer is forced to part with the full amount of the produce to buy the £19,000,000 and by the jugglery of using the “rupee” of a higher value dust is thrown in the eyes of the people that saving is made by them, as if what is said to have been saved had rained from the sky. Common sense and the slightest reflection will show that £19,000,000 having to be paid, produce worth that money must be sold or remitted to this country, call your intermediate “rupee” what you like. The poor tax-payers of India must bear the burden of the iniquitous, “cruel and crushing tribute” he has to pay for his political slavery. It is the British Anglo-

Indian merchant, trader, official, and non official, and capitalists to whom matters are made easy.

Why does Government not perform the following miracle: Pass a law that “rupee” of India must be equal to a sovereign of gold, and that the rayat must pay his assessment in such “rupee,” just as it makes now the rayat to pay 1-3-4 rupees in the name of “one rupee.” Why then in order to remit the £19,000,000 Government will be able to say:—“Look here, we have remitted £19,00,000, by means of only 19,000,000 rupees, instead of 380,000,000 rupees, which £19,000,000 would be at 1s. per “rupee,” and have thus performed the miracle of saving Rs. 361,000,000 in the year.” Can anything be more absurd than such a claim? I have put an extreme case to show the whole absurdity and subterfuge of squeezing out one-third more taxation from poor wretched India under false pretences of calling 1-3-4 rupee as “one rupee.” Now the cry is raised to have a gold standard. What does that mean? It means that all the little silver that is in British India, as well as the large quantity in Native States, must be deprived of large portion of its present value, by throwing a large quantity on the market and to bring a large quantity of gold at a still higher proportion of value, by the large additional demand created. All this loss in cheap silver and dearer gold to be squeezed out of the poor, wretched, famished rayat of India! Who will pay all this price of the conversion from silver to gold currency? Will the British traders, capitalists, officials, and non-officials, at whose cry and clamour this has to be done for their benefit, pay a single farthing towards this conversion, beyond the infinitesimal share they pay of the taxation, and that by exploiting the country to their great profit with the land and labour of the Indians, who come in simply to slave as hewers of wood and drawers of water, to be taxed and “bled” as Lord Salisbury properly calls it, for the benefit of British people, with famine and plague as their only lot? There was a time, in the 67's, when I had myself joined in pressing for a gold standard, when the burden of the conversion would not have been great, as it would be at present. The crude, selfish legislation of the past few years in matter of currency has been awful. And why? Because the poor Indian tax-payer can be squeezed and “bled” with impunity and heartlessly and what matters it to the gods the heights of Simla, or why should the British people care for it? They have not to pay for it. It is for their cry and benefit that all this is to be done, and at the ruinous cost of the Indian taxpayer. As far as the home charges are concerned, it will be of no benefit or rather to the Indian. He will have to find or provide produce worth £19,000,000 sterling gold whether the currency is gold or silver. It will be nice and easy for the officials and non-officials who have to make remittances, and they will have no bother of fall or fluctuation of exchanges. Were it not for the tribute, “cruel crushing tribute” as Sir George Wingate calls it, to be paid by India, the fall in silver or in exchange would not have been of any consequence, just as in other silver-using, free, self-governing countries. Trade would have adjusted itself accordingly to the exchange. I do sincerely trust that the Committee. Enquiry which is to sit upon this subject will not be carried away by the clamour of selfish interests but examine the matter closely from the point of view of the Indian people, to see how the taxpayer, and not the tax-eater and the exploiters of India, is affected.

Washington House, Yours truly,

72, Anerley Park, S.E. DADABHAI NAOROJI.

The editors of *Commerce* appended the following paragraph from the interview of July 5, 1893:—

“The long and short of the whole Act will be a very heavy additional imposition on the mass of poor Indian tax-payers, the burden being imposed not in a direct, open, and honest way, but by the indirect and covert way the Indian Government have adopted. The closing of the mints and the fixing of a certain higher exchange will have this effect. Why Government should have interfered to protect the speculator at the cost of the tax-payer is by no means clear. Speculators should have taken their own risk as they do in every other line of business. The fall in the exchange is part and parcel of the merchant's business: the sudden fluctuation is the merchant's business, not the Government's and so on. It is unjust. The action of the Government will restrict the internal trade of the country. The storm is upon us, and nobody knows what trees or shrubs will be uprooted. The Indian Council have not been able to sell their bills at 1s. 4d., and much will depend upon the action of the United States Government. When the Sherman Bill is repealed the storm will fall in full force and then die away, but their perpetual endeavours to stop the storm for more than twenty years have upset trade to a very large degree, but the Government have no right to interfere in trade affairs.”

THE scale of gratuities to officers and soldiers for the frontier operations will shortly be announced.

THE services of Captain Young will be retained for another year on the staff of the Governor of Bombay.

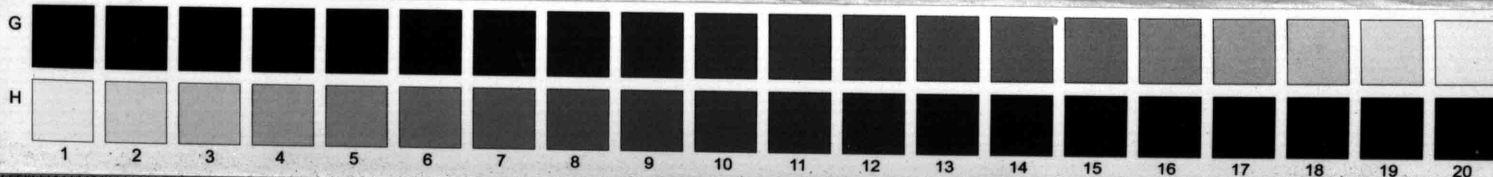
VESSELS coming in at Karachi report bad weather at sea. The S. S. Janetta lost her foremast in a gale, and the S. S. Pemba, a fireman. Three country boats, belonging to Karachi have been wrecked on the coast, between this and Bombay.

LIEUT.-GENERAL Sir Mansfield Clarke, commanding the forces at Madras, proceeds on 60 days' leave to Kashmir, and Major General Tucker, commanding the Secunderabad district, temporarily commands in Madras.

No orders regarding Light Railways on the frontier for military progress are expected to issue for some time to come. On this, as on other subjects connected with the defence of the North West border, the Home Government will have their say before a decision is announced.

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