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It is said that a French chemist has invented a new kind of candle made by dissolving five parts of colourless gelatine in 20 parts of water, adding 25 parts of glycerine and heating until a perfectly clear solution has been formed. To this is added two parts of tannin dissolved in ten parts of glycerine. A turbidity is produced that vanishes on further boiling. The boiling is continued until the water has been driven off, and the mass is then cast into ordinary candle-moulds. The candles obtained in this way are as clear as water, and burn quietly without spreading any odour.

GOLDEN TIME DISHES.

In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the horse seems to have furnished an esteemed dish, and Anthony of Geneva, the chronicler of Charles V., gives the following account of a feast at which he was present:—"I will tell you no lye, I saw such kinds of meats eaten, as are wont to be sene, but not eaten—as a horse roasted, a cat in gely, lyards in hut brothe, frogges fried."

The porpoise also was eaten by our ancestors, being dressed in a variety of ways; according to Warner in his "Antique Culinary," it was even sold in the markets of most towns in Portugal in 1790.

The Royal dish of the middle ages was the peacock. Its flesh, however, is described as being tough and tasteless, and the favour in which it was held appears to have been chiefly on account of its vanity and the splendour of its appearance. It was roasted and stuffed with spices and herbs, and served with the beak and scomb gilded, the skin and feathers being replaced when it was cooked and the tail spread.

The swan also was in great gastronomic repute, and accounted a state dish.

AN AMUSING WEDDING.

BEFORE His Honour Deputy Judge Pitt-Lewis, Q. C., at the Shoreditch County Court, the case of Duplain vs. Huntley came on for hearing, and was an action in which the plaintiff, a livery stable keeper of Clapton Park, claimed 15/- from the defendant James Huntley, being half the agreed price for the hire of a couple of coaches which the defendant had hired for his wedding on Christmas Day. Mr. J. W. Moore appeared for the plaintiff. The plaintiff filed the defendant ordered a pair of bays and a pair of greys, but at the last moment, they could not be supplied, so he sent a pair of bays, and in the other coach, one bay and one grey. His Honour: Did he use them? Mr. Moore: Oh, yes; he got married. (Laughter.) His Honour: I did not know whether he sent them back and postponed it. (Laughter.) Well, why don't you pay for them if you use them? Defendants: Look here, your honour, I'm an honest man, and when a man wants to get married, he wants to get married. His Honour: That is as great as the wisdom of Solomon. (Loud laughter.) But how does it affect the question? Defendant: A great deal, your honour: I got into the coach at the door with the bay and the grey in it, but we hadn't gone far, when we refused to budge an inch. (Loud laughter.) His Honour: What did you do? Defendant: I got out and walked for a bit. (Roars of laughter.) His Honour: And so you got to the church in safety. Defendant: Devil a bit of it, we didn't. We had only gone a little further on, when it again stopped, so as it was getting a bit late I said, "I say, boys, don't you think we had better get out and push?" (Loud laughter.) His Honour: And did you do it? Defendant: Every man jacks of us did it. (Roars of laughter, in which His Honour joined.) His Honour: And how far did you have to do that? Defendant: Right to the church door, every step of the way; oh, I tell you, it was a wedding; (Roars of laughter.) Defendants: I am willing to give 5/- for all I had. His Honour: That is a very good offer and I will give you judgement for the plaintiff for that amount with costs.

A "LITTLE TIGER" STORY.

"IMAKSHIKARE," writes: A merry party were going through the Sunderlands in the river steamer Megna. One night after the ladies had retired, and while we were sitting round the cuddy table finishing our drinks and smokes, preparatory to turning in Brown said, "I'll stand a bottle of brandy (those were pre-wedding days) if big will spin us a yarn."

Now Big was the mate. His real name was not Big, but he was dubbed Big by common consent because of the quality of his yarns, and he appeared to like the name. "Well, gentlemen," he at once commenced, "when I first joined this service I was once off this very voyage in the Jabuna, and just after we passed through the Fidler's Elbow we moored along the bank and had barely run out the gangway when a great big tigris loomed up it without even so much as 'come on board, sir?'"

We made no advances of welcome to her. Our politeness failed us. We suddenly remembered engagements elsewhere and in moment not a soul was visible. I had taken refuge in my cabin and peeping through a chink awaited events—thoughts of shooting her did pass through my mind, but the arms rack was outside, and so was the tiger.

Continuing to peep I saw that an empty cask standing upright, with its top end knocked out seemed to excite her curiosity. She sniffed round and round it, purring pleasantly the while as if the smell she inhaled recalled pleasant recollections, and finally, trying to spring lightly on it, she succeeded only in pulling it over herself.

In her attempts to escape the end of her tail protruded out of the bung-hole. Out I nipped, hove out as much of its slack as I could, tied the tail in a firm knot, and back to my coign of vantage before you could say "nife." Her struggles soon upset the cask, and she disappeared across the gangway towing the cask gaily away.

"Well?" we cried. He stretched out his glass. It was impatiently filled, but deliberately emptied. "Well?" we roared again. "Well, gentlemen," he resumed, "it may seem strange, but I happened to be coming this same voyage just about a twelve month after, and just about the same spot, and about the very same hour—Hang me! if there was not the identical old tiger with the same cask in tow: the knot I had tied on her tale still holding firmly. But?"

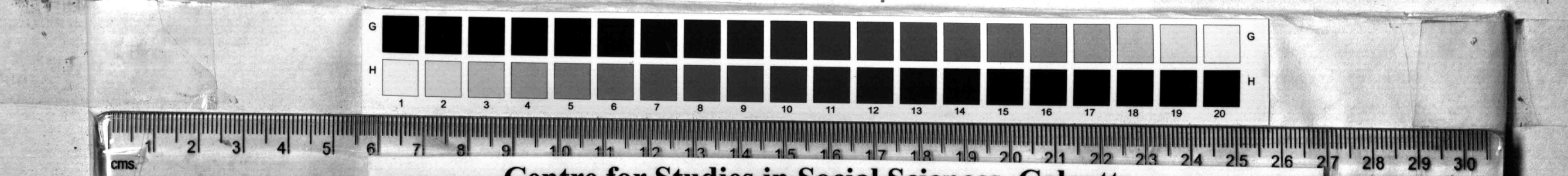
"Oh, shove along!" "Gentlemen!—Gambolling around her were half-a-dozen or so, of the sweetest little tiger cubs you ever saw, each towing astern a little keg, with its little tail through the bung-hole tied in just such a knot as I—," M. Post.

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THE  
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JULY 24, 1898.

THE BARRACKPORE CASE.

THE peroration of the Chief Justice, with which he concluded his summing-up in the Barrackpore case, proved the nobility of his soul. His Lordship alluded to the belief in certain quarters, that in cases between Europeans and Indians the latter do not get justice. We believe, this notion is not confined to any particular class, but is universal. Indeed, we may quote paragraphs from the *Pioneer* to show that that paper had not only testified to the existence of the belief, but also to its justness. The counsel for the prosecution, Mr. Pugh, himself furnished a notable example how this belief had got a firm hold of the public mind. The case in hand is one of atrocious character. It was a cowardly act for three Europeans to kick an old, innocent Indian gentleman to death. It would appear that, having got leave from their barrack, they employed themselves in an expedition, the object of which was the hunting of niggers. They beat Notober, they broke windows, they threatened to beat the lemonade-seller with the empty bottles because he wanted the price of the carriage of the deceased gentleman, and when the latter, well known to the soldiers as he had his practice amongst them, came out to remonstrate, the three fell upon him, and so violently assaulted him that he lost his consciousness immediately and died within twenty hours. It was not a case of the gun going off accidentally, or firing at a moment of excitement. The deceased was assaulted, and that with so much determination and deliberation that mere blows, without the use of any weapon, put an end to his life. From the above one can understand the ferocious nature of the attack made upon the old Indian gentleman.

Yet what did Mr. Pugh, counsel for the prosecution, say? He implored, addressing the Judge and Jury, to convict them of some offence, at least, of simple hurt! This earnest appeal from the Crown counsel shows that he had doubts whether the culprits would be convicted of even simple hurt. Indeed, to understand how the European community has been demoralized here, one has to read the following paragraph from the *Morning Post*, a paper conducted under liberal principles, just to hand. The Joint-Magistrate of Meerut has committed Private Wifelan for having bayoneted an innocent punka-coolie, and these are the comments of the *Morning Post*—

It is difficult to understand why the Joint-Magistrate of Meerut should go through the solemn form of committing Private Wifelan, of the Connaught Rangers, to take his trial for murder at the approaching criminal sessions of the N.-W. P. High Court at Allahabad. The facts of the tragedy are briefly these: Wifelan, whilst confined in the guard-room, was seized with fever and ague, and was sent to the Regimental Hospital for treatment. He behaved very singularly at this period, and he had actually been under medical observation on account of signs of incipient insanity that had been noticed. We do not know what the verdict of the doctors on the man's mental condition was, but it is certain that he was suffering from homicidal mania, and that he seized the very first opportunity to indulge in this murderous propensity. This occurred on June 11th last when Wifelan was permitted to leave the sick room to go into the verandah for a drink of water. That this was only the cunning excuse of a mad-man, soon became apparent. The patient rushed to the hospital guard-room, seized two rifles, with bayonets attached, and then looked about for victims. One of the weapons was wrested from him, but he managed to get away with the other and to use it with deadly effect on the first man being he afterwards came across—an inoffensive punka-coolie who succumbed a week later to the effects of his injuries. The crime was unquestionably that of an individual wholly unaccountable for his actions. It is safe to say that no jury would convict; and that being so, why commit the man to take his trial at Allahabad at all? The High Court is already seriously in arrears with its work; and we fail to see an atom of reason why it should be further burdened with this Meerut murder case, and the public cast in heavy costs for the expenses of the investigation. We submit that, on the plain admitted facts of the tragedy, the Wifelan trial should go no further than Meerut; and we should be glad to see the Joint-Magistrate take our view of the matter.

It is a newspaper which says that it is all nothing, and, therefore, a European, who had brutally bayoneted an innocent Indian to death, should not be put on his trial! Indeed, there is no doubt that the value of native life has fallen very low in this country in the estimation of a certain class of Europeans.

Of course, it was expected that some sort of punishment would be inflicted upon the offenders in the Barrackpore case. The facts of the case have travelled across the ocean; English newspapers commented upon them with great warmth; questions have been asked in Parliament about this atrocious case. The Secretary of State was ridiculed for having tried to conceal the fact that the offenders in the Barrackpore case were Europeans. In India, again, the trial of a European offender was getting to be a farce. Whenever a European accused was hauled up for murder, the cry was raised beforehand that "he would be acquitted". And thus it was believed that in this case at least some punishment would be inflicted.

This belief that the prisoners would get some sort of punishment, was, however, getting weak and weaker with the progress of the trial. The defence fought every inch of ground. All Indians were rigorously excluded from the jury box. The attitude of the jury seemed very suspicious, and, above all, "blood is thicker than water." Considering all circumstances, we have nothing to say against the finding and the sentence. The luxury of indulging in race-feeling and vindictiveness is not the portion of the Indians. He is lucky that it is not so. Vindictiveness, race-prejudice and such other base feelings only debase the soul. What, therefore, the Indian wants, is protection, and not the pleasure of seeing a European offender put into trouble. And this protection is, that deterrent punishment should be inflicted upon those who take the law into their own hands. We have, no doubt, the punishment of seven years' rigorous imprisonment will have a deterrent and wholesome effect upon those Europeans who commit cowardly offences against the persons of the natives of the soil.

In this connection we must say that there is another belief prevalent in the country, which was not noticed by the Chief Justice, because it did not come in his way. The saying in the country is that "mercy is for the European, and justice for the Indian offenders." This saying is explained by another which is, "no conviction, no promotion." During the rule of Sir Charles Elliott, he made it plain that the best Magistrates were those who convicted the most. We regret, however, deeply to say that this principle of Sir Charles Elliott has not altogether departed from Bengal, or India either. Take the case of the Madrassee, sent up by the police, on a charge of theft, and acquitted by Deputy Magistrate Mr. Gopal Nair. There was no evidence against the accused, except the uncorroborated testimony of a single policeman, and the Deputy Magistrate very naturally discharged the man. And he has been punished for his independence, by having been divorced of his Magisterial powers and placed in charge of the Treasury! One case like this is enough to demoralize a Province. What Magistrate will after this acquit an accused?

When the British first began to administer justice in this country, the people were awe-struck at the supreme sense of justice displayed by that nation. A British jury could not convict a thief, found on the third storey of a house in Sukea's Street, because the prosecution had failed to prove that he had gone there with a malicious intent! In England, prisoners are tried with extreme care. We felt positive envy at the good luck of the three accused in the Barrackpore case, at the careful manner in which they were tried. There was not the slightest attempt on the part of the witnesses for the prosecution and the Crown counsel, to stretch a point against the prisoners. None betrayed any feeling against anybody; and, if any feeling was betrayed, it was on behalf of the defence. Indeed, some of the European witnesses positively spoke in favour of the accused. Thus a European witness deposed that the stone pillar was at a distance of only one yard from where the deceased fell, though the distance was fourteen feet. A European Doctor deposed that the deceased was so far conscious as to be able to prescribe for himself, which means that he had not been hurt severely by his assailants. The compounder, however, deposed that it was he who prescribed and not the deceased Doctor. Indeed, if the prisoners had not acted in utter recklessness as to consequences, amidst lots of spectators, in a moonlit night, they might have yet escaped scot-free, considering all the advantages they secured, which as accused on their defence, they had a right, under humane and civilized principles, to have. What we beg to submit is this, that the natives of the soil ought to be tried under the same principles. We do not blame the jury for having taken a "merciful view of the case," though it is a case of so diabolical a nature as to put a stop to the flow of that divine sentiment. The natives of India have this complaint, that the criminal administration of the country; in regard to themselves, is susceptible of much improvement.

THE TIMES AND THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPALITY.

It is difficult to find whom to believe, —the *Times* or the Hon'ble Mr. Risley. In reference to the new Municipal Bill, the *Times* said—

The inquiries in Bombay and Calcutta have led to legislative measures that imply a partial return from the self-governing to the centralized official model: \* \* \* \* \* In these polite phrases, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal wraps up a change which will vest a stronger control in the hands of the Government, and which will substitute a directly responsible executive for the less directly responsible Corporation.

While the Hon'ble Mr. Risley said:— I will go further and meet my friends on their own ground. I will assume, for the sake of argument, that the principles of local self-government—to stick to that indefinite phraseology—are applicable to Calcutta. Does it follow even then that the Bill infringes the principle? I maintain that it does not: on the contrary, the Bill affirms and extends it.

Now it is not likely that the *Times* has taken a brief from the friends whom Mr. Risley addresses. How is it then that Mr. Risley does not see what the *Times* does? The question becomes more complicated when we take into account that the Hon'ble member in charge is not only honest, but a real well-wisher of Indian progress. The

*Times* says that the measure means "a partial return" from self-government to official government, while Mr. Risley says it "affirms and extends self-government." Their views thus differ as the poles asunder; and we must take it that either the *Times* has suddenly become a saint, or that Mr. Risley has suddenly become an enemy. The one explanation that occurs to us, is that the latter was hypnotized by Sir A. Mackenzie, who in turn was hypnotized by Sir A. Eden. Immediately on his arrival here as Lieutenant-Governor, Sir A. Eden was pleased to hold converse with the writer of this on the elective system, granted to Calcutta by his illustrious predecessor, Sir R. Temple. What Sir A. Eden said, was, in effect, this: Representative Government has proved a failure everywhere. It is a failure in America; "the British Parliament itself is a sickly plant, and we shall soon make an end of it." He said further, "where will you get better men than Joteendra Mohun Tagore, Kristodas Pal, Digambar Mishra, Rajendra Lal Mitra, Norendra Krishna and others? It was I who nominated them."

Sir A. Eden forgot that great men as his nominees were, they had not an atom of power. Sir S. Hogg had everything in his own way; he taxed the city in his own way, and he spent the money in his own way. The Europeans wanted a market of marble blocks, and then a regular fight ensued between Sir S. Hogg and Babu Heera Lal Seal. If Heera Lal Seal had his *latials* so had Sir S. Hogg his constables. And how they dragged the fruit-sellers and vegetable-sellers to the respective markets by sheer force! It was a sight for gods to see, Sir S. Hogg's Paharallawalla holding one hand of a fisher woman and the darwan of Heera Lal Seal holding the other, and thus between them making the poor woman shriek and invoke the wrath of all the gods of heaven upon both.

Said Sir S. Hogg: "If Heera Lal Seal has a long purse, so have I." Of course, meaning thereby that the entire Municipal revenue was at his disposal. Well, some wag took the boast of Sir S. Hogg as a basis for a farce, which was enacted, to the delight of whole Calcutta. Heera Lal and Hogg were made to meet face to face, each with a purse, and to measure the length of their respective purses! The purse of Hogg was some thirty cubits in length, and that of Heera Lal how many we don't remember. All this happened when Sir A. Eden's nominees helplessly tried to protect the interests of the rate payers.

Sir S. Hogg was in love with the European quarter; and the northern side of the town "languished in the cold shade of neglect." There were in those days a billion of mosquitos in every room in the native quarter. But to return to Sir A. Eden. He was exceedingly jealous of Sir R. Temple, whom he considered a little better than a fool. The elective system was granted by Sir R. Temple and that was enough reason for Sir A. Eden to condemn it. He tried to harm it, but could not; for, then, the people of India had some life and then Lord George Hamilton had not come into existence. Sir A. Mackenzie as the avowed *chela* of Sir A. Eden, very naturally sought to carry out the unfulfilled wishes of his *guru*. So far it is all explicable. But why is Mr. Risley in the conspiracy? That is the mystery.

HOW MUTUAL POSITION GETTING INTOLERABLE.

We shall mention one or two incidents for the consideration of those Englishmen who can not bear to see their countrymen punished here for criminal offences, to show how the position was getting to be intolerable, both for Europeans and Indians. Mr. Macintyre of Samastipore is an English gentleman of education and position. A few Hindus were making themselves merry over a marriage ceremony. Not that they were either drinking or doing anything wrong. They had some music, and they were going to have a feast, and that was all they did to give offence to Mr. Macintyre. The music annoyed him, especially as his wife was alleged to be ill. Under such circumstances, any man in any other part of the world, or any man here if he had not been a European, would have either suffered in silence for a discomfort for which there was no help; or if he was a man of vindictive temper sued the parties in a court of law for having created nuisance; or he would have let these merry-makers know that the music was causing him annoyance, especially as his wife was not doing well, and that he would be obliged to the party if it were put a stop to.

Mr. Macintyre did adopt the last course. His chaprasses told those engaged in the festivity, that the Sahab was angry, &c, &c. No sooner the people heard of it than they not only did not resent the unwarrantable interference, but hastened to comply with the request. But Mr. Macintyre could not wait for the result of the peaceful message sent to them. He loaded his double-barrelled gun with B. B. shot, and with full cock went himself to drive the "offenders." It has been found by the Magistrate that both the barrels went off by accident. It is quite possible that the Magistrate was right; but it would be difficult to persuade the natives of the soil to agree in his conclusion.

The point, however, is not whether the barrels went off by accident or not. The point that we beg to urge to-day is the attitude of Mr. Macintyre. Where did

he get his utter contempt for the rights of others? Of course, every one has a right to music and feasts. In India, these are almost essential in sacred ceremonies like marriage. Where did he then get this impatience? He could not even wait to see the result of his message to those assembled for the feast! Where did he get this ungovernable temper,—loading his barrels with B. B., and attacking the party in full cock? Where did he get this utter recklessness, this disregard of human life?

What we mean is this, that a member of society, who has little or no conception of the rights of others; one whose temper is ruffled by the slightest of causes and who at the same time has no control over it; one who has no or very little regard for the lives of his fellow-beings, for which offence he was fined by the Magistrate, is not a neighbour whom any one would like to have. It is not safe to allow men having the temper and instincts of Mr. Macintyre to live in the midst of his fellows. One can now see that it is really a matter of difficulty for the Government to accommodate in India men with the temper and instincts of Mr. Macintyre. Their surroundings are intolerable to them. They are surrounded by the Indians on every side, whose modes of life they do not like, no not even their music. So the position of Mr. Macintyre is intolerable to him here in India.

On the other hand, the neighbourhood of men like Mr. Macintyre must be intolerable to the Indians; for, they may find the contents of a double-barrelled gun, loaded with B. B. in their midst, without notice. So, you see, the position is getting to be intolerable to both parties. But as the Europeans can not do without the Indian, and these Indians without Europeans, something must be done to improve the situation.

It is needless to point out how this position can be improved. But one or two questions will suffice to solve this problem. Would Mr. Macintyre have dared to act in the way he was led to do, if he was not a European in India? Would he have dared to act in the way he was led to do, if it was America, or say, England? Would any native of India have dared to act in the same way? If the number of such Europeans go on increasing—Europeans who cannot bear the Indians,—it will be difficult for the Government to find place for them in this country.

In the same manner, by the Barrackpore and Parker cases we can prove that the position is getting to be intolerable to both the parties.

THERE is a paper in Hyderabad, called the *Hyderabad Chronicle*. It is owned and conducted by Europeans and has considerable influence in that Native State. This paper is publishing a series of articles against the Resident of Hyderabad, which, strangely enough, have not attracted the attention of the Government of India. They cannot be ignored without seriously compromising the character of Sir Trevor Plowden; for, the charges against him are not only very serious but distinct and specific. If no notice is taken of these grave allegations, the impression will naturally be created upon the public mind that the prosecution of the journal is avoided for fear of an exposure. And then, it is hardly fair to the Resident that he should be allowed to be labelled, week after week, without being able to vindicate his character. In a recent issue, the *Chronicle* publishes an article in the shape of "an open letter". In it the writer dwells on the relation between Sir Trevor, Sir Vicar-ul-Umrah, and the Nizam, specially in connection with the purchase of Sir Vicar's palace for twenty lakhs by the Nizam, in a way which cannot be mistaken. It is to be presumed that the Resident has his explanation about this matter; if so, it is right he should be allowed to clear his character from the aspersions cast upon it by the journal. Referring to this subject, the *Simla News* says:—

It is by no means to be taken for granted that, when a Government official is plainly accused of various misdemeanours by a newspaper, and takes no apparent steps to vindicate his reputation, he must necessarily be guilty. On the contrary, we remember that some years ago, when the seditious Bengali papers accused one of the most distinguished and honourable officials who ever came to India, Sir Lepel Griffin, in the coarsest terms, of bribery, corruption, &c., that he applied to the Government of India for permission to defend his reputation from these scurrilities by a prosecution, and that this was refused. He then asked the Government of India to themselves institute a public prosecution of these offending journals, and this also was refused. This refusal on their part to allow their representative in Central India to defend his own reputation and also to themselves defend him, was a source of very great disappointment to this officer. But in the present case, if the Government of India refuse to allow the Resident at Hyderabad to prosecute it and also to themselves take steps to protect him, they incur a very grave responsibility, as the *Hyderabad Chronicle* cannot be treated with contempt as merely a seditious native paper.

We don't blame the *Simla News* for writing in the above strain; for, an impression prevails in certain quarters that the Government showed us favour by not allowing Sir Lepel Griffin to prosecute this journal. The following article and the letter which were published in the *Patrika* at the time will, however, show that neither did Sir Lepel Griffin venture to ask permission to prosecute this paper, nor did the Government give him any certificate of good conduct:—

Criminal proceedings do not necessarily mean punishment to the accused. If Sir Lepel had proceeded against the *Patrika*, the matter

would have ended in one way—the annihilation of one of the parties. We were fully aware of the seriousness of the step that we had taken. Knowing our facts to be true and quite secure in our position with proofs and evidence, we never expected that there would be any attempt to take the matter to the Courts. The only chance there was for a shifting of the whole matter in the law Courts was in the recklessness and sensitiveness of Sir Lepel Griffin. But the *Pioneer* now admits that Sir Lepel never sought the permission of the Government to prosecute. He did no such thing. He only recommended the Government to institute criminal proceedings which, however, the Government cannot unless it brings the charge of sedition. Thus, the real fact is, that Sir Lepel never sought the permission, and that therefore the mention of "criminal proceedings" in the certificate is pure nonsense.

The following letter from Dr. Currie comes at an opportune moment:—

Sir,—The certificate that the Governor-General in Council has been pleased to give Sir Lepel Griffin, interdicting him from resorting to the Criminal Courts, has saved that high functionary from a great peril. If the Government had taken him at his word and permitted him to sue the "Amrita Bazar Patrika," the result would have been disastrous in the extreme. I, for one, would have come forward to testify from my own personal knowledge to most of the facts stated by that paper. Most of the facts known to me would have been confirmed by documents which are in my possession. But it was not I alone who was thus prepared. There are hosts of dismissed officials, banished residents (like myself), faithful subjects and servants of the State to whom the Government order would cause a great disappointment. The prosecution of the "Patrika" would have been a signal for a violent commotion throughout the territories under the control of the Central India Agency. From an imperial point of view, it was very well that the permission to sue was not given. But it would also be highly impolitic to ignore the deep feeling of discontent that prevails in most of the Native States under the said Agency. Something ought to be done to heal the wounds inflicted by our infatuated officials upon the sensitive, though un-complaining, people and Princes of India. It is not correct to say that the acts of Sir Lepel have the support of the people. Fancy the absurdity of the statement that the appointment of Colonel Ward had the sympathy of the people at Bhopal!—Yours, &c.

CHAS. CURRIE.

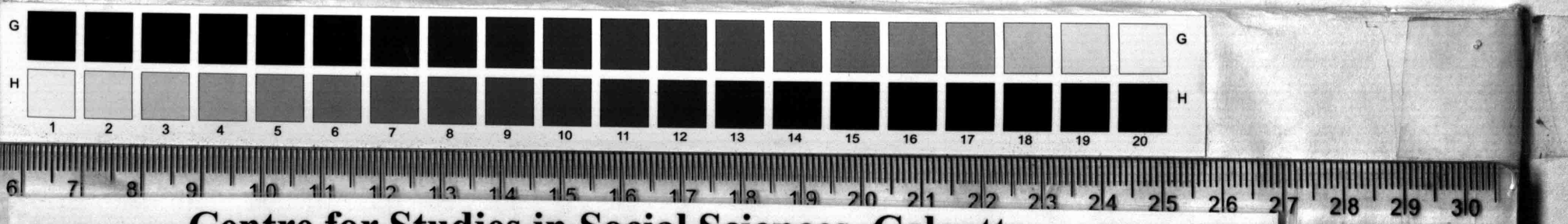
No one with a little common sense in him would have cared to meddle with such a powerful, reckless and sensitive official as Sir Lepel Griffin was, if he were not absolutely sure of his ground. That our position was unassailable, was known to Sir Lepel and the Government; that any prosecution would have been followed by disastrous consequences, was well known too. What the Government did was to compel Sir Lepel Griffin to resign his post, and give him a certificate in which his services in Afghanistan and elsewhere were acknowledged, but no mention was made as regards his administration in Bhopal and other Native States, and thus the truth of the charges, brought against him, was indirectly admitted.

THE *Hindu* writes: "The *Patrika* writes in a tone of excitement, foreboding ruin to the Congress." This is in reference to the Municipal case in which Babus Surendra Nath and Norendra Nath had a fight over the question as to who was the better Hindu. We must plead guilty, if our dull jokes are not appreciated in that exceedingly serious town of Madras. We said that Mr. Chief Magistrate of Bombay had, in going to try the obscene literature case, corrupted his own morals by reading certain books which he himself had declared to be immoral. And the *Madras Standard* declared that it did not understand the significance of our remarks! The significance of our remarks is this that we have no great faith in the method of improving the moral tone of a nation by criminal trials like the one in question. Anyhow the *Hindu* may rest assured that the Congress is safe.

THE *Englishman* now and then serves its constituents with "the humours of the Bengali press". Let us see whether the Anglo-Indian press has its humours or not. We said the other day that the *Englishman* had a queer heading for the report of the proceedings of the Barrackpore case, *viz* "the alleged murder case at Barrackpur." When the trial ended in conviction, the *Englishman* changed the heading simply to "the Barrackpore case". Our contemporary has not a word to say either for or against the verdict or sentence. The prisoners were found guilty by an English jury and tried by a British Judge; so he cannot find fault with the result. Neither can he approve of it; for, after all, it was only a native that was kicked to death. Our contemporary also gave a full report of the speech of Mr. Zorab, the counsel for defence, while he gave only a short summary of the speech of Mr. Pugh, the Crown counsel.

MR. B. L. GUPTA, who officiated as a Judge of the High Court during the absence on leave of Mr. Justice Ghose, is appointed as District and Sessions Judge of Hooghly. He will, however, act as Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs for Mr. C. M. W. Brett during his absence on leave. The next vacancy of the High Court should be filled up permanently by Mr. Gupta, whose career as a Civilian has been throughout a distinguished one.

KNOWING full well that Englishmen cannot bear to see their countrymen punished in India for having committed violence upon the natives, the Chief Justice implored the English Jury in the Barrackpore case not to forget the traditions of their race, and give a verdict, not from considerations of race but those of justice. That pe



oration is a proof that race-feeling amongst Englishmen is something carried to an unreasonable extent in India. Knowing this and expecting outbursts from the Anglo-Indian papers for the punishment of their countrymen, we accepted the verdict and the sentence in the Barrackpore case not only loyally but cheerfully. That outburst has come, but from an unexpected quarter,—we never expected the article which disgraced the columns of the *Indian Daily News* of Thursday. Tory papers complain that the Liberals are unpatriotic. The *Indian Daily News*, which is a Liberal paper, however, gives lie to the suggestion by the transcendently patriotic manner in which he wails over the misfortunes of his three countrymen. The facts are, however, these. A cowardly attack was made upon an innocent Indian gentleman, and a diabolical deed committed by three European soldiers. We challenge any one to show a brutal act like that committed, within the memory of man. There was no kick at the diseased spleen of a native; there was no firing-off of a gun; but the deceased came to his death by blows! The evidence of the violence of these blows was found in the pool of blood that lay around the spot where the deceased fell. The spectacle was witnessed by scores of men, and there can be no manner of doubt in the minds of any reasonable man that the crime was committed by the three soldiers. We shall give a specimen of the comments of the *Indian Daily News*. Says our contemporary:—

It is well known all over Barrackpore that Dr. Sarker was in the habit of drinking. "It is well known,"—is it? The editor, we presume, is a Barrister. Does he not know that things, which are "well known" to an editor, may not be good or any evidence at all in a court of law? Drinking liquor is considered an abomination by the Hindus. And our contemporary lays himself open to a criminal charge by bringing forward such a libel against a dead man. See another specimen:—

There was no credible evidence how that wound was inflicted.

By the introduction of one word, "credible," he disposes of the entire case for the prosecution! The evidence that he considers incredible from his editorial chair, was, however, considered credible by those who came across the witnesses, namely, the European Judge, Jury, and Magistrate. Did Dr. Sarker sham death, to bring trouble upon the European soldiers? Whence did the blood come? From a fall,—is it? But do men fall with their faces downwards for the sake of fun? And if any one wishes to do it for the pleasure of the thing, does he die of it? He was drunk,—is it? But where is the evidence that he drank wine? Even if he did it, where is the evidence that he was used to get drunk? And how could a medical man carry on his extensive practice if he were a drunkard? But mere guessing won't do. The police which investigated the case, was European. The Magistrate was European; the Jury was European, as well as the Judge. The *Indian Daily News* ought to be thankful that the Jury had taken a merciful view of the case. Perhaps he is not aware of the story told the other day by a highly respectable European gentleman at the Attorney's Library that Wynne confessed to an official of the Sheriff's office, while the prisoners were being carried to jail, that he had given a blow on the cheek of Dr. Sarker, and that when the latter fell down, he gave him kicks!

THE *Englishman* has at last admitted that the disease, which now passes for plague, "like cholera, assumes an endemic rather than an epidemic shape". The same *Englishman*, however, cried sedition when the leading Indian papers took a similar view of the disease. That is, however, neither here nor there. Now, what is an endemic disease? An endemic disease is one which is constantly present, to a greater or less degree, in any place. It is distinguished from an epidemic disease which prevails widely at some one time, or periodically, and from a sporadic disease, of which a few instances occur now and then. If plague is thus an endemic disease in Calcutta, it must have been existing amongst us constantly. The cases discovered by Dr. Simpson, two years ago, were exactly like those which are now dubbed as "plague." But we managed to live very well without segregation, inoculation, and house-to-house visitation. This supports the theory of those who believe that Calcutta or Bengal is a place which is not likely to be visited by the disease which has decimated Bombay. Yet no blame can be attached to the Government for taking some precautionary measures; for, if the disease had appeared, nobody would have then excused the authorities for their negligence and unpreparedness. The question, however, must be decided once for all, namely, is the continuance of these so-called precautionary measures of any benefit whatever? No one is more fitted to give an opinion on the subject than Dr. Blaney; and this is what he says in his last letter, which was published in these columns two or three days ago:—

At present plague is being fought on three distinct lines: (1) By the curative serum system, of which Roux and Lustig are the foremost advocates; (2) by the serum preventive system, of which Haffkine is the exponent; and (3) the Indian Government system of driving it out by an order from a Collector, or a plague officer. All these three plague-fighting agencies claim that either singly or conjointly they can either extinguish or prevent plague. The exponents and defenders of each of these systems are, very naturally, in favour of their own systems. What wonder, then, if bacteriologists should lend their arguments to their own cures or preventions, and

that pure "stampers-out" should trust to their boots and highlows? All this variety of effort brings us no nearer to the question—What is the life-period of a plague epidemic? Dr. Blaney, it will be seen, has no faith in any of the orthodox plague measures. In the beginning, he was as ardent an advocate of these measures as any Bombay doctor; but, within the course of a year, after bitter experience, he came to discover their utter worthlessness. As these measures entail terrible expense and sufferings, they ought to be given up, if they are really of no use, and others substituted in their place. According to Dr. Roux, the French bacteriologist, who came to Bombay to study the question, it takes "several years" for an epidemic plague to die out. Must then all these measures be continued for years together? The plague at Bombay cost some 30 lakhs in 18 months. This is terrible drain. We do not know how much money has already been swallowed up by the measures started in Calcutta; but it must be a pretty large sum. There is no doubt of it, the Corporation and the general rate-payers of the town cannot bear this additional burden.

An alleged case of injustice, with reference to a clerical appointment in the Bengal Secretariat, has been brought to our notice. If the facts, stated by the correspondent, are correct, they ought to be enquired into and the wrong righted. Babu Chandri Das Ghose, Deputy Magistrate, employed as Head Assistant Revenue Department, having been permitted to revert to his ordinary line, the post was filled up by gradual promotions in the office up to Class of Rs. 60 per mensem. But, in the next lower grade, (Rs. 50 per mensem) an outsider, we are told, has been appointed in supersession of the claims of many graduates and passed clerks who have been serving in the Class of Rs. 40 for about seven or eight years, and who are consequently deserving of promotion to the 50 Rs. Class. This outsider, we are further assured, is neither a graduate, nor has he passed the Clerical Service Examination. He has been, it is said, serving in the office of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal, for about four years on a salary of Rs. 25 per mensem. Our correspondent says:—

Owing to the abolition of the grade system in the Bengal Secretariat by Sir Charles Elliott, promotions have been entirely blocked up; and if an opportunity like the present is thus denied to the junior assistants and apprentices serving in the office through no fault of theirs, what prospects of advancement there are for them? The Hon'ble Mr. Finucane, Secretary to this Department, is well known for his sense of justice and fairness. How is it that he has allowed such an injustice to be done? I would implore our good Lieutenant-Governor Sir John Woodburn to enquire into the truth of the whole matter, and more specially into the facts whether or not the assistants of the office have substantial grounds for complaint, and to upset the arrangement.

The correspondent writes strongly; but, if the facts, stated by him, are true, he has a right to draw the attention of the Government to the subject in the manner he has done.

It may be remembered that Sir Michael Hicks Beach, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a speech, delivered in November last, made it quite clear that it was in the mind of the Government to meet the just and undoubted claim of India that a portion, if not the whole, of the cost of the last Frontier expedition should fall upon Imperial revenues, and not Indian, by a substantial grant in aid from the consolidated fund. That dominating personality, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, however, took up the cause of the distressed West Indian sugar-grower, who groaned under the competition of bounty-fed beet-sugar from Germany, France and Austria; and Sir Michael subsequently forgot the claim of East India altogether, and declared in Liverpool, that England "owes a debt for the past and the present to the West Indies, and in his belief we should do wisely in treating the case of the West Indian Crown Colonies as purely exceptional and aiding them largely from the resources of the British tax-payer". The result was that India in the East was deprived of its just dues for the Indians in the West, on the ground that India's financial position and prospects had much improved since the Chancellor of the Exchequer promised substantial help. Of course, nobody yet knows the particulars of this amazing improvement, or the justification of this change of front by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Another incident has occurred, to emphasise the gross injustice done to India with regard to her financial relation with England. India has much greater claim upon England than Egypt; but yet the loan of £700,000, advanced to the latter on account of the Sudan war, has been remitted by the English Government. The *Manchester Guardian* thus contrasts the conduct of the English people towards the people of India and those of Egypt respectively:—

Egypt—this is the Ministerial account, or the most often presented of the Ministerial accounts—goes to war to reconquer her lost estates between her southern frontier and the equator. It costs a little more than was thought likely, and instantly the British Exchequer finds the money necessary, to prevent—according to the Ministerial account—the slightest interference with a liberal policy of public works in Egypt proper. India, on the other hand, for decade after decade is plunged into costly wars, waged to calm the nerves of Englishmen who cannot sleep at night lest the Russians should be massing a Herat,

Her public works, her system of insurance against famine, her system of public education—all are more or less starved that these Imperialist tremors may be soothed. And what is done for her by the British Exchequer? Once, when Mr. Gladstone was Premier, a grant of, we think, £5,000,000 was made towards the expenses of an Afghan war which had cost infinitely more. For every other 'Indian' war, waged in order to strengthen a link, supposed to be weak in the chain of British Imperial defence, India is left to pay every farthing, even when she is suffering acutely from famine and the plague. One can imagine the feelings with which Indians, in view of these facts, must read the Ministerial advertisements of our infinite goodness in 'restoring to civilisation' great tracts of country for which we are not responsible. Before one begins to spend one's substance on good works abroad, one should see to it that one's own children do not starve."

The terrible poverty of India is, however, no longer a matter of speculation. It is a stern fact; and to-day or to-morrow England must open her purse strings, and hasten to the rescue of her great dependency: otherwise the crash is sure to come. Last year public subscriptions of over a million pounds brought home to the British people the character of this poverty in all its horrors.

THE following paragraph is going the round of the press:—

Lord Chief Justice Russel spoke in the House of Lords about the value of a Jury in the following terms: "There were some in these later days who were inclined to depreciate the value of the opinion of a Jury in these matters. He was not amongst them. (Lord Rosebery: Hear, hear.) He had always thought the average opinion of twelve men of common sense was at least equal to the judgment of twelve Judges on matters of fact such as this.

According to the Lord Chief Justice, a Jury is a better judge of facts than a single Judge. And why? It is, because a Judge has not as much practical experience of the world as an ordinary man of common sense. Anyhow the highest judicial authority in England, perhaps in the world, is a staunch supporter of the system. In India, it is viewed with disfavour by the authorities on various grounds. One class of officials dislike it because by this system the real authority is transferred from their hands to those of the people. There are, then, officials who dislike it because they think that political considerations must outweigh the considerations of justice in this country. There is yet another class who object to the system because, in their opinion, it favours acquittals, which their instincts abhor. Yet, when the question became a subject of hot discussion here a few years ago, officials were found in favour of the system. The system obtained in India long before the advent of the present rulers in this country; and as justice is administered here mainly by aliens, trial by jury is more essential in this country than perhaps in any other.

We had a very good treatment for small-pox; but, we fear, we have lost it. A good many years ago, a student from Sylhet had the disease in a violent form. The Doctor, however, refused to have anything to do with him; indeed, he watched him from a distance of ten or twelve yards and did not venture to go nearer! He prescribed for him castor-oil, which, luckily, was not administered. Then an experienced indigenous inoculator was brought in,—a class of people whom the vaccinators have supplanted. They not only inoculated people but treated patients suffering from small-pox. The inoculator said, what was necessary was not to suppress but develop the eruptions. A purgative would have suppressed eruptions and killed the patient in no time. He helped the development of the eruptions by causing the body of the patient to be covered with a wet cloth. He saved the patient with the greatest ease. He said, that if they could get hold of a patient from the very beginning, they could guarantee cures almost cent per cent. But, as we said, perhaps the treatment is now lost. The introduction of vaccination was perhaps one of the greatest of blunders ever committed, though it was done with the best of motives. We have also a treatment for hydrophobia. Some day we may bring this mode of treatment to light. Fortunately, the mode of treatment, followed in snake bites by Mal-Voidyas or snake-charmers has been made public by the author of "Snakes, Snake-bites, and their Treatment." We can boastfully declare that this great danger to humanity in India, namely, death by snake-bites, has been brought absolutely under control. The treatment followed in the case of patients bitten by snakes, who are in their last stage, is *isshar* or water cure,—a description of which we shall give shortly.

We said the other day that the "bull," which the *Pioneer* sought to fasten upon the Chief Justice of Calcutta, was a fanciful creation of our contemporary. The "bull," it will be remembered, consisted in some alleged remarks of His Lordship with reference to the case of Babus Rameswar and Brijnandan, in which Mr. Lister, Joint Magistrate of Sewan, played such an important part. The *Pioneer* tried to make the Chief Justice look an object of laughter by causing His Lordship say: "It almost looks as if he (Mr. Magistrate Lister) wilfully shut his eyes so as to avoid hearing what the High Court had done." People shut their ears and not eyes to hear; and thus the *Pioneer* sought to crack a joke at the expense of the Chief Justice. What His Lordship, however, said was that

"he (the Magistrate) wilfully shut his eyes so as to avoid learning, (and not hearing,) what the High Court had said." Where the *Pioneer* got this "hearing" from, we do not know. But the authenticated judgment of the Chief Justice appeared only in this journal in its issue of 30th June, and in no other; and any one can refer to it and see for himself that we have got there "learning" and not "hearing." Hence, we say, the "bull" of the *Pioneer* was evolved out of its own inner consciousness.

DEATH is announced, from apoplexy, of Sir Anand Rao Powar, Maharajah of Dhar, in Central India, on the 15th, at the age of 55. He is succeeded by his nephew whose adoption ceremony he completed on the day previous to his death.

THE branch between Sini and Midnapur, of the B. N. Ry, is now open, both for goods and passenger traffic, and it is hoped that through communication between Midnapur and Madras via cuttack will be established by the coming new year. The branch between Calcutta and Midnapur will, it is feared, not be open for traffic before the year 1900, owing to the difficulties involved in the bridging of the Roopnarayan.

LUTCHMAN, who was tried at the Hardoi Sessions Court for robbery from the railway carriage in which the Post Master General of the N.-W. P. and Oudh was travelling on the night of 7th May, has been sentenced to transportation for life. The accused admitted three previous convictions for similar robberies and was supposed to belong to an organised gang of robbers.

A SCHEME for concentrating the lunatic asylums in the N. W. Provinces is just now under the consideration of the Government of India. It is proposed to abolish one of the smaller asylums, probably that at Lucknow, and establish a large central institution at Agra, under the charge of a whole-time Superintendent, who, besides giving his undivided attention to the asylum and its inmates, will train a subordinate agency by introducing the study of insanity into the Agra Medical School.

SOME time ago the weaver community of Madura memorialised the Collector of the district for recommending the Government to take any step to encourage the weaving trade by giving advances under the Famine Code. The Collector has come to the conclusion that he cannot comply with the request, on the ground that, if he complied, not only would the inhabitants of Madura be entitled to assistance, but also weavers in every village or district, where there was no demand for cloth. He advises the weavers to earn their living by other methods. The weaving community in India is one of the worst sufferers from British manufacture and trade; and, considering the large economical problems involved in the memorial, the memorialists should go up to the Local or the Imperial Government, if need be.

WE have received a prospectus, over the signature of Babu Basanta Kumar Ray, of village Kaithi in the District of Burdwan, for a light railway from Burdwan to Midnapur via Jahanabad and Ghatal. The line will be fifty miles in length, of two feet six inches gauge; the route will be contiguous to the road to Cuttack; and the cost is estimated at thirty lakhs of rupees. Two rivers—the Damodar at Burdwan and the Darakeswar at Jahanabad—will have to be bridged. The railway with tap a large and thickly-inhabited area with a population of more than 2,500,000; and the projector estimates that the income from passenger and goods traffic in the first year will be Rs. 700,000, leaving a net profit of Rs. 600,000 or a dividend of 20 per cent. per annum.

THE Central Provinces, with the new Provincial Contract begin the year 1898-99 without any opening balance, and the equating adjustment has been raised from Rs. 3,72,000 to Rs. 4,66,000. The only head on which it has been found necessary to provide for an expenditure much above the contract figures are interest, medical, jails, and works. The increase under the first head is due to the necessity of providing funds to aid agriculturists in their efforts to recover from the effects of the famine, while the increase under "Medical" is due to expenditure on plague prevention. The "jails" increase is due to the extension of manufacturing and structural alterations, and the "works" to the necessity of providing funds to guard against a recurrence of the distress among the classes who suffered most severely last year. Rigid economy under every other head and the postponement of many desirable measures will, it is anticipated, bring the two sides of the Budget into equilibrium, and result in a surplus of Rs. 20,000.

AN interesting account is published in an English magazine to hand, as to how the announcement of the selection of Lord Northbrook as Viceroy of India in 1872 was first made in the *London Times*. Lord Northbrook was then Under-Secretary for War in Mr. Gladstone's Ministry, and was not even mentioned as a candidate for the Viceroyalty. Lord Mayo had fallen a victim to an assassin's knife, and everybody was anxious to know who among the peers of England would choose to step into his shoes, who would at the same time command Mr. Gladstone's approval. Even the foremost London papers had no inkling as to what Mr. Gladstone was about to do in this connection. Now, under these circumstances, Mr. Delane chanced to meet at dinner, Sir William Gull, then the leading physician of London. There was a discussion at table upon the effect of climate on constitutions. "By the way," said Sir William, "Lord Northbrook was asking me to-day whether I thought the climate of India would suit him." This was quite enough hint for Mr. Delane, who at once drove to the office of the "Times"; and the next morning it was announced to the world that Lord Northbrook was the Indian Viceroy elect.

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**MONETARY.**—The quotations on Friday were 1. 3-29-32 for demand and 1. 4-1-18 for six months.

**MYMENSINGH-JAMALPORE RAILWAY.**—Traffic will be open on this line up to Sinjani Station from the 1st proximo.

**THE BANK OF BENGAL.**—The Directors of the Bank of Bengal at their meeting on Thursday reduced the rate of interest to 5 per cent.

**EARTHQUAKE.**—At Manipur a severe shock of earthquake was felt at 5-30 A. M. on Wednesday morning, which lasted for about 15 seconds.

**EARTHQUAKE.**—on Wednesday at about 5-20 A. M. there was a short sharp shock of earthquake at South Sylhet. This was succeeded by a number of what one might term jerks.

**SUCCESS OF A MANIPURI BOY.**—Our Karimganj correspondent says: The result of the last Entrance Examination in Assam is notable for the fact that a Manipuri boy from the Sylhet Government School has stood first in the Province.

**MARRIAGE OF VICKROY'S DAUGHTER.**—It has now been arranged that the marriage of Lady Elizabeth Bruce and Mr. Babington Smith shall take place before the Viceroy and Lady Elgin leave Simla. The date is not definitely fixed as yet, but will probably be in the third week of September.

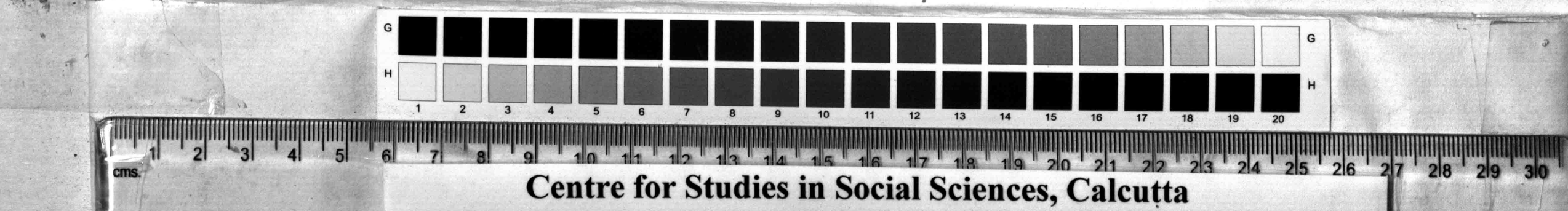
**REVOCATION OF ARMS LICENSE.**—The *Murshidabad Hitaisht* says that the other day the District Magistrate of Murshidabad revoked the license granted to Babu Chutrapat Singh of Baluchur under the Arms Act, and caused all arms, found in his house, to be removed by the Police.

**A LADY SHIKARI.**—Mrs. Mark Clementson who has already distinguished herself in the hunting-field, scored another victory over Stripes near Ebannod on Thursday evening. Khubber having been brought that a full grown tiger was in the vicinity, Mrs. Clementson and her party followed up the pug only to come upon Stripes *filis* instead of Stripes *peru*. The first shot brought down the quarry.

**A WONDER FROM PAYAGYL.**—The townspeople, it is reported, are being attracted to Lower Payagi quarter by a reputed wonderful occurrence. A wooden mortar, used for expressing oil from sesham seed and which is fixed about a foot and a half in the ground and has been in use for the last three years, has suddenly begun to sprout and put forth three shoots.—*Mandalay Herald.*

**SIR BRADFORD LESLIE'S NEW SCHEME.**—Sir Bradford Leslie has proposed another scheme with reference to the new Hughli Bridge and Central Station. The first scheme, as is well known, has been condemned by the Port Commissioners on account of permanent piers. In order to meet the objection Sir Bradford Leslie now puts forward the second scheme, which includes a tug bridge with two side spans of 250 feet and one large central span of 1,000 feet.

**MYMENSINGH** must be in a very sorry plight just now, according to the local paper, the *Charu Mihir*. The District Magistrate, Mr. Roe, is very unpopular, and is said to use abusive language towards pleaders appearing before him. The other day, while he was on his way to the cutchery, he found a Mahomedan gentleman sitting on a bench at the back of the Treasury building. This mightily enraged the Magistrate who, it is said, gave the gentleman a kick, to the horror of a large number of spectators. Nor does the *Mihir* give any better account of the District Judge, Mr. A. C. Sen. It is said that everybody having business in his court—not excluding the pleaders—is disgusted with his conduct and bearing. The feeling has, indeed, run so high that the pleaders are contemplating to hold a meeting to consider and censure some particular conduct of the Judge.



PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

FRIDAY'S RETURNS.

Up to 6 P. M. on Friday there was no fresh case reported to the Health Office.

OFFICIAL RETURNS.

There were no suspected cases or deaths on Wednesday and Thursday. The total number of deaths in the city from all causes was 43 and 35 respectively.

"SUSPECTED CASE LIST."

Under this name, a blue sheet of paper is being issued by the Health Officer since Thursday. The last two are exactly identical, the list showing eleven suspected cases, from June 7th to July 15th.

THE returns for Thursday show 3 cases and 4 deaths in Karachi. The totals to date are 3,035 cases and 2,383 deaths.

THE Sind Arts College, which has been held in Hyderabad owing to the plague and the college building being utilized for a hospital, will open on the 1st proximo.

A GOVERNMENT Notification prohibits the attendance of dwellers in other parts of the Bombay Presidency at the car festival at Mantala, in the Bellary District.

THE "Times of Malabar" says that two men, suspected to be suffering from plague, were removed to the segregation camp at Nelloth from the Tellichery port on the 14th.

THERE were fourteen attacks and eleven deaths reported from plague in Bombay on Thursday, the total mortality from all causes being 68, as against 85 last year and 63 the year before.

A HYDERABAD telegram says, information was received there on Wednesday by the Plague Commission doctor, from the local Medical Officer, that plague had appeared at Babulgaum village, in the Nuldroog District, some ten or fifteen miles from the Sholapore border, and that 16 attacks and 12 deaths had occurred. Dr. Stevens, the Deputy Plague Commissioner, left for the locality immediately. Energetic measures will be taken under Dr. Lawrie's supervision and advice, to check and prevent its spreading. It is believed not to be indigenous but due to imported infection.

LEGAL AFFAIRS OF BENGAL GOVERNMENT.

LAST Wednesday's Calcutta Gazette publishes the Resolution on the report on the legal affairs of the Government of Bengal for the year 1897-98. During the year, the office of Legal Remembrancer was held by four gentlemen in succession—Messrs. Wilkins, Fratt, Gupta and Brett. In the Privy Council, two cases, relating to proceedings under the Land Acquisition Act, have been decided in favour of the Secretary of State. The land in question had been road-way for very many years; but it was argued for the claimant that, as it had been broken up on acquisition before the actual award of compensation for other plots of the estate was made, it had acquired value, and compensation for it should, therefore, have been granted. The Privy Council, however, confirming the decision of the High Court, held that the right of compensation attached at the time of acquisition, that any change in the condition of the land between such time and the actual award of compensation could not be taken into account, and that no compensation was, therefore, payable.

143 original suits were decided in favour of Government; 36, against the Government; and 29 were compromised, remanded or withdrawn. In regard to appeals, these figures were 51, 10 and 1, respectively, before the Lower Appellate Courts; and, 33, 3 and 4 before the High Court. In regard to certain suits, the Government discovers some mistakes or irregularities, and calls for explanation. 3,041 suits were decided in favour of the Court of Wards; 183, against; and 249 were compromised, remanded or withdrawn. Of Rs. 76,368, the amount due to Government under decrease during the year under review and brought forward from the previous year, Rs. 21,084 were realised. The percentage of realisation does not satisfy the Government, and greater exertion in this direction is urged on the local authority.

With regard to the Court of Wards, the amount due on decrees amounted to Rs. 8,95,721, of which Rs. 2,70,619 were realised. This is also not considered satisfactory. The Lieutenant-Governor regrets again to observe that seven districts have failed to submit their reports despite successive reminders. This will be brought to the notice of the Board of Revenue.

THE lease of the lead mines at Bazaung in the Southern Shan States for a period of five years to a Chinese firm has been renewed for five years more to the same firm.

THE Superintendent of the Victoria Gardens, Bombay, has reported to the police the theft of five pheasants and a black partridge, collectively valued at Rs. 84, from a wire cage. The keeper found the wire-netting of the cage broken and the birds missing.

IN a notification by the Commissioner, Sind, in the Sind Official Gazette, of the 14th July, it is proposed to alter the limits of the Kurrachee Municipal district, the revised boundaries of which are therein given in detail. This alteration has been rendered necessary by the extensive reclamations from the sea that have been carried out by the Port Trust since 6th September, 1888, the date of the last notification of the Kurrachee Municipal boundaries. The exclusion of this reclaimed land from the municipal area gives rise to various difficulties, the most important of which perhaps is the immunity from municipal taxation enjoyed by the wharves and other Port Trust properties constructed thereon. The issue has further been complicated by a claim made by a private individual for refund of octroi duty on the timber used in the construction of the wharves, etc., on the ground that it has been exported out of municipal limits. To obviate the necessity of frequent re-notifications, "high water mark" has been defined as meaning "high water mark from day to day, and to include any accretions to the mainland that may occur from time to time whether such accretions are the result of artificial or natural causes."

Law Intelligence.

HIGH COURT: CRIMINAL BENCH.

—JULY 22.

(Before Justices O'Kinealy and Henderson.)

APPLICATION FOR REVOCATION OF A SANCTION.

MR. P. L. ROY, with Babu Prosanno Gopal Roy, moved on behalf of Boloram Borua for revocation of a sanction given by the Deputy Commissioner of Gauhati to prosecute the petitioner under section 182 I. P. C. for giving false information to a public officer. The facts of the case are that the petitioner had gone on some business to Darrang and after finishing his business there he went to pay a visit to Rani Kamaleswari of Mongaldoi. When he had gone there, the Ran's son showed him a letter which purported to be written by one Chandra Narayan of Gauhati. The letter bore the post mark of Gauhati. The petitioner on leaving Mongaldoi took the letter with him and when he arrived at Gauhati he showed the letter to the pleaders there, one of whom advised him to send it on to the Deputy Commissioner anonymously. The petitioner did so and the writer of the letter was sent for by Captain Gordon, who was then the Deputy Commissioner of the place, and a police enquiry was ordered by him. The Police Inspector after various enquiries sent the papers to the Deputy Commissioner without any report as to the truth or otherwise of the case. No further action was taken in the matter till Chandra Narayan, the alleged writer of the letter, applied for and obtained a sanction from under section 182 I. P. C. The petitioner then applied to the Sessions Judge of the Assam Valley Districts to revoke the sanction, but although the learned Judge held that the Deputy Commissioner had granted the sanction in a summary way without holding any Magisterial investigation, he did not interfere with the order. Mr. Roy submitted that the Magistrate should have held a judicial enquiry and should have come to a finding as to whether the information was false. It was further contended that the Deputy Commissioner who granted the sanction, had no jurisdiction to do so. This Lordships granted a rule and stayed further proceedings.

A CHOTANAGPUR MURDER CASE

DEATH SENTENCE SET ASIDE.

THIS was an appeal by Raju Bhumij from the decision of the Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpur who had convicted the appellant of murder and sentenced him to pay the extreme penalty of the law. The facts of the case are as follows: On the 31st January one Asaru while was sleeping in his hut at about midnight was suddenly attacked by some one with a sharp instrument. He at once shouted and his wife and brother, who were in the same homestead, came out and they saw the murderer running away. The wife deposited that she heard her husband crying "Run, I am wounded." She then ran to her husband and found her husband lying with a wound on the right side of the abdomen, the entrails coming out. While running to the help of her husband she saw accused, who was a cousin of the deceased and his next-door neighbour, just coming out of the deceased's room with an axe in his hand. Doman, the brother of the deceased, said that on hearing his brother shouting he ran towards his room closely following his sister-in-law and saw accused running away with an axe, the night being a moonlit night. The mother of the deceased said she was in another room and came out when her daughter-in-law called her saying "come out Raju has wounded him," meaning her husband. Witness then went to her son who said "Mother, take me in your arms, give me water and milk. Raju has cut me because I did not divide the land with him. Mother I shall not live." A neighbour named Bishnu said he came on hearing shout and found the deceased lying wounded. He further said that when he struck me he said 'you will not give me a share of the land. Now enjoy it.' I recognized him by his voice." From the evidence it also appeared that the deceased who were tabedars of the village and in lieu of their services they held some lands and the deceased took all the lands and did not give any share to the prisoner and in consequence they had constantly quarrels between them, in the course of which the prisoner threatened to kill the deceased. The defence was alibi.

On the night of the murder Aduri, a relative of both deceased and Raju, having died the prisoner was with the funeral party from evening to dawn. It was also stated on behalf of the defence that the mother of the deceased was also with the funeral party until midnight when she was called away by Doman on the ground that a man had been killed in their house. During the investigation of the case an axe was found in the house of the accused with marks of blood in it and a cloth with blood stains was also found underneath the bay in the threshing floor of the accused. The Civil Surgeon who held the post mortem examination was of opinion that the deceased died out of the cut-wound in the abdomen and could only have survived a few minutes. He was further of opinion that the axe produced was rather too thick to have caused the wound. Accused would appear to be a spear or a weapon of the sort. The Judicial Commissioner disbelieved the alibi and believed the story of the prosecution. He found that there was really threat to the deceased and that the prisoner did speak as he struck and was recognised. He concluded his judgment thus: "I see no sufficient reason to doubt the dying declaration, supported by the evidence of the previous threat and quarrel about the land. This evidence is not refuted by the proof of an alibi or by any reason for suspecting a false charge. Finding upon this basis that Raju (prisoner) inflicted the wound upon the deceased which resulted in his death and which the Civil Surgeon says was sufficient to cause death in fifteen minutes, I have no other alternative but to find the accused guilty of murder. He probably

considered himself to have been previously wronged by his exclusion from the land enjoyed by his father and retaliated upon his enemy in accordance with the ferocity of his savage and uncontrolled nature regardless of the disproportion between his revenge and the injury he had suffered. The crime was deliberate and I can find no justification or extenuating circumstances upon which I could base any less sentence than the extreme penalty of the law."

Babu Joy Gopal Ghose, vakil, appeared for the appellant and Mr. Gordon Leith for the Crown.

The vakil submitted that there were inconsistencies and contradictions in the story for the prosecution as laid in the first information and as attempted to be proved at the trial, and contended that the witnesses should not be believed: that the prosecution had not called all the witnesses they ought to have called; that there was nothing suggested against the witnesses for the defence in proof of alibi; that the so-called dying declaration had not been corroborated and was not a sure test in the case and that at most the case was a doubtful one and the evidence fell short of the degree of moral certainty of the guilt of the prisoner.

Their Lordships after hearing Mr. Leith for the Crown set aside the conviction and sentence and ordered the prisoner to be acquitted, holding that the evidence in the case was not sufficient to warrant a conviction.

THE SIMLA BRIBERY CASE.

YUSSUF-UD-DIN'S PLAINT.

THE following is the full text of his plaint filed in the Court of the Superintendent of Residency Bazaars, Hyderabad, by Mahomed Yussuf-ud-din:

I.—That the plaintiff is informed and believes that one Gopal Chander, a hot-keeper at Simla, was, in July, 1895, convicted at Simla of having abetted an offence, under Section 161 of the Indian Penal Code, by attempting at Simla to bribe the Record-Keeper of the India Foreign Office, to disclose to him certain official information.

II.—That the plaintiff is informed and believes that on 18th September, 1895, the Government of India, through the Thagi and Dacoty Department of the Government of India, in the name of the Resident at Hyderabad (an officer of the Government of India) wrongfully applied to Captain Beadon, the District Magistrate, Simla, (also an officer of the Government of India, and wrongfully caused him to sign and address to the Resident of Hyderabad, and thus wrongfully procured from the said Captain Beadon a warrant for the arrest of the plaintiff by the first Assistance Resident on a charge of abetting the said Gopal Chander, and thereby committing an offence under the said Sections 161 and 109 of the Indian Penal Code, which the said Magistrate had no jurisdiction to do, and which charge was altogether unfounded.

III.—That the said Magistrate so acted well knowing that he had no power, authority, or jurisdiction to issue such a warrant, and recorded in righting his reasons for issuing the said warrant of arrest to the following effect:— "In handing this warrant over to the Thagi and Dacoty Department, I have explained that it can be executed outside British India except through a Political Agent. If the accused is in foreign territory the Resident - who applied for the warrant, and is Political Agent for Hyderabad—must decide whether he can be made over to the British Court under the Extradition Law."

IV.—That the said illegal warrant was wrongfully endorsed by one Mr. A. L. S. Tucker, I. C. S. (an officer of the Government of India, not named therein), over for execution to Mr. F. C. Crawford, a Magistrate of the First Class, in the service of the Government of India, and Superintendent of Railway Police of his Highness the Nizam's State Railways, and was by him wrongfully endorsed to the chief constable Abdulla Khan who was also in the service of the Government of India for service.

V.—That on the 28th November, 1895, the plaintiff went to Shankarpally Station on H. H. the Nizam's Railway, and while there was illegally and wrongfully arrested under the said illegal warrant by the said Abdulla Khan, also in the service of the Government of India, who had no right whatsoever to do so, and was wrongfully taken by him before the District Railway Magistrate, Mr. W. E. Jardine, I. C. S., an officer of the Government of India, by whom he was wrongfully remanded, and by whose direction he was illegally and wrongfully confined for 42 hours, after which he was, on the 30th November, 1895, released on giving security to appear before the said District Magistrate of Simla, at Simla, on 8th December, 1895, to answer the said charge, but the date of his appearance was afterwards altered and postponed.

VI.—By an order of the Chief Court of the Punjab, dated the 14th January, 1896, the complaint against the plaintiff was transferred for hearing to the Magistrate, of Umballa, and the plaintiff was compelled to attend at Umballa accordingly; but the hearing of the said complaint was adjourned and the plaintiff returned on the like bail to Hyderabad.

VII.—That on or about the 22nd January, 1896, the plaintiff applied to the Chief Court of the Punjab at Lahore in effect to have the said illegal warrant and the proceedings thereunder set aside, but on the 17th February, 1896, the Chief Court dismissed the said application.

VIII.—That the plaintiff was thereafter compelled to appear again at Umballa before the said Magistrate of Umballa, when the said complaint against him was partly heard, but was again adjourned for the taking of evidence on commission at Hyderabad.

IX.—That on the 11th May, 1896, the plaintiff obtained special leave to appeal to her Majesty in Council against the said endorsement and order of the said Chief Court of the Punjab on application to the Judicial Committee of her Majesty's Privy Council.

X.—That the plaintiff duly instituted and prosecuted the said appeal to her Majesty in Council, and on 7th July, 1897, the Judicial Committee of her Majesty's Privy Council held, inter alia, that the said warrant and the arrest of the plaintiff and all proceedings thereunder were illegal and void, and recommended that the said warrant and the arrest of the plaintiff and all proceedings thereunder should be set aside, and her Majesty in Council, therefore, on the 3rd day of August, 1897, was pleased to order and did order accordingly.

XI.—That the plaintiff suffered great distress and pain of body and mind by the said wrongful arrest and confinement as aforesaid, and was put to great expense, harassment, and trouble in and about the obtaining and perfecting of the said security and travelling backwards and forwards upon several occasions to Simla and Umballa as aforesaid; and, owing to the said wrongful proceedings against him, he was placed on half pay and deprived of his batta (travelling expenses) by the Government of his Highness the Nizam, and has continued and will continue on half-pay and to be deprived of his batta, and has suffered greatly in this character, credit, and reputation, and he has suffered great costs, charges and expenses in and about the employment of counsel, solicitors, pleaders, at Simla, Umballa, Calcutta, and Lahore, and in London, and otherwise defending himself against the said wrongful proceedings, and in and about the said application at Lahore, and the obtaining of special leave to appeal to her Majesty as aforesaid, and the institution and prosecution of the said appeal to her Majesty in Council, and the plaintiff claims Rs. 3,81,500 of the British India currency, damages in respect of the wrongful act hereinbefore stated.

XII.—The plaintiff's cause of action arose fairly within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, and partly elsewhere, as hereinbefore appears, and on the 3rd day of August, 1897, the date of her Majesty's warrant by which the recommendation of the Privy Council was given effect to.

XIII.—That the plaintiff has duly, in accordance with Section 424 of the Civil Procedure Code, delivered and left at the office of the Secretary of the Punjab Government, being the Local Government, on or about the 2nd May, 1898, a notice in writing, stating the cause of action in this suit, and the name and place of abode of the plaintiff and the relief which the plaintiff claims herein.

XIV.—The plaintiff will rely upon the documents specified in the list hereto annexed and marked A.

The plaintiff therefore prays judgment for the said sum of Rs. 3,81,500 of the British India currency equivalent to H. S. Rs. 4, 80, 690 at the exchange rate of H. S. Rs. 26 percent with such interest as this Honourable Court will be pleased to allow, and the costs of this suit. And the plaintiff may have such further or other relief as the nature of the case may require.

I, Syed Mahomed Yussuf-ud-Din, the plaintiff abovesaid, do hereby declare that what is written herein is true to my knowledge except as to matters stated on information and belief and that as to those matters he believes them to be true.

MR. CLIVE DURANT, now on bail, is seriously ill in hospital.

THE appointment of Sir George Wolsley to command the Madras Army has received the sanction of the Home authorities.

THE services of Mr. Youngusband have been placed by the Punjab Government at the disposal of the Simla Municipal Committee for the purpose of the improvement of the sewage system.

THE High Court of Allahabad will be closed for the long vacation on the Civil Side, from Friday the 12th August, 1898, to Friday, the 28th October, 1898, both days inclusive.

MR. JOSEPH VAS, of Karachi, who passed the I. C. S. open competitive examination last year and who will present himself for the final test in September next, has taken the B. A. and L. B. degrees of the Cambridge University with credit.

THE Government of India, acting upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Delhi, has sanctioned pensions of Rs. 5 each per mensem to 102 members of the ex-Royal family, whose poverty distress came forcibly to the notice of the local officers during the recent famine.

THE home authorities have refused to sanction the proposal from India to send two or three officers for attachment to the army now in the Soudan. The reason for refusing seems somewhat obscure, as the reports by competent Indian officers on the question of transport, commissariat followers, and other questions would undoubtedly have been of the greatest interest here. The expenses of the officers, moreover, would, we understand, have been paid by the Indian Government.

THE Advocate of India has the following on the deportation of Mr. Lillie, the editor of the Siam Free Press: In the Saturday Review to hand this week Mr. "J. J. Lillie," who may or may not be a relative, tells the story of this editor's violent expulsion from Siam. In the confidence that he could be dealt with only through the British Consular Court, this editor, it seems, has been speaking his mind freely about the Government of Siam. He says it is corrupt. It probably is. Many attempts, ranging from actions at law to physical violence, were made by the Siamese Government to get rid of the Free Press. At last, on the 12th of March, 1898, the editor was suddenly served with a notice of a decree of the King of Siam ordering him to leave the country within seven days. The bold editor remembered the British Consular Court, to which he was alone amenable in Siam; and he put this decree down as merely "an extraordinary piece of Oriental impertinence." But the Siamese Government knew its British Consular Court. Seven days afterwards the editor's domicile was invaded, and he was forcibly conducted on board a departing steamer. It is not stated who paid the passage money. The Consul refused to interfere. Mr. Curzon will hear more of this case. For the question of adequate protection from Oriental methods of justice for British residents in the East is one that lies close to the heart of the English at home. And we shall be surprised if it does not appear in the end that they agree with the writer of this account that "the notion that a British official, without any action heard or even publicly made, can of his own good pleasure or at the arbitrary command of his Government withdraw protection and allow a British subject to be ruined by a despotic Oriental Government, is monstrous in itself and totally opposed to all principles of the British Constitution as well as of International Law."

MR. FRANK MACCULLAGH, the lately appointed editor of the Siam Free Press, is to be expelled from Siam, and the paper is to be suppressed.

Telegrams.

[ INDIAN TELEGRAMS ]

SIMLA, JULY 21. The Government of India, acting on the recommendation of the Punjab Government, has just sanctioned a pension of five rupees each per mensem to one hundred and seven members of the royal family of Delhi.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers, Law Member of the Viceroy's Council, will possibly retire at the end of this session.

Death is reported this morning, from carbuncle, of Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel Preo Nath Mukerjee, Civil Surgeon of Saigong.

Colonel Hutchinson left Simla yesterday for England, Colonel Nixon taking over charge of the office of Director of Military Education.

BARISAL, JULY 21. B.A. B. L. classes of the Brojomohan Institution, Barisal, was formally opened to-day. In the grand hall of the Institution a meeting was held in which the District Magistrate, Mr. Beaton-Bell, presided and expressed hearty sympathy in an excellent speech. The elite of the town, officials, barristers, pleaders, zemindars and others were present.

SIMLA, JULY 22. Mr. T. Higham, on special duty with the Famine Commission, reverts to his substantive appointment as Joint-Secretary and Inspector-General of Irrigation to-morrow, replacing Mr. Beresford who joins the Punjab Government as Irrigation Secretary.

The Viceroy will, in all probability, leave Simla on 22nd September, and not on 22nd October as previously announced.

Babu Manindra Nath Mitter, son of Babu Ram Chandra Mitter, junior Government pleader, Calcutta, stood first in the superior Public Works Accounts Examination and has been offered an appointment as probationary Assistant Examiner of Accounts.

The Government of India will shortly undertake an agrarian legislation to provide reliefs for indebtedness of ryots. The Bill will be drawn upon reports submitted by Mr. Thorburn of Punjab.

Sir Henry Prinsep's resignation of additional Member of the Supreme Council is accepted by the Governor General. The services of Captain Bonham, Carter, R. E., are replaced at the disposal of the Bengal Government. He is appointed as officiating Traffic Superintendent with temporary rank of Class I, Grade 3. Lieutenant-Colonel Buckland is confirmed as Superintendent of the Army Clothing Department, Bengal. Lieutenant Wigam, 18th Bengal Lancers is appointed Extra A.-D.-C. to the Viceroy. Captain Kierander, officiating Traffic Superintendent, E. B. S. Ry, reverts to substantive appointment of the District Traffic Superintendent, Class II, Grade 3.

[ FOREIGN TELEGRAMS. ]

LONDON, JULY 20. Reuter, telegraphing from Shanghai, says that the Ningpo Guild of Chinese officials has undertaken the settlement of the joss-house affair. The foreign settlements at Shanghai will probably be extended, and it is believed that an extension of the French concession has already been granted, the joss-house over which the trouble arose being left in the cemetery provided that the bodies are removed.

LONDON, JULY 20. The Spanish Government denies having authorised the surrender of Santiago, and asserts that it left General Toral to act on his own initiative. General Toral will be cited to give an explanation of his surrender before a court martial.

LONDON, JULY 20. The Government has decided to appoint an additional Under-Secretary to the Foreign Office, and Mr. Gosselin, Secretary to the British Embassy at Paris, has been chosen for the post. The duties to be performed by the new office will probably be to deal specially with African questions.

LONDON, JULY 21. Reuter's correspondent at Peking telegraphs that Count Pavloff persists in his demand to the Chinese Government for the exclusion of British or German instructors in the Chinese Navy, and demands that Russian instructors be appointed.

LONDON, JULY 21. M. Zola's object in fleeing from France was to avoid being served with a notice of the judgment of the Versailles Court, in default of which he will thus be enabled to reappear in the Court in October.

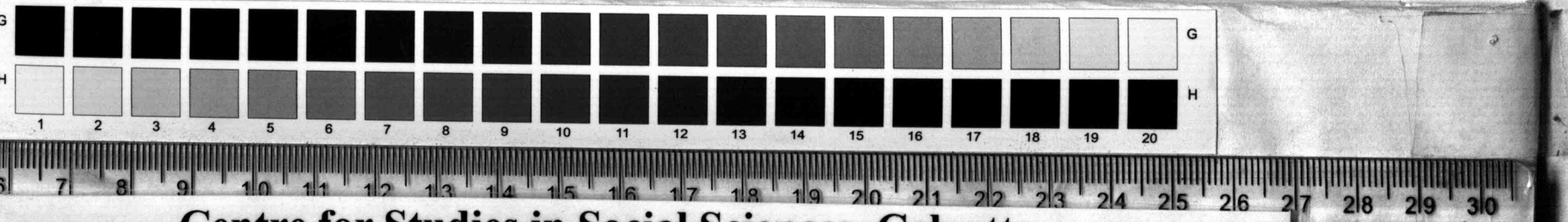
LONDON, JULY 21. A Madrid telegram to the Morning Post states that the Spanish Minister yesterday arrived at a unanimous decision in favour of peace, leaving the responsibility of the capitulation of the Cuban garrisons to Marshall Blanco and General Toral.

LONDON, JULY 22. Telegrams received to-day give particulars of the engagement at Manzanillo on the 18th instant, when three Spanish merchant ships and five gunboats were destroyed by the American fleet on which there were no casualties. It is believed that upwards of one hundred Spanish seamen were killed.

LONDON, JULY 22. The Prince of Wales is progressing satisfactorily. The specialists in attendance on His Royal Highness have decided not to operate upon the knee, but it is feared that the limb is therefore likely to become permanently weak.

LONDON, JULY 22. The Irish Local Government Bill has passed the second reading in the House of Lords without a division.

LONDON, JULY 22. Reuter, telegraphing from Hongkong says that the Kwangsi rebellion is still unsubdued. The Viceroy of the Province continues to send troops against the rebels and the Chinese enlisting troops to protect Canton.



Correspondence.

THE BARRACKPORE CASE.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—With reference to your paragraph this morning relating to the Barrackpore case, I beg to state that I and many other Attorneys-at-Law were present at the Attorney's Library yesterday, when a European gentleman told us that he had heard from an official in the Sheriff's office that Wynne had confessed to him, (the official) while he and his associate prisoners were being carried to jail, that he (Wynne) had first given Dr. Sarkar a blow on the cheek, and that when the latter fell down he administered kicks to him.

AN ATTORNEY.

Calcutta, July 22.

JUNIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER-SHIP, GYA.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—A few years back, there was only one Government Pleader who conducted both Civil and Criminal business in the several Courts on behalf of Government. Babu Bhup Sen Sing, deceased, the then Government pleader, split up the office into two parts, civil and criminal; and since then Babu Hariharanath has been senior Government Pleader in charge of the civil works, and Babu Indronarain Chakravarti, junior Government Pleader in charge of criminal works. Babu Indronarain Chakravarti is a native of the District of Birbhoon, and he has succeeded in getting the Government pleadership of that place for himself. It has, therefore, been gazetted that the post of junior Government Pleader at Gaya, has fallen vacant, and applications have accordingly been invited. As expected, applications have been pouring in from all sides, and in fact there is scarcely any District in Bengal from which an application has not been received. Up to date, I am told, about 63 applications have been received, and among them are certain applicants from the local Bar. Now, in deference to the claims of the local applicants, I think I will be lacking in the performance of my duty if I don't say a word or two: As criminal court practitioners and those standing at the top of the list and commanding great respect and vast practise, Mr. W. J. Howard, Bar-at-law, is the first, then comes Babu Ram Prasad and next to him is Babu Kedar Nath. The first two are not applicants for the post. The third applies, and of the local candidates he is the fittest man and therefore he has the best claim to the post. Apart from the fact that in case of the appointment of an outsider, the claims of the local members will be overlooked and the greatest slur will be cast upon the Bar Association, I feel bold enough to assert that Government can very well depend upon Babu Kedar Nath, who by dint of his ability and vast experience, is qualified in every respect to discharge the functions of the post for which he is a candidate. I, therefore, humbly request that Mr. Oldham will be pleased to consider the application of Babu Kedar Nath in the light indicated above before he directs his attention to the applications from outside.

X.

THE prospects of the harvest in the Gilgit District have been sadly injured by blight, which has damaged the wheat crop in the lower valleys. The higher valleys have so far escaped.

A MOVEMENT has been set on foot by the Travancore Government to open at its own cost a light railway from Trevandrum to Arambol, a distance of 57 miles. The line will be under the management of the Travancore D. P. W.

THE trial has taken place at Mooltan of fifty-two Mahomedans and four Hindoos concerned in the recent Mohurum riot at Mooltan and all but one of the Mahomedans were found guilty. Sentence has been deferred. Two of the accused Hindoos have been fined.

THE Civil Service Commissioners (Mr. W. J. Courthope, C.B., and Lord Francis Hervey) have invited Mr. H. M. Birdwood, C.S.I., to be one of the Examiners at the final examination for the Indian Civil Service in September, and he has accepted the appointment. No fewer than sixty-five places are to be offered for competition this year.

THE Secretary of State has refused to sanction the continuance of the Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General and Assistant Quarter-Master-General at Army Headquarters. These extra posts were sanctioned till the end of September, and, under the circumstances, Major Bowes, Scots Fusiliers, and Major Youngusband, of the Guides, will vacate them on the date mentioned.

By a Notification in Saturday's "Gazette," the operation of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (Act V of 1898), has been extended to the districts of Hazaribagh, Lohardaga, Manbhum, and Palamu, and in Pargana Dalbhun and the Kolhan, in the Singhbhum District.

THE Secunderabad Cantonment Court presented a scene of unusual excitement, on Tuesday, with such a large number of people seeking redress for their grievances against C. Wray, lately the Manager of Messrs. McDowell and Co.'s local agency, and until lately the proprietor of what is generally believed to be a flourishing business, known as the Book Depot, an offshoot of the Madras branch of the S. P. C. K. On Sunday morning, Wray left the station with his family, and up to the present moment his whereabouts are not known. The door of the Depot was broken open by order of Court, and the stock, which was of some value, was removed to the Court, to eventually satisfy the great number of important decree-holders. Thirteen carriages and a stud of horses belonging to Wray were carried away the evening previous by a Parsee mortgagee. Mr. Wray's sudden disappearance has created a perfect sensation, as he was well-known and popularly supposed to be a man of considerable wealth; but according to recent revelations, it transpires that he was hopelessly involved, his accumulated debts being comparatively enormous. The third scandal of its kind which...

Motussil News.

SAUGOR, (C. P.) JULY 20.

THE same officer who lately figured in the columns of the "Patrika" for his attempt to disbar a barrister, has again brought himself into prominence by a similar attempt to deprive a local Mahomedan pleader, of nearly 20 years' standing, of his license. As the case is still *sub-judice*, I shall, for the present, refrain from making any comment on the case. —The Administrative Medical Officer is now here on his inspection tour.—Mr. Dent, gave us two performances of his Vitographic Exhibition,—one day at the Regimental theatre and this evening at the local High School.—The next meeting of the local Hit Sava, will take place, probably on Sunday, which opportunity will most probably be availed of, in organising a branch of the Indian Relief Society.

KARIMGANG, JULY 18.

SOMETIME ago, at the Enathganj station I. G. and R. S. N. Companies Sunderbunds daily despatch steamer "Staffa" was the scene of a serious riot between certain villagers and the steamer Khalasis. The quarrel arose in this wise. An influential Babu of that quarter came on board the steamer and was going to have a look at certain electric lighting apparatus. It is possible, out of curiosity, he put his fingers on any one of them, when a Khalasi came up and began to abuse him. Upon this the Babu became angry and went ashore. In a few minutes, he returned with a *posse* of men and came down on board, apparently to avenge the supposed wrongs done to him. Thereupon the serang ordered the landing stage to be taken in and the vessel steamed off. The Babu and his men dropped down, one after another, and in the confusion that followed, the Babu is said to have been severely beaten. Counter complaints have been lodged before the police and the enquiry is proceeding.

SAMASTIPUR, JULY 20.

THE other day the up mail train of this railway got collided with a trolley on the line between Samoria ghat and Faraha; but, fortunately there was no loss of human life. I have some complaints to prefer against the Municipal administration of the place. There are places where the rain waters stagnate, where the people have to wade knee deep through water, and where the cottages of the poor float on the water; there are also places where the nightly passers-by stumble down in the dark; but instead of looking to the wretched condition of these places, bricks are being laid in places where the necessity is not so urgently felt. Since the inauguration of Municipality here, thefts by night have become a frequent occurrence and scarcely a night passes in which some person or other is not robbed, and the safety of the people not endangered. We pay heavy tax for the benefit of living within the boundaries of the Municipality; why, then, should our life and property be thus always endangered and we have to keep up the whole night for fear of thieves?

GYA, JULY 20.

THE Commissioner of the Patna Division is in our midst for the last 5 days on inspection duty.—Yesterday there was a meeting of the Water Works Committee in which it was resolved to send certain influential men of the town for the purpose of raising subscription from the Rajas and Maharajas of India. No one is however willing to stir out of home at present, in these days of plague inspection and detention.—A Buddhist prince has renounced the world and has become a Sanyasi and has taken his abode in Both Gaya. He talks English fluently. Even this Kali Yug produces such men who hate wealth and Raj.—Sometimes ago there was an advertisement in the columns of your paper inviting applications for the post of a Homoeopathic Doctor for the Gaya Kayesth Homoeopathic School. 25 applications have been received in response to that call, and Babu Manohan Chakravarti, of Chandpur, Tippera, has been selected for the appointment. He has been directed to join his appointment from the first of August 1898. He will have a vast field for private practice as there is only one Homoeopathic Doctor here. The people here, moreover, are more accustomed to the homoeopathic mode of treatment than any other.—Our new 2nd Court Munssif is, I am sorry, not pulling well with the bar.

THEEBAW Sawbwa, who takes his daughter to England for her education, is leaving Rangoon on Saturday.

THE Bank of Bombay has reduced its rate of interest on demand loans on Government Paper to five per cent.

THE Municipal election at Simla has resulted in Mr. W. C. Rose, Delhi and London Bank, being returned at the top of the poll with 651 votes. Surgeon-Major Forsyth obtained 446, and Captain A. A. I. Johnstone 161 votes.

IT is understood that the construction of the Agra-Delhi Chord Railway will not be undertaken until the bigger project known as the Nagda-Bara-Mutra line is ripe for execution. The two lines are estimated to cost altogether over 440 lakhs.

A SYSTEM of regular inspection by competent military engineers of all the posts on the North-West frontier is to be introduced. This should ensure the defensive positions garrisoned by our troops being always in good order and capable of resisting a sudden attack.

DURING the week ended July 20, British dollars were transferred from the Bombay Mint to the Custom House for export, to the value of Rs. 18,23,000. Silver held on account of tenderers at close of the week amounted to nearly 30 lakhs of rupees.

HON. C. B. Bush, president of the Gilmer County (W. Va.) Court, says that he has had three cases of flux in his family, during the past summer, which he cured in less than a week with Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. Mr. Bush also states, that in some instances there were twenty hemorrhages a day.—Glennville, W. Va. Pathfinder. This remedy has been used in nine epidemics of flux and one of cholera, with perfect success. It can always be depended upon for bowel complaint, even in its most severe forms. Every family should keep it at hand.

ON THE ROAD TO CABUL.

BY MISS LILLIAS HAMILTON, M. D.

If I have succeeded in conveying to the reader any idea of the interminable length of that night at Gurdikutch, I have at least produced the chief impression that has been left on my own memory.

When we got the news that the children were all right, we felt so much relieved that our thoughts again turned forward, for it was now getting on for twenty-four hours since we had had a meal. Moreover, we had at last got hold of both the screw-driver and the tin-opener, and some of the servants had struggled in, cold and wet and hungry, of course.

I packed pretty well what was in my own boxes, as I had kicked them myself, so I went out in search of them. It was still raining, not in torrents, but in what we should call a good steady pour in England. I was, however, thoroughly wet through already, so a little more or less could not make much difference. You see the tent was quite small and thin. It had besides been hurriedly and badly pitched in the dark and the rain, so that where the canvas was insufficiently stretched it hung in bags, where pools of water soon collected, and when these became too heavy, their contents came through with a sudden pour, sometimes into one's mouth, if one were looking up, or into one's ear or down the back of one's neck, and not just a little drop, but a good quart at a time. I had put up my red sunshade to protect both myself and the invalid, as far as I could, from the wind, tricks that were being played on us by the wind, made it impossible for me to distinguish the great unshapely masses on the ground. To my immense relief, the first box I uncovered was the book box I was so anxious about, lying in the mud, of course—that was inevitable—but carefully covered up by those indefatigable sowars. The provision boxes I was longer in finding, and many was the piece of canvas I lifted before I came across them.

A most curious sensation came over me once or twice during my search; indeed, the first time I experienced it I felt a most unpleasant misgiving as to whether the fatigue and exposure had not affected my brain. I had made my way to quite a large bundle, and had pulled off a very good piece of tarpaulin, and was proceeding to investigate further, when from the far end a long, curious-shaped crane-like object turned itself round towards me and looked at me. It gave me a terrible start, there alone in the darkness of the night, and the wet, and it took me some time to realise that I had been uncovering a camel's hump, and that the poor thing was only looking up in sleepy astonishment on finding itself thus unnecessarily disturbed. There was such mild reproach in its great deer-like eyes, that I almost felt I ought to say "I beg your pardon." I, however, admired the sagacity of the drivers, and found that they were infinitely better off than were we. They had crouched down close to their camels on the side most sheltered from the storm, and with their coarse thick blankets tucked well round them, and the camel's tarpaulin pulled down over them, they seemed as if nothing on earth could harm them, let the elements do what they would.

After much searching I secured five tins of soup, and handed them to a servant, who asked how in the world he was to light a fire. It was certainly a problem to solve. Everything was wet, there was still a good deal of wind, and here was no shelter; but, somehow, Indian servants are so perfectly wonderful in camp, that one gets into the habit of expecting little, if anything, short of miracles of them. However, on this occasion, I felt that the situation was too serious to admit of the usual make to a question of this sort. "Bundabust kar?" (answer some arrangement), so I said plaintively, "we are very hungry." I do not know whether it was a desire to prove their own super-excellence, and absolute indifference to circumstances, or whether it was the want of food themselves that sharpened their wits; but one thing is certain: they did "bundabust kar" somehow, for ere long a curious concoction and savoury was brought in. It turned out that my man had opened all the tins, and had thrown all the contents into one large saucapan. There was ox-tail, mock-turtle, gravy, kidney, and game all mixed; but when you are nearly numb with cold, and exhausted with fatigue and fasting, such little outrempts as that are hardly noticed. Not a drop of that soup went to waste.

It is a long road that has no turning, and a long night that has no ending; so at last dawn crept in—as it has done so many mornings for so many, many centuries—and then it was day. But though the sun shone brightly, and the far-off fleecy-white clouds on the clear blue sky smiled down on our wretched camp, as much as to say, "We have had a bad day—We treated you with scant courtesy? What nonsense! Look at us; what could we do? None of us felt inclined to answer back their raileries; we hardly felt as if the sun had any right to shine so brightly; and I, for one, hid myself away in my tent, as soon as ever it was pitched, and dared even the most venturesome to disturb me. At 2 p.m. I awoke to find every one unpacking their boxes, and hanging their clothes up in the sun to dry,—a pitiable sight, indeed.

The train of a white satin dress embroidered in silver was ruined, and eventually had to be cut off. A green velvet tea-gown had shared an almost equally unlucky fate, and parts of other dresses were very much damaged. Then I looked at my own clothes, for it was easy to see that the boxes were far from water-tight. All my prints and muslins would have gone to the wash, but that did not matter so much, as when done up, they would, I thought, look just as well as ever. Alas! how little I knew of Cabul was hermen! But my hats! There my real misfortune began. My hat box was very light, quite suitable for railway travelling, but not for such a journey as this, and its condition, compared with that of the other boxes, inclin'd me to think it had spent an hour or two at the bottom of one of the other of the river beds that had so rapidly been flooded. This was really serious, for I felt instinctively that this was a loss that would not very readily be remedied. I knew something about up-country Indian bazars would offer much greater facilities for shopping. By which it can easily be seen that I had had no experience of Cabul bazars, and knew as little about them as of Cabul laundries! Poor nurse! she showed me what remained of her umbrella and her boots. There was not much left of either. "I am an old woman," she said, "and I left a comfortable home and an easy means of livelihood, to come to this place. I was never told anything of such misfortunes and such hardships as these."

"My dear nurse," I said, "I have come up here in a pleasure trip, for the benefit of my health. Do you think my expectations are being realised?" But the old woman, though she laughed, did not, as a matter of fact, feel very cheerful; she has taken a chill from which she did not recover for some time.

That night we spent in Gurdikutch, but this time in well-pitched tents, and were as much too hot as we had on the previous night—been too cold, and the flies were so troublesome that rest was almost out of

the question; so here already I began to find out what I afterwards proved at almost every turn, viz., that Afghanistan is a country of extremes.

Jellalabad was our next halting-place, and, as one of the Ameer's houses had been made ready for our reception, and we therefore knew that we should be thoroughly sheltered from the weather, we decided to take a day or two's rest before proceeding to Cabul. The storm, we heard, had been so violent there and the river had so overflowed its banks that considerable damage had been done to some parts of the town. Of course, there, as in England, on similar occasions the oldest inhabitant had never heard of such weather at such a time. "It is the sort of weather that presages a good time," one man said; "such things occur when kings die or Governments are overthrown." This was the first note of superstition I had heard, so it interested me. I heard many others later on.

The town of Jellalabad was originally built by the great Mogul Emperor Akbar, who was called also Jellaludin Shah, and compares favourably with that of Cabul both as regards the condition of the streets and cleanliness. Being so much nearer India and therefore of much easier access to merchants, is, no doubt, the cause of this; but it is very much smaller, the population in summer amounting to no more than four or five thousand, though in winter it must be nearly four times that number, as both Koochi and Afghan nomads resort there at that season, leaving it in the summer when every one who can escapes from that tropical heat to the cool mountain regions from which the heavy snows drive them about the beginning of November.

MEDICAL SUPERSTITIONS.

THE advance of science, within the last century has played havoc with most of the cherished superstitions in matters medical. The old women who figured as the medical Solons in country districts of days gone by, have left no successors, and all their wise and foolish sayings have followed them into obscurity. It is, therefore, very seldom in these days that the medical superstition of a past age are heard of; for while the progress of science heralded their departure, the increase of education among the masses assured it, and if there is anything left of the belief in such superstitions, it can only be said to take the room of that craving after quick messes, and concoctions, of which there is only too much evidence at the present time. Still, even in the declining days of the 19th century, medical superstitions are not wholly dead. For example, we learn from a French contemporary that some curious examples of these are current in Flanders, of which the following may be quoted. A medical practitioner was called to see a child dying of meningitis, concerning whom he gave a bad prognosis; the mother accordingly gravely stated that she knew there was no hope because she had applied the pigeons, and the third alone had struggled. On further inquiry, it was ascertained that the custom referred to was that of placing three pigeons in succession under the child's \*\*\*\*\* if the pigeons swelled out and struggled and cried, then the result would be favourable. But if not, the death might be expected. The supposition was that the pigeons would empty the bowel when constipation, common in meningitis, was present. Another superstition, commonly resorted to, is that of splitting a pigeon open with a single blow of a knife from head to tail, and applying it worm to the chest in a case of pleurisy. It is stated that if the bird's blood darkens very rapidly, an excellent prognosis was possible. It is really impossible to comprehend how such fatuity this could find sway among any community of persons not absolutely insane during the present day. But perhaps, the following method also in vogue in Flanders, is the most repulsive to which reference may be made. For tonsillitis, a patient is called upon to find accommodation in his or her mouth for a large frog—if the frog swells out and darkens in colour, the idea is that these changes have been brought about by "withdrawing" the disease from the patient, and presumably everyone, when this occurs, is correspondingly made happy, except, no doubt, the unfortunate persons whose mouth has been used to accommodate the loathsome batrachian. Really, one must concede that the young Queen of Holland has a rare opportunity before her of doing something to dispel the hideous medieval superstitions now prevalent in her dominions. Her Majesty should at once see to it that her subjects are taught better things, and are given the opportunity, at all events, of profiting by the advance of science and knowledge.—Medical Press.

PRINCE Ranjitsinghji is now staying at Rajcote. A special match having been arranged for him to take part in the Prince, Major J. S. Asby, the Thakore Saheb of Wadhwan, the Prince of Tikamgadh, Kumar Shri Mansur, Khachar of Jadan, Kumar Shri Harbanji of Morvi, Mr. Wood, and several others have left for Wadhwan.

WITH the view of curtailing unnecessary haulage charges, compartments of third class carriages or one-fifth vans have been fitted up as starting compartments on some Railways in India, instead of the one-fifth vans previously in use on broad-gauge railways and the accommodation thus provided has been found to be very suitable for the Postal Department on unimportant branch lines. The Government of India has therefore embodied the necessary modifications in a drawing, and has circulated them to the Administrations concerned, requesting that they may be adopted in future in agreement with the postal authorities and railway administrations concerned.

A POST runner on his way to Ghazipur with the mail bag from Saidpore, containing several money orders and registered letters, while resting himself at Nasara fell asleep, to find on waking up that some one had relieved him of his charge. A report was promptly made at the Nandgunj Police Station on the 12th instant, and though the Sub-Inspector immediately took up the investigation he was unable to make anything out of it. The Circle Inspector then took up the inquiry and within 24 hours had *challenged* the accused with the mail bag and every letter it had contained. The prisoner was promptly convicted and sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment.

OUR customers say you manufacture three of the best remedies on earth," said the mer cantile firm of Haas, Harris, Brim & McLain of Dawson, Ga., in a recent letter to the Chamberlain Medicine Co. This is the universal verdict Chamberlain's Pain Balm is the finest preparation in the world for rheumatism, neuralgia, lame back, quinsy, sore throat, cuts, bruises, burns, colds, pains and swellings. A bottle of this liniment in the house, will save a great deal of suffering. Buy it at any drug store.

A NEW ENGLAND UTOPIA.

PERHAPS the most interesting article in the "Arena" for April is that in which Mr. B. O. Flower describes the working of the Referendum in the little town of Brookline, near Boston, and the extraordinary success which has attended its operation. Brookline contains no more than seventeen thousand inhabitants; yet in education, in art, in athletics, in sanitation, and in the amenities of life, it is ahead not only relatively, but actually, of many of the great cities of the Republic. The Brookline Educational Society has a membership of nearly six hundred. Its public library contains fifty thousand volumes. Its sewage system and its water supply are perfect. It enjoys a free library, reading-room, and gymnasium and public swimming-baths open all the year round, where the young are taught swimming free by teachers on the public school pay-roll. Its classical concerts command an average attendance of nearly thousand five hundred people. Many of the leading citizens serve on committees on special lines of work, such as science, art, music, child-study, history, physical training, lectures, and libraries. One of the most agreeable features is the provision of a day nursery for the convenience of the poorer citizens.

Here, in a comfortable nursery fitted up for the proper care of babies and little tots under seven years old, mothers whose duties call them from home are able to leave their small children during the day. An abundance of wholesome food is provided, also cribs for the little ones, and games and entertainments for those older. All the little visitors receive excellent care until the mother returns in the evening. A fee of five cents a day pays for the service, and thus removes from the mothers the unpleasant feeling that they are the recipients of charity.

The secret of all this, says Mr. Flower, is the Referendum. Every voter is given an opportunity to speak as well as to vote on every measure, and no measure is voted upon until the reports and warrants have been placed in the hands of the citizens from one to two weeks before any action is taken. Mr. Flower regards the Referendum as the ultimate embodiment of the Republican principle. The old belief that such methods of government were only suited to small villages has been shown, he says, to be unfounded.

Though the town has increased until its population is between 15,000 and 20,000, the work is so systematised that there is practically no more difficulty in carrying on the government expeditiously and satisfactorily than in the old days when the population numbered only hundreds.

Mr. Flower has little sympathy with those who maintain that the evil existent in American municipal government are only to be remedied by a reversal to the beneficent of the Boss. The extension of the Referendum is not only practical, he says, but is imperatively demanded. Too much democracy is not the cause of municipal evil, but too little. "Back to the people!" is the true watchword in municipal affairs.

A THEORY OF SLEEP.

DR. DUVAL writes in the *Revue Scientifique* (Paris):—The study of sleep and of awakening lends itself particularly to interesting considerations, to which the theory of nervous amoebism adapts itself with precision; that is to say, the non-reception or the difficult reception of exterior impressions during sleep is explained by the fact that the contiguity or the articulation of the sensitive neurons is then less intimate. . . . In what does this less intimate state of contiguity consist, that produces an interruption of the nervous current? Since the articulations are the result of branches that start from two cells and interlace, the only plausible supposition is that this interlacing becomes less close by the withdrawal of the branches, either by slight backward motion, each towards its own cell, or by slight sideways displacement. Between these two methods it is impossible to choose *a priori*, but we see that experimental facts indicate that the former is the actual mode.

In ordinary sleep, the non-reception or the difficult reception of outside impressions is not absolute; certain violent excitations still reach the brain and bring about dreams; when an intense light is passed before the eyes of a sleeper he generally does not awake; but later, when he does wake up, he tells of a dream about a fire, a volcano in eruption or a thunderstorm. At other times the excitement wakes him. These phenomena are explained by the supposition that the distance between the withdrawn cell-branches is not so great as to prevent an intense excitation from passing from one to the other; the passage of the current, whatever it may be, that constitutes nervous conduction is comparable to the electric spark, which passes or does not pass between two adjacent points, according to the intensity of the charge. How is this partial isolation of the cells established? In the first place it is the result of the exhaustion, by fatigue, of the nervous elements. This fact has been proved by the experiments of Manouelian on fatigued animals. But just as by prolonged excitation we may cause a gland to keep on secreting fluid. . . so we may force the brain-cells to keep up their activity, notwithstanding their need of rest. . . . but sooner or later, in spite of our efforts, certain cells lose connection; thought ceases to have its normal coordination, and finally sleep comes on with a force that cannot be avoided.

Slower and more hesitating is the spontaneous awakening that follows a sufficient period of rest. We may say that only a few of the neurons at first leave their state of immobility or retraction; they extend branches hesitatingly; they establish communications that are broken almost immediately, to be again made a short time later, alternating with others at the moment of waking. The total and energetic action of the nervous cells is thus re-established little by little, by intermittent progress; the cellules awake each on its own account as the inhabitants of a city awaken. And often after one has left his couch and begun his toilet, a few central neurons still remain in isolation; before we can get to work we must excite these sluggish and rouse them from their idleness, like lazy school-boys. If our rest has been insufficient the awakening is more disagreeable and takes longer; the sluggish are more numerous; the neurons have great trouble in issuing spontaneously from their state of retraction.

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THE MURDER CASE.

NOTWITHSTANDING the verdict on the Bar rack case, we believe that there are strong reasons to doubt the merits of it. That the three accused men were on the spot, we have no doubt; that they had a row, at a lemonade shop, and ran away and that they were drunk, we have no doubt; but that they ever kicked Doctor Sircar to death, we have a very great deal of doubt.

PRE-HISTORIC TRIBES OF ASSAM.

AN ETHNOLOGICAL STUDY.

NOTWITHSTANDING its fearful earthquakes, the North-Eastern Province of India, which is washed by the classical waters of the sacred Brahmaputra is a highly interesting subject of study.

ASSAM thus forms a great museum of races in which we can study man in different stages of evolution. The specimens are not fossils or dry bones, but living communities whose widely diverse conditions are a source of perplexing interest alike to the historian and the ethnologist.

THESE non-Aryan people poured in successive waves into the valley of the Brahmaputra from the earliest times down to historic periods.

chosen for cultivation; here the trees are cut down and the undergrowth collected and burned. The land is then hoed; the ashes serve as manure, and scanty crops are raised. When the fertility of the land is exhausted, the jhum is abandoned and another site is selected and the same process is continued.

II.

THE next great ethnic disturbance was due to the slow influx and diffusion of the latter races from Eastern Tibet. These races passed over and down the Ultra-Indian Peninsula, and then westwards over the Brahmaputra and formed, with the preceding races, the "Thibeto-Burman" group of philologists.

THESE have been subsequent irruptions within historic periods, such as those of the Aryans, the Ahoms, and the Kochs; but these we shall leave for future treatment. The various tribes in Assam whom we find to-day did not come to us in their present shape; but they are a result of the admixture of races noted above and of subsequently repeated local intermixtures.

IN all the several languages of Assam, the materials for very interesting study. The bottom strata are made up of the great monosyllabic Chinese and its branches over that some various combinations of the agglutinative method as exemplified in the Thibeto-Burman family; while on the top of them all is the great inflexive word system of the Aryan tongues—the medium of civilisation and culture.

ONE of the most singular customs which some of these early races brought with them was their great passion for "head-hunting." This sanguinary custom exists even in our own day to a remarkable extent among the Naga and Kuki tribes.

AN individual who can take a head, whether it be of a man, woman, or child, is entitled to wear certain ornaments according to the custom of his tribe or village. No Naga can put on the kilt ornamented with cowri shells until he has slain an enemy.

ax and indefinite. Thus we find that the Hill Miris have no regulation for the safety of the commonwealth and it is left to the chief to look after its safety as best he can.

From this state of things a better form of democracy is gradually evolved, in which laws and regulations are fixed by the custom for the guidance of individuals and of the state; and in which a growing instinct of self-preservation enables the neighbouring villages to combine to meet an external foe.

THE notes meet daily for the discussion of affairs of state, and are kept amply supplied with liquor all the time they are so employed at the public expense.

THE above account we get some rough idea of the races who inhabited Assam in pre-historic times, and some of those modified descendants we see around us to-day.—A. S. Gaha in the Englishman.

THE DEATH OF SIR ASMAN JAH.

THE Nawab Sir Asman Jah, K. C. I. E., ex-Prime Minister of Hyderabad, whose death is announced by our Hyderabad correspondent, was born in the year 1830. He was the great grandson of Mir Nizam-ud-Deen Khan, the second Nizam of the Deccan, whose daughter, the Begum Bashir-ud-Nissa, was married to Nawab Tegging Shams-ul-Nissa, Amir-i-Kabir II.

At that time he was in daily intercourse with the famous Sir Salar Jung, which established a firm friendship lasting to the death of Sir Salar. During the well known visit of Sir Salar Jung to England in 1875 the then young noble, Sir Asman, had inspired sufficient confidence in his ability to be appointed temporary Prime Minister and Regent in conjunction with Nawab Mookaram-ud-Dowlah, and so faithful was he to his stewardship that he received the hearty thanks of the Government of India.

He succeeded to the property of his uncle in 1877. At the death of Sir Salar Jung in 1883 he became a prominent member of the Regency Council. Towards the close of that year, when His Highness, the Nizam, went to Calcutta to visit the Viceroy and view the Exhibition held in that year, Sir Asman was again entrusted solely with the duties of the administration and at that time he took upon himself the duty of urging that His Highness should be placed on the throne of his ancestors as soon as he attained his majority according to Mahomedan law, namely at the age of eighteen.

Passing on to the year 1887, we find Sir Asman entrusted with the important duty of representing His Highness in London during the memorable Jubilee festivities. He was one of the "lions" of the season and worthily represented his sovereign on that occasion.

On the resignation of the young Sir Salar Jung, he was appointed Minister and assumed charge of his office on the 30th July, 1887, corresponding to the 26th Shabrawar, 1295 Fasil. During his tenure of office, there is no doubt of the fact that he wrought much good to the country.

His tenure of office came to an end in 1893 when he was succeeded by the present Minister Sir Vicar-ul-Umra. During the period it is an undeniable fact that the deceased nobleman was a good and faithful servant to his master. The State prospered and he had the satisfaction of knowing that he felt the country in a better state than it was when he undertook his arduous duties.

It is interesting to note that Sir Asman was one of the richest nobles in India. His income from his Jagir and Paigah lands alone amounted to some Rs. 12,00,000 per annum. As he was rich, so was he charitable and the country in general and his own State in particular owe much to his liberality.

DIVORCED BY CANDLE.

WHEN a Burmese husband and wife decide to separate, the woman goes out and buys two little candles of equal length, which are made especially for this use. She brings them home. She and her husband sit down on the floor, placing the candles between them, and light them simultaneously.

ONE of the best-known of New York book-sellers spends thousands of dollars every year in advertising his name and address, with—instead of a detailed description of his wares—the simple appeal: "Empty your purse into my hand."

THE international subscription for the monument to Pasteur has reached the figure 13,000. The monument is to be erected before the Pantheon, Paris, and will show him putting Death to flight, and a Mother with her child, thanking him, while Fame crowns him with laurel.

THEY CREEP ON US UNAWARES.

THOUSANDS of the good people who read these article shave grey hairs in plenty. Are you one of them? If so, do you remember when you saw the first grey hair—on your head, or in your beard, or on the case may have been? It was natural enough; time is a bleacher as well as a dyer; yet the discovery was a surprise, perhaps a shock to you.

Now behold how many more things are like that, and learn a valuable lesson. "Up to March, 1891," says Mr. John Murray, "I never had any illness in my life. Then, suddenly, as it were I felt that something was wrong with me. At first I had an awful bitter taste in the mouth, and after eating I had a pain at the chest and a horrible sensation at the stomach, as of a hot iron burning me."

"I vomited all the food I partook of, and sometimes I threw up blood. Nothing I ate would remain on my stomach more than a few minutes, and I was afraid to take any solid food. Even milk and slops distressed me."

"Being unable to leave the house I sent for a doctor, who said that my stomach was ulcerated. He gave me medicines of different kinds, and recommended applications; but nothing gave me any relief, and I grew worse and worse."

"In spite of the soothing drops I took I got no sleep night or day. The pain was so severe I could not lie down in bed. "After four months' suffering I was removed to the Grantown Hospital, where I had the best medical treatment and diet. I was fed solely on liquid food, and my stomach was so inflamed and sore that I threw up most of it. After five weeks in the hospital I was worse than ever and returned home. There I lingered on in great pain and weakness month after month. I was now pale as death, and so weak I could not draw one foot after the other."

"I had given up all hopes of recovery, and was gradually wasting away, expecting no relief except in death, which I thought could not be far away."

"This was in February, 1892. It was then I first heard of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and made up my mind to see whether there could possibly be any virtue in it for so desperate a case as mine."

"Not being able to procure the Syrup in our neighbourhood my son wrote to London for a supply. It may seem hard to believe, but it is true, that the first few doses gave me welcome relief. Continuing to take it I was soon able to take nourishing food, and felt my strength coming back. After a little all pain left me, and I have never missed anything since; but can follow the honours and win any kind of work."

"I think my Creator, for making Mother Seigel's Syrup known to me, for without it I should now be in my grave. I tell everybody that it saved my life. You are welcome to publish this to all the world. (Signed) John Murray, Cragmore Cottage, Abernethy (near Balmoral), Grantown, August 28th, 1895."

Mr. Murray is a man of high character, and well known in the district. He is in the employ of D. Jardine, Esq., of Rairook Lodge. His disease was acute inflammatory dyspepsia, for an attack of which (unconsciously to himself) his system had long been preparing. "What seems a sudden illness," says an eminent physician "is but the climax of a series of changes which have been going on for a considerable time, the slight warning symptoms not having been noticed by the patient." So grey hairs come. So disease comes. So does old age. Watch for the earlier signs and take Mother Seigel's Syrup close at hand.

A GIGANTIC EARTH-MODEL.

THE celebrated French geographer, Professor Elisee Reclus, is, says a Home paper, specially coming over from Paris to lay before the Royal Geographical Society particulars of his project for a gigantic model of the earth.

Professor Reclus' idea is to construct a globe on a scale of 1,500,000 of nature, or eight miles to the inch, this being the smallest sized sphere on which it would be possible to show, correct to scale, the depth of every river, and the height of every hill on the earth's surface.

This exact replica of the world would measure roughly 84 ft. in diameter, or half the size of the dome of St. Paul's. This would mean a distance of 30ft. between New York and London, and Paris and London would be about 3ft. apart.

The scheme is not exactly a new one, Professor Reclus having had it in his mind for some years, and, as a matter of fact, the Commune Council of Paris had promised a large sum of money towards the construction of such a globe for the Paris Exhibition of 1900, but unfortunately difficulties arose, and the money was not forthcoming.

The primary object of Professor Reclus' visit to London is to interest people over here in the scheme, with a view to raising the necessary capital to carry it out in this country. But, among other things, he wants to obtain the opinions of experts as to the most suitable and least expensive mode of construction.

The globe would either have to be supported on an axis, in a similar manner to the ordinary wooden globes, or—and this seems likely to prove the most convenient arrangement—floated in an immense bath, so as to be easily turned round.

When Professor Reclus first made his project public, an eminent English scientist suggested that the surface of the earth be moulded on the inside instead of the outside of the sphere, so that an observer, suspended in the centre of globe, could easily examine any part of it. This idea, however, did not meet with approval, except that it was suggested that if the globe was given a rotary motion a visit to the interior might prove a permanent cure for delirium tremens.

People may be inclined to think that such a globe as described would be of small practical utility. But, apart from its many and important scientific uses, it is computed that the thousands of the working classes who would visit such an object would probably learn more geography in a few minutes' contemplation of the earth's surface than in months spent over maps.

The Salvation Army, no doubt, had some idea of this kind in view when they asked for tenders for the construction of a similar globe, though, of course, on a much smaller scale, some two or three years back. The scheme had to be abandoned, however, on account of the expense.

They had slender limbs, pyramidal nose, open eyes and beardless face. Their linguistic remnants are polysyllabic and euphonic, with postpositional ideology. They were of semi-nomadic habits and their huts were of beehive-shape. One of their singular communal customs, was what is called the "Punaluan" marriage, where brothers hold wives in common and sisters their husbands. This custom is not yet uncommon in Assam. It still flourishes among the Bhattias, and in a modified form among the Dafas. With the Miris also, brothers who are too poor to buy separate wives, will combine and purchase one between them from the proceeds of their joint labour. Traces of the existence of polyandry, at some previous time among the Khasis and Garos are also observable. With these tribes inheritance goes through the female, and the children belong to the clan of the mother, who remains with her own people instead of entering the family of her husband. These customs seem to point to a time when the women of one clan were shared in common by the men of another clan, and the paternity of a child was therefore so uncertain as to make it necessary to trace all relationship through the mother, in whose clan the children consequently remained.

This view is confirmed by the story that the group of monoliths near Subtynga were erected ages ago to the memory of a woman who had thirty husbands.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHINESE ELEMENT.

THE Negritos were in course of time supplanted by a race from South China called the "Mon-Anam" by philologists, who slowly modified, exterminated, or absorbed the former. In language and physique they presented a strong contrast to their predecessors except in stature, which was short. They were paler in colour, had hawk-like, small eyes (semi-closed), depressed, bridgeless nose and flat faces. Among them were related families living on posts, and generally distinct one set apart for the unmarried. These houses still exist among the several Naga tribes, the Ahors, the Khamtis, and also to some extent among the Lafings and Garos. They are of enormous size, sometimes as long as roof, and as high as 30ft. The interior is divided into chambers, private and for reception, and the whole terminates in a raised open balcony, a prolongation of the raised floor beyond the caves affording a convenient airy place for the family to sit or work, or lounge in. There are separate houses for the married and unmarried.

Among the Ahors, the Deka-chang is occupied every night by all the bachelors in the village, and with them a certain proportion of married men are nightly on duty, so as to constitute together a sufficient available force for any contingency of attack, fire, or any other public emergency. Another feature of the Mon-Anams was that they carried on agriculture by "jhuming" or fired clearings. Jhuming is even now carried on by most of the hill tribes in Assam. A spot generally on a hill-side is

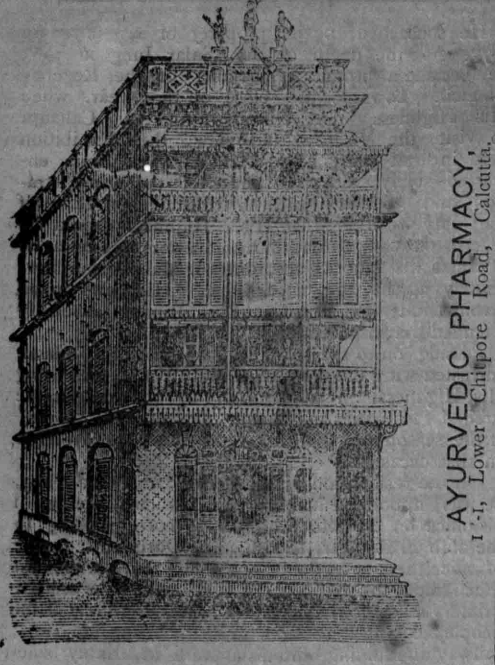
chosen for cultivation; here the trees are cut down and the undergrowth collected and burned. The land is then hoed; the ashes serve as manure, and scanty crops are raised. When the fertility of the land is exhausted, the jhum is abandoned and another site is selected and the same process is continued. In this way extensive clearings are denuded of valuable forests. The bare nature of the higher plateaux of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills is attributed to jhuming having been unrestrictedly carried on for generations.

The language of the Mon-Anams was monosyllabic, hence loud, with strong complex vowel sounds and compound consonants, "ng" being a frequent terminal. The prefixed definitives ka, ta, pa were general and are still preserved in the languages of the Manipuris, the Nagas, the Khasis and others.

PRIMITIVE FORMS OF GOVERNMENT.

BUT what these rude savages will cheerfully do from a fraternal feeling, they will absolutely refuse to do on command. In fact they believe in no commands and no superiors. It is interesting to trace the growth and compare the degree of democratic feeling which prevails among different tribes. In the earliest dawn of society the patriarch is the head of the family. Then when families increase and are formed into villages, a headman is chosen by common consent to conduct the affairs of the community. But in the early stages the individual savages are impatient of control and the authority of the chief is nominal. Rules and regulations are, therefore,

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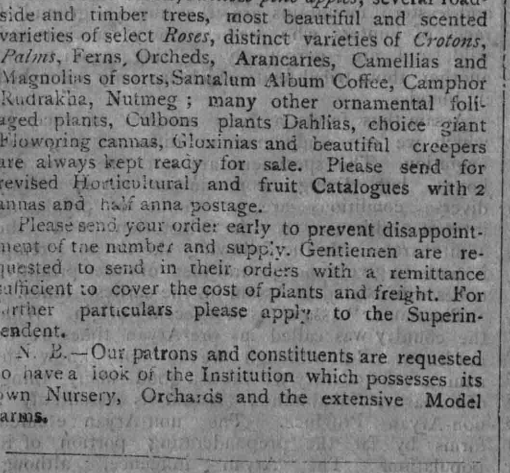
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