





THE Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, AUGUST 7, 1898.

SIR J. WOODBURN ON TOUR.

In his reply to the Khulna address, Sir J. Woodburn was pleased to observe that "he was sorry to leave Khulna without giving them some help, but he would see what he could do for them when he arrived in Calcutta."

Let us here moralize a little. We have rulers here who are either officials or Imperialists. The officials are just, and the Imperialists generous.

Yes, Sir J. Woodburn should never visit a district where he cannot leave something fragrant behind him, to remind the people of the auspicious occasion.

The frank smiling face of His Honour, and his open unbounded courtesy, have gladdened every heart that met him.

It was, we believe, in the town of Khulna that the police were rebuked, nay, punished by Sir K. Temple for having sought to restrain the loyal crowd, who had come rather too near, to greet the ruler.

Sir Ashley Eden, his successor, made an improvement; he entered the loyal crowd, almost unattended. And why? To receive petitions!

Every one of us has a desire to do good; but how many of us have opportunities of doing it, like Sir J. Woodburn? Of course, His Honour may say, "where is the money to come from for the gifts? The Sinha cheques have beggared the local Administrations."

We would earnestly recommend Sir J. Woodburn to study the administration of Sir R. Temple. It will show His Honour how that good and great statesman meddled with every department of State, and meddled only to improve it.

What a large amount of money is thrown away after the choudikars,—an amount which would be of infinite advantage to the villagers, if properly utilized!

THE MEERUT MURDER CASE.

The Whelan (Meerut) case has some ugly features, which are not to be found in the Barrackpur case. There is no doubt of it, as the Pioneer observed, that the Barrackpur soldiers, never meant murder; but in the Meerut case, we see the punkha coolie was bayoneted. It is one thing to shoot, and it is quite another thing to bayonet a man to death.

Of course, many instances can be shown, of natives having been murdered by Europeans. But this is the first time, as far as we know, that one of them was bayoneted.

Besides, a fictitious importance has been given to the Meerut case, by the false tactics of an Anglo-Indian contemporary. No sooner was the prisoner committed to the Sessions, than the Morning Post was led to

raise a howl of indignation against the committing officer. He, the latter, was told that the commitment was a farce, that the man was mad, and that there was no jury that would convict him.

There are excellent grounds for supposing that the man was insane; for, the jury and the Judge found him as such. We regret, the proceedings, published by the Pioneer, and reproduced elsewhere does not make this point at all clear. On the other hand, they unfortunately lead to the supposition that the man was let off rather hurriedly.

The case for the prosecution is this: Whelan, who all along bore a good character, joined the regiment at the age of 17 or 18, and served for four years.

The facts detailed above, are taken from the statement of the Government Advocate. The learned lawyer adds: "There was no apparent motive for the attack; it was not suggested that the punkha had been stopped"

It was hot and the punkha was stopped. Whelan rushed over and picked two rifles. The soldiers of the guard confronted him, but succeeded only in wrenching one of the rifles. If it was a homicidal madness that had seized the man, why did he not bayonet the guards?

The defence proved that the accused was mad; that he did not know what he was doing, and that it was not the punkha coolie that he sought, but he sought only to murder somebody.

Let us here repeat what actually happened. It was hot and the punkha was stopped. Whelan rushed over and picked two rifles. The soldiers of the guard confronted him, but succeeded only in wrenching one of the rifles.

The medical testimony, as is given in the report, in the same manner, is quite unsatisfactory. There were two medical men to give evidence, and the Pioneer gives the evidence of only one, viz., Surgeon-Major Philson. And this is his evidence: "29th May, Whelan refused to answer questions: He rushed out of the hospital without rhyme and reason: One day he broke the punkha pole: On the other (that is to say on the day the murder was committed) he was insane. When he was asked a question, he made no reply, but kept looking straight in front of him."

(a) He refused to answer questions.

(b) He rushed out of the hospital without rhyme and reason.

(c) He suddenly jumped on the punkha pole and broke it by his weight.

(d) At times he refused to answer all questions; at other times there was nothing peculiar about him.

(e) When he was asked a question after the murder, he made no reply, but kept looking straight in front of him.

And thus Surgeon-Major Philson came to the conclusion that the man was insane, and was not accountable for his actions.

What the Surgeon-Major said at the end is still more bewildering. He said: "The prisoner then began to mend somewhat and he is now apparently sane". In short, the man was insane when he committed the murder, and he regained his sense when the deed had been done.

We fear the medical testimony will amuse more than convince the impartial public. We, however, can not help it. For facts we are obliged to the meagre report of the Pioneer; and our remarks are founded upon that report.

WHEN Babu Ananda Mohun Bose left India for England, he was asked to pay private visits to all the leading politicians in England, Tory and Liberal. But he demurred. A most eloquent speaker, Babu Ananda Mohun is yet a bashful man.

It matters, however, very little if the Crown Counsel in England has the right of reply or not; for, there the prisoners are tried by their own peers. In India, it is an alien Judge, unacquainted or imperfectly acquainted with the manners, customs and language of the prisoner, who tries him.

There is possibly not one rate-payer in Calcutta, we mean, Indian, who does not consider with apprehension and disgust the attempts that were inaugurated by the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal to wrest the powers, now enjoyed by the representatives, and transfer them to commissioners, subservient to the executive.

Here in Calcutta every one asks what the leaders are doing to avert the doom, and the leaders reply that it is the plague that has paralysed them. But this plea will no longer hold good, as the plague has disappeared. While on this subject, we find that the Committee, appointed by the Corporation of Calcutta, have submitted the first instalment of their report on the Municipal Bill to Government.

The Secretary of State is decidedly the absolute master of the destinies of the three hundred millions of India. One of his first duties, therefore, is to command respect from them. But the evasive, insufficient and almost prevaricating replies that he gives to questions put to him in regard to India, are calculated to lessen that respect

SIR FITZJAMES STEPHEN having inaugurated various "reforms" in the Indian Code of Criminal Procedure, sought to introduce them in England. When he proposed those "reforms" for the benefit of the English public, they were simply amazed at his audacity. They could not believe that he was in his right senses when he could talk of thrusting those barbarous and un-English innovations upon his countrymen.

The Attorney-General speaks of this right not as a privilege but as responsibility; adding that certainly, if there ever was a case in which the law officers of the Crown should exercise and fulfil that responsibility, this was that case.

We take the following paragraph from India: "When Judge and jury differ in India, Anglo-Indians invariably assume that the Judge is right and the jury wrong; and as the jury is in these cases usually for acquittal, and the Judge, for conviction, juries are held up to odium, as encouraging crime and impeding the due course of justice."

Yes, the jury system is sought to be discredited in this country, by raising the cry that the jury is for acquittal and the Judge, for conviction, and that the former is always wrong and the latter is always right.

The District Boards and Municipalities in Bengal have been supplied with copies of the following letter, addressed to the Accountant-General by the Bengal Government: "Medical No. 191 T-M. Darjeeling the 21st June, 1898. From H. H. Risley, Esq., C. I. E., Secretary to the Government of Bengal. To—The Accountant-General, Bengal. Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 126 T-A., dated the 7th May, 1898"

considerably. And as he represents the British Government, it is the latter which suffers from it. He may not possess as an affectionate, kind-hearted and generous ruler; but he ought to show himself to be above all party spirit, and an emblem of righteousness and integrity. His replies to questions create an appalling feeling in India. To the question about the cost of the punitive police force at Poona he was pleased to say that, as there was no proof that there was no conspiracy, he could not remove the police force. So the Indian provinces and cities have to prove that they have no conspiracy amongst them, in order to avert a punitive police force! Why then a police force not stationed in Calcutta? For, there is no proof that there is no conspiracy in this town. To the question in regard to Sohoni vs. Rowcroft, he was pleased to reply:—

I understand that the matter is likely to be brought before a court of law. In these circumstances, I do not at present propose to take any further action.

The reply suggests that, since Mr. Sohoni was going to sue Lieutenant Rowcroft, Lord George Hamilton did not think it necessary to take any further action in the matter. But what was the ground for supposing that Mr. Sohoni would sue the gallant British officer? It was all guesswork from beginning to end; and by attributing his source of information to the expression "I understand," his Lordship, the Secretary of State, escapes from all the consequences of his statement. But as the statement is a myth, will Lord George Hamilton take any further action in the matter? The case was simply this: Lieutenant Rowcroft was on plague duty on pay, and Mr. Sohoni, from love; and the latter was assaulted by the former, not because he failed to do salam to the military officer,—for, he did give the much-coveted salam,—but for not being able to give the necessary pose to his head and hand in going through that important ceremony!

We have read Mr. Frederic Fanthome's "Primary and Fundamental Truths" with great interest. The world is getting more and more materialistic day by day. This is one of the results of the so-called civilization of the nineteenth century. God has been practically deposed from His throne, and brute force reigns supreme in Europe and America. Prince Bismark is dead, and European and American papers are vying with one another in singing his praise.

Our own country is now slowly following the lead which Bismark gave. Every nation, he said, must in the end be prepared to enforce its wishes by force of arms; otherwise other nations would make it conform to theirs. The result would be loss of prestige, and then loss of life. This policy, at first stigmatised as brutal and cynical, is now followed by every great Power. Europe bristles with standing armies, and England has filled the waters of the world with castles of floating steel. The great Chancellor lies dead; but his handiwork is everywhere apparent. It was Blood and Iron that made Germany strong; and now the whole world is learning to put its trust in reeking tube and iron shard. Force, the Queen of the older barbarism, sits enthroned again as the supreme arbiter of human destiny. For good or evil, it was Karl Otto von Bismark-Schonhausen who placed her there at this latter end of the nineteenth century.

The above picture gives an idea of the dense materialism in which Europe, the centre of civilization and enlightenment, has been immersed. Morality is a sick sentimentality; spirituality is a myth. "Force, the Queen of the older barbarism," now "sits enthroned as the supreme arbiter of human destiny." The object of Mr. Fanthome's treatise is to counteract the materialistic tendencies of the age; and it is, therefore, most welcome. His little book bristles with truths relating to God and His creation, as well as man's duties to his Maker, which can be studied with profit both by the philosopher and the ordinary man. His style is simple; his reasoning, as a rule, faultless; while a spirit of sweet piety pervades his writings. It seems that Mr. Fanthome is a devout Christian; but yet, he has dealt with his subject in such charitable spirit as not to offend the followers of any other religion. We can safely recommend the book to all. It can be had of Messrs. Thacker Spink and Co.

We have elsewhere referred to the barbarous provision of the Indian law which empowers the Government to prefer appeals against acquittals. The Burdwan murder case, which was disposed of the other day by the High Court, shows with what light heart is this provision availed of. The prisoners were acquitted by the unanimous verdict of the jury, and yet they were sought to be hauled up again. We have much to say in connection with this case.

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta. Includes a ruler and a color calibration chart with shades of grey and color patches.

forwarding a proposition statement for revision of the Establishment of the Police force employed in connection with the plague camps in Bengal, together with the necessary reappropriation statement.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. Includes Police force, Establishment, Allowance, Contingencies, Clothing, Total as in proposition statement, Additional force as in Inspector General's Police letters, Allowance, Grand total.

I am to request that the exact amount to be debited to each Local Fund in accordance with these orders may be reported to Government and communicated to the local bodies concerned.

There is a phrase in Bengali—"Murdering one in life and property." Plague has not only "murdered" people, but committed serious inroads upon their pockets. Trade, commerce, and business of every description being dislocated and the whole country turned topsy-turvy by its appearance, real or threatened, there is not a class of men who have not suffered more or less.

He defends the same reactionary propositions. It is possible, of course, that Sir Henry Fowler regards remarks like Mr. Strauss's as a tribute to his own judicial impartiality. But some of us cannot help thinking that there is a difference between judicial impartiality and flat Toryism.

The "hon. friend behind" Sir Henry Fowler was Mr. Pickersgill, who had ventured to observe that Lord G. Hamilton had spoken of Lord Elgin, who was an amiable and, no doubt, able man, in terms of eulogy, which were only appropriate to a Warren Hastings or a Lord Clive.

The reply, though conclusive, is based upon grounds of expediency. But we would prefer to put our objections upon higher ones, viz. moral; for, Sir Henry Fowler has the reputation of being a very pious Christian.

OUR Dacca correspondent writes under date July 31:—Mouvi Fazl-ul-Karim, who is now in Moonshighi sub-division, is, I am told, very unpopular.

Mr. Arthur Strauss, M.P., the Liberal Unionist member for the Camborne division of Cornwall, remarked in the House of Commons on June 27, in the course of the debate on the new Loan Bill, that the "firmness and business capacity" of Sir Henry Fowler "commanded the admiration of everyone."

SIR A. MACKENZIE was originally of good temper; but want of sleep soured

it. He felt himself at war with the whole world. To abuse the Babus, he had to praise the Zemindars. But as he had no love for the Zemindars, he had to kill them in detail, and therefore, divided them into two parties, viz. important and non-important.

Well, the choice investives in the above simply appal us. Capital concludes his article with the following paragraph:—But we think we have said enough to show how ill-conditioned Sir A. Mackenzie's remarks are, and we dismiss them with the contempt which he deserves.

It is difficult to understand in whose interests Sir A. Mackenzie is so anxious to introduce his so-called "reform."

THE Behar Herald reports the following case:—The other day a native contractor complained before the Officiating Cantonment Magistrate of Dinapore against a European Employer of the E. I. Railway Company that while he (the contractor) had gone into one of the office-rooms at Khatowale to enquire about his bills, as was usual with him, the accused caught hold of the nape of his neck and pushed him out of the room.

Suppose, instead of the native contractor, a son or a brother of the Cantonment Magistrate was caught hold of by the nape of his neck and turned out of the room by another. Would he have, then, dismissed the complaint with the remark that no man of common sense and temper would complain of it?

UNDER the beneficent and wise policy of the Chief Justice, the criminal work in the High Court in reference to Mufussil, has all along been put in charge of a mixed bench, composed of an Indian and European Judge.

ELSEWHERE will be found a fuller report of the first day's proceedings in connection with the inquest over the body of Chinna-swamy, which, as the reader is aware, has resulted in the verdict of death from hemorrhage and shock caused by a gunshot wound, inflicted by Private Knight, the result of a rash and negligent act.

MAJOR Youngusband, Assistant Quartermaster-General, is now engaged in compiling a Barrack Rules Code for all India, instead of the Bengal and Bombay Codes.

It is pretty well time that some of our local Nimrods distinguished themselves by giving an account of the cheetah that has taken up its abode in the neighbourhood of Mandalay. The animal has been a terror to the neighbourhood for some time past, and people are afraid to venture abroad after dusk or in the early morning.

MATTERS remain in statu quo in Bajour; the Nawab of Dir and the Khan of Nawajour being now engaged in discussing matters, while their retainers stand ready to renew the fighting.

Calcutta and Mofussil. LORD GAURANGA OR SALVATION FOR ALI BY SHISHIR KUMAR GHOSE. Paper cover Rs. 1-12 Cloth bound Rs. 2-4 Postage extra. To be had at the Patrika Office, Calcutta.

Indian Sketches Shishir Kumar Ghose WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY W. S. Caine (Extracts from the Introduction) I heartily commend to every cultured and earnest Indian, to every Christian Missionary, and also to every European who cares to look beneath the surface of Indian life and thought, the contents of this deeply interesting volume of miscellaneous articles from the pen of SHISHIR KUMAR GHOSE. PRICE: 1 RUPEE AND 6 ANNAS. To be had at the Patrika Office, Calcutta.

SNAKES, SNAKE-BITES AND Their Treatments. PRICE ANNAS 12. To be had at the Patrika Office.

MONETARY.—The quotations on Friday were 1-3-27-32 for demand and 1-4-3-32 for six months.

ENCOUNTER WITH TIGER.—About a month ago, in village Pitoria, about eight miles from Ranchi, while a lad was plucking mangoes in an orchard, he was, all of a sudden, attacked by a tiger. On the report reaching his house, his uncle came out with a gun in hand. At this time, another tiger appeared and attacked the uncle. Both were severely mauled, but succeeded in killing the brutes. They are now in hospital and will probably recover. One of the tigers is 5 ft. and the other 5 ft. 10 in. in length.

MONGHYR MUNICIPAL OVERSEER.—Matters are getting lively in Monghyr. It appears that a Mr. Reilly entered the Monghyr Municipality as an overseer about 5 years ago, on Rs. 50 a month. Gradually, his pay and allowances have in these 5 years been raised to Rs. 175. This is a fair salary, in all conscience for an overseer, but we hear that the Magistrate and a few European Commissioners of the Municipality are insisting on his pay being raised to 200 Rs. The majority of the Municipal Commissioners, however, have recorded their votes that no further increase should be given. They have pointed out that Mr. Reilly has no Engineering or special qualifications and that a former Commissioner had vetoed his appointment on Rs. 200. But who hears the native Members when a European is concerned? We hear that the European residents of the town have determined to give Mr. Reilly the increase "in spite of all opposition."—Behar Herald.

MR. ABDUR RAHMAN AND CASTE HOSPITALS. Home segregation would have been a great blessing to the upper middle classes if plague had broken out in Calcutta in an epidemic form. But there are families who, in consequence of the smallness or peculiarities of their houses, might not have availed of this concession. For their benefit caste or joint family hospitals were needed. In this respect, our Mahomedan fellow-subjects are decidedly in advance of the Hindus. We are informed that owing to the indefatigable zeal and earnest work of Mr. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman, a Mahomedan Joint Family Plague Hospital, has been established in Jhowtollah Road. It has been well equipped according to the modern requirements of a good hospital. Medicines have been selected in consultation with the plague authorities and a medical man has been placed in charge of it. Strict privacy of the purdah in its entirety has been maintained. A number of respectable middle-class Mahomedan families have associated themselves and subscribed for the maintenance of their hospital. In the event of a subscriber or any member of his family being infected with plague, the removal, treatment, by his own doctor, kabiraj or hakim, disinfecting, superintendence, &c. will be conducted in strictly Mahomedan fashion. Mr. Rahman and his associates have also arranged with a firm of druggists to supply all medicines (as approved by the Health Officer and the Plague Doctors) and requisites of a hospital on most reasonable terms within shortest possible notice. Arrangements have also been made with different parties for supplying sheets, macintosh, iron beds, mattresses, etc. on a reasonable notice for the approved price. Since the opening of the Jhowtollah Hospital two joint family Mahomedan hospitals have been established in Ward No. 20 on the Jhowtollah Hospital model. One has been got up by 5 Mahomedan families and we are informed that two Hindu families have joined them. We are assured that any number of families can associate themselves, find a house for the purpose of a private joint family hospital for themselves, obtain all information from Mr. Rahman, and within 24 hours may have the satisfaction of having equipped one such for themselves and that even as a precautionary measure.

The Government of H. H. the Maharaja Shivajee, Rao Gaskwar of Baroda has retained Mr. M. P. Mody, Barrister-at-Law of the Ahmedabad Bar and Mr. P. J. Desai, Barrister-at-Law of the Bombay Bar, to conduct the prosecution instituted against the Pilwai rioters for waging war and instigating others to wage war against H. H.'s Government.

PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA. MEDICAL COLLEGE REPORT. Up to 6 p. m. the 5th instant there was one admission in the Medical College Hospital—Bhushan, a Hindu male, aged 25. There was no death. OFFICIAL RETURNS.

No fresh cases were reported to the Health Office on the 2nd inst. On the 3rd two fresh cases and one death were reported. On the 4th instant there was one suspected case, from Ward No. 8. There were two deaths—one from Ward No. 6 and the other from Ward No. 8. The total number of suspected cases up to date was 194; and of deaths 158. The total number of deaths from all causes was 34, as against 49, the average of previous five years.

PLAGUE returns from Hubli for the 29th July, report 28 attacks and 19 deaths. THURSDAY'S returns in Bombay show 13 cases and 7 deaths; total mortality 91. THE returns in Karachi for the 4th, show 2 cases and 4 deaths; totals to date 3,076 cases and 2,417 deaths.

PLAGUE is reported to have made its appearance at Bantwa. About half a dozen cases have been found out in the locality and the memons are said to be an affected class of population. Capt. H. G. Carnegie, Sorath Prant Officer, has left here this morning for Bantwa and Sardargadh to adopt some stringent measures for protecting the neighbouring villages from contracting the epidemic. —Kathiwar Times.

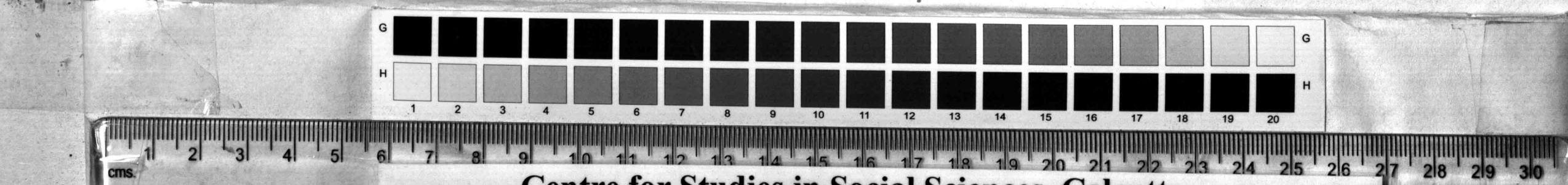
TRAGIC STORY OF A HAUNTED HOUSE.

BABU N. KULESHWAR CHATTERJEE relates the following tragic story of a haunted house:—Sometime ago, Babu Annoda Charan Chatterjee, a native of Kanaksar, in Bickrampur, wanted to change his residence and settle in village Brahmandi, in Madaripore. Accordingly, he purchased a house in the latter village. While the negotiations were proceeding, some of the neighbours dissuaded him against taking up his abode in that house, inasmuch as nobody was known to live there for nearly a hundred years, and as it was believed that some Brahmins had met with unnatural deaths in that house. Annoda Charan dismissed all this as mere superstition and, nothing daunted, brought his family, and settled in the house, after making necessary additions and repairs. They were living in their new house, when one night something extraordinary and tragical happened. There was a tank in the compound for the use of females. That night two young ladies of the family had occasion to go to the tank, and Annoda Charan's old grandmother escorted them. The two ladies were washing themselves when, to the grandmother, who was standing on the bank, gave a cry and fell down in a swoon. The noise brought together all the inmates of the house who carried her home. A little while after, the old lady regained consciousness, and said: "I was standing on the bank when I saw a handsome man, in orange garb, and with garlands round his neck—who sprinkled some water over my body. I got frightened, gave out a cry and fell down." She lost her consciousness soon after, from which she never recovered, the death coming on in a few days. Some days after Annoda Charan's mother saw a man answering exactly to the above description and since then she is lying in an unconscious state. There is a bamboo grove near the tank; and Annoda Charan while standing there on two occasions, felt as if a bamboo stalk came down and touched his head and water was sprinkled over his body by some unknown hand. He employed some persons to cut down the bamboos. Soon after these people were taken seriously ill, and are now in an unconscious state. It can be easily conceived that Annoda Charan is in great distress now. To give up the new abode, means great pecuniary loss which he is hardly able to put up with. He appeals to all for help who know how to help under such circumstances.

Two Municipal Officials at Agra have been sentenced to eighteen and six months' imprisonment, respectively, for misappropriating Municipal moneys. A third offender has absconded.

It is proverbially impossible to prove a negative. Yet this is what Lord George Hamilton wishes the citizens of Poona to do before he would withdraw the punitive police. The answer he gave to Mr. Herbert Roberts' question on this subject is not only opposed to this elementary principle of reasoning, but also to the publicly declared opinion of the Sessions' Judge of Poona who tried Damodar Chapekar, that he had watched minutely for any evidence of a conspiracy but he was glad to say, he could find none. In the face of such an opinion from such a quarter it is strange that the Secretary of State for India should say as he did on the 12th ultimo: "At the recent trial the question whether there had been a conspiracy was not investigated; there was but one prisoner, and the only evidence adduced was directed to show that he had committed the murders. The absence of evidence implicating others does not therefore seem to be a sound ground for ordering the withdrawal of the additional force."—Hindu.

NEWS comes from Papun, in Burma, of a serious attack by a lunatic on Mr. Baines, District Superintendent of the Salween Hill Tracts. A few days ago Mr. Baines, hearing that a dangerous lunatic was at large, went out with Mr. De La Taste, Inspector of Police, and a Subadar. The lunatic was traced, and seeing the officers approaching, he ran into a house and brought out two dabs, and immediately attacked Mr. Baines. That officer was armed with a stick only, and defended himself as best as he could, but he was cut down, receiving one dangerous wound, measuring nearly a foot, along and behind the hip, an artery being severed. The Subadar shot the lunatic dead, and Mr. Baines was attended to. His wound was bound up, but on the way in the bandages slipped, and he lost a lot of blood. It is hoped he will pull round. He has been brought to Maulmein, where the Civil Surgeon, Dr. Evans, is attending him. This is the third time since he entered the Burma Police that Mr. Baines has been dangerously wounded, the two previous occasions being by deccits.



HIGH COURT, CALCUTTA

ENQUIRY INTO ALEGED UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT ON THE PART OF BARRISTERS.

(Before the Chief Justice and Justices Mr. O'Kinealy, Amir Ali, Chunder Bad Ghose, Jenkins and Rampini.)

THE hearing of the enquiry into the conduct of three Barristers, Messrs. Zorab, Knight and Jacob, came on the 4th instant. The Court was very crowded, the professional element predominating. The Advocate-General appeared for the Crown. Mr. Hill appeared for Mr. Zorab, Mr. Garth for Mr. Knight and Mr. Allen for Mr. Jacob.

THE POONAMALLEE SHOOTING CASE.

YESTERDAY morning a Pariah lad named Chinnaswamy was brought to the General Hospital from Poonamallee, by the Police of that place, with a gunshot wound. The particulars, as disclosed at the inquest held this morning, are as follows: On Saturday, at about 3.30 P.M., a soldier named Knight, of the 19th Horse, set out to Avadi, a place four miles off Poonamallee, in a jukka with his "chokra". The boy was shot through the pelvis from left to right, the gunshot passing right through. In the course of the evening the boy was taken to the Poonamallee Station Hospital, where his wounds were dressed and the boy was thence sent to the Police Station House Officer, who took him to the Local Fund Hospital. The Apothecary directed the Police Officer to remove him at once to the General Hospital. This was accordingly done. On receipt of a telegram from the Magistrate of Poonamallee, Mr. W. E. Clarke, the Acting Chief Presidency Magistrate, hurried to the General Hospital yesterday afternoon to record the boy's dying declaration. The Magistrate, with the Interpreter of the Junior Magistrate, Egmore Court, and Inspector Annamalai Pillay, repaired to the Victoria Ward, where the boy was, but found that the boy was groaning pitably, and in a very short time he died.

THE FIERY ORDEAL OF FIJI

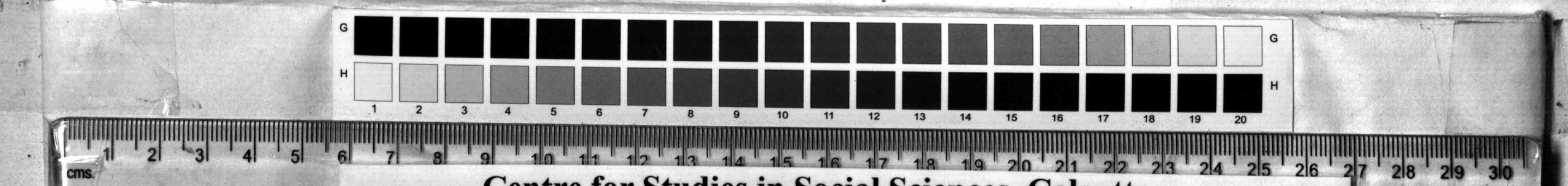
In the "Theosophist" for February, 1896, appeared a very interesting account of the Fire-treading festival periodically celebrated at the Dharmaraja's temple, at Mulapat, Nellore, to which the reader is referred in connection with the following description of the similar rite among the Fijians, by Mr. Manica Delance in the "World Wide Magazine". The Island of Benga was the supposed residence of some of the old gods of Fiji, hence a sacred place. A lavo, or pit, with a diameter of from 18 to 24 feet is filled with logs of wood piled up 9 or 10 feet high, and on top of these are laid stones. The wood is ignited and the flames fed until the logs are reduced to live coals and the stones are heated almost "white-hot". The stones are pushed with green poles to a place, so as to form a tolerably even floor, and then swept clear of ashes by means of whisks fastened to the ends of long sticks. The heat is so terrific that the Fijians who work about the pit have to screen their whole bodies with garments made of green banana leaves stitched together. A green signal the performers, bare-legged and barefooted, excepting for anklets of dried fern leaves crowded into the pit and walk about as quietly and securely as if on cool green soil.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

[INDIAN TELEGRAMS.] SIMLA, AUG. 5. The nomination of Mr. Faizal Khan to a seat in the Supreme Council in place of Hon. Bisambar Nath is notified. The East India Loan Act, which was recently passed in Parliament, is published. Surgeon-Colonel Rye is granted privilege leave for eight months. The services of Surgeon-Major Dobson and Surgeon-Lieutenant Walton, of Bengal, are placed at the disposal of the Military Department. The services of Surgeon Captain Hendly, of Bengal, are placed at the disposal of Central Provinces Government. Surgeon-Colonel Swaine is confirmed as Sanitary Commissioner of Hyderabad. Babu Profulla Chandra Bannerjee is appointed in the third grade as Deputy Post Master General of Behar vice Mr. Goodburn on leave for one month and twenty days.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, AUG. 3. Mr. Doughty, the Liberal member for Grimsby, who recently resigned his seat on becoming a Unionist, has been re-elected for the same constituency by a majority of 1,751 votes over Mr. Winttingham, the Radical candidate. LONDON, AUG. 3. The Rev. J. E. Weldon, Headmaster of Harrow, has been appointed Bishop of Calcutta. LONDON, AUG. 3, MIDNIGHT. Mr. Cambon, acting as Spanish Plenipotentiary, and President McKinley conferred at the White House, Washington, for an hour this afternoon. No statement has been given to the press, and the silence regarding the result of the meeting, together with the length of the Conference, is unfavourably interpreted. Mr. Alger, Secretary of War, has announced that, in the meanwhile, America's war plans are unmodified. LONDON, AUG. 3. In the House of Commons to-day a debate took place on the estimates for the Foreign Office. Mr. Yerburgh, member for Chester, moved to reduce the vote by five hundred pounds. He congratulated the Government upon the ministerial statement in the House of Lords on Monday, but desired to know whether the undertaking given to China conveyed a promise of protection also. He insisted that Great Britain ought to support British Railway enterprise in China by a Government guarantee. Mr. Curzon in reply said that nothing could be more definite or more precise than the assurance of support given to China. He denied that the "open door" had ceased to exist in Manchuria or elsewhere in China, or that the door had been shut in Great Britain's face, and he said that China had given Britain precisely the same assurances as she had given to France. He further declared that the concessions secured by Britain in China in the last few months were far greater than those obtained by all of Britain's rivals put together, and this proved that Britain maintained her ascendancy in the political councils at Peking. The amendment was withdrawn, and the vote approved. LONDON, AUG. 4. It is understood that Spain has practically agreed to the terms of peace, and hostilities may be expected to cease by Sunday next. President McKinley firmly refused to modify the terms except in unessential details. LONDON, AUG. 4. Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Germany, with several Princes and members of the Diplomatic Body, attended the memorial service to the late Prince Bismarck in Berlin to-day. LONDON, AUG. 4. Mr. Fletcher Moulton, the Liberal candidate, has been elected member for the Launceston division of Cornwall, replacing Mr. Owen, deceased. LONDON, AUG. 4. The Currency Committee has adjourned for the holidays. Up to the present twenty-four witnesses have been examined, and answered nine thousand questions. The evidence before the Committee will probably be published at an early date. Reuter, telegraphing from Peking, says that the situation is causing great uneasiness. The Chinese regard the issue between Russia and England on the railway question as likely to decide the whole of the future of China. The Times' Peking correspondent telegraphs that the British Minister, on the 24th of July, made a strongly worded declaration to the Asungli (Tsunghli) men that Great Britain would not tolerate the interference of another Power with the British loan contract freely concluded by the Chinese Government for building a railway for completing the connection between Tientsin and Newchwang, where British interests are predominant. The next day Count Pavloff, acting Russian Minister at Peking, reiterated and emphasized his protest of the 14th July against the Newchwang extension, endeavouring to dictate conditions equivalent to an abrogation of the British contract. LONDON, AUG. 5. In consequence of a memorial from the leading officers in General Shaffer's command that the army in Santiago must perish from fever unless moved, the United States War Office is arranging to send troops home from Cuba.



N.-W. P. HIGH COURT.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

THE SAHARANPUR RAILWAY ASSAULT CASE.

In the High Court on Wednesday (August 3) before Mr. Justice Blair and a jury, James Walter Davies, gunner in the Royal Artillery, stationed at Roorkee, was charged, firstly, with assault on a woman with intent to outrage her modesty; secondly, with criminal intimidation; thirdly, under the Railway Act, with endangering a passenger's life by an illegal act.

luggage; her jewel case and money and all her things were in the carriage. She had a policeman put in charge of the luggage, and rode in the second-class carriage with the other lady for the rest of her journey. Witness next saw the accused at Azamgarh where she identified him. She said to him, "You did not believe me when I said I was a Collector's wife;" and he replied, "Yes, I did; and I am very sorry for what I have done." He also asked to be forgiven.

He did not tell her he had knife, nor did he threaten her. He did not begin to get into the carriage. He could not account for the lady getting out of the carriage. He did not care to move off the footboard because he knew if he did so he would be seen by the signalman and pointsman. He remained on the footboard until the train had slowly steamed out of the station and when it had cleared the platform he went along the footboard and got into another carriage. He saw the lady until he got to the end of the platform. She simply told him to go away, nothing more, and then she remained quite still. She threatened to throw something at him, and he could only explain that by the supposition that she imagined he would get into the carriage. His only reason for being on the footboard was that he had no ticket and did not wish to be caught.

most insulting indecencies. He did not know if the lady seemed to the jury one of those neurotic persons. Did she not strike them as a person of at least average intelligence, average self-command, and at all events average mental and physical health? If they believed Mrs. Rogers' story they must find the prisoner guilty of the offence under section 354, and he should direct them in that case to disregard the second and third counts of the indictment, though if they believed the words with regard to the knife were used that would have to be taken into consideration on the question of sentence.

they can also prove their harmlessness. But in Belgaum they are total strangers and so incapable of doing anything which can be watched by Government. So he prays that they should be transferred to a place where they can be well kept under watch. Shrimant Balasaheb thereupon received a letter from the District Magistrate on the 11th July saying that he was wanted in court. There the District Magistrate asked him two questions: (1) whether he was willing that his expenses be continued to be paid by Government from the income of the immovable property attached or (2) if the estate be released according to his prayer, how would he manage it and whether he was willing to meet the expenses himself from the property released. Balasaheb is said to have replied that both the points were answered in his previous petition of the 20th June, but that if an answer was still needed he would like to have the questions in writing, so that he may submit a written reply. The District Magistrate wanted an oral reply then and there. Thereupon Shrimant Balasaheb told him, it is said, that without prejudice to his rights of claiming that their expenses as State-prisoners be borne by Government, only the estate should be made over to his brother Sadashivarao. After going home he wrote a yadi to the District Magistrate embodying the questions and answers given and requesting him to let him know if both were correct as given on the previous day. He has latterly submitted another yadi to the District Magistrate praying that he and his brother be sent to the climate of their birth-place or to some other healthier climate. (Maharatta.)

Correspondence.

BENGALEES IN FRONTIER EXPEDITIONS.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR, - It is commonly said by interested parties that Bengalees are not fit for frontier expeditions. I make bold to observe that this is absolutely incorrect. The Bengalees are always to the fore, whether in peace or war. I can mention instances of Bengalees serving in the frontier expeditions of Hazra and Miranzai, where the so-called "manly" races have not been found to be at all fit. I myself have served in two of the frontier expeditions, and am at present in a station where the "law secures no life," to quote Lord Byron. In the Commissariat Department the Bengalees are always found to undergo all sorts of troubles when there is any expedition.

D. BANERJEE.

CONSUMPTION OF OPIUM IN THE GODAVARI DISTRICT.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR, - It may not be known to many of your readers that the Godavari District is the most opium consuming district in the whole of the Madras Presidency, in which there are as many as twenty-two districts. More than one-half of the quantity of opium that is annually imported in the Madras Presidency is consumed by people in the Godavari District alone. The following statistics will clear bear out the truth of my assertion: -

Table with 3 columns: Years, No. of chests imported into the Madras Presidency, No. of chests consumed in the Godavari District. Data for years 1891-92 to 1895-96.

This shows that though in 1892-93 the number of chests consumed was less than the previous year, ever since 1894 the number has been steadily increasing, and in 1896 the number of chests of opium consumed both in the Presidency and in the District is very great.

The Government says that this drug was most in demand in the Godavari District because of the fertility of the locality.

FAHIST MOHUN GHOSAL.

The Pioneer's London correspondent wires that unhappily it is now stated that the Prince of Wales' complete recovery is hopeless.

The latest news from England states that Sir George White is making such good progress that he intended making a visit to Ireland this month. He will not, however, take over the duties of Quartermaster-General until October.

The Agricultural Department of the Assam Government publishes an interesting "Note on the cultivation of black pepper in Assam," by Babu B.C. Basu, Assistant to the Director of Land Records and Agriculture. The author points out that while black pepper is grown in a good many villages in the Sibsagar district, the aggregate production throughout Assam is small, and very little finds its way into the market.

OUR Karimganj correspondent writes: - A case is being heard in camera by Captain Herbert, the Deputy Commissioner, at Luckipore camp. Even pleaders or muktears are excluded. The parties are Europeans, employed in the local tea industry. It is whispered that the complainant wrote a letter to a neighbour of the accused, in which he said many things in disparagement of the accused. Somehow the letter came to be in possession of the latter. Upon this he arranged for an interview with the complainant at the latter's bungalow without letting him know the object of it. The accused arrived at the complainant's place at the appointed hour, with the said letter in hand, showed it to him and began to beat him. The complainant was not a match for the accused, nor did his men, though near at hand, move to help their master. After thus avenging himself, as he thought, the accused rode off to his garden, four miles off. A complaint was at first made at the thana; but as it was not entertained, the case is now being heard, as described above. The matter has created considerable sensation here, both among planters and their employes.

THE YADIS OF THE NATUS.

WE have said above that Shrimant Balasaheb Natu has been writing yadi after yadi to Government from his residence in the Fort at Belgaum. We give below the purport of some of these: -

Government, it seems, had intimated to Balasaheb that since they had transferred the brothers to Belgaum they had virtually complied with all the demands in the various petitions of the brothers. Balasaheb retorts in the yadi that his chief prayer in the petition was that he should be informed of the accusations against him and that he should be tried in open Court according to the ordinary course of law. Failing that he should (secondly) be released. Failing that he should (thirdly) at least be transferred from Ahmedabad to a cooler climate, where he can keep his body and soul together. Thus, by only complying with his last alternative prayer it cannot, he submits, be said that Government have virtually complied with the substantive prayer in the petition, that he be placed on his trial. Balasaheb further says in the yadi (1) that the District Magistrate of Belgaum informed him or rather read to him, from Government order, at the time of setting him conditionally free in Belgaum, that the Government were obliged to make the brothers State-prisoners relying on the reports of the District Magistrate, Police Superintendent and the Commissioner, received from time to time about their creating internal commotion in Her Majesty's dominions; (2) that as peace was in the country, the Government, being anxious about the health of the brother Natu, had transferred them to Belgaum; (3) that the brothers should not transgress the limits defined by the District Magistrate; (4) that their expenses, whatever they may be, shall be paid from their income; and (5) that further immunities would be granted to them if they would so act as not to break the public peace.

Balasaheb has mentioned this order in the yadi and prays for a copy of this order which the District Magistrate here has refused to him. Balasaheb further submits that as the stories about the nurse and the police have proved to be false and groundless so also the information received by the District Magistrate, the Police Superintendent and the Commissioner, on which (information) they have based their reports and the Government has acted, will unquestionably be proved to be false. He prays to be informed of the contents of the reports and to be allowed an opportunity to refute them, because he says he is not asked up to this time by any officer a single word about the reports, or the information contained in them. The 2nd yadi mostly relates to property. He prays therein that the property be given in charge of his brother Sadashivarao with the accounts, that he be not charved with the expenses of the management of the property, that on no account he be charged with the expenses, incurred for the management of moveable property as the attachment of that property was acknowledged by Government to be an error and they must pay for their error; and that the Natu brothers being State-prisoners all their expenses ought to be borne by Government and should not be taken from the income of their property. Balasaheb has quoted the case of Abdool Rasool (1891). He claims further that as they are kept under observation, Government should keep them in a place where they know, and are known by all. In that case Government can watch them, and test their peace-breaking proclivities and

