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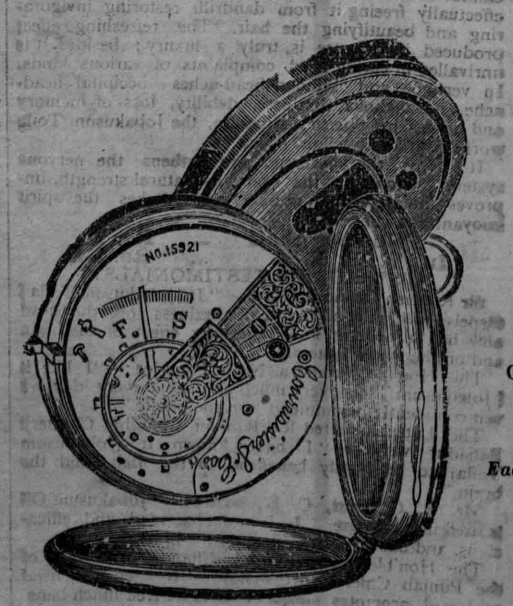
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undermine the constitution in the end and lead to its
total wreckage, it must be held that they are dangerous
to their insidiousness.

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Member of H. E. the Viceroy's Legis-
lative Council, writes:—"The Acidity Pills
are giving satisfaction to all those on whom I tried
them."

Baru Bhobho Tosh Bannerjee, D.uty
Magistrate of Dacca, writes under date th. 6th
March, 1898:—"Many thanks for your Acidity Pills.
I was suffering from Dyspepsia and Colic pain for the
last 15 years. I tried many kinds of medicines to
no effect. Some of them gave me temporary relief
only for a day or two. But since I have been taking
your pills (3 weeks or more) I have not had any
attack for a moment even during this time. The
Pill is an excellent medicine for this nasty disease
which is very painful. Please send me three boxes of
the Pills per V. P. P. at your earliest convenience
and oblige."

The Amrita Bazar Patrika says:—"Dr. H.
Biswas's Acidity Pill has an extraordinary digestiv
power so that men suffering from Dyspepsia may give
a fair trial. It is exclusively prepared from some
active herbs and hence is perfectly safe."

Babu T. K. Bakshi, Professor Govern-
ment College, Jubbulpur, writes Dr. Bis-
was's medicine for acidity and dyspepsia has been tried
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sure to derive much benefit from it.

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Mozilpur writes:—"I have used your Pill an can
bear testimony to its marvellous effects. Before I had
used your Pill for a week it cured me of acute Acidity
which all other remedies failed to cure."

Kumar Hemendra Krishna of the Sobabazar
vaj family, writes:—"I am glad to state that I have been
Red much benefit by the use of a box of your Acidity
pills. Really I did not expect so happy a re-
Pindya send me two more boxes."

K. Babu P. e. A., Head-Master, Shilpur, H. C.
School, writes:—"Dr. H. Biswas's Acidity Pill is a
vergein remedy for Acidity and Dyspepsia in general,
so is prepared from innocent drugs, and therefore, per-
fectly harmless. Those who have been suffering from
Acidity and Dyspepsia will find in the said Pill a speedy
and permanent cure. Dr. Biswas deserves the patronage
of the public at large."

P. S. I have recommended your Pills to some of
my friends who are similarly suffering.

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COUNTY COURT JUDGE SHOT ON THE BENCH.

His Honor Judge Parry, of the Manchester and
Salford County Courts, was shot on July 26 by
a bailiff while sitting in the Manchester Court.
He had been engaged in hearing a motion against
two bailiffs named William Taylor and William
Joseph Taylor to cancel their certificates for
offences under the Law of Distress Amendment
Act, 1858. The proceedings were taken by the
Singer Manufacturing Company (Limited) who
alleged that, in many cases when levying distresses
for rent, the respondents had seized sewing machines
which, were on hire from the applicants, and to
cover themselves from possible trouble in taking
such machines, which might be regarded as non-
seizable tools or implements of trade, they had
persuaded poor people to sign requests that they
should take them. Further it was said they had
employed uncertificated bailiffs to distrain on them,
and that they had committed other offences. His
Honor took away the elder Taylor's certificate
and ordered him to pay £10 towards the appli-
cant's costs. As soon as the decision was given
William Taylor, sen., leaped upon the bench,
ran to the judge's chair, and, before he
could be reached, pointed a revolver and
fired two shots, both taking effect, one in the
left cheek and the other in the neck of the
judge. He was then seized by a number of
persons who had by this time followed him,
but he fired two more shots before they suc-
ceeded in disarming him and giving him into
custody. Mr. Montgomery, a surgeon in the Royal
Infantry, who was in Court at the time, at
once rendered assistance to the wounded judge,
and his honour was afterwards removed to a
nursing institute. The wounds, though serious,
are not likely to prove fatal. The judge is re-
ported to be in a satisfactory condition.

The pistol used by the would-be assassin was an
old one of the pinfire type; the barrel is rusty, and
the old wooden stock is dirty as though the weapon
had lain unused for many years. Taylor was be-
fore the judge some time ago for alleged delec-
tion of duty and was addressed in strong terms by
his honour on that occasion. He is well-known in
Manchester, and is said to have been a local
preacher for many years. Taylor was examined in
the police cell by Dr. Heslop with a view to
ascertaining his mental condition. Judge Parry is
very popular among all classes of people in Man-
chester, and great public indignation has been
aroused by the act of his would-be assassin.

On July 27, Taylor was charged with attempting
to murder Judge Parry. Only formal evidence was
given. It was stated that the wounded judge had sent
a message to the prisoner, stating that he wished
him no ill-will, and that he was sorry for
the position in which he had placed himself. He
added that he wished something could be done for
him. On receiving the message the prisoner fell upon
his knees and began to pray, find when told that
Judge Parry was going on satisfactorily he again fell
on his knees and said, "Thank God for that." The
prisoner was remanded until Aug. 4.

THE CROCODILES OF AUSTRALIA.

The crocodile of the Nile differs very little from
that of the Northern rivers of Australia, which is
generally termed "alligator," though in reality, a
true crocodile. The head of a true alligator is
broader and shorter than that of the crocodile.
There is also considerable difference in the teeth and
their disposition in the jaws. The teeth of the
alligator are unequal, and the larger of the lower
canine enters a cavity in the upper jaw, while
that of a crocodile simply fits into a groove on
the outside of the upper jaw, leaving the tooth
clearly visible when the mouth of the monster is
closed. There are also differences in the webbing
of the toes and the form of the legs, though, to the
general observer, there is little or no difference.
Crocodiles seen equally at home in salt or fresh
water, while alligators do not appear to relish, and
rarely visit, salt waters. Crocodiles, no doubt, feed
largely upon fish; but as they grow older and
stronger and require great quantities of food they
will when hungry, attack anything from a sheep or
kangaroo, to a bullock, a big crocodile making short
work of a bullock weighing over half-a-ton.
Some crocodiles measure as much as twenty-seven
feet in length, and possess immense strength, be-
sides wonderful cunning and patience. They will
lie in wait at a watering-place, frequented by
animals, hardly distinguishable from a log of wood,
so still and passive have they become. The un-
wary victim, coming down to drink, is sudden-
ly seized in the crocodile's huge jaws and drawn
into the water, and drowned. At other times the
ail is used to sweep the prey into deep water,
where even though it be a heavy bullock, it has
little or no chance against its enemy, which is
specially provided by nature with an arrangement
that prevents the water rushing down its huge
throat, even though its jaws are fully distended
through holding its prey. Thus after a few brief
seconds, the unequal struggle is over, and the
saurian takes the carcass in tow to some favoured
locality, where he can enjoy it at his leisure.

Crocodiles at night-time low and bellow just
like cattle, especially like bulls; and I have spent
some nights (says a writer in the "Sydney Mail")
in an open boat in Cambridge Gulf, North-Western
Australia, where the whole place seemed to be alive
with them, and what with their splashes and cries,
the weirdness of the whole scene and their
close proximity as they at times rocked the boat,
sleep was impossible; for, there are several instances
on record where crocodiles have taken, or
have attempted to take, men from out of camps
and boats. A poor fellow, named Reed, the
mate or second mate of the *Gulnar*, had gone
in his vessel to some river in Carpentaria Gulf.
The vessel was at anchor near the mouth of the
river. The mate Reed had been despatched in
charge of a watering party, and was some dis-
tance up the river in a large open boat. W. C.
had been obtained and they were all ready for
a return to the ship. All being made snug, the
tired fellows turned in having made their camp
in the boat. The night was a very fine one, the
moon shining brightly, when toward midnight, the
sleeping camp was aroused by some terrific
shrieks. These were the cries of poor Reed
who, enveloped in his bedding and mosqui-
to curtains, was being borne off by a
crocodile. It is said by those who knew him
well, and accompanied him on this and other pre-
vious trips that he had the habit of sleeping with
his foot on the gunwale of the boat, and, no
doubt, this afforded the crocodile an easier op-
portunity of seizing him. All that night and a
great part of next day was spent in searching for
the missing man's body, but without success.

The crocodile has a remarkable eye. It can ar-
range the pupil to a vertical or horizontal posi-
tion at will, to suit its requirement by day or
night. It has a special natural protection to the eye,
and through a "duct," escapes the fluid when the
"monster weeps;" in fact, he is a peculiar brute
altogether, with many special gifts besides his
huge jaws that help to make him of the terror he

Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, AUGUST 21, 1898.

THE PLEA OF INSANITY.

THE Indian papers are full of the Whelan case. The plea of insanity set up so successfully in his case, does not meet with their approval. This is what the *Mahratta* says:

Private Whelan who bayoneted a punkha-coolie, was found to be insane, and acquitted by an Allahabad jury. When insanity is pleaded and believed in by a jury on their senses, all criticism is at an end. If the accused was really insane, all that we can say is that he surely ill-timed the outburst of his homicidal mania to have bayoneted a native at this time. As the present is a time when cases of natives being killed by Europeans have become only too plentiful and the wicked natives are in a bad humour over the verdicts of European juries, Whelan would have done better to wait till there was no danger of his action being misjudged by the natives in spite of a verdict of jury in favour of his insanity.

We said the other day that the plea of insanity is not a novel feature in such cases. If this plea was set up in the Whelan case in the N. W. Provinces, it was also urged, as we shewed the other day, in the Maltby case in Madras. We have now to show a case in Bombay where the same plea was brought forward with the same result. As for Bengal, the theory of spleen rupture prevailed here for a long time till it was abused in such flagrant manner as to bring thorough discredit upon it. The Bombay case occurred in 1883, and we owe the facts to a friend.

In this case, a European soldier, named Martin Dwyer, was charged with the murder of an Indian woman, who was shot dead at Sattara sometime in February. It appears that the soldier had a gun loaded when the woman happened to pass before him. He at once fired and killed her. As in the Allahabad and Madras cases, as soon as the murder was committed, symptoms of insanity appeared in the man.

The facts of the Whelan case have not been published in full. So we cannot say whether, as an insane man, Whelan was subject to fancies or not. But both Maltby and Dwyer saw visions. Mr. Maltby was subject to strange hallucinations regarding the robber chief Chendria and his band. Martin Dwyer was haunted by the spectre of a woman. During the night the prisoner called several times to turn out a woman who, he imagined, was in the prison cell. Dwyer was at first tried before the Sattara Magistrate. During the trial his conduct was that of a mad man; but the Sattara Civil Surgeon was of opinion that he was shamming madness, and the Magistrate had no option but to commit him to the High Court.

It was at the Bombay High Court, however, that Dwyer acted like a perfect madman. He was placed in the dock in charge of two European constables who stood on either side of him. He appeared to stare somewhat frantically, and continued repeating, in a loud clear voice, the following sentences: "Had no cause for it; you have had no reasons for it; you had no means. I will never assist you again. No, no, I won't. &c." He began to make such a horrible noise, and that so incessantly, that it was impossible to go on with the trial. He was then removed to a corner of the court; but the noise he made, yet disturbed the proceedings.

Judging from the report of the Whelan case, as published in the *Pioneer*, neither were witnesses called to prove the insanity of the prisoner nor were the medical men, who found signs of madness in him, cross-examined. All these necessary elements were, however, not wanting in the trial of Dwyer. The Advocate-General of Bombay said, the first question before the jury was whether or not the prisoner was in a fit state to take his trial. He would, he said, call four or five witnesses who had opportunities of watching the prisoner's demeanour; and they would enlighten the jury on this subject. The trial then proceeded on the preliminary point as to whether the prisoner was really mad or not.

Dr. Thomas Holmes, in medical charge of the Sattara hospital, deposed:—On the 12th February last, witness again saw prisoner pacing up and down in his cell, talking about a girl who was married in Florence. Witness watched him at that time, and since that day he had had three or four opportunities of doing so. His opinion was that the prisoner was either mad, or acting mad. Witness saw prisoner again at the trial at Sattara.

Cross-examined by Mr. Leith.—Prisoner's conduct at the Sattara trial was much the same as it was to-day. Witness had seen madmen talking continuously about the same subject, as prisoner was doing to-day. If he had been going on at this rate for several days, it would exhaust both mind and body. The chances were against a sane man keeping up such a strain for several days together.

Dr. Bainbridge, Civil Surgeon at Sattara, said that his opinion was that the prisoner was feigning madness. His reasons for coming to that conclusion was that he slept regularly every night without taking any sedative except for a few nights.

Witness continued:—Persons who are really mad do not often sleep at night. Another reason was that prisoner did not permit a medical examination, and would not enter into a conversation with witness. Persons suffering from monomania, were ready to enter into conversation about the subject of their delusions.

Dr. Partridge, in charge of the House of Correction, was of opinion that the prisoner was not insane, and his reasons were, (1) there was no heat of the skin, the temperature being normal; (2) he did not refuse to take food, and kept a sly look out with his eyes when there was some one present, and then he became noisy again; (3) his tongue was clean; he slept at 10 p.m. and would not enter into conversation.

Dr. Langley, Presidency Surgeon, and Dr. Blanc, Surgeon-Major, attached to the European General Hospital, concurred in the opinion with Dr. Partridge that the prisoner was feigning madness.

G. W. Crayton, a seaman-convict in the House of Correction, said:—For the last seven nights he had been sleeping in the same cell with the prisoner. He invariably slept before witness did, that is between 8 and 9 o'clock in the night; and he slept soundly until morning. He was not raving as he then was. He never answered witness's questions. Whenever witness woke up he saw prisoner fast asleep. He saw him cover himself up to protect himself from mosquitoes. He raved just before he slept, and began again in the morning.

Let us here put a question. Five English doctors mentioned certain peculiarities which must follow insanity; namely, (1) A person affected with insanity can not sleep regularly without taking a sedative; (2) there is heat in his skin; (3) he refuses food occasionally; (4) his tongue is unclean; (5) he would enter into conversation now and then.

Were any of the above symptoms visible in Whelan? On the other hand, we find that Surgeon-Major Philson found him insane on the following grounds: (1) He refused to answer questions. [This, according to the Bombay Doctors, goes against Whelan.] (2) He rushed out of the hospital without rhyme or reason. [We have already seen he had cause for provocation. The punkha-puller had ceased to pull the punkha not only in the hottest season in the year, but at a time when Whelan was suffering from fever.]

He lost temper and bayoneted the poor man. (3) He suddenly jumped on the punkha-pole and broke it by his weight. [There is nothing extraordinary in a feat like this on the part of a British soldier, when in his full sense.] (4) At times, he refused to answer all questions; at other times, there was nothing peculiar about him. [Dwyer showed exactly this symptom, but yet the Bombay Doctors were of opinion that he was shamming madness.] (5) When he was asked a question about the murder, he made no reply, but kept looking straight in front of him. [Dwyer, however, did more. He kept silent; he stared frantically; he made horrible noise.]

What we beg to know is: Did Whelan eat and sleep regularly or not? Was there any abnormal heat in his skin? Was his tongue clean or unclean? Strangely enough, the medical testimony recorded in the case does not enlighten the public on these points. It passes our comprehension that a man was voted mad simply because he rushed out, jumped, and refused giving any answer.

But to return to the Dwyer case. When five doctors, and an independent witness, who had ample opportunities of examining the prisoner, declared the man to be "shamming madness," the Judge summed up for conviction. The following is an account of what took place between the Judge and the jury:—

The Jury, after looking at the prisoner, who was again placed in the dock, retired. On their return after a short consultation, the foreman said seven of the jurors were of opinion that the prisoner was not in a fit state of mind to take his trial, while two were of a contrary opinion.

The Judge—Do you think if you were to retire again, gentlemen, that you could bring in a unanimous verdict?

The Foreman—I don't think so.

The Advocate-General said, the verdict must be in the form prescribed in the Code. The Judge, reading the section, said—Your verdict, gentlemen, must be in this form, that the prisoner is of unsound mind and incapable of making his defence.

The foreman, after consultation, returned a verdict in that form on behalf of seven of the jurors.

The Advocate-General—Then the case stands as it is. I think section 302 must apply to it.

The Judge—I think, gentlemen, you had better retire again and see whether you can give a unanimous verdict.

The jury retired again, and on returning after a few minutes, the foreman said the verdict stood as it was before.

Martin Dwyer was removed from the jail and put in the Lunatic Asylum. Mr. Maltby who killed two natives, and became insane, was also treated in the same manner. He was carefully fed and tended in the Asylum at the expense of the tax-payers.

A Civil Surgeon attended him and often supped and dined with him, and his own servants were allowed to minister to his comforts. Dwyer, holding a position somewhat inferior to Mr. Maltby, could not claim to sup and dine with a Civil Surgeon, but he had the benefit of an apothecary to keep company with him. A few days after, Dwyer was sent home at the cost of the public.

A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE ROAD TO RUIN.—I.

SIR JOHN STRACHEY's reform, called the Decentralization scheme, was this. He wanted some portion of the revenues for imperial work, and left the Local Governments free to accumulate money by economy and other means. They were told that, if they succeeded in developing their resources, the benefit would be theirs and the

Supreme Government would not touch them. Thus encouraged, the Local Governments began to save and accumulate money with the laudable object of benefiting the people entrusted to their care. This was upwards of a quarter of a century ago.

Just about this time the Road Cess was imposed in Bengal, and a pledge given that the proceeds of this impost would be applied solely for "the immediate direct and palpable benefit" of the villagers. A few years after, the Famine Insurance Fund was created, and the Local Governments were relieved of the task of feeding the famished. The Supreme Government undertaking to do that noble duty. Local cesses with various names and with definite objects, were also imposed, and placed in the hands of the Local Governments, which thus expected to secure ample funds for the purpose of effecting domestic reforms in their respective provinces.

Lord Lytton, however, came, and quarrelled with the Afghans. The third Afghan War not only exhausted the Imperial exchequer, but led the Lytton Government to misappropriate the Famine Fund. This sacred fund, created for saving human beings, was thus utilized for the purpose of killing them in Afghanistan! The Afghan War landed us in the road which has gradually brought India to the verge of ruin. Referring to the Afghan War, Mr. Grant Duff said in a recent speech:—

The Afghan War cost some twenty millions, effected nothing, and has left a legacy of mischief of which we are far from having seen the end. All that we have done since we departed from the wise policy of Lord Lawrence on the North-West frontier, has been a mistake. One of its many bad effects has been the recent war, which has certainly not redounded to the credit of our statesmen.

Lord Ripon, for a time, put a check to the progress of the forward policy. But the Conservatives again came into power, Lord Dufferin was selected Viceroy of India because he knew Russia and would, therefore, be able to devise means for the protection of India against Russian invasion. Lord Dufferin's scheme was something like a huge wall extending from the Himalaya to the Arabian sea. He proposed to make a railway to Pishin, fortify the Khojak Pass and create a powerful post at Chumar, which would be the terminus of the rail. From thence a railway was to be made to Kandahar, which was to be connected with Kabul by another railway. Then, Peshwar was to be strongly fortified, and a strong post established at Jamrud, and a strategic line of rails was to be laid along the banks of the Indus, connecting the posts of Kohat, Dera Ismail Khan, Attock, &c. Some of these works were undertaken during his Viceroyalty, and others were left for his successors to accomplish. Of course, to carry out the idea of Lord Dufferin's Government in full, would require some thousand millions of pounds, but great minds never look to costs, especially when they come from others.

His successors of Lord Dufferin took up his plan for the defence of India in earnest, and sought to carry it out with an ardour beyond the sanguine expectation of the advocates of the forward policy. For at strategic points, however, required the construction of roads and railways, and the submission of wild tribes who have never been subjugated. The undertaking, therefore, resulted in an interminable war with the warlike savages living beyond the north-western borders of India.

The idea of the expenses incurred in conducting these trans-Himalayan expeditions, can never be adequately formed. It was, however, estimated that Lord Dufferin's scheme would cost no less than £80,000,000 for the present. Only for the present, mind that! Has the reader any notion what this huge sum means, the first budget of £80,000,000? We shall try to give a faint idea. Eighty millions sterling means upwards of one hundred crores of rupees. The amount is so very big that if one hundred crores of rupees could be placed one above the other, their edges, they would form a column of silver some five million feet high, or nearly two thousand times higher than Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world. The weight of the coins would come to sixty lakh maunds; in other words, it would require some three hundred thousand pairs of bullocks to move this mass of silver!

Add to the above the expenses of the war carried beyond the North-east of India. The Government of Lord Dufferin estimated that the cost of the Burman War would not exceed thirty lacs; but the amount came up to more than 10 crores! Thus the budget was exceeded by only fifteen times! So in India, the first budgets mean only one-fifteenth of the actual cost! The eighty millions, the first budget, therefore, mean only one-fifteenth of the actual cost which Government itself admitted, would be required to carry only a part of the plan of Lord Dufferin. But we had better stop here to-day. For, a sight of "the entire road to ruin" in one day may throw the rulers, and the people into hysterics.

A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE ROAD TO RUIN.—II.

In our another article we tried to give some idea of the huge sum spent on war and defence-works beyond the frontiers of India. The greater portion of the amount was wasted in the wilds of Afghanistan and border countries, either in winning over the savage tribes by subsidies, or constructing roads, railways and fortifications,

and maintaining garrisons. Many of these works which cost heavy sums, had to be abandoned or dismantled and fresh forts constructed at distant strategic points, to be abandoned again for the building of new fortifications elsewhere! In this way, many a tract, in the snow-clad ranges of the Himalayas, were actually "paved in gold dust," and prove the zeal though not discretion of our rulers.

Add to this the expenses incurred in keeping the soldiers, employed in the frontier expeditions, in comfort and luxury. Nothing was to be had in this "sea of rocks," and bread, butter, soda-water and whiskey, even potatoes, had to be sent up from thousands of feet below, to keep up the spirits of the officers and soldiers.

But though a mountain-load of money has been wasted, we are as far off from finding out the scientific frontier as we were in 1878. A better plan would have been to make our position impervious, by raising a stone-wall from Kurachee to Gilgit. At least, such a wall could have been erected with the treasures spent in carrying out the scheme of Lord Dufferin's Government.

Assuming that the gigantic preparations were necessary for the defence of the Empire, what was the duty of the authorities, knowing that India was a poor country and England wealthy, and both were equally interested in the protection of the Empire? We think what the authorities should have done was this: While demanding money from the ryots of India, the officials ought to have shown an example, by paying their share of the cost. And the British Government ought to have done the same thing, by bearing their share. But what was done was quite the contrary. The whole burden of the gigantic works was thrown upon the ryots of India.

In the meantime, the officials raised a clamour that the value of the rupee had gone down and they demanded an increase of pay. As they were themselves the masters of the country, they very naturally complied for their own demands, and again threw this burden upon the ryots of India.

The British Government also offered no help, but went on increasing its annual demands. When the East India Company ruled the country, England took only a few crores as tribute. When India passed into the hands of the Crown, the tribute was fixed at sixteen crores. The sixteen crores were converted into something like twenty-five. So the Indians, who had to pay some five or six crores in the beginning as tribute, have now to send out annually the produce of the country to the tune of 25 crores for the same purpose. Thus you see the Imperial country offered no help to carry out the gigantic works; but, on the other hand, it increased its demands upon India to an enormous extent.

The situation then stands thus. The demands made upon India for its protection from Russia, were enough to beggar a wealthy country, which unfortunately India is not. India had alone to meet them. The Home Government requires its yearly 25 crores in produce of the land, which likewise India must meet. The officials require increased pay; that too India must pay. India also must pay for the military undertakings of the India Government. Well, the India Government being subordinate has no help but to honour the cheques of the Home Government. So the India Government must find the 25 crores of the Home Government and also its own crores. The Imperial exchequer is not sufficient for these purposes; so, forgetting its previous promises, it falls upon the Local Governments and compels them to part with the savings which they had effected by economy and other means, and which, they were assured, they might spend for the good of their people.

Now whichever side you look to, it is starvation and poverty. There is scarcely money now to carry on the ordinary affairs of the Government. If you ask Sir J. Woodburn for some help in a necessary undertaking His Honour will tell you there is no money.

SIR HENRY FOWLER is the subject of criticism in the Indian newspapers. Unfortunately, there is nothing in their comments on his conduct, which can be pleasing to the late Secretary of State. Unfortunately, also, Sir Henry Fowler is a prominent member in the Liberal rank, from which alone we expect any hearing of our reasonable complaints. Mr. Caine in his public letters, has raised this question, and showed some good points in favour of Sir Henry. It is not very difficult to understand the motive which has led Mr. Caine to object to the manner in which the member for Bethnal Green is being universally blamed for his attitude towards India. It has been alleged that Mr. Caine is a personal friend of Sir Henry; that it pains him to see his friend thus abused; and it is to be friend his friend that he objects to this hostile attitude of the Indian press towards him (Sir Henry). But there is a simpler explanation of the motive of Mr. Caine. Does Sir Henry Fowler care much if he is abused by the Indian papers? The Indian papers cannot injure him in any way. It is not possible that Mr. Caine is in so much love with Sir Henry as not to be able to bear any unfavourable comments passed on his conduct. What Mr. Caine thinks is this. Sir Henry's feelings towards the aspirations of the Indians are not friendly; and as he is not a saint, the more the Indian papers abuse him the more unfriendly he is likely to become. Mr. Caine's object, as to lead Sir Henry Fowler to fee,

more kindly towards Indian aspirations than he does now. His only possible object can be to serve India and not Sir Henry Fowler, who does not need his services at all. It is quite true that Sir Henry is a personal friend of Mr. Caine; but the whole career of Mr. Caine will show that he loves his cause better than he loves his friends; and that if temperance is the cause which he had espoused in the beginning, the regeneration of India is also another on which he has set his heart. To think that Mr. Caine, who perhaps feels more for India than our warmest patriots, is trying to serve a friend who does not need his services, at the cost of India, is to make an astounding statement.

We understand that some members of the British Indian Association have agreed to support Sir A. Mackenzie's so-called Municipal reform on one condition. It is that one of the councillors of the twelve is to be a nominee of that body. This reminds us of a high-spirited answer which General Reed gave to the three British Commissioners who had gone to America in 1769 for an amicable settlement between the Colonists and the mother country. War was going on, and the Commissioners were sent with a view to put a stop to it, and come to an agreement with the Americans. These British Commissioners offered General Reed ten thousand pounds in cash and any office in the Colonies in His Majesty's gift if he (the General) could induce his countrymen to accept the British terms. In reply, General Reed said: "I am not worth purchasing; but such as I am, the king of Great Britain is not rich enough to do it."

THERE was great consternation in the High Court on the 17th instant when it came to be known that Mr. Justice O'Kinealy had rejected all the applications for revision of judgments of the subordinate courts (about a dozen in number), that were brought forward before his Lordship. Such a spectacle, it is believed, was never before witnessed in the court. Of course, there was mourning amongst the relatives and friends of those prisoners who had hoped to get their sentences cancelled or reduced by the High Court, and who, in addition to this mortification, had to pay their counsel heavily for nothing.

REMOURS are sometimes invented, and sometimes they are based upon a substratum of truth. It is believed that, as a rumour rolls on, it carries additional matter with it, and that the ball, if not checked in the beginning, assumes eventually gigantic proportions. Upon the fact that a man was vomiting a substance as black as a crow, was founded the rumour that the man had vomited crows. The rumour in the town is, that the British Indian Association has agreed to support the municipal "reform" of Sir A. Mackenzie, and that the Honble Mr. Risley has agreed to draft the memorial that is to be sent by that body. There are some grounds for believing the rumour to be true. One is that Mr. Risley has a tireless brain; and though occupied intellectually every waking minute of his life, in the performance of his onerous duties, he has yet energy to do works of love. His heart is, besides, kind. If the B.I. Association has none to draft a petition for it, and if the Secretary puts the fact frankly and fearfully before Mr. Risley, is it to be wondered at that his kind heart would be moved? Again, as we said, nothing pleases the Honble Mr. Risley as intellectual work. Besides, his talents are versatile. If he can support all the sections of the Municipal Bill in Council by irresistible arguments, he can also oppose some of them, which he had supported in Council, in equally irresistible manner in the draft petition, which, it is alleged, he has agreed to write. Such intellectual feats always give infinite pleasure to intellectual minds. Will the draft petition be submitted to the Association for the consideration of its members? For, it is likely that Mr. Risley may not undertake to write the petition at all if it is subjected to a humiliating examination. Or is it the custom of that learned body to pass a petition before it had been drafted? The probabilities are, however, that the rumour is a fiction, the invention of a wag or a monster who has no respect for his superiors. In the above we give those interested in the matter a hint to stop the progress and growth of the rumour.

VICOR HUGO in his "Les Miserables," while describing young Paris students, incidentally observes: "Of course, each had his mistress." Lord George Hamilton may put down the Hindus for barbarians; but his Lordship must admit that the French are as enlightened as his own nation is. We are told that each young Paris student has, as a matter of course, a mistress. But we challenge any one to show one such student amongst thousands in Calcutta. Add to this, that there is not one in ten thousands who touches drink or any intoxicating drug. There are a few who are addicted to tobacco, but their number is infinitesimal. If by a civilized nation is meant a moral nation, the Hindus are much more civilized than the French. Possibly Lord George Hamilton means by a civilized people those who are highly intellectual. His Lordship ought, however, to remember the different plans devised to keep the Indians out of the Civil Service. The age of the

candidates was lowered simply with a view to prevent the Hindus from crossing the ocean and competing with English youths in their own language, literature, and science. It is absurd to say that the Hindus are less intellectual than the civilized people of the West. Of course, the Hindus cannot fight, and that is perhaps the ground upon which his Lordship based his opinion that they were barbarians. If that be the case, his Lordship must be an ardent soldier. We read in Scott that the nobility in Scotland, in days gone by, treated men who could read and write with utter contempt. They thought that the only worthy men in the world were those who could fight.

The Pioneer has the following:—

Sir Arthur Havelock gave some very plain advice to the Tanjore people who complained of the disabilities of British Indians in South Africa: "If natives of Tanjore," said His Excellency, "find they suffer in South Africa disabilities they cannot endure, their best course will be to refrain from going to South Africa," which is precisely what we said since this question assumed the importance of a colonial problem.

When the Governor of Madras gave the above advice, he evidently forgot certain well-known circumstances. The Indians are a proverbially home-loving people. When the Hindus or the Mussalmans ruled India, they never migrated to a foreign country. And why? Because their wants were few, and they had plenty to eat at home. All this has been changed with the advent of the English in this country. If they now go to Natal, it is because hunger drives them there. According to the official estimate, some six millions of people died of starvation in Madras during the last great famine. Even now, many districts in Madras have not been able to recover from the effects of this famine. Let Sir Arthur Havelock provide his people with sufficient food, and they will not trouble him with the Natal question.

We beg to draw the special attention of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the letter of our correspondent, "A Sufferer," relating to the disarmament of Backergunj. When the people of Barrisal approached him with a memorial recently for the withdrawal of this barbarous measure, Sir John Woodburn was pleased to reply that he did not see his way to grant their prayer. Of course, he gave his reasons for his inability to comply with their request; but they were put into his mouth by the local officials and he uttered them without having an opportunity of examining whether what he was made to say was actually correct or not. One of the grounds urged in favour of the retention of the measure, was that the wholesale cancellation of gun-licenses had resulted in the decrease of murders. This statement is, however, challenged by the people, who hold that the decrease of murders is due to the vigorous measures, adopted under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and the deputation of four special Police Inspectors. At least, the fact is indisputable that most of these gun-shot murders were committed by unlicensed guns, and the cancellation of gun-licenses had thus very little to do with the crime. But the evils which have resulted from the measure are direct, palpable and serious. Our correspondent points out two: First, the crops of villagers have been destroyed by wild animals to an extent unheard of previous to the introduction of the measure; secondly, wild boars and leopards have begun to attack people in the very heart of the town. Nay, says our correspondent, a leopard of a tolerably big size appeared recently in the streets in broad daylight, and after wounding three persons, was at last shot dead by the Magistrate. A few cases of leopards sitting or roaming about the town, are also reported by people who have to go out in the night on business. It does not stand to reason that, because some badmashes took it into their head to kill some persons with unlicensed guns, therefore, the privilege of bearing arms should be withdrawn from the entire people of the district, though they need the use of guns absolutely for the protection of their crops and lives. We trust, His Honour will reconsider the matter and relieve the inhabitants of Backergunj from the serious disability imposed upon them by the late Government.

Our correspondent "G" objects to call *murchana* "continuous tone," which we had used in our paragraph on Hindu music the other day. The term "continuous tone" was used for the first time by Babu Shishir Kumar Ghose many years ago—the Thakoor family had not then come to the front as patrons of Hindu music—in a lecture in English which he delivered on Hindu music under the presidency of Babu Keshub Chander Sen in the hall of the Adi-Brahmo Samaj. He used the term in lieu of a better one, which has since been adopted by others. The sublime art of Hindu music is declining, mainly because the present rulers of the country do not encourage it. The Mussalman sovereigns in this matter did much better. When they came to the country, they found the art in the highest state of efficiency; and they patronised it in a right royal manner. The Mussalman historian of Ayeen Akbari thus eloquently refers to the power of this art:—

I cannot sufficiently describe the wonderful power of this talisman of knowledge (music.)

It sometimes causes the beautiful creatures of the harem of the heart to shine forth on the tongue, and sometimes appears in solemn strains by means of the hand and the chord. The melodies then enter through the window of the ear and return to their former seat, the heart, bringing with them thousands of presents. The hearers, according to their insight, are moved to sorrow or to joy. Music is thus of use to those who have renounced the world, and to such as still cling to it.

The historian gives the names of thirty-six musicians who adorned the court of Akbar the Great, the chief of whom was Tansen, and second in rank was Baba Ramdas. It is stated in that book that "a singer like Tansen has not been in India for the last thousand years." It is curious to note that the majority of these musicians came from Gwalior. Raja Ram of Rewa seduced Tansen from the court of Akbar and paid him a crore of rupees, some say, fifty lakhs! But Akbar was so inconsolable at the loss of Tansen that he induced the musician to come back to him again. What will Lord Elgin think of paying a crore of rupees to a Hindu musician? Thus Akbar had thirty-six musicians in his pay. How many the present Akbar of India, Lord Elgin, has? The Hindu music will go on decaying till it attracts the attention of an Englishman, powerful enough to be able to lead his countrymen to study it. But Englishmen now take no notice of the art, as it was developed in this country. Satisfied with their undeveloped and barbarous music, which is so gross as to be without quarter-tones and continuous tones, they do not choose to go beyond it, to see whether others have anything better. We hope, the Sangit Samaj will be able to give a lift to the art.

"I ATTACH the greatest importance to the construction of irrigation works," said the Governor of Madras in replying to the address of the people of Trichinopoly. And His Excellency held out the hope that the two schemes of the very largest description which the Government now have in mind, are, first of all, the Bhawani scheme, which will largely affect the scope of the Kaveri Irrigation system, and secondly, a scheme for utilizing the surplus waters of the Tungabhadra river. Millions of tons of water from that river flowing through the Kistna into the sea, run to waste. The Governor said that his Government are now making their best endeavours to elaborate some scheme whereby this waste may be turned to use in the regions of Bellary, which are subject to famines. We, the other day, suggested well-irrigation in Bengal. The well irrigation has this advantage over the canal. The canal irrigation brings on malarial fever with it. Arrah was at one time one of the healthiest places in India. Malaria, in a virulent form has, however, entered that portion of the district where the system of canal irrigation has been introduced. It has also been found from experience that canal water is not always beneficial to the growth of the crops. Then again, well-water, as a rule, is purer than canal water, and, therefore, fit for drinking purposes. As regards cost, the digging of wells is within the means of the District Boards; but the construction of canals is scarcely so. Considering all these circumstances, we prefer well to canal irrigation, though, of course, there are tracts here and there in Bengal where canals can be excavated with advantage. We find that Babu Anurup Chander Mukherjee is agitating this question in the *Indian Mirror*. We should be glad if he could communicate with us.

In an able article, the *Indian Empire* discusses the question of a leader for the Bengalee nation. First, what is a nation? A nation means a good many people having a common centre to rally round. Thus, it is love of country, which makes a nation—and sometimes love, of religion. Individuals also create nations—individuals, powerful enough to be able to hypnotize a large number of people. We said, when the National Congress was organized, that its chief function was not so much to move Parliament as to develop a leader. Parnell did not create new forces in Ireland, but only brought them together for a common object and thus made the Irish, though a subject race, a potent factor in the Government of the British Empire. Of course, leaders cannot be created, but they can be developed. Parnell was a born leader, but he could have yet done nothing without loyal support. What the Congress has to do to grow, nay, to exist, is to develop a leader, entrusted with dictatorial powers. When the Congress can succeed in carrying out this idea, Indians will then become a nation.

BABU NANDA KRISHNA BOSE, Magistrate of Dinapore, recently sent to the office of the *Sahitya Parishad Patrika* two copper-plates, one of which bears, in high relief, the inscription of King Madanpal of Gour. The plate has been deciphered and translated into Bengali by the well-known antiquarian, Babu Nagendra Nath Bose, who also edits the above-named quarterly. It seems to be an important discovery as it throws considerable new light on the history of the Pal dynasty of Gour.

ON Thursday a serious landslide occurred above the Brewery at Naini Tal. The upper buildings are wrecked, and a European Assistant, Mr. Beechey, is reported to be killed. Other slips appear imminent.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

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THE WEATHER.—The latest weather reports preface a general increase in rainfall. Conditions at the head of the Bay of Bengal denote a fresh depression.

H. E'S BURMA TOUR.—Lord Elgin's tour to Burma will probably extend well into the northern districts, in fact as far as the railway goes, which is to Myitkin on the Upper Irrawaddy. The Gokteik Gorge on the Mandalay-Kunlon Railway may also be visited, and Moulmein, if time permits.

EARTHQUAKE AT MYMENSING.—A slight shock of earthquake was felt at Mymensing on Monday night, at 10 minutes to eleven. It lasted not more than five seconds. There was heavy rain on at the time, and it had rained all the day. The direction seemed to be from North to South; no injury has been caused to property or life.

PENSION.—A Rajipore correspondent writes: "The Government of India has granted a pension of Rs. 8-8 tenable for twelve years, to the eldest son of Babu Haripada Mitter, a clerk of the Commissariat Department (of this village), who died at Kohat in November last of dysentery contracted on field service."

CATTLE DISEASE.—Our Madhubani correspondent writes: "A peculiar kind of cattle disease has broken out here. The animal purges blood several times and then dies in course of a few hours. The cattle doctors say it is a sort of small-pox proving fatal to the bovine species."

CONFERRING OF TITLE.—The President of the French Republic, by decision of the 14th May, 1898, has conferred the title of the *Chevalier de L'Ordre du Chambodge* on Mr. Nondal Bhorlacting Chanceller of the French Consulate General at Calcutta, for services rendered to the Government of the French Republic.

RISHRA RIOTS.—On Tuesday Babu Brajendra Kumar Sil, District and Sessions Judge of Hooghly, concluded the Rishra rioting case against the Mahomedans. The accused were found not guilty by the jury and acquitted. The Hindus in the counter case, who were convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment at Serampore, have had their appeals dismissed by the Sessions Judge.

A SCENE IN COURT.—Great excitement prevailed in the Police Court on Friday owing to a Chinese lady having fainted away. The name of the lady is Mrs. Allen, the well-known photographer of Dhurumtollah Street. She was a witness in a case pending before the Chief Presidency Magistrate, and, whilst being examined, was subject to epileptic fits. A policeman was close by and held her from falling down and placed her on a chair. One attack followed another in quick succession, and she was taken out to the verandah, the Magistrate himself rendering such assistance as he could. Subsequently she was removed to her house, and the case was adjourned.

THE NEW RUPEE LOAN.—The *Pioneer* says:—With money abnormally cheap and the Government Treasuries well filled, Sir James Westland has seized the opportunity to issue the new rupee loan of 120 lakhs at a minimum price of 94-4. In other words, when there was no obvious need to raise a loan at all, and when, if a loan was to be raised, there was an excellent opportunity for the Finance Member to stand out for good terms, help to rescue Government securities from the slough of depression in which they have long been plunged, and demonstrate to the money market the confidence of Government in their own financial policy, Sir James Westland has deliberately adopted a procedure, which will probably intensify the existing depression and confirm the feelings of misgiving and distrust with which the commercial community have unfortunately come to regard the prospects of Indian finance. If it is asked why the Finance Member has taken this course, we can only answer with the clown in *Hamlet*: "Mass, I do not know." How different is the position from that of 1896, when the 3 per cent loan was floated at 103-8.

THE PLAGUE COMMISSION.—Mr. J. W. Meares, Electrical Engineer and Inspector of Electricity, has been appointed to be Secretary to the Plague Commission, in the room of Mr. E. R. Gardiner.

THE NOTE FORGERY CASE.—(Empress vs. Ram Gopal Singh and another.)—The hearing of this case in which the prisoners stood charged with having in possession of forged notes knowing them to be forged, was resumed on the 18th instant before Mr. Justice Jenkins and a Common Jury. After further evidence had been gone into, his Lordship summed up and the jury returned a unanimous verdict of guilty. His Lordship sentenced the prisoners to six years' rigorous imprisonment each.

MR. STEVENS' PORTRAIT.—A life-sized portrait of Mr. C. C. Stevens, late Senior Member of the Board of Revenue, and for a time Officiating Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, reached Calcutta by the P. and O. Company's steamer *Palawan* on Tuesday. It has been sent out for the Bengal Zemindary, Punchayet, who subscribed for it as a token of their esteem for Mr. Stevens, and in acknowledgment of the interest he took in the affairs of the landholders of the Province. The painting will be placed in the Town Hall and the Lieutenant-Governor will be asked to unveil it on his return from Darjeeling. The painting was viewed by Mr. and Mrs. Stevens before it left the artist's studio in London, and is pronounced a striking likeness.

PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

FROM Tuesday the 16th instant to Thursday the 18th instant there was no fresh case and no death. Thus the total of "true cases" up to the 18th continue at 212 and deaths 175.

The returns in Karachi for the 18th show one case and no deaths.

THERE were 25 attacks and 21 deaths in Bombay on Thursday.

Six cases and one death were reported at Bhor on Thursday.

PLAGUE is also increasing in Katwadi, Tokarpur, Akalkote, Kondi, and Akola, of the Sholapur District.

A FRESH case has occurred in the village of Garhi, in the Hoshiarpore District, in the Punjab.

THE village of Gaundad in Sangli State has been severely attacked by plague, and dead rats have been found in several houses.

PLAGUE has also broken out in Chikodi, Gokak, Sampang and Khanagon, in the Belgaum Collectorate.

IT is reported that 300 prisoners in the Thanna Jail will be removed to the Lunatic Asylum owing to the prevalence of plague.

THE Bombay Corporation have resolved to advertise for tenders for a loan of forty-nine lakhs, of which twenty lakhs are to cover plague expenditure.

Two fresh cases of plague were reported from Bangalore City on Thursday. Colonel Robertson, the British Resident, visited the segregation camp, and saw that precautionary measures had been taken to localise and suppress the outbreak.

The total number of persons examined and detained during the week ending the 7th of August at the respective camps of Chakradharpur (down trains), Chousa (down trains), Chousa (down River Inspection), Mairwa (down trains) and Khurda, were as follows:—Number of persons examined during the week from Monday to Sunday—793; 6,525; 505; 2,712 and 2,005; total 12,540. Number of persons examined since the plague observation camps were opened—22,125; 266,054; 2,058; 45,865, and 82,863; total 4,18,905. Number of suspects detained during the week: 208; 239; 1; 4 and 116, total 568. Number of suspects detained since the camps were opened—1,777; 7,096; 3,736 and 2,431; total 12,013. Number of persons detained in the camp during the week—514; 239; 1; 4 and 132; total 887.

An official paper has just been issued in Simla, relating to the plague statistics since it broke out in Bombay nearly two years ago. The total number of deaths is shown to be a little over a lakh; and it is openly hinted that owing to concealment of cases, this figure is short of the actual number. Nearly 28,000 of reported deaths occurred in Bombay City, and over 69,000 more in the rest of the Bombay Presidency and Sind. The number of reported deaths in the Punjab is just over 2,000, and in Hyderabad State just over 1,000. The reported mortality in Calcutta is over 150. The epidemic was most severe in March and April, 1897, and from November, 1897, to March, 1898. In each year, the plague has declined in the dry, hot weather of April, May, and June, and risen towards the end of August and September, and gained strength during the progress of the cold weather. Besides Bombay City, the towns of Karachi, Poona, Surat, Sholapur, and other places suffered severely; and the Native States of Baroda, Cutch, Kolhapur, and Palanpur have been visited. Other parts of India which have been affected, are the western part of Hyderabad State, portions of Jullundur and Hoshiarpore districts in the Punjab, the town of Hurdwar and neighbourhood, in the North-Western Provinces, a few villages in Sirhoi State, Rajputana and lastly Calcutta. The comparatively low mortality of June and July has increased lately and about 2,500 deaths were reported during the first half of this month. At present the disease is confined to the Bombay Presidency, Bombay City and Belgaum, Dharwar, Surat and Thana districts, being most affected. Outside the Bombay Presidency, Calcutta is the only place affected, though an isolated case has been reported from the Punjab and two imported cases in Madras.

MR. S. R. TURNBULL has been elected by the Madras Chamber of Commerce for nomination in the local Legislative Council.

THE Hon'ble F. A. Nicholson will act as Resident at Travancore during Mr. J. D. Rees' furlough for one year.

LORD SANDHURST has for the present abandoned his projected visit to Simla, as His Excellency intends paying a short visit to several districts in the Deccan and Southern India, where plague is most rife.

Zulu Intelligence.

HIGH COURT: CRIMINAL BENCH.

—AUGUST 19.

(Before Justices O'Kinealy and Henderson.)

AN IMPROPER PROCEEDING.

MR. E. L. ROY with Babu Lal Mohan Ganguli appeared in support of a rule obtained by two persons, Madan Mohan Sing and Banali Mandal, upon the District Magistrate of Bhagalpore, to show cause why the order, directing the police to send up an A form against the petitioners, and issuing warrants against them, should not be set aside. The facts of the case are shortly these: One Zalim Mondar filed a petition of complaint before Mr. Hammond, Assistant Magistrate of Bhagalpore, charging the petitioners and some others with having committed offences under section 147, 379, 447 and 352 I.P.C., and the Assistant Magistrate ordered a police enquiry. The police, after enquiry, sent in a report in C form and subsequently the trying Magistrate, Roy Saroda Prasad Chatterjee, ordered notice to issue upon the complainant, Zalim Mondar, to show cause why he should not be prosecuted under Section 211 I.P.C. Eventually this case under section 211 I.P.C. was transferred to the court of Mouli Gowan Ali for trial. The latter, however, instead of trying the case transferred to him, took cognizance of the original complaint of Zalim Mondar against the petitioners and passed the aforesaid order against the latter. Thereupon the petitioners moved the High Court.

Their Lordships, after hearing Mr. Roy, passed the following order: The circumstances attending this litigation are somewhat peculiar. The case against the petitioners was sent in under a C form as not true, and the Magistrate of the district attempted to take evidence from the complainant in regard to the truth or falsity of the case. Ultimately he sent the case over for trial to the Deputy Magistrate, who has no power to take an original complaint. The Deputy Magistrate had to try the case which was made over to him for disposal, namely, the case under section 211 I.P.C. against the complainant, but, instead of doing that, he issued warrants against the petitioners, who were original defendants which he had no right to do. The result is that all the proceedings must be set aside, and the main case, i.e., the case under section 211 I.P.C. which was sent to the Deputy Magistrate by the Magistrate, must go back to him for disposal, and he must either acquit or convict as the case may be. The rule is made absolute.

HIGH COURT: CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

—AUGUST 19.

(Before Mr. Justice Jenkins and a Common Jury.)

ALLEGED FORGERY.

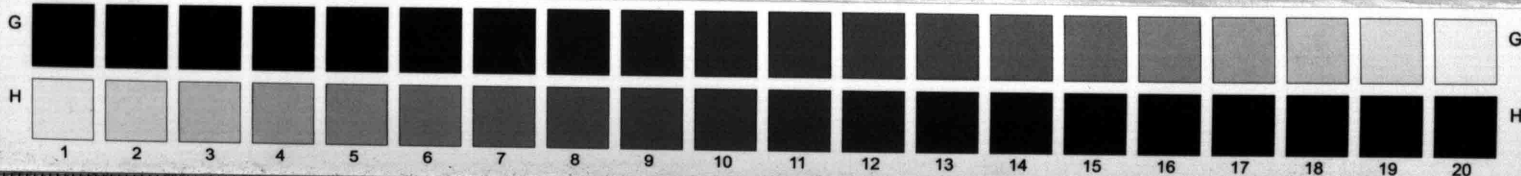
EMPRESS vs. RAM GOPAL SING.—The prisoner who was the second accused in yesterday's note forgery case and who was sentenced to six years' rigorous imprisonment, was again put up to-day in connection with another note forgery case. This case was, however, not proceeded with as the Advocate-General entered a *note prosequi*. The accused was accordingly discharged.

CHEATING.

EMPRESS vs. BUNKIM CHUNDER MUKERJI.—The accused stood charged with six counts of forgery and cheating. The Government withdrew the prosecution with regard to the first four charges, and the prisoner was charged only with cheating and attempt at cheating. On the advice of his counsel, Mr. A. C. Banerjee, the prisoner pleaded guilty. Mr. Banerjee said that the prisoner was a young man and came from a respectable family. Lately he had shown signs of aberrations and, although he had no legal evidence to show that the prisoner was insane at the time of committing the offence, yet he mentioned all these facts to show that he did not deserve to be treated as an ordinary criminal. Counsel hoped his Lordship would pass a mild sentence upon the prisoner.

His Lordship sentenced the prisoner to two years' rigorous imprisonment.

THE *Tribune* Says:—While cordially approving of the decision of the Government of India in the Gurdi Singh case, we must as unreservedly condemn the action of the Local Government in employing the police to procure evidence against the suspected officer. We do not think there is any precedent of such a course, and we should deeply regret its being followed in future. In a case in which a public officer is accused of accepting or extorting illegal gratification, not a single witness should be produced who can rightly or wrongly allege that he was induced or compelled by a police officer or some policemen to make a statement prejudicial to the officer accused. The police should be kept out of such a case altogether. The most widely known case of recent times is that of Mr. Crawford, the Bombay Civilian. He became so notorious that other civilians refused to serve under him. There were countless charges of bribery against him, though they were not considered proved afterwards, perhaps because the police were not employed by the Bombay Government. The entire evidence was obtained departmentally without the assistance of the police. When Mr. Crawford was taken before a Magistrate and afterwards before the Commission the conduct of the charges for the prosecution were openly placed in the hands of a civilian specially appointed Inspector-General of Police for the occasion. The defence took several lines, but the police did not come in at any stage of the trial. Mr. Fordyce, a Deputy Magistrate in Bengal, was tried on charges of bribery by a Commission, but the assistance of the police was never requisitioned by the Bengal Government. Even in the present case sufficient evidence would have been found to ensure Sardar Gurdi Singh's dismissal without the help of the police, and we think the Punjab Government committed a grave error of judgment in deputing any police officer to gather the evidence for the prosecution.



Correspondence.

THE GOURANGO SAMAJ.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—There will be started, after all, an association called the Gourango Samaj. Such an association must be hailed with delight: it is of paramount importance, as it will, no doubt, humanise the diverse races in and out of Bengal. Sree Gourango was the Great Teacher of *Prem* and *Bhakti*. He it was, who preached the noble doctrines of universal brotherhood and universal love. He it was, in whom Divine force found a fit abode to successfully combat the powerful forces of false religion and irreligion that then ruled rampant. He it was, who turned the minds of hundreds and thousands—educated and uneducated, rich and poor, young and old—towards that sweet religion which has been ruling the hearts of hundreds till now. To us Bengalees, who are proud possessors of feeling hearts, Sree Gourango's teachings are of special value, as they are more beneficent, efficacious and easily comprehensible than *gyan* and dry philosophy. And perhaps this is why Sree Gourango re-incarnated himself in Bengal and lived and preached as a Bengalee—as one of us. Verily, His teachings are of vital interest to those who possess feeling hearts and would cultivate the emotional nature in them to attain the greatly-prized goal. The organisers of the association, therefore, deserve special thanks of the religiously-inclined. Free membership in a poor country like ours and publication of cheap and withal well-edited *Baishnab* literature, must commend themselves to all right-thinking persons.

AMRITA KRISHNA MULLICK,

Pleaser, S. C. Court.

A BAD ROAD.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—There is a *pecca*, road, upwards of 5 miles in length, which, issuing from the Calcutta, Jessore road, passes through villages, Kadihatti, Gopalpore, Raigachi, Kagalparah, Rajarhat, &c., and terminates in the village of Bishnupore. This road is under the District Board; and the yearly petty as well as thorough repairs are done by contractors. The road at this time particularly becomes so very bad that it is dangerous to carriages and carts, nay, the foot-passengers, to go through it even in day-light. The same is the case with the road this year too. The heavy showers of rain have washed away the shooriki and the wheels of carriages and carts have dug out cavities, deep enough to reach up to the knee; and it is really very difficult to pass over them without danger. On the night of last Wednesday, a merchant of Bishnupore, was on his way back home on a cart, loaded with merchandise. Near Rajarhat, as the wheel of the cart fell into one of the cavities, the merchant was thrown down by the jerking of the cart, just beneath one of the wheels, which ran over him, causing his death on the spot. The repairing is undertaken very late as in this year, and the wretched condition of the road is chiefly due to this. If the repairing is taken in hand in proper time, there may be no waste of labour and rubbles. The thorough repairs in this year are being done so badly that the road is likely to come to its former condition very soon. The road is not properly rolled.

PHANI BHUSAN MITRA.

DURING the past year, the actual supply of Indian emigrants for Mauritius and the West Indies was 7,378. Nine per cent. of the emigrants were recruited in Bengal, 10 per cent. in Behar, 56 in the N. W. P., and 24 in Oudh. The returned emigrants numbered 3,750. The aggregate ascertained savings amounted to Rs. 4,51,863, the average per head being Rs. 120.

OUR Bankipur correspondent informs that Mr. L. O'Reilly has not been appointed Engineer-Secretary to the Patna Municipality. The meeting of the Municipal Commissioners, as notified, was held on the morning of the 17th instant; but it resulted only in its being adjourned for a fortnight, with an understanding between the majority of the Commissioners and the Chairman that the whole subject of the appointment be again opened and discussed thoroughly.

An experiment of some interest has lately been going on at the Government Botanical Gardens, Saharanpore. Everybody knows how difficult it is in Upper India to procure good vegetables for the table except during a very short period of the year when good things are "in season." In the few months which constitute our cold weather, market gardeners all over these Provinces can produce luxuriant supplies of European vegetables, but the advent of April is the signal for a general cessation of supplies, and for many long months good table vegetables remain extremely scarce. Now if one could successfully dry and tin up the surplus produce of the cold weather for use in the hot weather and the rains, the imported canned vegetable at present so largely resorted to might well be dispensed with. But can this be done? That question the Superintendent of our local "Kew" is at present engaged in answering, and there is some reason to anticipate that the result will be sufficiently favourable. One of Ryder's evaporators—an American invention—has been installed at the Saharanpore gardens, and early specimens of the products were recently submitted for expert opinion. As one can well imagine the first results were not brilliantly successful, but, on the other hand, they were certainly not discouraging. Not vegetable alone but fruits also were included in the first series of experiments, but only the former yielded promising returns. Dried local fruit, it would seem, can never compete favourably with fresh fruit or with the superior imported article. As regards vegetables the results of the next series of experiments under conditions which will be greatly improved, may be expected to demonstrate the practicability of the drying process. It need hardly be added that the object of the Government in conducting these experiments is not to devise new means of augmenting the provincial revenues but to show whether evaporation can be made a commercial success. If this fact is established the Government will leave it to private enterprise to develop the industry.—*Pioneer*.

THE CHRISTIAN TEACHING.

(By Count Leo Tolstoy)

PART THE THIRD.

SNARES.

133. THE pernicious consequences of sins, both to those who commit them, and to the society in which they are committed, are so evident that from the earliest times, seeing these calamitous consequences, men have preached and legislated against sins, and punished those who have committed them. Theft, murder, dissoluteness, slander, and drunkenness have been forbidden, but, notwithstanding, the prohibitions and punishments, men have continued, and do continue, to sin, destroying their own lives and those of their fellows.

134. This arises from the fact that for the justification of sins, there exist false arguments according to which there would appear to be exceptional circumstances, rendering sins not only excusable, but even necessary. These false justifications may be called "snares."

135. A snare—(Greek, "scandalos")—signifies a trap; and, indeed, a moral snare is a trap, into which a man is enticed by the similitude of good, and in which, when caught, he perishes. Thus it is said in the Gospel that snares (causes of stumbling) must come into the world, but woe to the world because of them, and woe to him through whom they come.

136. It is in consequence of these snares these deceptive justifications that men do not turn from their sins, but continue in them, and, worst of all, inculcate them to their posterity.

XXV. THE ORIGIN OF SNARES.

137. The birth of a man to the new life is not accomplished at once, but like the physical birth, by degrees. The pangs of birth alternate with pauses and reversions to the former position—manifestations of spiritual life alternate with manifestations of animal life; man now gives himself up to the service of God, and in it finds his welfare; now returns to personal life, seeks the welfare of his separate being, and commits sins.

138. Having committed sin, man becomes conscious of the want of harmony between the act performed and the demands of conscience. As long as he only desires to commit sin, this discord is not fully evident; but as soon as the sin is committed the discord is revealed, and man wishes to end it.

139. It is only possible to end the discord of the act, and the position into which man has entered through sin, by using one's reason to find a justification for the act and the position.

140. This justification of the contradiction between sin and the demands of the spiritual life can only be achieved by explaining one's sins as the result of the demands of the spiritual life. This is precisely what men do. And by this mental exercise ensnare themselves.

141. From the time when the contradiction between the animal and the spiritual life was revealed to men, from the time when man began to commit sins, he began also to devise justifications of sins—i.e., snares. There have, therefore, been established among men identical traditional justifications, or snares; so that a man need not himself devise justifications for his sins, for the snares are already invented, and he has but to accept them ready-made.

XXVI. THE CLASSIFICATION OF SNARES.

142. There are five snares which ruin men: the personal snare, or snare of preparation; the family snare, or snare of the continuation of the race; the snare of activity, or utility; the snare of fellowship, or fidelity; and the State snare, or snare of the general good.

143. The individual snare, or snare of preparation, consists in man, while committing sins, justifying himself by the consideration that he is preparing for an activity which will be useful to him in the future.

144. The family snare, or snare of the continuation of the race, consists in a man justifying himself on the ground of his children's welfare.

145. The snare of activity, or utility, consists in a man justifying his sins by urging the necessity of continuing or completing some work, already begun, which shall be useful to men.

146. The snare of fellowship, or fidelity, consists in the justification of man's sins by the consideration of the welfare of those with whom he is in some special relationship.

147. The State snare, or snare of the general good, consists in men justifying the sins they commit by the consideration of the welfare of a number of people, of a nation, or humanity. This snare was expressed by Caiaphas, when he demanded the execution of Christ in the name of the welfare of many.

XXVII. THE PERSONAL SNARE OR SNARE OF PREPARATION.

148. "I know the meaning of my life is not in service of self, but in service of God or man," says the man who has fallen into this snare, but, in order that his service may be effectual, should certain deceptions from the demands of conscience be necessary, for that perfecting which will prepare me for a future useful activity, I will admit, I must first acquire knowledge, finish my term of service, re-establish my health, marry, secure a livelihood for the future, and while attaining these ends I cannot fully obey the demands of conscience; but having accomplished this I will then begin to live exactly as my conscience demands.

149. And, having admitted the necessity of looking after his personal life, for the sake of the greater, more effectual service of men and the manifestation of love in the future, man serves his own person, committing sins. He commits sensual sin, the sin of idleness, of property, of ambition, and even of depravity and intoxication, not regarding it as a matter of importance because the indulgence in it is only temporary during the time that all his powers are directed to preparing for his future active service of men.

150. But, having begun to serve his person—protecting, strengthening, perfecting it—man naturally forgets the object for which he is doing so, and gives up his best years, sometimes his whole life, to preparing himself for a service which he never performs.

151. In the meanwhile the sins he has allowed himself to commit, for a good object become more and more habitual; and, in place of the supposed useful activity for others, he passes his whole life in sins which ruin it, and by serving as a temptation to other men, injure them, also. This constitutes the snare of preparation.

XXVIII. THE FAMILY SNARE, OR THE CONTINUATION OF THE RACE.

152. People, especially women, entering upon family life, are liable to think that love for their family, for their children, is exactly what reasonable consciousness demands of them; and that therefore should one have to commit sins to satisfy the needs of the family such sins are excusable.

153. And, convinced of this, such people think it possible in the name of family love, not only to release themselves from the demands of justice towards others, but, with the certainty that they are acting rightly, to commit, for the sake of their children's welfare, the grossest cruelties towards others.

154. "If I had no wife, husband, children," say those who have fallen into this snare, "I would live quite differently, and would not commit these sins, but the education of my children being necessary I cannot now live otherwise. If we did not live thus, if we refrained from these sins, the human race would cease."

155. And, thus arguing, not seeing the evil he is doing, a man will quietly take from others the result of their labour, compel them to labour to the detriment of their life, deprive them of their land, and—most striking example of all—will rob a child of its milk, in order that its mother may feed his child. This constitutes the family snare, or the snare of the continuation of the race.

XXIX. THE SNARE OF ACTIVITY.

156. Man is by nature, obliged to exercise his mental and physical powers, and with this object chooses a certain activity.

157. Every activity demands the performance of certain actions at certain times, and if these are not performed in their season, useful work is destroyed without benefit to anyone.

158. Those who have fallen into this snare say: "Must I finish harrowing my field which is already sown; unless I do this, both seed and labour will be lost without advantage to anyone; I must finish a certain work with a certain time, for should I not finish it work which might have been useful will be lost; I have a factory which produces articles necessary to man, and affords employment for ten thousand workmen; if I interrupt the work, the goods will not be manufactured, and the men will be thrown out of employment."

159. And having argued thus, a man not only does not leave his field unharrowed in order to rescue his neighbour's horse from a swamp, but is ready to take advantage of his neighbour's misfortune to finish it. Not only does he decline to leave urgent work so that he may sit for a day by a sick man's bedside, but he is ready to withdraw another man from nursing an invalid merely in order that his own appointed work may be finished. He not only does not stop the work of his factory, which is destroying men's health; but he is even ready to sacrifice the health of several generations, in order that saleable goods may be produced. This constitutes the snare of activity or utility.

XXX. THE SNARE OF FELLOWSHIP.

160. Having casually or artificially entered into certain common conditions, people are inclined to join with others in the same conditions, and separate themselves from other men, and to think their duty requires them to disregard the dictates of conscience for the benefit of those similarly conditioned men. Not only do they prefer the interests of these "their own" to the interests of others, but they even injure other men in order not to violate fidelity to "their own."

161. "The deeds of these people are obviously evil, but they are our companions, and therefore their iniquities must be hidden, justified. What I am asked to do is evil, senseless; but all my companions have decided on it, and I cannot stand aloof. It may cause suffering and calamity to others, but for us and our fellowship it will be pleasant, therefore it must be done."

162. There are various fellowships, of this nature. Of such are the fellowships of murderers or thieves, deeming fidelity to their companions in crime more binding than loyalty to their conscience, which condemns the deed; the fellowships of pupils in educational establishments, of communities of workers, of regiments, scientists, clergy, kings, nations.

163. All these men regard fidelity to the regulations of their fellowships as more binding than their faithfulness to the dictates of conscience with regard to their conduct towards other men. This is the snare of companionship, or fidelity.

164. The peculiarity of this snare is that the wildest and most senseless acts are committed in its name, such as dressing one-self up in peculiar garments, and attributing to them a special importance. In its name also men poison themselves with wine and beer; and by exciting hostility between different fellowships, it frequently causes dreadfully cruel deeds, fights, duels, murders, and so forth.

XXXI. THE SNARE OF THE STATE.

165. Men live in a certain social organisation and this organisation (like everything else in this world) continually changes with the development of consciousness in man.

166. But people, especially those for whom the existing order is more advantageous than for others (and there always are such) regard the existing order as conducive to the welfare of all. Therefore, for the sake of this welfare they not only deem it allowable to act unlovingly towards certain people, but also believe it to be just and good to commit the grossest iniquities so that the existing order may be maintained.

167. Men have instituted the right of property, and some possess land and the means of production, while others have neither. And this unjust possession of land and the means of production by those who do not work is regarded as the order which must be maintained and in the interests of which it is believed to be just and good to imprison and execute those who infringe this order. So also, lest a neighbouring nation or sovereign should attack or subdue our nation, and abolish or change the established order, it is thought just and good, not only to co-operate in the organisation of the army, but to be oneself prepared to murder men of another nationality, and actually to go and slay them.

168. This snare is peculiar in that, whereas the demands of the first four snares men transgress commit evil deeds; in the name of the State snare are committed most awful collective iniquities, such as executions and wars; and most cruel crimes against the masses, such as slavery, in the past, and the withholding of the land from the labourers in the present. Men would be unable to commit these iniquities had they not invented certain combinations by means of which the responsibility is so distributed that no one feels its weight.

169. This distribution of responsibility is accomplished by the acknowledgment of the necessity of an authority to ordain these crimes for the benefit of those under its rule; so that for the sake of the common welfare, its subjects must obey the injunctions of authority.

170. Those in authority say, "I much regret being obliged to order the appropriation of the products of labour, to commit men to prison, exile, penal servitude, to exact the penalty of death, to wage wars—but it is my duty to act thus, for it is demanded of me by those who have entrusted me with power." Those in a subordinate position say, "If I rob men of their property, tear them away from their families, imprison, exile, execute them; if I ruin or kill men of another nation, bombard towns containing women and children, I do all this, not upon my own responsibility, but in fulfilment of the will of the higher power which, for the general welfare, I have promised to obey." This constitutes the snare of the State, or of the general welfare.

XXXII. THE CONSEQUENCES OF SNARES.

171. Sins are the result of habits (inertia, animal life). The impetus of the animal life cannot cease at the moment when reason awakens in man, and he understands the senselessness of his animal life. Although he now knows that animal life is meaningless and cannot give him welfare, owing to confirmed habit he still seeks for meaning and welfare in the pleasures of animal life, in the satisfaction of complicated, artificial needs, in

continual rest, in the accumulation of property, in power over others, in depravity, in intoxication; and he uses his reason for the attainment of these ends.

172. But sins bring with them their own punishment; man very soon finds that the welfare he seeks in this way is unattainable, and sin loses its attraction. So that, but for the justifications of sins—snares—men would not continue in their sins, and would not carry them to the extreme they now do.

173. Were it not for the snares of preparation, the family, activity, and the State, no one, however cruel, would be able, surrounded by men dying of starvation, to profit by those superfluities which the rich now enjoy; and the rich could never reach that condition of complete physical idleness in which they now spend their dreary lives, often compelling the old, the infirm, and children to perform the work they require done. If it were not for these snares justifying property, men could not senselessly and aimlessly spend all their vital powers in accumulating property which cannot be used; neither could they, while suffering from the results of strife, call it forth in others. But for the snare of depravity that now exists, not could people so obviously and foolishly destroy their mental and physical powers by intoxication, which diminishes, instead of increasing, their energy.

174. The sins of men cause the destitution and over-work of some and the opulence and idleness of others. It is sins that cause inequality of possessions, competition, quarrels, litigation, executions, wars, the calamities of depravity and the brutalisation of men. But to snares are due the permanence and sanctification of all this—the legalisation of the destitution and oppression of some, and of the opulence and idleness of others, the legalisation of violence, murder, war, depravity, intoxication; and the awful stage of development to which these evils have now attained.—*New Age*.

NEWS has arrived of intense heat at the Persian Gulf. A Captain died the other day from heat apoplexy.

So far as can be computed, the population of Simla, as taken by the Census last Sunday, is likely to equal 33,000.

MR. JAMES, Professor of the Patna College, is going to take leave for a long period and Dr. P. C. Chatterjee, of the Dacca College, is coming in his place.

MR. IRWIN, Officiating Superintendent, Thagi Department, returns from tour on the 25th instant. Captain H. Daly will, it is understood, take leave next cold weather.

The American losses in the attack on Manila were five killed and forty-five wounded. The Americans subsequently came into collision with the insurgents, whom they easily repelled.

The operations of Cadastral survey are very soon to extend to Shahabad and Patna Districts. The settlement officer of the north Gangetic districts has made a strong recommendation. Gya has been left out for the present as the ryots there are considered turbulent.

The Vacation Sittings of the Allahabad High Court opened on Wednesday. The Chief Justice has gone home. Mr. Justice Blair takes a trip to Cashmere. Mr. Justice Aikman has gone to Simla, and Mr. Justice Knox and Mr. Justice Burkill spend the Vacation at Naini Tal. Mr. Justice Banerji is Vacation Judge. Mr. Justice Knox returning from Naini Tal later to sit in the two-judge cases.

MR. GEORGE GRIERSON, who is at present engaged in a Linguistic Survey of India, has just brought to light the fact that there is in the district of Midnapur a small criminal tribe, consisting of only about 180 souls, calling themselves Sialygris and speaking a dialect of Gujarati. These Sialygris are divided into four classes, Jana, Patra, Das, and Har. Mr. Grierson, by the way, finds that the Sialygril language is a variety of the language of the Bhils, who speak a corrupt Gujarati.

The trial of the seven Mahomedans implicated in the murder of a Chief Constable at Bandora, in a riot in June last, concluded on Wednesday at Thana. Accused Nos. 6 and 7 having been unanimously found not guilty by the jury, the Court acquitted them. As regarded accused Nos. 4 and 5 the jury found them not guilty by a majority, and the Sessions Judge agreeing with them, discharged the prisoners, but differed from the majority in similar verdict for the first three accused, and referred the matter to the High Court for decision.

A SECUNDERABAD telegram to the *Morning Post* says:—A vernacular paper published in Hyderabad city, called *Moolch o Millat*, recently gave publicity to a statement that a Police Inspector at Lucknow had killed a doctor because the latter had attempted to remove his wife to the plague hospital, and that subsequently the Inspector killed both himself and his wife. The Resident, on enquiry, found the statements to be quite untrue, and thereupon directed the Nizam's Government to warn the editor of the paper in question against giving publicity to such reports which were calculated to do serious mischief both in British India and the Nizam's Dominions. Under the terms of his agreement with the Nizam's Government the editor was open to instant banishment for publishing "mischievous" paragraphs, but the Judicial Secretary, prompted by leniency, merely warned him.

The London *Star* of July 25, says in regard to the Barrackpore murder case:—We published on Saturday a telegram from the Calcutta correspondent of *India*, stating that the European soldiers, charged with the murder of Dr. Sircar, had been sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment for causing grievous bodily hurt. We desire to call attention to two points in this grave matter. In the first place (1) the judge is reported to have said that the jury had taken a lenient view of the case. That is putting a strong thing mildly. Dr. Sircar's head had apparently been kicked in. If the persons charged had nothing to do with the matter, they should have been acquitted. But in the alternative, it seems to be a gross miscarriage of justice that they should have been convicted only of the offence of causing bodily hurt. The thing is made worse rather than better by the fact that the jury was a special jury consisting exclusively of Englishmen. And yet (2) no news, either of the crime or of the trial, has been received here except by the journal we have named. Reuters' correspondents in India apparently do not regard questions of police as coming within their purview unless, indeed, the culprits be Indians. But one would have thought that at least the result of this trial might have been telegraphed for the information of the home public.

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAMS.]

SIMLA, AUG. 19. Hon. Mr. Risley's services are placed at the disposal of the Finance Department.

Mr. Hewett, Home Secretary, is granted three months' leave from the 27th instant, Mr. Fraser officiating for him.

Surgeon-Major Waddell, Professor of Chemistry, Medical College, is granted six months' leave.

Captain Fraser is appointed Assistant Surveyor General.

Mr. Gilliland, Assistant Meteorological Reporter, is granted 36 days' leave, Professor Kuchler officiates.

Babu Munindra Kumar Mitra is appointed probationary Assistant Examiner, Public Works Accounts, and is posted to Bengal.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, AUG. 17.

The statement in to-day's *Viedomosti* that Great Britain has lately taken under her protection the whole of South Arabia is officially denied. British policy in Arabia has not been changed for twenty years, and Great Britain merely protects certain coast tribes round Aden.

LONDON, AUG. 17.

The semi-official journal *De St. Petersburg* dwells upon the difficulties the Americans are likely to experience in introducing autonomy in the Philippines and advocates a gradual introduction under the strict, yet benevolent, control of Europe.

LONDON, AUG. 18.

The *Times*' Manila correspondent telegraphs that the surrender of Manila was prearranged between Augusti, the Captain General, and the Americans with the intention of avoiding further bloodshed, but fighting occurred in one quarter through some misunderstanding. Manila is now tranquil. Seven thousand Spaniards are prisoners of war.

LONDON, AUG. 18.

A serious outbreak of yellow fever is reported in the American camp at Montauk Point, Long Island, whither General Shafter's troops from Santiago have been removed.

LONDON, AUG. 18.

Opinion in America is gaining strength in favour of the retention of the Philippines.

LONDON, AUG. 18.

The expedition with Sirdar Kitchener has reached Nasiri Island.

LONDON, AUG. 18.

According to the latest despatches from Manila, it appears that General Augusti sailed in a German cruiser with the consent of Admiral Dewey.

LONDON, AUG. 18.

The lawlessness of the American troops occupying Santiago is disquieting the authorities at Washington and more regiments have been ordered to proceed to Santiago.

LONDON, AUG. 18.

Owing to the statements made by Mr. Hooley in his examination in bankruptcy, Earl Delawarr, through the intermediary of a certain Mr. Broadley, offered a bribe of a thousand pounds for Mr. Hooley to retract the charges against Lord Delawarr. The Official Receiver applied to commit Lord Delawarr and Mr. Broadley to prison for subornation of perjury. Justice Wright in dealing with the application, found that money had been offered for the purpose of inducing the retraction of statements made by the bankrupt, but thought that justice would be satisfied by condemning Lord Delawarr and Mr. Broadley to pay the application. The papers, in commenting on the case, agree that both accused were extremely lucky in escaping so easily.

LONDON, AUG. 19.

The Russian Journals, *Novoye Vremya* and *Novosti* have adopted a friendly tone towards Great Britain. The latter paper urges the removal of discussion on the China question from the heated atmosphere of Peking to London or St. Petersburg with a view to an agreement inspired by mutual concessions. It is understood that M. de Staal, Russian Ambassador to Great Britain, is returning unexpectedly to London.

LONDON, AUG. 19.

Sirdar Kitchener has visited Shabla, and has found the cataract easy to negotiate. The Dervish entrenchments at the Southern end of this position were deserted.

HIS HONOUR the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab leaves Simla on the 17th October, and reaches Lahore on the 21st, visiting Patiala, Nabha, Jheund and Maler Kotla en route.

THE Government of Madras have now under preparation a Religious Endowments Bill of their own, in reference to which Lord Venkatesh said the other day at Tanjore that it would "meet the circumstances of the case, and at the same time, will satisfy the requirements of the Government of India."

AN extraordinary story, which has every appearance of being well founded, and which, moreover, is supported by a gentleman now in Calcutta, comes to us from a responsible source in Sylhet, and our correspondent furnishes us with several references in support of the statements he makes. The facts seem to be that for years past bodies have been exhumed by some person or persons unknown in several of the Assam cemeteries. Two such attempts were made to exhumate a body in the Shamsheernugger cemetery so long ago as 1892; and since then several bodies have been disturbed in the same cemetery. In the Langla cemetery several bodies have been exhumed, and after reburial re-exhumed. Similar outrages have been perpetrated in the Longai Valley and also in Cachar. Matters, in fact, have come to such a pass that the tea planters of the Shamsheernugger Division have been forced to engage two men to guard the local cemetery.—*Englishman*.

THE IMPORTATION OF DOCTORS AND NURSES FOR PLAGUE WORK.

AMONGST all the comments and criticisms that the measures adopted by Government to keep the plague in check have called forth from time to time and which have occupied a large portion of the various sections of the press, we do not remember that particular attention has been called to the strange and glaring anomaly of importing medical men and women and nurses from England.

This action was unnecessary and uncalled for, and must be condemned as a mistake in every way.

We would very much like to know the inner history of this move and the name of its inspirer. In the absence of this knowledge we can only assume that if not originally suggested by the Director-General of the Indian Medical Service, it at least had his approval and sanction.

This, however, is a point upon which we can feel no degree of certainty; we know not what amount of influence the opinions of the Director-General have in the Councils of the Government, for, all we know, he may never have been asked, and the step may have been taken merely to pander to the wishes of some very superior individual who was quite incompetent to form an opinion of any value on the subject.

It is a pity that in things medical, the doctors are not allowed to run their own show; but the history of plague administration affords numerous examples of the reverse, and proves that, whenever possible, the doctors are thrust on one side to make way for individuals in some more favoured service.

Is it said that it was necessary to import doctors and nurses from England, because none could be procured in India? Such a statement would be absolutely false, for, they can be obtained in any number required.

Is it maintained that they were not as capable of dealing with plague as those freshly imported? This position can be shown to be as groundless as the other.

Let us first consider the Doctors that were imported.

We have never heard that any of those medical men and women who were sent out by the India Office were experts on plague; far indeed from this, we are not aware that any of them have ever seen a single case.

In the matter of experience, then, they have absolutely nothing to recommend them. They were sent out to tackle a disease that was unknown to them, and in the first place they had to become acquainted with it.

In this respect they had certainly no advantages over the Doctors who could have been obtained in India, while, on the other hand, they suffered from many disadvantages.

They were new to the country and untried to the climate, so that it might easily have been anticipated that they would more readily have become incapacitated through illness.

They were ignorant of the language, and therefore unable to communicate directly with those amongst whom their work chiefly lay. How they must have been handicapped by their deficiency in this respect is so obvious, that comment is unnecessary; to state the fact is enough.

They were unaccustomed to deal with coloured people; and every medical man will acknowledge the difference that the colour of the skin makes in dealing with sickness. In fact, we have several times heard doctors remark that the first time they were called upon to treat a dark-skinned person, whether Indian or African, they felt as much at sea as if they were investigating the disease of some strange animal.

By the disability, that will be acknowledged, by all who know anything or have read anything about the natives of India, to be the greatest and to stand out in the highest relief, is that those selected were totally unacquainted with the manners and customs, the thousand and one peculiarities, and caste prejudices which distinguish and form, as it were, the life-blood of the people of India.

When we consider all these things, there can no longer be any room for wonder or surprise that difficulties should have arisen, that plague doctors should have been mobbed, camps destroyed, and turbulence and riots manifest everywhere.

As for the Nurses it is not necessary to say much. In all matters of inexperience and ignorance they were on a par with the Doctors; and let anyone ask the question of himself, how he would like if he were sick unto death, to be dependent for all his wants upon a person, an alien in every respect, foreign in aspect, colour, religion, language, instincts and thought. Would he like to be nursed by such a one?

Who can wonder that the sick were unwilling to leave their homes and their friends to seek for treatment in the Government camps and hospitals?

There is, however, another aspect of the case, the financial one. The financial difficulties of the Indian Government are an ever verdant theme, like the poor, it is always with us, it has passed into a proverb. But if one were called upon to express an opinion on the subject from a study of its actions, one would easily be led to believe that the Government was suffering from nothing but a superabundance of wealth, that it was overburdened with affluence, and like a prodigal, was only anxious to squander it in all sorts of foolish ways.

Nurses could have been obtained in India for Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 a month, the imported nurses were given Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 with furnished quarters, free passages, etc.

The imported doctors were engaged at Rs. 500 a month while there were men in India with British qualifications, and others with university degrees, willing to work for Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 a month.

All this extra expense was unnecessary and was certainly not justified by the superiority of the article secured.

Here in Calcutta at the present moment we are supporting a large staff of plague doctors and nurses who have nothing to do, and we are informed by the official spokesman of the Bengal Legislative Assembly that the intention is to maintain this idle establishment until next cold weather, in case the plague should then become epidemic. This is foresight with a vengeance! But the soundness of the policy is another question, upon which we unhesitatingly pass an unfavourable opinion.

This action of the Government may be taken to imply the gravest censure upon the Indian Universities, upon every Indian College and Hospital, and as condemnatory of every State agency and agent of the Indian Medical Service, that it employs in the educational institutions of which it holds a monopoly.

It is a sad confession of failure, that after all these years, and the vast sums spent upon education, that the Government is unable to find amongst all its graduates and diplomates a few sufficiently well-qualified to be employed in plague work. Their own standard is not sufficiently high.

MR. A. C. Wolfe, of Dundee, Mo., who travels for Mansur & Tibbets, Impement Co. of St. Louis, gives travelling men and travellers in general, some good advice. "Being a Knight of the Grip," he says, "I have for the past three years, made it a rule to keep myself supplied with Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, and have found numerous occasions to test its merits, not only on myself, but on others as well. I can truly say that I never, in a single instance, have known it to fail. I consider it one of the best remedies travellers can carry and could relate many instances where it has been used with success, much to their surprise and relief. I hope every travelling man in the U. S. will carry a bottle of this remedy in his grip." Fore sale by

Something of this kind we have repeated over and over again, and we have urged and have chosen to be deaf. We have urged and brought forward cogent reasons for the necessity of reform, with complacency the Nemesis that has forced those in authority to place in our hands, weapons even stronger than any we have forged for ourselves.

Let it then be known once and for all, let it be proclaimed from the house tops, that the training and teaching of medical students and nurses in the Indian Universities and Government Colleges is a farce, that the medical education they receive is worthless, that the Government stamp they bear in their degrees and qualifications is a base, it will not pass for current coin, that there is no employment, no future, no prospects, before the Indian graduate.

And all this the Government has tacitly admitted by having had recourse to the English market to provide themselves with a few Doctors and Nurses, even to look after their plague cases.

It is in the saddest spirit that we see the Government of the country doing all it can to degrade its own students, and closing every door to the advancement of Indian Medicine. This last stroke is a deadly one, and must bear heavily upon those who have the best interests of Government at heart.

We cannot think that the Director-General of the Indian Medical Service has any responsibility in this matter. He at least must be fully acquainted with the different teaching institutions throughout the country, he must be aware that competent men and women could have easily been found in any number for this work, and also that such nurses were actually being employed and giving every satisfaction, when they were dismissed to make way for the new arrivals.

If the Director-General with all this knowledge, still approved of the step, it merely clinches the argument, that the state of medical education in India is rotten, and urgently needs to be regenerated.

As for the Universities, who without any protest, permit such slights to be put upon their graduates, what can be said of them? They are dead or drugged, or huddled together in terrified silence like sparrows under the hovering hawk of officialism.—Indian Medical Record.

PEPPER CULTIVATION IN ASSAM.

THE ASSAM Government has issued the following interesting note on the cultivation of black pepper in Assam by Mr. B. C. Basu.

It is not perhaps generally known that black pepper is cultivated as a garden crop in certain parts of Assam. The writer of the article on black pepper (*Piper nigrum*) in Dr. Watt's Dictionary of Economic Products does not mention its cultivation in Assam; the only reference made in that article to Assam is to the effect that black pepper is doubtfully indigenous in the forests of the Province. I have found black pepper being grown in many villages in the Sibsagar District. It is chiefly found in some villages in mouza Gaduli Bazaar, in the west of the Sudder subdivision. In this mouza is a village, Jalukgon, named after the Assamese word for black pepper. It is currently reported to have been the chief seat of pepper cultivation at one time. In Lower Assam the cultivation of black pepper is reported to be unknown. On the other hand, a little of it is to be found in Sylhet and on the southern slopes of the Khasi Hills bordering on that district. The crop is not, however, cultivated to any appreciable extent in any part of Assam. It is usually cultivated to supply the cultivator's own requirements, and what is left over, after meeting his own wants is sold. The aggregate quantity of black pepper produced in Assam is, indeed, very small and very little of it finds its way to the market. Assam continues to derive its supply of this spice chiefly from Calcutta, although there is no apparent reason why it should not grow the whole of it and have more to spare.

The black pepper vine is known in Assam as gach jaluk, and the spice locally produced as guti jaluk or bari jaluk, the latter name owing its origin to the fact of the spice being the produce of an Assamese bari or homestead as distinguished from the usual commercial product which from its being sold by shopkeepers, is known as golar jaluk. Only one variety of cultivated black pepper is known in Assam. The Assam pepper seed is slightly smaller in size than the foreign product, which comes through Calcutta. The indigenous article is, however, more pungent, perhaps because it is more fresh, and, therefore, commands a higher price in the local market.

In Assam, the black pepper vine, like the betel vine (*Piper betel*), is usually grown on betel-nut trees (*Areca cathu*). Mango (*Mangifera indica*), jack (*Artocarpus integrifolia*), and other garden trees are occasionally utilised for the purpose; but of all trees the betel-nut is regarded as the most convenient and suitable for raising pan and black pepper. It is planted immediately around the ryot's homestead, and receives more manure, labour, and care than any other tree or crop grown by him. The rearing of betel and pepper vines in association with this tree entails but little additional labour on the cultivator. The plucking of the leaf in the case of pan and of the ripe berry in the case of black pepper is also very convenient when these are grown on the betel-nut trees as by the simple application of a ladder every part of the vine can be easily and quickly reached.

The pepper vine is raised either from suckers which spring up from underground roots, or from shoots from the stem. Shoots, when used, are bent down, into the ground to strike root before they are severed from the mother plant. The young plants are taken out with their roots at the beginning of the rains and transplanted at the foot of the trees on which they are intended to grow. Generally only one plant is put down at the foot of each tree. The slender stem of the young vine requires in the beginning to be carefully tied on to the supporting tree. As it grows up, it throws out from each joint numerous bunches of short claw-like adventitious roots, which penetrate into the soil, outer bark of the supporting tree, and give the vine a firm hold upon the latter. New shoots, and suckers continue to appear, and growing up the tree, envelop it in the course of a few years, with a dense mass of foliage.

The subsequent treatment of the black pepper plant cannot be distinguished from that of the betel-nut tree, with which it is mostly associated. Like the latter, it requires to be very liberally manured. Cowdung and household refuse are the only manures in use in Assam, and of these as much is given as the cultivator can afford. The manure

is applied at the end of the rains and at intervals all through the cold weather. It is simply heaped up round the base of the tree on which the vine grows and affords nutrition to both. The mature heap serves the further purpose of protecting the vine from cold and drought. To keep in the moisture in the manure heap, pieces of the thick juicy bark of a plantain tree are ranged round the base of the tree, and renewed from time to time. A betel-nut plantation, whether pan or pepper be grown there or not, must be hoed and cleaned once in the year at the close of the monsoon rains; a careful cultivator would repeat the operation thereafter and until the rains again set in as often as he could spare time and labour for the purpose. The ground should be kept as clean and free of jungle as possible at all times of the year. In May the manure heaps are levelled down and spread over the ground, otherwise they would absorb too much moisture and cause the roots of the vine to rot.

The pepper vine is very susceptible to drought, which often proves fatal. Rain and fog in the cold weather cause the leaves to fall off, and are consequently dreaded by the cultivators. The plants then remain bare until the first warm showers of April, when new leaves re-appear. Hail-storms are a frequent source of injury to black pepper and other crops in Assam. Some damage is also caused by a species of caterpillar which feeds on the leaves of the pepper vine. When it appears, it is destroyed, as far as possible, by hand-picking.

The black pepper vine begins to bear in from three to five years after planting, and continues to yield for at least twenty years. In every plantation, there are usually one or more vines which neither flower nor fruit. These are called mata or males, and the rest which bear fruit are known as females. The vine flowers in May, and the berries are plucked in December. They are gathered when just beginning to ripen. If allowed to ripen fully, they fall off and are picked off by birds. Pepper is cured in Assam in two different ways. If intended for the cultivator's own use, the berries would be boiled in water for a few minutes in order to shorten the husk, which would then be removed by rubbing the berries over a bamboo basket. The spice so prepared is of a whitish colour, and more pungent than the kind prepared for the market. For this latter purpose the berries are simply dried in the sun after boiling and allowed to retain the husk which assumes a black colour and gives the black pepper of commerce its distinctive name.

The produce of a vine varies with its age and size and the character of the season. The highest output that can be obtained from a single vine is said to be about three seers of dried cured pepper; the average yield is commonly reported to be about one seer for each vine in a plantation. The retail price of Assam black pepper varies from ten annas to a rupee per seer, and the wholesale price from Rs. 17 to Rs. 20 per maund. An acre of betel-nut plantation can hold about 500 trees, and if each tree had a pepper vine on it the annual yield of pepper alone from the plantation might amount to over twelve maunds, valued wholesale at Rs. 200 to Rs. 250.

"NATIVES" AND "LADIES."

IT seems ladies travelling in carriages reserved for ladies on the North-Western Railway have a grievance, and male passengers have another. Nothing more natural; the grievances of railway passengers are legion. Male passengers complain that their carriages are invaded by ladies; lady passengers complain that the carriages reserved for them are not near the 1st and 2nd class carriages and they cannot be near enough to their natural protectors. A very reasonable and even moderate complaint, but it is somewhat enlivened by the way in which the *Civil and Military Gazette* puts it. Here are two expressive sentences: "A lady travelling with her husband naturally preferred to be with him than to be in a compartment with carriages full of natives on either side of her, and separated from all other European passengers by nearly a train's length. Apart from the feeling of insecurity which a lady feels when she has natives, and natives only, on either side of her, it is extremely inconvenient for husband and wife to be in carriages at opposite ends of the train." Perhaps this sort of writing is conducive to more harmonious feelings between the two races, and calculated to stop a class of offence, we are quoting the words of the Government of India, "which in a country like India has a particularly mischievous effect in embittering class against class, and sect against sect."

We admit the justice of the grievance, but we think the "natives" might have been spoken of with more consideration as they do not intentionally thrust themselves between husband and wife and have nothing whatever to do with the arrangement of the carriages. The near proximity of the ladies may be also distasteful to the lady, but to say that there are any just grounds for her feelings of insecurity, because there are "natives" on either side of her, is a foul and unfounded calumny. We cannot say about insecurity of property, though first and second class passengers are rarely robbed. But for any other feeling of insecurity such as an unprotected woman would feel there never is the slightest cause. No European lady travelling by rail has been immodestly assaulted by a "native," or robbed with violence. This is an unblushingly impudent commentary on Davies's case. Will the *Civil and Military Gazette* mention one instance of a European lady whose modesty was outraged, or upon whose honour a more determined effort was made by a "native" while she was alone in a ladies' compartment? The present writer, himself a native of India, has had more than once personal experience of another kind. He has been requested more than once by a European or Eurasian lady to leave her compartment as she had the misfortune to be in the same carriage with a European or Eurasian lady who was ill-mannered or annoying. These ladies have always warmly thanked him at parting, assuring him that they had never had anything but kindness from "natives," though they used a gentler expression. *Tribune*.

THE Railway Conference was closed on Thursday, the results will be communicated as usual to the Secretary of State.

THE SEARCH-LIGHT IN TORPEDO ATTACKS.

ATTACKS.

AS to the use of the search-light in torpedo attacks, data from the United States Torpedo Station records will be of interest. In twenty-six different exercises that have taken place between the torpedo boats stationed there and search-lights ashore or in ships of the navy afloat, the average distance of discovery by the aid of the light was 781 yards; and the greatest distance 2,000 yards; and the least, practically zero, the boat having got alongside the ship without discovery. The weather during these exercises was good, never with any appreciable fog or mist, and generally occasionally with a full moon.

Other sets of figures were obtained by causing the boats to run out under the search-light to the limit of visibility. The distances under these circumstances varied from 1,000 to 2,750 yards. The difference is due to the great difficulty of picking up a small neutral-tinted object by a sweeping beam.

Now, taking the average distance of discovery, as above stated, at 781 yards, in order to reach torpedo range of 500 yards, the boat must cross a zone of 281 yards, which, at the moderate torpedo boat speed of twenty knots, would require twenty-five seconds. Is this sufficient to put the boat out of action? If not, the chances of a single boat against a single ship depending only on search-lights, would be more than one-half. With several boats, making a preconcerted attack, the chances of the ship would be correspondingly less.

It may be stated that, in all the exercises referred to, no advantage was taken of cover, such as might have been afforded by vessels at anchor or outlying islands. In making an attack, the boats always kept in visible range of the search-lights, within a radius of 2,000 yards.

It is to be regretted that there are no definite data on which to base a conclusion as to the time that would be required to disable or destroy an attacking torpedo-boat. European practice in the annual manoeuvres has limited the time from three minutes to one minute, the tendency having been gradually to reduce it. The United States Torpedo Station rules have required an interval of two minutes outside of 400 yards, equivalent to one minute and forty-eight seconds outside of 500 yards at the speed ordinarily used.

In Europe, the attacking boat has been required actually to make a hit with a dummy head in order to score a success; but with regard to the time necessary to ensure the destruction of the boat, everything was surmise, an arbitrary rule governing. I am under the impression that, in twenty-five seconds, the average time of reaching torpedo range from the probable distance of discovery, as determined by the United States Torpedo Station experiments, the torpedo-boat would not be found to be *hors de combat*. If the working range of the torpedo is materially increased by any new automatic steering device, all the arguments, as above, acquire added weight in proportion.

The rational defence of the ships, then, whether at anchor or under way, seems to be the scout, the torpedo-boat destroyer, the torpedo-boat, the vedette-launch, and the picket boat. Here, perhaps, is the field for the submarine boat.—Lieutenant R. C. Smith, U. S. N., in *Cassier's Magazine* for July.

A NEW Commission will probably be appointed in the coming winter to complete the work of delimitation of the Burma-Chinese Frontier.

THE Afghan Agent, Captain Mohammad Ismail Khan, who has recently been accredited by the Amir, was received by the Viceroy on Thursday morning. The agent brought a number of presents from the Amir including two Kabuli horses.

DURING the week ending August 17th British dollars to the value of Rs. 14,83,000 were transferred from the Bombay Mint to the Customs House for export. The balance of silver held on account of tenderers at the close of the week aggregated to the value of Rs. 14,25,000.

HARD WORK AND EASY WORK.

THERE was a time very lately when Mr. Donato Arnoldi found it hard to keep up with his work. Not that there was more to be done than usual, but he did not feel like "working at all." He was dull. He had no edge. If he could have afforded it he would have knocked off altogether. But there's where it is. Those of us who must work when we are sharp, must keep on working when we are dull. Necessity oblige. Expenses keep on, and so eye must keep on.

Dear, dear, what a thing it would be if we were always right up to the mark—eating, sleeping, and working with a relish. We might not have money to burn even then, but we should have some to save. Well, let's hear Mr. Arnoldi.

"At Easter, 1893," he says, "I began to feel as if a cloud had come over me. I was weak, low, and tired. My tongue was thickly coated, and my mouth kept filling with a thick, tough phlegm. I could eat fairly well, yet my food seemed to do me no good. After eating I had a feeling of heaviness at the chest and pain at the side."

"I lost a deal of sleep, and night after night I lay broad awake for hours. I kept up with my work, but I was so weak that I was scarcely fit for it. This state of things naturally worried me and I consulted a doctor. He gave me medicines that relieved me for a time, and then I went bad as ever."

"Seeing this, I saw another doctor who said my stomach, and perhaps other organs, were in a very bad way. I took his medicines, but they did not help me as I hoped they would. On the contrary I got worse and worse."

"At this time cold, clammy sweats began to break out over me, and as I walked my footsteps were uncertain. Sometimes my legs gave way under me, as if they were weak to bear the weight of my body."

"Not to trouble you with details, it may be enough to say that I was in this miserable condition month after month. In fact, I came to think I never should be any better."

"Then I thought of a medicine I had heard highly spoken of—Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. I said to myself, I will try it. I am thankful I did. After taking only two bottles all the pain was gone, and shortly I was well and strong as ever. Since then I have had good health and worked without trouble. When I feel I need it, I take a dose of the Syrup, and it keeps me right."

"I am a surgical instrument maker, and think my illness was due to the 'quicksilver' that I work amongst acting upon me when in a low state of health. At all events, I feel no ill effects now from the mercury I use in my business." (Signed) Donato Arnoldi, 39, Spencer Street, Clerkenwell, London, May 1st, 1894.

No doubt lead, arsenic, mercury, and other poisons do often produce injurious effects on those who habitually handle them; but the symptoms in Mr. Arnoldi's case go to show that his illness was indigestion and dyspepsia. This is a common disease, generates plenty of poisons of its own, and has no need of help from outside death-dealers. He wasn't able to eat much, nor to digest what he did eat, and his nerves got weak and shaken because they were not fed. That accounts for his wakefulness and for his uncertain footsteps.

Take the ashes out of your furnace, clear the draught, and light a fresh fire, and things are buzzing and humming directly. And that's what Mother Seigel's Syrup does for the human body, when it sets the digestive system in proper operation.

Moulssil News.

BHAGULPORE, AUG. 18.

THE conservancy arrangements of the Municipality is far from satisfactory. Filthy refuse is seen in heaps even in the principal streets here and there, not to speak of the lanes and bye-lanes which are abominable beyond description. Sweeping of the streets is a thing of the past. The methods scarcely make their appearance on the roads for that purpose. The other day, a curious case was disposed of by our Joint-Magistrate, Kumar Girindro Naryen Deb Bahadur. A charge was brought against Babu Hariprosanno Mukherjee, Principal, T. N. Jubilee College, with misusing a stamp, on which is impressed on H. M. S. only in a private letter, it was proved that this was done without the knowledge of the Principal and that some tricks were played by the servant whom the letter was given to post. He was acquitted. On Thursday last, Mr. D. C. Sinha, Barrister-at-law, son of late Raja T. N. Sinha Bahadur, accompanied by the District Magistrate, and Raja Sib Narain Sinha, visited the College. The College remained closed for two days following in their honour. For the last three days we had copious downpour of rain. The price of rice at present is stagnant.

MONGHYR, AUG. 17.

ON the night of the 15th instant, we had a copious fall of rain, which continued till the next morning. It is said to have done a world of good to the standing crops. Rice is selling at 12 seers a rupee. The river Ganges is rising fast. No cases of cholera are heard throughout the town, although such complaints are received from some of the sub-divisions. The mango crop of the present year has almost come to an end. Mr. R. Carstairs, who has been acting for some time as Commissioner of the Bhagulpur Division, having been transferred to the Sonthal Perganas, Mr. O'Donnell has again come in his place. The new College has begun its regular work. Scientific instruments have all been ready, and the boys seem to be highly satisfied with the teaching of the Professors. There have been 25 boys in the first-year class and some 12 or 13 in the second-year class. The want of the supply of drinking water has been very long and keenly felt in this town. Mr. Carstairs, on his last visit to the station, inspected the Municipality, and in his Inspection Report, he has made some suggestions regarding the scheme of water-works being carried out. He also writes that he was very much pleased to find that the non-official members take a very great interest in the affairs of the Municipality, headed by their capable and zealous Vice-Chairman, Babu Shiva Nandan Prosad Singh. At a meeting of the District Board it was decided that the salary of the District Engineer should be raised from Rs. 400 to Rs. 625, rising by an annual increment of Rs. 20. According to section 557 of the new Criminal Procedure Code, Babu Chundi Prosad Mishra, a pleader of our town, has resigned his services as an Honorary Magistrate.

DEOGHUR, AUG. 16.

THE following letter has been forwarded to the Traffic Superintendent, E.I.R., by Mr. Syed Abdulsatter, Assistant Manager, Court of Wards Estate, Deoghur:

Sir, I beg to bring to your notice the following grievances that I was subjected to by a Travelling Ticket Checker, while on my journey from Panagar to Baidyanath Junction.

I left Panagar by the 11th up passenger train on the 11th August last with my family. I had reserved a 3rd-class compartment for our accommodation. As soon as I left Karmatara, Mr. Stains, a travelling ticket-checker, approached on the foot-board next to my compartment, and asked me for ticket; thereupon I showed him my reserve pass. The ticket-checker, without minding it, demanded entrance into the compartment on a plea to count the number of occupants. I protested strongly against his conduct and told him repeatedly that mine was a reserved accommodation, containing respectable 'pardanashin' Mahomedan ladies, and so it would be derogatory to my part to allow him entrance into the compartment. I also told him that if he had any doubt, he might call a female to check. Notwithstanding all my protest, he applied force to get entrance into the compartment, but I requested repeatedly not to enter into the compartment. Thereupon he threatened me, abused me and used many slang expressions towards me.

When the train reached Madhupur Station, he thrust in a methrani (a female sweeper) in my compartment to count the number. She counted, and reported to be correct. To add to the insult, he asked two Mahomedan Khalasis if there could be any objection on the part of the Mahomedans to show their females to any outsider. They replied in the negative, perhaps through fear of the Sahib and because they were of low class, quite unaware of the customs of the high-class Mahomedans. But when he asked a Mahomedan gentleman, Abdul Kadir, a railway servant, the latter replied in the affirmative. The Checker still continued threatening me, saying he would *challan* me, he would criminally prosecute me, etc.

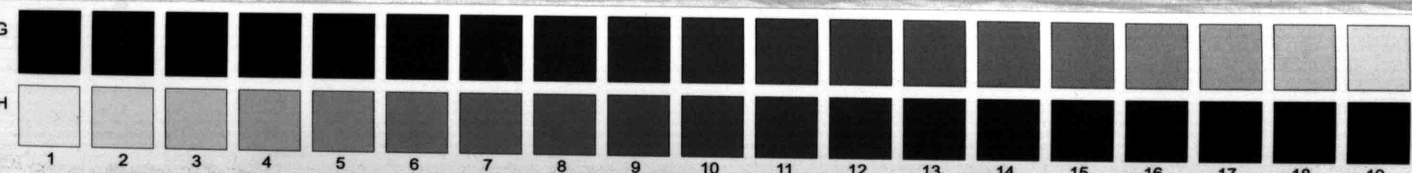
I beg to state that I belong to a respectable Mahomedan family and hold a respectable appointment. I have been grievously insulted. I hope, therefore, you will take a prompt measure to enquire into the matter, and let me know the result thereof.

It is understood that the Transport Committee, which is to assemble at Simla will be a large one, as Government intend dealing fully with the question.

A REPORT from Boya, in the Tochi Valley, states that a shepherd and a number of goats were missed on Wednesday. The next morning the shepherd was discovered in a nullah with his throat cut.

THE imports of staple exportable produce into Bombay during the month of June were as follows: Raw cotton, 662,752 cwt; wheat, 3,404, 396 cwt; oilseed, 1,007,573 cwt; and indigo, 618 cwt. Cotton shipped from the port during the month reached the total of 49,700 kandas, valued at Rs. 77,11,120.

THE Board of Revenue, Madras, in its season report, remarks that the continued holding off of rain especially in parts of the Deccan, Carnatic, and central districts is becoming serious; and almost throughout the Presidency more rain is urgently wanted, agricultural operations being greatly retarded.



REMINISCENCE OF A SHIKAR.

(By BABU GANADA PROSARNA MUKHERJI, ZEMINDAR, GOBARDANGA.)

(Specially written for the Patrika.)

OH, how I hate this dull rainy season! What is left to us, now, poor lovers of jungle life, but to see our rifles and guns rusting before our eyes, our only occupation being occasionally to bring them out from the shelf, one by one, clean them, and put them again in their appointed places? Well, there may be something in the contemplation of those lovely weapons, as we find them ranged before the eyes. How often do they call back to the memory the sweet recollection of some past exploits! Even now as my eyes rest on the little beauty, the '450 express, how vividly the scene is brought back to my memory when it accounted for its first panther! Yes, how I remember our long march under a burning sun on our way to Lakshipur from Kayra!

It was a terribly hot day, and, as we marched on, the way seemed endless. We thought we would never reach our destination. But we reached it after a toilsome march, and getting down from the elephants, stretched ourselves under the grateful shade of a couple of mango trees, with a pool of water in front of us. We intended to pitch our tents here, as we had done before whenever we had visited Lakshipur. The elephants were taken under shady trees, and the mahoots immediately busied themselves to procure a sufficient number of plantain trees for fodder. Considering the number of elephants we had with us (about 40), this was no easy matter. Quite late in the afternoon, the carts came in with our tents and gear. We at once proceeded to raise our canvas abodes. This was soon done. Having seen our beddings, rifles and guns properly stowed under our camp-stretchers, we found that things looked quite comfortable.

We wanted a refreshing bath and a few cups of tea. We went to the pool of water and had a good bath. Thus refreshed, we dragged out a few canvas chairs, and with tea-pots before us, began to realize the ideal life of a sportsman. After tea, a discussion of our prospects on the morrow was held. The men there could not give us any definite *khubar* of tigers; but they told us of a panther, a few miles off from the place, where it had taken up a permanent abode for some time past and had made a great havoc among the cattle of the villagers. The majority of our party turned up their noses at the name of panther, as if it was a game not to be thought of, and wished to break up and move on, on the following day. I had my opinion; but, finding the majority against it, I kept quiet. It is not my nature to despise any game, much less a panther. There are times when a sportsman, however ambitious he may be, would feel inclined to go to the other end of the earth to find a panther, and then he would bless his stars if he were able to bag it. With me, a good day on the snipe ground is nearly, if not quite, as enjoyable as a successful day after a big game. So the maxim "make hay while the sun shines" came to my mind just then. But individual inclination could not be followed in a big party, and it was decided that we should move on the day after. We turned in after dinner. I little thought that Providence would help me in this affair. I was awake on my bed when a sudden flash of lightning attracted my attention to the towards outward objects. Quietly rising from the bed, I peeped out and saw that heavy clouds had gathered overhead, rendering the night dark as pitch. A few minutes more, and on came a torrent of rain like of which is not often seen. It made our quarters uncomfortable very soon. The water rushed within the tents in spite of the trenches round them, and we had to pile our effects on the boxes, cots, and other elevated places in order to save ourselves from a thorough washing. The fury of the elements at last abated, but we passed an uncomfortable and wet night, and all idea of breaking up on the morning had to be given up, as the tents could not be packed up unless they were at least partially dry. After tea in the morning, I proposed to our host, "J" that since we could not move on that day we had better turn our attention to the panther we were told of on the previous day. "J" at once agreed, but the other members of our party seemed very unwilling to leave their camp-stretchers on such a cloudy day, and their spirits were quite as damp as the prospects outside. "J" and I held a secret council of war and agreed to take out only a couple of pad elephants and a few others with no gear at all, to be used only for beating the jungle. The idea of howdahs and a battery of guns on them was dispensed with; for, we knew that a paraphernalia would excite the jesting propensities of our friends in camp, in case of failure. We had a late breakfast; and at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon we made a start. I was seated on a pad elephant with "M" behind me, who, though he refused to be an actor in the play, gladly accompanied us to see how matters would go on. "J" mounted another pad elephant; and, arming ourselves with a single rifle each, we started at double quick pace. About a couple of hours' march brought us to our destination. It was a cane jungle near a little village. Being rather heavy, though not very large, it looked a likely place to hold a panther. It was 5 in the evening. We commenced operation at once. The breaking commenced; and there being only two guns, we took position in front of the line, so as to get a shot at the game as it passed. Very soon the trumpeting of the elephant told us that the game was afoot. The line advanced towards us; but the panther, perhaps a knowing hand in these matters, without coming towards us, charged us from the back, and in spite of the shouts of the mahoots, managed to cut the line. We turned round and followed the animal towards the other end of the jungle; but the animal seemed very much averse to exposing its skin. It was a compact line; and at last we dislodged the brute from its cover, and forced it out into the open field, offering a very difficult chance to "J" as it turned sharply round to get into cover again. "J" fired, but narrowly missed. Matter looked gloomy now. The sun was about to sink, and it would soon be too dark to follow the game. No time was to be lost, and we were again on its track, as it kept sneaking along from bush

to bush. I was on old "Chandantara" and my mahoot, the veritable Kharu, who had taken to the hunt with perhaps greater zeal than ourselves, kept his eyes on the moving twigs that indicated the movements of the game. All on a sudden and with most admirable tact and judgment, he quickly steered my elephant to the side of a little opening between a couple of bushes. Just as the panther was about to clear it, it completely out-manoeuvred the brute, cunning as it was. It made a rush for the opposite bush and thereby exposed its beautiful spotted skin to my view. I could only take a snap shot, but the range was too close to make the shot a difficult one. I aimed my gun straight at the massive shoulder and let fly the bullet. The answer was a savage growl. With a switch of the tail it rushed into the bush. The indications were fairly in my favour, and I knew I had hit it. I quickly took out the empty cartridge, and putting a fresh one in its place, made for the bush. No second shot was necessary. The hollow bullet having struck fairly behind the shoulders, had burst inside, completely smashing the shoulder bone and the lungs. A few convulsive tremors passed through it, and then it lay stone-dead. We waited a little to ascertain that life was extinct, and then, padding it, brought it to camp in triumph. Our friends in camp congratulated us, though it was only a panther. At all events it appeared to me that they did not relish their evening tea half as much as "J" and I did.

MR. A. M. BOSE'S SPEECH AT THE CONFERENCE OF INDIANS RESIDENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Mr. A. M. Bose, who was received with cheers, moved:—

"That this meeting views with deep regret and alarm the introduction of a Bill in the Legislative Council of Bengal to deprive the metropolis of India of the measure of Municipal Self-Government, which was conferred on it so far back as 1876 by the Government of the day, after mature deliberation and on competent advice; and which has redounded in every respect to the advantage and improvement of the city, as testified to alike by high and responsible official opinion, and by independent evidence. This meeting earnestly appeals to the Government to withdraw, or at least to very greatly modify, a measure which is seriously reactionary in its character, unsatisfactory in its provisions, and calculated to do grave injury to the cause of good administration and municipal progress."

He said: Mr. Dutt and other speakers have told you the sad story of how the Government is trying to stifle the voice of the people. As following them I rise to move this resolution, the question occurs to my mind, "is the mill of reaction to go on grinding surely, but alas, not slowly, the liberties of the people? Surely no." (Cheers.) Is the hand to be set back on the dial; is the work of destruction to go on in its relentless course, crushing the hopes of the people of our helpless land, and undoing what has been done in the past for the benefit of that country? (Cheers.)—undoing, too, the work of those illustrious statesmen who have consolidated the foundations of the British Empire by their policy of trust in the people and sympathy with their aspirations, men whose memories are embalmed in the grateful recollection of the Indian populations, men whose work lives after them, but who now are put practically on their defence? (Cheers.) For it is at once a melancholy and a curious feature of the present situation that we stand here to-night, not merely in defence of the liberties of the people of India, but in vindication of the policy, the sagacity, the wisdom, and the foresight of those illustrious Englishmen, which are attacked, and attacked undeservedly and unwarrantably, by the recent policy of the Government. (Renewed cheers.) The object of this policy seems to be not to extend the bounds of freedom but to set them back, to wipe out the concessions, feeble and few as they are, which have been granted to us in the past by the wisdom of the statesmen to whom I have referred. It is they who are on their defence to-day. (Cheers.) That, as I say, is the novel feature of the situation. But I venture to hope that whatever temporary checks may be administered, the work which has been accomplished by those true Englishmen who have carried out the traditions of liberty and progress which are the glorious heritage of this great nation, will be cherished, maintained and upheld in spite of the tide of reaction that is spreading over the fair face of our Motherland at the present moment. (Loud cheers.) I venture to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, our Grand Old Man of India—(prolonged cheers)—that you have lived to see the day when men of all classes and from all parts of India are standing by your side, here in free England, to support this protest against a policy of coercion and reaction. And not men only—for I am proud and happy to see Indian ladies too gracing this platform to-day, for the first time, I believe, in the history of political meetings in this country. (Loud cheers.) The resolution just adopted relates the history of a reaction completed. The one entrusted to me shows reaction in the making of it. It refers to the Bill dealing with the municipal Government of Calcutta now pending before the Bengal Council. Let us see what is the present municipal constitution of that city. And in considering this question, let us remember that with it is bound up in no small degree the future progress of the whole country. Local self-government is intimately connected with everything that will tend to improve the condition of India. It goes to the root, to the very foundation of all our aspirations, and on its success and development depends the future hope of the rising generation. (Cheers.) The present constitution of the metropolis of India is not a very democratic one. You might think that in such a city the rate-payers would have the right to regulate the municipal administration for themselves, and to have all the Commissioners freely elected by them. That is not so. Under the existing regime only two-thirds of the Commissioners, in whose hands is vested the municipal government of the city, are elected by the rate-payers, and the Chairman is simply a nominee and an official of the Government. And then there is in the present law that famous section which says that if the Government at any time thinks that serious default

has been made by the Corporation of Calcutta in the discharge of its duty, then the Government after having satisfied itself, not by an independent enquiry, but by any enquiry it pleases, or no enquiry, can call upon the Corporation within thirty days to amend its default; and should the Corporation fail to comply with the requisition, the Government can carry out the work itself, the whole cost being borne by the rate-payers including the remuneration given to those Government officers who are entrusted with carrying it out. I should have thought that powers so ample as this would have met the most exacting situation, or satisfied the most autocratic disposition. (Hear, hear.) But no; even the existing privileges, limited as they are, are proposed to be seriously curtailed, to be practically withdrawn. It was in the year 1876 that this modified form of self-government was conceded to the metropolis of India. Time will not permit me to go into the history of how this reform came to be granted, although it would be an interesting history. It would show that at the time after a trial of many previous systems, the Government deliberately and on full consideration decided that the step was absolutely needed. And let it be remembered it was a Conservative Administration that ruled at the time. In this connection there is one man who is entitled to our special gratitude and special remembrance. I refer to Sir Richard Temple, who was then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal (cheers)—a man of unique experience and authority, and who won unique distinctions in the course of his service. I hope my voice may reach him in his retirement. Many things have been forgotten. Many rulers of Bengal have sunk into oblivion, yet that bright and glorious fact in his administration is remembered by the people, and blessings follow the hand which extends the bounds of freedom. (Cheers.) And sir, what has been the result of this reform? Has it led to success and improvement, or to disaster and failure? I claim, sir, to know something of the city where I have spent the best years of my life, which is my home and the home of my children, and I can say that under the rule of the elected Commissioners the face of the city has been entirely changed. It has of late years acquired the reputation of being the healthiest city on the plains of Bengal, and people flock to it not only on business but for purposes of health. (Hear, hear.) The great and numerous improvements carried out by the Corporation and the zeal and devotion of the Commissioners have been acknowledged by the Government time after time in official Resolutions and in other ways. Permit me just to give an extract or two in this connection, as the question is an important one. A Resolution of the Government of Bengal recorded in 1890 on the death of Sir Henry Harrison, who had been Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation for nine years, and reviewing the work done during his chairmanship, speaks of "the firm financial credit of the Commissioners"—and everyone knows that finance is the keynote of a successful administration; of "the innumerable reforms effected"; of "the increase in material prosperity of the city in consequence of these reforms"; of "the reorganisation and reconstruction of nearly every department of work"; of "the hearty zeal and co-operation of the Commissioners"; of "the methodical and systematic development of civic administration in all departments." This is high praise indeed. (Cheers.) Speaking of the Report of the Corporation, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, in his Resolution of November, 1893, says "it records the execution of much useful work, especially in the direction of sanitation and of structural improvements," and adds that the Commissioners as a whole "have displayed a care and attention to their duties which is very meritorious, and has in some cases risen to the level of devotion." (Applause.) But alas! this "devotion" to which the Resolution bears testimony will not survive if the present Bill becomes law, and the Commissioners are deprived of the power and the responsibility of which this "devotion" is the happy offspring. (Hear, hear.) I will give only one other extract. "To sight and sense" says Dr. Kenneth Macleod. "Calcutta has within living memory undergone a revolution"; and speaking of the policy of the Corporation he says it has been attended with "gradual and progressive reform." (Hear, hear.) This system of municipal government, which, as I have said, was granted in 1876, was confirmed and consolidated after full practical trial in 1888, when the whole of the Municipal Administration of Calcutta came to be reviewed by the Government in the legislation of that year. More than this, the rights of the people were extended, although very slightly. The rate-payers of the town had a somewhat ampler power conferred on them in regulating the pay of the Chairman and also as regards his dismissal; while, finally, the Suburbs of Calcutta were added to the Municipality, because it was felt that there was no hope for the Suburbs unless they were brought within the sphere of the Commissioners' efforts. We have thus, sir, testimony showing the remarkable success of this experiment in local self-government, and I may add, never did the credit of the Commissioners stand higher than it does at the present moment. (Cheers.) After all this, it is suddenly discovered one fine morning, literally like a bolt from the blue, that Calcutta is not worthy of the system which has obtained so long and under which such results have been achieved. It was found by the report of certain inspectors that there were many things which were insanitary in certain portions of the city. I could read you descriptions of most insanitary conditions here in London. (Laughter.) But evil if the evils were greater than were alleged, even if we decided to ignore the bright and hopeful side of the picture, there is ample provision for dealing with those evils, because, under section 38 of the Act, the Government have only to give directions to the Commissioners to carry out these reforms, and if they fail to do so, then the Government can step

in and do the work itself. But it is the system of popular government with the interest it has awakened, the devotion it has inspired, and the results it has achieved, which is now doomed to practical destruction. (Hear, hear and "Shame.") The Lieutenant-Governor under whose auspices the Bill has been introduced, and whom continued ill-health has recently compelled to retire, is a man of whom I would speak with every respect and sympathy; I have known him for many years, and have had the honour of looking upon him as a personal friend. But I cannot conceal from myself that he has committed a grave mistake, which, if not rectified, will lead to results of the most unfortunate character. (Cheers.) I can, in my limited time, mention only two or three points in connection with the Bill. Under the old law, the proceedings of the Chairman were liable to review and control by the Commissioners. That power is to be withdrawn. The Chairman is to be practically irresponsible. A rate is to be levied on the City to pay the salary of a man whom the rate-payers do not appoint, as to whose pay they will hereafter have not a word to say, and over whose proceedings, under the proposed law, they are to have no control. Is this creation and consecration of a new autocracy progress, or is it a backward march unworthy of the traditions of England, unworthy of her mission in her great dependency? (Cheers.) Even in India it was felt that an irresponsible executive sounds bad; so Mr. Risley, who is the member in charge of the Bill, answering the criticisms in Council, said that the alteration of the law would tend rather to enhance the Chairman's sense of responsibility than to reduce it. A man, said he, whose authority is final, is far more likely to do the right thing than if his authority is liable to be over-ridden by others. According to that definition and that philosophy, the Czar of Russia must be the most responsible ruler on the face of the earth, unless it be the Sultan of Turkey, because he has to answer to nobody. (Laughter.) And the constitutional Prime Minister in England is, of all individuals, the most irresponsible, the most hopelessly devoid of all sense of responsibility, and the least likely to do the right thing, because he is responsible to the whole of the people. (Renewed laughter.) I hope we shall see our friend in the chair in Parliament before long. (Loud cheers.) I know what those cheers mean; they mean that everybody in this meeting will put his shoulder to the wheel whenever the opportunity occurs to send Mr. Naoroji as a representative of our cause to Parliament. (Renewed cheers.) Well, I was about to say, possibly, if this sort of thing goes on, and these political doctrines flourish much longer in India, our Chairman may have to meet a Bill introduced into Parliament to turn the British Government into a responsible Government, by introducing into this country the Russian system of autocratic rule. Could any words of mine more deeply condemn this policy than the argument and the reasoning to which the hon. member in charge of the Bill, a man of the most undoubted ability, was obliged to have recourse in its defence? (Cheers.) Let me only add that in the past, in numerous instances, serious evils in the administration of several departments of the Municipality have been brought to light and rectified, not by the action of the Chairman but by reason of the controlling power of the Commissioners. (Hear, hear.) Then, under the Bill, the General Committee is to have much larger power. It will have its constitution radically changed. Apart from the executive powers proposed to be conferred absolutely on the Chairman, the General Committee will be the real governing body of the Municipality, coming between the Chairman and the Commissioners, who are to be deprived of much of their existing power. At present two-thirds of that Committee are representatives of the rate-payers, in future only one-third are to be such representatives; that is to say, that all real self-government, after these many years, will now practically and wholly disappear. (Cries of "Shame.") Then in the place of one body responsible for the municipal administration of the city, viz., the Corporation, under the new law there are to be three separate bodies viz., the Corporation, the General Committee, and the Chairman, to carry on that work; and you can imagine the amount of confusion, inefficiency and waste which will result from that divided system. No greater injury could be done to municipal administration; no greater blow could be dealt to all that tends to efficiency. The blow has not yet fallen, and I would, even at this late hour, earnestly implore and beseech the Government not to continue this reactionary policy. Surely they have done enough for the present. Let them stay their hand for a year. (Cheers.) Let them see what are the results of this policy in other directions, before they travel still further on that unhappy course which is reversing the best traditions of India—traditions which have been pursued alike under Conservative and Liberal administrations. (Loud cheers.) Let the policy of panic, disappear, and confidence and sympathy take its place, and let England be true to her mission to carry aloft the torch of hope and liberty and progress in all the lands where floats the flag of the Queen. (Prolonged cheers.)

The Resolution was carried unanimously, and the proceeding, which had been most enthusiastic throughout, terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

PRIVATE Knight has been committed for trial at the Madras High Court Sessions by the Cantonment Magistrate of St. Thomas Mount on a charge of shooting an Indian boy.

ANOTHER laurel won by the intellectual Bengalee, Babu Harinath De, an ex-Graduate of the Calcutta Presidency College, has obtained the prize for Latin verse composition in Christ College, Oxford.

WITH reference to the allegations made in the *Probhat* of Hyderabad (Sind) regarding the misdeemeanor of Baluchi Sepoys, the Editor has been informed that the military authorities have been communicated with with a view to the prevention of conduct of the kind complained of.

MR. BECHER, Accountant-General, shortly proceeds on six weeks' privilege leave. Mr. Burn acts. Mr. Ducharas from the Mari-Attock Railway succeeds Mr. Bagley as Engineer-in-Chief, Burma Railway, on the latter shortly returning to the service of the Government of India.

SMELLING THE WITCH.

In spite of the influence of missionaries, English colonists, and soldiers, the nations of South Africa retain their firm belief in witchcraft. The Zulus are probably the most intelligent race of blacks to be found to-day on the globe. Five hundred thousand of them dwell just north of the colony of Natal, which the English, and, of late years, the Americans, have developed, until it is known as the garden spot of Africa.

The Zulus come to Durban, the capital, which, but for its Oriental flavour, one might take for an American city, see civilization in its most advanced stage, learn the customs, laws, and religion of the whites, and then—return to their native heath and put to death some alleged witch. They will brook no interference in this practice. When a prominent chief is taken ill it is attributed to the evil influence of the "Amagwira" and his permission is always asked to perform the "umhlaho" (smelling out for witchcraft).

We were tramping in the south-eastern part of Zululand some months ago and put up one night at the house of the only white man in a wide radius of country. He kept a little store of general supplies, such as agricultural tools, sugar, salt, and bread. About dusk the natives began dropping in, the men wearing a clock made of leopard skin and carrying an assegai and a shield, the women clothed in little more than a breech cloth.

We learned that there was to be a "smelling out" next day to discover who was responsible for the cattle dying at a village about five miles to the north, and made an agreement with a young chief to guide us there. A sergeant of the mounted police advised us to be cautious and leave the place before the end of the ceremonies, since on several occasions the witch doctor had pointed out white persons who were looking on, and one man had nearly lost his life.

We reached the village about 3 o'clock in the afternoon and found the performance already in progress. Three hundred Zulus were formed in a great circle, one-half of which was made up of those who had lost cattle. The others had an interest in learning who was responsible for the sorcery, no one knowing who might be picked out.

In the middle of the circle were a dozen men, with the leaves of palm-trees and the foliage of a cereal, called mealies like our corn.

Six of them had buffed hide drums suspended from the shoulder; the others carried bundles of assegai. At a signal from one there was a simultaneous "bang" and clatter of the javelins, whereupon the circle began to move around slowly, the women crowing a weird cry and clapping their hands the while. This is called "Ukwumbela," or getting the first line on the witch.

Suddenly there was a movement in one part of the circle, and through the line sprang the priest, his face streaked with white paint and wearing a pair of horns.

He began to go through the most extraordinary contortions, striking himself with a knoberry, and spinning round on one foot. The women became more violent all the time, screaming to the "Umhlaho" (spirits of their ancestors) to reveal the witch.

When the priest had wrought himself up to the point where he seemed about to collapse, he abruptly stopped and retired to his assistants.

"He is naming the witch," explained our guide; his eyes strained, while he fairly gasped for breath. The silence was intense, and the moment thrillingly tragic.

The priest walked into the middle of the circle again to the beating of drums, and looking all about the circle twice, finally fixed his gaze in the opposite direction from us. Every eye followed it. We could hear what he said, but that part of the circle fell back, leaving one poor wretch standing alone. A gasp of relief went up from the others, who could hardly contain themselves while the priest described the horrible sorceries this man had used.

After this the whole camp pounced on the witch and tore off his charms, bracelets, his kuroos or shield, and took his weapons. At the same time a chief came over to us and said that "white man no right to stay here longer," and suggested to us to leave immediately.

We heard afterward that the fellow had been dragged to the banks of a stream where he pointed out the "ubuti," a little root in the edge of the water which caused the death of the cattle. After this he had been tortured.

The English have succeeded in preventing a number of murders by witch doctors, but they are too few to stamp out the custom. The Mashonas are the most cruel in their punishments.

A woman who was supposed to have bewitched a powerful chief with illness, which was simply pneumonia, was "smelled out" by a woman doctor, who sentenced the witch to be eaten by ants. She endured the torture for six days. A common punishment formerly was to roast a victim on heated stones.

Last fall the English soldiers at Salisbury in Rhodesia caught Kagube, the most notorious witch doctor who ever lived in Africa. For years he has fomented wars against the English by his clever ruses.

He was a keen observer of natural phenomena; could foretell a thunderstorm and predicted the coming of the rinderpest. He was an accomplished ventriloquist, and by making his voices issue from trees and rocks, caused himself to be regarded as a god. He practised witchcraft like many others purely for gain, generally picking out a man who had a great number of cattle in consideration for which he would remove the spell from him.

The chiefs find witchcraft a very convenient State engine to support their power. It enables them to remove individuals whom they would otherwise find difficult in getting rid of.

There is a peculiar herb in South Africa which has the quality of poisoning slowly. It is used very generally by would-be murderers. The natives say that the witch doctor can smell these persons out, and give that as an argument to justify the custom.—*Inter Ocean.*

THE Madras Tenancy Bill has undergone such modifications in the Select Committee that it is impossible to put the report of the Select Committee before the Legislative Council until the Government have had a further opportunity of carefully considering the modifications proposed. Eventually the Bill will be referred to the Legislative Council—sitting at Madras, not Ootacamund.

FOR a year or more there have been run-overs of Russian Agents in Kabul, though nothing definite has ever been stated about them. The Amir recently took the opportunity to assure the British Agent that all such rumours were untrue. His Highness apparently has not the least desire to renew relation with his old friends beyond the Oxus.—*Pioneer.*

SOME time ago, a little bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy fell into my hands, just at a time when my two-year-old boy was terribly afflicted. His bowels were beyond control. We had tried many remedies, to no purpose, but the little bottle of Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy speedily cured him.—WILLIAM F. JONES, Oglesby, Ga. For sale by *

