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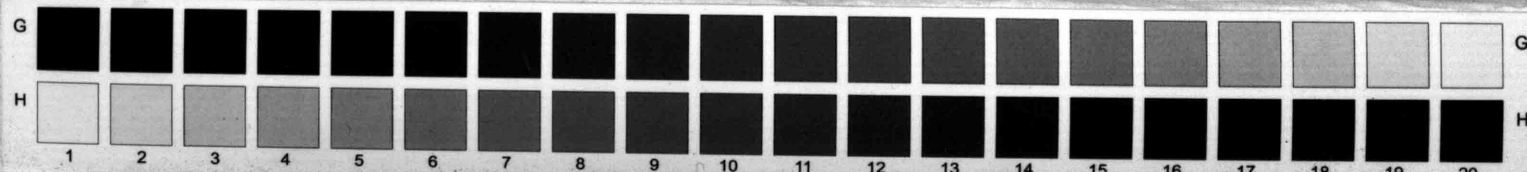


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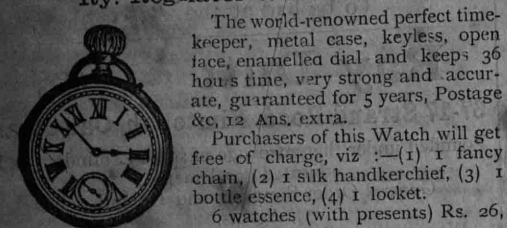




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THE  
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, SEPTEMBER 29, 1898.

## THE SITUATION.

We said that many of the privileges, prized the most under British rule, were trampled under foot last year. The storm has, however, blown over, and calm has been restored to a considerable extent. The punitive police force at Poonah has been removed; Mr. Tilak and other editors have been released; the Natu brothers are likely to be set free soon, and British soldiers are no longer to be employed for enforcing plague regulations. The question is: What are we to do now? Are we to remain quiet, or to adopt measures, which are within our power, likely to prevent the Government from being again moved by panic and passion in governing the country? And are there any step which we can take in this direction that can be of any use to us?

We believe, there are. First, there is no doubt of it that it is the English people, and not the authorities here, who are the arbiters of our destinies. And, secondly, the bulk of the English people were not in favour of the measures adopted by the Government in panic last year. This has been conclusively proved by the labours of Babu Ananda Mohun Bose. He addressed many meetings of Tories and Liberals alike; and on every occasion, the Bombay proceedings were unanimously condemned. Similarly, Babu Romesh Chander Dutt also addressed public meetings, where the doings of the authorities were brought to promi-

nerly criticised. It would be to be taken, the most important to carry on agitation in England. What this means, of course, our countrymen very well understand. It means money. The fund raised in behalf of Mr. Tilak may be utilized for this agitation. This, however, is a matter which rests entirely with the donors. We throw out a suggestion to the effect that this fund might be converted into a purse and presented to Mr. Tilak. If the donors accept that view and if Mr. Tilak is agreeable, we must raise further funds for the purpose.

Then, there is the other way, namely, of leaving matters alone. Much can also be urged in favour of this view. It is now admitted on all hands that the Empire would not have been convulsed in this way if some European officers had not been murdered. From this it would not be unfair to draw the conclusion that the Government would not have acted in the way it was led to do, if the acts of some European officers had not been. Indeed, it can be argued with a fair justice that the Government will never adopt the measures, which disgraced its actions last year, if any European officers be not murdered at some future period. As these murders were pure accidents—for, they never occurred in India before,—the probabilities are, they will never occur again.

The Poonah murders, as a matter of fact, can be traced to a definite cause. They were not due to the innate perversity of the citizens of that town, or to their habits of lawlessness, or to their hatred of the ruling race. It was a grievous error to employ British soldiers to carry out measures, which meant the invasion of the zenana and interference with matters which are cherished with affection and respect by the people of this country. The Government is now convinced of its error; indeed, Sir C. Ollivier has at last himself come to admit it. This means that the Government will not again commit the mistakes which led to the murders.

Besides, we believe, the Government is heartily sick of its own policy, and a little bit ashamed of it too. Every one knows that the incarceration of Mr. Tilak, the deportation of the Natu brothers, the Punitive Police Force, &c., sat like so many nightmares of the authorities; and they would have been done away with long ago if Government could have done it without losing prestige. It is quite true, the authorities enjoyed the privilege of ruling like dictators, and experienced some pleasing sensations by exercising it. But what then? Mr. Tilak has at last got his release. It is true, the Natu brothers were deported; but the Government had to give one thousand unsatisfactory explanations for this act of theirs. This is absolutely certain that the Government would no more deport British subjects without trial on the ground that they had tampered with a nurse, whatever it may mean.

It would also be unjust to suppose that authorities who rule India, have no feelings. Repentance is sure to be the measures inaugurated in a state of passion, prejudice and panic. And there can be no doubt that the Bombay Government acted at leisure for what it had done in a panic. Of course, the Government can come result, to soothe its feelings. It is the sedition laws were passed. But we ask, what then? Practically, Government have gained nothing by these measures. The newspapers would have never been prosecuted but for the murder of two European officials. The English jury would not possibly convict the accused, if intelligence had not been clouded by passionate feeling, occasioned, by these murders. Practically, the sedition measures do no stings. The Indian papers never commit sedition—they never committed it; there is no sedition in the minds of the Indian people. An administrator, ambitious making an Indian editor pick oakum, has

first of all, to show that sedition had been committed. Sir A. Mackenzie had justly observed that no Indian administrator, with a reputation to maintain, would venture to bring a charge of sedition against a newspaper when he had no substantial grounds for his action.

And then, the administrators in India are very shrewd. They know very well that the prosecution of newspapers for sedition has its disadvantages. They know that the process itself gives an impetus to discontent and disaffection. They know that such prosecutions, even if successful, without crushing the victim, give an importance to him and make a martyr or a hero of him. Mr. Tilak is a greater man now than he was before.

We have thus observed the situation from two points of view. We have shewn the grounds why the matters should be left where it is now. But these grounds, though strong in themselves, are based upon sand. We have rights, and they were trampled under foot. It is our duty to make these rights unassailable, and that, we think, we can do by persistent and ceaseless agitation. It is one thing to rely upon the good sense of the Government; it is another thing to rely on our own rights and just cause.

## NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE COOLIE AND THE LORD.

Of course, it is quite true that every administrator in India, generally speaking, does his best, according to his own light, to serve the Indians. But opinions about the people of this country differ very much among these rulers. Those who believe that Indians are savages, as Lord George Hamilton declared them to be, are for treating them as savages, with scant courtesy. Such administrators must necessarily fail to please the Indians. If an administrator thinks that an Indian is no better than a dog, he is quite justified in throwing a bone to him and congratulating himself on his large-mindedness. But an Indian, who thinks that he is higher than a dog, will not admit that he has been served by the offer of the bone.

Lord George Hamilton has a notion that the Indians are no better than savages. There are many ardent Christians who entertain the notion that the Indians, being heathens, are accursed of God. According to this notion, the Indians, having forsaken Jesus Christ, has incurred the wrath of God; and that He, the Father of all, therefore, would hurl them to hell to suffer eternal torments. This notion is inevitably followed by another, which is this, *viz.*, "to befriend an Indian is to go against the wishes of God!" In other words, a Christian, who holds the opinion that a heathen would be, under divine dispensation, tortured eternally in hell, is bound to entertain the notion that any amount of mercy to an Indian would be displeasing to God, and any amount of cruelty, pleasing to Him.

Of course, men are better than their creed. The bigoted Christians, who hold the notion that the heathen is to be eternally damned, cannot yet help being kind to him. It is creditable to Sir Charles Elliott that he was so kind to the people in his charge. His notions about the fate of the heathens were something like those held by bigoted Christians, described above. But yet his kind heart prevailed over his creed. He declared in a speech at Darjeeling that even if the Christian masters of India oppressed the people, the former have more than compensated the latter by offering them Christ. This sentiment of Sir Charles Elliott goes to show that whenever he did any service to the heathen, it was done at a moment of weakness.

The fact is, the Indian administrators who think that the Indians are heathens, and, therefore, accursed of God, and those Indian administrators who think that the Indians are little better than savages, and, therefore, do not deserve a civilized rule, must find it difficult to please the Indians. It is because the Indians themselves have no notion that they are to be damned eternally or that they are barbarians.

Lord George Hamilton, no doubt, entertains the notion that it is a presumption on the part of the Indians, who are little better than savages, to demand the methods of rule that obtain in civilized countries. Of course, when Lord George Hamilton was pleased to make the remark, Babu Ananda Mohun Bose was delighting the English audiences by his eloquence—a spectacle which belied His Lordship's notion about the Indians. But his Lordship and those who agree with him in his notion, have a theory to account for such spectacles of Hindus showing intelligence and culture. It is that Babu Ananda Mohun Bose was a savage, but has been civilized by the English.

We cannot, however, agree in this view, that the English-educated Hindu owes his civilization to his English education. Can English education make an Ananda Mohun Bose of an Ethiopian? Intellectually, the Hindus are fully the peers of the Englishmen. And this is fully proved from a statement, which appeared in the *St. James Gazette*, when Mr. Paul's motion about Simultaneous Examinations was accepted in Parliament, to the effect that "if this motion was not rescinded, every post would be snatched from the Englishman by the Bengalee". And this is also proved by the success of about half-a-dozen Bengalee youths at the recent Civil Service Examination, and there are hundreds in the country who are more brilliant than they

The notion amongst the Westerns is that they are civilized and all others are barbarians. This is a great delusion. The so called civilization of the West has produced very many disastrous results. One is that it has given impetus to men to devote their best energies to the destruction of their fellows. The second is that it has given opportunities to a few for the reduction of the vast majority to the condition of hewers of wood and drawers of water. And thirdly, it has led men to forget that they are mortals and are only for a short time on this earth.

Civilization may ignore it, but death is a stern fact. Has civilization been able to evade that debt which everyone has to pay to nature? Man has the privilege of remaining only three scores of years on this earth; and both the Indian coolie and English lord have to yield to that law. The life of the Indian coolie is seemingly hard. He has no power to make others tremble before him. He has no opportunities of indulging in capital wines and turtle soup; nay, possibly he has to fast.

The English lord has, on the other hand, his turtle soup and the resources of a vast Empire at his disposal; and his civilization has given him some seeming advantages over the savage coolies of India. But the terms of existence of the Indian coolie and the English lord expire after three score and ten years. And then, the bare fact comes to light that the civilized lord gained very little by his superior position and his advantages.

After three score and ten years we see the dead body of the coolie on the bare ground, covered by a coarse piece of cloth. We see also the dead body of Bismarck on a magnificent couch. The Chancellorship does not accompany Prince Bismarck, nor can the Prince take even a part of the Empire with him that he had created for his Emperor by rendering thousands of women widows and thousands of children orphans.

When the dead body of a mighty Prince is placed side by side with a poor Indian coolie, the fact becomes patent that there is one God, that all are His children, and that there is absolute equality amongst His children.

Can Prince Bismarck carry his German Empire with him or any portion of it? That being the case, the so-called civilization which leads one to lord it over another or massacre eighty thousands of his fellows for love of power, is a delusion and a snare.

All that remains of Prince Bismarck, is his dead body. And that is also what remains of the Indian coolie.

Is the dead body of the English lord worth more than that of the Indian coolie? Certainly not; both are converted into food by the worms.

Let us go a step further. Let us now suppose the souls of the lord and the coolie coming together. We dare say the coolie will not offer his salaam to the lord. The lord will then find to his dismay that he had left the Indian Empire for good.

## MUNICIPAL BILL AGITATION.

We are glad that the rate-payers of Calcutta are up and doing. A Committee, it may be remembered, was appointed by the recent Town Hall meeting, to take further steps in connection with the Calcutta Municipal Bill. Funds are being collected for the purpose of carrying on a systematic and sustained agitation on the subject. The very fact that Rajah Binoy Krishna Bahadur has agreed to receive subscriptions is a guarantee that the money raised for this purpose will be properly spent. Every rate-payer in the city, big or small, is vitally interested in the measure. The bigger the rate-payer, the greater are his responsibilities. Each and every one should, therefore, contribute his mite, according to his circumstance.

The situation is this. As we have often stated, Sir John Woodburn can have no affection for the bantling of Sir A. Mackenzie, specially as it is an unjust measure, without any redeeming feature in it. It is not the good fortune of every ruler of a Province to confer a great boon upon the people, entrusted to his care. But surely, no Governor is willing to take upon himself the odium of withdrawing one which they have been enjoying for a long time, specially for the sake of his predecessor. It therefore goes without saying that Sir John Woodburn will never agree to thrust a measure upon his people, which is really bad.

We may also take it that His Honor will be happy to afford them help in their difficulties, if they can show him the way to do it. Now, in spite of the late Town Hall meeting, Sir John Woodburn is still under the impression that there are two parties in the town, one for, and another, against the change. What the rate-payers, therefore, have got to do is to show that every rate-payer in Calcutta, except a few belonging to the European community, is opposed both to the principles and main details of the Bill. If they can do this satisfactorily, the authorities here will never care to pass it. Similarly, if we can represent our case properly to the Secretary of State for India, his Lordship will ponder several times before thrusting it upon us.

But how to accomplish these objects? Well, if four lakhs, out of five lakhs, of the citizens say in one voice that they do not want the proposed change, then it will not be possible for the enlightened rulers of India to do such a grievous wrong as to insist on passing the Bill. At least, the fact that the whole city is opposed to the measure, will have a tremendous effect

upon Englishmen at home, which, in itself is a great thing. So the immediate and first duty of the rate-payers is to submit one or a number of petitions to the Lieutenant-Governor and the Secretary of State, signed by tens of thousands of rate-payers, in short, by the residents of every street, lane, and by-lane, protesting against the revolutionary change. It is then that the authorities will come to realize the grave character of the measure, and be compelled to withdraw or modify it on popular lines.

The other duty of the rate-payers is to carry on an agitation in England. It is the English people who are the real masters of the Empire; and we know it as a positive fact that there are a good many Anglo-Indian officials in England, holding at least as high a position as that of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, who are in full sympathy with us in this matter. Sir Richard Temple is the father of the elective system in Calcutta. It is an open secret, Sir Charles Elliott is strongly opposed to the Mackenzie Bill. Sir Steuart Bayley and other late Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal spoke highly of the present system, and we may thus count upon their help. But somebody or some bodies must go to England on behalf of the rate-payers, to collect the scattered forces together, and utilize their services. Indeed, it is not at all a difficult feat to induce these retired Anglo-Indian officials and other high-minded Englishmen to wait in deputation upon Lord George Hamilton, and represent to him that a measure like the Mackenzie Bill is not only not wanted, but, if passed, will create seething discontent in India and reduce Calcutta again to the horrible state of dirt and filth in which it wallowed before the introduction of the elective system.

Funds are, however, necessary for the purpose of carrying out the above two projects. To send a deputation to England as well as to collect four lakhs of signatures, require a large sum. But the amount can be easily raised if every rate-payer contributes his mite. Surely, each ward can, without any difficulty, pay Rs. 5,000; and this means more than a lakh of rupees. In these days of modern civilisation, almighty dollar is absolutely needed to secure the success of a project. Let us, therefore, trust that every citizen of Calcutta will do his duty at this juncture, and the required amount will be secured in no time.

The advocates of the Currency measure are just now very much interested in proving two things: first, there is very little uncoined silver in the possession of the people of this country; and, secondly, there are vast hoards of coined silver in the country. If these two propositions are accepted, then it will be very easy for the Government to show that the closing of the mints has very much benefited the Indians; for, the value of coined rupees having been artificially increased, the possessors of them are now richer by far than they were before 1893. As regards the holders of uncoined silver, why, their number being very small, the country has suffered very little by the change!

It is Mr. O'Connor, of the Indian Finance Department, who, immediately after the closing of the mints, broached this theory in a Bombay paper; and it was taken up with great glee by the London *Times*, to crush the Right Hon'ble Mr. Chaplin who had interested himself in this question, and who, as we said the other day, had presented the petition of the Indian Relief Society to Parliament, in 1893. When Mr. Chaplin brought the charge of "spoliation" against the Government of India in connection with the Currency measure, the *Times* clasped the paper of Mr. O'Connor on silver bullion as a drowning man catches hold of a straw, and sought to demolish the spoliation charge of the Right Hon'ble member. Mr. Chaplin sent a reply to the *Times*, which is reproduced in another column, and which, we doubt not, will be read with considerable interest at the present moment.

Mr. O'Connor asserts that only lakhs, and not crores, worth of uncoined silver, are in the possession of the Indians. The statement is absurd on the face of it, when it is considered that the 250 millions of Indians have been using silver from time immemorial, and there is now scarcely an agriculturist who has not got some uncoined silver with him. It is immaterial whether he has got this silver for ornamental or other purposes; for, the question before us is, whether or not he has got certain quantity of uncoined silver in his possession, and whether or not, this property has been reduced to one-third of its original value by a stroke of the pen.

The other extraordinary statement in Mr. O'Connor's paper is that, "there are vast hoards of silver in the country; but these hoards consist not of uncoined metal, but of coined and current rupees;" and as the value of the rupee has been raised, the Indians have suddenly grown richer by the closing of the mints! But where are these hoards of coined rupees? Mr. O'Connor is ready with his answer. "The hoards and savings which they (the Indian people) put away for use in cases of necessity, are rupees hidden away in a supposed safe place, instead of being placed in a bank, as is our custom". Again, says Mr. O'Connor: "What the ordinary Indian does, if he is of a cautious and saving habit, is to put his rupees in a hiding-place". But where is this hiding-place? Mr. O'Connor says it is in the floor of the ryot's hut. But the great *Times*, the mouth-piece of the Eng-

lish nation, improved upon this suggestion and assured its readers that the Indian peasant "hides his rupees in his thatch!" To the mind of the *Times*, evidently, the thatch is something like an iron safe or a strong wooden box!

The Government, we hear, has sought information regarding coined and uncoined silver from many of our leading merchants and traders. The questions framed on the subject, lead one to suspect that the Government has already accepted the theory of Mr. O'Connor, and all that they want now is the sanction of the Indian trading classes to proclaim to the world that the Indians have hoards of coined, and very little of uncoined silver with them. Those who have got the questions to answer, should study them carefully; for, if they make a slip, they may do vital injury to the country. As regards the matter of coined and uncoined silver, we think, there is no difference of opinion amongst the Indians that the only precious metal the masses in the country possess is uncoined silver, and that both the higher and the lower classes have very little of coined rupees. As we pointed out the other day, the well-to-do men of the country invest their rupees in landed property or commercial business, while poorer Indians convert their savings into silver ornaments.

We announced in our last issue the success of two Bengalee youths at the last Civil Service Examination, Kumar Manmatha Krishna and Babu Charu Chander Dutta. We learn with much pleasure that three more Bengalees have passed that examination successfully, namely, Babu Protap Chander Dutt, a nephew of Babu Romesh Chander Dutt, who is now in England and doing such valuable services to his country; Babu Jotindra Nath Rai, eldest son of Babu Jogendra Nath Rai, zemindar of Narail; and Babu Jotindra Nath Rai, second son of Babu Kedar Nath Rai, District Judge. We have already said that Kumar Manmatha Krishna is the second son of the late Kumar Ananda Krishna Bahadur. Babu Charu Chander Dutt, who is a B. A. of the Calcutta University, is the eldest son of Rai Kalika Dass Dutt Bahadur, Dewan of the Maharajah of Kooch Behar, and to whom that State is so much indebted. We do not know if Babu Kedar Nath Rai is a Kyeshta or not. If he is, then all the five passed candidates belong to the Kyeshta families of Bengal. It also affords us pleasure to learn that Mr. Byramji R. Mehta, a son of our townsman Mr. K. D. Mehta, who is more a Bengalee than a Parsee, is another successful candidate.

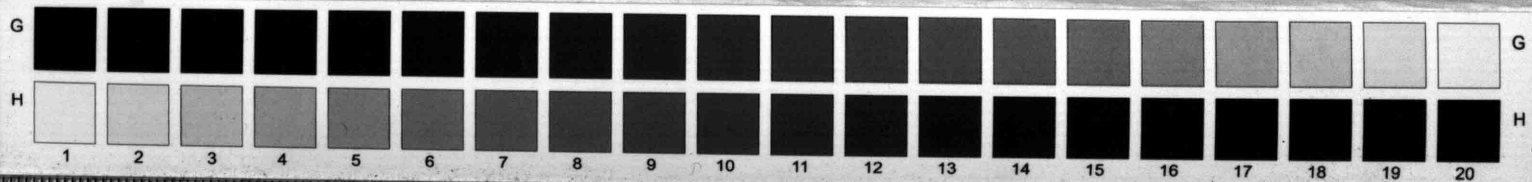
We hear that the leave, for which Nawab Syed Ameer Hossen applied, has been granted to him, and that Mr. Bonnaud has been appointed to act for him. Thus, another post which belongs to a native of the country, has been made over to a European. If we have been correctly informed, the post was reserved for a member of the Provincial Service by the Despatch of the Civil Service Commission. As far as we have been able to ascertain, the applicants for the officiating appointment were Babu P. N. Mukherjee, of Sealdah, Mouli Serjul Hug, of Alipore, and Mouli Bazal Karim, of Howrah. The post might have been given to any of these gentlemen, and the provision in the Despatch, referred to above, observed. Of the three officers named above, the last, Mouli Bazal Karim, is the senior of all, and he has been in the service for 24 years and earned much distinction. It is a pity that, even under the rule of Sir John Woodburn, the just claims of the natives of the soil should be overlooked in this way.

ELSEWHERE will be found an exhaustive account of an interview with Mr. Tilak. It originally appeared in Marathi in the *Sudharak* of Poonah; and we owe the translation to the courtesy of Mr. K.K. Athavale, Sub-Editor and publisher of the *Champion*.

WHEN we said the other day that Mr. Badsha, the Comptroller of the Post Office, treated his clerks like coolies, we did not exaggerate. Here is a memo., issued by him, to exact work from these poor men:—

MEMO.  
Half an hour will be granted each day to clerks of this office for luncheon and rest. The Superintendent of each section will please make suitable arrangements, so that one-third of the men, subordinate to him, should leave office at 1 P.M. and return at 1-30 P.M.; that a second third should leave office at 1-30 P.M. and return at 2 P.M.; and that the remaining men should leave office at 2 P.M. and return at 2-30 P.M.

(Sd.) K. J. B.  
5.4.97.  
The first question that occurs to us is— is there any other department under Government where such a rule prevails? If not, why should Mr. Badsha introduce this innovation in his office? And has he any authority to do so? There are heads of departments, who have to control a larger number of clerks than Mr. Badsha does. How do they manage without such memos? Let us now see the character of the order issued by Mr. Badsha. The clerks are divided into three batches. The first batch is to go out at 1 P.M.; the second at 1-30; and the third at 2 P.M. They must return and resume work punctually after half an hour. Now there may be many in the first batch who may not feel at all disposed to take luncheon and rest at





may need them badly later on, say, at 2 p. m. For the sake of Mr. Badsha, however, they must rest when they need it, and they must take tiffin when their stomach is full or they must go without it when people, as a rule, feel a desire for it. The hardship, however, does not end here. Each batch must meet the calls of nature—it does not matter whether they are overtaken by them or not—within the half hour allotted to them. That is the *hukum* of Mr. Badsha. According to the provisions of the memo, the clerks of the first and the second batches must finish this business before 2 p. m.; for, none of them will be permitted to go out after that hour, even if he happens to get diarrhoea, and soil his clothes; while the clerks of the third batch, if they are similarly afflicted, or if they have to answer simple calls of nature, have not the privilege of seeking the water closet before 2 p. m. Is this not nice arrangement? That Mr. Badsha, who is so intelligent, should not see this ridiculous side of his memo, is what is really incomprehensible to us. But he does not stop here. He has also a memo for the guidance of the Superintendents, many of whom are respectable members of our society. Here it is:—

## MEMO.

The main duty of Superintendents in this office is to supervise and not merely to sit in their chairs and pass drafts. Yesterday I saw a large number of men leaving office at 10 minutes to 5 p. m. I have heard from various sources that this happens everyday. It would seem quite clear that the Superintendents of the sections in which the men are working cannot personally be working after their men. I constantly see men strolling about corridors after 4-30 p. m. No man without special orders is to leave office until the clock of the General Post Office strikes 5 p. m. No man should leave his seat without the special order of the Superintendent. If I find any man disobeying these orders, not only will I fine him severely but I shall take suitable notice of the conduct of the Superintendent concerned.

Sd. K. J. B.

Now picture the situation to yourself! Mr. Badsha, as *gur-mahashay* with a rod in hand, chastising the Superintendents, the big boys of his *patshahis*, and the big boys, in their turn, are asked to cane the clerks, the smaller boys, who are placed immediately under their supervision! But as the Comptroller's office is not a *patshahi*, and the Superintendents and the clerks serving there are not children, Mr. Badsha, we hope, will do away with his memos of "please, sir, let me go out," and treat them with the same consideration which their conferees in other departments receive from their Chiefs. There are two methods of making the subordinates work; one by placing confidence in them, and the other by watching their every movement with distrustful eyes. Mr. Badsha has tried the latter, and the result is that the whole body of his clerks are at war with him. They are, of course, doing their work, but that is not from a sense of duty but for fear of offending him; and the work done under such circumstances can never be satisfactory. Let him now try the other policy,—the policy of sympathy and confidence; and we can guarantee him success and the good wishes of his fellow-beings placed entirely at his mercy.

A CORRESPONDENT from Purulia writes to us to say that the case known as the Kumerkela murder case, after dragging its slow length for months, has at last resulted in the practical acquittal of the accused, Mr. Ambler, as he was let off only with a fine of Rs. 10. The particulars of the case were published in these columns at the time of its occurrence and they created a good deal of sensation owing to the circumstances under which the poor Indian lost his life. Says our correspondent:—

"The case came up for hearing at Purulia on the 19th September last, in which a European gentleman, named Mr. H. Ambler, was released by the Sessions Judge, Mr. Lee (who came here from Bankura to officiate for Mr. Taylor) only with a nominal fine of Rs. 10 and four hours' so-called confinement in his own court.

"The salient facts of the case are as follow:—On the 15th May last the accused, Mr. H. Ambler, the Assistant Manager of Dear and Co., arrived at Kumerkela to see some sleepers which Mr. Lovell, the Assistant Engineer on E. B. S. Railway, was going to purchase from the Company. It so turned up that no coolies were available at the time to spread the sleepers for inspection. However, one of the accused's chaprasis, named Jagadeb Tewari was close by, whom the Chota Shahab, the accused, asked to bring some coolies. The unfortunate man went out on his errand; but having failed in his mission, viz. to collect coolies for his master, returned after half an hour to the Shahab, without any. This enraged Mr. Ambler, and he ordered the man to remove the sleepers himself, unaided. When the poor man expressed his inability to do so, Mr. Ambler, it was alleged by the prosecution, slapped him, seized him by the head and neck and threw him down on the ground, and then kicked him again with his boots about the body and the stomach, while the unfortunate victim was lying flat on the ground. However, the poor fellow got up at last, walked some distance and fell down again on the ground from where he never rose. He breathed his last at about 10 o'clock in the same night. The case was enquired into by the Deputy Commissioner of Chabasa, who committed the case to the Sessions under Sections 304 and 325, I. P. C., and released the accused on

As the accused declared himself to be a European British subject, he was tried with the assistance of three European jurors, who returned a unanimous verdict of not guilty, although the accused himself had admitted that he gave two or three slaps on the deceased for which he fell down. It was afterwards proved by their own doctor that the man had died of a rupture of his spleen, from which he was suffering since three or four years."

Without the records of the case before us, we cannot pass any opinion upon the result of the trial. When he was found not guilty by the jury, the presumption is that there were strong grounds in favour of the accused to lead them to arrive at that decision. We cannot, however, understand how he was fined if he was acquitted by the jury. Our correspondent says that the result of the trial has come as a surprise upon the public. This shows that there is some screw loose somewhere. Will the Government be pleased to send for the records of the case? The Government would do a real service to all parties concerned, if it could lay down a rule to the effect that whenever a case of manslaughter or murder of a native by a European was tried, the records of the case should be sent to the Legal Remembrancer for his opinion, and that his opinion should be published for general information.

Mr. Tilak has written to us a letter which, being private, we cannot publish, though there is nothing in it which cannot be made public. He begins with the statement that his first letter was to Prof. Max Muller and "this is the second thanks-giving letter that I am writing." The fact is, so long he had no time. "It is now nearly a fortnight since I was released," says he, "but the rush of visitors was so great that I had hardly left any time to write to friends." He says that his Calcutta friends deserve his first thanks for the moral and material support received from them. His consolation is that others before him, much greater men, had suffered for their opinions, as, for instance, Nana Farnavis. His regret is, says he, that the English nation who always treat their political prisoners well and regard them as first-class misdemeanants, should have, in his case, adopted a different method. He says: "my only claim, if I may so call it, for public congratulation and sympathy, was that I was the first to suffer in this matter. I do not think it is much, and I feel that too much is made of my troubles. However, there can be no doubt that the sympathy is genuine, and so much overwhelming that I feel crushed under it. Can I ever do a thing which will make me deserving of it all?" We may notice more of the letter hereafter.

The statement which has appeared in the papers to the effect that the Officer Commanding Poonamalee has been authorized to engage a barrister, on a daily fee of Rs. 100, to defend Private Knight, charged with having shot an Indian lad dead from pure wantonness, is incredible. Yet, we fear, it will not be regarded as such in the country. For, the impression has gone abroad that the European offenders are treated in this country with undue leniency. There is no doubt of it that the law affords privileges to a European offender, which are denied to the Indian. The impression, then, is that when a European is charged with an offence, the police feel a hesitation to take up the case; and when they do it, they fail to show their usual vigour. The jury feel a reluctance to convict him; and if he is convicted, the Judge passes a lenient sentence. That being the impression, the statement that Private Knight is to be defended at the cost of the Government, is not likely to be taken as incredible in this country. It is, however, quite natural that a European in a foreign country should feel an inclination to defend a countryman of his in distress. And if the Europeans in India were actually in a foreign country, this feeling of sympathy for a fellow-countryman, charged with a crime, could have been excused, if not justified. But is the European, in India, in a foreign country at all? As a matter of fact, India is more a foreign country to an Indian than to a European. Indeed, looking from a practical point of view, India to an Englishman is more his own country than even England. For in England, an Englishman belongs to that country; but in India, the country belongs to the Englishman.

In a dispute between a Frenchman and an Englishman, it is but natural that the selfish feeling of nationality should subordinate the sense of justice. In such a dispute, the Frenchman would be impelled to side with his countryman at all costs, even at the cost of his conscience; and the Englishman would also be led to feel in the same way. For the Frenchman is an opponent, at least, a rival. But an Indian is not an opponent of an Englishman, nor even a rival, but only a subject. How can an Englishman, under such circumstance, entertain any race-feeling in a dispute with an Indian? For an Englishman to harbour a race-feeling when an Indian is concerned, is to trample his imperialism under foot. The Company of the olden days was both a sovereign and a merchant; and these two positions were incompatible. In the same manner, an Englishman is either a lord of an Indian, or only his rival. He cannot be both,—lord and rival. He can treat the Indian as a rival, only when he has given the latter an equal share of the government of the country. But the

Indians are nobodies in India. As the case stands here, when an Indian is oppressed by a European, he does not appeal to his own countrymen, but to the countrymen of the offender. The aggrieved Indian runs to the European for protection; and that European must be a mean-hearted fellow who will, under such circumstance, permit his race-feeling to guide his actions. The position of Europeans in India is such that they are in duty bound to treat the Indians not only with strict justice but generosity; for, the Indians have no other protectors than Europeans.

The *Hindu* considers that the conditions under which Mr. Tilak was released, "were absurd enough, though not as absurd as stated in the *Free Press*." Is it so? The condition is that, if Mr. Tilak is at a future period again found guilty of sedition, he would have to serve the term, now remitted, in addition to the sentence inflicted by the Court. What we said, the second condition was that "if he breaks the law, he agrees to be punished." Of course, literally there is a difference between the two conditions, set forth above; but practically there is no difference whatever. Let us suppose that Mr. Tilak is again convicted. Of course, we do not wish it; but yet what, if we did wish it? One prosecution has made him great; another will make him greater. Frankly, however, we do not wish him a second incarceration. But let us suppose he is prosecuted and convicted again. Suppose again an Aston sits in judgment upon him, and seeing that Mr. Tilak, in spite of his first incarceration, had not learnt to feel an "affection" for the Government, seeks to make an example of him, and sends him to transportation for life. What will then the Government do with the term that it had remitted? The concession will thus be an unrealizable demand. Suppose the Judge gives him five years. In such a case the Government would be entitled to bring forward the condition for the purpose of enforcing it after Mr. Tilak had served his term. But where will then the present Government of Bombay be? And where will then Lord George Hamilton be, to sanction such a procedure? Suppose, the Liberals were then in power; would they also seek to enforce the condition? And how would the Government enforce the condition at all? Where is the law investing the executive Government with such powers? So, you see, practically what the Government has got from Mr. Tilak, is this that he, Mr. Tilak, has agreed to be punished if he is found by a court of justice to have broken the law, or in other words, what the Government has practically got, is only a couple of mare's eggs. The entire thing is absurd from beginning to end. The only result that the Government has been able to secure by its proceeding, is that it has been able to bring discredit upon British Judges from the Lord Chancellor down to Mr. Judge Aston, as also upon itself, by showing that it can, under the impulse of panic and passion, do things, of which it gets ashamed when the feelings have calmed down.

THE *Morning Post* has received the following telegram from Nussersabad under date 25th September:—

A punkha coolie, attached to the Sergeant's Mess of the Royal Fusiliers, was seized at 2 a. m. to-day and dragged, by two soldiers to a well close by and thrown in.

He was subsequently rescued, his cries having been heard. The man is unable to identify his assailants, nor can he assign any cause for having been thus treated.

He received serious injuries to his arm and legs, and is now under treatment in hospital. The police have taken up the enquiry.

Human imagination can hardly conceive of a worse form of cruelty than the one which was resorted to in the case alluded to above; and, if the man's life was saved, it was due to an accident. Yet this is not the first instance on record in which a punkha-coolie has been treated in this fashion. In one case, in the N. W. Provinces sometime ago, a punkha-coolie was deliberately thrown by some soldiers from a height of 20 ft., we believe, and he was killed. And those who committed the act, were let off. The facts of the Whelan case must be fresh in the memory of the reader. Such brutal acts create an amount of disgust in the country, of which the authorities have no idea. In the interests of humanity and policy, the authorities should do something to protect the punkha-coolies from the outrages of European soldiers.

WHAT generally takes place is, that when a Judge and jury differ, the former is for conviction and the latter for acquittal. From this point of view, the Maimansing murder case is bound to excite public curiosity; for, it is one, in which the rule alluded to above, is reversed. The Sessions Judge, Babu A. C. Sen, took an unique step when he referred the case to the High Court, in opposition to the verdict of the jury who were for the conviction of the accused. Be it said to the credit of Babu A. C. Sen, that when in another case, tried by him, the same spectacle was witnessed,—that is to say, he was for acquittal and the jury for conviction,—he referred the matter to the High Court, with the result that his views were upheld. We have yet to see the novel spectacle of a European Judge acting as Babu A. C. Sen did in the Burdwan and Maimansing cases.

We received last evening the following telegram from Mr. K. L. Mudvedkar,

of Dharwar, which purports to be copy of a telegram that has already been addressed to his Excellency the Governor of Bombay:

"Following telegram was sent to Governor on 25th: Plague measures oppressive, constant rain, weather too cold. Deputations were made to Collector but no relaxation in measures. Persons are committing suicide. People were ordered to live outside at any risk. More deaths in huts for unbearable cold. Pregnants, babies and old are exposed to divine mercy. Dacoities occurring; no bandobust; arms refused; persons plundered and injured. Collector is not sympathising but town is being vacated; rich and poor suffering alike; inoculation certificates of Civil Surgeon not recognized. Pray for relaxation of plague rules, order Collector for it. Plague is increasing rapidly."

CAPTAIN MANNERS SMITH, V. C. is posted as Political Agent in Gilgit.

It is notified that the Secretary of State has sanctioned the construction by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, as a part of their system, of a branch line from Chatisgaon, in Dhulia, a distance of 37.31 miles at an estimated cost of Rs. 35,97,302.

MR. JUGGERNATH KHUNNAH, at the committee meeting of the Delhi Peice Goods Association, suggested the establishment of a Paper Currency Office in Delhi. The committee unanimously approved and adopted the suggestion, and resolved to memorialize Government on the subject.

A RATHER sensational case will shortly come up before the Sessions Judge of Agra, for the trial of a European woman and her Indian cook. This woman, who is the wife of a European Railway Guard, living at Tundla, is said to have been in criminal intrigue with the cook; and the charge is that the cook, at the instigation of the woman, administered arsenic to her husband, who died from its effects. The absconding couple were arrested at Dinapore and made over to the Magistrate of Patna, who have sent them up to Agra.

It is notified in General Orders that the Customs Preventive Service and the Salt Department, Calcutta, are desirous of employing a limited number of Europeans who have been discharged or transferred to the Army Reserve with permission to reside in India from British Units serving in this country. The men selected will join as extra or supernumerary officers and their promotion to appointments will depend on good behaviour and fitness. These extra officers are paid by fees which on an average amount to Rs. 90 per mensem. Well conducted men would probably be confirmed in three years and would earn a pension.

THE Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis has recorded a note of dissent on the recommendations of the Select Committee on the Central Provinces Agricultural Tenancies Bill. He states that the provisions which restrict the right of transfer, will, as regards malguars, and in a less degree, as regards tenants, be very objectionable to many members of the classes interested. He adds:—"The right of transfer has been regarded, especially by malguars, as one of most valuable and honourable incidents of property. I quite admit that if the view of Government regarding the necessity for saving agriculturists from the consequences of their own improvidence be accepted, their interference with the 'right' of transfer in the Bill, as it now stands, has been minimised; but I am compelled to say that the sentimental objection to that interference remains."

THE Madras Revenue Returns continue to show a satisfactory increase over last year's. Up to the end of August the increase had been 31½ lakhs, of which 16½ lakhs was under land revenue. The Madras Government has issued an order which states that the low state of the provincial balances, the expenditure which will be necessary in connection with plague operation, and the possibility of the extension of famine relief operations, render it incumbent that all expenditure which is not absolutely necessary should be curtailed. The Governor in Council draws the attention of all departments and heads of departments to this matter, in view to the strictest economy being practised. Excesses over the budget grants in the current year will not be permitted unless such excess can be clearly shown to be due to famine or plague or to both these causes.

LATELY an article appeared in the *Gujarat Mitra*, of Surat, charging Mr. Manibhai Pranubhai, a Magistrate of the third class, with levying blackmail in carrying out plague operations in that town. Upon this, Mr. Pranubhai instituted proceedings against the editor of the paper for libel; and the case was heard by Mr. J. P. Lakshia. The defence, in support of the allegations made, called witnesses who said that they had paid money to Mr. Pranubhai, which was extorted by putting them in fear of causing injury or damage to them and their property. The trying Magistrate expressed his opinion that the weight of evidence tended to show that the editor had grounds for the belief that mal-practices were going on, and that he gave publicity to the matter for public good; and accordingly the case was dismissed.

SOME excitement was caused the other day at Kendrapara (Orissa) on the discovery of a cobra in a bushy corner of the local Civil Court compound. The snake was of an enormously large size. A very large number of men gathered to see it. Strange to say, the cobra made no attempt to fly at the appearance of so large a crowd, which went on increasing. For an hour or so, it stood motionless, with its head raised and the fangs protruding as if to strike at the least sign of disturbance. If its appearance created great commotion, its extraordinary conduct in making no motion only enhanced it more. At last, some bold young men, armed with big lathies, drew nearer and nearer the cobra with great caution; but before long they burst into a fit of immoderate laughter; for, the cobra was not a real one, but only an imitation,—the handiwork of a local potter. For an hour or so, the cobra story was the talk of the town and it greatly amused the townspeople. The story has, however, a moral which should not be lost sight of by our people. We have got potters whose handiworks are the wonder of the world; but still they are dying for want of proper support.

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A PUNJABI C. S.—A Lahore telegram to a contemporary says:—Mr. Gokul Chand, son of Mr. Jotima, Rais of Ferozepur, has passed the Indian Civil Service.

ANOTHER BENGALIAN CIVILIAN to the gentlemen who have passed the Service Examination this year, Mahomedan—Mr. Gupar Ali, of Sylhet—has also been successful.

INDIAN RAILWAY REVENUE.—The check in the growth of the Railway Revenue continues, the last weekly report showing a decrease of seven lakhs of rupees, mostly accounted for by the North Western line. This reduces the total improvement since the 1st April to just over a crore.

THE HEAT-WAVE IN LONDON.—In London on the 8th instant, a reliable record of 92 degrees in the shade was registered, and it is said that in the shade of the porch of the British Museum 92.2 degrees were registered. Several cases of heat-apoplexy occurred in the Metropolis and in the provinces.

A CONTRADICTION.—The Executive Engineer, Nudda River Division, writes to the *Statesman* asking to contradict the statement of its Berhampore correspondent that Laltakuri Bund has given way. No bund has occurred, and the bund "has been in order throughout the flood."

THE BARPORE RIOT CASE.—After a long adjournment, the case of the second batch, which fifteen villagers who were charged with being members of an unlawful assembly, rioting and causing hurt to several of the police and salt officers on the morning of the 2nd May last at Champahatty, near Barpore, was resumed on the 27th inst. before Mr. E. E. Forrester, Joint-Magistrate of Alipore, who, after going through the record, acquitted and discharged three of them and reserved judgment as regards the rest.

A CURIOSITY.—One of the curiosities of the Currency evidence is the statement by Mr. Antony MacDonnell, that the Government of India, through Sir James Westland, offered to place funds at the disposal of one of the Presidency Banks to assist a local firm, if the security was adequate. The Bank did not think the security was adequate, and nothing was done. This proposed advance of 15 lakhs would have been made on the ground that this gentleman's family had deserved as well of the Government politically. The name is not given, but it is refreshing to find that the Government like to be grateful when expedient.—*I. D. News*.

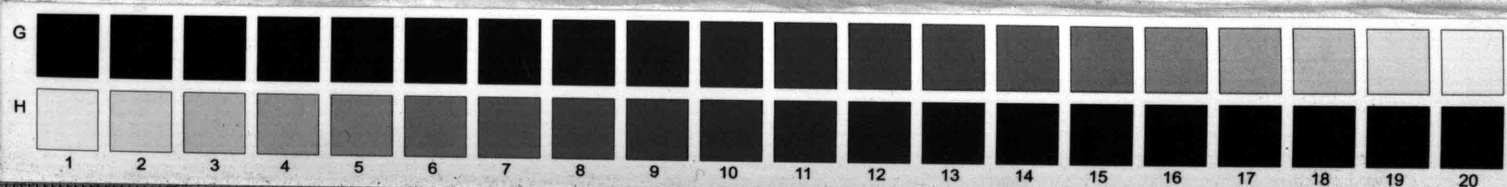
SHORTHAND WRITING IN BENGALI.—The *Pioneer* says:—It would scarcely be thought that Pitman's system of shorthand could be adapted to Bengali writing; but this was successfully done some few years ago by Babu D. N. Shingha of the Postal Department. Students at colleges have found the system useful and sermons delivered by preachers of the Brahmo Samaj and other religious societies have been reported. Phonography in Bengali, in fact, has made slow but sure progress, and the author of the first primer is engaged now in compiling a manual which should still further popularise his system. Pitman's signs and abbreviations only are used and they ingeniously adapted to sounds in Bengali; absolute accuracy is obtainable in it. The inventor of the Bengali shorthand is certainly to be congratulated on the measure of success which he has already gained.

THE Viceroy-elect will leave England India on December 16.

A WOMAN was being tried by the Judge of Patna for concealing the birth of a child. The accused was an undefended pleader of the local bar who happened present, taking pity upon her, requested the Judge for permission to defend her. To the surprise of all, he refused the permission. It never occurred to the official that he took upon himself moral responsibility by his refusal.

MR. James E. Ferrell, of Burr's House, W. has discarded all other diarrhoea and cholera remedies, only Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. He has his family and sold it to his customers and has no hesitation in saying that it is a remedy for colic and diarrhoea, and has even cured it not only gives relief, but effects a permanent cure. It is also pleasant and safe to take, making a real remedy for bowel complaints. For sale

SMITH STANISTREET & CO. and B. K. CO., PAUL, Chemists.





## Correspondence.

## THE DISARMAMENT OF BACKER-GUNGE.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR—As it is a matter of some interest, I am writing to you to put on record, side by side with Rohini Babu's wild generalities, a few hard facts which the foolish may ignore but cannot deny. If Rohini Babu had chosen, he could have got all these facts also. Government has all along kept the public fully informed; and only a few days before Rohini Babu set down to evolve facts out of his inner consciousness, Government published in the *Calcutta Gazette* full statistics on the subject. But Rohini Babu has apparently been flattered by some friends in the Bar Library into the belief (very common here) that facts are things beneath his notice, and that, if the facts are contrary to his assertions, so much the worse for facts. Let me answer the letter, point by point.

(a) He says that to preserve the crops from wild beasts, Government has only sent "a few shikaris with insufficient ammunition." As a matter of fact, 385 men have received shikari sanads. The Magistrate gives these sanads to anyone who may apply, provided that he can shoot a little and is neither a notorious badmash nor has been bound down to keep the peace. As regards ammunition, I find that 7,500 rounds have been issued, and another 3,500 rounds indented for. Some 3,000 wild animals have been killed; and it is quite likely that this number will be doubled in the next few months.

(b) Rohini Babu next asserts "that Government has only given one gun to the *tehsil* and that the *tehsil* panchayat has to be satisfied with it." This is a gross misstatement. It has been allowed 170 guns according to requirements. After a year's experience it was found that 139 panchayats had made good use of their guns, whilst others had not had occasion to use them at all. A re-distribution was then made, according to the wants of the villages; and I am informed that every gun is now in full use, with the exception of three or four, kept in reserve.

Several panchayats receive more than one gun. One panchayat has received as many as twenty. The statement that Government makes the panchayat pay for the gun, is absolutely and totally false. The guns and ammunition are supplied free of all cost. The villagers, of course, still pay for the shikaris, as they have always done. When the villagers want some shooting done, they make a private arrangement with a sanad-holding shikari, as they did before; and the latter, instead of using his own rusty old weapon now, presents his sanad to the local panchayat, which gives him a Government snider rifle with ammunition. The shikari does his work, and the panchayat who has to account to the Magistrate for every cartridge. When the supply is ended, he sends up his empty cartridges with his book, and gets a fresh supply. So much for Rohini Babu's "facts" in his connection.

(c) The next assertion is perhaps the wildest of all. Rohini Babu would have us believe that the dacoits have completely captured the rivers, and that no one now-a-days dares go on the river by night. The following are the facts regarding river dacoity, speak for themselves:

Year.	Number.
1894	5
1895	5
1896	7
1897	3
1898, up to date,	2

The District is more free from dacoity than it has been for many years. The disarmament has certainly not helped the dacoits, as a license-holder having used a gun against a dacoit. The crude remarks about the River Police only further intensify the absolute ignorance of the subject about which your correspondent writes. In 1897, Government re-constructed the River Police at a largely-increased annual cost, and both in numbers and equipment they are far superior to what they were.

(d) "Thus business suffers, to the great inconvenience of the public." This is such a vague statement that it is difficult to deal with. If revenue collections, the largest on record, and money-orders, increasing year by year, go to show decreasing prosperity, I have nothing more to say on the point. It would probably not interest Rohini Babu, but it might interest others, to learn that rice, to the value of nearly 20 millions of rupees, was exported from this district last year.

(e) Rohini Babu suggests that nearly all the murders were committed by unlicensed guns. Now the vast majority of the murders were not detected, and neither Rohini Babu nor any other, except the murderers themselves, can possibly say whether the guns used were licensed or not. I only know that since licenses were withdrawn, gunshot murders have practically ceased. I also have found out that in only two cases it has been judicially decided whether guns of the assassins were licensed or not. In one case, the High Court decided it was a licensed gun, and in the other, that it was an unlicensed gun. I would strongly recommend Rohini Babu and his friends to read pages 10 and 11 of the Resolution in the *Calcutta Gazette* of 31st August, and not to rely on their imaginations for their facts.

"The Police have made no satisfactory progress in seizing unlicensed guns." I do not know what Rohini Babu considers satisfactory progress, but considering the enormous difficulties that have to be encountered, the greatest being the apathy or worse

of certain leading zemindars, the fact that 26 unlicensed guns have been seized since the disarmament will probably strike most people as eminently satisfactory.

(f) I may also remark that the Lieutenant-Governor never used the words ascribed to him by Rohini Babu. His Honour declined to return the guns now; but, of course, he never said that "until there was a complete cessation of murders there was little chance of guns being restored." (g) This gentleman ends his letter with fearful and wonderful stories of wild beasts prowling in the town striking terror into the hearts of the poor defenceless inhabitants. You may be astonished to hear that there are, apart from Europeans, 61 people in Barisal who require no license to have guns and who actually possess them at this moment. It is also the usual thing for a few wild animals to come at this time of the year to some comparatively dry spot round the town, I myself, before the guns were confiscated, shot a tiger within a mile and a-half of the town.

I have written a much longer letter than I intended, but in a case like this where an attempt is being made to get up an entirely artificial agitation, backed up by glaring misrepresentation, I think it worth while to give a full statement of the real facts.

You yourself, sir, have been deceived by these misrepresentations and have been led to believe that the disarmament was a "barbarous measure." I am sure you will now see that you have been entirely misled by incorrect information.

I sincerely hope that Rohini Babu will make use of his recently acquired bicycle to see things with his own eyes and form his opinion from his own knowledge, for there are things to be seen outside Kirtipasa, outside the cabin of a green boat and even outside the 4 walls of the Bar Library.

C. B. BAYLEY.

[A few sentences, which are personal, have been omitted from the above letter.—Ed.]

## THE BLACK-MAILING CASE.

The adjourned sitting of the Fourth Criminal Sessions of the Bombay High Court was held the otherday, the Hon. Mr. Justice Candy presiding.

This case has aroused great interest and a large number of people gathered in the spacious Central Court, while others occupied the gallery to hear the proceedings.

Punctually at 11 a.m. he Hon. Mr. Justice Candy took his seat on the Bench, accompanied by the Sheriff, Mr. Adamjee Peerbhoy, who took his seat to the left.

The prisoners, Clive Durant, Dhanjibhoy Dadasbhoy Dadashekar, Coojerji Merwanji Mehta, A. Williams and Sorabji Kustamji Batiwalla were arranged according to their number and were made to stand in the dock to hear the charges.

Mr. Macpherson, Mr. Branson and Mr. D. D. Davar, instructed by Messrs. Craigie, Lynch and Owen, appeared for the prosecution. The Hon. Mr. P. M. Mehta, instructed by Messrs. Roughton and Byrne, appeared for prisoner No. 2; Mr. Anderson, instructed by Messrs. Bicknell, Menzies and Jotial, appeared for prisoner No. 3; and Mr. F. S. Taleyarkhan appeared for prisoner No. 4. Durant and Williams were not represented by counsel.

Before the charges were read Durant applied to his lordship that he may be allowed to make an application and be permitted to make the same from the table.

Permission was granted and Durant was allowed to leave the dock and go to the table.

Durant in making the application said that their commitment by the Magistrate was not valid and consequently the Sessions Court had no jurisdiction to try the case.

His lordship said that this application was refused by the High Court and the Court would not hear him now on the point. His lordship then asked Durant to proceed with his other point.

Durant said that his next point was an application for the traversal of the case. He had already applied to the Government of India for rectifying the mistake the Magistrate had made in committing him to take his trial at the Criminal Sessions of the High Court under section 347 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Durant further submitted that if his application is refused by the Government of India he intended to appeal to the Privy Council, which application would be forwarded Home in the course of the present month. Durant further said that the whole of his time was taken up in getting up his defence and as he had not legal assistants as the other accused, he was not prepared with his defence. He had, further, to call witnesses for the defence from Bellary, Hyderabad, Hong-kong, England and Australia. Durant in conclusion said that until he received a reply from the Government of India, the case ought to be adjourned. If the Government of India, he said, exercised the prerogative under section 327 to transfer this case to another High Court, the latter would not be bound to follow the decision of the Divisional Bench and thus he would be saved the trouble of appealing to the Privy Council.

His lordship heard Durant and said he saw no reason for the traversal of the case to the next Sessions and ordered Durant to return to the dock and plead there.

The Clerk of the Crown then read the charges under which they were arraigned and all the accused pleaded "not guilty."

Durant next declared that he was a European British subject and as such was entitled to trial by a mixed jury of Europeans.

His lordship: "Where were you born?"

Durant: "In England, my lord."

Mr. Macpherson, on behalf of the prosecution, said that he did not want to contest the nationality of the accused.

At this stage Mr. Macpherson rose and said that he was instructed, on behalf of the prosecution, to apply for a tender of pardon to the fourth accused, Williams, under section 338 of the Criminal Procedure Code, on condition of his making a full disclosure of all the circumstances regarding the case. The learned counsel then read a letter written by Williams to Messrs. Craigie, Lynch and Owen on the 15th instant, which among other things, stated that he (Williams) was willing to make a full and true disclosure of all the circumstances within his knowledge and to give further information which was not in the knowledge of the prosecution on condition of his being granted a pardon.

Durant here interposed and said that he was not prepared with his defence and asked that his trial might be taken after the trial of the other prisoners. In support of this application he said that if the trial of the other prisoners was taken up first he would derive the benefit of the scientific cross-examination of counsel on behalf of other accused.

## To Whom It May Concern:

I have been in the drug business for twelve years, and during that time, have sold nearly all the cough medicines manufactured; and from my personal knowledge of such remedies, I say that Chambers' Cough Remedy gives better satisfaction than any other on the market.—W. M. Terry, Elkton, Md.

SMITH STANISTREET & CO. and B. K. PAUL & CO., Chemists.

which might lead him to curtail the greater part of the cross examination by him on several points.

Mr. Macpherson said that with regard to the latter application he would say that Durant had played the leading part in the attempted extortion and it was obvious that his case should be disposed of first and with as little delay as possible. Mr. Macpherson submitted that in the trial if Durant was acquitted by the jury of the charges laid against him the prosecution might not proceed in the other trial against the other accused. The learned counsel said that the only illusory ground on which the application was based was the benefit Durant would derive from the cross-examination, but he would remind the Court that Durant preferred to conduct the cross-examination himself rather than put it in the hands of all the counsel put together.

Mr. Macpherson having made the objection, said he was interrupted while making the objection for a tender of pardon to Williams, the fourth accused. Williams had written to Messrs. Craigie, Lynch and Owen and had shown his willingness to disclose all the circumstances within his knowledge. Mr. Macpherson said that extortion was not an uncommon offence in this country, and offenders were rarely brought to trial unless one of them came forward and disclosed the conspiracy of his colleagues. There was no doubt that the person tendered pardon occupied the position of an accomplice in the case, but it was for the jury to say how far he had spoken the truth and how far his evidence was corroborated by the independent evidence. In conclusion Mr. Macpherson said that the reason which prompted the prosecution to make the application was a perfectly legitimate one and one to which the Court would have no hesitation in acceding.

The Hon. Mr. Mehta submitted that it was not a case which required the agency of a tender for pardon. When there was direct evidence in a case the Courts are very chary in granting a pardon, and there was no reason why Williams should not stand on his own trial and then be allowed to go free and be a witness in the case.

Mr. Anderson also objected to this application and read an affidavit made by his client which among other things, stated that he last night went to *subway* the daughter of the accused, when he was asked to wait outside till supper was over. At last when supper was over it was discovered that the young lady could not be found, and he was informed by Williams that she would not be forthcoming till the trial was over. Mr. Anderson submitted that this was not the sort of man who would speak the whole truth on the tender of a pardon by the Court.

Mr. Taleyarkhan also objected to the application.

Durant said that William's promise of a full disclosure was utterly devoid of foundation. Williams was in a state of utter destitution. He submitted that he was lured over by the prosecution to give false evidence against them and was a commodated in Pallonjee's Hotel with two suites of apartments, a piano and other comforts. That man, Durant submitted, would perjure himself and it was an easy thing now-a-days for anyone to go to Dorabji Patel and there concoct the whole thing. In the end, Durant in the name of justice asked that Williams ought not to be granted a pardon.

His lordship, after hearing the arguments, held that in a case of conspiracy the Court ought to grant a pardon. His lordship said that if the man's evidence proved worthless it was for the jury to weigh it and if it proved false the prisoner would have to stand his trial.

In regard to the trial his lordship said that, as Durant appeared to have taken a leading part, his trial should proceed first.

Williams was next asked by his lordship whether he accepted the conditions of the law by which a pardon should be tendered him by the Court.

Williams replied in the affirmative.

The case was then proceeded with against the first prisoner, Durant, and the other prisoners were asked by the Clerk of the Crown to furnish fresh bail.

While empaneling the jury some eight special jurors were challenged and the Clerk of the Crown informed the Court that the list of European jurors was exhausted. This necessitated the adjournment of the Court till 2:30 p.m., when other special jurors were summoned.

After fifteen a jury having a majority of five Europeans was empanelled and the case was proceeded with.

Mr. Macpherson then rose to address the jury for the prosecution.

Durant interposed and asked his Lordship for a short adjournment, but the application was refused.

Mr. Macpherson then proceeded to open the case for the prosecution.

The case is proceeding.

The latest news from the Khyber, is that a Kurashid Malik, on learning of the decision of the Afridi Jirga regarding the restoration of rifles by the Zakka Khel, has gone to Kabul.

DEATH is announced, at Arrah of Mr. R. A. Rossiter, Assistant Magistrate and Collector of Shahabad, as also of Lieutenant-Colonel Sorrell, Military Secretary to the Resident at Hyderabad.

A FURTHER contingent of 200 Sikh soldiers has been selected from different regiments to leave Bombay to-morrow for Central Africa by the British India steamer Rajpootana under command of Captain E. H. Watson.

ONE Kottya Naik of Sivaganga (Madura) suspected the fidelity of his wife. Years ago, in a fit of jealousy, he stabbed her and spent five years in jail. After his release, he lived with his wife, though his suspicion about her was as strong as ever. One night, when the husband and wife were sleeping, the latter left the bed, and according to her confession, misconduted herself with a neighbour. After an hour she returned, when Kottya, provoked by her conduct, lost all control over himself and stabbed her. He then attempted to hang himself, but the rope was cut in time and his life was saved. The woman, however, died from the wounds a few hours afterwards. The man was put on his trial and sentenced to transportation for life. Surely, here is a case, in which justice might have been tempered with mercy without any detriment to the interests of society.

In congratulating Mr. Tilak on his release, the Secretary of the Phulhati Bazar Reading Club, Agra, sent the following telegram to him: "Members feel greatest pleasure hearing your release. May Heaven pour His choicest blessings upon you and prolong your life for country's good." There is nothing in the above telegram which may any special public interest or to which any objection can be taken. But the "Morning Post" detected germs of sedition in it, and wrote a paragraph to that effect. The Secretary of the Club got alarmed. And why not? For if the Bombay Government was led to commence press prosecutions at the instance of the *Times of India* and the *Daily Mail*, who knows that the Government of the North-West Provinces may not be similarly moved by the *Post*?—thought the poor man. He is now sending to the Press copies of the telegram forwarded to Mr. Tilak, to show that it is all harmless. The incident shows to what depths of nervousness have the people been reduced, owing to the late extraordinary proceedings of the Bombay Government.

## GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

Mr. J. E. Friend-Pereira, Dy. Magte. and Dy. Coll. employed as Tahsildar of the Kondnals sub-division of the district of Angul, is allowed leave for one month.

Mr. Nunda Krishna Bose, Offg. Magte. and Coll. Dinajpur, is allowed leave on medical certificate for six months, in commutation of the privilege leave granted to him under the order of the 22nd August, 1898.

Mr. H. H. Emslie, Offg. Jt. Magte. and Dy. Coll. is posted to Berhampore.

Babu Bhupendra Nath Gupta, Offg. Dy. Magte. and Dy. Coll. is posted to Noakhali. Babu Bhupendra Nath Gupta is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Jogendra Kumar Ghose, Dy. Magte. and Dy. Coll. Patuakhali, Backergunge, is allowed leave for three months.

Babu Bagala Prasanna Mazumdar, Dy. Magte. and Dy. Coll. Backergunge, is appointed to have charge of the Patuakhali sub-division of that district.

Babu Rakhal Chunder Banerji, Dy. Magte. and Dy. Coll. Basirhat, 24-Parganas, is transferred to Backergunge.

Babu Mahendra Nath Mukherji, Dy. Magte. and Dy. Coll. Lohardaga, is appointed to have charge of the Basirhat sub-division of the 24-Parganas district.

Babu Surutt Chunder Dass, Dy. Magte. and Dy. Coll. Bogra, is allowed leave for three months.

Maulvi Mohammad Abdullah, Dy. Magte. and Dy. Coll. on leave, is posted to Bogra.

Iskander Kadir Syed Nasseer Ali Mirza, Probationary Dy. Coll. Murshidabad, is allowed leave for twenty-one days.

THE order of the 14th July, 1898, posting Babu Kshush Chunder Sarkar, Offg. Dy. Magte. and Dy. Coll. Cuttack, to Midnapore, is cancelled.

Babu Durga Churan Ghose, Offg. Dy. Magte. and Dy. Coll. under orders of transfer to Hooghly, is allowed leave for three months.

Babu Nanda Lal Bagchi, Dy. Magte. and Dy. Coll. Contai, Midnapore, is allowed leave for one month.

Mr. R. A. Stephen, Offg. Dy. Magte. and Dy. Coll. in charge of the Bohmang's Circle, Chittagong Hill Tracts sub-division, is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Syama Kumud Mookerjee, Dy. Magte. and Dy. Coll. Tippera, is allowed leave without allowances for one month.

Mr. F. L. Halliday, Offg. Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General of Police, is appointed to perform the duties of Assistant to the Inspector-General of Police, in addition to his own duties.

Babu Niranjan Mookerjee, Spl. Sub-Regt. Birbhum, is allowed extraordinary leave without allowances for three months.

Babu Kalipada Banerji, Rural Sub-Regt. of Rampur Hat, is appointed to act as Spl. Sub-Regt. of Birbhum.

Maulvi Syed Feda Ali, Spl. Sub-Regt. Patna, is allowed leave for one month.

Mr. G. M. Gregory, Offg. Factory Supdt. Ghazipore, is appointed to officiate as Senior Factory Supdt.

Babu Jagesh Chandra Mitter, Subordinate Judge and Asst. Sess. Judge, Bhagalpore, is posted temporarily to Mymensingh, on being relieved of his appointment as Offg. Dist. and Sess. Judge of Faridpore.

Babu Sarat Chandra Pal, Munsif of Fenny, in the district of Noakhali, is allowed leave for sixteen days.

Babu Lal Behari Dey, Munsif of Pabna, in the district of Pabna and Bogra, is allowed leave for twenty-five days, in extension of the leave granted to him on the 25th August, 1898.

Babu Tara Charan Sen, Munsif of Chandpore, in the district of Tippera, is allowed leave for twelve days.

Babu Bijoy Gopal Basu, Munsif of Bhola, in the district of Backergunge, is allowed leave for twenty-two days, in extension of the leave granted to him on the 29th August, 1898.

Babu Gopal Krishna Ghose, Munsif of Balasore, in the district of Cuttack, is allowed leave for twenty-days, in extension of the leave granted to him on the 12th August, 1898.

Babu Murari Misra, sub pro tem Sub. Dy. Coll. now employed as Offg. Manager of the Kanika Ward's Estate, Cuttack, is transferred to Angul, and is appointed to be Tahsildar of the Khondmals sub-division of that district. Babu Murari Misra is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Babu Amrita Sikhar Mukerjee, sub pro tem Sub. Dy. Coll. is posted to the Presidency Division.

Babu Har Sahay Lal, sub pro tem Sub. Dy. Coll. is posted to the Rajshahi Division.

Babu Sotis Chandra Guha, sub pro tem Sub-Dy. Coll. is posted to the Chittagong Division.

MR. BIGGE, First Judge, Rangoon Small Cause Court, is appointed to officiate as Recorder of Rangoon during the absence of Mr. Agnew on furlough.

DASTUR JAMASPIE MINOCHERJEE JAMAS-PASA, D. C. L. (Oxon) High Priest of the Parsees of Bombay, Aden and the Punjab, died at 11 o'clock on Monday night, aged 69, after a prolonged illness.

In a letter to the head of the Survey Department in India the Consul-General at Zomba, British Central Africa, pays a high tribute to the excellence of the work done by the native survey officers sent by Indian Government to the protectorate. One of these, Surveyor Wahid Ali Khan, is now engaged to assist Captain Close, R. E., in connection with the delimitation of the Anglo-German boundary on the Nyasa Tanganyika Plateau.

ACCORDING to the latest details to hand the area of land under coffee cultivation in India at the commencement of the present year was 276,074 acres, chiefly in Mysore, Coorg, Malabar, and the Nilgiris. The yield last year amounted to over 24 million pounds, and was the smallest crop recorded since 1885, the falling-off being attributed to unfavourable weather and leaf disease. For many years past coffee cultivation has received very little attention but a revival seems to be setting in, the area under coffee cultivation is increasing and no fewer than 37,819 persons are now employed permanently, and 95,820 temporarily, on the different coffee plantations, making a total of 133,639 labourers all told.

## PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

## TUESDAY'S OFFICIAL RETURNS.

On Tuesday there was no suspected case or death. The total number of deaths in the city from all causes was as low as 39.

## REDUCTION OF PLAGUE ESTABLISHMENTS.

The Chairman of the Corporation has directed a reduction to be made in the establishment of some of the plague hospitals as there is practically little or no work for those engaged on that duty. Mr. Greer also recommended a reduction to be effected in the disinfecting establishment, but Dr. Green, the special Plague Health Officer, did not think it advisable that any changes should be made now as the men employed for the purpose are small in numbers.

## PLAGUE OFFICER ON LEAVE.

Dr. Clemow has proceeded on short leave, and Dr. Mackenzie has been appointed to be in charge of Nos. 2 and 3 districts.

THERE were 33 attacks and 21 deaths in Bombay of Tuesday.

THERE were 22 cases and 19 deaths in Bangalore on Monday.

A SCHEME for imposing ten days' quarantine on all persons leaving Bangalore is under contemplation and orders of the matter are expected this week from the Government of India.

THE Madras Government has appointed Mr. Hammick, Inspector-General of Police, to be Plague Commissioner, with sole power of control over all operations in the Presidency dealing with the plague.

SEVERAL villages in the Khed taluka have been attacked with plague. An imported case was detected in Poonia on Sunday, a Hindu suffering from the disease having walked from Bhor into the cantonment. During the last forty-eight hours there were five fresh cases and three deaths at Bhor, while at Utholi, a few miles from Bhor, twelve fresh cases and eight deaths were reported.

ON Sunday in all divisions of Madras, largely attended meetings were held for considering measures to establish caste hospitals, segregation and health camps in connection with the plague. Liberal subscriptions were promised in several divisions and at to-day's special meeting of the Municipal Commissioners they are to decide on some practical steps on receiving the reports for the various divisions.

COLONEL ROBERTSON, the British Resident at Bangalore on Sunday toured through the Civil and Military stations for the purpose of checking house-to-house visitation when he found that the tendency to render the work of supervisors of too formal a kind and ordered that more stringency be exercised by enquirers and conciliatory measures on the part of every official. He especially directed that no case be removed from a house on mere suspicion. A scheme for imposing ten days' quarantine on all persons leaving Bangalore is under contemplation and orders on the matter are expected this week from the Government of India.

THE dread of the people of Madras to be inoculated for protection against the plague has gone to such lengths that the Engineering Department of the Madras Railway, North-West Line, runs the chance of being seriously inconvenienced. Lately an order was issued that all employees who were unprotected against small-pox should be vaccinated with the result that there has been a serious scare among the gang coolies watchmen, etc., that this act of the Railway authorities was actually in connection with inoculation against the plague and a large number have resigned rather than submit themselves to the operation.

THE total number of persons examined and detained during the week ending the 11th of September at the respective camps of Chakradharpur (up trains), Chausa (up trains), Chausa (River inspection up), and Marwa (up trains) were as follows:—Number of persons examined during the week from Monday to Sunday—685, 8,502, 163, and 9,032; total 18,382. Number of persons examined since the plague observation camps were opened 9,709, 140, 845,291, and 47,298; total 200,703. Number of suspects detained during the week—69,319,6 and 109; total 493. Number of suspects detained since the camps were opened—1,053, 6,324,2, and 1,547; total 8,374. Number of persons detained in camp during the week—69,319, 6, and 109; total 493.

A SIMLA telegram, dated the 27th, thus gives the plague statistics during the past week. The past week shows a decline in the plague returns both in Bombay City and the Presidency. In the city the total mortality remained about the same, and the number of reported plague deaths fell from 149 to 127. In the districts and States of the Presidency the total number of reported deaths fell from nearly 3,000 during the previous week to something over 2,500. There was a considerable decrease in the number of deaths from plague in the Dharwar district and a slight decrease in the Belgaum district and Kolhapur State. These three localities remained most infected. There was an important rise in the number of deaths reported from the Satara district. Seven deaths were reported from Karachi. The improvement in Calcutta seems to continue, only one death being reported during the week. A few cases continued to occur in the Madras Presidency and the Hyderabad State. In Bangalore City the disease has spread somewhat, ten deaths from plague being reported during the week.

The sudden death is announced of Bha Gurmukh Singh, Professor of the Oriental College and a member of the Khalsa Dewan.

THE Hon. Dr. Duncan, Director of Public Instruction, Madras, has had an extension of service till November, 1899, when he will retire after attaining the age of 60.

THE Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, according to the revised arrangement, will leave Simla on October 21st and go straight to Lahore. He will join the Viceroy during Lord Elgin's visit to the Punjab States early in October.

ANOTHER Indian industry, which is the means of livelihood to a large number of people, seems to be threatened. It is said that Dr. King, Sanitary Commissioner of Madras, has addressed a letter to the Cochin Municipal Council, asking their opinion as to the facility of introducing Australian ghee in the local markets. Let Indian manufacturers of ghee take note.



## Telegrams.

## [INDIAN TELEGRAMS.]

SIMLA, SEPT. 25.

It is believed that the Government has sanctioned the migration of all offices to Calcutta save the traffic and statistical sections of the Public Works Department. The offices will close here on the 12th November and reopen in Calcutta on the 14th. Office orders are expected to-morrow.

Mr. Rivett Carnac, Accountant-General, Burma, has accepted the Accountant-Generalship of the Siamese Government for two years at present.

SIMLA, SEPT. 26.

The proposed to increase the pay prospects of civil hospital assistants is under the consideration of the Government of India.

Mr. Wright, Opium Agent, Ghazipur, shortly enters from service.

Major Younghusband takes three non leave and goes to the Philippines.

Yesterday's telegram regarding the migration of offices to Calcutta is premature. The matter is under final consideration of Government and will be settled on Friday next.

Mr. Dane, Chief Secretary to the Punjab Government, probably accompanies Nawab of Bhawalpur to England.

SIMLA, SEPT. 27.

The Viceroy will be entertained by the members of the United Service Club on the 14th October.

The Maharajahs of Patiala and Dholepore and the Prince of Orcha are expected to arrive to-morrow.

## [FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, SEPT. 23.

The Cretan Assembly has made a written declaration, agreeing to a disarmament of the Christians as soon as the Turkish troops leave island.

LONDON, SEPT. 23.

The Mussulman prisoners at Candia will be led by a British court-martial in Candia.

LONDON, SEPT. 23.

An agreement was signed yesterday between Argentina and Chile, whereby Argentina agrees to arbitrate on the boundary question as regards the greater portion of the frontier but refuses to include the remainder of the frontier for settlement.

LONDON, SEPT. 23.

Mr. John Stanley, Q. C. is gazetted a Judge of the Calcutta High Court, vice Mr. E. J. Trevelyan.

LONDON, SEPT. 24.

Public opinion in France recognises that the situation has reached a point where the military have practically defied the civil power. General Zurlinden having ordered the prosecution of Colonel Picquart, although the Cabinet just before General Zurlinden's resignation as Minister for War, rejected his proposal to prosecute Colonel Picquart. It is believed that President Faure is strongly disposed to the side of the military. The violence of the tone of the newspapers is increasing.

LONDON, SEPT. 24.

Mr. Curzon has been raised to the peerage under the title of Baron Curzon of Kedleston, Ireland.

LONDON, SEPT. 24.

The "Times" observes that the Hon. George Curzon's Irish peerage will enable him to return to the House of Commons after his term of office in India, unless, in the meanwhile, he succeeds to the Scardale peerage.

LONDON, SEPT. 24.

Reuter's Paris correspondent states that the four Powers will send the Sultan an ultimatum next week demanding compliance with their project for the settlement of the Cretan question, otherwise measures, on which the Powers have already agreed, will be taken to enforce acceptance, the Powers not hesitating to send their fleets to the Dardanelles.

LONDON, SEPT. 25.

Colonel Parsons with the Kassala garrison captured Gedaref on the 22nd after three hours severe fighting. Five hundred Dervishes were killed, the losses of the attacking force being ninety-six Egyptians killed and wounded.

LONDON, SEPT. 26.

An official report states that no British officer was either killed or wounded in the attack on Gedaref. The Dervish force is estimated to have numbered 3,000.

LONDON, SEPT. 26.

The Daily Telegraph publishes a telegram from its Cairo correspondent stating that Sirdar Kitchener informed Marchand that Fashoda was in the Egyptian sphere, and hoisted the British and Egyptian flags. Marchand declined to retire from his position without orders from Paris. The Sirdar left a garrison at Fashoda consisting of the Camerons and two Soudanese Battalions under Colonel Jackson.

LONDON, SEPT. 26.

It is reported that Macdonald has reached Lado.

LONDON, SEPT. 26.

The newspapers in recognizing the correctness of Sir Herbert Kitchener's conduct at Fashoda and the necessity for a settlement of the question of occupation by diplomacy, emphasize the fact that the only solution is the withdrawal of Marchand.

LONDON, SEPT. 26.

It is officially announced that Sir Herbert Kitchener has been raised to the peerage.

LONDON, SEPT. 26.

The French Cabinet has finally resolved to refer the question of the revision of the Dreyfus case to the Court of Cassation.

LONDON, SEPT. 26.

The annual Lucknow dinner was held this evening when forty veterans assembled, General Oliphants presiding. Lord Curzon the Viceroy-elect, sent a letter expressing regret for his absence. Mr. Brodrick, Parliamentary Secretary for War, was present and eulogised Lord Curzon as being the first Viceroy since Lawrence, realising the responsibilities of Asiatic rule prior to his appointment.

## SIMLA NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

We had the sitting of the Council to-day; and the first thing we had on the programme, were the Central Provinces Bills. After looking over the Select Committees' Reports, we find that they had undergone many important changes for which we are much indebted to the Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis. The most important point he has scored, is the omission of the clause which gave retrospective effect to those Bills. Mr. Chitnavis has, however, not been able to sign the Select Committee's Report without a note of dissent. Here is the Note:—

"In the first place, I must express my gratitude to my Hon'ble colleagues in the Select Committee for the courtesy with which they have listened to everything that I had to say, and for the care with which they have weighed all the proposals I have made and the objections I have taken to certain provisions of the Bill in the interests of the malguzars and tenants whom I represent. I desire to acknowledge that the Bill as now amended is, on the whole, such as cannot be reasonably open to very serious objection.

"At the same time I consider it my duty clearly to point out that the provisions which restrict the right of transfer will, in regard to malguzars and in a less degree in regard to tenants be very objectionable to many members of the classes interested. The right of transfer has been regarded, especially by malguzars, as one of the most valuable and honourable incidents of property. I quite admit that if the view of the Government regarding the necessity for saving agriculturists from the consequences of their own improvidence be accepted, then the interference with the right of transfer in the Bill, as it now stands, has been minimized; but I am compelled to say that the sentimental objection to that interference remains.

"With the general remark regarding the principle of the Bill I would add that the following details which seem to me to require special attention in the Council:—

"First, in all the sections in which matters affecting the rights of agriculturists are committed to the decision of a Revenue-Officer, it ought to be distinctly laid down that his decision is to be passed after making and recording a full enquiry of a judicial character.

"Secondly, hitherto it has been a part of the malguzar's recognized rights to dispose of land surrendered. This is now partly taken away from him in the effort to restrict transfers by tenants. I am not prepared to object to this in the case of occupancy-tenants, since it is determined that it is necessary to restrict transfers among tenants, but in the case of ordinary tenants I see no adequate reason why the succession of the heir should be provided for at the expense of very considerable loss in the prestige and authority of the malguzar.

"Thirdly, in respect to the succession of the heirs of occupancy-tenants, I recognize the sense of justice, which has led to the insertion of the provision regarding liability of the heir to all advances for the necessary expenses of cultivation, but I think, instead of leaving it to the discretion of the Revenue-officers, the payment of such advances ought to be made compulsory.

"Fourthly, I think that the provisions regarding the alienation of land are reasonable in view of the circumstances as accepted by the Government; but that in the carrying out of them very serious difficulties may be expected to arise. There are difficulties of definition and arrangement which may probably lead to friction and misunderstanding between the officers of Government and the classes concerned. To my mind it seems that it would be better to fix a certain proportion, say one-half, of the land as not liable to transfer in any case.

"Fifthly, in regard to section 61, about sub-tenants, I am unable to see my way to accept the provisions of the Bill. It is possible that in some places a serious evil exists, against which these provisions are meant to operate; but no such general evil exists in the Nagpur Division and the parts of the country with which I am acquainted, and I object to these provisions as providing for a limited evil by means which will effect more widespread and more serious injury to the agricultural community than we anticipate.

"Sixthly, while I agree to the provisions which invest Revenue-officers with the power of enhancement of rent, I think that, when interests are opposed, a third party who has the authority to enforce obedience to his judgment will be the proper person to effect an impartial adjustment of claims. In the Central Provinces the malguzars, generally speaking, have been very fair in their dealings with tenants. This position of mine is strengthened by the words of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, who in 1888-89 observed that, 'except in a few well-marked tracts, there has been very little general enhancing of rent since settlement and that what increase had taken place was due for the most part to extension of cultivation and not to rent enhancement.' This to my mind is a high testimony to the fact that the malguzars have not abused their power of enhancing rent, and I trust that no slur is intended when the legislature proposes to take this right away. I accept the provisions in these sections in the interests of both the landlord and the tenant, for they will on the one hand protect the landlord against any charge of over-assessment and, on the other, secure the tenant a fair and reasonable rent."

Next came the Marine Bill, and General Sir E. Colleen briefly explained it. It was a sort of a formal bill and nothing particular is expected from it.

The Hon'ble Sir James Westland introduced the Bill to amend the law relating to the forgery of Currency and Bank notes. The matter, we understand, has been necessitated by the closing of the Mints. A few instances of forgery cases came to the notice of the Government very recently, and the Government has at once proceeded to make the law more rigorous. The closing of the Mints has been a very unfortunate thing for India. It will not only impoverish India, but will aggravate some forms of crime and will increase the sphere of criminal jurisdiction. We do not know why the Government has taken such a hurried step when they can patiently wait till the matter of the closing of the Mint is settled by the Currency Committee.

It is believed that on a first-class District falling vacant in India next year, it will go to General Gatacre.

## MR. CHAMBERLAIN INTERVIEWED.

On arriving in New York (Sept. 8) Mr. Chamberlain has been interviewed by the Press, and we select a few of the more striking of his utterances. On being told that the camel corps was pursuing the fugitive Khalifa, Mr. Chamberlain said:—

"That settles it for all time. Gordon is avenged. The Khalifa will be killed by his own followers. Should he escape our cavalry. Young man, you will live to see the time when a railroad will be built through that country to the great lakes, the Transvaal and the Cape."

Mr. Chamberlain was told of the Cretan outbreak and the killing of the British Vice-Consul, but he declined to discuss it further than by saying that it might have a far-reaching effect upon European politics.

With regard to his Birmingham speech, Mr. Chamberlain said:—

"There is little for me to say concerning an Anglo-Saxon alliance that has not been already said. When I declared that even war itself would be cheaply purchased if in a great and noble cause the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack should wave together, I had no mental reservation, and I am happy to say that I voiced the sentiments of nine hundred and ninety-nine out of every thousand Englishmen. England is ready to meet the United States more than half-way. It is for you to determine how close the relations between the two countries shall become. There are no great obstacles to be overcome in bringing the English-speaking peoples into an alliance. When your Senate decides that it is to your interest to join with us in securing certain benefits to both nations an alliance will quickly be accomplished. In fact, why should not we be allied? Our interests are common, as is our language. We are both striving for the betterment of mankind. England gloried in your success in the late war—or should I say present war? Our sympathies were yours. Now let us have a little better understanding all round, and we can snap our fingers at hostile intrigues."

Asked if there was any truth in the report that Germany and France approached England with a proposal to coerce the United States into peace, Mr. Chamberlain said:—

"I really wish I could answer that question, but I cannot; you may readily understand why. But while on this subject I can confirm the report that an agreement has been signed between England and Germany. It is not an offensive and defensive alliance that has been formed, as some have declared. The agreement does not go that far, but I hope and expect it will lead to closer relations between the two nations."

As to the Philippines he said:—

"The Philippines, governed as I am sure they would be should they come under your control, would prove valuable possessions. The moral influence of the United States in the Pacific is bound to be felt by Russia and Germany. If you take the Philippines it will show that you do not intend to be left out when it comes to solving the Chinese puzzle. No matter what the next few months may bring forth, the United States has responsibilities in the Pacific from which it cannot shrink."

Asked about the Czar's proposal, Mr. Chamberlain said:—

"The Czar is sincere but he is a dreamer. No doubt, he wishes to illustrate his reign by means of a great peace programme. Our good will has gone out to him in his plan. In view of Russia's attitude towards China, it must be admitted that the Czar calls for peace is peculiar, to say the least."

Mr. Chamberlain, being told of the report that an Anglo-Russian understanding had been practically completed, on the basis that Great Britain recognised Russia in Manchuria, Russia undertaking to satisfy Great Britain in Chinese railway matters, and to respect England's sphere in the Valley of the Yangtze, said:—

"Such an understanding is news to me. There were no negotiations of that kind in progress when I left England. I am not in a position to deny the report, however, because I cannot tell what has happened while I was on the sea."

MR. J. N. TATTA, the well-known millowner and merchant of Bombay, has offered, under certain conditions to put at the disposal of a properly constituted body landed property, which is calculated to bring in an annual income of about Rs. 1,25,000 for the purpose of maintaining the institution of post graduate studies.

THE Cantonment Magistrate of Cawnpore pronounced judgment on Monday in the case in which the East Indian Company prosecuted Tarak Nath Chatterjee and Deskinandan, late station master and assistant station master at Chakeri near Cawnpore for implication in an extensive series of frauds committed there and elsewhere in connection with certain consignments of sugar from Ballaghatta on the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Both the accused have been convicted and sentenced, the former to eighteen months and the latter to four months' rigorous imprisonment.

A HONGKONG telegram to the Times of India says:—It is stated authoritatively at Shanghai that Great Britain has abandoned the Newchwang Railway. The statement that the contract with the Hongkong and Shanghai bank is cancelled is not believed in Hongkong but was not unexpected eventually. The abandoning of the "open door" by Sir Claude Macdonald is an assent to the principle of spheres of influence. It is expected that Russia will withdraw from the Luban railway scheme. As the Grand Council is condemning the National Assembly at Peking the Emperor reluctantly withdraws the proposal.

THE settlement of the Bajour question seems to be on the basis that a definite zone has been accepted by the Nawab of Dir and the Khan of Nawagai into which their armed retainers will not move. This should prevent bloodshed in the future, though settlements of this kind among Pathan tribesmen are generally of a dubious character. In this case, however, tribal feeling seems to have declared itself in favour of peace, at least for the present.

LORD Rothschild, in his evidence (Q. 7624), gave as his opinion, "I do not think even if you had a gold currency, you would keep exchange within certain points." That sounds very like the advice of the British Treasury, we quoted yesterday, "that Government management of the currency fails to keep it at par." It was really, however, "very rabid" of those Lords of the Treasury to suggest that the currency proposals could be merely the same as depreciating the coin, and were a rather genteel kind of swindle, perpetrated on the people of India. Between King John, who sliced a piece off a shilling and still called it a shilling, and the Indian Government, who added nothing to the rupee but called it worth double, the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury can see no difference. It fact, it requires a 10 million horsepower double-barrelled gas microscope, with a special morally-distorting eyepiece.—Indian Daily News.

## THE FORGERY OF CURRENCY NOTES IN INDIA.

THE following is the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill which Sir James Westland introduced at the meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council last Friday:—

The object of this Bill is to amend the Indian Penal Code (Act XLV of 1860) so as to provide more adequately for the protection of currency-notes and bank notes from forgery.

2. The subject has been forced on the attention of the Government of India by the fact that cases of forged currency-notes have become more frequent in recent years, and that several instances have of late occurred of the reproduction, by means of photography and with apparent fraudulent intent, currency-notes.

3. Under the Indian Penal Code, which was passed prior to the existence of a paper currency, in India, currency notes are not protected by any special provisions, but merely by the general provisions applying to the forgery of valuable securities. There appears, however, to be a very clear and obvious distinction between documents which pass from hand to hand as money, form about one-sixth of the whole currency circulation and come into the possession, occasionally at any rate, of even the most ignorant classes of the population, and other valuable securities which are often drawn up by a lawyer concern only the persons who execute them can be transferred only under certain legal formalities and usually come into the possession only of experts. Protection which may be ample for documents of the latter kind, may be quite inadequate for those of the former.

4. Such a distinction is already recognised by the English statute law, which contains special penal provisions for the forgery of bank notes as well as certain other notes and bills circulating among merchants and bankers almost as freely as bank notes, for the possession and uttering of forged bank notes, and for the possession of papers and instruments (such as engraved plates, &c.) intended to be used in forging bank notes. These provisions are to be found in the Forgery Act 1864 (24 & 25 Vict. c. 98), and relate to the following offences:—(1) the forging or altering a bank note, or the uttering a forged bank-note with intent to defraud (section 12); (2) the purchasing receiving or possessing a forged bank note or blank bank note, without lawful authority or excuse the proof of which lies on the party accused (section 13); (3) the making or having a mould, &c., for making paper with water-marks, &c., such as are used for bank notes, or the selling or having or imitating such paper without lawful authority or excuse, the proof of which lies on the party accused (section 14); (4) the engraving or having any plate, &c., for making bank notes, or blank bank notes or the uttering or having paper upon which a blank bank note or part of a bank note has been printed without lawful authority or excuse, the proof of which lies on the party accused (section 15); (5) the engraving or having any plate, &c., for producing a word, number, figure, device, character or ornament resembling any part of a bank note, or the uttering or having a paper bearing any such impression with a lawful authority or excuse, the proof of which lies on the party accused (section 17).

5. In India charges for forging currency-notes have to be preferred under section 467 of the Indian Penal Code; for uttering them under section 471; and for making or possessing counterfeit plates under section 472. The provisions of section 467 as to the forgery of documents seem not materially to differ from those of the English law on the subject and they afford sufficient means for dealing both with forgery generally and with the forgery of currency notes. But a reference to the other sections will show how much less explicit they are than the English law and how much more difficult it consequently is to obtain a conviction under them.

6. It is, for instance, provided in section 472 that the preparing or having a plate, &c., for making an impression intending that the same shall be used for the purpose of committing forgery, is an offence, the intention being of the very essence and the burden of proving it being laid upon the prosecution. The English law, on the other hand, renders the same act punishable, if it is done without lawful authority or excuse, and throws the burden of proving lawful authority or excuse upon the accused person, and not upon the prosecution.

7. This is a very important point throughout these offences. In every instance (except that of actual forgery), instead of the prosecution being bound to prove the intention, the accused is under the English law required to show that he does or for what he has in his possession. The Courts will, doubtless, often presume the accused's intention from his actions and the concomitant circumstances, but the fact remains that the burden of proof as regards lawful excuse is in England thrown on the accused and it will readily be seen in how much stronger a position the prosecution in that country is thus placed.

8. There is another distinction, and it seems to be of almost as great importance as, or perhaps of even greater importance than, that just mentioned. It will be noticed that the English law renders punishable the possession of "blank" bank notes, or even of a very small part of a bank note, when forged, unless the accused can show lawful authority or excuse. But under the Indian Penal Code this is not an offence, and even the uttering or attempting to utter, such blank notes or parts of notes (though it might possibly be punishable as cheating or attempting to cheat) is not punishable under the sections relating to forgery. This is apparently due in the main to the fact that currency notes are protected only by the general law relating to valuable securities, in the case of which the signature of some party to the deed is the all-important formality. It has been held that the "making" of a false document consists in the document or part of a document being signed or sealed with the name or seal of a person who did not in fact sign or seal it; and this ruling has been applied to currency notes. Therefore in order to forge a currency note, it is necessary to forge the signature, and the possession of a portion of a counterfeit note, or even, of the whole of such a note complete in every respect except as to the signature, is not an offence of any kind. It is clear that this constitutes a dangerous position for the paper currency of British India.

9. The foregoing remarks relate to the protection of currency notes from preparation for, and attempts at forgery. It has, however, been deemed desirable to bring within the

scope of the Bill bank notes as well as currency notes; for although the case of the latter is much less important than that of the former, the Government of India consider that bank notes and especially those of the Bank of England, should, as in the United Kingdom, be afforded the same general protection as that which it is proposed to secure for Indian currency notes.

10. The clauses of the Bill do not seem to require any further explanation. The provisions of the English law, on which the sections which clause 2 proposes to add to the Indian Penal Code are based, are referred to in the margin opposite these sections. Clause 3 makes a consequential amendment in the Code of Criminal Procedure.

## Mofussil News.

## A PECULIAR PROBATE CASE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

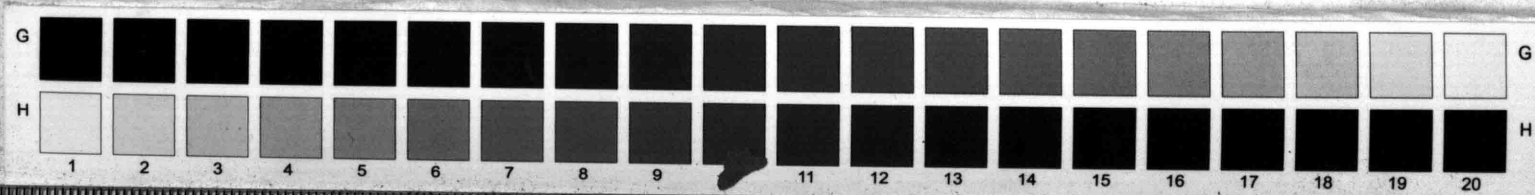
GAYA, SEPT. 25.

A CASE of a rather peculiar nature was instituted by H. Savage, Esq., the late Magistrate of Gaya, against Tulhin Saheba of the 7-anna Tikari Raj, in the Court of the District Judge, Gaya. The facts of the case may be briefly summed up thus. Dulhin Saheba had taken out probate of the last will of Raj Kumar Ratan Koer by paying court-fee on nine lacs of rupees, at which she estimated the estate in the inventory annexed to the petition for probate. The Collector of Gaya filed an application to say that the inventory was wrong, she had omitted to mention most of the articles that she had undervalued those mentioned in the inventory, and that unless she paid court-fee on 60 lacs, the proper value of the properties, the probate should be revoked.

In her anxiety to save the already encumbered Raj, the Dulhin Saheba sought the best advice available, and brought down Sir Charles Paul and the Hon'ble Babu Saligra from Calcutta to argue her case and her from utter ruin. On the 10th of the date fixed for the hearing of the court-house was crowded. The Judge took his seat on the bench with great difficulty, as the local pleaders could find entrance for putting in petitions before the Judge. Babu Hariharanath, Senior Government Pleader, appeared for the Government, and opened his case with the dignity peculiar to him. He was not the least overawed by the presence of Sir Charles. Sir Charles rose to reply, and thousands of eyes were fixed upon him to hear his forcible arguments and lucid language. He made a masterly speech and characterized the proceeding as certainly "mischievous." He also said that "this proceeding furnished a fine illustration of official pressure in the Mofussil." He said, the Collector wanted a lac for the water-works which she was unable to pay, and the result is this proceeding. "This," he said, "is not the way; let her thrive, let her prosper, let her flourish, and then you can take several lacs instead of two." He said, people took objection to his appearing against an eminent in this case, he being the Advocate-General of Bengal. "But, I say, where Government? Is the Collector of Gaya Government? He is but a very small thing subordinate to the Board, to the Judge, High Court, to the Commissioner, Lieutenant-Governor, to the Governor-General, and lastly to the Secretary of State. Cognise nobody in this world as the Government unless it is written on behalf of Secretary of State for India in Council." He said that the Collector had business to interfere, and the Judge had jurisdiction to entertain the application, petition was neither supported by an affidavit nor was it verified. The Judge delivered judgment on the 21st, dismissing the application with costs. Whatever may be the result, it is quite sufficient that this case has cost the Dulhin Saheba about ten thousand rupees, Sir Charles alone taking seven thousand.

Although we entirely agree with the Upper India Chamber of Commerce about the line from Karachi to Calcutta, yet some of the reasons they give for it are rather extraordinary. They apparently are Russophobes in that Chamber and worship at the table of one Mr. Hare, who writes good Boanerges-like letters in the Pioneer. According to this individual, the projected change of route of the Siberian railways from Nertchinsk through Manchuria to Vladivostok—a change, we believe, not even now definitely decided on—must be met by a counterstroke—a grand word which usually means nothing. This "counterstroke" is the trunk line to Karachi, but why a railway in Central India should be a counterstroke to nefarious Russian designs in North China, we fail to see. The Russian railway will now probably come directly south from Nertchinsk to Port Arthur, so Mr. Hare must be prepared with a fresh "counterstroke." This time we think it should be a canal, Madras, or more exchange compensation to officials. To what a strange frame of mind this perpetual and cowardly fear of Russia drives people! We wonder if they abstain from caviare or cigarettes, because they may be Russian or decline to use string which contains Russian hemp. Even when they advocate a domestic railway they regard it solely in aspect as an antidote to the Russian.

A CASE of considerable interest to insurance policy-holders has recently been decided by the Madras High Court. An Indian whose earnings amounted to a few annas a day, had been insured in the Oriental Company for Rs. 20,000. He had assigned his policy, and, on the assignees applying for payment after his death, the Company refused to comply, alleging, as the grounds of their refusal, that the man had incorrectly stated his age at the time of insuring his life. He had not sufficient means himself for his policy, the payments were made to others to whom he assigned it, and it was no adequate consideration for such assignment. A suit against the Company was consequently; and the Madras High Court, after finding the facts, as stated by the Company, held that the misrepresentation as to the insurer's age vitiated the policy in entirety; that the claimants had no right to the premium claimed, as there was no adequate consideration for the assignment to them; the policy; and further that, though the insurance was made in the name of the deceased, it was really intended for the benefit of the assignees, who could have no right to recover, as they had no insurable interest in the policy.





## MR. TILAK INTERVIEWED.

WHEN I waited on Mr. Tilak, I was fortunate in finding him quite alone, that is to say, there was no visitor with him. I went in and I found him reclining in an arm-chair. His children were in the room, but they were absorbed in play, and the opportunity was very suitable for a free unrestrained chat. The most interesting part of the conversation I reproduce below:—

Q.—Before you were arrested had you any inkling of the trouble that was brewing over your head?

A.—Well, I had a kind of foreboding, of the storm that was soon to burst, but, until I was in the midst of it, I had no idea that my poor head would be called upon to stand the brunt of its fury.

Q.—Was it a fact, as the *Times of India* gave out at the time, that when arrested you had gone to Bombay to try to bring that journal before the bar of justice for its malicious misrepresentations and false charges?

A.—It was my intention, it is true, to prosecute the *Times of India*, but my object in going to Bombay then was the publication of a small pamphlet on plague, and before I was arrested I was only able to make enquiries regarding the business in hand at one or two printing offices.

Q.—Have you any clue to the authorship of the letters which appeared in the *Times of India* over the signature of 'Justice'?

A.—Conjecture was very rife at the time about the identity of 'Justice'. Some attributed the letters to the pen of Mr. Kirtane; others again traced their origin to Dr. Bhandarkar. However, I must say that it was my firm belief from the beginning that the shots fired in regard to these two gentlemen were very wide of the mark and the writer of the letters in question must have been quite a different individual altogether.

Q.—Do you think they would have let you under an apology?

A.—I was going on, it came to me, that my solicitors on the question of an apology. Accordingly I drew up one to the best of my ability and knowledge, and offered it. The sum and substance of the draft apology may be comprised in the following sentence:—I did not write with seditious intent, and I am still of opinion that my writings contain nothing objectionable in a seditious sense. However, if the advisers of Government consider them to be disloyal, I am sorry for their publication. It was impossible to go any further, and the apology as it stood, could not have given satisfaction to the authorities.

Q.—What kind of work was given to you in gaol?

A.—While in the Bombay gaol I had to do oakum-picking, but after I was brought to Yerawda the work of dyeing wool and yarn for carpets was entrusted to me until within a month of my release, during which interval I was employed on wool-spinning.

Q.—Did you get papers to read?

A.—I used to get the *Maharaja* and the *Varanasi*, and any other papers received for me were also given to me, but in a very mutilated condition as a considerable portion was generally cut from them.

Q.—Were you subjected to any intimidation or had to suffer any hardship on account of the Chapekar enquiry or the Natu business?

A.—No, none whatever. Nor was I asked any question regarding those matters.

Q.—While you are in the Bombay Jail, it was rumoured that you had to put up with great hardships in the matter of food.

A.—Oh! Yes, I had to subsist on dry bread and water, for, I have always detested onion and garlic, and the vegetable or curry of the Bombay Jail containing those ingredients as a rule, I never touched them. Milk or butter there was none. The consequence was that I rapidly lost my strength and weight, losing as much as 31 lbs. within the 4 or 5 months I was located in Bombay.

Q.—When did they begin to give you better food?

A.—It was probably due to the memorial of the Howard Association of London, or I cannot say there may be some other reason at the bottom of it. But whatever it was, the Surgeon-General, with the Government of Bombay, came to the gaol one day and examined me in regard to my health and also had me weighed, when I stood at 110 lbs. In consequence of which they commenced to give me daily a pound of milk. A week after, that is on January 21st, Dr. Barry gave orders for an additional pound of milk and an ounce of ghee (clarified butter) to be included in my daily rations. This indulgence was continued to the end of my imprisonment.

Q.—What are the usual prison rations?

A.—European prisoners get tea, loaves, meat, potatoes, rice, etc. The natives get wheat bread (unleavened) once a week, while during the rest of the week, they get *vajri* and *jowari* bread alternately. In the morning they get besides *dhal* (pulse soup) and in the evening cooked vegetables. The evening vegetable dish is a mixture of all kinds of vegetable cooked in one huge pot, to which is added salt, chili powder, turmeric and garlic, a matter of fact separate kitchens exist, each for Brahmans, other Hindus and the Burmese, the average gaol employe is a low caste, and he, with the jailors and the Superintendent, go about freely in the kitchens without let or hindrance, and so contaminate the food. The cooks are a perspiring unwashed lot entirely innocent of soap and water, and those who once see the inside of the kitchens experience nausea in swallowing the food.

Q.—How were you lodged?

A.—Happily for me, I was lodged in the European prison. My cell measured 10x8 ft., the corner of which the floor was raised a foot high and covered over with planks. On this I made my bed, composed of two blankets. Of course, I wore the prison gents. I was allowed to get books from some for reading, and the use of a light for three hours during the night. All my books I was obliged to keep in the gaol office, and I was only permitted to carry a few of them at a time in the cell with me. I devoted most of my spare time to the study of the *Rigveda*, in which I had the assistance of commentators; and I have come to the conclusion that the most remote ancestors of the Aryans dwelt in a region where one single night continued for two months running, that is the country adjoining the North Pole, and they must have gradually come down south as the pressure of population began to be felt. I have the authority of geological discoveries besides, for this opinion; albeit, I must tell you, that in the gaol I could not refer to other important works reference to

which is most essential for confirmation of my present belief. It is, therefore, likely that I may have to alter or at least to modify it. For the present, however, I have no doubt about the accuracy of my conclusion.

Q.—Will you kindly describe to me the improvement, which they say, you introduced in the process of dyeing wool?

A.—What I? Not to my knowledge, and it must only be an idle rumour without any foundation. The truth about it is that I obtained some works on dyeing from my friend Professor Gajjar, from which I assimilated and pieced together the different processes I found therein described, and the result of my labours I put down in paper in a clear, intelligible form. Beyond this I did nothing in the matter.

Q.—It was given out some time ago that Mr. Nugent saw you in prison, when you had some words with him; and the net result of which being that you had to bear some hardships. Is it true?

A.—No, it's not true. Mr. Nugent did really come to the gaol once. He came to the dyeing shed, and on seeing him I tried to avoid him, but he followed me and called me by name. There was nothing for it, therefore, but to go and meet him. He asked me "how I was" and I answered "having regard to the prison fare and the rigour of prison discipline, I think I am as well as I could possibly be." He again asked "how many months I had still to do." "Seven or eight," I replied. Mr. Nugent then said "but a portion of it will be reduced." I said "the good conduct marks I got will enable me to obtain a reduction of a month or two." Mr. Nugent then observed "was it not rather dither in the work I was doing." To which I replied "yes, but it was better than oakum-picking." This concluded the interview, and Mr. Nugent left after wishing me good day. Not a single word besides the above passed between us on that occasion.

Q.—What led to your release?

A.—On May 4th I submitted a petition praying for my release in which I said "I did not think there was anything seditious in my writings, but as a law-court had already pronounced them seditious I had no observation to make on the point. But taking into consideration the things which have come to light after my conviction and also looking to the fact that I have considerably lost in strength and weight, the remaining period of my sentence may be reduced, and I was released from prison." I have still to get a reply to my petition. However owing to the memorial submitted to Her Majesty by Professor Max Muller and others or probably because his Excellency the Governor thought fit to exercise his right of mercy, I was released in accordance with the provisions of sec. 441 Criminal Procedure Code on certain conditions. And these I cannot publish just now as I have yet to come to a resolution in the matter of their publication. I may, however, say that there is nothing derogatory or likely to put obstacles in my way in them; and the rights and privileges of Her Majesty's subjects under the law I fully enjoy as before.

Q.—You are much weakened and in indifferent health.

A.—Yes, I weighed 135 lbs. when sentenced, now I am only 113 lbs. Nevertheless, I suffer from no particular disease. I think it will take about a month to arrange my affairs here, but after that I intend to retire to a quiet place and rest for four or five months.

Q.—It was said you gave a copy of the *Bhagvatgita* to Chapekar, is it true?

A.—Yes. He asked the Superintendent for a copy, and as in my books at the office I possessed three, the Superintendent gave one of them to him with my consent. It was afterwards returned to me. I also wrote Chapekar's petition at the instance of the Superintendent. He remained with me for about 3 hours at the time, but as a gaol official bore us company, everything passed in his presence and hearing.

Q.—It must be very hard-life in a prison.

A.—How could you have any doubts about it? No speech without permission, no movement either. You must sit in a line for work. And if you break any of the rules even unwittingly, the overseers tell anything they like to the Superintendent, and you are punished without a hearing. The punishments in gaol are flogging, solitary confinement and penal diet, which latter is simply congee. In addition to which the prisoner loses his good conduct marks. Luckily I had none of these disagreeable punishments to experience, but the reason of it was that the former Superintendent of the gaol paid special attention to me.

Q.—Well, at all events cleanliness must be receiving particular attention in prisons.

A.—The grounds, walls and everything likely to meet the Superintendent's eye is kept spot and span and very clean, but the cleanliness of the prisoner's persons is not looked after as it should be. They wash once at the most twice a month. Nor is there sufficient water for all the wants of the inmates. At first I used to bathe daily, but I got dysentery after the commencement of the rains, and thereafter I bathed only alternately. The prisoner's garments are not washed, for months together, the consequence of which is that they are generally lousy and full of vermin. Why, I have seen prisoners pick out lice by hundreds from their vests.

Q.—With what interval were you able to wash your clothes?

A.—According to the rule every prisoner is given 3 soapnuts or a bit of washerman's soap every Sunday, with which he is expected to wash his garments in as much water as he could get. To wash your clothes more than once a week is considered a crime in the gaol. To wear the same clothing night and day without change makes it so filthy that you could hardly have an idea about it.

Q.—The sleeping places must be very full of bugs, fleas, mosquitoes and other vermin.

A.—In the Yerawda Jail my cell had no bugs in it. Nevertheless other portions of this selfsame gaol, that is the large sleeping barracks, are always full of vermin, so also were the sleeping places in the Bombay Jail. The walls of the barracks are good masonry ones, but the bugs crawl to the ceiling, whence at nightfall they drop down on the sleeping prisoners. There is no light to enable the prisoners catch them, and the miserable inmates cannot move from their places. Native prisoners are not locked up in separate cells, they are huddled up in rows in large barracks. Two blankets, more or less dilapidated, are allowed to each prisoner. These whichever fall to his share each one takes, and spreading on the floor lies flat on his back. Thus he has to pass the night

as best he could among vermin and dust. When plague broke out in the Bombay Jail I suggested to the medical officer to have the prisoner's blankets washed in carbolic acid, and then only the attention of the authorities was drawn towards them, but I do not know when they were washed before that. All cleanliness in gaol is simply showy. The clean floor of a gaol is the same as a swept paragon, more, and clean food may be unobtainable—anything containing nothing unclean. Beyond this they do not know what cleanliness is.

Q.—Is it not possible to treat the prisoners with more kindness than now?

A.—Some inmates are such hardened sinners that it is impossible to indulge them in any way, to such, even I, were I the jailor, would shrink from showing kindness. Some of them even after receiving a severe flogging and when unbound would not forego the opportunity of making faces at the Superintendent and abusing him. But excluding a few ruffianly individuals of this class the rest of the gaol population is comparatively mild, and there is no earthly reason why kindness should not be shown to them. Just as European prisoners are treated differently in the matter of food, etc., so I do not understand why no relaxation is made in favour of prisoners of the upper classes of natives, at least in the matter of food according to their usual habits. In England all political prisoners and those who are punished for the sake of their opinions are considered as first class misdemeanants and treated with kindness. They could have their own clothes, wine, tobacco, etc. If this is allowed in England there is no reason why the same procedure should not be followed in India.

Q.—Do any Christian missionaries or preachers of other religions come to the gaol to minister to the souls of the prisoners?

A.—They used to come regularly in Bombay and latterly in Yerawda also a Christian minister used to call to preach to the Christians. But I never saw a preacher of any other religion inside the gaol walls. Conversation between prisoners is strictly forbidden, and so it is impossible for a prisoner to try to persuade and wean another from his evil ways. As to the free men outside they never think about it. Some native Government officers and others are licensed by the Government to visit jails, but I cannot conceive what useful purpose they serve by leaving their houses and taking a turn round the gaol. Why their attention is not drawn towards the prisoner's persons, clothes, or sleeping places, and if any complaint is made to them why is it not investigated only known to themselves. When these big-wigs call, two peons run before them, calling out the stereo-typed cry "Arjdar-bai" (any complaint). When they hear this cry the prisoners only laugh; for they know, every one does, that even if they gave a patient hearing to their complaint, it will afterwards produce nothing.

Q.—Can you suggest anything which the people can do to improve the condition of the prisoners?

A.—The chief thing occurring to me is that, for instance, in this Yerawda Jail about 2000 human beings are shut up huddled together, and the first point is for the people to recognise their duty towards them. It is true that they are criminals, and yet it is not as if their souls have no value. Even according to present regulations, there could not be any obstacle in the way of founding a library for their use—a library containing religious works, story books, and even newspapers such, for instance, as are considered absolutely harmless by the authorities. If such a library is founded and opened for the use of prisoners, it will contribute not a little to the comfort of the jail population. Some of the prisoners like to read even religious books. I remember a prisoner once asking me, of course on the sly, if I had a copy of *Ramayan*. But all this depends on funds, and unless some rich publisher makes a free present of his publications to the jail, or the Government generously comes forward with funds, nothing will be done, I think, towards establishing a library.

Q.—One more question, Mr. Tilak and, I will have done. There is no doubt that all India helped you in your sore trouble and all felt equally sorry for the punishment awarded to you; but, pardon me for my curiosity, do you think any particular community, section, or party, withheld its support and help from you?

A.—No. All parties in India, and people of all religions and creeds, sympathised with and helped me most generously from the bottoms of their hearts, for which I am deeply obliged to them. But on this occasion, as before in the Kolhapore case, I had very strange and unlooked-for experiences, and the impression they left on my mind is, of course, permanent. It is impossible to repay even slightly the obligations of people, who, at a critical moment, most generously came forward with help—people with whom I had not even the honour of being acquainted, or with whom I came in contact in the daily intercourse of life. Occasions like these are mainly instrumental in winning over a person to the side of a particular party or the profession of particular opinion. The accounts of the "Defence Fund" are, I understand, now ready, from which I gather that the total contributions received came to Rs 53,000, out of which a balance of Rs 9,000 is still in hand. Its disposition will be resolved upon on consultation with the leading gentlemen of towns or districts from which subscriptions came.

Thanking Mr. Tilak for his patience and courtesy and after shaking hands with him, I left.

The following romantic history of the Dowager Empress of China, who has just come into so much prominence in connection with the affairs in that country, may be interesting. She was the child of poor parents in the suburbs of Canton and remarkable for her beauty. At a time when her parents did not know whence their daily bread was to come, she suggested that she should be sold as a slave. This course was followed, and she became the property of a famous General. He was so enchanted with her beauty that he adopted her. When the General next went to Peking, he offered his beautiful daughter to the Emperor and thereby won great favour. The young girl so charmed his Majesty by her looks and intelligence that he soon made her his wife. When the Emperor died, the former slave became Regent of the Empire and administered the national affairs better than almost any of her predecessors. She is justly considered one of the greatest women of her time.

## SERIOUS OUTBREAK AT CANDIA.

SERIOUS news was received from Crete on Sept. 6. The Mahomedan refugees and others collected in the town of Candia have for some time been extremely discontented with the policy of the admirals, and on Tuesday morning they held a great demonstration to express their dissatisfaction. This seems to have passed off without disorder, but in the course of the day the British authorities, in pursuance of the recent decision of the admirals, proceeded to install the officials of the autonomous Christian Administration in the title office. In view of the possibility of disturbance an escort of the British occupying force—the 1st battalion Highland Light Infantry—accompanied the authorities, and was stationed in front of the title office. A large crowd of unarmed Mahomedans gathered and tried to force their way into the building. As they persisted in their attempts the troops were at last compelled to fire on them. Greatly enraged, the Mahomedans at once ran off for their arms, attacked the British detachment, and rushed through the Christian quarter of the town, firing at persons they saw at the windows, and setting fire to houses. General confusion and fighting ensued, and the British Vice-Consul and several of our soldiers were killed. Her Majesty's gunboat "Hazard," lying in the bay, began to shell the town, which in the evening was on fire in several places.

The following telegram from Sir A. Biliotti, dated Candia Sept. 7, has been issued from the Foreign Office:—

"Admirals considered it essential that the Dime should be taken possession of immediately. In consequence of the orders he received, Colonel Reid proceeded by himself to do so, while a party of about twenty men were landed from H. M. S. *Hazard* to guard for the first few days the Dime office, which is situated near the quay."

The Moslem population was very excited since the morning, and had prevented the opening of the daily bazaar at Gazi and also the landing of Christians from mail steamers, and they became so restless towards noon that a British common picked was sent to patrol the town. In forenoon Moslem leaders had presented an address to Colonel Reid submitting their grievances, and he had promised that they would be looked into. He then made his way to the Dime office, the doors of which he found closed, and obtained the key from one of the office guards.

At that moment one of the picket was stabbed from behind, and as he fell down his rifle went off and killed a Moslem.

Meanwhile firing had begun in the town, and in a short time the party on the quay were fired upon and almost annihilated before reaching the British distilling ship "Turquoise."

Bullets were falling like hail from surrounding houses, ramparts, and through the gates leading to the port, which had been burned.

Forty-five British soldiers, quartered near the telegraph, were driven out of their huts, and must have suffered heavy damage.

Total of known casualties about twenty killed and fifty wounded; but there may be more, as no communications exist between the different quarters. No apprehension with regard to outposts.

Town is still burning, and I can detect skeleton of British Vice-Consul's house. Fate of Christians in town unknown, but fear that only ones saved are those who managed to take refuge in the Turkish Government's house."

Arrived here this morning in H. M. S. *Camperdown*, together with a French, Russian, and Italian warship, and Austrian gunboat also expected from Suda.

British Vice-Consul burnt in his house."

From other accounts it appears that when the British troops were attacked H. M. S. *Hazard*, a first-class torpedo-gunboat of 1,070 tons, and the only war-ship in port, opened fire on the Mahomedans, sending a large number of shells into the town. The Turks appear to have deliberately fired the town in several places, and it would appear that the British Vice-Consul was burnt to death in his house. According to the Foreign Office list, the Vice-Consul at Candia was Mr. L. A. Calocherino. He had acted as British Vice-Consul since December 1896.

Beir, Wednesday.—The Government professes to attribute little importance to the incidents of yesterday in Crete.

THE GRIEVANCES OF THE MUSLIMANS.—The Candia Mussulmans complain that, having consented to the opening of the markets in return for an express promise to extend the cordon, nothing has been yet carried out, and that while facilities have been given to the Christians to re-enter the town to look after their commerce, no measures have been taken to enable the Mussulmans to visit their villages with safety. They demand, therefore, that they shall no longer be confined to their town, in which they are compelled to undergo all kinds of privations, while their property is going to ruin. They protest against the levying of the tithes by the insurgents as being detrimental to the public services. They add that if this state of things continues, they will reluctantly be compelled during the coming winter to cut down trees and demolish Christian houses in order to obtain firewood. In conclusion, the Mussulmans affirm their inability to endure any further treatment of which they consider themselves the victims; they refuse to go to the markets again, and declare their opposition to Christians being permitted to enter the town.

Malta, Sept. 7.—The torpedo depot ship *Vulcan* and the transport *Augustine* have sailed for Crete with a detachment of the Dorsetshire Regiment.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LOSSES.—The *Times* correspondent telegraphed from Candia (Sept. 7):—

The town of Candia is burning at several points. The trouble broke out yesterday when two soldiers of the Highland Light Infantry on picket duty were stabbed by a Mahomedan mob at the harbour gate. A rush of the mob followed and the British fired on the crowd, but had to rush down the quay to the English steamer *Turquoise* under a hail of bullets from the windows and housetops. Lieutenant Haldane and about twenty soldiers were killed, and Lieutenant Seagrave (?) and fifty soldiers were wounded. The soldiers pluckily carried the dead officer to the boat. Four of the crew of the gunboat *Hazard* were killed or wounded. The British Vice-Consul was burnt in the Consulate, also the father of the telegraph superintendent. The worst is feared as to the fate of the majority of the Christians. It is reported that 250 have been saved out of over 1,000. The line is still working. The situation is difficult. Seven ships of war have arrived in the roadstead and are trying to land marines, but it is not an easy task in the rough sea. The Turkish troops refused to aid the British, who, being exceedingly few in the town, were soon overpowered. Forty of the wounded were attended to by the warships. The necessity for a large garrison in Candia has been repeatedly pointed out. The blame lies in the quarter responsible for leaving against heavy odds a handful of men to represent our occupation and enforce our authority.

The Mahomedans are pillaging Candia. Edhem Pasha, the Governor, declares that the mob are uncontrollable. The general opinion is against him. Reinforcements are expected from Candia. The Christian insurgents are massing round the cordon. Reinforcements are just arriving in the Italian flag ship *Francesco Morosini*.

Later.—Refugees coming on board the *Camperdown*, many of them wounded, tell a tale of a great massacre by the Mahomedans.

Constantinople, Sept. 6. Vildiz is greatly annoyed because the Admirals persist in the collection of Cretan tithes notwithstanding Djevad Pasha's protests.

In an article headed "Crete and the

"If it is desired to prevent a fresh explosion and if peace through progress is sincerely wished in the East, then an ostrich policy must be repudiated and the situation must be looked in the face. Order of a permanent and solid character must be founded on the basis of the accomplishment of obligations contracted by Europe and of granting satisfaction to the wishes formed by the Candiot."

The British detachment in Crete consists of the 1st battalion Highland Light Infantry, which took place of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers last July.

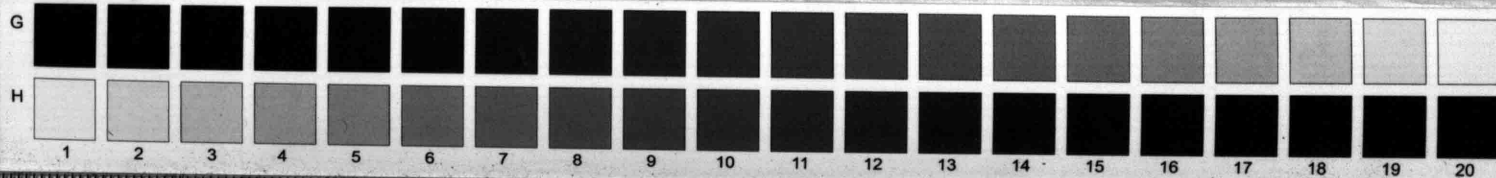
## English Notes.

A WINNIPEG despatch received at Ottawa says that some Indians who have arrived at Dauphin from the far north report meeting Esquimaux who told them of the appearance among them of strange men who descended from the clouds on the shores of Hudson Bay. It is hoped that the report has reference to Herr Andree's safety.

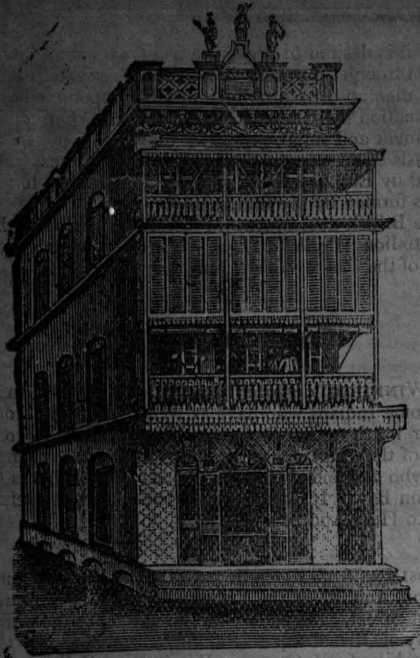
MOSLEMS from different parts of the world assembled on Aug. 31 at the London temporary mosque, Albert Street, Regent's Park, to celebrate the anniversary of the Caliph Sultan's coronation to the Sultanate of the Ottoman Empire and Caliphate of the Moslem world. After the usual midday prayers, "Doas" were made for the Caliph-Sultan's good health, long life, happiness and prosperity. The "Mouloud-an-Nabbi" was in turn recited by the congregation. A banquet was given in the meeting room in honour of his Imperial Majesty. All Hadid Mohammed Doulie, who presided, proposed the toast of "Padishah, Caliph-tol-Mominen." He spoke in eulogistic terms of his Majesty's marked tolerance towards the numerous religious denominations now existing in the empire and of his efforts for keeping firm the bond of brotherhood in the Moslem world. Professor Ishak spoke for the Arabians, Mr. Abdul Karim for the Cape Colonists, Mr. R. Omar for the Transvaalers, Mhd. Janab for the Indians, Sheikh Abdullah for the Egyptians, and Hal Effendi for the Algerians.

A NEW and very interesting light is thrown upon the old question of marriage between first cousins by a letter from Mr. Basil Thomson in the *Times*. Mr. Thomson has lived in Fiji and was a member of a Census Commission in 1893. One of the questions investigated was that one of cousin-marriage. It appears that in one of the Fijian islands every man of a certain tribe has to choose his wife from among the daughters of his mothers brother and elsewhere in the island cousin-marriage appears to be common. On the other hand, marriage between first cousins whose parents are two brothers or two sisters is regarded as incestuous. Now the Commissioners found that cousin-marriages of the first kind produced more children and healthier ones than ordinary marriages, while the offspring of cousin-marriages of the second kind in no case survived infancy. Mr. Thomson asks: "Is it possible that the Fijians have stumbled upon an 'obscure fact in physiology'—namely that there is a physical fitness in the union of the children of a brother and sister respectively and that the marriage of cousins whose parents respectively were two brothers or two sisters is disastrous to the physique of their offspring?" It is, of course, impossible to prove the validity of any such natural law in England or any other European country, as statistics are not available; but Mr. Thomson declares that in the cousin-marriages with which he is personally acquainted in this country the Fijian law seems to hold good and Mr. Steel, the Anglo-Indian novelist, has informed him that marriage between first cousins is prevalent among the Brahmans under the same laws and limitations as in Fiji. If there is anything in this theory it will help to elucidate a subject hitherto exceedingly obscure. There is no doubt that where there is hereditary disease in a family, such as lunacy or consumption, the marriage of first cousins is highly dangerous. But where there is no such hereditary taint the evidence appears contradictory or doubtful. Is it possible that in all the successful cases there was the alternation of sexes demanded by the Fijian rule and that in the unsuccessful ones there was no such alternation? In that case the practical conclusion is obvious enough. A man should not think of marrying his first cousin if she is the daughter of his father's brother or of his mother's sister; but if she is the daughter of his father's sister or of his mother's brother the Fiji experience would appear to justify his choice.

AN interesting account of the preparation of India-rubber is given by Mr. R. L. Biffen, Demonstrator in Botany at the University of Cambridge, in the latest issue of the *New Bulletin*. He commenced a series of experiments begun in the Botanic Gardens at that place, and continued them during a tour last year through the rubber-yielding countries of South America. (The mercantile importance of India-rubber has been developed within a period comparatively recent. As a material for making balls it is usually mentioned so long ago as in the account of the second voyage of Columbus and a description of one of the trees from which it is obtained is given by Torquemada in the year 1613; but even so late as 1770 its use for removing pencil marks was little known. In 1832 the total imports into this country were barely more than 700 tons; nine years ago they had approached 12,000, and since that time the quantity has become very much larger. The largest supply comes from Brazil, that from Para being most esteemed, but a fair amount is obtained from Africa, more especially from the Western side, and this supply, as we have learned of late from more than one report, might with proper care be largely increased. British India also sends its quota, and the rest is made up from more than one quarter. Several trees or shrubs, representing more than one genus, produce the fluid from which the India-rubber is obtained, though some yield a larger quantity and a better quality than others. These are not restricted to tropical climates, though it is only there that it occurs abundantly enough to be of any economic value. One way of getting the substance is to cut the tree down the wiser is to adopt a process of "milking"—in other words, drawing off the fluid through incisions in the bark. But after getting a supply of the juice the next thing is to obtain the India-rubber, and here Mr. Biffen's experiments are of interest. It has been known for some time that when the "rubber milk" comes in contact with the air, and even more quickly on treatment with water, alcohol either, or acids, coagulation takes place; little clots form and separate out from a clear fluid. This property is utilised in obtaining India-rubber and mischief is sometimes done by employing foundations which produce ultimately bad effects. Obviously then the material might be cheaper—and would certainly be safer if some merely mechanical process could be adopted. Study of the process had shown that the rubber existed as very minute particles in the milky fluid technically called latex. It occurred to Mr. Biffen to try whether these might not be separated by a kind of filtering. A modified form of the ordinary centrifugal milk tester was devised, which could be made to rotate about 6,000 times in a minute. The juice was taken from the trees, strained to remove any fragments of bark, and then, if thick, diluted to about the consistency of cream. Three or four minutes' treatment in the machine separated the rubber particles as a thick creamy white layer, which after exposure for some time to the air becomes brown. The process obviously avoids some of the drawbacks of the ordinary methods, but as proted constituents are still in the rubber, as in the







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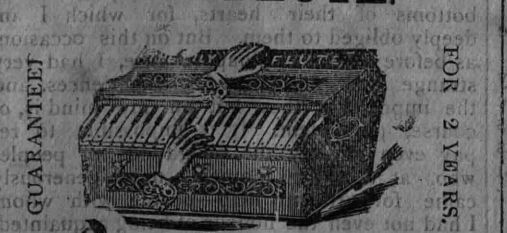


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