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পদকপতক।

সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে

মূল্য ৩০ টাকা।

পরিশিষ্ট বহুত্ব।

অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য।

অমৃতবাজার।

শ্রীমোহন দাস, প্রণীতঃ।

এই বানি উপবেশ বৈষ্ণব গ্রন্থ হইতে
বৎসর পূর্বে লিখিত।

মূল্য ছয় আনা। ডাঃ মাঃ অর্ধ আনা।

অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য।

শ্রীঅমৃত প্রকাশ।

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মূল্য বার আনা। ডাঃ মাঃ এক আনা

বাগবাজার, পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য।

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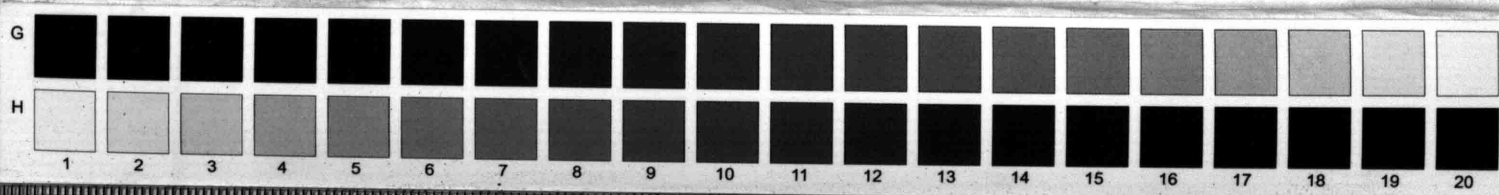
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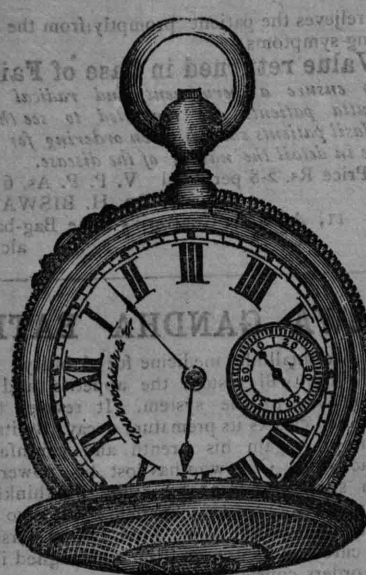
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THE WHOLE SUM OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE,

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THE ILL-HUMOUR OF LORD
HAMILTON.

THAT Lord George Hamilton, the Secretary of State for India, should refuse to listen to the grievances and aspirations of the people of this country is a miracle, that is to say, it is a situation not to be accounted for by natural laws. An ordinary man, Lord George Hamilton suddenly finds himself in the position of the despotic ruler of three hundred millions of, not "savages" certainly, but of a race, millions of whom are as intelligent, cultured and enlightened as his Lordship himself is. Does not his Lordship feel the awful nature of his position—his vast responsibility—his duty to God and to himself? If a countryman of Lord George Hamilton asks for a service at the cost of the Indians, he should feel a shudder at this attempt, of a countryman, to seduce him from the path of his duty. He should sternly rebuke such a countryman and tell him not to appeal to his baser passions—racial feelings, and lead him to sacrifice the interests of three hundred millions of fellow-beings, who are utterly helpless and entirely dependent on him for their welfare. "I would," he ought to say on such occasions, "first serve those whose destinies God has placed in my hands, and after that if I find an opportunity I can look to your interests." But if, instead of taking this attitude, he easily allows himself to ignore the interests of three hundred millions of people dependent on him, his Lordship gives evidence that he has no sense of responsibility, and not much of generosity in him.

Yes, "the irreconcilable hostility (to quote his Lordship's own expression) to native interest," attributed to Lord George Hamilton by the Indian press, if true, would be nothing short of a miracle. For ordinarily it would be impossible for a man, in his position, to entertain a feeling of hostility towards those who are absolutely dependent on him. But a greater miracle is for his Lordship to complain that the Indians do not consider him a friend and praise him for his good-will.

It is clear from the mournful utterances of Lord George Hamilton that he is aware of the fact that the Indian press does not take him to be a particular friend of India, and he, therefore, considers himself an aggrieved man. May we inquire how he came to persuade himself to believe that he is a friend of the people of India?

Perhaps the reply is to be found in the attitude of Lord Lansdowne which he assumed when giving up office. Now Lord Lansdowne's tenure of office furnished an unmitigated record of violent act towards the Hindus. He offended prince, and peasants alike. He deposed the Maharaja of Kashmir; he encouraged cow-slaughter and permitted the outrage at Hardwar; and he offended the country *en masse* by his Age of Consent measure. Indeed, as Sir Charles Elliott said, the Age of Consent measure brought in "a wave of disaffection" to the country. Fancy Lord Lansdowne coming to Calcutta, on the eve of his departure, to claim an address from the Hindus! This attitude of Lord Lansdowne led to the discovery of one great fact by the astounded people of India, namely, that Viceroy of India are, in one respect, unfortunate beings, who live like tools in the hands of others. In short, the advisers of that simple-minded and really good man, Lord Lansdowne, had persuaded him to believe that, all that he was doing had the entire approval of not only the bulk, but also of the respectable classes, of the population.

Indeed, Lord Lansdowne was not allowed to read Indian newspapers,—that is to say, he was not allowed to read those portions which he ought to have read, by those who surrounded him. He was given cuttings from Indian newspapers, only those which the "conspirators" thought would, if placed before him, serve their views of public questions. In the same manner, we understand, Lord George Hamilton is not allowed to read Indian newspapers. Or, in other words, his Lordship reads only those cuttings which are placed before him by those who surround him, and surely they make a careful selection before placing them before him. That being the state of affairs, Lord George Hamilton is naturally at a loss to account for the hostility of the Indian newspapers towards him. "See here, my Lord," says a shrewd member of his Council, "how violent, unjust and malignant these Indian papers are," as he puts up a cutting from an Indian paper, which contains only the middle of a paragraph with its top and bottom wanting. And the deceived Secretary of State naturally comes to the conclusion that, if he is not liked, it is not at all his fault, but of the native papers! And he begs them.

We are, however, glad to see that Lord George Hamilton is not a Buddha, and that he has yet his amiable failings. It is clear his Lordship does not like to be regarded as an enemy, and that he would very much like to be considered a friend. Indeed, the notion that he is considered an irreconcilable enemy has so affected his temper as to lead him to forget his high position, when talking about India. This is what a correspondent of the *Englishman* says:

Lord George Hamilton's speech at Chiswick has caused some surprise here by its tone of intense bitterness. The attitude of Sir William Wedderburn and the Indian Congress scarcely calls for such fierce denunciation. Nor is it quite correct to say that these critics have attacked the character of Lord Elgin, who must be considerably astonished at the statement. Neither, for that matter, were Lord Dufferin and Lord Lansdowne belittled and attacked, as he says. But Lord George overstates his case in many particulars, as when he insists that the terrible critics demand the entire withdrawal of Europeans from the Army and the Civil Service. Altogether the effect of the censorious speech is unpleasant. The Secretary of State's platform style is too strenuous. He would find suavity and humour, or even flippancy much more effective weapons than invective.

Lord George Hamilton may or may not be a foe, but let his Lordship know this. If it be the duty of Englishmen connected with India, official and non-official, to win the hearts of the subject races of this country, Lord Hamilton's administration of India has failed. The country is in blank despair, and this is a fact. If the Indian press describes him as an enemy, it is only reasonable to suppose that they have some good cause for holding such an opinion. Lord Curzon's advent has brought in with it a ray of hope, and that is the reason why the people are just now showing some life and activity. His Excellency's kind words have already changed the tone of the press, and the temper of the people.

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON AND
SIR HENRY FOWLER.

We have not done with Lord George Hamilton yet. His Lordship said that his measures had the approval of the leader of the Opposition. That is quite true. We very much fear, however, that Sir H. Fowler will not at all appreciate the compliment paid to him. For a Liberal leader to support the illiberal proceedings of a Conservative Government, may not be a unique spectacle, but for a Liberal leader to support repressive measures, against the wishes of his own followers, is a sight, which was never seen in the annals of Parliamentary Government. What we actually saw was this: Sir W. Wedderburn was trying to befriend the people of India against the repressive measures of Lord George Hamilton's Government, and Sir H. Fowler was giving support, not to his followers, but to his opponents!

When the spectacle was presented of Lord George Hamilton and Sir H. Fowler acting in concert against Sir W. Wedderburn who was trying to befriend the Indians, the latter were naturally seized with despair. The people of this country have always considered the Liberals to be better friends than the Tories, but Sir H. Fowler's attitude has changed this feeling. When they found that Sir H. Fowler was dancing to the tune of the *Times*, the *St James*, the *Daily Mail*, the *Globe*, the *Pall Mall*, and other such English papers, the Indians came to feel that the Tory Government with Lord G. Hamilton as Secretary would perhaps be a better arrangement for their interests than a Liberal Government, with Sir H. Fowler at the head of the India Office.

The feeling in India is that Indians should be sent to England for propagating the principles avowed by the Liberals. That such a movement would be of immense service to both countries, England and India, was conclusively proved by the success achieved by Babu Ananda Mohan Bose. Indeed, it is no longer a matter of doubt that it would be quite possible for half-a-dozen earnest Indian workers to weaken considerably the stronghold of Toryism in England. The Indians, when they speak in England, obtain, as a rule, greater attention from the generous English people than Englishmen themselves. It is thus that an Indian has opportunities of speaking of higher things to, and appealing to the better feelings of, an Englishman in his own country. Thus, an Englishman may rouse the enthusiasm of his countrymen by describing the last battle in the Sudan, but an Indian would be able to create a more permanent effect by reminding Englishmen of their duties to those whose liberties they have taken for their own glory. An English speaker is no match for an able Indian in England. But this idea of undermining the Tory Government was given up by reason of the attitude of Sir H. Fowler. It was believed that an open enemy was better than an insincere friend; indeed, they preferred the plain Tory to the misguided Liberal statesman.

Yet attempts were made to win over Sir H. Fowler. Our friends in England, amazed and pained at the attitude of the Liberal leader saw him privately, oftentimes rebuked him for his treachery to the cause of Liberalism and sought to convince him of the errors of his ways. And then the discovery was made that like Lord George Hamilton, Sir H. Fowler had a pique against the Indian papers. Like Lord George Hamilton he was found to complain that the Indian papers described him as an uncompromising opponent of Indian interests. Here we disclose a fact which ought to soothe the wounded feelings of Lord George Hamilton. If the Indian papers described him as an enemy, they had described Sir H. Fowler as a worse enemy. India has no knowledge of the services Mr. W. S. Caine is doing incessantly. May God bless him and all those who work on behalf of the helpless millions! He wrote to us to advise the Indian papers to spare Sir H.

Fowler and we did his bidding. What Mr. Caine wrote to us was that Sir H. Fowler had immense influence; that the better way to serve the interests of India would be to make him a friend and not an enemy; that he was a man sound at heart; that if he had been demoralized by his advisers at the India Office, it would be possible to remove all wrong impressions from his mind in due course; that in the meantime the Indian papers should not make matters worse by their useless and bitter criticism of his attitude; and that his Liberal friends would try to convince him of the real grievances of the Indians.

Mr. Caine's prognostications have been justified. It was only the other day that Mr. Caine wrote to us that there was a chance of Sir H. Fowler supporting Mr. Roberts in his amendment, but he was not then quite sure. He wrote that Sir Henry Fowler is an out-and-out Radical in regard to Municipal Government. Mr. Caine has now no seat in Parliament, and Mr. Roberts and Mr. Lewis, his two sons-in-law, do all the Indian work for him in the House of Commons. Mr. Roberts moved an amendment to the Queen's speech against the Municipal Bill, and Sir H. Fowler supported it—is this not glorious news? Little did Lord George Hamilton expect such a thing when his Lordship delivered his Chiswick speech. His Lordship's plea was that he was right because he had always got the support of the leader of the Opposition, in his work of administration; but that plea will not hold water in the case of the Calcutta Municipal Bill at least. So Sir H. Fowler, the truant, is returning to his fold again!

Mr. Roberts and his friends did very well in withdrawing the amendment. Indeed, that was the step which we had, in our private communications, urged upon friends in England. They have listened to the suggestion, and left the matter in a very good position. We had urged that the motion ought not to be made at all; or, if made, never carried to the point of a division. If Mr. Roberts had insisted upon a division he would have been worsted by the majority which the Government has at its back, and sustained a defeat. But by withdrawing his motion he gave the rulers of the land a glorious opportunity of retiring from the untenable position they had been led to assume at the instance of Sir A. Mackenzie.

The matter now rests not with Lord Curzon but with Sir J. Woodburn. It is not yet time to appeal to the higher feelings of Lord Curzon; and we hope Sir J. Woodburn will be gracious enough not to force the people to do so. We would like to have the thing done by Sir John Woodburn himself so as to get an opportunity of offering him our thanks. The position of affairs is this. Here is a retrograde measure which aims at the withdrawal of a small privilege granted unconditionally to the citizens of Calcutta. At the instance of an infinitesimally small section of the community, who have no abiding interest in the city, the Government was led to take a revolutionary step affecting the vital interests, not only of the citizens of Calcutta, but of the entire population of India. Government is urged by the temporary British residents of the city to do all this, not with the approval of the British people, but against the wishes of half of England. So, while we have in favour of the Bill a few temporary residents of the city, we have against it, the entire people of India and half of England. Sir John Woodburn ought not, therefore, to support such a measure.

LORD CURZON AND SEDITION
IN DECCAN.

THOSE, who rule here, do not like that they should be interfered with in their work, by people or authorities at home. If one or two ugly questions are asked in Parliament, their organs rend the sky with cries of distress. Their mouth-piece, Rudyard Kipling, created a Paget M. P. and made himself an idol of Anglo-Indian administrators. They represent themselves as able administrators, worthy of the confidence of their country. Why then should their countrymen embarrass them by listening to sick sentimentalists at home, and to the seditious natives of India? And thus they contend that, instead of being found fault with, they ought to be in the enjoyment of the fullest confidence of their countrymen, and protected from the machinations of the wily Babus and their tools, the unpatriotic Liberals. Their contention is, that their lot is very hard; that work here, amongst myriads of natives all thirsting for their blood, is not only extremely difficult but a dangerous one. They have no joys of life; the climate suffocates them; and they find themselves banished from dear home.

The contentions, enumerated above, are based mainly upon one allegation, viz., that the natives are seditious. But apparently they are not so. For, a European, even when he has made himself unpopular, has nothing to fear from these Indians though he is but one in the midst of a million. Fancy what would be the fate of such a man in any other country. The Indians are gentle, sober, law-abiding, respectful, devoted to domestic life and are exceedingly harmless creatures. All these every one can see, and, therefore, the allegation, that the Indians are seditious, has to be proved by other facts. In short, let it be understood that the Anglo-Indian administrators, generally speaking, are interested in proving that the

natives are really a bad lot. For, if it is proved that the Indians are a gentle and law-abiding race, these administrators have to account for the deep discontent that prevails in the country, and to confess that they need looking after. The Anglo-Indian administrators are, therefore, ever on the alert to prove that the people are always trying to subvert British rule, and it is they, who, by their exertions, defeat the nefarious attempts of the former.

It was thus the cry was raised against the Deccan Brahmins that they were conspiring against Government. If this was their sincere belief, we would all have tried to remove this wrong impression. But no one tries to awaken a man who is really awake but feigns sleep. Those who raised the cry of sedition in Deccan and India, did not believe in the cry, they only wanted to cover their own shortcomings, and mislead their masters at home. Officials were murdered, a thing unheard of in this land of gentle people. The murders were due to the blunder of the administrators; and the newspapers which were friendly to them, wanted it to appear that this was not the case, but that the murders were due to the political aspirations of the people. Thus when the National Congress was formed, it was thought absolutely necessary to brand it with sedition. Indeed, ever since the formation of that body, attempts are being made to make it odious to the people of England. As we said before, the Anglo-Indian administrators are interested in proving that the Indians are bad, and that the work of administration here is very difficult, nay, dangerous, and that any complaint against them should never be listened to.

As we expect some reforms from Lord Curzon, we would beg to impress upon his Lordship, that he should pay no heed to the allegation that India is seditiously inclined, unless it is proved by some evidence. As we said before, the Indians apparently are a gentle race, sober, devoted to their religion which hates bigotry and to their homes and families, and they instinctively abhor every sort of disturbance.

It is well-known that discontent prevails in the country. It has lately been discovered that the lower classes have very mischievous ideas of the motives of Government. Yet where is the indication of this discontent? India,—this vast country of three hundred millions—is as quiet as an English country, there is no breath of disturbance anywhere. Does not this fact prove that the allegation that there is any sedition in India is a libel? Of course, it is quite possible, that some of his advisers will try to poison the mind of Lord Curzon against the people of this country, but his Lordship must bear in mind what we have already said, that some Anglo-Indian administrators are interested in creating the impression in England, that India is seditious. And how India is quiet, and that is proof that the Indians are loyal. To prove otherwise, our opponents ought to furnish proofs. Where are they?

Is it a part of the general policy of the Government that the semblance of local self-government conferred on the Indians, is to be taken away not only from the Calcutta Municipality but from every self-governing body in the country? We ask this question, because reports have reached us simultaneously at least from two Sub-divisions in Bengal stating that the non-official chairmen of the Local Boards in those places have been supplanted by the Sub-divisional Officers. Munshigunj is one of the most advanced Sub-divisions in Bengal and has been enjoying the boon of local self-government from the very beginning. The people of the Sub-division have been electing their own Chairmen, and these Chairmen have always given satisfaction to the local authorities. Indeed, successive Commissioners of the Dacca Division have spoken highly of their services in their annual reports. The non-official Chairman, has, however, been ousted this time by the adherents of Moulvi Fuzul Karim. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 15th January explains in an article how the Moulvi has managed to secure the post for himself; and the Lieutenant-Governor, we hope, will cause it to be translated to see for himself how the tender plant of local self-government is being nourished in the Mofussil.

The other Sub-division which has been deprived of its non-official Chairman, is Junghypore. The officer in charge of the Sub-division has taken up the duties of the Chairman of the Local Board, removed the Local Board office to the Sub-divisional Court and is working as *de facto* chairman, though he has not yet been formally appointed as such. Not only this. The Junghypore Municipality, we are told, is also doomed. The Sub-divisional Officer has already been gazetted a Municipal Commissioner; and, it is believed, that he is shortly to occupy the chairmanship of the Municipality also, which has been vacated by the resignation of the non-official chairman.

Now, local self-government was given more in the interests of the officials than in those of the people. The executive officers are so hard-worked that they have absolutely no time to do most of the important works entrusted to them. Hence they were relieved of such minor duties as those pertaining to Local Boards and Municipalities, and the people were asked to elect their own Chairmen. If Government now wishes that the people should not

exercise this right, they have, of course, no option but to submit.

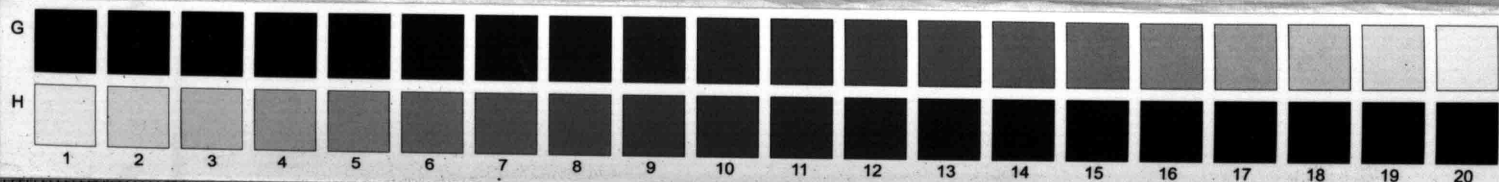
We are glad to see that our contemporary, the *Indian Empire*, has taken up the question of irrigation in Bengal for discussion. This much is certain that the question is one of the most urgent and important that can affect the people. But if irrigation is a large question requiring a large amount of money, not so is that of the supply of drinking water. Water difficulty has already begun in Bengal; and a few weeks hence, people in hundreds of villages will have to walk miles to fetch drinking water. As a rule, there is almost a water famine in most villages in Bengal, which are not situated on the banks of rivers or lakes, for every four months in the year. When the village tank is exhausted, the villagers go to the nearest lake or well for water. When these reservoirs are exhausted, they go to a longer distance from home for water. The females, as a rule, fetch *kalsees* of water, often from a distance of two or three miles, and when the head of the family has a cart he uses it for that purpose.

The sanitary officers now and then speak indignantly about the habits of the villagers when they defile a tank. It is no doubt very wrong of them when they thus break sanitary rules! But where are the poor fellows to go? They must bathe and wash their clothes, utensils and cattle. They must burn their dead. But if you go to a village, you will scarcely find more than one tank, and not a very new one too. Tanks are not excavated now-a-days as they used to be before. In those days, when the patriarchal system prevailed, the Zemindars had to dig tanks for the benefit of their tenants, and pious ladies also consecrated tanks for public use. But the custom no longer exists and tanks are rarely excavated now.

The villagers have thus to use a single tank for bathing, washing, drinking and other purposes. As soon as the hot season sets in, the tank presents the appearance of a muddy reservoir. The people are obliged to drink water from this reservoir. The result is inevitable. Cholera appears as a matter of course, and oftentimes thins a village in a week or two. Even when the villagers go to a distance, they can not get good water. For the *beels* from which they draw it, are resorted to by myriads of people. There is no doubt of it that one of the main causes of malarial fever, which has decimated some of the fairest districts of Bengal, and are committing dreadful havoc every year, is due to water-scarcity. To save Bengal from disease and pestilence, the people must be supplied with good drinking water. This is the problem before the Government. If the Sanitary Department can remove this water difficulty, it will really do a stupendous work of humanity. The problem is, however, not a very difficult one, as we shall show in a future issue.

HIS LORDSHIP, the new Bishop of Calcutta, is seeking to give some vitality to mission work. He is welcome—most sincerely so. From the *Bhagabat Gita* we are bound to accept Jesus as a divine character. Says that great authority: "Wherever there is an inversion of the natural order of things, I go down upon earth to establish the superiority of righteousness over sin." From another authority, far from having any objection to the spread of Christianity, the Hindus can but view it with pleasure. This is what the *Vishnu Purana* says: "Let every man sincerely follow the tenets of his religion and he is sure to be saved." Here then is an axe laid at the root of bigotry. Thank God, the Hindus are not bigoted, and if some hatred is betrayed now and then by them towards Christianity it is due to the behaviour of those who hold the Christian faith. If a Christian oppresses an Indian, the latter comes to entertain a low opinion of the faith of his oppressor. In the same manner, if an Indian comes across a European in an inebriated condition, he conceives a prejudice against the religion of the latter. It is very good of Christians in Europe and America to spend vast sums of money for the benefit of "the benighted heathens" in India. We do not mean any offence, however, when we say that the heathens of India have not much benefited by coming in contact with Christians; they have, on the other hand, deteriorated morally by it. In India, Christianity is associated with arrogance, war, drunkenness, etc., etc. The expressions, Christian Charity, Christian Generosity, etc., etc., have no meaning with them. We would humbly request the good Bishop not to meddle with the Indians at first, but to devote his attention to the spiritualization and humanization of his own countrymen. For, if Christians seek to make their religion acceptable in India, they must first of all mend their own conduct. We have seen plenty of Christians "with a strong hand," we have yet to see in a Christian a man of peace, charity, benevolence, kindness, and love.

REUTER has wired the important news that on Tuesday last, Mr. Roberts M. P.,—that disinterested and lynx-eyed friend of India,—moved an amendment to the Address in reply to the Queen's speech, in connection with the Calcutta Municipal Bill. The other still more important information he sends us is that the amendment was seconded



by Sir Henry Fowler. This is really a very cheering intelligence, for Sir Henry is highly respected by the Conservatives, and his disapproval of the measure in such an open manner cannot be ignored by the present Ministry. We are glad that the amendment was withdrawn, for we have absolute faith in the sense of justice of Lord Curzon and Sir John Woodburn. The citizens of Calcutta should, however, continue the agitation they have set on foot; for that is the only way by which they can convince the rulers of the unjustifiable character of the measure.

We beg to draw the attention of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the *Dacca Gazette's* article which will be found in another column. It shows what scandalously vigorous steps were taken by the local authorities to humiliate and disgrace Babu Kali Prosonno, whose only fault apparently was that his Mohurir had brought a charge of theft against the Sub-divisional Officer of Munshigunj. In what hurry the authorities were to get hold of the person of Babu Kali Prosonno will appear from the following facts. The Assistant Magistrate of Dacca, who held a judicial enquiry into the theft case, submitted his report on the 8th December, stating that the charge had not been proved against Moulvi Fuzal Karim. On the 9th, the Magistrate of Dacca directed the prosecution of Babu Kali Prosonno for making a false statement, fixing the trial of the case for the 12th. On the same 9th, a warrant was issued for his arrest and a Police Inspector sent to Munshigunj to execute it. He was not found there, and immediately proclamation and attachment processes were issued; and we are told his moveable properties, both in Munshigunj and in his native village, were attached. But we have not yet told all. The case was to have been heard on the 12th, but the proclamation was issued on the 10th, two days before the trial! The episode regarding the engagement of Mr. Douglas White on behalf of Moulvi Fuzal Karim, as narrated in the article, also deserves the special attention of Government. We do not know where and when will this Munshigunj scandal end.

ELSEWHERE is reproduced an article from the *Englishman*, headed "The Pathan Invasion of Bengal." We subscribe to every word of the writer. Indeed, the picture of the situation given by our contemporary is complete, and we have very little to add to it. These Pathan pedlars, generally known as "Cabulees," have become a terror and source of danger to Bengal villagers. The manner in which they cajole people into buying things from them and then extort money from their prey has been very correctly and graphically described by the *Englishman*. They are sweet-tongued in the beginning, but wear a ferocious aspect, when they return to a village, determined to realize the prices of goods they have sold there. With big clubs in hand they would sit at the door of the unlucky man who had purchased things from them—generally pieces of worthless clothes—and threaten to break his head if he would not meet his full demand. A couple of Cabulees would in this way keep a whole village in a state of terrible fear and leave it only when their so-called debts have been paid. Twenty years ago, when the country was not so intersected with a network of railways as now, villages were safe from the depredations of these Pathans. But now there is scarcely a hamlet in the interior of Bengal, where a Cabulee has not made himself familiar. The only way in which the villagers sometimes protect themselves from the violence of these Pathans is by setting them against each other. We once saw such an interesting scene, some years ago. A pair of Cabulees had sold blankets, wrappers and fruits to some villagers and come back to realize their prices. One of the purchasers, a cunning man, took one of the Cabulees aside, and told him that he and other customers would give him something more than his dues if he would help them in driving away the other fellow. The Cabulee fell into the trap, and agreed. He muttered certain words to his fellow-countryman in a language quite unintelligible to the bystanders but which produced a wonderful effect. The Cabulee addressed to, flew at the other man, who, of course, was ready for his assault. We then, for the first time, saw a Cabulee duel in all its interesting features. At first they caught hold of each other's long hairs and commenced pulling them with all their might. Then, they began to knock each other with their heads. The skulls were fractured and they bled profusely. The sight of blood seemed to madden them and they began to bite and scratch each other with their teeth and nails. Both were equally matched and the fight continued for more than half-an-hour, when they fell down exhausted and lay helpless at the mercy of the villagers who, after this, had no difficulty in bringing them to reasonable terms. But such incidents occur rarely, and the Cabulees have, as a rule, everything in their own way. As the *Englishman* suggests, some steps ought to be taken by the authorities to save the timid and defenceless rustics of Bengal from the inroads of these Pathans.

The Calcutta Municipal Bill contains some 670 sections, of which upwards of 570 have been settled by the Select Com-

mittee within the course of a few weeks! This shows that they are doing things at a railway speed in the Committee. It also shows that they have made very little alterations in the provisions of the Bill; for they could not have proceeded at this rate if they had to make substantial modifications. Our information is that, some of the changes introduced by the official members of the Committee are even worse than the original sections in the Bill. So, while the people of India and the Liberals in England are howling against the measure, the authorities here are quietly doing everything in their power to run counter to their views. We also learn that the building, privy, and other regulations have been made so stringent that it will be almost impossible, not only for the poorer, but even the respectable middle classes to reside in Calcutta. And these regulations are to be carried out by a General Committee of twelve, of whom eight are to be European and Government-nominated members! The Municipal law, as it exists now, is hard enough. But its stringency is tempered by the judicious manner in which its provisions are administered by a body of men who are Indians, and who therefore know the exact conditions of the people and can sympathise with them. But imagine the fate of the citizens if the administration is entrusted to eight members, who may be very estimable persons in their own way, but who can never be expected to have any intimate knowledge of the real circumstances of the natives of the soil or feel kindly for them. We wonder, how it will be possible for these eight European and Government-nominated Commissioners to do their business at all, ignorant as they must be of the peculiarities and intricacies of native life. The general impression, even among the executive officers of the Municipality, is that the proposed law will not work. But what of that? The Committee are busily engaged in settling the provisions and making them more hideous if that is possible! The Indians have done their best to convince the Government of the unjustifiable character of the measure. The Liberals have also condemned it in Parliament. Is it proper, after this, for the authorities here, to proceed with the measure, especially when it is found to be a huge failure? It is, however, India and who cares?

THE reader is aware that Mr. Tilak proceeded to Colombo after having attended the Madras Congress, and that he had to leave that place suddenly for Poona on the 3rd instant, on account of the serious illness of a friend, though his intention was to come to Calcutta and meet his friends here. He returned to Poona on Monday last, and a Bombay correspondent writes us to say that, considering later events, it would have been better if he had stayed away from his native city for sometime longer. Says the correspondent:—

The coincidence was unfortunate but it cannot be helped now. You must have read all about the murders, confessions and arrests in Poona. The task of the Police, however, is easier this time owing to the confessions. These murders show that the perpetrators of the Jubilee crime were not at all aided by the Punitive Police, State trials, and other stringent measures of Government two years ago. Does this not show that they went on a wrong track altogether at that time, and consequently the innocent suffered, while the real offenders enjoyed the fun and waited for another enterprise? But let us wait and see how events develop.

Meanwhile some mischievous people have begun to play tricks against Mr. Tilak and his paper. A para accidentally appeared in the *Kesari* of the week, on Dravid's letter published in the Bombay Anglo-Indian papers, and a perverted translation of it appears in the *Bombay Gazette* of the 13th instant. Mr. M. R. Bodas, pleader, High Court, has, however, taken steps to correct the translation at once. I hope you will see your way to notice both, and comment properly. We must guard in time against men like "Justice" whose letter to the *Times* of India brought all this misery upon Mr. Tilak and the whole country. There is nothing to be anxious for, however.

Yes, we must guard against these mischief-makers like "Justice" and the papers to which they resort. India is, however, not in the hands of an imbecile just now but a strong Governor-General who can see and is seeing things for himself; so there is no cause for anxiety.

We understand that Khan Bahadur A. F. bdur Rahman is a candidate for election as a member of the syndicate and that he has got a competitor in the person of Moulvi Delawar Hossein. As far as we are aware, the latter gentleman has never taken any active interest in the work of the University. On the other hand, Mr. Rahman, it is well-known, is a most active member of that body. Besides it is very doubtful whether Moulvi Delawar Hossein will be in a position to perform his duties as a syndic properly, considering that he is in indifferent health owing to age, and that he has to tour out in the mofussil for nearly six months in the year, in connection with his duties as Inspector-General of Registration. Of course, it is not for us to advise the Fellows for whom to vote. But, we doubt not, they will elect him who, in their opinion, would be able to do his duties in the way they should be done. The election takes place to-day.

We deeply regret to announce the death at Bombay of Sir Louis Kershaw, who was

appointed Chief Justice of Bombay only a few months ago. The news has been received here with sorrow at the untimely death of one, in whose death the Bombay High Court has sustained a great loss. We offer our sincere condolences to the bereaved family.

THE big and respected book of the Vaishnavas, Padma Puran, is being published in parts in the Bengali character by the celebrated bhakta, Babu Kedar Nath Datta, Bhaktivinode, at 181, Manikola Street. It is more exhaustive than the edition published in Bombay. The price of the entire book is Rs. 6 exclusive of postage, which will amount to a rupee more. Considering the bulk and value of the book the price is cheap.

WE are very glad to hear that there has been a favourable change in the condition of Sir Louis Kershaw. May he progress steadily towards recovery!

WE regret to have to announce the death of His Highness the Nawab of Bhawalpur. The sad event took place at the capital of the State on Tuesday last. We offer our sincere condolences to the bereaved family of the late Chief who held a very high place among the Punjab potentates.

THE Khyber Brigade, which is regarded by many as something like a "White Elephant," is, we are glad to learn on the authority of the *Pioneer*, to be reduced by two British Regiments. The force that is to garrison the Pass now will consist of one Company of Sappers and Miners, a half troop of Bengal Cavalry and two battalions of native Infantry. We hope this is but the beginning of the end, and that the time is not far distant when the authorities will come to feel that the Pass may safely be entrusted to the charge of the Khyber Rifles, re-organised as Militia under the command of some experienced British-officers. We are glad to note that the *Pioneer* too takes this view of the question and congratulates Lord Curzon's Government on having taken the first step towards the evacuation of the Khyber by regular troops.

INDIAN EWS.

THE sudden manner in which a Vaish named Badri Das, resident of Bijpur, turned a *Sanyasi* is the subject of general talk in that town. He collected the poor people of the town before his shop and made a free gift of his property; he then tore off some bonds of heavy debts, returned many to the debtors and left his home.

THE unprovoked attack on Captain Spence, was witnessed a little way off by some natives, and on their raising an alarm, the horseman made for the railway lines, apparently with the object of attacking any Europeans he came across, but he was observed approaching, and a Locomotive Department subordinate, named Buttons, arming himself with a revolver, faced him, the first shot bringing the horse down, and a couple more putting an end to the man's life. Buttons is assistant to the Locomotive Foreman at Sibi, and an ex-soldier of the Royal Artillery.

CAPTAIN RAMSAY, accompanied by Mr. Beatty, of the Quetta Police, with a strong body of police levies, has gone out from Quetta towards the Punjab, near the Afghan frontier, where Sardar Yar Mahomed Khan, of Khelat, a refugee Chief, who has been refused asylum by the Ameer, is harrying the neighbourhood and terrorising British and Khelat subjects. This is one of the men kept in custody for a time by direction of Mr. Barnes at the end of 1897, and who went off to Candahar in the middle of 1898. He is almost sure to be captured or killed, having now being driven to bay.

A BENARES correspondent reports the following to a Lucknow paper:—A tailor in the service of Mrs. Lovett, wife of the District Magistrate of Benares, was driving in his private Ekka. A yellow jacket tried forcibly to get into the Ekka. The tailor considering himself a Darzi of the District Magistrate's wife gave a bold front to this guardian of the public peace. Both fell out and unfortunately the tailor was severely beaten. The latter went to the Police station to lodge his complaint—but very little attention was paid to his representation. At last he called upon his *Bama Sahib* and she gave him a letter addressed to the *Chhoti Sahib* (Joint-Magistrate). The case is going on.

ON Friday afternoon a murderous assault was made on Mr. A. M. Lear, foreman of the Rangoon Jail workshops, by two Burman convicts whom early in the day Mr. Lear had reproved for idleness. Mr. Lear was stooping down examining some machinery, when the men rushed at him with iron bars and belaboured him over the head and shoulders. Mr. Lear made his escape but at the door of the shop fainted away. He was at once attended by Major Bell, I. M. S., Superintendent of the Jail. He had an almost miraculous escape. He is bruised all over but no bones have been broken, and on the head there is a slight scalp wound. He is confined to bed but it is hoped will be able to be about again in a week or two. His assailants will be put on their trial in due course.

THE Superintending Engineer of the Tapti Valley Railway reports that the earthwork is practically complete all through. Some of the cuttings are being sloped and surfaced, but another month ought to see this work finally completed. Bridging is practically completed, with the exception of two large bridges on the Amalner Division and one on the Nunderbar Division which, however, will be ready before the rails reach them. As it was found that the abnormal weather had resulted in a recrudescence of fever and sickness generally all over the line and as it was not therefore possible to complete the cuttings at Sonagad, was resolved to divert the linking wherever absolutely necessary so as to push the rails forward past this portion of the line, which, owing to its late transfer, is more backward. This has been done, and the rails are now at mile 49. The station staff quarters are very nearly completed everywhere.

SUPREME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A MEETING of the Council was held yesterday in Government House. There were present His Excellency Baron Curzon of Kedleston, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, President; His Honour Sir John Woodburn, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, His Excellency General Sir W. S. A. Lockhart, Commander-in-Chief in India, the Hon'ble Sir J. Westland, the Hon'ble Mr. M. D. Chalmers, the Hon'ble Major-General Sir E. H. H. Collett, the Hon'ble Sir A. C. Trevor, the Hon'ble Mr. C. M. Rivaz, the Hon'ble Mr. R. Ry. Ananda Charlu, the Hon'ble Sir G. H. P. Evans, the Hon'ble Mr. J. J. D. LaTouche, the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit Suraj Kaul, the Hon'ble Mr. Gangadhar Rao Madhav Chitnavis, the Hon'ble Mr. Allan Arthur, the Hon'ble Mr. P. M. Mehta, the Hon'ble Nawab Mumtaz-ud-daula Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan, the Hon'ble Mr. J. K. Spence, the Hon'ble Mr. G. Toynbee, the Hon'ble Mr. D. M. Smeaton, the Hon'ble Mr. J. D. Rees, and the Hon'ble Maharaja Rameshwara Singh Bahadur of Durbhanga.

INDIAN CONTRACT BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers moved that the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the Indian Contract Act, 1872, be taken into consideration. The hon. member said that on a previous occasion he had explained the principle of the Bill very fully. He did not think it necessary to repeat that explanation. Since then they had very carefully considered the Bill in the Select Committee. The principle had not been altered, but the details had been very carefully considered and the language had been made more precise. In the amended Bill they had been very careful to use the language which was familiar in English courts of Equity. Illustrations had also been added to show that the Act was not intended in any way to affect *bona fide* business transactions. Various hypothetical cases had been suggested to them to show that where discretion had been given to courts by this Bill there was every risk of that discretion being abused. But whenever any power or discretion was given to any authority any number of hypothetical cases of their abuse might be suggested. If power or discretion were conferred upon any authority, the hon'ble member thought that it was always exercised with a certain amount of reasonableness and with a certain amount of common-sense and knowledge of the world. If the hon'ble members did not think so, then no beneficial measure was possible. The Penal Code, for example. There was not a single section of the Code which would be tolerable unless it was worked with a certain amount of common-sense.

The Hon'ble the Maharaja Bahadur of Durbhanga then spoke at some length. The Hon'ble Mr. Rees said that what he wished to say on the Bill he would say when he would move the amendment standing in his name.

The Hon'ble Mr. Smeaton made a few remarks in support of the Bill.

After the Hon'ble Nawab Mumtaz-ud-daula Mahammad Ali Khan and the Hon'ble Mr. Mehta had spoken, the Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis said:—

My Lord, I fully sympathise with the main purpose of the Bill, which I take to be the relief of poor and ignorant persons from the ruinous consequences of such transactions as they might have been induced to enter into under the influence of wily men whose help they had been led to seek at a moment of distress. So far the proposed law seems to be all right in principle, but the question is whether it will secure the desired end. It must never be forgotten that in the present state of our country all artificial restrictions upon lending and borrowing money would make the terms for the borrower harder than ever. It is doubtful whether all the checks that human ingenuity can devise will come to the borrower's help when the sowcar makes up his mind to take undue advantage of each opportunity that offers itself to him. There are as many methods by which a lender can harass a helpless borrower as there are for a borrower to harass the helpless lender, when repayment of loan has to be made. Of these, no court in this country can take any cognizance whatever. My honest conviction is that this matter of lending and borrowing money must be allowed to be regulated by the law of supply and demand. No man with a grain of sense will pay a higher rate of interest if he can elsewhere borrow money on more favourable terms. The natural remedy, I think, must come by competition among money-lenders, by the demand there is for money, by the nature of the personal credit which the borrower possesses, by the facilities for recovering money, etc.

It seems to me that the position of a rural money-lender in India is not well understood by many, and too frequent appeals are made to facts in England to justify a proposed legislation in this country. India, however, is not England. In England and other European countries there are many agricultural and other banks, co-operative societies and many institutions of a philanthropic character which can give the needed relief to the poor of the country. But here, in this country, where "40 per cent of the population go through life on insufficient food," the capitalist, i. e., the sowcar, takes the place of all these institutions, and it is to him alone that the ryot has to look up for his self-preservation and for the preservation of his family. Nor is the ryot's confidence misplaced in a majority of cases. The sowcar is generally a man of business, and as he is also a land-holder, he seldom resorts to oppressive measures for the recovery of his dues. In many cases, he consents to forego some portion of the stipulated interest when the amount due is paid to him without the necessity of resorting to law courts. When the borrower has got sufficient credit and the security is good, the sowcar rarely takes more than the costs of a law suit, the trouble and expense he might be put to in his endeavour to recover his dues, as well as the risks attendant on variation of prices, etc. In most cases, he is not such a tyrant as he is believed to be. The reason why we hear so much against him in these days is because the tendency now is to bring to light cases where injustice is done to borrowers, but many hundreds of cases where the lender has shown the greatest possible consideration

to the borrower, never see the light of the day. As the sowcar generally happens to be a land-holder also, and as he has got to depend upon his ryot customers for the tillage of his land, he cannot afford to be a Shylock towards them. Whenever a debt becomes ripe for payment, most sowcars agree to forego a portion of the accumulated interest. In an agricultural country like India, any legislation which is likely to tell hardly on these men and render their position precarious, will, I fear, have the effect of restricting loans and discouraging agriculture. No doubt, it is extremely desirable that the poor should be saved from the clutches of the money-lending classes, but at the same time it must never be forgotten that it is the demand on the part of the borrower that brings into existence the lender, and that the money lending classes have a right to the protection of the law in all honest contracts entered into by them. What I fear is that this protection has not been sufficiently assured in the Act before us. Honest and conscientious money-lenders will, henceforth, feel frightened to unloose their purse-strings and lighten the field open to unscrupulous and dishonest people, and the result will be a want of confidence and a paralyzing of all legitimate transactions necessary for the purposes of trade and agriculture.

Then again, every court in this country is by law a court of equity. It is never fettered by law in granting equitable reliefs in hard cases. The High Courts of India have never been reluctant to grant relief against money-lenders in cases of unfair bargains. And I consider that these decisions are always safer and surer guides to civil courts in India granting relief than the vague and epigrammatic laws now proposed in their stead.

Being anxious, however, that a measure conceived in a spirit of fairness and generosity may not in its operation come to defeat its own purposes, I have carefully attended to the details of the Bill as settled by the Select Committee, and, as the result of such consideration, have decided to move the amendment which stands in my name.

The Hon'ble Mr. La Touche thought that the amendments adopted by the Select Committee would remove all objections taken against the Bill.

The Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans observed that he had had a great inclination himself to introduce a Bill like this into the Council, but as he had not the time to consider the question in all its phases he had refrained from making any attempt in that direction. They had already put certain restrictions upon the landlord and given protection to the ryots in the Bengal Tenancy Act and similar other measures. When they had gone so far in protecting the ryot against the landlord, he did not see why they should not go to protect him also from the money-lending classes, and he was, therefore, rejoiced to see that the present Bill had been introduced into the Council. Although as the Bill stood he did not like it for he was of opinion that there should be separate legislation suiting the conditions prevailing in different provinces, he would still give the measure his support.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu said:—My Lord, Having regard to its too wide scope I disapprove of this measure. Nothing that has come within my observation suggests the need for such a sweeping remedy. It is directed at an evil which cannot be eradicated. The measure would introduce friction and hardship now unknown where there is more or less pacific understanding. My acquaintance with the agricultural classes in Madras Presidency convinces me that they are usually thrifty and very rarely go within the clutches of hard money-lenders. They need no protection, such as promised by the Bill. I would perhaps accept the Bill as substituting a procedure resembling arbitration for strict law which must needs be harder. But there are appellate courts to revise the discretion exercised by the first court. It is not always that appellate courts absolve from unduly interfering nor are the verdicts of the first courts uniformly faultless. These imperfect conditions would often necessitate the practice and temptation of trying appeals from the judgment of a single judge to that of another single judge on less tangible grounds than now. These are reasons to incline one to disapprove of the measure entirely. There are grounds, however, for it as against it. I must say that it is safer to allow the experiment which is influentially and officially supported as we do not legislate for all time to come. The measure might, prove an important check on unscrupulous men. The existing law has been found to be inadequate in a number of cases, and if the measure will act as a deterrent on the class of money-lenders it will be a great blessing. In this view I do not oppose the motion before the Council.

The Hon'ble Sir James Westland also made a few remarks in support of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers then replied briefly.

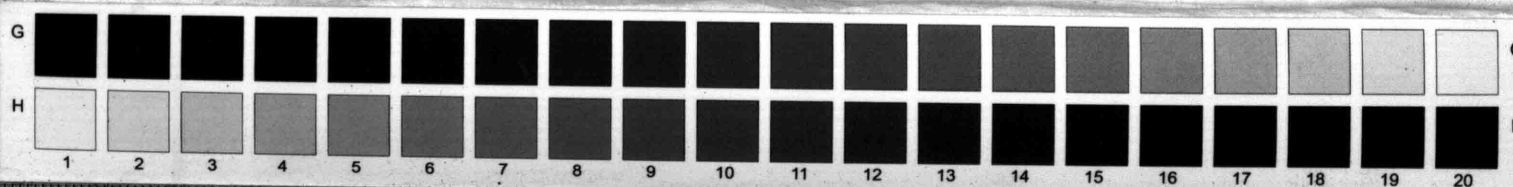
The motion for taking the report into consideration was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis moved that for sub-section (3) of section 16 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, as proposed by clause 2 of the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, the following be substituted, namely:—

(3) Where a person who is in a position to dominate the will of another, but who does not stand to him in a position of active confidence, enters into an agreement with him, the burden of proving that such agreement was induced by undue influence shall lie upon the person who seeks to have the agreement set aside on the ground of undue influence."

In moving the amendment the hon'ble member said:—

My Lord,—I must say that I move this amendment with considerable diffidence as the Amending Act has been shaped by the combined wisdom of many hon'ble gentlemen learned in the law. But I think, it is in accordance with general principles that a person seeking to avoid liability for his own actions and setting up a special circumstance as a defence, has to discharge the burden of making good his defence. Where a person, charged with having committed a murder, pleads in his own defence insanity or accident or the right of private defence, the burden of proof would lie on him for making out such a defence. In Civil Courts, where a person repudates an obligation under a document which he has signed, and alleges that he signed it under a mistake or in consequence of fraud practised on him, the burden of proof would be on him to make out such a defence. I, therefore, submit, My Lord, that where a debtor seeks, on the alleged ground of undue influence, to avoid an



agreement which he has entered into, it should be for him to prove the undue influence on which he relies for the repudiation of his obligations.

I quite appreciate, my Lord, the purpose of Sub-Section (3) as it now stands. It gives to courts the power of raising the defence of 'undue influence' where it is not raised by the defendant himself. It seems to me, however, that the power here proposed to be given to courts is much too large. The word "undue influence" has not been defined in the Bill, and I am not sure that it is possible to define it in a way free from objection. If, then, courts are permitted to presume 'undue influence' where they consider a transaction to be "on the face of it" unconscionable, and if they are not even required to set forth, in their judgment, the grounds of such presumption, the discretion so vested in them may often be exercised in a way which may, I fear, cause dissatisfaction among large classes of people, uncertainty as to the state of the law, and a panic among money-lenders. Where, "on the evidence adduced," the transaction appears to be unconscionable, courts will no doubt have better reason for placing the burden of proof as the Sub-Section directs; but then, which is the party that adduced the evidence? The person who dominates the will of the other party will not give evidence against himself, and if the evidence which shows a transaction to be unconscionable has been adduced by the party seeking to set it aside, then in substance this part of the Sub-Section is very largely the same as my amendment, which however has this advantage that it gets rid of the notion and the word "unconscionable," and assimilates the provision to the general law of the country instead of making it a new departure.

I speak with diffidence on a technical point of law, and even if I was able, I should be as unwilling as the Hon'ble Law Member to inflict on the Council "a disquisition on English law." I beg leave, however, to refer to one or two principles which appear to be undisputed alike in England and India. With regard to voluntary donations the principle invariably recognised by English Courts of equity seems to be that, except in cases where certain specified intimate relations exist between the donor and the donee, undue influence must be proved against the donee in order that the gift may be set aside. I gather this from the notes to *Huguenin vs. Baseley*, one of the leading cases in equity. And if this is the true principle in regard to voluntary donations, it should, obviously, be applicable *a fortiori* to agreements.

The law in regard to the burden of proof on the subject of undue influence is thus summarised by Sir Frederick Pollock in a recent work: "Parties in an independent position are masters of the terms they choose to make; but when the terms made between parties in confidential relations are such as, judged by the reasonable and ordinary practice in affairs of the same kind, appear unconscionable, it is an almost necessary inference that the confidence of the client has been abused, and undue influence exerted. On the other hand, the Courts will not easily give credit to mere surmises and suggestions of undue influence where there is no relation between the parties naturally producing general authority on one side and general deference on the other, and where it is not proved that their habitual conduct was of this kind." (*The Law of Fraud &c in British India*, Tagore Law Lectures, 1894, p. 71).

I find that the passage quoted by the Hon'ble Law Member from *Leake on Contracts*, in his speech asking for leave to introduce the Bill, begins with this remark: "Agreements between persons in certain relative positions are treated in equity as presumptively made under an undue influence of one party upon the will of the other."

I take the effect of these authorities to be that in agreements between persons standing in certain special, intimate or confidential relations to each other, the presumption of undue influence will arise, having the effect of placing the burden of proof on the party claiming the benefit of the agreement. Where those relations do not exist the ordinary rule must prevail, and the party repudiating the transaction must prove that he was induced to enter into it by undue influence. That seems to be the principle recognised alike in England and India, and, if it is not a presumption to say so, it is a rule founded upon considerations of fairness and justice. I see no reason why it should be departed from in the Act we now propose to pass. It does not appear that even the House of Commons Committee, to which the Hon'ble Law Member made reference, has made any recommendation (in regard to the law of the burden of proof in cases of undue influence) similar in point of principle to Sub-Section (3) of this Bill. The law as to the burden of proof "where there is a question as to the good faith of a transaction between parties, one of whom stands to the other in a position of active confidence" is laid down in Section 111 of the Indian Evidence Act. The law as to the burden of proof in all other cases of undue influence, should, I am humbly of opinion, be put in the form which I am now suggesting as a substitute for Sub-Section (3) of the Bill before us.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers opposed the amendment. The Hon'ble Mr. Rees also opposed the amendment. In doing so he contradicted the statement of the Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis, in his first speech that 40 per cent of the people lived upon insufficient food. The statement, he said, was not true. A similar statement had been made two years ago at the Budget debate and had been contradicted. The statement was not true in a good, bad or even in a famine year. The Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans opposed the amendment as he thought that by adopting it the object of the Bill would be frustrated. The amendment was put and declared to be lost.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis withdrew the next amendment which stood in his name as it was a consequential amendment on the preceding one which was lost. The amendment ran as follows:—

The Best Medicine For Rheumatism.

"I THINK I would go crazy with pain were it not for Chamberlain's Pain Balm," writes Mr. W. H. Stapleton, Herminie, Pa. "I have been afflicted with rheumatism for several years and have tried remedies without number, but Pain Balm is the best medicine I have got hold of. One application relieves the pain. For sale by—

SMITH STANISTREET & CO. and
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"That for Illustration (c) to the section proposed as aforesaid the following be substituted, namely:—

"(c) A being in debt to B, the money-lender of his village, contracts a fresh loan on terms which, in a suit upon the contract, A declares to be unconscionable. It lies on A to prove that the contract was induced by undue influence."

The Hon'ble Mr. Rees moved that in illustration (b) to section 19A proposed by clause 3 of the Bill, as amended, the words "an agriculturist" be omitted. The hon'ble member thought that the benefit given by this Bill should not exclusively be for the agriculturist; other classes of people should also have a share in it. It was not a class legislation and he hoped it was meant for all classes of people. So far as Madras was concerned the agriculturists did not stand in need of any such measure. In this view he was supported by Mr. Justice Sheppard and Mr. Justice Subramania Iyer, and he based his amendment upon their views.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers opposed the amendment. He thought that the amendment was unnecessary.

The Hon'ble Mr. Spence supported it. As this measure was meant to apply to all classes of people he did not think there was any necessity for retaining those words.

The Hon'ble Mr. Mehta hoped that the Hon'ble Mr. Rees did not argue for the exclusion of the Madras agriculturist from the operation of the Bill. The illustration was only a specific example and he did not think that by using those two words the operation of the Bill would exclusively be confined to the agriculturists. The words "an artisan" might have been as well used in their place.

There was some further discussion after which the amendment was put and lost. A count was demanded with the result that seven voted for and thirteen against it.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor moved that in illustration (b) to the new section 19A proposed by clause 3 of the Bill, as amended, for the figures "12" the figure "6" be substituted.

The amendment was carried. The Hon'ble Sir Griffith Evans moved:

"That the following illustration be added after illustration (f) to section 74 as proposed by clause 4 (2) of the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, namely:—

"(g) A borrows Rs. 100 from B and gives him a bond for Rs. 200 payable by five yearly instalments of Rs. 40, with a stipulation that, in default of payment of any instalment, the whole shall become due. This is a stipulation by way of penalty."

The Hon'ble Pandit Suraj Koul supported the amendment in a short speech. The amendment was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers then moved that the Bill, as now amended, be passed. The motion was agreed to.

SELECT COMMITTEES' REPORTS.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers presented the reports of the Select Committee on the Bills to amend the law relating to arbitration and to amend the law relating to carriers.

THE PETROLEUM BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. Rivaz moved that the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the importation, possession and transport of petroleum and other substances be taken into consideration. The motion was agreed to.

On the motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Toynbee the words "a body of Port Commissioners or other like body" in clause 19 (2) (h) of the Bill and the word "Municipalities" in clause 23 of the Bill were altered into "local authority."

On the motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Rivaz a long direction was added to the first schedule to the Bill on the table for correction of Flashing Points.

The Bill as now amended was then passed and the Council adjourned for a week.

ANOTHER jewellery robbery is reported from Rawalpindi where Mrs. Stisted, wife of Major Stisted, of the Somersetshire Light Infantry, had some valuable rings and diamond pins stolen from her dressing-room while the family were at dinner.

NEWS from Uganda states that on the 27th October, Captain Fowler with a party of the 27th Baluchis and East African Rifles surprised about 700 Soudanese mutineers and Uganda rebels killing 60. Our losses are 1 killed and 3 wounded.

THE Lahore paper hears that a conviction has been obtained against one Atcher in the District Magistrate's Court, Ferozepore, on a charge of having procured from England, a number of forged Public Works Department cheques. Mr. Goldney of the Punjab Police, prosecuted.

ON Wednesday, at his residence in Triplicane, Madras, P. Ethurajulu Naidu, the photographer, who photographed the Mahant of Tiraputi, and Govindammal in an indecent attitude, was arrested by the Police of the C. Division, who have, however, released him on bail. He will be duly prosecuted in the Town Police Court, Madras.

A PROPOSAL made by the Punjab Government Public Works Department, to decrease the width of metal on certain sections of the Grand Trunk Road between Delhi and Lahore, and Lahore and Peshawar, with the view to effecting some reduction in the large yearly expenditure now incurred in their maintenance, has been negatived by the Government of India.

A MUSCAT correspondent of a Bombay paper, writing on the 11th instant, says: Nothing of any importance has transpired here since my last letter, except the arrival of Colonel Meade, Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, last Monday. Since then he has had long conferences with His Highness almost daily, and it is known that the subject of these conferences has been the attempted cession of a port for coaling purposes to the French. It is believed that Colonel Meade, acting, of course, under instructions, has taken a very strong view of the matter, and one that is evidently impressing the natives here considerably, as they almost unanimously express strong disapproval of the Sultan's actions, and apparently appreciate the many favours which the country, to say nothing of His Highness and his ancestors, received at the hands of the British. They are beginning to recall and discuss the many occasions on which we have assisted and protected the country, and the disinterestedness displayed by us in not attempting to annex their country, when it has been within our power to do so. Whether the Sultan looks on the affairs in the same way, is liable to doubt.

THE GAURANGA SAMAJ.

As already announced a representative and well-attended meeting of the Gauranga Samaj was held, at the Classic Theatre, on Thursday last. The meeting was convened by Pandit Sham Lal Goswami, Sidhantabachaspati, the learned Acharya of the Samaj, with the following objects in view:—

1. To propagate the teachings of Sree Gauranga, both in the East and the West, and thereby humanise and spiritualise the world.
2. To consider what should be done to hold an anniversary in Calcutta on the next birthday of the Mahaprayatna, Lord Gauranga, the 14th Chaitra 1305 B.S.

The Classic Theatre was tastefully and appropriately decorated on the occasion with flowers, flags and bunting, though there was nothing of the frivolous in these decorations. Long before the appointed hour people began slowly to collect, and at 4 o'clock the auditorium of the theatre was filled with about 800 people, mostly of mature age, sober judgment, pious disposition, with nothing of that fuss about them which characterises the ordinary meeting-goers. They came and silently took their seats, with a feeling of solemn reverence. It was, in fact, an orderly meeting from start to finish, not the slightest noise interfering with the proceedings at any stage. The schoolboy element was remarkable by its absence.

On the stage were seated the speakers, the members of the Gauranga Samaj, and others who claimed descent from well-known Vaishnava families. Besides a large number of Goswamis, whose names it is needless to mention, there were gentlemen of rank and education who all evinced a keen and profound interest in the proceedings. Among others we noticed the following:—

Babus Kedar Nath Datta Bhaktibonode, Shishir Kumar Ghosh, Gopal Lal Mitra (late Vice Chairman, Calcutta Corporation); Roy Parvati Sankar Roy, Zemindar of Teota; Babus Amulya Prosad Ghose, Banian of Messrs. Hoare Miller & Co, Moti Lal Ghosh, Dr. Amrita Krishna Bose; Babus Panchkari Bannerjee, late Editor of the *Bangabasi*, Narendra Nath Mitra, Attorney-at-law; Dr. Hurro Nath Roy; Babu Hara Lal Roy, late Head Master, Hate School; Kaviraj Durganarayan Sen Sastri; Dr. Krishanahari Bhattacharjee; Babus Amrita Krishna Mullick, B. L., Editor, *Indian Empire*, Jotindra Lal Mitra, B. L., Kala Chand Batabyal, B. A., Samal Dhan Datta, Attorney-at-law; Pandit Tara Kumar Kabiratna; Dr. Chandra Sekhar Kali; Mr. P. N. Mukherji, Magistrate, Police Court, Sealdah; Pandit Kali May Ghatak; Babus Upendra Nath Mukerjee, Editor, *Basumati*, Kunja Lal Roy, Monosa Charan Bannerjee, Parvati Charan Roy, Radhika Nath Chatterjee, Ashutosh Mallick, Sarat Chandra Bannerjee, Akhaya Kumar Kumar, Tarini Chandra Bannerjee, Dakshina Ranjan Acharya, Charan Bannerjee, Devendra Nath Ghosal, Satish Chandra Datta, Lalit Mohan Ghosal B. A., Madhusudan Dutt, Purna Chunder Dutt, B. L., Nagendra Nath Bose, Editor, *Biswakosh*, and others.

The proceedings opened with some religious songs sung in chorus accompanied by Khol and Kartal.

On the motion of Pandit Nilkanta Goswami, Pandit Gokul Chandra Goswami, who occupies a very high position among the Goswamis by virtue of birth, piety and scholarship, was voted to the Chair. In seconding the proposal Babu Jatindra Lal Mitra, B. L., Vakeel, High Court, spoke in terms which deeply moved the audience. The speaker made an essay to explain briefly the religion of Sree Gauranga.

The Chairman next called upon Dr. Russick Mohun Chakravarti, Secretary of the Gauranga Samaj, to explain the objects of the Samaj. The speaker not only explained the objects and scope of the Gauranga Samaj but also touched on the salient features of the tenets preached by the Lord Gauranga, which, he said, should be made known all over the world. He also proposed that an anniversary of the birthday of Sree Gauranga be held this year in Calcutta on a grand scale and invited subscriptions for the same. The speaker then read out to the meeting the names of the gentlemen who have already subscribed. The speaker concluded by saying that donors might send in their donations either to Rai Yatindra Nath Chowdhury at Baranagore or to the Editor of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*.

An influential Committee was then formed to carry out the programme.

Several other speakers then addressed the meeting on the peculiar features of the religion taught by Sree Gauranga, which, they pointed out in clear and forcible language, contained the essence of all extant religions and were such as to be easily acceptable to all. The speech of Pandit Radharaman Goswami, the grandson of the late renowned Ramtanu Bhagabat Bhushan, of Balaghar (Hoogly), had an electric effect on the audience. The emotions which stirred the speaker's mind and found an outlet flood of in ajeeras, were echoed in the breasts of those present.

Pandit Radharaman Goswami then sang a *Kirtan* and carried the whole audience with him.

Babu Amrita Krishna Mullick, B. L., in explaining in a learned and well argued speech the utility and necessity of the Samaj from various aspects—religious, social, political, etc.—detailed his own experiences about passing from a state of unbelief, in common with many English educated young men, to belief in the incarnation of Sree Gauranga. He pointed out that if the Indians were ever formed into one nation, it must be through Sree Gauranga, who might well be called the central figure in the religious hierarchy of India. The speaker also submitted that the spread of the tenets of Lord Gauranga would help to stop the conversion of Hindus to other religions, since they would find that the last Messiah had appeared in their own country.

The Chairman then thanked the speakers and the Theatre Company and brought the discussion to a close in an excellent speech. The vote of thanks to the Chairman was proposed by Babu Lalit Mohan Ghosal B. A.

At half-past eight o'clock the other night, says the *Mail*, a tiger paid a visit to the rubber nursery at Swettenham Road, the Kuala Lumpur, and carried away a monkey belonging to one of the coolies employed there. The monkey was tied by a chain round its neck to one of the verandah posts opposite the door, and the main door of the lines was not closed. The tiger came boldly up, and quietly took away the poor monkey, and having walked a few yards on the main road disappeared in the jungle.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

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OR
SALVATION FOR ALL

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The Gauranga Samaj has had a photograph of this ancient painting, taken by a celebrated artist of the town; and copies may be had at the under-mentioned rates.

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Indian Sketches

BY
Shishir Kumar Ghose

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

W. S. Caine

PRICE—1 RUPEE AND 6 ANNAS.

"I heartily commend to every cultured and earnest Indian, to every Christian Missionary, and also to every European who cares to look beneath the surface of Indian life and thought, the contents of this deeply-interesting volume of miscellaneous articles from the pen of SHISHIR KUMAR GHOSE."—W. S. CAINE in the Introduction.

The sketches are written in excellent English and an attractive style. These sketches are of a miscellaneous character—stories, with a distinctive imaginative faculty on every page; excellent descriptions of exciting scenes, theological essays, dissertations on Sufism; poetry; a spirited and long defence of their political rights ignored by the Government, entitled "The Perpetual Slavery of India" which it would do good to certain of the English people, if they would only take the trouble to read, and many other interesting essays. ***** It is pleasant to find that our friends in India and it is capable of writing in such an interesting strain as to be found in this book.—*London Review*.

To be had at the Patrika Office.

EARTHQUAKE.—Smart shocks of earthquake, writes a Cooch Behar correspondent, lasting over a minute, were felt on the night of the 7th at about 3-40 A. M.

EDUCATIONAL.—Professor Hill, of the Presidency College, succeeds Rai Bahadur R. P. Mukherjee as the Inspector of Schools, Presidency Division, and Mr. Wilson from Assam goes to the Patna Circle.

GOVT. HOUSE DINNER.—Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Curzon gave a dinner party at Government House on Thursday night in honor of Sir Antony MacDonnell, G. C. S. I.

BETHUNE COLLEGE.—The annual prize distribution of the Bethune College takes place on the 1st March. Her Excellency Lady Curzon of Kedleston will probably give away the prizes.

USING A FORGED NOTE.—Yesterday at the Alipore Criminal Sessions, before Mr. Handley, a case was disposed of in which one Ram Chandra Saha of Ahirtila was charged with having used three forged G. C. notes, of Rs. 10 each, by getting a change for them from a shop-keeper of Ultadanga. The facts of the forged character of the notes and the changing thereof were admitted by the accused, who, however, contended that he had no guilty knowledge. The evidence on this point being not sufficient and trustworthy, the jury returned a unanimous verdict of "not guilty" and the judge agreeing acquitted and discharged the prisoner.

A FATAL SHOVE.—On the 14th instant, Corporal Milton, of the Gloucestershire Regiment, was marching with a file of prisoners, in the Fort, when a malee, who had been ailing with enlarged spleen and liver, came in his way and was given a push to by the Corporal. The malee fell down and received some slight abrasions. He was admitted into the Fort Hospital, where he died two days after. The certificate of the doctor assigned death to enlarged liver and spleen and blood poisoning. Corporal Milton is under military custody, awaiting the result of the Coroner's inquest; which takes place on the 22nd instant.

Plague News.

ANOTHER case of plague occurred at Rahon on the 14th.

THURSDAY'S Karachi returns show 4 cases and 2 deaths. Precautions are being taken by the Plague Committee and instructions issued to secure supervision over the movements of those who are in the voluntary camps, without restricting them in any way.

THE Nawab of Dir, who is intending to make a tour in Upper India, has expressed a desire to see Calcutta. He is leaving his eldest son in charge of the State, which is in a satisfactory state of peace just now.

AN official of the Fyzabad district, Shim, Sunder Lal has been found guilty of accepting bribes, and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 300 and to undergo 2½ years imprisonment. On appeal to the Sessions Judge the imprisonment was reduced to nine months.

Telegrams.

(FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.)

LONDON, FEB. 14.

An amendment to the Address in reply to the Queen's Speech was moved to-day by Mr. John Herbert Roberts, member for West Denbighshire, expressing concern at the introduction of the Calcutta Municipal Bill as destroying the representative character of the Municipality. Sir Henry Fowler supported the amendment, as he considered the existing checks were amply sufficient. Lord George Hamilton said the Government's duty was to protect the lives of people, and to see that Calcutta ran no undue risk through ineffective sanitary regulations. His Lordship also added that Lord Curzon and other authorities in India were certain to have given the Bill absolutely impartial consideration. The amendment was eventually withdrawn.

LONDON, FEB. 14.

Replying to questions in the House of Commons, Mr. Brodrick said that Belgium continued to negotiate on the sugar bounties question in accordance with the mandate of the Brussels Conference, and in the mean-while it would be premature for Great Britain to act.

LONDON, FEB. 14.

Mr. J. T. Middlemore, Unionist candidate, has been returned unopposed as member for North Birmingham, replacing Mr. Kenrick, who had resigned his seat.

LONDON, FEB. 15.

The House of Commons has rejected by 247 against 143, votes the amendment to the Address in reply to the Queen's Speech, declaring it incompatible for Ministers of the Crown to be Company Directors.

LONDON, FEB. 15.

The transport Dilwara has arrived at Southampton.

LONDON, FEB. 15.

The death is announced of Mr. Justice Chitty.

LONDON, FEB. 15.

Another native of India has been stricken with plague in the Barberton district of the Transvaal.

LONDON, FEB. 16.

President Faure died in Paris at ten o'clock his evening after three hours' illness.

He died of apoplexy in his study at the Elysee. It believed that the fatal attack was due to worry over the Dreyfus affair.

The State funeral will take place on the 23rd, the obsequies being held in Notre Dame, and the burial at Pere Lachaise.

LONDON, FEB. 16.

It is announced from Bombay that the British ultimatum was presented to the Sultan Muscat last Saturday, but Mr. Brodrick, on being asked in the House of Commons whether the Sultan had ceded or was about to cede harbour or coaling station to France, said "the answer is in the negative so far as our information goes."

LONDON, FEB. 16.

Henty's warehouse in Melbourne has been destroyed by fire, and the loss includes half a million pounds weight of tea.

LONDON, FEB. 16.

Owing to Parliamentary exigencies in America the Nicaragua Canal Bill has been shelved for the present session.

LONDON, FEB. 17.

The National Assembly will probably meet at Versailles to-morrow to elect a President. The probable candidates are Dupuy, Brisson, Cavaignac, and Loubet, President of the Senate.

LONDON, FEB. 17.

The *Times* says it is expected that the Indian Currency Commission will finish taking evidence by the end of March, and the Report of the Commission will probably be ready for publication about the beginning of June.

SUB-INSPECTOR ABDUL WAJID KHAN with three constables has been suspended by the District Magistrate, Muradabad, on a charge of assault in a big theft case.

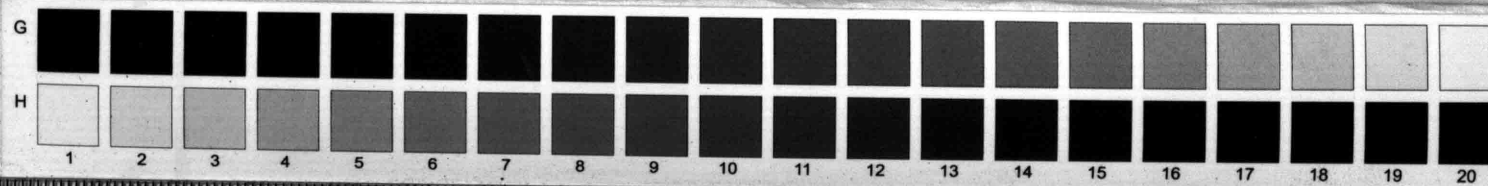
ORDERS have been issued for the immediate acquisition of land at Miran Shah in the Tochi Valley for a permanent military post as troops are considered by the political authorities no longer necessary at Tank.

THE Madras Government has been able, "in view of the present state of Provincial finances," to allot only 22½ lakhs for Civil Works during the next financial year. The budget estimate amounted to 30 lakhs, and the revised estimate for the current year is 24½ lakhs.

A GANG of Pathan rifle thieves is supposed to be in Rawalpindi station. Sunday night one attacked and fired at a sentry on the rest camp. The sepoy, who belonged to the 36th Sikhs, was wounded in the leg. The Pathan was struggling with the wounded sepoy to get his rifle when fortunately two British soldiers came up and the thief promptly made off.

SEVERAL arrests have been made at Unao in connection with the recent railway assault case, but Mrs. Oakes has so far been unable to identify the assailant of herself and her sister, Mrs. Deane, who were assaulted by a ruffian, who threw dust in their eyes, and stole a bag belonging to Mrs. Oakes on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway between Lucknow and Unao on the night of the 28th ultimo. The ladies, it will be remembered, had a desperate struggle with the thief, whom they endeavoured to imprison in the bathroom, but he overpowered them, and escaped with his booty.

A FATAL accident occurred on Thursday morning in the *Times* of India Jobbing Department, Bombay, in which two men were killed and eight injured, by the fall of a type-rack. The stand is about thirty feet long and fourteen feet high, and was affixed to wooden railings along the side of a section of the ground-floor, set apart for the storage of job-work. A compositor had occasion to take a packet of standing matter from an upper shelf. Instead of procuring a ladder, he sought to climb up the shelves themselves. As he approached the top, the undue strain tore loose the fastenings, and the great mass fell over, and crashed down upon the printers who were working below. The two dead and four of the injured were terribly mutilated.



ANOTHER POONA TRAGEDY.

The next witness examined was Vishoo Kashinath, age 27, money-lender. He deposed to having lived in the same locality as the Dravids; they lived opposite his house. Witness used to visit them daily. Witness went there on Wednesday last about 9-15 P.M., and found Ramchandra Dravid, Ganesh Dravid, Visnod Woman Modak and Wasudeo Pendse in the house. They were playing a game of bezique on a room upstairs. While there, some one came and shouted 'Gunpatrao.' One man came upstairs and said in Hindi: 'One man came to speak to Ramchander and Ganesh. They finished their game, went down with the man and joined another man, who was waiting downstairs. The clothes worn by the two men were identified in Court by witness. Witness then said that, after the Dravids left the house, he went in the direction of his house, but finding his door locked, knocked, and was waiting till it opened, when he heard the report of a pistol and heard shouts of "murder." Witness then noticed Nilkant, the youngest brother of the other Dravid, with a few other men, running in the direction where he saw four men proceeding. Witness also then went there and found Ganesh and Ramchander Dravid lying wounded on the street. Witness saw Ganesh point out the direction in which the assassins had bolted. Nilkant ran in that direction, but could see no one. The next witness was Baboo Balaji, a dealer in walking sticks, who deposed that he recognised accused, Wasudeo, who came to his shop some time ago and purchased two bamboos, with which he was seen on the night of the murder. The bamboos were identified in Court by the witness. Shunker Gopal, a cloth merchant, was next examined. He said he knew the accused Wasudeo, who, a month ago, purchased two white head-dresses. Witness identified the two shown to him, also the coat which was worn by Wasudeo on the night of the murder. Rungan Ganesh Joshi, another cloth merchant, deposed to having sold to Wasudeo some book-muslin a month ago, and recognised two shirts, shown to him in court, as having been made of the material. He showed that these shirts were worn by the accused when he murdered the Dravids. The tailor, who had worked these shirts, was next examined, and then two policemen, who had taken the Dravid brothers from the scene of their assassination to the Sassoon Hospital, after which a remand till the 22nd was granted. The Magistrate being informed that the case against Balkrishna Hari Chapekar was also fixed for that day, but that the Magistrate could either take up that case or proceed with the present one. During the proceedings of this day the prisoners, who appeared in the best of spirits and exhibited thorough indifference as to the upshot of the case, asked some witnesses a few questions, and seemed quite amused rather than terrified. The public were not admitted, the doors of the *farashkhana* being locked.

A STORY OF THE ATLANTIC.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Queenstown on Jan. 19:—The Hamburg-American line steamship *Alesia*, of 5,472 tons gross, with a general cargo, arrived here this evening. Soon after her arrival I was enabled to obtain full particulars of the fearful encounter which the *Alesia* had with the elements after she left Hamburg on the 27th ultimo for Boston. In addition to a crew of 60, she carried 50 passengers, principally Russians and Bohemians. All went well with her until the early days of the present month, when gale after gale was experienced, raising a sea which caused a feeling of terror to the unfortunate passengers, who were kept below for their own safety.

Huge seas one after another flooded the decks, and it required more than ordinary care to do even the slightest work on deck. A blinding cold rain added to the misery of the situation. The gale increased in fury from day to day until it appeared to all on board that it would never cease, in the face of which the vessel made wretched progress. At times it looked as if the weather would blow spars and everything above the deck overboard. In the ordinary course the steamer should have reached Boston, which was her destination, on the 11th instant, but on that date she had only got as far as 49°25 North and 33°28 West, on which date the indescribable horror of all the passengers, the steering gear became completely disabled and the rudder had got badly damaged thus leaving the vessel at the mercy of the terrific weather which then prevailed.

The *Alesia* was then helplessly buffeted about, and as soon as temporary tackles were rigged and the hand-steering gear provisionally fixed, both were as quickly broken, and it seemed as if there was nothing for it but to allow the vessel to drift to wherever the wind and sea might drive her. On being made aware of what had happened the passengers, among whom there were many children, became panic-stricken almost, but they were assured that all would be well. At three o'clock that day, during a blinding squall of hurricane force, another steamer in distress was sighted close by, with signals of distress flying. As the *Alesia* approached her the signals made from the other disabled steamer were "We are sinking; can't launch a boat; take us off."

When the *Alesia* drew closer to the steamer it was observed that she was the *Glendower*, of Leith, bound from Philadelphia to Silgo. In her disabled condition being unable to steer, the *Alesia's* captain was unable to keep his vessel close enough to launch a boat. There was a mountainous sea running at the time, and it was probable that any small boat would not live in the weather. However, the *Alesia* stood by, and each hour seemed to render the position of the *Glendower* still worse. She had a heavy list to starboard. She appeared to be sinking fast. The sea at times made a clean breach over her, and most of her unfortunate crew were on deck. The *Alesia* stood by the *Glendower* all that night and well into the next day, during which there was no full in the gale. On the morning of the 12th another steamer was sighted, and the *Alesia*, which meanwhile had drifted well apart from the *Glendower*, signalled the approaching strange steamer, which proved to be the Johnston line steamship *Barrowmore*, bound to London from Boston, to proceed quickly to the *Glendower's* assistance as she was sinking. This the *Barrowmore* did, and almost at the same time another large four-masted steamer was bearing down on the *Glendower* which

was the last the *Alesia* saw of the sinking vessel.

The *Alesia's* head was now got to the eastward, and favouring gales from the westward enabled her master to shape a course for Queenstown, towards which good progress was made; but the tremendous seas which kept constantly breaking on board made the position of the vessel extremely critical at times, and it required all the nerve and ability of the master, officers, and crew to bring the vessel through. Yesterday morning the long-wished-for Irish coast was sighted, to the relief of all on board; but as the weather got thick with a violent gale, the *Alesia's* head was put to the southward again until four o'clock yesterday morning, when a course was shaped as far as it was possible to do so for Queenstown. A few hours afterwards two tug steamers from Queenstown with a pilot on board hove in sight, and the tugs were engaged to assist the *Alesia* into Queenstown for a sum of £300. One tug towed ahead while the other remained astern assisting to steer the disabled steamer. On nearing the harbour the tugs were obliged to slip temporarily, as the *Alesia* sheared about considerably, and at one time she was close to Roche's Point Rocks. However, the tugs got hold of her again and succeeded in skilfully bringing her to safe anchorage, upon reaching which the passengers took occasion to thank the captain and officers of the *Alesia* for their gallant and kindly action. The *Alesia* will be repaired at Queenstown. Meantime her passengers will stay by her.

THE CALCUTTA CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION.

SIR BRADFORD LESLIE, who is now in Calcutta, writes to the *Allahabad* paper:

"The promoters of the permanent Road and Rail Bridge and Central Station at Calcutta having well grounded faith in the merits of their proposals were naturally a little disappointed at the terms in which the possible realisation of their project was recently referred to in an after-dinner speech of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, but they can hardly be expected to accept such a casual allusion as a final negation of their aspirations. The proposals of the Calcutta Central syndicate are of paramount importance to the trade of Bengal and the prosperity of the port and city of Calcutta. Without them the full advantage of the Kidderpore Docks, and of the E. I. R. intended chord line from Burdwan to Howrah can never be realised, and the increasing proportion of the export trade which is dealt with on the Calcutta side of the river will be deprived of the alternative route indispensable for interests of such growing magnitude. The proposals comprise the extension of the trunk railways to the Central Passenger Station, within half-a-mile of Dalhousie Square, and the linking up of all the railways east and west of the Hooghly, affording direct access to the Port Commissioners' river side lines, and the Kidderpore Docks."

"The revised design of the bridge with two piers only, located near the banks of the river will be the removal of the floating bridge with its twenty-six pontoons and moorings, extend the harbour sufficiently to accommodate another steamer at a new jetty, and effect a vast improvement in the navigation of the river. Moreover in connection with the contemplated graving dock at Kidderpore the adoption of the fixed bridge will reduce the necessity for opening the passage for shipping to very rare occasions, because excepting in high floods, the steamers and flats of the inland navigation companies will be able to pass under the bridge at lowwater idly. Further, the proposals which include the opening of a new thoroughfare for the elevated junction railway, involve the abolition of the most insanitary quarter in the city, including that 'Augean Stable' of Calcutta—Burra Bazaar, and the provision of high class quarters suitable to the inhabitants of the tenements dismantled, and requirements of trade."

"The promoters believe that the foregoing comprehensive project, to which no serious or valid objections have been raised, is demanded by the progress of events and at a measure of public improvement, and that undertaken on a proper programme it will be largely and progressively remunerative. I will not here go into the question of capital outlay, it is only necessary to remark that on any fair estimate the cost will not greatly exceed that of the alternative measures that will be superseded by it. It is sufficient here to note that the adoption of the Calcutta Central project will obviate the nuisance and danger to navigation of a cumbersome wagon ferry occupying valuable frontage on both sides of the river at Garden Reach and Shalimar, and save the cost of quadrupling the Eastern Bengal Railway to carry E. I. R. traffic coming via the Jubilee Bridge on to that line below Nahati, and of the proposed joint terminus for the East Indian, Bengal-Nagpur, and East Coast Railways at Howrah; Common sense protests against locating the 'Calcutta' passenger terminal station for these railways on the wrong side of the river to the perpetual inconvenience of the public, and occupying a large and valuable site on the river front at Howrah, which is specially adapted to, and urgently required for, the extension of the goods line to the north."

"My personal acquaintance with the railways of Bengal from the time when the E. I. R. was open only to Raneegunge, and the E.B.R. not commenced, extends over forty years, during which time I have watched their progress, and to the limit of my humble abilities contributed to their extension in all directions. I have noted how every new connection and ramification has swelled the volume of traffic centring in Calcutta. The upward trend of the traffic diagram progresses in a geometric ratio. There is no indication that the limit of the productive power and commercial activity of the Bengal Presidency has been approached. With the augmented traffic that will be diverted toward Calcutta by the shorter route via the Grand Chord line, and the additional trade of Chota Nagpore, the Central Provinces, and Orissa which will at an early date be opened up by the Bengal-Nagpur and E. S. Coast Railways when placed in direct communication with Calcutta, then I say that if deadlock and confusion are to be averted, whenever there is a little extra pressure of traffic, the whole of the Howrah side of the river must be given up to goods traffic and that the time has arrived for establishing the railway connections and facilities of Calcutta on a symmetrical basis mutually auxiliary to all the administrations concerned, to a joint committee of which the working of the undertaking would be entrusted, as proposed to be done in the case of the Joint Station at Delhi. If this opportunity is neglected the trade of Calcutta will be hampered, dwarfed and crippled for want of room to expand and facilities for despatch. In the absence of the measures now advocated, muddle, confusion and delay will certainly take place and loss will be incurred, with the result that the trade of Calcutta must more or less rapidly be diverted to other ports."

THE Maharaja of Benares, who is now at Allahabad, had what might have been a severe accident the other evening. When riding near the Khushru Bagh his horse suddenly came down with him heavily. His Highness has a bruised knee-cap and a cut on the eyelid, which will keep him to the house for a few days longer. The Maharaja hopes to return to Benares early next week.

VICAR AND YOUNG LADY.

A LIBEL action of an extraordinary character has been heard at the Norfolk Assizes. It was brought by the Rev. J. J. Woolsey, Vicar of Brightwell, Suffolk, against Miss Evelyn Hoare, a daughter of an inspector of factories, from whom he claimed 1,000*l*. damages.

The alleged libel was based on the following letter, which Miss Hoare sent to the Bishop of Norwich:—"My Lord Bishop,—It is with shame that I have to bring the following facts before your knowledge:—One day last summer the Rev. Jeremiah Woolsey took me for a cycle ride, and, taking advantage of me, seduced me. On Dr. Robinson informing me that I was enceinte I wrote to Mr. Woolsey asking him to see me."

He burned the letter, and took no notice. My father then charged him with what he had done, but he denied receiving my letter and said he was not in Norwich at the time. When my father first accused him he could not speak for half-a-minute, and he only tried to prove being elsewhere.

"He ended a long interview by saying he should deny and fight it out. My father asked him if he would marry me. He said, 'No; it would ruin me if I did. At the request of my parents a mutual friend saw him, to whom he denied his guilt; but he refused to deny it to my face, as he was challenged to do, but he admitted receiving and burning my letter.' 'My father then wrote and asked if he would marry me, and he referred him to his lawyers. After my child was born, and as soon as I was well enough, I asked him what he was going to do for his child, and his lawyers answered me saying he did not admit any liability."

"Inasmuch as Mr. Woolsey has declined to make any offer and to see me personally I must beg your lordship to institute an inquiry into the truth of the allegations brought by me, and which allegations I am prepared to substantiate."

It was stated that Mr. Woolsey and Miss Hoare first met at a dance early in 1897, and they frequently afterwards went to bicycling together. The defendant alleged that in February of the same year, improprieties took place between her and the clergyman in a copse.

While Mr. Woolsey admitted that he had flirted with the girl, and had kissed her more than once; he altogether denied the graver charge made against him. It was alleged that a police constable named Rollett had been seen with Miss Hoare under suspicious circumstances.

Miss Hoare, the defendant in the witness-box, gave evidence as to misconduct, on several occasions in February and again in July. Her child was born in April last.

Miss Hoare was cross-examined by Mr. Kemp, Q. C., at considerable length. She stated that Mr. Woolsey acquired quite a fascination over her. On the day on which Mr. Woolsey first miscondemned himself she described her bicycle ride in her bicycle diary as "jolly," but she now thought that was not a proper word to use. She made subsequent appointments with him because he had an "awful fascination" over her. Mr. Woolsey had never promised to marry her.

She told Mr. Pigot, the Vicar of Eaton, that only one impropriety had occurred between her and Mr. Woolsey. She did so because she did not wish to mention the other occasions. She had ridden on her bicycle with Mr. Lee Warner, but not in lonely lanes.

She had never told Mr. Woolsey's brother an improper story which her cousin in India had told her. Neither had she told improper stories in the presence of the servants in her father's house; if they had said that she had done so it was because they were spiteful and malicious.

She knew a man named Rollett, a policeman, and she had gone to the Castle Museum thinking she might see him. She had also accepted a pin from him. She now hated Mr. Woolsey, and she would like to wring his neck.

She admitted that on the day Dr. Robinson told her of her condition she met Rollett. She was in great distress at the time, and did not remember what she said to him. She might have given her photograph to Rollett, but she did not think that Rollett had given her his.

Mr. Hoare, the defendant's father, said that on learning his daughter's condition he went over to Brightwell Vicarage and saw Mr. Woolsey. When he charged him with having seduced his daughter the plaintiff was greatly agitated, and suggested that if Miss Hoare had been confined about Christmas there might be some reason for bringing a charge against him, as he had been out cycling with her several times in the spring.

Afterwards Mr. Woolsey said that "it might have been somebody else," naming her cousin. He then said, "I don't want it." Witness pressed him to marry his daughter, but he refused to do so, and ultimately he said he should fight the matter out.

Rollett, the policeman, admitted in evidence that he had given Miss Hoare a pin as a present; he had met Miss Hoare at Blue Bell Hole on February 4th last. Miss Hoare then told him of her condition. He had never kissed her, or taken any liberties with her, but he had frequently walked out with her.

Lieutenant Churchill, the cousin, mentioned in the course of the case, denied that there had been any familiarity between himself and Miss Hoare.

Mr. Kemp, Q. C., replying upon the whole case, said the fact that the defendant had told her secret first to Rollett, and not to her mother, could be accounted for only upon the supposition that the man in whom she confided was the author of the mischief. Even if her story were true she stood confessed an unchaste, impure woman. He urged the jury not to condemn upon her uncorroborated and contradictory statement a man whose character had hitherto been without reproach.

Mr. Justice Wills, having summed up the jury returned the verdict already mentioned.

GRIZZLY BEARS.

Old-time hunters among the Sierras laugh at the recently expressed opinion of certain naturalists that the grizzly bear of North America would become extinct at the end of another decade. While the grizzly has become comparatively rare in the Sierras and Rockies, there is little possibility that the most ferocious wild beast known on this continent will be wiped out for a century or more. Between the Rio Grande on the south and the Fraser river of British Columbia on the north there are half a million square miles of rocky, almost inaccessible mountains and thousands of canyons and gulches, which assure a survival of the grizzly or a great many years more. The bear is a rock climber, and nature has equipped him with means by which he can thrive and propagate his race long after civilization has pressed close upon the base of the mountains wherein he makes his home. The bear is a sort of connecting link between the enormous polar bear and the humorous black or cinnamon bear of the wood, and his predilection for haunts where the weather is coldest and away up on mountain sides beyond the range of other wild animals, and particularly his aversion to human beings, guarantee the survival of his species long after other North American quadrupeds have become extinct.

The number of grizzlies captured and slain in California every year is roughly estimated at seventy-five. A great many people have lived over here for years and never seen a grizzly. Not in nine years has one been taken in California south of the Tehachapi range, which separates Southern California from the rest of the States. Occasionally a grizzly is found in that part of the Sierras which extends through Kern, Fresno, and Mariposa counties, but the bulk of the animals

come from the rugged and snowy Siskiyou mountains of Northern California. During the last year more grizzly bears have been slain in the mountains of Oregon than in any other year for a decade. Recently a den of seven grizzlies was found in the mountains of Klamath county.

The fur dealers in San Francisco say that the annual purchasers there of grizzly pelts amount to about twenty, but the fur buyers at Portland, Ore., and at Seattle, Wash., make more of a specialty of handling bearskins for the Eastern markets.

There is no demand for grizzly skins except for rugs and sleigh robes. A good undressed skin with the head and teeth intact will sometimes sell for \$25. But there is so much danger and such labor in getting to and from the upper highlands where grizzly bears may be shot or trapped that very few professional hunters do much at grizzly-bear hunting nowadays. Fifty years ago there were many men in the employ of the fur companies in Northern California and Oregon who used to get four or five dozen pelts every year. Modern sportsmen marvel at the daring of those early day hunters, who with crude, slow-loading and untrustworthy guns, used to go miles away from and other human being in a locality infested by grizzly bears, and take chances at shooting a fierce brute to death at the first shot, and then of slowly ramming home another charge, placing the percussion cap, and making ready for another shot if needed. The daring of Grizzly Adams is still admired out here. Almost weekly for seventeen years—from 1836 to 1853—he would follow the trail of a grizzly though armed with nothing better than a muzzle-loading rifle carrying a half-ounce ball. He risked his life on the hazard of a single shot. It is certain that Adams killed many large grizzlies yet, if his own narrative is to be believed, the never shot from a tree, though sometimes from ambush. Occasionally he would yell to attract the attention of a grizzly and induce the animal to raise himself on his hind legs, when he would deliberately shoot the beast through the heart.

Grizzlies are poor climbers. Their claws are more rounded than those of other bear species, and they are therefore unable to use them in timber. They are expert at climbing rocky and precipitous places, where sheer strength of the forepaws is requisite. But the hunters tell many instances of grizzly bears who, when wounded and maddened to desperation, have climbed trees and attacked the hunter. The late United States Senator Stanford used to tell of a miner near Michigan Bar, in the gold-washing days of 1854, who caught a grizzly bear in a huge teal saw-tooth trap. The bear managed to work his paw loose from the trap, and, mad with pain, made straight for the miner, who chanced to be near. The miner tried to shoot, but his old cap and ball rifle would not work. Then he began to climb a live oak tree. The bear followed. The miner stabbed and slashed as best he could at the bear, but only increased his rage. With one sweep of his forepaw the grizzly's claws caught in the miner's clothes, and he was dragged from the tree. The bear leaped upon the body of the miner at the foot of the oak and tore him into pieces. The man's head was literally torn from the trunk.

The strength of grizzly bears is wonderful. The forepaws are masses of tough muscles and short, heavy bones. A grizzly bear has been known to hug a horse into a shapeless mass, but Bruin prefers to deal his victim deadly blows. Some of the tales of the strength of grizzlies in their shoulders and forepaws border on the incredible. Doors of heavy redwood planks on log cabins have been knocked and beaten into splinters. The skull of a man who trapped and chained a grizzly for exhibition purposes was smashed at one blow by the bear in San Luis Obispo about 1884. Years ago the Spanish ranchmen and vaqueros in the San Joaquin valley used to find sport in witnessing combats between grizzly bears and bulls, and it is said that frequently an ox would be killed by one blow from a grizzly. The bear *L. re. California* is full of stories of grizzlies that have carried a carcass of a 200-pound calf or colt or pig straight from a corral up a precipitous mountain side, and then about a rocky peak to the bear's mate, fifteen or twenty miles distant. All the old-time hunters tell wonderful anecdotes of grizzly bears that have been shot through the heart and have lived ten or more minutes, meanwhile performing almost incredible feats of physical prowess.

An interesting characteristic of the grizzly is his omnivorous diet. Comparatively few people know that grizzlies never eat human flesh. The bears that devoured the children who impudently railed at the prophet's hairless pet were certainly not of the grizzly species. Many narratives are to be found of people eaten by famishing grizzly bears, but they are all fiction, in that particular at least. Common grubs, ground mice, gophers, are delicacies for the fierce monarch of the Sierras and the Rockies. Occasionally a grizzly family will feast upon a deer, a wild cat, or some beast of the mountain. In former days, before the grizzly was driven far away from the ledge of civilization, cattle, sheep, and pigs furnished the grizzly's larder, but poisoning, traps, and rifles have made the beasts wary of things in the valleys and foothills. Wild honey is a prime article of diet with grizzlies, and the mountain trees holding wild honey are quickly detected and lined by a grizzly bear. The grizzly prefers a brushy country such as affords a good cover and an abundance of berries, edible roots, and honey. Berries are his favourite food. In carrying off a calf or young steer the bear will sometimes walk upon his hind feet, clasping the prey in his forearms, and in this way lift it over rocks or other obstructions. He has been known to attack moose and elk, springing upon them from ambush and biting the spinal column through the neck. In California and Oregon he has displayed much fondness for fish, gorging upon salmon at the head-waters of the streams in which the spawning beds are situated. The bear wades upon the rifles or lies upon projecting rocks, where he can easily claw out the fish from the water.

It would be a mistake to suppose that grizzly bears never attack unless maimed or noticed. Many instances are related where grizzlies have been the aggressors. John L. York, while searching for stray sheep in the mountains of Plumas county a few years ago, walked through manzanita brush. He heard something stirring in a clump of chaparral, and, thinking it was a sheep, he went and pulled aside the brush. As she grizzly and her cub were there. In a second the bear was upon York, who managed to snatch a pistol from the holster. York was horribly scratched and lacerated, but he shot the bear dead after putting seven balls into her. The fact is that grizzlies are despicable, uneventful brutes. They can seldom be trained for tricks like black bears. At times they will fly into a rage for slight causes, and at other times they will sneak away from the presence of hunters like coyotes. Nine out of ten hunters warn tenderfoot hunters never to run when an advancing grizzly is near at hand. The act invites immediate and hot pursuit, for while Bruin may be clumsy he is a swift and straight runner when charging on a victim. Professional hunters say they have known bears to cover ground almost as fast as a horse. Another rule of all bear hunters is never under any circumstances, to follow a bear into a thicket, timber, or canyon, or any close cover. An angry grizzly will never seek to escape, but will hide in brush and spring upon a hunter even while it may be in the throes of death.

THE Mysore Durbar, which has sent Assistant-Surgeon Palhu to England to make a special study of the manufacture of calf lymph has proposed to pay him a salary of Rs. 300 per mensem in the place of Rs. 200, his present salary, during the time he stays abroad, and has sanctioned a special award of £10 for the purchase of books. The Durbar means manufacturing lymph for commercial purpose, and has found a market in Madras.

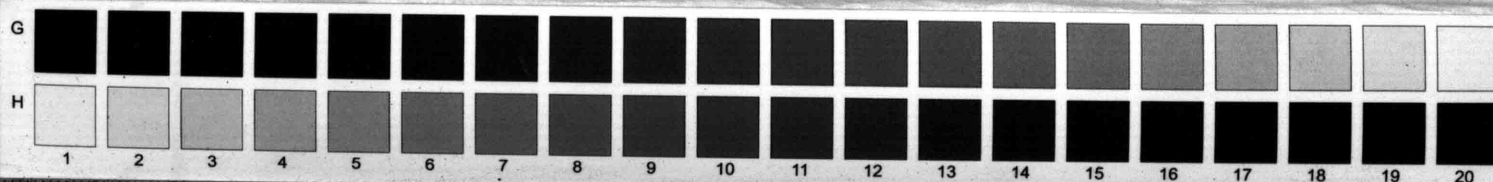
THE PATHAN INVASION OF BENGAL.

NUMEROUS complaints have reached us from time to time from every part of Bengal—including Chota Nagpur, and Assam, regarding the lawless behaviour of the so-called traders who annually pour down into Eastern India from Afghanistan and the frontier. A certain number of these men, no doubt, are *bona fide* pedlars selling goods from village to village, but for the most part—and the evidence on this point comes from widely differing quarters—they make their living by usury and extortion and threats of bodily violence. The *modus operandi* of a gang of Pathans hailing, say, from Ghazni is to make some large town their head-quarters. They then sall forth individually or in twos and threes into the surrounding district, each man carrying a bundle of trumpety articles purchased from the nearest bazar. Arrived at a village they cajole and at times almost force the rustic and timid peasants into buying worthless ornaments, blankets, and such like for prices gut of all proportion to their value, at the same time saying that they are in no hurry for the money and will call for it a few months later when passing through the village again. They also offer to lend small sums to those who may be in need. This operation is repeated from village to village, and there are always to be found stupid people willing to take advantage of what they consider to be very advantageous offers. But the day of reckoning comes when the Pathan begins to retrace his steps and collect his debts. He demands his money with a rate of interest often ranging from 100 to 1,000 per cent., and unless it is given at once, breaks out into loud threats which occasionally find expression in open violence. The bold truculence of one or two Pathans has been known to overawe the inhabitants of a village numbering hundreds.

Of course at times the roving Pathans arrive at a village the men of which are not to be cajoled or threatened. Then they adopt another manoeuvre. "Very well, they say, you rascals, you won't buy anything or borrow any money. Then I will remain in this village till you do." The Pathans forthwith proceed to camp out in some suitable spot, and spend their time in staring insolently at the women and girls peeping into houses, and making annoying remarks to the men. Only those who know the timid nature of the Hindu cultivator in Eastern India, his love of privacy, and the regard in which he holds his womenkind, can realise the pressure exercised by these means by the rude Pathans. Finally the villagers give in; they would do anything to get rid of their visitors. The "traders" often employ the same moral weapon when they find a difficulty in collecting their debts. Some people may say that what we have related above cannot be true, because the Mohammedan religion forbids usury, and all Pathans are fanatical Mohammedans. But the Pathans are only religious when it suits them. Still there are some Ghazni "traders" who look on lending money for interest as a crime. These slave their consciences in a truly oriental way. They induce the stupid peasant to take a blanket worth about a rupee and with it they present five rupees. Later on they come demanding twelve rupees, not as interest but as the value of the blanket plus the five rupees already given. Of course, the villagers have the nominal protection of the law and can always apply to the police. But the reluctance of natives to have anything to do with the police is one of the sad facts of Indian life. Besides the Pathan has some appearance of legality on his side, for the peasants he is threatening have received consideration for a part of the money demanded. Moreover, in the outlying districts of Bengal, Chota Nagpur, and Assam the police are not in strong enough force to convey to the people the impression that they exist for their protection. In rural India the strong hand and stout heart is still looked to as the best means of protecting oneself and one's property. But apart from the cheating and usury that the villagers have to put up with from the Pathans we are referring to, there is another matter which affects them even more closely. The women are nearly as often in danger of losing their honour as the men their money. On this point we receive frequent communications from respectable Hindus. In fact, if all the stories we hear are true the presence of roving bands of Pathans in Eastern India is a scandal and a disgrace, which the authorities should make every effort to remove.

The character of the Hindu peasantry of Chota Nagpur, Lower Bengal, and Assam is well-known. The villagers are a timid and law-abiding class, whose one wish is to be left alone. They have neither the physical and moral strength, nor that aptitude for combination which enables the labouring classes of other parts of India to rid themselves of nuisances and pests which the police are unable to cope with. The Pathan finds no happy hunting ground in the Punjab or Western India. But the fact that the people of Eastern India and Assam cannot protect themselves is no reason why sympathy and aid should be withheld from them by the Government which is responsible for their welfare. Of course the difficulties in the way of watching the proceedings of Pathans who rove into the swamps of the Sunderbunds on one side and the forests of Lohardugga and Santalia on the other, are very great. The police force is not strong enough, nor well-organised enough. Of what value in a village is an aged ghatwal, armed, perhaps with a bow and arrow, or a rusty spear? Some system of passports for wandering Pathans who cannot give a clear account of their means of livelihood might be initiated in Bengal, or better still, undesirable visitors might be warned off as soon as they attempted to book railway tickets at the frontier stations. This method would certainly relieve Bengal of a good many turbulent Pathans. It would then be easier to keep a watch over the others. The Hazara Pathans make such good labourers that thousands of them have been imported into Assam for railway extension work. These men, like the "traders," terrorize the natives with whom they come into contact. They, of course, could be more easily watched and controlled than the others, and it does not seem too much to ask the authorities to make special arrangements for every Pathan camp in Assam.—*Englishman*.

A GRANT of Rs. 10,000 has been made by the Government of India to the Cantonment Fund, Quetta, for improving the sanitation of that station.



IF TRUE, WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

A FEW EPISODES OF THE MUNSHIGANJ CASE.

THE excessive activity of the executive officers of Dacca in the case of Debendra vs. Moni Fughl Karim has greatly startled the people. Babus Kaliprasanna and Debendra were ordered to be prosecuted on the 8th or 9th December last and the trial of the case fixed for the 12th December, only 3 or 4 days after. On the afternoon of the 9th December, we understand, under orders of the District Magistrate, Mr. Shree, a certain officer of the Magistracy went round of the pleaders of Babus Kaliprasanna and Debendra with the intimation that if they should undertake to produce the accused on the date of hearing, then the Magistrate might be willing to conduct the prosecution and that the warrants against the accused might be stayed. Babus Kaliprasanna and Debendra had no pleaders here, so far as the case under sec. 211 P. O. went and none could give an authorised reply. We have been told that Babu Nabin Chandra Ghosh, Inspector of Police, Dacca, was sent down to Munshigunge that very day to execute the warrant of arrest and that he not having found the accused there returned the warrants unserved, and proclamation and attachment processes were issued forthwith. If our information be correct, the order as to the issue of these further processes is dated the 12th December, but it is curious that the Proclamation that was actually issued bears date the 10th December last. How are we to account for this abnormal disturbance of the chronological order? Will any body in the enjoyment of the official confidence please explain this anomaly? Then the next thing that strikes us is, how was the Magistrate satisfied in the course of a few hours that the accused had been absconding? Munshigunge was not the only place where he was likely to be found. His home is only a few miles from Munshigunge; he might have gone over to Calcutta to obtain proper legal advice. Pray, what was there to satisfy the Magistrate all at once that he had been absconding?

The recital in the Proclamation is that the accused not having put in appearance or not having been arrested in the execution of warrants of arrest the Proclamation was issued. The date fixed for the case was the 12th December last, how could the Proclamation bearing date the 10th December contain this recital, the appointed time for the appearance of the accused had not run out then.

The other important point: The order for prosecution was passed on the 8th or 9th December last. If we remember aright the 8th December was a local holiday and the order was available on the 9th December. Will any body in authority care to enquire when Mr. Douglas White was engaged for the prosecution, so that all arrangements with him were made by the 9th December as it appears, he was merely awaiting a message from here. Who engaged him and when? He was certainly engaged by the Magistrate, otherwise, why was the Magistrate anxious to arrange about him? If he were so engaged, we believe, the Legal Remembrancer had to be moved through the Divisional Commissioner. These preliminaries must have taken some time. All this looks very suspicious. Where was time for all this between the 8th and the afternoon of the 9th December last?

It is difficult to understand by what occult means of communication all this could be managed in so short a time. Will Sir John Woodburn or Mr. Bolton look into this matter? The Hindu clique against the Mouvi is certainly not responsible for all this mystery. In this connection, the date on which evidence was closed is of some importance. The last three witnesses were examined on the 5th December. Assistant Magistrate who was holding the enquiry asked the Counsel for the prosecution to argue the case but he very prudently declined to do so and left the case to the Assistant Magistrate himself to think over as the evidence had been recorded by him at considerable length and the statements of witnesses were so fresh in his mind. The Assistant Magistrate observed that he should have to go over the record twice or three to make up his mind. He took three days to submit his report, which he did on the 8th December.

We should especially ask the Government to call for the communications on this subject, if there have been any, between the local authorities and the Legal Remembrancer and Mr. Douglas White, between the District Magistrate and the Commissioner of this Division, and to scrutinise the dates of each such communication, bearing in mind that the Assistant Magistrate submitted his Report on the case on the 8th December last.

If our surmises be correct, this will discover a gigantic official clique and go a great way to explain away the "Hindu conspiracy" the phantom of official creation—Dacca Gazette.

ON Thursday morning, the 9th instant, upwards of a hundred rounds of Lee-Metford ball ammunition, bearing the broad arrow mark, were found rolled up in cloth at St. John's Hill, Bangalore and were taken away by some European lads residing in Haines Road. The lads were advised by the neighbours to deliver up the cartridges to the Station Police authorities, who would try to elucidate the mystery.

REGARDING the rumours as to the illness of the Amir of Kabul, the most striking refutation of these reports is to be found in the fact that when His Highness was said to be seriously ill he was actually transacting business in open durbar and issuing orders written with his own hand.

For the Babies.

THERE is no better medicine for the babies than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Its pleasant taste and prompt and effectual cures make it a favorite with mothers and small children. It quickly cures their coughs and colds, preventing pneumonia or other serious consequences. It also cures croup and has been used in tens of thousands of cases without a single failure, so far as we have been able to learn. It not only cures croup, but when given as soon as the croupy cough appears, will prevent the attack. In cases of whooping cough it liquefies the tough mucus, making it easier to expectorate, and lessens the severity and frequency of the paroxysms of coughing, thus depriving that disease of all dangerous consequences. For sale by SMITH STANISKEET & CO. and B. K. PAUL & CO.

THE BRAIN OF A MURDERER.

VACHER, the well-known vagabond and the author of 18 murders, who had already gained a niche in popular legend under the name of the "shepherd slaughterer," has been guillotined. During the eighteen months of his imprisonment he was the object, both before and after his condemnation, of numerous medico-legal inquiries, and his case gave rise to much scientific controversy. In the opinion of many psychologists he was quite irresponsible. As a fact he always was an odd character, very violent and eccentric to the point of disease (*maladivrem*). He had been in an asylum, from which, however, after a stay of some months, he was discharged, and he had been in a revolver. One of the bullets could not be extracted and was the cause of a marked facial paralysis with occasional attacks of acute neuralgia. After leaving the asylum Vacher began his life of wandering, in the course of which he committed 18 murders, in all of which, with the exception of one, the victim was a young boy or girl. They were accompanied with violation or mutilation of the body, or evisceration. Vacher declared that the acts were committed under an irresistible impulse and that after their commission he felt the greatest possible relief. Dr. Lacassagne, Professor of Forensic Medicine at the Faculty of Lyons, assisted by Dr. Bebatel and other noted psychologists who were deputed to examine Vacher, came to the conclusion after a long and careful examination that he was responsible. Dr. Lacassagne considers that Vacher was simply a clever impostor, who was well-acquainted with the symptoms of ordinary madness owing to his stay in the asylum, and who from the very commencement of his murderous career had counted on the immunity he would receive by pleading madness. The methodical way in which he set about his crimes, the precautions he employed to overcome his victim at once, to cut the throat on the one side, while he stood on the other so as to avoid the spout of blood from the carotids, the skill displayed in the hiding of the body, and the way in which he removed himself from the danger zone by travelling the most extraordinary distances, sometimes as much as sixty kilometres across country in one night—all these considerations forced the experts to conclude that Vacher was only a cunning. His attitude or trial when he offered the most ingenious defences confirmed the opinion, and the jury unanimously condemned him to death. This verdict, however, did not put an end to the scientific discussions on the matter. Dr. Madeuf, the aural surgeon, held that the unextracted bullet, which was lodged in the petrous portion of the temporal bone, was possibly the cause of the psychological disorders present in the prisoner, while Dr. Toulouse of the Villejuif Asylum, maintained that Vacher's ideas were purely those of a maniac. A radiograph of Vacher's head was taken and the position of the bullet carefully gone into. However, as a verdict had been unanimously given of "Guilty and responsible," the President of the Republic refused to interfere. Vacher was accordingly beheaded. The Post-mortem examination was made a few minutes after death. Many medical men were present, among whom were Dr. Madeuf and Dr. Robert. On opening the skull nothing abnormal could be seen, there was no adhesion of the meninges, and nothing abnormal even in the temporal region where the bullet had lodged. Dr. Madeuf took the skull and the brain to Paris, where the former will be mounted for the school of anthropology. The brain was handed over to Dr. Toulouse who declares that he can trace slight signs of meningeal adhesions. Six sections of the brain were sent to many noted experts among whom was Professor Lombroso. The reports of these gentlemen have not yet been received, but the matter still continues to be discussed in the press, and many psychologists still hold to the idea that Vacher was irresponsible—Lancet.

A CAT'S PENSION.

A MOST fortunate animal is a little black-and-white kitten which recently attached itself to the Church of St. Augustine, Highbury. In spite of the efforts put forth by the officials to induce her to leave the sacred precincts, she returned again and again, her persistency in the end bringing its due reward. A lady connected with the church set aside a sum of money to be devoted to the comfort and maintenance of the cat. As a protection against bad weather, a neat little kennel has been erected at this lady's expense in a cosy corner of the grounds, whilst the purveyor of milk and the cat-meat man supply her daily needs.

AFTER A GOLD RUSH.

WILD camels in the United States are certainly a novelty, but one of these animals which was running wild on a Colorado desert has just been run over and killed by a railway train. The animal, it is thought, one of the original lot imported into the United States in 1853, appropriating \$6,000 for their purchase, to be used in traversing the deserts to and from California, shortly after the stamped thither, at the time of the gold craze, when horses and oxen were dying all along the way. The experiment was hardly tried, however, the rapid construction of the railway putting a stop to it, and the camels were probably allowed to go wild when they were no longer needed.

A SPLENDID SUCCESS.

If anyone had said a year ago that thousands of copies of the expensive ninth edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* could be sold in Great Britain within a few months, he would have been regarded more as a dreamer than as a judge of the book trade. The enterprise, business ability, and advertising skill and boldness of the proprietors of *The Times*, however, has made what seemed an impossible thing a reality, and a great literary work that hitherto has only been found in the homes of the wealthy, or on the shelves of public libraries and similar institutions, has found its way into the cottage of the artisan, the book-case of the clerk, and the solitary apartment of the bachelor student. The manner in which this had been brought about is no less creditable to the keen commercial instincts of the proprietors of *The Times* than to their faith in the public, and their enterprise in embarking on an undertaking that had in it great elements of risk and financial loss. Unlike many articles sold on the instalment principle, *The Times* not only offers the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* at much less than the price charged to the original subscribers to the work, and at much less than it could be brought for in any bookshop, but they offered a reprint in every particular as complete, and as handsome in appearance, as when first issued by the publishers. The scheme deserved to succeed, and it is succeeding beyond every anticipation.

An Editor's Life Saved by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

DURING the early part of October, 1896, I contracted a bad cold which settled on my lungs and was neglected until I feared that consumption had appeared in an incipient state. I was constantly coughing and trying to expel something which I could not. I became alarmed and after giving the local doctor a trial bought a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and the result was immediate improvement, and after I had used three bottles my lungs were restored to their healthy state.—B. S. EDWARDS, Publisher of *The Review*, Wyant, Ill. For sale by SMITH STANISKEET & CO. and P. K. PAUL & CO.

THE BHILS OF MEWAR.

LIKE the Rajputs, the wild Bhil tribes have a history of great antiquity. They inhabit the picturesque and hilly tract of country formed by the offshoots of the Aravalli mountains. There was a time when the Bhils, who are a branch of the old autochthonous race, were spread all over the Rajputana. Driven back by the Arayan invaders, they retired to these rocky hills of Mewar, where they have ever since dwelt in the wild glens and rocky fastnesses of a country inaccessible to all but born mountaineers. Here to this day the Bhils live much as they did in the days of their progenitor, Rana Bappa, keeping up their ancient customs, although they have forgotten their ancient civilisation and have relapsed into savagery and degradation. They owe a certain allegiance to their feudal lord, the Rana of Oodeypore, and still pay him an annual tribute in kind. Proud and independent, they bitterly resent any undue interference, and are ever ready to rise and avenge any real or fancied infringement of their ancient rights and privileges.

From time immemorial the Bhils have been inseparably linked with the fortunes of the Royal House of Mewar. Mysterious and rebellious as they have undoubtedly shown themselves on occasions, it is in times of danger and trouble to Mewar that they are in times of danger and trouble to Mewar that they are loyal attachment to the Royal House has ever shown itself. In the darkest hours of Mewar's history they have always been ready to support the hardpressed Ranas with bowmen and provisions, or by undertaking the guardianship of their women and children. They were the comrades of the first king of Mewar. It was a Bhil who first proclaimed Bappa king under the old oak tree at Nagda, after imprinting the "tika," or emblem of royalty, with his own blood on the boy's brow. It was his Bhil friends who again stood by him in his manhood when he stormed Chitore and overthrew the usurper, the Mori Prince. Ever since the time of Bappa, 1,200 years ago, up to quite recent years, which are gradually doing away with old customs, the imprinting of the "tika" on the Rana's brow with his own blood by a Bhil of the Oghna tribes, was a necessary part of the coronation of the Ranas of Mewar. Again and again throughout the troubled history of Mewar, we find the Bhils aiding their Rajput lords in their fierce conflicts with the Moghuls, and later on in their struggles with the Marhattas.

Now that Mewar is at peace, they no longer have to fight for the Royal House, but the Bhils love fighting, and the tribes are often at war among themselves, and they are celebrated for their fierce blood feuds, which are handed down from father to son, and can only be wiped out by the death of a member of the offending tribe, or by the payment of blood money (Rs. 120 for the life of a man), which is often an utter impossibility to a poverty-stricken Bhil. They are constantly to be seen at Oodeypore, which they visit in order to deliver over to the Raj their annual tribute of buffaloes and dried grass, or to hawk about in the bazaar the produce of their jungles—bamboos, vegetable, dye-stuffs, medicinal herbs, ghee, and the berries of a tree whose juice when distilled, yields a strong and intoxicating liquor, which finds a ready sale among the Rajputs. Thus they live in close contact with the Rajputs, and those Bhils who have settled nearer to the plains are beginning to borrow a few of the Rajput religious observances and caste regulations as well as some useful arts as irrigation and terrace cultivation. Up in the highlands, which are reached from the city after a stiff climb of an hour or so, the Bhils still live as they did a thousand years ago, not in compact villages but in Pals, which often extend of couple of miles and consist of isolated huts, each of which is built on a piece of rising ground and palisaded with sharp thorns and bamboos. At the slightest sound of alarm their ancient war cry, the wild kiki, which consists of two or three high sharp notes with an indescribable tremolo, resounds from hut to hut and from Pal to Pal, summoning the bowmen to assemble for the fight.

The wild Bhil country, with its rugged hills, its lonely valleys and picturesque turns, is not unlike the Highlands of Scotland. Like the ancient Scottish clans, too, are the tribes, each of which is ruled over by a Ganeti, or chief, who is greatly respected and implicitly obeyed by his rough followers. The Ganeti is responsible to the Durbar for the annual tribute as well as for the conduct of his Pal. It is his duty to portion out the clan lands, to collect the yearly dues, and to preside at the meetings of the Pal Council, where defaulters and evil-doers are tried and punished. Each Pal considers it possesses the ancestral and sacred privilege to the right of grazing cattle on the grass lands which separate the Pals, and that of cutting grass and bamboos from the intervening jungle. Needless to say that bloody feuds often arise in connection with the ancient rights they guard so jealously.

The Bhils are a poor but a very industrious people, and although their morals regard such trifling matters as cattle-lifting are not beyond reproach, yet in the whole it must be said of the Bhil that he is honorable, faithful and reliable, and that his word once given is never broken. Lawless as he is by nature, he has a profound sense of gratitude and never forgets a benefactor. Bhil dwellings are large and roomy huts of twisted tiles made of the fine clay found in the beds of streams and baked in rude ovens. Each hut is divided into two portions, which, though not partitioned off, are never infrequently upon. One, which is slightly raised, is the dwelling of its human, the other that of its four-footed and feathered inhabitants. Members of one Bhil Pal never intermarry as they consider themselves at Bhil or brethren.

The Bhil woman has a happier and freer lot than her more gently nurtured Rajput sister. Free as the keen mountain air that blows over those wild hillsides, she has no knowledge, or the restrictions of life within the "purdah," and although she is rough and has to toil from childhood to old age, she is a much revered member of her community. Indeed in the Bhil home it is the lady who rules. The Bhil maiden refuses to marry until her suitor can provide her with a hut of her own and a buffalo. She is in every way a taller and a finer specimen of society than the male, and once she is married, she assumes entire command of the establishment, including her luckless husband, who may make up his mind to receive a sound cuffing from his strapping better half, should he return from the city the worse for the liquor or otherwise incur her displeasure. Should the wife be childless, the husband may take a second wife, but this can only be done with the consent of the first, and it is rarely resorted to. Bhil women tend the cattle, cut grass, make excellent ghee, and prepare dye-stuffs for the market, while the men are usually absent all day in distant jungles collecting bamboos. The men are very fond of sport, and frequently augment the family larder by the aid of their arrow or rude fishing rod, while their greatest joy is to shoot a panther who has been bold enough to jump the palisade and make off with a goat or calf. They are good and careful cultivators of their patches of land, in which they grow "makki," their principal article of food.

Their language is Bhili, a mixture of Hindi and Guzerati. Their religion is highly primitive. Mahadeo, the God of their forefathers, is still worshipped at a few ancient and very holy shrines which one comes across here and there among their wild hills, but for the most part the religious observances of the tribes consist in propitiation of the serpent by offerings, and in worshipping the shades of their ancestors.

On several occasions the Bhils have given serious trouble to the Raj. In 1881 the whole Bhil country rose "en masse" in consequence of a panic created by

the census operations, which they regarded as gross oppression. All the trouble might have been avoided by a little tact and forbearance on the part of the census officers, who took a harsh and high-handed tone instead of approaching the people through the "Ganetis." The discontent which had been simmering for some time broke out seriously at a village ten miles from Oodeypore, where a sowar insulted a "Ganeti," who killed him without further ado. The infuriated people rose in his defence, the killi resounded over the hills, and in a very short time 10,000 bowmen had assembled before the gates of Oodeypore. The regular troops had all been despatched to guard a wealthy shrine to the south of the capital, so the defence of the city devolved on the six principal Raos. It never came to a combined attack, but the state of siege lasted some time, during which it was highly dangerous to venture outside the walls. The Bhils refused to leave their post outside the gates until the Rana had come to terms with them.

THE CHARGES AGAINST A JUDICIAL OFFICER.

THE Commission of enquiry into the charges brought against Raja Chitpal Singh, Joint Magistrate of Ghazipur, was continued at Allahabad on Wednesday.

Mr. Durga Charan commenced his summing up of the case for the prosecution. He said the case was unique in the annals of the public service owing to the nature of the charges, owing to the evidence the prosecution had been called upon to produce, and owing to the way in which that evidence had been met by the defence. Lalit Mohan and Satyagan, the Raja's secretaries, had been produced and had stated the kind of work they did for him, and their evidence was corroborated by a large number of witnesses who had served the Raja in an official capacity. Counsel pointed out how the Raja had changed his attitude from time to time since these charges were first brought against him, and made a strong point of the fact that the Raja had declined to go into the box to stand the test of examination as to his capabilities. Mr. Durga Charan spent the whole day in analysing the evidence of Lalit Mohan as to the way in which he wrote judgments and depositions for the Raja, showing how that evidence was corroborated by witnesses both for the prosecution and the defence. He described as absurd the suggestion that Lalit Mohan had become familiar with the cases of which he had written abstracts either by talking to his friends about them or by taking notes of them with the object of increasing his knowledge of law. As to the first suggestion he gave minute details which could not possibly have been gained from discussion of the cases with pleaders, and as to the second Mr. Durga Charan pointed out that the cases were not of a kind worth studying for the law they contained. Moreover the abstracts were prepared without the possibility of access to records or to note-books containing summaries of the cases. In several of the judgments which Lalit Mohan claimed to have written there were corrections which proved absolutely that in the form in which they appeared they had been copied, and copied too by a very unintelligent copyist. There were sentences inserted and subsequently crossed out which were absolute nonsense, and could not possibly have been put in by an intelligent man making a copy of a judgment he himself had written. Lalit Mohan had offered to give details of other cases in which he had done the Raja's work, but that challenge was not taken up by the defence, though it would have been perfectly easy to do it if his story was untrue. Lalit Mohan was subjected to a very able and searching cross-examination, but the only points which the defence claimed to have made out were that he had tried to prove too much, and that he was not entitled to the Rs. 300 which he claimed in lieu of notice on his dismissal by the Raja. Lalit Mohan's statement that the Raja could not do his work at all referred to his official correspondence as Deputy Commissioner, and Mr. Durga Charan pointed out that it was quite possible that the Raja, fully aware of his limitations and anxious that they should not come to the knowledge of his superiors, should hand over all his work as Deputy Commissioner to Lalit Mohan. As to the claim for Rs. 300 he would concede that Lalit Mohan's claim was not strong, but unless the Raja was exceedingly anxious to prevent Lalit Mohan taking the matter to court why did he resort to such mean subterfuges to frighten him? He described how threatening letters were sent to Lalit Mohan purporting to come from various persons, and said he had not the slightest hesitation in asserting that the Raja was at the bottom of all these letters, and that there was not the slightest justification for any of them. There had been absolutely no reasonable explanation given of Lalit Mohan's continued service under the Raja, except that given by the prosecution, and it was absurd to suppose the Raja would keep an English clerk in his employment on a salary which rose from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 and give him practically nothing to do. He asked the Court to compare the English judgments written after Satyagan had left the Raja's employ with that of judgments written during Lalit Mohan's and Satyagan's service and contended that there would be found the very strongest corroborative testimony to the truth of Lalit Mohan's story. With regard to the point made by the defence that there were large gaps in Lalit Mohan's service and that if the Raja could do his work then he could do it equally well when Lalit Mohan was with him, Mr. Durga Charan pointed out that as a matter of fact except for a few months when the Raja was stationed at Fyzabad, a period about which no evidence had been offered by either side in this case, the Raja had always been on leave at the times when there were gaps in Lalit Mohan's service. He further pointed out that the Baholpur litigation, on which was said by the defence to have occupied Lalit Mohan's energies, all took place while the Raja was on leave, and that the correspondence done by Lalit Mohan in connection with that litigation was comparatively trifling.

The Commission adjourned.

ILL-HEALTH.—We are concerned to hear that Mr. A. M. Bose is not doing well; he is, indeed, suffering from an attack of influenza.

THE Nawab of Bahawalpur is lying dangerously ill at his capital. Dr. Davidson, Civil Surgeon of Multan, and Dr. Rahim Khan are in attendance. The Nawab's state is so serious that it is contemplated to nominate his heir.

BISWAS'S

ACIDITY PILL

ACIDITY and DYSPEPSIA are the two most common disorders of the day, and very few are so fortunate as to declare their immunity from these. In view of the fact that though apparently harmless in the embryonic stage, Acidity and Dyspepsia shatter and undermine the constitution in the end and lead to its total wreckage, it must be held that they are dangerous in their insidiousness.

After years of incessant toil and experiment, I have discovered a medicine which, can confidently say, will cure the patient of acidity, and its worse stage of dyspepsia in a short time, effectively and radically, however chronic and long-standing the complaint, however violent its attack, the Acidity Pill will give instant and permanent relief as has been proved in hundreds of cases. Here are a few unsolicited testimonials—

The Hon'ble G. M. Chitnavis C. I. E., Member of H. B. the Viceroy's Legislative Council writes:—The Acidity Pills are giving satisfaction to all those on whom I tried them.

Babu Bhobho Toshi Banerjee, Deputy Magistrate of Dacca, writes under date of 6th March, 1898:—Many thanks for your Acidity Pills I was suffering from Dyspepsia and Colic pains of the last 18 years. I tried many kinds of medicines to no effect. Some of them gave me temporary relief only for a day or two. But since I have been taking your pills (3 weeks or more) I have not had any attack for a moment even during this time. The Pill is an excellent medicine for this nasty disease which is very painful. Please send me three boxes of the pills per V. P. P. at your earliest convenience and oblige.

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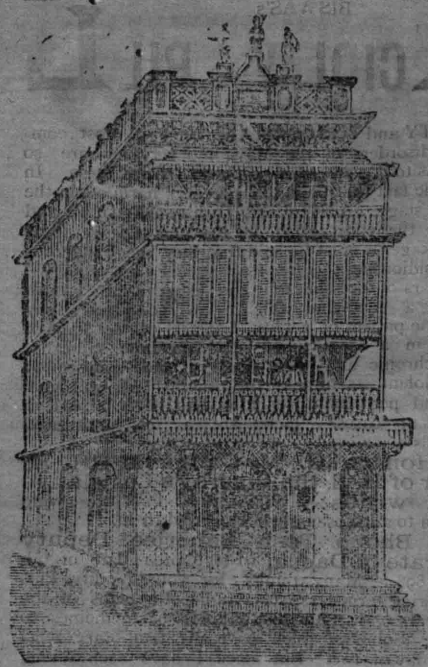
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