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পদকল্পতরু।

সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে

মূল্য ৩।০ টাকা।

পরিশিষ্ট যন্ত্রস্থ।

অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য

অনুরাগবল্লী।

শ্রীমনোহর দাস প্রণীত।

এই খানি উপাদেয় বৈষ্ণব গ্রন্থ দুই শত বৎসর পূর্ব্বে লিখিত।

মূল্য ছয় আনা। ডাঃ মাঃ অর্দ্ধ আনা।

অমৃত বাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য।

শ্রীঅদ্বৈত প্রকাশ।

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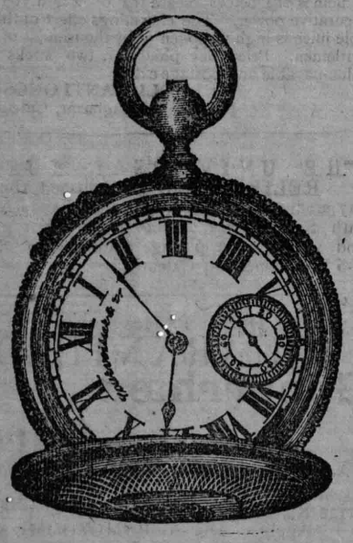

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PROPRIETORS.

A JOURNEY IN WESTERN THIBET.—III.

THE town of Leh, situated 11,500 ft. above the level of the sea, is an irregular conglomeration of white houses, one, two, and even three-stories in height, and his overlooked by the large white palace of the Gailpos, or Rajas of Thibet, the dynasty who were deposed when the province of Ladakh was taken under British influence, and added to the province of Kashmir. I chabod ! The glory is departed and the successors of the deposed Rajas sulk in faded state in the fortress and on the estate of Stpok, which lies across the valley about ten miles from Leh. The Gailpos are held in great reverence by the inhabitants of the valley, and as might naturally have been expected, a legend of the "good old times" has sprung up about them and has added affection to respect. The Wazir of Leh, the modern ruler of Ladakh under the Kashmir and British Governments, resides in a more modern house, built in the midst of a large compound, near the foot of the rock, where the old palace is built. To the extreme west of the town is the European quarter, which includes the residence of the British Commissioner of Ladakh, a travellers' bungalow, and the settlement of the Moravian missionaries. The travellers' bungalow, though not luxurious, is a welcome change after weeks of tent-life in a cold climate, and I spen very happy evenings there over a huge wood-fire, in the company of a British officer proceeding to the Karakoram frontier.

Leh is remarkable as one of the largest caravan centre in Asia. Here gather the traders of India, of the Chinese Empire, and of the great cities of Russian Central Asia—a circumstance which supplied Mr. Knight with the title of his interesting book of travel "Where Three Empires Meet." Here the caravans from the Punjab meet these from Lhasa and Kashgar, and from Bokhara and Khiva the total value of the Leh trade exceeding eighty lakhs of rupees per annum. Great is the babel of languages spoken in the bazar, Hindustani, Kashmiri, Chinese, Thibetan, and Turki (the language of Russian Turkistan), can be heard within a few yards of each other. We were informed that *dubashes* or interpreters speaking two or more of these languages earn a handsome livelihood, yet frequent misunderstandings and occasional rows occur between the squat, pig-tailed Mongolian from across the Chinese frontier, and the proud handsome Mahomedan from the Punjab, as well as between other groups of this motley population. The Chief imports from the Chinese territories are sheep's and goat's wool, silk, hemp, and the precious metals, while the Indian Empire sends to Western Thibet cotton and leather goods, tea and firearms. The exports from Ladakh itself are wool, borax sulphur, and dried fruits.

This extensive trade, as well as the agriculturae skill und industry of the people, account for the fact that there is little real poverty in Western Thibet, though another cause of this prosperity is undoubtedly to be found in the institution of poiyandry, which prevails in a more or less modified form throughout the whole of Thibet. The Thibetan women are frequently married to as many as three or four hasbands, though as a general rule these husbands are brothers or near relations. In fact, I was informed that polyandrous-unions, otherwise than in the case of brothers, are discouraged on account of the disputes to which these mixed marriages give rise. In the case of brothers things are much simpler. The eldest brother is the head of the family and holds all the family property. He is bound by custom to maintain his brothers in return for their labour in cultivating the family land. He isalso, bound to give them the privileges of husbands to the joint wife, but his possession of property and meney usually enable him to be the real head of the family, and frequently, it is to be feared, a domestic tyrant.

The institution of polyandry, though opposed to the theories, if not to the practices, of higher, social systems, has distinct economic advantages, the greatest of which is the tendency which it exercises in preventing too rapid an increase of the population. A steady increase in population, while resources for maintenance are stationary or nearly so, is one of the principal causes of poverty in its most hopless forms. I have heard and read that one of the effects of polyandry exhibits itself in an excess of the male population over the female which is said to exist throughout Thibet. Whether this report is correct it is impossible to say for certain.

In Leh itself, polyandry is said to be on the decrease. Monogamy is the rule among the better class of the population. It is reported also that polygamy is very rare among the Mahomedan settlers in Ladakh.

Of Thibetan characteristics undoubtedly the most undesirable is the lack of personal cleanliness. It is no uncommon thing fo Thibetans to go for weeks and even months, without changing their clothes night or day. A German missionary informed me that it is a religious duty among the Ladakhis to bathe on a certain day in summer, but that even this annual bath is avoided if possible. The Ladakhi has a greyish brown complexion, and an ingenious sriend of mine promulgated a theory that this was not natural, and that if a long course of soap and boiling water were applied to a young Thibetan, he would turnout to be perfectly white. "They live in a very cold climate," he used to say, "colder than England, and they ough to be as white as Englishmen." It is not, however, known whether he ever tried the suggested experiment, nor am I convinced that his theory is correct, but there is no doubt plenty of room for a soap and water mission among the Thibetans. A praiseworthy feature of Thibetan society is the absolute equality of the sexes which prevails, the social position of woman being very superior to what it is among most of the races of Asia. The women appear in public, and form an influential factor in the population, and it seemed to me as if the Thibetan understood the excellent quality of politeness to the weak sex better than most other races of the East.

The women receive from the Lamas the same education as do the men, and that often a by-no-means despicable one from a Central Asian standpoint. They also engage in business, and may be seen buying and selling in the bazar.

I left Leh after a few days' halt to march down the Indus Valley to the monastery of Himis, the largest in Western Thibet, and containing accommodation, it is said, for 900 monks and nuns. Our route lay over a stony desert track, with fertile green fields and villages at frequent intervals. On either side of the valley were brown rock-strewn mountains culminating in the eternal snows. The air was clear and clod except for a few hours a midday, when the June sun made itself felt. The noonday rays did not have much effect on the waters of the Indus, which were icy cold when we bathed in the river at two in the afternoon. The entrance to Himis valley is over rocky ground on to a small plateau studded with tchorkens and manis. The first view of the town and monastery built on the steep sides of a nullah is very fine. In approaching the monastery I am bound to confess that I felt some misgivings as to the success of my mission. I was not going to the place as an ordinary traveller, but wished to conduct a regular inquiry, which related to their religion, among a sensitive and somewhat difficult race of people. Everything depended on the favour and good-will of the Chief Lama, and on arriving in the town I asked to be conducted into his presence. Two Lamas kindly offered to show us the way, and led us up the steep, narrow streets of the town to the great gate of the monastery. Our arrival in the courtyard created great excitement among the huge yellow hounds which are chained up near the gates of the chapel, presumably to guard the treasures therein. These dogs are of remarkable size and great fierceness, and it is said that they will itperm nly persons dressed in the red robes of a Lama to pproach them. Entering the building we climbed up several staircases to a small room looking out on a balcony' which commanded a view of the whole town and nullah. In this small room we found the Chief Lama seated on a pile of cushions, and in front of him two elderly Lamas, and one young one who was apparently reading out of a book. We were subsequently informed that the two old gentlemen were the prinaipal who secretariesassisted the Chief Lama in the administration while the younger Lama was one of the readers or translators, whose business it is to read the ancient manuscripts to the head of the monastery. This translator preved of great assistance in all matters relating to manuscripts during the subsequent inquiry, and we had reason to be grateful to him for many acts of attentlon.

The Chief Lama or Ghagzot (abbot) of Himis Monastery is the official head of Buddhism in Western Thibet, his only superior being the Dala Lama. The present holder of the office is a fine looking old monk, with considerable dignity of manner and a fine presence. His dark piercing eyes would seem to denote considerable intelligence and great powers of perception. That he possessed these qualities in a singular degree I had the opportunity of ascertaining in the course of the subsequent enquiry with regard to the forged Gospel, but I also found out that his knowledge of subjects unconnected with Thibet and Buddhism is very limited. This is probably due to great part of his life having been passed in remote and isolated monasteries before coming to Himis. In fact, I found that the younger Lamas seemed, many of them, more intimately acquainted with the affairs of the outside world, and I was informed that several of them had visited the Punjab.

On the evening of my arrival, little was said about the object of my visit, and the interview passed in general conversation.

Large jugs of *chang* were brought, a kind of pale beer, slightly sour, but very refreshing and exhilarating. It is said to be very wholesome (though my personal experience is against the theory), and to the considerable consumption of *chang* by the monks is attributed the ruddiness of the complexions of many of them. Further observation induced me to suppose, however, that the red checks of the higher Lamas might be due to the fact that they occasionally wash their faces, though the common people do not, and to expose to view their natural complexions.

The following day was spent in a careful investigation into the subject of the manuscripts, which was entirely successful, and the unknown Life of Christ "discovered" by Mr. Notovitch was proved to be an impudent forgery. I left Himis after a friendly farewell interview with the Chief Lama, who treated me with every consideration that kindness or courtesy could suggest, and to whom I owed the success of my mission.

I returned to Leh by way of Tiksay, a fine monastery built on a mass of rock on the northern side of the Indus. This *gonpa* is more fortunate than Himis, though more modern and inferior in dignity, in possessing a resident skooshok, or reincarnated saint, as its Lama. A skooshok becomes so in the following manner : If a Buddhist attains to the highest possible pitch of holiness he is entitled to enter Nirwana, but he can, if he will, forego that sublime privilege to be reborn from time to time when the frail human body is worn out. There are only four skooshoks in Western Thibet, and I believe that all of them claim to have filled that *role* for upwards of 1,000 years. When a skooshok grows old or ill, he calls round him several influential Lamas, and tells them what will be the marks and appearance of the child, born about the time of his death, in whom he will be re-incarnated. On this death the priests search for such a child, and, having found him leave him in the care of his mother for four years after which time he is brought to his monastery, and has to identify the personal property of the former skooshok. Care is taken that he does so, and then he is kept in the monastery until he is sent to Lhasa for education in the higher mysteries of Buddhism. After this course of study he returns to the charge of his monastery. It has been said by men who have been well acquainted with skooshoks, hat they thoroughly believe that they have been Lamas of their monasteries for many centuries.

His has a skooshok, but a non-resident one, who lives at Lhasa and refuses to visit the monastery of which he is the spiritual head. The story as told to me is a curious one, and would seem to denote that skooshoks are very human in their passions and antepathies.

It is said that a former skooshok of Himis was so indignant when Western Thibet was added to Kashmere, and placed under British protection, thus losing its old Buddhist independence, that he took his injured indignity to Lhasa, and there lived the rest of his life.

His successors have been re-incarnated in Lhasa, and there have remained. The result is that the Lama of Himis though the principal Lama in Western Thibet bears the minor title of Chazot or Steward), being a kind of deputy for the real Lama.

The march back from Tiksay to Leh is an easy one, and I was again astonished by the number of tchorkens manis and prayer-wheels which we passed on the road. I had the privilege of seeing those which are placed over and turned by the river Indus, whose frequent revolutions are said to secure Nirvana not only to their founders, but to those living in sight of them. It is just possible that the increasing number of those prayer-wheels may account for the steady decrease in the population of Ladakh by reducing the number of souls available for re-berth. The writer does not profess to understand these things as well as the Lamas do, and would not venture to express a dogmatic opinion on the subject.

I must now draw this paper to a close. I trust that I have succeeded in describing Western Thibet as it is—not a waste desert as the old theoretical geographers described it, but as a country studded with fertile green valleys, crossed by broad rivers, and crowned by mighty mountains and the eternal snow ; as a country of stately muntains, quaint chapels, and curious monuments; as a country whose inhabitants possess many of the attributes of a highly civilized people, and who are none the less interesting on account of their strange beliefs and weird superstitions, and none the less to be respected for their fidelity and devotion to the religion of their fathers. Western Thibet is a country well worth visiting, and which most of those who have travelled there would gladly see again. All travel is education, and the journy I have described was an education in Buddhism. In many respects also, these countries of the old world type can teach us more that is worth learning han those which possess the material advantaget of modernity—J. A. D. in the *Times of India*.

SIR Antony MacDonnll arrives at Naini Tal from our on the 8th instant. The arrival will be private

IT is expected that the Hon. Mr. Justice Jenkinst the newly appointed Chief Justice will take his seat at the Bombay High Court on Monday week.

THE execution of Wasudeo Hari Chapekar and Mahadeo Vinayek Ranade for the murders of the Dravid brothers has been fixed for the 17th instan. It is believed that the doomed convictsdo not intend, appealing to higher authorities.

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THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, APRIL 9, 1899.

SOCIAL REFORM.

THE greatest difficulty of the Hindus is their caste system. There are several hundreds of castes in this country, many of them with not more than, say, one hundred members. They must marry within these few families. And then, they cannot marry those with whom they have any close blood-relationship. Thus these castes must disappear in time, or rather in a short time. As a matter of fact, castes are disappearing fast in this manner. Vidyasagar began social reform and succeeded in moving the Government, and creating a dangerous opposition by that. He, however, moved in the wrong direction, and the result was unmitigated mischief. He wanted to introduce the re-marriage of widows, forgetting the fact, that when the number of marriageable women exceeded the number of marriageable men, to provide widows with husbands would be to deprive the maids of a chance of being married.

Mr. Malabari came next. He committed one initial mistake. He got hold of a supposed grievance, which, according to the vast majority of his countrymen, was not a grievance at all; and this created opposition in the country. This amiable and illustrious reformer with all his powers and earnestness would probably have succeeded if he had been able to finger the plague-spot and stick to it.

Here, in Bengal, the opposition to Mr. Malabari was the fiercest; yet here he ought to have got the greatest support. He advocated the abolition of child marriage in Bengal, but as a matter of fact, girls are rarely married here before twelve, or thirteen, nay fourteen. So, you see, any effort to increase the marriageable age of girls here was merely a dissipation of energy.

But the evil that is corroding the Hindu society is the caste system, and the Hindus are groaning under it. Not based upon the Shastras of the Hindus, this caste system has become a more difficult question than any religious creed. That the Hindu religion has nothing to do with it will appear from the endeavour of that true Bengali social reformer, Babu Kash Behari Mookerjee of Dacca. He was a high-caste Koolin Brahmin, who devoted his life to undermining that rascally system, and succeeded in paving the way for reform.

The religion preached by the Prophet of Nadia undermined the caste system. If the caste system was strong, He was stronger. It was under the system, preached by that *Avatar* of Love, that Brahmins were led to take shelter at the feet of deserving and pious Sudras. The religion of the Lord Gauranga is spreading, and social reformers will find in the spread of this religion of love the solution of the difficult problem that they have taken in hand. It is evident Mr. Malabari feels it, for he distinctly lays down that it is the religion of Lord Gauranga that will ensure the salvation of the country. His weighty words, on this subject, will be found elsewhere.

HEROISM IN CONCILIATION.

IT was a mistake, on the part of some Indian papers, to take note of what the Poona paper *Kal* might have written in regard to the Dravid murders, and provide an Anglo-Indian paper, like the *Times of India*, with fuel to fan the fire. We have not seen what *Kal* has written, nor do we care to see. If *Kal* has been led to write something dreadful let the writer be hanged by all means, if that will serve any useful purpose.

If the Government had realized in the beginning, that its duty was to carry on the plague policy with sympathy and moderation, as is being done now in all parts of the Empire, and even in Bombay itself, then Messrs. Rand and Ayerst would not have been so foully murdered in their youth; Mr. Justice Strachey would not have laid down that "disaffection was want of affection"; the editor of the *Pratoda* would not have been transported for life; the Natus would not have been deported without law and justice; the sedition laws would not have been passed serving to put out the only light, that enabled an alien Government to rule this vast Empire with a handful of officers; Damodar Chapekar could not have posed as a martyr; the Dravids would not have been murdered; and the younger Chapekar and Ranade, though treacherous murderers, could not have posed as patriots.

There is no doubt of it that Damodar deserved death, as also his brother and Ranade. But yet such are the peculiar circumstances of the case that there are men, who will consider them as martyrs, patriots and heroes. This is not so in India alone or in Russia. In every country crime has a charm when it can appeal to the imagination. The execution of an Anarchist creates half-a-dozen of that murderous gang. If an Indian paper really commits sedition, nay, rank sedition, it is, therefore, safer for Government to ignore it than to try to stamp it out by a demonstrative administration.

Colonel Phayre, Resident at the Court of Malhar Rao Guikwar, appeared before Government with the complaint that he had been sought to be poisoned by His Highness. This action on his part threw the country into convulsions; and for six months or so, we had nothing in the country but this talk about the Guikwar. Newspapers wrote nothing but about this case; ministers preached it from the pulpit; and even the populace took up the question for discussion. Colonel Phayre was eventually removed from India,—and we very well remember the grounds upon which he was so disgraced. He was told that, if he had been really sought to be poisoned, he ought to have brought that prince to his knees without convulsing the country. What right had he, Colonel Phayre was told, to throw the whole country *topsy turvy* for his own incapacity? For, had he been a really capable man and commanded the respect of the people, the Guikwar would never have ventured to poison him. Indeed, the decided opinion of Government was that the Baroda business did more harm than good, and that the matter might have been managed without any fuss or row whatever.

In the same manner, we say, the Government has not been benefited at all, but has suffered much by their vigorous policy of repression. Placed as the Government is, repression would be the easiest thing for it. There is no power in India able to resist its authority in the least degree. But there is heroism in conciliation. Little-minded men consider that an administrator, who is vigorous and repressive, and who acts with a strong hand, is a hero and statesman. This may be the case among a population of free men; but among the half-free population of India repression and vigour show weakness and incompetency. The harm that this vigorous policy has done to Government is simply incalculable. What did Government gain by it, pray? And why this deep and wide spread unpopularity? Why create Chapekars and others like them in a country of gentle and law-abiding people? Why not rule with sympathy, considerateness and generousity? Why not permit yourself to be respected and loved, instead of being feared? Deep and wide-spead discontent is the soil upon which such characters as Chapekar, Ranade and others grow. The policy of repression has not made Government stronger or the people weaker. It has only made the administration of the country, under sympathetic principles, difficult.

WE find that Sir James Westland is yet in Bengal. Well, one of his methods was to abuse the National Congress when he could not show a surplus. So, he once condemned that "venerable body", the Congress, because, they urged economy but did not point out how that could be done. It is not exactly the duty of the Congress or any public body to go into details, for that is the duty of the officials who are paid to do it. What the outside public can do is to point out that India is the poorest, and, at the same time, the most heavily taxed, country in the world. The outside public can point out that India, with its rich soil, and industrious and sober population, has become the abode of famine and pestilence. The outside public can point out that everything is carried on in India on an extravagant style as if the country has unlimited funds at its disposal. When a fine property is reduced to a state of bankruptcy, one can well see that there is some mismanagement somewhere. Is not famine a common enough sight in India? Do not millions die of starvation and disease in India every year? What can be a better proof of the need of economy than the fact that such a large number of people die here, and Government has no money to feed them, or afford them medical help? Would such a state of things be permitted to exist in any other country in the world? Sir James Westland, on one occasion, said that those who asked for the reduction of the military expenditure had no technical knowledge of the subject. That may be the case; but they can see and understand this that England and India should go in shares over the cost of military expeditions; for both countries are equally interested in the maintenance of the Indian Empire. Sir James might have given his support at least to this proposal of the Congress.

THE cry of "water" has been raised in the Mofussil, and this terrible state of things will go on intensifying till the rainy season sets in to relieve the people of their sufferings. It is in the winter season that officials go out on tour in the interior, perhaps to bring justice to the very doors of those, who, it may be, are too lethargic themselves to move to the sudder station to lodge their own complaints! One would wish that the officials had visited villages in the interior in the dry season, for in that caae they might have seen with their own eyes what this water scarcity meant to poor villagers in the hot months of April, May and June. Now, year after year, people in the interior suffer from water scarcity, and, they groan and groan till Heaven takes pity upon them and sends down a few showers. But Government appears to have done very little to give them adequate relief. The Road Cess was imposed on the understanding that its proceeds should be devoted to removing the sanitary wants of the villagers; and what can be a more crying necessity with them than a supply of good water? Year before last, the Rajshaye District Board spent Rs. 20,000 in digging tanks or sinking wells. We think all District Boards should be instructed to follow in the wake of the Rajshaye Board. An ordinary well will not cost more than 100 Rs., and much less in districts like Jessore; so, if District Boards would religiously devote Rs. 20,000 a year to the sinking of wells, in a few years every part of the country might have its water-difficulty removed.

WE said yesterday that we felt that we were injuring the cause of the people of Munshigunj by taking up their case against Maulvi Fazlal Karim. We had, however, a duty to perform in this connection, namely, to place all the facts, present and past, relating to the public conduct of that official, leaving the Government to deal with him as it deemed fit. If the Government thinks that, the officer in question should yet enjoy its confidence, though he figured so many times in criminal courts, and though specific and most serious allegations had been made against him not only in the press but in judicial judgments and in a public petition signed by hundreds of men, it is welcome to its decision; but then, it must be prepared for the inevitable result of such a suicidal policy. Rightly or wrongly, whenever the people feel themselves aggrieved at the conduct of a public officer, they approach Government with a petition for protection. If this protection were refused, could the people be blamed if their respect for the authorities were lessened? The Zemindars to their cost know the zeal and energy displayed by the authorities when they are concerned. Half-a-dozen illiterate ryots have simply to put their marks on a petition against their landlord, and he is done for. Immediately a public enquiry is set on foot, and even if the Zemindar escapes, he is for ever humiliated before his people, with whom he has a lasting connection. Why is a different procedure adopted in the case of officials? In the Munshigunj case, the petitioners undertook to establish their case by documentary and other unimpeachable evidence.

THE Maulvi, it will be remembered, is also at war with a Muktear of his court, named Kali Prosonno Bose, or rather his Mohurir, Debendra Kumar Shome. The latter claimed a piece of timber, found in the compound of the Sub-divisional Officer, as belonging to his master. The Maulvi, on the other hand, claimed it as his own. And Debendra brought a theft case against the latter. Now, fancy the situation! The petty clerk of a Muktear charging a Sub-divisional Officer with theft! Was such a thing ever heard in this country? It was, however, purely a private case and the Government had no business to interfere with it. If this had been done, the probabilities were that no one would have heard of the matter and the differences might have been amicably settled. The local authorities of Dacca, from the Commissioner to the District Police Superintendent, however, identified themselves with the Maulvi and ultimately dragged the Government into the matter.

THE Government might yet have nipped the matter in the bud; but, it weakly yielded to the pressure of the local authorities, and chose to adopt a quite different course. In short, it gave a *carte blanche* to the very local authorities, whose blood was already up, to dispose of the matter in their own way. And they adopted measures which not only shocked the propriety of the public, but gave a sensational character to the case. The Assistant Magistrate of Dacca, almost a beardless youth, was entrusted with the enquiry into the matter. As a subordinate of the District Magistrate, who was interested in the case, he or any other local official should never have been selected for this purpose. But the sense of propriety had almost left the authorities. The Assistant was entrusted with the enquiry, and he made a report that the case had not been proved against the Maulvi. Thereupon the Magistrate of Dacca ordered the immediate prosecution of Kali Prosonno and Debenbra for making a false statement against the Sub-divisional Officer and issued a warrant. Kali Prosonno, however, escaped by fleeing to Calcutta and moving the High Court, which quashed the proceedings of the District Magistrate as they were illegal, holding that the latter could direct the prosecution of Kali Prosonno only after the theft case against the Maulvi had been dismissed as false.

WHEN the motion came to be argued in the High Court, the Advocate-General, to the surprise of all, appeared to oppose it, on behalf of the Government! It was not clear what the Government had to do with the case, as it was a private quarrel between Maulvi Fazlal Karim and a Muktear of his court. It now transpired that not only had the local authorities come forward to fight for the Maulvi, but the Government itself! Mr. Woodroffe, counsel for Kali Prosonno, enquired the reason which had led Government to employ the Advocate-General and thus spend public money in a private case, but got no reply. And it was then that he uttered the memorable words that, the cause of this official combination was that his client had been implicated in a case in which a Dy. Magistrate was a party, "because it is well known," said Mr. Woodroffe bitterly, "that if you raise a finger against even a punkha coolie employed in a Government office, you are sure to have all the officials combined against you!" We do not say this in anger but in sorrow, that the Government being the sacred custodian of poor people's money should see that not a pice of it is improperly spent.

THUS, although it was a private case between the Maulvi and a Muktear of his court, Government felt no hesitation in employing its Advocate-General to help the former, simply because he happened to be an official. Kali Prosonno had, on the other hand, to bear his own expense; and it was pretty heavy indeed. The fight was thus, in every sense, an unequal one. The prestige and unlimited resources of the Government were placed at the disposal of the Maulvi, while Kali Prosonno had to spend money from his own pocket for his defence. When, in a private case, Government, with all its resources, comes to identify itself simply because an official like the Deputy Magistrate is implicated in it, the inevitable result that must follow is that the other party representing the people, forces the nation to run to its help with sympathy and support. The case was originally between Kali Prosonno and Fazlal Karim. Now it is the Bengali nation *vs* Sir John Woodburn! Of course, Sir John Woodburn will win, but, in a case like this, the victory itself is a disaster.

BUT the troubles of Kali Prosonno have not yet come to an end. The theft case against the Maulvi has been formally dismissed by the District Magistrate of Dacca under section 203 Cr. P. C. Here is his order:—

I have gone through the evidence and the reports in the case. The facts alleged and all the circumstances leading up to it, during the investigation convince me that the case is maliciously false. I agree with the Magistrate in what he has reported. For these reasons I dismiss the case under sec. 203 Cr P. Code.

SD. J. T. RANKIN.
Dt. Magistrate.
20-3-99.

The Magistrate has also passed the following supplementary order:—

I will proceed now to make a further enquiry under sec. 476 Cr. P. Code. Notice to accused to produce any evidence they have as to the ownership of the wood. Fixed for 6th April. Inform complainant and Kali Prasanna of the fact by notice.

SD. J T. RANKIN.
Dt. Magistrate.
20-3-99

So Kali Prosonno is to be put on his trial and they are going to have a merry time of it again at Dacca! Well, if it pleases the Government, let the case go on. But will the Government agree to place it in the hands of an unbiassed tribunal? Well, if it ventures to do that, we shall confess that we had misunderstood and misinterpreted the Government, and shall beg its pardon with folded hands. The way in which the local officials have identified themselves with the case has incapacitated them from doing justice in it.

WE trust, Government will step in and stop the further progress of the scandal. We have had enough of this Fazlal Karim episode, and there is a limit to everything. If Kali Prosonno is sought to be prosecuted again, there is a likelihood of the Indian public being convulsed over this petty affair. Government might say, "we don't care". That is quite true, but it is not statesmanship to bring in needlessly discord where there ought to be nothing but concord. At least, we donot expect such statesmanship from a really good ruler like Sir J. Woodburn. Government has not only to protect its officials, but persuade the people to believe that it is absolutely above prejudice, passion and other petty feelings.

IF the Congress is to be maintained, almost all its members, who have taken any prominent part, should make room for a fresh band to take their place and relieve them of their duties. The Congress Committees are almost dead and they ought to be put in charge of men of wealth, men of solid education and patriotism, and men of position in society. It is idle to conceal that such men are almost conspicuous by their absence in our Congress Committees of the present day. We understand that the Bengal Congress Committee, has sent a telegram to the Congress Committee at Bombay to "repudiate and emphatically denounce the sentiments of the Poona *Kal* and its defence of murderers. The Committee also wishes to entirely dissociate itself from all sorts of disloyal and treasonable utterances and condemns them as subversive of law and order. The Committee further demands that the editor of the *Kal* be expelled from all patriotic movements."

Before such a hazardous step was taken against a fellow-countryman, an unfortunate creature of god, these irresponsible parties ought to have ascertained for themselves what *Kal* had actually said. For, *Kal* is written in the Mahratta language and no one in the Calcutta Congress Committee, we believe, understands Mahratta. Elsewhere will be found an article from the *Mahratta* explaining the real situation. We are glad to be able to assure our readers that there will be soon a re-construction of the Calcutta Committee. We hope other Provinces will do the same.

AFTER we had written the above, we received the following important communication from Bombay under date, the 3rd instant:—

A thunderbolt from Calcutta came upon the Poona people yesterday in the shape of a telegram to the *Advocate of India* to the effect that the Calcutta Congress Committee repudiate the Editor of the Poona newspaper, called *Kal* and advise his expulsion from all patriotic movements. What is a patriotic movement? The telegram is silent on the point. Much informal discussion took place in Poona yesterday as to whether the Poona Congress Committee should take any action, and it was finally resolved not to do anything. The Calcutta Committee's action is strongly resented as hasty and quite uncalled for. What had the Congress to do with the *Kal* newspaper and where shall we stop if the principle of repudiating individuals for their private opinions or conduct is once accepted? Secondly, what right have the Calcutta Committee to demand the expulsion of *Kal's* editor from the Congress or other patriotic movements? Suppose the gentleman is elected a delegate next year. Can any body refuse him admission into the Pandal? If the repudiation had followed a conviction for some heinous crime it would have been something. But the Calcutta Committee has publicly denounced the writer even without knowing the article in the original. This is certainly most objectionable and raises the great constitutional question in the Congress. On these grounds even many here, who do not sympathise with the *Kal*, resent the Calcutta Committee's officious, impolitic and mischievous action; and the offence is increased by the belief that it is all the work of a certain clique. So you Bengalees too are now controlled by a certain clique of Bombay!

An open quarrel between the Poona party and the Bombay clique is now imminent, and the action of the Calcutta Committee has made it almost inevitable. An open split appears to be at hand. Unless the differences are soon amicably settled the next Congress will have to decide either to lose the Bombay clique or the Deccan sympathy. The crisis in fact is serious. I think you will have some idea about the genesis of the question from the article in yesterday's *Mahratta*. It is believed that the Bombay clique is playing in the hands of a certain high official. Government finding it impossible or inadvisable to prosecute *Kal*, an attempt, it is said, is being made by this official to create a split among us and get an open repudiation of *Kal*. The Calcutta Committee has thus been humbugged. Can you or any of your readers give us some information how the Committee came to be led by the nose and pass the resolution?"

We deplore the hasty action of the Calcutta Committee. Babu Ananda Mohan Bose being written to, informs us that he does not know the terms of the telegram despatch, but he believes that it was sent in deference to an appeal of Mr. Chambers of the *Champion*. This hasty action of the Calcutta Committee is likely to bring down the fabric with a crash. By the way, were all the members of the Calcutta Committee formally invited by a notice to discuss the question? If so, who issued the notice and when was the meeting held?

REFERRING to the appointment of Mr. S. C. Mahalanavis as Joint Examiner with Professor Schofer of the University College, the *Indian Mirror* observes:—

It were both tedious and superfluous to say at this time of the day, that given equal opportunities and similar conditions, our countrymen will always well hold their own in a fair competition with Europeans. This fact, nobody dreams of disputing now.

This, many not only do dream of disputing, but many actually do dispute. As regards the question of fair competition, we hope, Sir J. Westland, before he leaves our shores, will remove the circular that he issued depriving Mussalmans and Hindus of advantages assured to Europeans and Eurasians. Can Sir J. Westland justify the terms of his circular? Of course, he tried to do it once, and the result was that the attempt amazed the country. He said in effect that favourable terms were given to Europeans and Eurasians only with a view to remove race-distinctions!

WE have been able to ascertain the following facts in regard to the *Kal* affair. It is a Mahratta paper, which wrote something about the Dravid murders,—what, we do not know. Mr. Chambers of the Bombay *Champion* found something objectionable in that article, which he condemned in his paper, and then wrote to the Calcutta Congress Committee to expel the editor, not only from the Congress, but from all patriotic movements. As Mr. Chambers is a good friend to whom the country is deeply indebted, the Calcutta Congress Committee carried out the mandate from a feeling of gratitude. To the question, what has *Kal*, which is only a newspaper, to do with the Congress, the answer that we have got is that, the Editor is a Congress-man. Well, if that be so, the Editors of all native papers, with the exception of two or three, are Congressmen. Is it the duty of the Congress to examine the contents of every Indian newspaper and to expel its Editor if he writes in an objectionable way? Certainly that is not the duty of the Congress. The Congress has never taken upon itself the duty of acting the part of a spy. If the *Kal* man is a Congress-walla, he is not anything like a prominent Congress-man, and his name is not known in Bengal. We do not know why Mr. Chambers, of all men, was led to take upon himself the initiative in this matter

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Of course, he had good grounds but what they were we know not. Well, if he thought that he, of all men, was bound to take the initiative, he ought to have written to the Indian newspapers, to repudiate *Kal*. For what the Editor of *Kal* wrote was written as a journalist in his own paper, and not as a Congressman in any Congress document.

If Mr. Chambers thought that *Kal* should be repudiated by the Congress, he ought, we think, to have addressed the Bombay and Poona Congress Committees. For they are the fittest parties to take cognisance of such an affair. The Calcutta Congress Committee has no jurisdiction in the matter, except in a very remote way. But what was done was this. The Congress Committees of Bombay and Poona were apparently not approached or were ignored, and the Calcutta Committee was moved to repudiate the Editor of a Mahratta paper! When this mandate came from Mr. Chambers, the Calcutta Committee received it with great respect, and to this that Englishman is entitled for his eminent services. But then, the Calcutta Committee ought to have written to him to say that this was a matter in which they could not take the initiative without offending the sensibilities of the Poona and Bombay Committees who were the proper parties to take up the matter. And besides, not knowing any thing of the case, neither having read the article nor having been able to read it, on account of their ignorance of the Mahratta language, it was not proper on their part to pass any opinion in such a matter, especially as the feeling between Bombay and Poona has not been of the happiest kind. And last of all, even if the Calcutta Committee thought that they had a jurisdiction, they ought, before making over a creature of God to the gallows, to have asked the accused to furnish an explanation. To condemn a man unheard, though his accuser is a noble-minded Englishman, is what we cannot support. The result of the action of the Calcutta Committee, though adopted with the best of motives, assumed serious proportions. Not to mince matters, the Congress was threatened with destruction, for we cannot afford a further split. Hence we wrote with some warmth and perhaps in a little harsh tone; for, from the situation laid bare in the above, it would be seen that we had to pacify the enraged feelings of the Poona and Bombay leaders; and we had to rouse the leaders of the Congress to action and to a sense of responsibility.

We are grieved to hear that exception has been taken in certain quarters to the following expressions in an editorial note in our yesterday's issue, namely, "The Congress Committees are almost dead and they ought to be put in charge of men of wealth, men of solid education and patriotism and men of position in society. It is idle to conceal that such men are almost conspicuous by their absence in our present Congress Committees." We wrote the above in sorrow and not in anger; and what we wrote is substantially correct. It is quite true that several distinguished members of our community, who in every way answer to the description given above, are on the Calcutta Committee; but, owing to various causes, which need not be enumerated here, they cannot take any active part in it. The management of the Committee is thus left to some irresponsible parties who either do not care a straw for the Congress, or have not the capacity of making it a living thing as it ought to be. During the first two or three years of the existence of the Congress, the Calcutta Committee was composed of almost all the influential members of our community, and did excellent work. During the past eight years or so, the Congress Committee has, however, practically existed in name, the public being reminded of its existence only one or two months before the holding of the annual Congress; and even then the few really influential members of the Committee have shown no interest in its work. Surely, we could not mean to say that all, or even the majority of the members of Congress Committees were men of straw. What we meant was that the leaders, who had to guide the deliberations of the Committee, made themselves conspicuous by their absence. Fgncy the situation! Mr. Chambers is only a member, though, of course, a prominent member, of the Congress. He tries to move the Bombay and Poona Committees in a matter in which they are primarily interested. Apparently failing there he runs all the way to Calcutta and carries his point!

Hence we urged that, if the Congress organization were to be preserved, the present Committee should be remodelled, and those who can work and have the confidence of the country should be entrusted with its duties. With this object in view an ordinary meeting of the Calcutta Standing Congress Committee was held on the 3rd instant. At that meeting a scheme for the purpose of forming and deciding the work of a Central Committee for Bengal was framed, adopted and circulated in the Mofussil. We are glad that, amongst others, Babus Ananda Mohun Bose, Bhupendra Nath Bose and Prithwis Chander Rai have agreed to devote a considerable portion of their time to Congress work. At one time Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose did yeoman's service. But, like Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, he is handicapped by a large increase in his practice. With the energy and Mofussil experience of Babu Prithwis Chander, (who has greater leisure,) as Assistant Secretary, Babus Ananda Mohun and Bhupendra Nath ought to be able to give a new life to the Congress Committees in Bengal.

The people of Bengal have no practical experience of the way plague was sought to be stamped out from Bombay and parts of the Punjab, and, therefore, they are not in a position to appreciate the kind service that Sir J. Woodburn has done to them. Sir J. Woodburn at this crisis proved a real *ma bap* to the people. He heard with attention what the people had to say and heard them with sympathy. He listened to their complaints and removed them as far as that was possible. His Honor adopted this attitude of sympathy in spite of opposition, from some of his colleagues, nay, his superiors. Lord Curzon had an idea of enforcing some energetic measures, but Sir J. Woodburn was not agreeable. May God bless him for all that he has done to his people at a time of universal affliction!

The people at this moment expect from His Honor some help in the shape of advice. They want to know what they are to do and not to do to avert the danger, that is to say, how to prevent an attack and how to overcome it when it has come. We dare say Government can collect some useful information on the subject, and that in this manner. Let the Government prepare, with the help of its medical advisers, questions bearing on the subject, and let these be circulated to all medical men for replies. When these answers reach Government the authorities would be in a position to draw some useful conclusions. We are assured that there are medical men in Calcutta who have acquired sufficient experience to be able to lay down certain useful directions for the guidance of the people. As for questions, it would be impertinent on our part to suggest any. Of course, they may be divided under several heads, but mainly under two: (1) questions referring to the origin and spread of the disease; (2) those referring to the treatment that ought to be followed in case of an attack.

It has been urged that the Sugar Act has been introduced for the benefit of Mauritius and not of India. To make this point sure, we sought the opinion of Europeans in this country who have sugar refineries. Here is the reply of one:—

The feeling in England, to which you refer, is only caused by a fear of retaliatory measures against English exports being taken by the German and Austrian Governments, and from a rooted objection to anything in the shape of legislation which increases the cost of food for the poorer classes. People at home do not understand the importance of keeping alive the Sugar Industry in India and the other colonies, and they quite overlook the fact that if cane sugar cultivation once dies out through the operation of the bounty system they will eventually be the greatest sufferers because Beet exporters would then have a monopoly and raise their prices to an almost unlimited extent—and the only safeguard against such a dangerous monopoly is the action of those countries which have imposed a countervailing duty, *viz* America and our own Government—and it is this safeguard that people at home are now attacking! As to what you quote that the counter vailing duties may only benefit Mauritius growers and not India, there is no reason in this idea that I can see. The effect of the countervailing duties is that all sugars will then compete fairly on a *natural* basis and of course the best producers, the most skilful and cheapest labour and the richest and best prepared soil aided by the natural advantages of climate and other conditions, will have the best of it. But inasmuch as the countervailing duties should force up the price of sugar (after this temporary excess of refined stocks is removed) to about a Rupee more than it is at present, India must benefit by this price, equally with Mauritius. If Mauritius undersells Indian sugars it must be the fault of Indian methods, etc, and should result in an improvement of these in the natural course of events; but the competition of Mauritius is nothing like as dangerous as that of Beet Sugar (bounty-fed,) since it will take all the producers of Mauritius and India to supply the demand of the Indian markets and to do this more sugar crops must be grown, more sugar refined or manufactured I believe. My own opinion is that Indian manufactures can compete with Mauritius if sufficient sugar is grown in large plots to enable factories to work on a large scale and to obtain enough supplies of raw sugar to keep working the greatest part of the year.

The report of another native life lost in consequence of the alleged assault of a European comes from far Assam. This is how the *Eastern Herald* of Dibrugarh narrates it.—"One Behar-Kahar, an ex-coolie residing near Rungliting Tea Estate, made a statement before the Deputy Commissioner on Thursday relating the circumstance under which he thought the death of a boy was caused by Mr. Cumming, the Manager of the said garden, on Wednesday! The man said that Mr. Cumming gave the deceased boy who was aged 12 or 13 years some severe beating with a cane in consequence of which the boy died on Wednesday last. The man Behari said that the Doctor Babu and the Chowkidar held the boy in their grasp when Mr. Cumming struck him. Babu Gourinath Gogi, the Court Sub-Inspector, was immediately sent by the Deputy Commissioner to go and exhume the body of the deceased which was done by him that evening Mr. Muspratt went to inquire into the case on Saturday last. The body was sent to town for post mortem examination on the morning of the same day. We are told Mr. Cumming admitted the assault but he says that the boy died of natural causes and not of the effects of the beating."

Since six months a large number of the citizens of Belgaum have, owing to an outbreak of plague, been living outside the town in sheds. The disease has now disappeared and as the heat has become intense, they want to go back to the town and occupy their houses. Matters have, however, come to such a pass there that the people cannot do this without the permission of the Collector. But the latter would not grant this just and reasonable request unless they have been inoculated! We think that the attitude of the official is not only extraordinary but opposed to the spirit and letter of the Government policy. In despair the citizens held a public meeting to take steps to move the heart of the Collector of Belgaum. A Committee has been appointed to draw up a petition, setting forth the grievances of the citizens which will be submitted to the official.

A Bijapur correspondent writes to the *Mahratta* complaining that the Collector, Mr. Bagnell, cannot bear the Poona Brahmins. By an irony of fate the official is surrounded on all sides by subordinates who are all Poona Brahmins and he is having recourse to extraordinary means to get out of his delicate position. We are told by the correspondent that the officials under the Collector, who are mostly Brahmins, are being reprimanded, fined, rebuked and dismissed on slight grounds and sometimes on no grounds at all. Here is an instance to show how far, indeed, he is being led by over-zeal to proceed. Lately a Sanitation Clerk of Anangod was ordered by the Collector to be prosecuted for criminal breach of trust. And do you know why? He refused to hand over his official papers to a stranger who had, it is said, verbal orders of the Collector to take at once all papers from him, and asked for a written order to this effect. This was the sum and substance of the offence of the clerk. The trying Magistrate at first held that no offence had been committed but, we are told, the accused was subsequently convicted. The story appears so extraordinary that we find it hard to believe it.

One Mr. D. E. Fernander, a pleader at Kirwar, has a serious complaint against Colonel Wray, Political Agent at Kolhapur. He has just submitted a petition to the Government, setting forth his grievances. It tells an extraordinary tale. Well, his story is, that on 5th October last, Colonel Wray sent for him and asked him peremptorily if he was the author of or in any way concerned in, the letters appearing in the *Bombay Gazette*, containing charges against him. Mr. Fernander gave no direct reply but referred Colonel Wray to the proprietor of the *Gazette* to ascertain the point. This reply so much incensed him that he then and there deprived him of the privilege of practising as a pleader. Mr. Fernander has submitted another petition to the Private Secretary of the Governor telling him that the Durbar has set especial detectives to watch his movements, and to report the names of all, who have any thing to do with him. We all know, however that the Kolhapur Durbar is a myth, it is the Political who is the *defacto* ruler of the State.

Violent crime is steadily on the increase in the N.-W. Provinces. There can, indeed, be no doubt about this, considering the reports that we are receiving every day. Here is a Fattegurh telegram dated the 3rd instant, which speaks for itself:—A couple a days ago, Babu Pertab Narayan, B. A., pleader of the Judge's Court at Fatehgarb, was found dead in his room with a bullet wound in his head, under circumstances pointing to murder. Now his cousin, Kunji Behari Lall, also a pleader, has been found dead at the back of Mr. Blunt's house, with a bullet wound in his heart, having also been deliberately murdered. Both victims belong to a very respectable Kayastha family, one member of which, Lalla Shunker Lall, is at present officiating as Civil and Sessions Judge of Mirzapur.

The latest "shooting case" comes from the Madras side, the victim, of course, being a native. Here are the particulars:—Gunner Love with two comrades of the 23rd battery went out shooting in the Vandalur Jungle, 8 miles from Madras. Love separated from the others, saying that he was going home by a short cut. It is alleged that he attempted to rape a native girl who was gathering fruit. She raised a hue and cry, which brought several villagers to the spot. Love then left the Jungles followed by the villagers and was soon after embroiled in a quarrel with them who remonstrated with him for his conduct towards the girl. In the scuffle that ensued a villager was shot. The wounded man fell down and was removed by his friends in a cart. He died soon after. The corpse was taken to Saidapet, where the apothecary held a *post mortem* examination and found that death had been caused by a gunshot wound inflicted at a short distance, the skin being scorched and charred. On the 3rd instant the girl alleged to have been outraged by Love, submitted herself to medical examination by Colonel Damia, Indian Medical Service, who found no signs of the girl having been outraged. The same day the District Superintendent of Police held an enquiry, and Love was arrested and brought before the Cantonment Magistrate at the Mount and a remand was obtained. Love was charged with rape and culpable homicide not amounting to murder and will shortly be placed on his trial.

The Moplahs are a restless race, who are always trying to create riots. On Thursday before last, rather disquieting news reached Calicut of a threatened Moplah rising in the Ernad taluqa. It was alleged that some twenty-five or thirty Moplahs of Pullipuram, a Mopla village situated a few miles from Manjeri, had been planning for some days past to go out on the warpath, their grievance being of dual character and directed against a certain official and a wealthy Nambudri landlord. Somehow or other a little Moplah boy happened to be concerned in the conspiracy. The intending fanatics got the boy to swear on the Koran that he would set the seal of silence on his fips. But the boy sickened at the prospect of loining in the rising, and secretly divulged the news to his mother, who forthwith sent off the news to a relation of hers at Manjeri. This relative appears to have given information to the local authorities, who lost no time in starting precautionary measures. Mr. R. E. Holland, Special Assistant Magistrate, was apprised of the conspiracy, and while himself adopting all possible measures to nip the outbreak in the bud, wired the news to the District Magistrate. Mr. H. L. Wilkinson, who is temporarily in charge of the office of District Superintendent, also received telegraphic information of the apprehended revolt, and left for Ernad by the morning train.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION

BY

W. S. Caine

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To be had at the *Patrika* Office.

An Entertainment.—His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal entertains Mr. Justice and Mrs. Jenkins at dinner on Tuesday next.

Currency Notes.—The total amount of currency notes in circulation on the 31st of March was Rs. 28,20,32,755, against a reserve in coin and bullion of Rs. 18,20,32,809.

Off to the Hills.—Lady Woodburn and Miss Woodburn have left Calcutta accompanied by Captain Horsford, A.-D-C., for Darjeeling. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will probably arrive there during the first week of May.

The Kharakpur Railway.—Under the sanction of the Government just received, arrangements are being made for the location of Government Railway Police along the Kharakpur Railway line which was opened to traffic on the 6th ultimo.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce.—A vacancy has arisen in the representation of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce upon the Port Commission, in consequence of Mr. C. E. Smyth proceeding on nine months' leave. Mr. C. W. Grey and Mr. J. M. G. Prophet are candidates for the seat.

B. and N. Ry. Offices.—"Railways" hears it is likely that Mr. T. R. Wynne, Agent and Chief Engineer of the Bengal Nagpur Railway, will move his headquarters immediately to Calcutta as a camp office, and that the offices of the Traffic Manager and Auditor may follow. The question of the much-to-do-desired permanent transfer is still *subjudice*.

Tea Prospects.—The winter rains have been considerably in excess of those of the previous year in the Sylhet and Cachar districts, as much as 8 59 inches being reported in the Lungla Valley. In the Sibsagar and Lakhimpur districts also good rain has fallen, which should benefit the tea crop at the critical season of the year. The prospects in all the tea producing districts are reported to be good, and plucking operations have been commenced.

Threatend Coolie Riot.—On Tuesday a disturbance took place at the Howrah railway station which might have been more serious but for the promptness of the Railway officials. About a hundred coolies of the Carriage and Waggon Department were ordered to Lillooah station to attend to some work there. When they were in the train ready to start, the Medical Officer on duty examined them. When he wished to feel the pulse of a little boy, the son of the headman of the coolies, the men in a body objected, and when the officer persisted, they left the train and threatened the officer. Before, however, anything could happen the Railway Police, who were on the spot, made the coolies understand that no harm was meant. As the result of this disturbance, intermediate and third-class passengers will, in future, be examined before they enter their carriages, and the Inspecting Officer will be guarded by the Government Railway Police.

A Destructive Fire at Serampore.—On Thursday evening last, Serampore was the scene of great confusion owing to a terrible fire having broken out in Manicktolla Bazar destroying the entire locality including *pucca* houses. At about 5-30 P.M., the fire originated in a small hut owned by a woman of ill-fame, who was cooking at the time, and soon after information having been sent to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Municipality, to the Sub-divisional Magistrate and the Civil Medical Officer, they repaired to the spot and found that the fire was raging from one end of the street to the other owing to the high wind that was blowing at the time. On account of the scarcity of water in the locality the Municipal coolies were unable to prevent the flames from communicating to the surrounding dwellings. Had not the Manager of the local jute mills sent the hand fire engine belonging to the mills, the fire would have got into the jute godown and destroyed the mill completely. The mill employes with the help of the Municipal coolies put out the fire and kept order amongst the large crowd of spectators. The loss was roughly estimated at about twenty thousand Rupees.

Return.—The Hon. Sir Francis Maclean, Chief Justice of Bengal, has returned to Calcutta.

Liberality.—The thanks of the Bengal Government have been conveyed to Rai Ganga Prasad Bahadur for his liberality in constructing and equipping the Laharia-Serai Dispensary at a cost of Rs. 31,280 and making over the same to the Durbhanga Municipality. The Dispensary has been named "Banwari Lal Hospital" after the donor's father and will be maintained by him.

Feeder Roads.—Several projects for the construction of feeder roads to the Eastern Bengal State Railway, were duly considered and sanctioned by Government, and funds had been allotted to the different District Boards to enable them to carry out the works; but before they could be commenced, emergencies arose which compelled the grants to be withdrawn.

Police Examination.—The next divisional examination of candidates to fill vacancies in the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police, will be held on the 22nd and 25th July, 1899, at the following centres. At Calcutta (Senate House) for the Presidency, Rajshahi, and Burdwan Divisions; at Baknipore for the Patna, Bhagalpur, and Chota Nagpur Divisions; at Dacca for the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions; and at Cuttack for the Orissa Division.

Lord Curzon Incognito.—We take the following interesting piece of news from the *Basumati*:—It is not generally known that one evening a European gentleman, who gave his name as Mr. Valentine Steer, paid a visit to the Royal Bengal Theatre. It was subsequently discovered that Mr. Steer was the Viceroy himself. This liking for travelling about incognito is a trait in His Excellency's character, for he has been seen elsewhere and on other occassions.

Calcutta Central Railway.—The Government has appointed a general representative committee to investigate and report on the proposed Calcutta central railway and metropolitan improvements. A representative from each of the following bodies will attend:—Corporation of Calcutta, Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Port Commissioners, Trades Association, British Indian Association, National Chamber of Commerce, East Indian Railway, Bengal-Nagpur Railway, Eastern Bengal Railway, Bengal Central Railway, and Howrah-Amta Railway. It is understood the Chairman of the Committee will be Mr. G Toynbee.

Accident to a Judge.—A Chupra correspondent writes to a contemporary the following account of an accident under date 30th ultimo, "On Sunday last a very serious accident took place in the very heart of the town. Mr. Casperz, the District and Sessions Judge, was driving on his new tandem on the Kutchari Road. When he came near the shop of one Mr. Smith, the horse suddenly bolted and took fright. The syce finding this jumped from the tandem and held the reins tightly to stop the horse, but he could not do it longer and the horse ran off in a wrong direction in rapid speed and thus struck the tandem in a bundh resulting in the complete destruction of it. Mr. Casperz, trying to save himself also, jumped from it; but his legs being entangled in the briddle, fell down receiving a severe shock. He is now confined to his bed."

Serious Charge Against Military Men.—Yesterday before Moulvi Serajul Huq, Police Magistrate of Alipore, a native military officer named Naik Fata Bahadoor and a sepoy of the 12th Bengal Native Infantry, stationed at Alipore, were charged with having brutally assaulted a Mahomedan youth of Watgunj, and wrongfully confined him for several hours in the Barracks. It was stated that the second accused, who went to the Kidderpore Bazzar on the evening of Monday last, got up a quarrel with a woman whun the complainant interfered and was severely beaten by him with a cane. The complainant whiie proceeding to the local Thannah with a head constable to lodge a complaint against the sepoy, the native officer, the first accused, ordered the second accused to carry off the complainant by force to the Military Quarters where he was severely handled by both of them and locked up in a room for several hours. The Magistrate ordered a process to be issued against the sepoy and the complaint against the officer to be filed with the record.

Darjeeling Drowning Fatality.—A native boy was the only eye-witness to the drowning of Colonel Shirres, and his account is that about 9 o'clock in the morning the Colonel who had a tent near, was wading up to his knees fishing on the Sikkim side of the Rungeet river just above the point where the Rahman flows into it; he got into deep water and was seen to swim but still holding his rod. Suddenly he disappeared under the water and never was seen again. From the fact of his holding the rod up, it may be inferred he had hooked a fish, was unwilling to lose it, and did not realise the dangers of the river. The junction of the rivers presents here a rather curious appearance, reminding one somewhat of the union of the Rhine and Rhone; like the Rhone the waters of the Rahman are muddy, but unlike the Rhone and Rhine, which flow side by side with such a well-defined difference in the colour of their waters, the Rahman flows above the Runjeet to within a short distace of the opposite bank. There are rapids in the Rungeet just above the junction, and as the volume of water and its velocity are much greater in this rive, these cut their way under the smoother waters of the sister river, and would inevitably draw under anything carried down in its current. There are no whirlpools, and as far as can be discovered, no quicksands about this spot, such as are common in these rivers; and this might account for the complete disappearence of the unfortunate gentleman. The boy who saw the accident brought the news to the manager of a neighbouring tea garden, Singla, who immediately communicated with the Police. The news reached the authorities in Darjeeling late on Friday evening, and early on Saturday Captain Stanton, R. A, with search party from the Battery, hurried down to the river, some 12 miles distant, accompained by the District Superintendent of Police. All that energy could do was done, but up to 3 o'clock on Sunday, when the last intelligence left Singla, no trace of any sort had been found.—*Englishman.*

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

A WONDERFUL PHENOMENON.—Babu Mothura Nath Guha has written to the *Barisal Hitaishi*, giving the account of an extraordinary spectacle that was witnessed, a few days ago, in some villages within the jurisdiction of the Amtola station: At 3 o'clock on the day of the occurrence, a certain field in the village of Dalachora split ap all on a sudden, and from the rent welled up clay, smoke and fire. The smoke rose in volumes in the shape of the trunk of an elephant, in its way upwards and with a noise like that of thunder. This was followed by a tornado, causing great havoc, In the villages. Several houses and trees were blown away and two buffaloes got scorched, by being carried by the force of the wind to the close proximity of the rift. Fortunately no human lives were lost. A big tree, which had withstood the great cyclone of 1283 B. S. was uprooted and removed a few yards where it again got stuck. What is most extraordinary, it is still living. The tornado, without touching two or three other intervening villages, manifested itself with all its force at a village called Kalibari. A woman who was on her way to the river to fetch water, was caught in it, and has since then been missing. The clothes she wore was seen dangling in a tree. Another woman was carried up and then thrown on the ground. She recovered her senses after two days. The mortality among the feathered tribe was very great.

INTERESTING REJOINDER.—The subjoined paragraph which we extract from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of yesterday, is too good to be lost. "Lord Curzon Incognito:—We take the following interesting piece of news from the *Basumati*:—'It is not generally known that, one evening, a European gentleman, who gave his name as Mr. Valentine Steer, paid a visit to the Royal Bengal Theatre. It was subsequently discovered that Mr. Steer was the Viceroy himself.' This linking for travelling about incognito is a trait in His Excellency's character, for he has been seen elsewhere and on other occasions." We hardly like to be so ungracious as to avow disbelief in so pretty a romance. But truth compels us to point out, for the benefit of the Vernacular Press, that Mr. Steer is not 'the Viceroy himself,' nor is it the first occasion upon which a beardless journalist has been mistaken for His Excellency. The Simon Pure, in the present case, is nothing more nor less than one of Mr. Harmsworth's 'young men.' whom the *Daily Mail* is at present utilising as its 'Special correspondent with Lord Curzon.' We must, however, congratulate our London contemporary on the excellent advertisement it has secured for itself Perhaps it is hardly necessary to add that Mr. Steer's solitary point of resemblance with the Viceroy lies in the fact that he is a clean-shaven fresh-looking personage. We hope the honour conferred upon him will not lead to a wholesale sacrifice of moustache and whisker among the ambitious.

AN EXCITING SCENE.—A correspondent sends the following account of a *must* elephant at Dumraon:—"A fortnight ago the elephant of the Dewan, Babu Hari Har Prosad Singh, got loose in the morning at 6 by breaking the iron chains, and began to stroll into the garden. The elephant had been *must* since a week and kept in chains, but, as chance would have it, it freed itself. With the gradual rise of the sun, the elephant was getting quite beside itself trampling any thing that crossed its path and smashing a large number of mangoe trees. Efforts were made by 'Philwans' and other men to catch the elephant. The effort was unsuccessful; but it displayed the pluck and heroism of a young Brahmin of the village Sighanpura, near Dumraon, named Rameswar Ojha, who fastened one leg of the elephant with a rope. All of a sudden, however, the brute turned round and pinned the brave fellow with its huge tusks. Heaven intervened and Rameswar Ojha found himself between the tusks. Thrice the elephant tried to kill him by trampling him down, but thrice the brave fellow escaped, though not without receving serious injuries. Five hundred and more spectators were there, and surely it was a horrible sight to see a fellow-being so dangerously placed. Thank God, the elephant having once its head turned, Rameshwar Ojha escaped only to fall senseless from sheer exhaustion. Babu Bipin Behari Gupta, the Asst. Surgeon, immediately came to his aid and Rameshwar is well on the way to recovery. It is said that the grand-father of Rameshwar Ojha had also caught an elephant once. He is a servant of Babu Hari Har Prosad Singh and deserves credit. The elephant was caught by iron pricks at 4 in the evening.

MORTUARY RETURNS.—The total number of deaths registered in Urban Calcutta during the week ending 1st April was 523 against 487 and 568 in the two preceding weeks, and higher than the corresponding week of the last year by 241. There were 14 deaths from cholera, against 10 and 12 in the two preceding weeks; the dumber in lower than the average of the past quinquiniam by 90 There was 100 deaths from plague, against 116 and 112 in the two preceding weeks. There were no deaths from small-pox during the week, against one in the previous week. There Thre 4 deaths from tetanus against 1 in the previous week. The mortality from fevers and bowel-complaints amounted to 178 and 65 respectively, against 122 and 57 in the preceding week. The general death-rate of the week was 58·5 per mille per annum, against 45·3 the mean of the last five years. The total number of deaths registered in Subarban Calcutta during the same weak was 220 against 129 and 231 in the two preceding weeks, and higher than the corresponding week of last year by 45. There were 11 deaths from cholera against 7 and 11 in the two preceding weeks; the number is lower than the average of the past quinquennium by 26. There were 15 deaths from plague against 22 and 8 in the two preceding weeks. There were 3 deaths from smallpox during the week, against 5 in the previous week. There were 2 deaths from tetanus against 2 in the previous week. The mortality from fevers and bowel-complaints amounted to 63 and 32 repectively against 54 and 42 in the preceding week. The general death-rate of the week was 53·3 per mile per annum against 49·2 the mean of the last five years. The general death-rate of the combined area is equal to 56·8.

TWO INTERESTING STORIES.—A contemporary is responsible for the following: It says on the varacity of a Madras paper, that one night Lord Curzon saw lamps burning in some of the rooms of the Government of India Office buildings, which are situated close to the Government House. His Excellency is reported to have at once deputed his Private Secretary to the buildings to see what the lights at such an unusual hour meant. The Secretaty went over to the place and saw that some Bengali clerks were busy with their pen, being ordered to finish up some arear work by the Secretary of the Department to which they belonged. The information was communicated to the Viceroy, whereupon His Excellency enquired if the Secretary was at the office with the working clerks, and having recived an answer in the negative, sent his Private Secretary again to the clerks, giving his permission to them to go home, and commanding them not to work beyond the appointed hours unless their head, the Secretary of the Department, also agreed to stay with them to work. The above story is probably a suggestive invention, but the *Hindu Patriot* vouches for the following *actual* incident during Lord Ripon's *regime*. The story is connected with one of the Military Accounts Offices in Calcutta:—The head of the office had issued a circular requiring the clerks to attend the office on the *SaraswatiPujah* holidays, regardless of the fact that it is prohibited in a Hindu to touch pen and ink on the occasion of that festival. The clerks submitted a representation to the Viceroy through his Private Secretary, but as they heard nothing in reply they concluded that ther representation to the Viceroy had not been successful. Accordingly they punctually attended the office on the day of the *Pujah*, but on presenting themselves at the gate, they were informed by a peon, who was stationed there, that the office was closed on that and the follwying day. It subsequently transpired that Lord Ripon had promptly taken action on the representation of the clerks, and that communications had passed between His Excellency and the Controller on the subject. After this the officer never attempted to deprive the clerks of any of the gazetted holidays.

PANTHER SHOOTING.—A correspondent writes to a South India paper:—For some time past the inhabitants of the town of Hunsur, Mysore District, have been suffering considerably from the depredations of a most daring panther, which would walk into the town as soon as it got dark and kill calves, goats, donkeys or dogs. Not many days ago, the Superintendent of the Commissariat cattle had a valuable dog of his taken away before his very eyes, and that too about 6 in the morning. On the morning of the 27th instant news was brought that the panther had killed a cow the previous night, and was lying up amonst the rocks on the hill close to the Traveller's Bungalow. MasterCharles Theobald at once started for the hill. He had just got to the top when he saw the panther making tracks down the opposite slope about 200 yards away. He at once let it have a right and left from his rifle. Both shots hit the panther in his hind-quarters and rolled him over; he, however, soon recovered and began making towards a thick lantana jungle, but having one of his hind legs broken he could only get along very slowly. The young shikari soon reloaded and followed the panther and coming up to him just as he was entering the jungle, gave him his *coup de grace*. The panther was a very large one and measured 7 feet 6 inches in the flesh and was in perfect condition. The people were delighted at the destruction of this famous cattle-lifter, for which several native shikaries sat up night after night over his kills, but he was too warry to return to his meals.

Plague News.

CALCUTTA RETURNS—26 ATTACKS AND 24 DEATHS.

ON Thursday last there were 26 attacks and 24 deaths, distributed as follows over the various wards:—1 and 1 in ward No. 1; 3 and 3 in No. 2; 2 and 2 in No. 3; 3 and 2 in No. 4; 3 and 3 in No. 5; 3 and 2 in No. 6; 1 death in No. 8; 2 and 2 in No. 11; 3 and 3 in No. 15; 1 and 1 in No. 20; 2 attacks in No. 22; 3 and 3 in No. 25; 1 death address unknown. Of suspected cases there were 19 with an equal number of deaths:—1 and 1 in No. 1; 1 and 1 in No. 2; 1 and 1 in No. 3; 1 and 1 in No. 5; 1 and 1 in No 7; 2 and 2 in No. 8; 2 and 2 in No. 9; 1 and 1 in No. 10; 5 and 5 in No. 11; 2 and 2 in No. 15; 1 and 1 in No. 20; 1 and 1 in No. 22; the total mortality from all cases amounted to 19 against 75, the average of the last five years.

SPREADING IN THE PUNJAB.

ANOTHER village—Dharmkot—with a population of 519, has been attacked with plague. One death has also occurred at Garchah. The patient had been inoculated. There have been no fresh cases of plague in the town of Rahon since the 22nd February, and disinfection of houses has been completed. Orders has been issued, permitting the re-occupation of the place at once.

BOMBAY FIGURES.

THURSDAY'S plague figures for Bombay show 125 new cases and 102 deaths. The total mortality was 253, against 189 on the same date last year. The week's total mortality was 2,010, being equivalent to a death-rate of 125·16 per mille per annum.

KARACHI RETURNS.

PLAGUE returns from March 31 up to the 6th show 332 cases and 266 deaths. The totals up to the latter date have been 1,173 cases and 831 deaths The plague is both increasing and spreading in spite of all efforts.

WEEKLY RETURNS.

PLAGUE returns for the week ending the 2nd instant show 2,308 deaths in the Bombay Presidency and Sind, Bombay City reporting 974, Karachi City, 235; Thana, 258, and Baroda 113. The Madras Presidency reports fifty-eight deaths, of which North Arcot had thirty-one, and Salem fourteen. The Mysore State reports 109 deaths, of which forty-six were in the Kolar Gold-fields, and fifty-nine in Mysore City, the whole of Bangalore City, Cantonments, and district having only one case, and that a doubtful one. The Hyderabad State reports eight deaths, all in Linsagar. The Punjab returns one death in the Jullunder District. Bengal reports 267 deaths, of which Calcutta had 219, many only suspected, and the districts of Howrah, eight; Hooghly, three; Durbhanga, ten; Shahabad, one (imported); Tipperab, five; the 24-Parganas, eighteen, amd Saran, three. Rajputana returns one suspected case only, while the Central Provinces and Central India return a clean sheet. The total plague deaths in India in the week were 2,752.

Law Intelligence.

HIGH COURT: CRIMINAL BENCH,
—APRIL 5.

(*Before Justices Prinsep and Wilkins.*)

A BACKERGUNGE MURDER CASE.

THIS was an appeal by Golam Hossein and another from the decision of the Sessions Judge of Backergunge who had convicted them under Section 302, I. P. C, and sentenced them to death for the murder of one Rahimuddi. Both the assessors found the prisoners not guilty, but the Sessions Judge, chiefly relying on the confession of the accused, sentenced them as stated above. The facts of the case are shortly these. The two accused, who are brothers, lived together in the house of the deceased, who was the father-in-law of the first accused Golam. The father-in-law and the son-in-law did not pull well together, evidently owing to the unwillingness of the latter to do any work. On the evening of the 9th December last the first accused left the house. After dusk Ahmed Ali, the second accused, and the deceased took their supper together, after which Ahmed asked the deceased to accompany him to a field where he had left his jacket. Accordingly the two went out together. At about midnight the two accused returned together without the deceased. Being asked where the deceased was, they replied that he had gone to a village called Ichadi where he had a relation of his living. Four or five days passed, and, as the deceased did not return still, his wife grew suspicious and asked the first accused to institute enquiries. The evidence showed that the deceased never went to the above village. After the first accused had gone to the thana to lodge information, the Panchayat of the village went to the deceased's house, and the second accused is said to have made a confession to him that his brother Golam, the first accused, had killed Rahimuddi in his presence. On the following day he repeated the statement to the collecting member of the Panchayat and also pointed out the place where the corpse had been concealed. A fortnight after the day of occurrence, the Sub-Inspector of Police came to the village and disinterred the corpse which was greatly decomposed. Both the accused then made a confession before an Honorary Magistrate, which, however, they retracted at the Sessions Court.

Babu Sarat Chunder Ghose, Vakil, who appeared for the appellants, contended that the identification of the corpse was not perfect, inasmuch as it was almost decomposed at the time of identification; and so there was no certainty whether Rahimuddi had at all been murdered or not. Moreover, the accused were relatives of the deceased, as it is no possible motive could there be for the murder. Considering all these circumstances, the Vakil urged, that the conviction was improper, and, at all events, it was very unsafe to pass an extreme sentence in a case like this.

Mr. Gordon Leith was heard in reply.

Their Lordships then reseved their judgment

—APRIL 6.

THE DACCA REFERENCE CASE.

JUDGMENT was delivered in the above case to-day. It will be remembered that in this case in which four persons were concerned in a rioting case, the Sessions Judge of Dacca differing from the verdict of acquittal of the majority of the jury, referred the matter to the High Court under section 307 Cr. P. C. Their Lordships, after hearing Mr. P. L. Roy for the Crown and Mr. Jackson for the appellant held that from the evidence as placed before them they could not help agreeing with the minority of the Jury and the Judge, and accordingly convicted the accused under section 147 and sentenced them to one year's rigorous imprisonment each.

A VILLAGE TRAGEDY.

THEIR Lordships had before them to-day a sensational case of murder from the district of Backergunge. The case came before their Lordships on a reference made by the Sessions Judge of Backergunge for confirmation of the sentence of death passed on Golam Hossein and Ahmed Ali for the murder of one Rohimuddin. The facts of the case as put by their Lordships were as follow:—Rohimuddin was the father-in-law of Golam Hossein and Ahmed Ali was the brother of Golam Hossein, and the evidence shows that Golam Hossein was what is commonly known as *ghar-jamai*, that is, married to the daughter of Rohimuddin and lived in idleness in the house of his father-in-law. The father-in-law had on frequent occasions been irritated with the conduct of Golam Hossain in living this life of idleness and in ill-treating his cattle and in other matters of this description, and we have little doubt that the relations between these two parties were not amicable. On the evening of the 9th December, that is to say, 4th *Pous*, Ahmed Ali who had been for some days staying in the house of Rahimuddin, induced him to go to the fields under the pretext of fetching his coat which he had left there and it is said that at that time Golam Hossein was absent from the house. That was the last occasion on which Rahimuddin was seen alive. His wife and daughter ultimately became alarmed at his absence and when his wife asked Golam Hossein to account for the absence of Rahimuddin, he said he might have gone to the village of Ichadi. About the same time the wife observed some clothes hung in the house for the purpose of being dried which she recognised as belonging to her husband, and she was satisfied by Golam Hosseln stating that there were other clothes of this description and that these clothes were his. Same four or five days later, while Golam Hossein was combing his hair in the presence of the wife of Rahimuddin a silver bead tumbled down from the thatch which she at once caught hold of saying that it belonged to her husband. She said to Golam Hossein, "you and your brother say that my husband went on a visit and is not to be found now, how did the bead and string belonging to him come here?" Further on she says, "he" that is her husband, "was wearing it when he left the *bari*. My son-in law said, do you think that we have no bead like this? We have many like it." She kept the bead and was apparently not satisfied. After the discovery of this bead it would seem that Golam Hossein was sent to the thana to give information of the absence of Rahimuddin, and later in the day, Nagar Mollah, who was the collecting peon of the Zemindar in the village and a man of some position, came to the house and was told by the wife of Rahimuddin all that had taken place. Thereupon he took with him Ahmed Ali with a view to endeavour to obtain from him some information of what had taken place and kept him during the night. It would seem that when pressed Ahmed Ali confessed to Nagar Mollah having caused the death of Rahimuddin with the assistance of Golam Hossein. The statement that he is said to have made to Nagar Mollah has been made to and recorded by a Magistrate, and in the course of the trial when read over to Ahmed it was not disputed by him in any way. On this Golam, Hossein who had given information at the thana of the disappearance of Rehimuddin, was arrested on his return to the village and information was given to the Chowkidar of the murder of Rahimuddin and Ahmed Ali at the same time offered to point out where the body had been placed and when the police came to the spot and arrested Golam Hossein, Golam also signified that he was prepared to point out where the body was buried. It was found buried in an old drain which had been for sometime unused, and the body, although it was not found until several days after the death had been caused, was identified by the wife and the relatives of the deceased by the teeth."

Both the brothers were then sent up and both were convicted of murder and sentenced to death.

Their Lordships in a lengthy judgment, after stating the facts as given above, and after discussing the evidence, held: In this state of things we think that it would not be safe to convict Golam Hossein on the evidence which is before us. But in regard to Ahmed Ali we have the fact of his confession coupled with the fact that he pointed out where the body had been burried and, as there are no extenuating circumstances in the case, we confirm the sentence of death passed on him by the Sessions Judge. As regards Golam Hossein, the conviction will be set aside dua he will be acquitted."

A FURTHER section of the Rajpipla State Railway as far as Amletha is expected to be ready for public traffic by the end of the current month.

A MUNICIPAL wheel-tax collector at Agra has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment for criminal misappropriation.

ONE hundred and eighty life convicts passed through Bombay on Thursday on the way to the Andamans, the most of whom were noted dacoits.

PART of the grass hutting at the Sarwakai post caught fire at 6 P. M. on the 3rd instant. The fire was extinguished by 8 P. M. Three men of the 1st Sikhs were seriously hurt, and two mules killed.

A LAHORE telegram announces that on the 30th ultimo the wife of a copyist in the Divisional Court, Sialkot, was found murdered in her house, situate in one of the most densely-populated quarters of the town. Her throat was cut with some sharp instrument, but though the crime must have been committed in broad daylight no cries for help were heard. Ornaments to the value of Rs. 200 are said to be missing.

IN January last the Ceylon Postal authorities decided to have their underground telephone wire system everhead, as the electric current running along the trolley wires interfered with the effective working of the telephone system. Men were despatched to undertake the work. During the process, the telephone wire, which was being fixed on to a post, came in contact with the tramway trolley wires, fully charged with electricity. The man who was fixing the wires (and another who endeavoured to extricate his comrade) received a series of shocks and wounds, which necessitated their removal to the General Hospital. These men were given a reward of Rs. 100 each on Friday last.

A DUST storm of extraordinary force passed over Delhi on Wednesday. The air had been thick and muggy for a couple of days previous, with the thermometer very much higher than normal, and it was expected something would happen. At about 5 P. M. when everyone was out or about driving, suddenly dense black clouds were noticed on the southern horizon which in a couple of minutes rushed down and practically obliterated the city. An intense darkness prevailed in which it was absolutely impossible for one to see a yard ahead. It is one of the most extraordinary dust storms ever seen and of a density not known in Delhi for years. People driving had to turn round and stop dead; to face the wind was impossible. A certain amount of damage was done to trees, etc., A small shower of rain that followed the storm and allayed the dust was most acceptable

WHILE at Lahore the Viceroy with some of his stuff and Major Egerton, Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor, went for an hour's shooting before breakast beyond Shalimar. The bag consisted of 17 couple of quail and a hare.

AN attempted murder formed a sensation at the Colombo Courts recently. A Sinhalese named Louis instituted a suit in the Colombo Court of Requests against an old man. The case was dismissed; and Louis, disappointed at the result, rushed out of the Court and fell on the old man, who was standing in the centre of the quadrangle. Clutching his victim by the hair, Louis stabbed him a little below the left shoulder with a clasp knife having a blade of six inches or so. The victim, a feeble septagenarian, cried out for help, and a number of people rushed to his aid. The would-be murderer after inflicting a dangerous—and likely to be fatal—wound on his victim, turned on those who came to help and wounded four others, one being bedly cut in the neck. Inspector Altendorff grappled with Louis, and wrenched the knife out of his hands, receiving himself a nasty wound on the thumb. The man was then secured and taken to the Police station whence the injured men after their complaints were recorded were despatched to the hospital.

IN the opinion of the military authorities at Peshawar, drastic measures are called for by the present state of affairs, and the "Civil and Military Gazette" understands they are in favour of disarming both the permanent resident population and large numbers of trans-frontier Pathans, who make a temporary stay there. These latter are always fully armed, and are ready to settle differences off hand by recourse to weapons. There is no good reason for permitting the practice of carrying arms without restriction, except in the case of outlying villages liable to sudden raids by hands of frontier robbers. In Peshawar itself the police should be able to afford protection to life and property and preserve order. The provision of the Army Act should be extended in full to Peshawar City and Cantonments while in outlying villages licenses should be granted for carrying arms only for purposes of self-defence. —*Englishman.*

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAMS.]

A BIG BAG.

DHUBRI, APRIL 5.

The Maharaja of Mymensing's hunting party, consisting of the Hon'ble Sir Francis Maclean, Chief Justice of Bengal, Lord Boringdon, Mr. Stephen, and others, left here on the 2nd intsant. Thh party has, up to date a bag of two tigers, two cubs, two leopards, one of them being black, one buffalo, severa, deer, florikin, etc.

THE SILCHAR PARK QUESTION.

SILCHAR, APRIL 5.

The memorial of the ratepayers of Silchar to the Chief Commissioner of Assam protesting against the acquisition of the Nursingtola land for a park, has been forwarded to the Chairman for consideration by the Commissioners in meeting. Mr. Cotton thinks that the present memorial is entitled to consideration. We learn with pleasure that an early meeting has been requisitioned for by some of the Commissioners, on the ground of great unrest prevailing among the ratepayers and with a view to putting an end to this vexed question.

THE VICEROY AT SIMLA.

THE MUNICIPAL ADDRESS.

SIMLA, APRIL 6.

His Excellency the Viceroy and suite arrived here at half past two o'clock. He was accorded a public reception. The Municipal address of welcome, on his first appearance in Simla, was read by the President. It congratulated the assumption of office by His Excellecy, and welcomed him to the summer capital of India. It mentioned some special reasons for being thankful, for the kind treatment which the Municipality had from time to time received from the Government, and earnestly hoped for a continuance of the same. It referred to the report of the Simla Extension Committee and said that nothing could be done without Government help. Referring to Lady Curzon, the address rejoiced that Her Excellency had accepted the presidency of the National Medical Association and trusted that she would continue to evince sympathy and take interest in local charities. In conclusion the Commissioners prayed for their Excellency's health.

The Viceroy in reply to the Address said that it gave him great pleasure in accepting the kindly assurances. His Excellency welcomed Simla on a peculiar sense—as not only his summer capital, but also as his country home. He commented on the supposition that after 3 or 4 months' move for less labour they adjourned, there as weary mariners in Lotos Eaters, and said that at Calcutta there had been so many calls on his time owing to Legislative session, visits of Native Princes and other important personages and social obligations that he barely got time to pass through daily work and never had time to think. Were this strain, he added, to be borne without intermission, then he would not hesitate to say that no Viceroy in the world could stand it or could do justice to the work. In order to have time to think and to enquire into many questions calling for solutions, they came to Simla to find larger leisure and an atmosphere conducive to mental and physical energy. As for calling subordinate staff to migrate twice, he would say so far as at present they must be in close proximity so that they might be immediate instrument of the policy of Government. Referring to the Municipal administration, His Excellency said that the Supreme Government has close and personal concern in sanitation and water-supply of the town, and assured Lady Curzon's and his sympathy to local charit

THE HINDU CENTRAL COLLECE.

ALLAHABAD, APRIL 6.

The Allahabad University has now under consideration the application of the authorities of the Hindu Central College at Benares for the affiliation of that institution. The only point on which some difference of opinion exists is the admission of some students without regard to the inter-college transfer rules.

A SENSATIONAL CASE OF ASSAULT.

SHILLONG, APRIL 5.

The sensational case of assault brought by Sergeant Garth against certain native contractors working on trenches has been tried by Captain Howell, Deputy Commissioner, Shillong. Messrs. Walsh and Godfrey, of the P. W. D., and several native genttlemen were present. The prosecution witnesses hopelessly failed. The three accused, sent up by police, have therefore been discharged. A fresh police enquiry has been ordered.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARYSHIP.

SIMLA, APRIL 7.

MR. FINLAY relieves Mr. Risley of the office of the Financial Secretary to the Government of India on the 11th Instant. Mr. Risley reverts to the Bengal Seretariat.

A REVERSION.

SIMLA, APRIL 7.

THE services Major Swayne R.E., Executive Engineer on the Bengal establishment are replaced at the disposal of the Military Department.

THE BERHAMPUR TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

MURSHIDABAD, APRIL 7.

THE Commissioner of the Presidency Division presided at the prize distribution of the Technical School here. The ceremony was held at the Jubilee Hall, which was gaily decorated for the occasion. The attendance was very large and among those present were Princes of the Nizamut family. Six scholarships and twenty prizes were awarded. The Commissioner's speech was instructive and encouraging. Miss Buckland, who was present, examined, with special care, the art products of the school. Both Mr. and Miss Buckland expressed themselves to be greatly pleased with all that they saw.

(FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.)

LONDON, APRIL 4.

General Otis has issued a proclamation declaring American supremacy throughout the Philippines and assuring Filipinos that they will be granted autonomy so far as is compatible therewith, and also Civil and Religious liberty.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

LONDON, APRIL 4.

A conference of Nationalist members of the House of Commons held at Dublin has agreed to Mr. John Dillon's proposal for the reunion of the party under a Parnellite Chairman.

LONDON, APRIL 4.

The *Times* publishes a long correspondence on the progress made by Siam, and in a eulogise tic leader admits the claim of Siam to customs revision.

LONDON, APRIL 5.

The *Figaro* continues the publication of the depositions made before the Criminal Section of the Court of Cassation. General Roget detailed several strong points against Dreyfus, one of which was that the whole network of information from Secret Agents tended to incriminate him. General Roget strongly insisted that the items mentioned in the Bordereau were only known to officers of the department in which Dreyfus worked. On the other hand, an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs testified that the German and Italian Ambassadors and their attaches positively denied all dealings with Dreyfus.

LONDON, APRIL. 5.

The death is announced of Mr. T. E. Ellis, one of the Liberal Whips and member for Merionethshire.

LONDON, APRIL 6.

The St. *James's Gazette*, announces that Germany has given the necessary guarantee upon the capital for the German section of the Cape to Cairo Railway, and also guarantees a certain percentage of interest on the line from Dar-es-Salaam to Ujiji. Arrangements have also been made for railways through Damaraland. Mr. Cecil Rhodes, says the St. *James's Gazette*, has now abandoned the idea of a British guarantee for the Tanganyika Railway, and intends to raise the capital without the aid of Government.

LONDON, APRIL 6.

The Governor of Kiauchau has ordered the burning of two villages, the natives of which have recently become aggressive. The Tsung-li-Yamen has protested to the German Legation at Pekin against such a proceeding.

LONDON, APRIL 6.

The three Powers, Great Britain, America and Germany have finally settled a Tripartite Commission for dealing with the Samoan question.

LONDON, APRIL 7.

In a further account of the proceedings before the Criminal Section of the Court of Cassation, the *Figaro* says that General Roget being re-examined vehemently denounced M. Berthulus, the examining Magistrate, and declared that Colonel Henry had left an account of his interview with M. Berthutus completely traversing the latter's story.

LONDON, APRIL 7.

The dominion Government is considering the scheme for contributing towards the Imperial Naval defence.

LONDON, APRIL 7.

It is proposed to train one thousand fishermen annually for service in the Navy, first on shore and then on board warships.

LONDON, APRIL 7.

The Sirdar's tour to Kassala and Suakim is said to be connected with plans for new telegraphs and railway in the Soudan.

LONDON, APRIL 7.

The *Daily Telegraph's* correspondent at Cairo reqorts that owing to the persistence of meningits the troops have been removed form Omdurman to healthier positions.

TO FIGHT WAR BALLOONS.

A NEW GUN WHICH WILL SHATTER A WAR BALLOON.

ALTHOUGH many desperate attempts are being made by a body of well-meaning persons to sweep off the earth all attempts at war between nations, and melt down into metallic liquid all the armaments of warfare, yet in the opinion of field-piece inventors it is just as well that no stoppage be made in the production of new death-dealing machines for probable future use on the field of battle.

Having exhausted all improvements in weapons forming part of the soldier's accoutrements for fighting, the French and German nations, and the British, too, have for some time past directed their attention and their energies to the construction of war implements for use in mid-air, the most notable machine being the recent development of the war balloon.

At Woolwich, for instance, great strides have been made, through the strenuous efforts of the British War Department, in military aerostatics, and thus we have kept pace with our neighbours across the Channel.

Now have the Americans been standing idle in this respect, for since the conclusion of the recently-fought war between their country and Spain they have made a special study of the same subject, prompted by their war balloon failure at Santiago.

Observing the successful accomplishments attained by various experts throughout Europe and the Western world in the invention of aerial warfare machines it occurred to a thoughtful inventor that while all these improvements and changes were going on, hardly anything was being done to alter the present character of field-pieces, or to improve upon them, in order to meet the circumstances and conditions suggested and offered by war balloons when in action.

That is to say, while present field-pieces were perfect in themselves for the purposes of ordinary field work they would prove valueless in their attempts to fight war balloons; hence the recent invention of a gun to fight the enemy in the cloud.

The latter has come none too early, for fighting balloons are destined to be an important factor of warfare in the near future, recent private experiments with them having proved the war balloon to be a desperate and an efficient engine of destruction.

But it has apparently an equally powerful foe in the new gun, the balloon gun as it is called. This is mounted on a waggon and so placed upon "universal" bearings as to be aimed instantly at any point in the clouds directly overhead if needs be. After the usual manner of the latest machine gunithrows a continuous stream of projectiles, like water turned on from a hose, and no balloon exposed to its discharge for many minutes could possibly stay in mid-air.

The projectiles are conical shaped and of solid steel, having no bursting charge, and weigh a pound a piece. A hollow conical stand, fastened to the floor of the waggons, supports the gun, the arrangement being such that when it has to be aimed directly upwards the marksman must get beneath it.

Its effective range is a mile and-a-quarter.

As the war balloon, in the opinion of military experts, is destined to play a prominent part in the next outbreak of hostilities between two or more of the Great Powers, it is necessary, in order to successfully combat and cripple such a potent engine of destruction, that the new gun be designed on a principle providing for the raining upwards, as it were, of a constant stream of shot, and this is what the new piece of ordnance can and will do, although so far it has only reached the experimental stage. The problem has been solved; it now only wants perfecting.

Despite these terrible destructive agents and the fearful havoc they could make it is asserted that makers of all kinds of war implements are really benefactors of mankind, inasmuch as every improvement in this line so tends to increase the destructiveness of human fighting as to make wars rarer.

This is an odd kind of argument perhaps, but there may be virtue in its seeming paradoxical veracity.

FACTS IN MAGIC.

A GENTLEMAN in the Madras Presidency, occupying an influentional position, and whose word may well be accepted; has told the writer of some experiences of his own that are interesting as illustrating the occult knowledge and powers possessed by some of the natives of India. He had heard of a man who had the reputation of being able to manufacture an ointment that if applied in a stipulated manner, would, for a short time, render the person experimenting invisible to every one. After some difficulty the man was found, and finally consented on receiving 50 rupees, to sell a small portion of the magic unguent which he declared, if properly applied, would render the purchaser invisible for over ten minutes.

Our friend took his purchase home, and proceeded at once to a large open balcony, where he applied the ointment to his forehead in the prescribed place and manner.

At once he called out sharply for his servant, "boy!" The man replied, and came running into the balcony in all haste; stopped; looked bewildered, and went to another room calling out "Master!" He had evidentlynot seen any one on the balcony.

Again the call was given, "'Boy!" and again the perplexed servant returned, and finally ran right into his master.

He became frightened at being able to feel but not see, and when questioned declared he could not see his master although standing close to him.

Our friend, although in the sun-light, was unable to see any shadow cast by his body, and on going to a looking glass, utterly failed to perceive his reflechere. tion

Shortly after the ten minutes had elapsed, his form gradually became visible both to himself and others, until it assumed its normal condition.

Our friend returned to the sorcerer and offered to purchase the secret of the manufacture of this most potent and extraordinary unguent, but failed to obtain his wish, as the purchase price was altogether beyond his means, reaching to many thousands of rupees.

In "Posthumous Humanity," pp. 221-223, is an account of a magic salve used by sorcerers in the sixteenth century. Andre Saguna, physician of Pope Julius III., obtained some of this mysterious unguent; it was of a greenish colour, and on analysis he was able to distinguish hemlock, hyoscyamus, nightshade and mandrake. Cardan, also gives a receipt for one of these salves, in which were mixed opium, aconite, pentaphyllin and nightshade with honey.

That there should be some kinship between these old customs and preparations and the unguent used by our friends at Madras seems more than likely; any way, the fact as given may be relied upon as genuine.

One other anecdote may be related, and our friend referred to in the last case is the author.

A holy man known to him, wss talking to him of the power and value of mantrams, and stated that he knew a mantram which if used against any living thing would instantly slay it. While the conversation was going on, a sickly, mangy dog was trotting across the compound. Our friend said: "I can hardly believe what you tell me to be possible; there is that miserable dog; it cannot be a great sin to destroy it; show me your power and the truth of your *words now*. The native turned, and pointed his finger at the dog and muttered something; *instantly* the dog dropped; our friend went up to it and found it dead. He then had it removed and examined by a surgeon known to him, and was told that there was in the dog's tonal and external condition no reason for death.

MR. RHODES IN BERLIN.

MR. RHODES arrived in Berlin on Saturday morning (March 11). He asked for an audience of the Emperor, who was understood to have acceded to the request. The German journals stated that Mr. Rhodes's object was to effect an arrangement as to the construction of a section of his Cape-to-Cairo railway through German territory, and *National Zeitung* anticipated that he would be successful, and contended that his success would not be injurious to German colonial interests in Africa.

The *Neueste Nachrichten* published the following letter from Cairo:

"Mr. Cecil Rhodes has left Egypt highly satisfied. The Egyptian Government is quite ready to give financial support to his great railway plan, on the natural condition that a portion of the revenue and the interest shall be handed over to the State Treasury. The most difficult part of the project continues to be the building of the railway through German East Africa. But Mr. Rhodes has conquered all other opposition, and people in Berlin are now prepared to permit the railway to be run through German territory, on the condition that it shall be under German control. Should the German line from Dar-es-Salaam to Lake Victoria and a junction from Tabora with the South African Railway be completed prior to the section planned by Mr. Cecil Rhodes, the railway from the Cape to Cairo would have to be executed under new conditions. All the expenses will be defrayed by the contractors of the Rhodesia Railway.

Mr. Rhodes was received by the Emperor William on Saturday afternoon, and had an audience lasting three-quarters of an hour. He had previously visited the Imperial Chancellor, the Foreign Secretary, and the British Ambassador.

During the day he was present at a sitting of the Reichstag, when a discussion arose in reference to the treatment of foreign railway undertakings in German colonies. Allusions—some not complimentary—were made to Mr. Rhodes's visit to Berlin, and the Director of the Colonial Department stated that negotiations were being carried on with the object of carrying the Central African Railway across German territory. The negotiations were not yet completed, but it was certain that the construction of the railway through German territory would only take place if German interests in Africa were guaranteed in the widest sense and in all their bearings.

Mr. Rhodes's interview with the Kaiser certainly led to a remarkable veering round of German public opinion in his favour. With the exception of the extremest Agrarian and Conservative Press, nearly all the German papers spoke well of him.

The Emperor William and the Empress were present at a dinner given in honour of Mr. Cecil Rhodes, at the British Embassy at Berlin, on Tuesday night, the 14th March—a certain proof that His Majesty was extremely satisfied with the audience which he granted to Mr. Rhodes on Saturday. "I hear, said a Standard correspondent, from an excellent authority that His Majesty has for many years past held a very high opinion of Mr. Rhodes, and even before his visit here characterised him as being "the kind of man of whom Germany is in need."

On March 15 the Times correspondent telegraphed:

The present state of the negotiations now being conducted by Mr. Rhodes is as follows: An agreement has been arrived at regarding the construction of a section of the Cape-to-Cairo telegraph line across German East Africa. There are still difficulties of detail to be overcome in connection with the railway scheme; but in authoritative quarters not the slightest doubt is entertained that satisfactory arrangements will eventually be made. It is desired on both sides that the definitive agreement for carrying through Mr. Rhodes's Central Railway scheme should simultaneously secure the construction of the line which has been projected to connect the coast of German East Africa with the region of the Central Lakes. The report that negotiations are being conducted between the German Government and Mr. Rhodes regarding a railway from Walfisch Bay to Swakopmund and thence to Buluwayo is unfounded. The only parties which could negotiate with the German Government about such a scheme would be the existing South-West African companies.

These favourable prospects will not be marred by the circumstance that the "Berliner Neueste" "Nachrichten", reputed to be the organ of Dr. von Miquel, has resumed its special service of telegraphic news from Pretoria, and through this medium endeavours to discredit Mr. Rhodes's enterprise. It will not damage the cause of Mr. Rhodes, but rather the reverse, if organs of the Transvaal Government attempt to agitate here against a friendly adjustment of British and German interests in Central Africa.

The three countries most interested in the export trade to Africa are England, the United States, which, however, have no colony there, and Germany. British exports increased from £15,700,000 in 1894 to £22,22,200,000, in 1897; whereas Germany's totals are 38,100,000 marks and 60,900,000 marks. American exports have trebled during the same period, namely from 4,400,000 to 13,200,000,dols. Egypt, the Cape and Natal, and British West Africa are the principal African countries to which the abovementioned exports go.

A REWARD of Rs.200 was offered for the recovery of the body of Colonel Shirres, and it has been found floating in the river by a Lepcha woman and is being brought up for an inquest and burial with military honours; the body was found ten miles from where the accident had occurred.

THE *Times of India* learns that the German cruiser Arcona unexpectedly arrived in the Persian Gulf a few days ago, and went to Muscat and Bushire and it is understood that she would also visit Bussorah if there was sufficient water to cross the bar. Koweit is also mentioned as a possible port of call. The sudden appearance of the Arocona has caused great surprise in the Gulf, as it has transpired that she had been specially sent from China.

A Bombay correspondent of the *I. D. News* wires:—A dispute of somewhat serious nature has arisen between the P. and O. S. N. Company and some of its Engineers, which threatens to develop into something like a strike. A party of Engineers arrived by the last mail as passengers to join the s. s. Peshawar, trading between Bombay and the East, but owing to a dispute having arisen as to the rate of pay the Engineers are entitled to, the men refused to join the ship, and the Company, on the other hand, threatened to invoke the power of law if there is any breach of alleged contract. The circumstances according to the Engineers, are that they accepted a certain rate of pay at home, lower than that previously given under the impression that that rate had been agreed to by the men already on for the Far East run. On arriving in Bombay, they discovered that the rate had been refused, and, consequently, under the circumstances they declied to establish the precedent by accepting the terms. The Company demand that the Engineers shall fulfil the contract, to the very letter, and, in consequence of failure, threaten to prosecute the men. A meeting of Engineers has taken place, and in case the Company resort to these measures, the whole of the Engineers, below the grade of first and second, have intimated that they will support their comrades, and refuse to wor

THEORY OF THE FLAMING SWORD.

"AH, talk of blessings! What a blessing is digestion! To digest. Do you know what it means? It is to have the sun always shining and the shade always ready for you. It is to be met by smiles and greeted with kisses. It is to hear sweet sounds, to sleep with pleasant dreams, to be touched ever by gentle, soft, cool hands. It is to be in Paradise.

"There came a great indigestion upon the earth and it was called a deluge. All the evil comes from this. Macbeth could not sleep; it was the supper, not the murder. His wife talked and talked; it was the supper again. Milton had a bad digestion and Carlyle must have had the worst digestion in the world. Ah! to digest is to be happy!"

There!—how does that strike you for a burst of eloquence? I quite from Trollope. If there is anything wrong about the theolgy you must hold him responsible. As for its physiology and pathology (pardon all these "ologies") I can answer for the correctness of these two. And so can millions of people besides me. They speak of the curse of indigestion continually in every language; they groan and writhe under it in every land and climate.

"For many years" says one of this innumerable army of martyrs, "I was obliged to bear as best I could the torments of indigestion. My appetite was practically destroyed. I ate, of course, because one must eat or die! but after meals I had great pain at the chest and around the sides. Sleep almost forsook my pillow and naturally I was tired and exhausted. Sometimes better and then worse, but never free from pain and illness, I lived on with little or no hope af getting well. It is hardly necessary to say that I had medical treatment, yet no real benefit resulted from it. Happily at this time Mother Seigel's Syrup was brought to my notice and so strongly commended that I laid aside other medicines, which were doing me no good, and began using this one only.

"In a short time I realised a great improvement; food agreed with me and I gained strength. A little later—continuing to take the Syrup regularly as directed—the pains at the stomach, sides and chest wholly ceased, and I have not felt them since. My indigestion was cured at last, and I enjoyed the blessing of health. My son, who suffered severely from rheumatism, has been relieved by Mother Seigel's Syrup as by nothing else he ever tried. In gratitude I give you full permission to publish my letter should you desire." (Signed)(Mrs) Ann Barker, Field Lone. Braughing, Ware, Herts. Oct. 7th 1898.

It was a fortunate circumstance for Mrs. Sarah Gell, of Melchbourne, Bedfordshire, that one dae she had a personal talk with Mr. Smith, the butchry at Rushden. He told the lady that in his opinion if she went on suffering from indigestion and asthma one of its consequence) it would be because she neglected to use Mother Seigel's Syrup. "And", said Mr. Smith, "I speak from knowledge." She hay been ill with this abominable ailment for mand years, and had spent time aud money in unavailing efforts to obtain relief.

Acting on Mr. Smith's advice Mrs. Gell began using this remedy at once, end tells the outcome in a letter of which we have room for the conclusion only:—

"I was better almost immediately, and was soon as well and healthy as one could wish to be. Now I keep 'Mother Seigel' in the house and it never fails to help us when needed for any passing complaints. (Signed) Sarah Gell, Oct. 5th 1898.

Judging from the force of his comment on the disease, I should say Mr. Trollope knew something about indigestion from experience. Most literary people do. To them, and to all other victim, I confidently commend the best remedy yet found—Mother Seigel's Syrup.

THE VICEROY'S REPLY.

THE Viceroy's replying to the Municipal address, read by Colonel Grey, said:—

Mr. President, and members of the Simla Municipal Corporation,—It gives me much pleasure to accept your kindly assurances of welcome upon my arrival at Simla. The relations between a Viceroy and the people of this place, where it has become a practice for him to spend considerably more time than in any other spot during his stay in India, must necessarily be of a very intimate character. In the case of each of my predecessors without exception, since Simla became the summer head-quarters of the Government, they further have been marked by a cordiality which no effort on my part will be spared, although I am convinced that an effort will be unnecessary to maintain on the same high level the mutual concord and esteem. Simla is in a peculiar sense not merely the official residence of a Viceroy during the hot weather, but his country home. For here he divests himself, if not of the cares of his office, that is, I fear, never possible in India, at least of some trappings of state, and amid your beautiful mountains he may almost succeed in mistaking himself for an Anglo-Indian Horace, retiring from the noise and smoke of Rome to the peace of Tibustine Hills. But there is one criticism nor uncommonly passed upon the summer migration to the Simla the Viceroy and the Government of India, which I should like to meet. It is sometimes supposed that after three or four months' more or less serious official labour in Calcutta they stampede at the first touch of the sun to Simla and that there like the Weary Mariners in the Lotos Eaters, they "on the hills like gods together, careless of mankind, live and lie reclined.' In other words, Simla is spoken of as though it were a holiday resort, or an Indian equivalent to Marine Villa or a suburban retreat of an epicurean Viceroy and a pampered Government. I can assure you that, that it is from no such point of view I regard it. At Calcutta during the winter months there are so many calls upon the Viceroy's time, arising both from the Session of the Legislative Council and from the visits of Native Princes and important personages, from a large number of persons whom he is anxious to see or who have a claim to see him, from the ordinary stress of office work, and from heavy, though agreeable social obligations that are inevitable in the crowded capital of the Indian Empire, that he has barely time to get through the work of each day as it comes round, and never has time to think. Were this strain, which is constantly increasing, to be borne without intermission during the summer months in the low-lying Delta of Bengal, I do not hesitate to say that no Viceroy in the world—and Viceroys are not, as a rule, drawn from a class already acclimatised in this country—could withstand it, or do justice to his work. It is in order that he may have time to think, time to enquire exhaustively into many questions calling for a solution, time to mature a policy and programme for the forthcoming year, that he comes up to Simla to find here a larger leisure which is denied to him either at Calcutta or when on tour, and an atmosphere which is more conducive than that of the plains, both to mental and physical energy. Simla is in fact a workshop in which during the summer months are fashioned materials for the fabric, be it well constructed, or badly constructed, of each Viceroy's Indian Administration. If it be objected that, while these considerations are valid enough in their application to him, they are less valid a relation to the large subordinate staffs of Departments who twice yearly are called upon to perform the same migration. I would reply, so far as I am at present competent to form an opinion, that the head of an administration, if he is to be head in anything but name, must have officers and staff of the various departments in close proximity of himself, so that they may be immediate instruments of the policy of Government. In former times when telegraph and railroad were in their infancy in India, most serious dislocation of business, as well as interminable delays, were caused by long absences of the Governor-General on tour, leaving his colleagues behind him. Although tours are most instructive and important, and in my opinion an absolutely essential part of the Viceroy's yearly routine, and although the previously existing drawbacks have been immensely reduced by the two scientific agencies which I have named, yet I take leave to doubt whether the work of Government can be as effectively conducted, while the Viceroy is separated from his Counsellors and Agents, as when united; and I am convinced that it is only while the full machinery is at his disposal, as it would not be if he were at Simla while the departments are at Calcutta, or *vice versa*, that power is capable of being generated which is to result in a vigilant and effective administration. These are grounds of which, while I do not say that, were I presented with a clean slate, I should myself write upon it even the comely name of Simla over a half year, yet I come here without any sting of conscience and with most pleasurable anticipations, being confident that Simla will give my colleagues and myself an opportunity and strength better to discharge the duty of that great trust which has been laid upon our shoulders.

As regards the questions of the municipal administration to which you called my attention, I realise that the Supreme Government has a very close personal concern in the sanitation and water-supply of the town. You may rely upon receiving from Lady Curzon and myself the same sympathetic interest in your local institutions, charities, and needs, that was so uniformly displayed by our predecessors.

PICKING UP DIAMONDS.

THIRTY years ago a South African ostrich-hunter, named O'Reilly sought shelter one winter's evening at a solitary farmhouse near the banks of the Orange River. As he entered he overheard a dispute between the children, which was being settled by their mother. While playing on the banks of the river close by, he had picked up some pretty pebbles, and it was he possession of one of these which gave rise to the quarrel. It shone and sparkled by candle-light, and was so unlike any other stone they had ever seen, that the mother made an arrangement with O'Reilly that she should try to sell it at Graham's Town, and then share the profits with her. The stone proved to be a magnificent diamond, of 211-4 carats, which O'Reilly sold for £500. On the site of this farmhouse now stands the prosperous little town felicitously named Hopetown. A few months later a Hottentot came wandering towards the same place with a brilliant stone, which he offered for sale to a certain Boer, who gave him what he asked for it—£200 in money and £200 worth of goods. Next day the astute Dutch farmer parted with his bargain for £12,000 in gold, bought a larger piece of land and troubled himself about diamonds no more. This diamond was the famous 83-carat "Star of South Africa," and is now known as the "Dudley," as it afterwards became the property of the Countess of Dudley. It is now worth about £50,000.—*English Illustrated.*

NEWS from the Kolar gold fields states that the Kempikote mine has been shut down for want of capital. This is a pity, as a good lode was struck lately in prospect pit No.4, in which, according to experts, the rich Champion lode may yet be found. With such prospects before them, it is expected to hear of reconstruction soon. The reconstruction of the Mysore Reefs is also inevitable as the present capital will last only until June next. Cyanide work at Coromandel mine will soon be closed as the stuff is too poor to be treated upon.

Correspondence.

PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—The announcement of plague causes social disruption; so, it is said, to be sought to be kept concealed when it appears. Thus, last year, its appearance was denied. Even this year medical men have come forward to pronounce an emphatical denial as to its appearance. It is, however, impossible, with the numerous cases of plague before us, to deny its appearance in our midst. There is now no shadow of doubt that we are in the midst of a serious visitation. I have been practising in various districts of Bengal since 1882. I have seen types of fever that were very rapid in their attack and fatal in their nature. In some cases death having taken place within 36 hours of attack, though the patient was in perfect health in the beginning. At Rangpur I saw malarial fever cases with glandular swellings. Still they were not so fatal in result as such cases in Calcutta at present are. Fever is sometimes accompanied by bubo, but that is not contagious. Your readers are aware of the case of a man carrying poison to Faridpur. A Kabiraj who felt the pulse caught the disease and all the symptoms developed in him. He died, as also those who nursed him. In short, the case was so virulent that all those who came in contact with the patient succumbed rapidly, one after the other. My practice is not extensive in Calcutta. Indeed, it is almost nothing. But actuated by a sense of duty I never let slip an opportunity to observe the course of disease in a patient. Last year I saw some cases of genuine plague in Manicktolla and the Medical College Hospital. This year we can see them in every part of the town. I have seen many cases of the bubonic type, i. e. having a distinct enlargement of the sympathetic glands of cervical, femoral, inguinal and axillary regions. I have seen one case of septicaemic and two of Pneumonic type. These are not the cases of ordinary nature. All of these patients were suffering from high fever and succumbed within two, three or four days with the exception of one, who died of septicaemic plague within some 14 hours. The cases of fever with glandular swellings owing to the virus of syphilis and gonorrhoea or to the presence of filaria in the blood or to the local gland affections, caused idiopathically or traumatically, are not unknown to me. They do not generally produce these formidable symptoms; and rapid prostration does not follow. The cases, that I see this year, are very peculiar in their nature, call them by any name you please, but they strongly resemble the pestis that is depopulating the Bombay presidency. The sudden attack, extreme prostration of mind and body, excessive fever with glandular swellings, weak and dicrotic pulse, the peculiar mental hebitude, the peculiar physiognomical appearance, the bloodshot, sunken and staring eyes, unwillingness to utter a reply and the very rapid fatal termination owing to the cardiac failure are the symptoms which tend to prove that this disease does not bear any resemblance to any other disease with which we are familiar, but is that which has been raging in Bombay. Of course, it may not run in an epidemic form here if it does not get any favorable *nidus* to flourish in. Plague does not mean any disease of an epidemic character, but it is a specific disease having a stormy and steady tendency to spread far and wide. Just like cholera and small-pox it may run epidemically or may pass away sporadically. The spread of this disease depends much upon the local conditions and modes of living of the inhabitants of any locality. I am no believer in the *de novo* origin of the disease. I have a mind to discuss this matter in a future issue with facts and figures. It has now been a duty of great importance for every medical man to suggest means for the protection of our community from the fatal ravages of this dreadful disease. To deny its existence or to ignore its advent is something like criminal.

RASIK MOHAN CHAKRAVARTI.

INTERESTING ITEM.

THE FASCINATION OF ANIMALS.

COMMENTING on the instance of apparent fascination in a peacock stalked by a leopard in the *Spectator* of February 18th, a correspondent says: "About five miles from port Elezabeth, Natal, when out shooting, I saw an instance of the complete paralysis of a bird by a snake: and though the word fascination commonly used for his kind of effect without contact is perhaps wrongly employed, the case was a good example of what is usually meant by the term. Our attention was first attracted by something moving on the branch of a tree, about ten feet above the ground. We then was it was a Cape cobra of the deadly kind standing erect, with only the lowest coils of its tail round the branch, with its hood expanded and swaying from side to side. On going nearer we saw, what we had not noticed before, a pigeon sitting on the branch, about a yard from the snake. It was perfectly motionless, not crouched on the bough but standing up, and made not the slightest attempt to fly away. We shot the snake, but neither the fall of the creature nor the report seemed to 'unfreeze' the pigeon, at first. Then it did not fly, but slowly walked along the bough into the centre of the true, where I suppose it remained until it had recovered from the shock to its nerves."

THE Bombay Telegram dated 5th instant states:—To-day Mr. Donald Greenhalgh laid an information against the *Indian Sporting Times*. The information stated: In the issue of the paper of the 2nd there appeared a paragraph in which it is stated that I was warned off the Turf by the Calcutta Turf Club on account of it having been alleged that I had deliberately stopped Mulberry when riding him in the Eclipse Stakes. The allegation in absolutely false and defamatory. As a matter of fact it was never alleged that I had stopped Mulberry when riding him in the Eclipse Stakes. At a subsequent race a question was raised as to whether my riding was satisfactory. The matter was investigated by the Calcutta Turf Club, and I was advised to be more careful in future. So far from being warned off, afterwards I rede the same pony at Lucknow, where I won the Civil Service Cup and other races on him at Meerut, and won the St. Leger on him as well. All these races were run under the auspices of the Calcutta Turf Club." The defendants offered to apologise in the next issue of the paper, but Mr. Greenhalgh demanded an immediate apology, and process was granted.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

A STORM IN A TEA-CUP

(*Mahratta.*)

IT is said that when a volcano erupts the main shock is followed by a series of smaller vibrations. The panic caused by the Jubilee murders in Poona was the biggest sensation that ever occurred during the last 20 years, and it is but natural that it should be followed up by ripples of sensation of smaller dimension until the whole momentum be spent up. When passions subside and the usual calm is restored, sober people will of course know what value to attach to these periodical eruptions of temper; for the time we have to note them down as they come in succession. The arrest of Balkrishna in December last promised a good pabulum to those who care for sensational trials in law Courts, and the murders of Dravids threatened the Deccan with a fresh panic which was, however, happily prevented by the prompt confessions and arrests of the actual murderers. The enemies of Poona were thus somewhat disappointed in their expectations, and the Anglo-Indian dailies in Bombay had to content themselves with a picking a few words here and there out of an article which appeared in our issue after the convictions of Vasu lev and Ranade. The *Rast Goftar*, a Parsee paper in Bombay, wishing to outshine its Guru the *Times of India*, started a very serious (!) discussion as to whether Chapekar and Ranade were murderers or martyrs, and as a matter of course had several flings at us in passing. As we know the worth of the *Rast* we did not care to notice its lucubrations at the time. Some of your contemporaries, however, do not seem to have been equally tolerant or judicious, and a local Marathi paper, named *Kal* deemed it necessary to take up the challenge as if it was an important controversy and to put before the public what it may have thought to be the other side of the question. We yet fail to understand what public interests did the writer in the *Kal* mean to serve by writing with an unbalanced head on such ticklish subjects in such a solemn fashion; but we never dreamt at the time that his elaborate philosophy would be taken so seriously by any body with a grain of common sense. We for one rather took the article as a proof how excitable people are apt to be driven to the other extreme simply by intemperate writings appearing in anti-native papers. If a moral was to be drawn at all it was that journalists no less than officials presuming to preach duty to moderate educated natives ought to be more cautious and moderate in their uterances. Some of our friends, however, have lost the point altogether and the more thin-skined amongst them appear to have been altogether terrified out of their wits. The article in the *Kal* supplied good food to those who were longing for a sensation, and they at once raised a cry of fire. It cannot be denied, that there are "competent Mahratta scholars" amongst us who would do any service for anybody, and it appears one of them took the trouble of translating the whole of the article in *Kal*, and supplying copies to several papers in Bombny. The identity and motives of one of these "competent Maharatta scholars" are of course a mystery to us to-day as those of "Justice" who attained undue notoriety two years ago; nor can we judge of his competency in Marathi or the accuracy of his translation. If, however, he belongs to the same gang as "Justice" or if he possesses the same amount of knowledge of Marathi as was exhibited on the prosecution side in the Tilak trial, it is possible he may have misled the *Champion* and the *Times of India*. It is of course useless as also profitless to make any guess as to persons who like to work underground. None of the persons that are really known for their scholarship is, we think, likely to stoop so low. Dr. Bhandarkar, for instance, has a worldwide reputation for Sanskrit Scholarship and if he had studied Marathi with equal care he might be taken as an authority on Marathi. In fact there were strong rumours two years ago of his being selected to give evidence as an expert in the Tilak trial if Mr. Justice Strachey had chosen; but we are sure he was then as he must be now too much engrossed in antiquities to care for present politics. Of course Government constantly asks his confidential advice on delicate matters, and as a loyal citizen and pensioned official he is bound to give it. Then there is another Maratha scholar, Rao Saheb V. K. Oke, another pensioned Government servant who also has got too much of solid literary labours always on hand to mind newspaper writings. A third well-known scolar is Mr. R. R. Bhugwant, a teacher in a Christian College, whose views are phenomenal and whose contributions to Marathi literature range from the most abstruse philology down to the rankest abuse of Brahmins. Besides these there are several stars of lesser magnitude, who have not yet risen sufficiently high in the firmament, but we do not believe that any of them will take the trouble to oblige English papers with a translation. Who then can this Marathi scholar be? The mystery in fact is dark, and we must abandon the inquiry as fruitless and content ourselves with the thought that a scholar whose translation misleads even such a sedate journal as the *Champion* cannot be very competent.

To return to our narrative, the cry of fire was raised; and what is remarkable, even some of our friends have fallen victims to it. Of course the *Times of India* cannot let such a golden opportunity pass without a fling at "Tilakites," and the Bombay correspondent of the *Madras Standard* has innocently echoed the sentiments. We are no doubt surprised to find these sauls amongst the prophets, but then we must make some allowance for visions created by imagination at a distance. The *Kal* is held up for universal obloquy and the *Times of India* plainly advises Government to institute a prosecution at once. Fortunately there is no murder of Mr. Rand to create panic, and consequently there is perhaps less likelihood of this unsolicited advice being acted upon by responsible officials. What is more remarkable is that all these critics of the *Kal* conveniently ignore the statement which the writer himself has made about his original article. Whether the article was justifiable or whether the explanation is satisfactory we are not going to say as we do not consider it our duty to act the judge towards our contemporaries.

But the strangest part of the affair remains to be told. The *Champion* not content with denouncing the *Kal* itself, calls upon us, the *Kesari*, and also Mr. Tilak personally to disown the *Kal* and its graduate editor openly and even threatens rather vaguely a split in the Congress Camp if this is not done promptly. As to the threat we do not attach much importance to it for we know that if the Congress possesses any solidity, it will not be much of a loser by the defection of either a few editors or a few fair weather politicians. As to the invitation to disown the *Kal* openly although coming from persons whose friendship and sympathy for us is valued and undoubted, we must politely but firmly decline it, not because we sympathise with the sentiments of the *Kal*, but because it is an unusual and illegitimate interference with our discretion and liberty of action. It is not the duty of one journal to disown another whenever their views might differ; and it is certainly overdoing one's part to dictate what others should do. If we remember rightly, after the famous Bloomsbury meeting the Bombay Presidency Association was called upon to disavow openly the sentiments expressed by some of the speakers at the meeting; but the leaders of the Association, and it is well-known who they are, thought it then right to keep silence. We think they were wise in one sense and the *Champion* and the *Gujarathi* too had not a word to say then about the matter. Are newspapers in Poona tied together more closely than political Associations in India, and their mouthpiece the British Committee in England? Of course we fully appreciate the services which the *Champion* is rendering to our cause, and Mr. Tilak will always remain grateful to those who helped him in his difficulties, although to be plain-spoken the help of certain people was by no means as great as might have been expected. But whatever be his sense of gratitude for past services he cannot certainly consent to be led into a trap even at the bidding of friends To be actually disapproving of any sentiments is one thing, and another to have to disavow them at the behest of others. The doctrine of "silence is consent" cannot apply when the duty to speak out publicly is not legitimate, nor can we think that either our present advisers or ememies will consent to be judged by that standard at any time under similar circumstances.

Apart from this injudicious intervention of some of our over-sensitive friends, this latest episode has a genesis of its own which is instructive in several ways. It is interesting for instance to inquire when this notion of dissociation or rather *public* disavowal first originated. If rumour is correct the brilliant idea was first mooted in highest official circles, and like the Ganges flowing down from the Himalayas, it filtered down slowly and even found a colourless expression in the *Bombay Gazette* some time ago. The idea at first was that as Dravids were Brahmins and as Brahminicide is condemned by the Hindu religion as the greatest sin, the Poona Brahmins should gather in a caste meeting and openly excommunicate the murderers of the Dravids. The suggestion though somewhat Utopian does credit to the ingenuity of the head that invented it, although the same head was not perhaps aware that Brahmins who act the informers and forgers are denounced by Shastra as outcastes and beyond the pale of any explanation. The idea in its second stage took the shape that as the murders showed a very bad spirit prevailing among Poona school-boys, a movement should be openly started to denounce the present system of education in Poona schools. A proposal to that effect was seriously made to a gentleman who, however, courteously declined the task as beyond his reach. It was also pointed out that as all the boys were from Government schools, such as the Poona High School and the Science College, Government ought to take up the initiative and enforce better discipline in their own institutions and as a step towards this end it was suggested that boarding should be attached to every High School. It was just in the midst of this discussion that the article in the *Kal* appeared, and served as a good peg to those who wanted to satisfy their consciences by some sort of public condemnation, no matter of what. In the meanwhile a rumour went round here that two students in Punjabi dress visited Dr. Bhandarkar's bunglow one evening and wanted to speak with him; it is possible that Dr. Bhandarkar having recently heard about Dravid murders dreamt of Punjabi dresses and students; but another version of the story is that two official emissaries waited upon him at midnight and took him to Bombay for a very urgent and confidential consultation at the Secretariat. We do not, of course, know which of these stories is true, and perhaps both may be false, but the rumours have enhanced the sensation. We fail to understand how Dr. Bhandarkar's name came to be mixed up with such rumours, and it is certainly very cruel to bring him thus frequently into public gaze in his old age. He ought to be allowed a complete retirement from worldly concerns, or rather veritable *sanyassi* as the Hindu Shastras enjoin. Even Government ought not to trouble him with frequent consultations, however valuable his advice might be. Well, while the Poona public was just settling down from the effects of these shocks there came bolts from the blue in the shape of the anti-*Kal* fulminations in the *Champion*, the *Guzerathi*, the *Advocate*, and the *Times*; and the inspiration, they all agree in saying, came from and probably the same competent Maharatta scholar. Verily Poona is a city of mysteries. We advise our Bombay friends to be more cautious in future in placing implicit reliance upon competent Maharatta scholars or at least in being led away by their zeal beyond the absolute necessities of any case.

SECRET CODES USED BY CRIMINALS.

BY a peculiar, pre-arranged code, the street thief can convey to his confederate a signal of warning, or an invitation to aid him in some sublet scheme of confiscation. By way of example, the touching of a particular button on the coat will warn a co-adjutor in crime that a detective is watching him. An apparently innocent movement of the hat or cap is sufficient to inform an alert assistant that purse has been "pinched" (stolen), and that he is required to take possession of it until the peril of discovery is passed. A very peculiar whistle, on the lower register, not dissimilar from the trill of a throstle, is ample indication to certain thieves that the crowd they are "working" is dangerous ground, owing to the proximity of plain-clothes policemen. Another whistle of a shriller order, denotes to those interested that a "nark," or informer, is present, and that due discretion must be observed.

The shrewder section of shop-robbers and till-thieves have confederates who watch the street, and in the event of impending danger, signal to them by a clear, flute-like whistle, which often enables the thief to evade arrest.

A provincial policeman saw a light in the window of a large mansion, and suspecting burglary, pluckily resolved to effect a capture. As he approached the dwelling he heard the cry of the night-owl repeated thrice. On entering the building by an open window he found that the burglars had been and gone with a goodly share of spoil. A confederate had evidently marked his approach, and given the warning signal.

Coiners' confederates will scrupulously shun a shop where sundry symbolic signs in blue crayon appear on the door-lintel. A thief who values his liberty will ardently avoid a street or road upon whose walls are seen certain cabalistic figures in crimson chalk. They have been placed there by a friend of the fraternity, and imply that a detective or two reside in that thoroughfare.

MR. MALABARI ON LORD GAURANGA.

INDIA is pre-eminently the land of religion. And nowhere in India does the religion of the people shine with so attractive a light, as in much-abused Bengal. What is that attractive light? We think it is its combination of the human with the divine. For popular purposes it may not unfairly be described as the religion of sympathy.

The latest development of this national Bengali faith is the Gauranga Samaj, established at Calcutta last week, under the inspiration of Babu Shishir Kumar Ghose, of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* "What" our readers will ask, "can we expect a religion of sympathy from that cantankerous journalist?" Yes, you may, dear readers. It is the same carping critic of Government, the same consistent opponent of all round progress, who has now come forward with has message of love. Such is the irony of fate in human affairs. Such is the "leela" which a humorous Father wishes to see performed by his children below. He loves to confound the wisdom of the wise, as he loves to exal the folly of fools and babes. Shishir Babu, the babe of "Amrita Bazaar," wrote a life of Chaitanya in Bengali, as based upon authentic information That life was published some years back. The beauty of the narrative and the value of the research made, struck some of the competent judges of the work so much that they insisted upon the author publishing the volume in English so as to be able to appeal to a wider constituency. The result is now given to the world in the shape of two large volumes under the title, *The Lord Gauranga*. This is the Bengali appellation of Chaitanya and it means the yellow white coloured or the golden tinted.

We may confidently invite the European reader to go through these volumes. when all the crudities of expression, the quaintnesses of conception, the local Bengali idiom and colouring have been admitted, the reader's eye will yet catch glimpses of the divine in the human, which he would spiritually have been the poorer for having missed. We think Henry Drummond would have delighted to run through these pages. Because, is not the scheme of life herein disclosed based upon that "Greatest Thing in the World" of which Drummond wrote so beautifully? It is the same heart-religion which the favourite disciple of Chirst, the son of his heart, preached in his lifetime. The Bengalis, an essentially emotional race, are apt to let their emotion run i to excesses. But in these days of dull decadening intellectualism who will not sympathize with occasional excess of emotion? The religion of Love is the one great want of the world; we think it is the only saving of India, the only chance for its people, Sciences and philosophies, high learning of the East and of the West, what have these done for our people? In this religion of Love, as taught by Gauranga, there are elements of a wide-reaching spiritual upheaval. It appeals to all classes, and to both sexes. Hindus and non-Hindus, men, women and children, prince and peasant, the literate and the illiterate, the saint and the sinner, all will be gladly clasped to the warm bosom that throbs with human feeling and suffering under the shadow of divine detachment. Nor is it a new-fangled creed, started in order to glorify its founder. Its roots lie buried in the Geeta and the Upanishads. What else means the eternal talk about the self drawing nigh to and merging in the Self? It is the glory of our Aryan fathers that they were the first to discover a God of Love. And Vaishnavism, in its pristine beauty, points to perhaps the most successful search after a personal God and a God of Love. And the search seems to have been as pure and disinterested as it was successful. Unfortunately, the pollution it acquired in the course of its sojourn over soft, muddy soils, has stuck to it Will Vaishanavism ever be purified as a popular interpretation of the love of man for his Maker? Be that as it may, we have nothing but sympathy for the movement just started at Calcutta. We hope the next meeting will be a larger one, and that every believer who can follow the simple message from Nadia will be welcomed at it.—'Indian Spectator."

THE VICEROY ON TOUR.

LAHORE, APRIL 5.

THE following is the Viceroy's reply to the Khalsa Diwan:—

Your Honor and Gentlemen,—In responding to the address which was presented to me a few days ago by the Municipality of Lahore, I spoke of the Punjab as the home of a race that produces not merely men but heroes. When I used that phrase I did not know that I should have the pleasure before I left this city of meeting a representative body of the nationality to whom it obviously applied. The incident of Saragarhi to which you refer in your address is one of several that were in my mind in making the remark in question. There are many qualities required to constitute the ideal soldier—bravery, endurance, a certain aptitude of intellect, and discipline; but I am not sure that above them all I would not place that unfaltering devotion to duty and heroic disregard of self that impels a man to die at his post, as the Sikhs at Saragarhi did unmurmuring and even happy, fighting against overwhelming odds. Of this virtue the Sikh soldiers of the Army of the Queen have given many an illustration in fifty years of fighting for the British Raj since the time, now nearly forgotten, when they fought so well against us; so that the name of your race has become almost synonymous in the English language with traditions of desperate courage and unflinching loyalty. On Monday, as I walked about the new settlement of Lyallpur, upon which have been planted as colonists a number of pensioners of the native army, I was received by veterans of your race upon whose bosoms hung the Queen's medals that recorded their prowess in China, in Abyssinia, in Egypt, in Burma, and in Afghanistan—no mean synopsis of the range of action of the Sikh soldier. Long may he retain his martial character, and never may the day arise when the British Government in time of need cannot rely upon his staunch and unquestioning service. I think you know that we are neither unconscious of nor ungrateful for this long and honourable record of Sikh allegiance. If proof were needed I might refer to the monument which is about to be erected at Amritsar by the Government of India in memory of the Sikh soldiers of the 36th Regiment who gave up their lives at Saragarhi in 1897, while the popular appreciation of the heroic incident will be shown by a further memorial to be erected by public subscription at Ferozepur. These two monuments will testify to later ages at once the valour of your race and the gratitude of mine.

Nevertheless in the modern world military virtues, however per-eminent, are not the only requisites to the preservation of national existence; and you have wisely realised that if you are to hold your own with the more populous and erudite peoples among whom you are placed you must provide your families with an education comparable with theirs. I am pleased to learn that the Khalsa College, which was funded in the time of Sir James Lyall, has already attained to a high standard of excellence, and I hope that it may continue to receive the active support of the Sikh princes of the Punjab, and may turn out a number of young men who in the famous statue which like Lord Lawrence stands in this city may be competent to wield the pen at the same time that their other hands rests confidensly upon the hilt of the sword. You have quoted in your address a passage from a recent speech by myself in Calcutta concerning my desire to preserve with the utmost care and reverence in India the memroials and relics of the past, and I am naturally therefore interested in the subject of the translation of your scriptures into the English language, to which you call my attention. I regret that the translation which was undertaken nearly thirty years ago by Government has been found to be so unsatisfactory, and I rejoice to think that a more correct and scholarly version is likely before long to appear. Such a work, however, appears to me emphatically to belong to the class of undertakings that are best supported by those whose interests are principally concerned, and if the princes and nobles of your race are anxious that an accurate reproduction of the *Granth* should be available in the English tongue I cannot doubt that they will without difficulty provide the inconsiderable funds required for that purpose. In concluding my reply may I take advantage of the opportunity thus afforded to me to express my recognition of the gratifying reception that has been extended to me by all classes and creeds upon this my first visit as Viceroy to the capital of the Punjab.

Remarkable Cure of Rheumatism.

KENNA, Jackson Co., W. Va.

About three years ago my wife had an attack of rheumatism which confined her to her bed for over a month and rendered her unable to walk a step without assistance, her limbs being swollen to double their normal size. Mr. S. Maddox insisted on my using Chamberlain's Pain Balm. I purchased a fifty-cent bottle and used it according to the directions and the next morning she walked to breakfast without assistance in any manner, and she has not had a similar attack since.—A. B. PARSONS. For sale by

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DACOITIES IN THE THANA DISTRICT.

THE POLICE HIGHLY COMMENDED.

A LONG memorandum has been issued from the Judicial Department of the Bombay District on the subject of the dacoities in the Thana district. Mr. E. F. Green, District Superintendent of Police, Thana, describes the manner in which Mr. Ommaney and himself hunted down the gang under Hybatia Khadia last year.

In forwarding the District Magistrate remarked:—"The police force has had an exceedingly bad time since July last, and the manner in which they have stuck to duty amid all the discomforts which they have had to endure, is worthy of all praise. Mr. Green and Mr. Ommaney have taken as full a share as possible of all the discomforts of a rainy season in the wilds of Mokhada, where no decent shelter was, as a rule, available, where dry clothes were almost unknown, and where provisions were of the scantiest. They have, of course, been only carrying out their duty but I should be glad to know that Government contemplates allowing the extra police to be withdrawn before long. Mr. Ommaney has stated his views as to the steps which should be taken for putting a stop to the lawlessness of the Kolis. I am not acquainted with the way in which the Bhil Agency is worked, and I am distinctly of opinion that the best way of bringing the Kolis into line is to open up Mokhada and make it civilized, and this is a point on which I have touched at sufficient length in my last Administration Report."

The Commissioner of the Central Division stated:—"From the report of the Assistant Superintendent of Police it would appear that the reason for the Kolis, &c., taking to dacoity is the hard treatment they receive from the sowkars, but Government have directed that a full enquiry should be made on this subject (*vide* Government endorsement No. 7343 of 16th instant) and a report will be submitted in due course. Messrs. Green and Ommaney and the police under them have worked well under great difficulties, and the results obtained may be considered very satisfactory, although most of the dacoit leaders are still at large; but the absence of dacoities of late show they are hard pressed and cannot move about with impunity. There can be little doubt that the police were heavily handicapped in their operations by the nature of the country, which was rendered more difficult owing to the rainy season. Moreover, the reluctance of the villagers at first to give information, possibly through fear of the consequences, was another great obstacle. It is hoped, however, that the prosecutions instituted and the departmental punishments inflicted on those who failed to give information will have a salutary effect. The villagers are already evincing a disposition to co-operate more cordially with the police, and if they would only assist by giving timely information, it should not be long before all the decoits are accounted for."

REMEDIAL MEASURES.

The following paragraph from the Collector of Thana's Administration Report for 1897-98 shows the character of the Mokhada District:—"The north-east portion of the district including Mokhada, Shahapur and Wada, have this year again been infested by gangs of armed dacoits who have looted the Marwari class unmercifully and have indulged in the most unnecessary acts of brutal violence. Stopping short of murder they have in several instances cut off the lips, ears or noses of their victims and have then disappeared in the jungles. Large bodies of police (and at the time of writing a Military detachment) have been trying to hunt them down for some time past but so far without success. Knowing every inch of the country, and being assured of the assistance at the hands of the people, most of whom are Kolis like themselves, and of whom some are influenced by fear and the remainder by personal friendship, they have an enormous advantage over their pursuers, and can with ordinary luck easily escape them. Not only are the police ignorant of the country and out of favour with the peasantry, but they have to get about without roads. I would urge as strongly as possible that it is now high time that the long projected road from Mokhada to Khadala on the Wada-Shirghat road be taken in hand without any further delay. In the interests of the district I am humbly of opinion that no consideration of cost should be allowed to stand in the way of the road. At present Mokhada and villages surrounding it are accessible from the outside only for a portion of the year at least they are nominally accessible, for officers by carrying very light kit by coolies and walking over the hills by cattle tracks, clambering up and down precipitous ravines, and resting at night in native mud hovels can for a season penetrate into the neglected country, the carriage of even the smallest of tents is out of the question, while the dharamshala common to most Indian villages is to be found only in Mokhada itself, no that so long stay in the petha can be effected (? expected) from any one. In the rainy season the difficulties of travel—difficulties which I may note I have myself sampled—can scarcely be described; the rivers very often cannot be crossed for days unless the traveller is prepared to swim; nullas breast deep, must be waded, and dry clothes are impossible to obtain. Under the circumstances it is not surprising that the Mokhada petha and portions of the north of Shahapur are neglected by superior officers. Mokhada is governed more or less by a Mahalkari, whose work is not and cannot be properly supervised, and who has practically a free hand; the whole country forms an ideal field of action for the dacoit who carries on his nefarious practices secure in the knowledge that no officer can approach him without a deal of trouble, nor without given ample warning of his coming. It is certainly something of an anomally that even now within some 70 or 80 miles of the chief centre of eastern civilisation there should be found a portion of British territory the inhabitants of which are strangers even to the officers to whom their welfare is entrusted, and within which there are no made roads, no dharamshalas, practically no wells and apparently but four schools. The people inhabiting this tract might be excused for asking how their condition is any better under the British *Raj* than it was under the rule of the Pelsewa; assessment they pay and Local Fund is levied from them, but they get little in return. During the last six years the amount of Local Funds money spent in the petha is only about half of what has been levied from it. I trust that I have shown the urgent need of this new road which would open up the petha, and allowing free access to it at all seasons of the year, bring the locality into direct communication with other parts of the district. The Local Board is slowly and laboriously making a road from Chandracha Mat to Mokhada, which when finished, will, in connection with a road now being made in the Nassik District, place Mokhada on the road to Ghoti. In the Jawhar State a road is being gradually made from Jawhar to the borders of Mokhada, and will in course of time be continued to Mokhada. When all these roads are made, and in the nature of things several years must elapse before the work is finished, much will have been accomplished to secure the safety, peace, and prosperity of the petha, but it must be borne in mind that the most important part of the undertaking is the construction of the Mokhada-Khodala road—a work beyond the powers of the district Local Board."

The Public Works Department, on 1st December 1898, sanctioned for consideration, when funds are available, the plans and estimates, the latter amounting to Rs. 1,04,830, for the road from Khodala to Mokhada.

GOVERNMENT'S DECISION.

The Government have issued the following Resolution:—"The work of the Thana police, as described in these papers, during what is on the Western Ghauts the most inclement and malarious season of the year, is entitled to the highest commendation of Government. The district has been kept free of depredations by the dacoits since last, and in addition to the actual captures which the district Superintendent of police is able to report, the pressure exerted on the gangs from below the Ghauts probably contributed in no small degree to the perhaps more conspicuous successes of the police of the above ghaut districts. The District Magistrate should convey to Mr. Green and Mr. Ommanney and to the men who cheerfully responded to the calls made upon them, an expression of the high appreciation with which his Excellency the Governor in Council has perused these papers. The urgency of work on the Khodala-Mokhada road is in the opinion of his Excellency the Governor in Council demonstrated by the facts recorded in these papers, apart from considerations arising from the requirements of the ordinary administration of the. Thana District, and the Public Works Department should be requested to press on the work, plans and estimates for which have recently been sanctioned, to as early a conclusion as possible.

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SIMLA is fast filling; most of the principal officials have now arrived.

THE Members of the Plague Commission have left for England, where they will now write their report.

THE Government has recently sanctioned proposals for the expansion of the Survey Department Training School at Dehra.

LORD SANDHURST arrives at Poona from Bombay on the 9th, and stays here two days, and then proceeds to Mahableshwar.

THE Nawab of Junadagh will shortly visit Bangalore, accompanied by several nobles of his State and a large retinue. The Nawab will be the guest of the Maharaja of Mysore during his stay there, and all preparations have been made for the convenience and comfort of the visitors at Graceville on Avenue Road.

THE conference which Mr. Kish of the Indian Postal Department, had last autumn with the British Postal authorities has benefited the Indian Exchequer to extent of £17,400 a year, due to a more favourable adjustment of the cost of the Eastern mail service as between the English and Indian Post Offices.

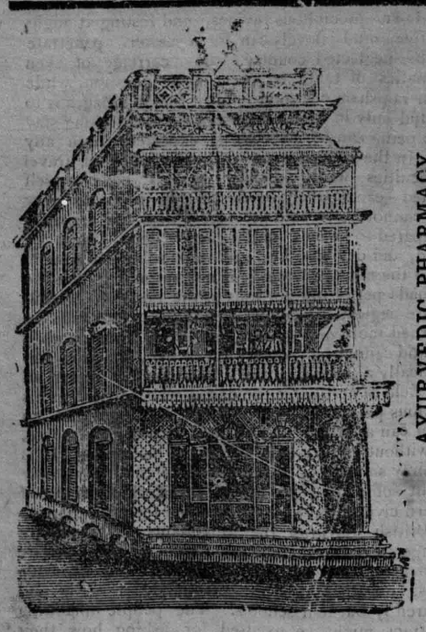
THERE has been a big drop in the output of the Mysore mines; 5,120 tons of quartz were crushed and produced 7,994 ozs 8 grs. and 4 cwts. of gold, and 1,605 tons tailings treated by the cyanide process produced 182 ozs. and 4 grs. making a total of 8,176 ozs. 12 grs. and 4 cwts. This is 3,995 and 4,852 ounces less, as compared with February and January last.

IN a land dispute which occurred a day or two ago in a village a few miles out of Delhi, one man was killed and two severely injured with sword cuts. A police enquiry was held on the spot, seven arrests being made.

SIMLA Nimrods should be bestirring themselves, as we hear that a leopard has taken up its habit at in the Glen Valley for some time past now, and has carried off several dogs from the neighbouring houses. This part of the station seems to afford very inviting shelter for these animals, as for several years now they have been making their presence felt in the locality.

THE friction caused between the P. and O. Company and their Engineers at Bombay was practically set at rest on Thursday. The determination of the whole body of the men to stick to their comrades, who decline to accept the terms offered by the Company, has resulted in a decision by the latter not to press the matter, but to allow the men to return home on Saturday. This leaves the question of rate of pay for service in the East unsettled.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta



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It diminishes the secretion of mucus in the bronchial tubes and lessens the irritation of the respiratory centre. It increases longevity and renders the organs strong. It sharpens the memory and intelligence and gives vitality to the old and debilitated tissues. It restores the body to beauty and the bloom of early youth and supplies physical strength and power or endurance to it. It stimulates the appetite and induces activity in the flow of the secretions. It is of great service to the young, old, and the weak. It is infinitely better than Codliver Oil. For proving its superiority to Codliver Oil, one need only use it for a short while. The tradition is that it was with this medicine that the Aswins, the celestial physicians, restored the Rishi Chyavana, emaciated and weak with age and penances, to the bloom and beauty of youth.

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Assamimusks ... ... Rs. 40 per tolah.
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Chavanaprasha.—*(The best of the Ayurvedic rasayanas.)* It is stated in Ayurveda that the very old saint Chavana had the revival of youth by the use of this medicine. Hence it is called "Chavanaprasha." Many of the Indians are aware of the name of this *rasayana.* No other medicine has yet been invented so nice as the Chavanaprasha, which can be used both in good health and during illness. This medicine, if continued regularly, also completely cures cough, consumption, asthma, pthisis, natural weakness, nervous debility and other troublesome diseases, It is a marvallous remedy for diseases of the lungs, heart, liver, impurity of blood and weak constitution. Besides these, the descriptions and effects of these medicine, as proudly related by the *rishis* (old clever physicians,) have all been proved to be true after long trials. Price Rs, 4 for a phial for a month's use, packing two annas. V. P. fee two annas, and postage in addition to be paid ocally.

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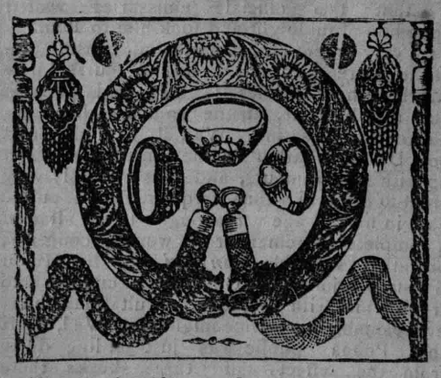

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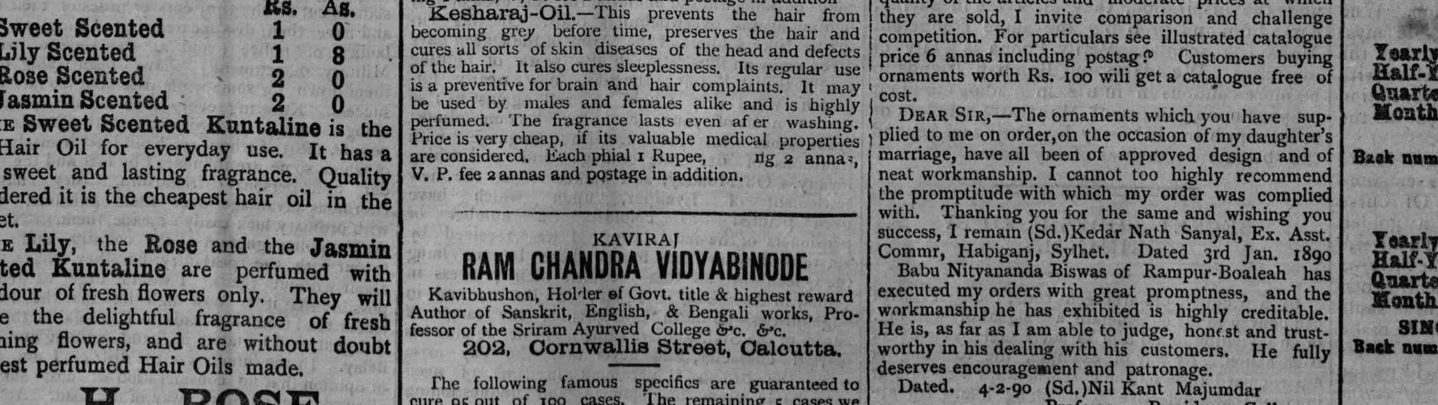

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