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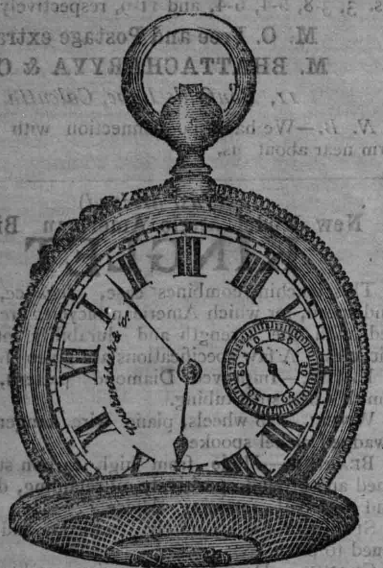
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MESSAGE FROM AN UNKNOWN

WORLD.

WE copy the following account of the strange phenomena which took place at the funeral of little Norris Gray at El Paso, from the Times of that city, forwarded to this office by R. H. Kneeshaw:—

Of late years Spiritualistic views have attracted much attention, for the idea of communicating with the departed is naturally attractive, even to the merely curious, and there are many who like to think that all unusual or unaccountable phenomena are caused by communications from the unseen world. Especially is the study of Spiritualism interesting to those who mourn the loss of departed friends, and the hope is often cherished that singular noises and miraculous events are the beginning of a new revelation. However be this as it may, strange things are happening almost every day, and one of the strangest and most mysterious incidents took place in this city a short time ago.

It was at the funeral over the remains of little Norris Gray last Sunday afternoon at the Gray home. The house was full of mourning friends. The Rev. Mr. Lumpkins was on his knees engaged in prayer. Mr. Thomas Gray was bending over the coffin of her departed child. Then when all were silently listening to the preacher's prayer, there came suddenly ringing on the air a rumbling, ghostly noise which vibrated among the rafters and then died away.

The preacher proceeded with the services, but again and yet again the unearthly noise it sounded was heard. According to the account of some, sharp as a clap of thunder, and still like the crashing, ripping sound of a doomed ship which is dashed to pieces against the rocks. Many fled in terror from the building but others remained, and the reverend gentleman suspended his prayer and warned all to retire for fear that the building was about to fall. This was regarded as probably owing to the large number that had crowded into the room.

The rest of the people then went outside, and the service was finished at the grave. Some who were in the house differ as to the loudness of the sounds, but all agree to their singular nature and state they could be distinctly heard. A number of those present maintain that the sharp, cracking noise, which seemed to come from the roof of the building, was caused by the shrinking or settling of the materials of the ceiling of the house. Others simply state it was the most singular phenomenon they ever witnessed, and do not pretend to offer any explanation. However, others do not hesitate to declare that the noises were caused by some unseen power and cannot be explained away by saying that they were the result of material causes.

Singular as it may appear, a thorough examination of the building by competent and disinterested persons seems to tend to substantiate the latter theory. Not a break can be discovered in the ceiling. It is as perfect and compact as the day it was constructed. Every joist is in its place, every board is where it was originally nailed. There is not the slightest sign of any strain or any indication that any of the material has been tested beyond its strength. It is a substantial one story abode dwelling built on a deep rock foundation. The house is No. 603 Stanton street, near the corner of 4th, and was constructed by the present owner, Thomas Gray, who likewise owns several houses in the vicinity.

When seen regarding the singular occurrence, Mr. Gray said: "If the strength of the building had been overtaken it would have been the floor and not the roof that would have given way. That is a self-evident fact. I superintended the building of this house, and it was constructed to stay. It is just as solid to-day as the day it was completed. All those who have examined the building since the occurrence Sunday afternoon will verify this statement. Again, any mason or contractor will tell you that the ceiling could not have settled without cracking the plaster of leaving other signs behind. You can see for yourself that there is nothing wrong with the roof. We have heard the noises twice, since the day of the funeral, but the sounds were fainter and farther away. I can not account for them as being brought about by any material agency.

Mrs. Gray warmly endorses her husband's opinion, and seems to learn toward a spiritualistic view of the matter, taking comfort in the thought that the sounds she heard was a message from above telling her that her little boy was not far away.

Such are the facts as gathered from those who were present at the funeral, and these facts are corroborated by responsible parties. In spite of our inclination to explain all material phenomena by natural causes, nevertheless it must be admitted that in the past ages strange sights have been seen and strange noises heard which have never been explained even to the present day.—Dawning Light.

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THE RAILWAY ASSAULT CASE.

[FROM THE PIONEER'S OWN CORRESPONDENT.

SAHARANPUR, 17th June.

THE full text of the judgment of the Sessions Court in the above case will be too long to reproduce; but we extract below some of the most important portions from it:—After recapitulating the facts of the case and summarising the evidence for the Crown, Mr. Leggat, C. S., went on to say:—I think it will be convenient at this stage to consider the worth of the case for the defence. The alibi evidence is of the most common-place sort, and is worth nothing in the face of the strong evidence for the prosecution. It is quite possible, for instance, that everything in that evidence may be true excepting the date; but it would be practically impossible to discover its real falsity by cross-examination. In regard to Gayub, I do not think there is anything in the insinuation of the accused. Gayub was undoubtedly arrested on suspicion in this case. But there was apparently nothing more to go on in regard to him than his suspiciously timid behaviour when he saw the Deputy-Inspector of Police at Deoband on the 10th March in the bazar. . . . He was taken to Delhi for identification, but Miss Ally failed to identify him, and as the evidence against him otherwise was not, he was very properly let go. As to the alleged cause of enmity between Gayub and the accused, there is no evidence of accused's relationship to Nur Ahmad—a distant one at most—and even if he is a relation of the man who had had Gayub arrested for budmashi (a fact of which there is no proper proof) it is not easy to see why Gayub should have hit particularly on accused instead of striking at some one nearer. One strong indication that Gayub could not have been the man is the fact that the Gayub (who was produced in Court) is an extremely fair man, while in her report Miss Ally described her molester as being a man of black complexion (a description which fits the accused). There is some evidence that Gayub is related to Niaz Ahmad who is related to Karim Buksh, a dafadar in the Railway Police—a fact which might possibly have assisted in his release, but I see no positive reason for believing that Gayub was the man, while the indications are that the man was not Gayub.

There were three witnesses examined for the defence, including one of the two men named in the calendar. The remaining calendar witness was not called by the defence. Their evidence, it seems to me, is very weak, and would be quite unequal to any good positive evidence against accused. We are left therefore to a consideration of the evidence for the prosecution as it stands. Taking that evidence as a whole I think it is genuine and good. In the first place I put very strong reliance on the identification of accused by Miss Ally. She had an excellent opportunity of seeing the features of the man. There was a bright gas-light in the intermediate compartment where she was bright enough, as I have personally observed, to light up a face most distinctly

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JUNE, 25 1899.

THE NORTON CASE.

THE fact need not be concealed that the granting of the rule in the Norton assault case has taken the public greatly by surprise. Here are the terms of the rule:—

Notice to the accused to show cause why the order of the Magistrate under section 562 in respect of accused No. 1 and the sentence of a fine of Rs. 50 on accused No. 2 should not be set aside, and such other sentence passed as to this Court may seem fit and proper. We further direct that the Magistrate do cause the accused persons to appear before him and take sufficient security for their appearance before him whenever called upon to receive the order of this Court.

We shall briefly state the facts of the case. Mr. Norton complained before the Police Court against Prince Jani Mirza, a lad of 14, and a hide-merchant, Mahomed Raza, that the former had whipped not only him but Mrs. Norton also, and that the latter, Raza, had also applied his whip upon his person several times. During the trial, the prosecution and the defence gave two different versions altogether. The former, that is Mr. Norton, tried to throw the entire blame upon the young prince and his companion, Mahomed Raza, while the defence witnesses said that the provocation came from Mr. Norton who had called the Prince "soor" and was the first to approach the Prince by bearing down upon his trap in an angry mood, with the result that a collision occurred between the two traps. The Presidency Magistrate, after dealing with the facts of the case, delivered the following judgment. His worship said:—

That the way in which Mr. Norton called out to the accused to move out of the way was discourteous, Mr. Norton should have waited his opportunity to pass. As regarded the first accused, the Magistrate thought there was not the slightest doubt that he not only struck at Mr. Norton's horse, but also at Mr. Norton. He could not believe for a moment, however, that the young Prince, who was a gentleman of position, could be so ungovernably as to have struck Mrs. Norton intentionally. What his Worship believed was that the Prince did strike Mr. Norton and that one of the blows struck Mrs. Norton. The Prince, who was a boy of fourteen years only, was frightened. The Magistrate thought that, though the Prince was a boy of position, he must restrain himself in the streets and not use a whip in the way he did. Having regard to the nature of the assault, which at the most was a very trivial one, and having regard to the Prince's age and his position in life, his Worship thought it would be sufficient to warn him against a recurrence of an offence of this nature. Taking into consideration also the fact that the Prince had apologised in Court to both Mr. and Mrs. Norton for what he had done, the Magistrate thought he should deal with him under section 562, to appear when called upon for judgment, and also bind him down for the sum of Rs. 100 to keep the peace for one year. As regarded the second accused, the case was different. He was a full-grown man, a broker in hides, and should have known what he was about. In his Worship's opinion, Mr. Norton was assaulted by the accused seven or eight times. There was no doubt that Mr. Norton was assaulted, for the doctor had spoken to the marks on his body. His Worship was of opinion that the plea of the right of private defence failed, and he accordingly convicted the second accused under sec. 352 of the Penal Code, and fined him Rs. 50.

Now, the case being a trivial one, it should have stopped there. But Mr. Norton was not satisfied and he moved the High Court for a rule upon the Presidency Magistrate, asking why the punishment inflicted upon the two accused should not be enhanced. A long discussion took place between Mr. Dunne, who appeared on behalf of Mr. Norton, and Justices Prinsep and Hill, as to whether their Lordships could grant such a rule on the motion of private parties. That question was not decided; but their Lordships admitted that the High Court had never before granted such a rule, except at the instance of the Government. Indeed, the law, we believe, is clear on the point that no private party has the right to move the High Court under the above circumstances.

Mr. Justice Prinsep, however, thought that the High Court had full authority to act as a Court of revision, and enhance the sentence when it was grossly inadequate; and, apparently, the rule was issued under the revisional powers possessed by their Lordships. But where was the necessity of using these powers on the present occasion? And why was the time-honoured practice of the Court deviated from and a precedent established which would throw another great obstacle in the way of the accused extricating himself from the meshes of the law?

Just fancy the situation. There is now no safety for a man when he has been acquitted by a competent court of law. For, the Government possesses the right of appeal against acquittals. Nowhere in the world does such a barbarous practice prevail. Then again, in all civilized countries, appellate courts are for the setting aside or the reduction of sentences passed by lower courts. But, here, if a prisoner goes up to an appellate court for redress, he runs the risk of his punishment being augmented by the High Court. Similarly, on the motion of the Government, the High Court can also enhance the sentence passed by the lower court. And, in addition to all this, if the High Court, of its own motion, or at the motion of European complainants, were to grant rules and ask acquitted or lightly-punished natives to show cause why they should not be more severely dealt with, then verily would the criminal administration of the country continue to stink in the nostrils of the people of this country.

We do not enter into the merits of the case between Mr. Norton and the young prince; but, we think, we have a right to complain against the grave principle which is involved in the precedent established for the first time by their Lordships of the present Criminal Bench. We also submit that, as the case is between a European and two Indians, their Lordships' action is liable to be misconstrued in many quarters.

JAIL ADMINISTRATION IN BENGAL AND AMERICA.

We give a prominent insertion to the following letter sent to us by an esteemed correspondent:

Please read paragraph 14 of the Bengal Government Resolution on the Jail Administration Report for 1898, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 7th June. It is really surprising to find that the Government should, so late in the day, be compelled to remind the jail authorities that "imprisonment means incarceration" and that "intention of the Magistrates, when they sentence a man to hard labour, is that he shall be put to some really toilsome tasks, the memory of which will be by no means attractive to him the next time he feels tempted to crime." The whole paragraph is really interesting reading. If these words of advice of the Government are taken up in right earnest by zealous jail officials, what would be the effect you think?

Paragraph 14, referred to in the letter, is reproduced in another column. Some of the sentiments of the Lieutenant-Governor, who is universally known as an extremely kind-hearted man, have really filled us with great pain and surprise. His Honor says that the object of sending prisoners to jail is to incarcerate them, that is to say, to make them work hard and punish them when they break the jail rules. We beg to differ from His Honor in this view. It is quite true that criminals should suffer punishment for their crimes, but the object of their incarceration should be reformation and not to make them feel that they are not human beings but wild beasts whose lot is only hard work and severe punishment. Criminals they are no doubt; but they are also God's creatures; and they should be treated like fallen human beings, with Christian piety and sympathy, and not with the rigour that is necessary to tame a wild animal.

The system which Sir John Woodburn recommends was thoroughly experimented in Bengal and given up in disgust. It was Sir George Campbell who, under a mistaken notion, first inaugurated the inhuman policy of thoroughly "disciplining" the prisoners. A new Jail Code was framed by him and the number of Jail offences enormously increased. The Code bristled with rules and by-laws, most of which were framed by, or at the suggestion of, jail officials who were to lord it over the prisoners. This "reform" as Sir George called it,—the enforcement of rigorous discipline in our jails,—continued to be vigorously carried out till the system showed its worst results during the time of Sir Ashley Eden. The prisoners were "put to some really toilsome tasks." They failed to perform them and were punished for short work. The result was a frightful increase in the death-rate. The matter attracted the notice of Parliament; and the Government of India continued to pass severe remarks, year after year, upon the jail administration of the province. At last the Indian Relief Society, in conjunction with the Howard Association, brought the terrible state of our jails to the notice of the Secretary of State for India, who was pleased to appoint a Jail Committee and the present system was introduced, which has worked so well as to bring down jail mortality to almost its normal figure.

We implore Sir John Woodburn not to deviate from the present system and return to the old order of things. The Bengalees, specially the lower classes to which criminals mostly belong, are, generally speaking, so weak physically that they can hardly stand the severe discipline in our jails. Most of them are again malaria-stricken; and to impose any hard work upon them is to practically kill or disable them. Jail life itself is terrible "incarceration" for them. Being robbed of their liberty and snatched away from the bosom of their families, they naturally pine away in the prison-house. Human beings, under such circumstances, are incapable of performing "toilsome tasks." Of course, there are hardened criminals—dacoits, cut-throats and so forth—who should be treated with severity; but their number is small. It is the poor starving wretches, who commit theft under the most distressing circumstances, or rioters who break the law at a moment of passion, but who are on the whole honest citizens, and such like men, that form the bulk of our prison population. They do not deserve punishment but pity. The loss of liberty, separation from families, and light work are enough punishment for them. We sincerely trust, Sir John Woodburn will be pleased to reconsider his Resolution and see his way to modify the remarks noted by our correspondent.

Let us here draw the attention of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor to the manner in which prisoners are treated in America. It will be remembered that the English Home Secretary, much worried by the recommendations of the Prisons Committee of the House of Commons, sent a picked officer of his own, Mr. Puggles-Brice, Chairman of the Commissioners of Prisons, to enquire for him into, and report on, the various ways in which prisoners are treated in the United States. His report has just been published. The following description of the American convict's hours of relaxation ought to be read with attention by the Indian authorities:—

After the day's work is over, about 4-30, the men are taken to their cells, and it is during the period intervening between this time and bedtime, about 8-30, that the relaxations of discipline of which so much is heard in England take place. The cells are all lighted with electric light (at Pittsburgh tallow candles are allowed in the cells); tobacco-chewing and in many prisons smoking is allowed, also the daily and weekly papers. As a rule a convict is allowed to furnish his cell with pictures, photographs, looking-glasses, &c. The solid cell door used in England is not used except in the punishment cells. Iron gratings are used instead.

Mr. Brice calls these benevolent measures "relaxations of discipline." But the meaning is not that the men abuse the privileges described, and become disorderly, or could do so if they pleased. Discipline in this phrase means not discipline at all but restraint put on liberty by way of additional punishment.

It goes without saying that the United States are the best field, among civilized countries, for experiments in the art of dealing with criminals. This is largely due to its political constitution. Each State there is at liberty to follow its own sweet will in the matter. The Central Government has nothing to say to it, except in a few cases in which the offender has sinned against federal laws regulating the coinage, the postal service

and so forth. Surely, the Americans are not the worse off for allowing these little luxuries to prisoners. And surely they would never have treated their prisoners in this indulgent manner if they had proved a nuisance to society.

The Bengalees are a far more non-criminal race than the Americans. At least, violent crimes are not so prevalent here as in Europe and America. So, if hard discipline is not needed in the United States and in European countries, where people are robust, stalwart, and unmanageable, it can not at all be needed in Bengal where the people are so sickly and weak in physique and thoroughly tamed down. We, however, do not want anything like "the relaxations of discipline" described above. We will be quite satisfied if prisoners are given as much work as they can turn out, some healthy food, and light

It would appear, though it does not say so, that the *Indian Empire* would have preferred the election of Babu Narendra Nath Sen to the Bengal Council to that of Mr. Apar. We supported the election of Mr. Apar for reasons we have explained. Babu Narendra Nath had done well and would no doubt have done well again if elected. But he could not have done more than what had already been done by him. And Mr. Apar, who is to all intents and purposes a European, advocating the cause of self-government, is a spectacle which ought to have some effect upon the Government. The only plea that Government has for the proposed Municipal reform is that it has the sympathy of the Anglo-Indian community. Mr. Apar's presence in the Council, as a champion of the Indian rate-payers, will considerably weaken that plea of the Government. That Mr. Apar has the confidence of the European community is evident from the manner in which his election has been noticed by the *Englishman* and the *Indian Daily News*. But the *Indian Empire* refers to another matter which has almost taken our breath away. It says that Babu Narendra Nath owes his defeat to the tactics of his friend, Babu Surendra Nath! Every one knows that Babu Surendra Nath tried to have Babu Narendra Nath elected; and every one knows that Mr. T. Palit tried to put in Mr. Apar in the place of Babu Narendra Nath. Indeed, Babu Surendra Nath, in his own organ, the *Bengalee*, declared that Mr. Apar owed his election mainly to the canvassing of Mr. Palit. The *Empire's* contention is that Babu Surendra Nath, though he openly supported Babu Narendra Nath, privately tried to undermine his position. This is what the *Indian Empire* says:—

But the greatest of all regrettable stratagems was to unseat Babu Narendra Nath and thus remove a strong competitor from the field. Mr. Banerjee full well knew that he would be turning the feeling of the electors against Babu Narendra Nath by representing him as the Government's nominee and with that prescience emphatically expressed that "the Government was desirous that Babu Narendra Nath should be re-elected." The result was as Mr. Banerjee expected,—the idea of Government interference with free elections,—the thought of Government mandate—turned the table against Babu Narendra Nath to the joy of Mr. Banerjee! Mr. Surendranath Banerjee, it seems, is now shedding crocodile tears for the defeat of Babu Narendra Nath Sen. While expressing regret he is all the while dancing with joy: the result is rambling thoughts and spurious arguments. We will cite some of them. Mr. Banerjee first of all announced that the success of Babu Narendra Nath was a *fait accompli*, but for the defection of the Suburban votes at the last moment; again, Babu Narendra Nath Sen's defeat came as a surprise, etc. In the next breath, however, he said that on the previous evening he had learnt that 42 Commissioners out of 75 had pledged themselves to vote for Mr. Apar, and lastly to show his wonderful powers he vaunted that by his oratory he made three out of the forty-two break their pledges, etc. Well, Mr. Banerjee however attributed the defeat to an Indian barrister, Mr. T. Palit, who was "a veritable hawk-maker." While abusing every one who happens to say a good word or two for Mr. Apar to show his assumed sympathy for Babu Narendra Nath—it is surprising that not a word has been breathed by Mr. Banerjee against Mr. Palit who is a great chum of his! This much is absolutely certain that if Babu Surendra Nath has any friend it is Mr. T. Palit. Mr. Palit has ever stuck by him, in weal or woe. It, therefore, requires an explanation, how it was that while Babu Surendra Nath sought the election of Babu Narendra Nath, Mr. Palit sought that of his opponent? Of course, the explanation may be very simple, *viz.*, that Babu Surendra Nath and Mr. Palit honestly differed in opinion; but, it seems, the *Indian Empire* is not willing to accept it.

ELSEWHERE is reproduced the summary of the judgment in the Saharanpur Railway assault case, from the *Pioneer*. It will be remembered that a Native Christian lady, named Miss Ally, while travelling alone in an intermediate compartment, was outraged by a ruffian; and she lodged a complaint. The police at first arrested one Gayub as the culprit, but he was let off as the complainant could not identify him. The prisoner, who has been sentenced to be transported for life by the Saharanpur Judge, was next produced; to the testimony of the Deputy Police Inspector Nasir-ud-din, from among 40 or 50 men, as the man who had committed the violence upon her. The prisoner pleaded *alibi* and produced evidence in support of his case forward to contradict some of the statements of Miss Ally. Indeed, the evidence for the prosecution appeared to the assessors to be so weak that they refused to convict the accused. The Judge, however, differed from them, and inflicted upon the man the highest punishment allowed by the law. We wish the *Pioneer* had published the full proceedings of the trial. Judging from the halting manner in which the Sessions Judge analyses the evidence, the impression produced upon the mind is that he is not quite sure of his ground. He accepts so much of the evidence as favours his theory, but rejects the rest which does not favour it. This is not the way, it must be admitted, to arrive at a correct and impartial conclusion. The beard difficulty which the Judge raises is most important. Miss Ally says that her ravisher had a very noticeable beard on his chin. But a prosecution witness, who saw

the accused immediately after the occurrence travelling in the same train with him, swore that he had a clean shaven chin. It is also a significant fact that the assessors, whose honesty and intelligence are not questioned, and who being the natives of the soil, are than a European Judge, however learned and educated he may be, did not believe the prosecution evidence as sufficient to enable them to convict the accused. All these circumstances give a peculiarly ghastly character to the case. If the accused were guilty, he deserved transportation for life. For, a more brutal crime than the one with which he was charged cannot be conceived. But, what, if he be not guilty? In that case, it is needless to say that, not only has a God's creature been ruined for ever, but the real culprit has been allowed to escape and mix in society with impunity. The Judge, we must say, took an awful responsibility upon himself when he found his way to convict the man and deal with him so severely, against the verdict of his own peers. Such a thing was not possible in any civilized country in the world. Then again, Europeans have been, on the clearest evidence, found guilty of committing similar atrocious crimes upon defenceless native women. But has ever any of them been transported for life? The highest punishment inflicted upon one of the four Europeans, who successively committed rape upon a Hindu girl of 15 at Raniganj, was only five years' imprisonment.

OUR Bombay correspondent writes under date, the 17th instant:—

The signallers' strike is almost at an end. The Company has scored, although the local police is still busy with enquiring into the doings and antecedents of the strikers as also those of their friends or relatives by marriage or birth and of some people whom they want to connect with the strike.

Yes, detectives have been engaged to prove that Mr. Tilak is at the bottom of the affair! But let us quote from the letter of the Bombay correspondent of the *Hindu*:—

The detective department maintained at the public expense has been put entirely at the service of the Company officers; and poor signallers are harassed by that department unceasingly. Informations which could be got for the mere asking are laboriously being gathered by the detectives. God knows where all this is going to end. Laborious inquiries are to be made to somehow connect the Poona party, which is just at present in bad odour, with the strikers. The representatives of the strikers in Bombay were called by the Police Commissioner and questioned as to the help they got from Mr. Tilak and his party and their connection with Mr. Kelkar, the Editor of the *Maharatta*. The representatives acknowledged with gratitude the courtesy with which they were treated. But why question them in this way? The man in the street knows all this. The issues of the *Kesari* since the strike have only to be read to know all that has been done to the strikers. An appeal was made in that paper for monetary help to these unfortunate men, and the subscriptions received are notified week after week. And started in 1896, Mr. Kelkar was their legal adviser, is shown by the Petition which was submitted to the Company under his signature. And yet these precious informations are being laboriously put together by the detectives after laborious wanderings through the town. Mr. Tilak happened to pass through Bombay a few days ago on his way to attend the Honorable Mr. Khare's daughter's marriage at Ahmedabad and this was enough to cause a serious flutter in the dockets of the Police head-quarters and the signallers were pestered with questions about this visit. You can well imagine the state of the official mind from this. I wonder where the commonsense and the political insight which won for England this huge Empire is gone.

While the detectives are behaving in this extraordinary manner, the law Courts are passing severe sentences to strike terror among the signallers. Here is a telegram from our Bombay correspondent which was published in our yesterday's issue:—

Mr. Moreshwar Vishnu, Station Master of Narhar, and Mr. Amrit, Assistant Station Master of Kharkala, two of the G. I. P. Ry. strikers were tried before Mr. Sate, Assistant Collector of Poona. They were convicted of great negligence, endangering public safety, and were sentenced to three months' and six weeks' rigorous imprisonment respectively.

Referring to this sentence, the Bombay correspondent of the *Englishman* wires that it has created great sensation. No wonder that it should. Lord Sandhurst found a weak master in Lord Elgin and was able to have his own way unchecked. I was expected that he would behave in another way when Lord Curzon was at the head of the Supreme Government. But it seems, the local Governments are not yet aware that Lord Elgin is no longer in the country.

WHEN Lord Curzon congratulated the Ferguson College on the distinction attained by one of its pupils, Mr. Paranjpe, His Excellency, we have not the least doubt, represented the sentiments of the Anglo-Indian community generally. Fair play is the watch-word of Englishmen; and there is no doubt of it, they have been as much delighted at the success of a Hindu as the Indians themselves are. Wellesley has at last been avenged! He defeated the Maharattas in the field of battle, and Paranjpe has defeated the countrymen of the Iron Duke in mathematics. And did not Atul Chandra Chatterjee also stand first? And Ranjit Singh? And have not Professors Bose, Rai and Bhadhuri made discoveries in the domain of science which no Englishman has hitherto been able to make? Englishmen are not apparently much influenced by sentiments. That is what the French say of their great rivals. But how that can be when they go mad over their national game, the cricket? "Sussex has beat Surrey" and "Surrey has beat Sussex"—these are the terms of telegrams sent from England to India. Now, what is it to us, or to the English—either, whether Sussex beats Surrey, or Surrey beats Sussex, in a game? But these are for the consideration of sober men, not for men who have gone mad. And it is in this cricket that the Hindu has beaten the English! They ought to have died of shame, envy and chagrin. But they neither

died nor lamented their bad luck, but cheered loudly the cricketer, who had beat them. The question now is, how long will the English keep these Indians a subject race with innumerable disabilities, when they can beat their masters in mathematics, science and cricket?

THE latest news from Tinnevely is reassuring. Order and peace have been restored in most places. Hundreds of men have been arrested, who will shortly be put on their trial. We have not the slightest sympathy with the breakers of the law, who deserve severe punishment. But we appeal to the Madras authorities not to lose their head over the affair, because a number of misguided and illiterate men, under religious frenzy, took it into their head to defy them and establish a reign of terror over a large tract of the country for days together. They should, in this connection, take note of two facts, which have come to light: (1) The late District Magistrate of Tinnevely took no steps to nip in the bud the brewing troubles of which he had been repeatedly informed. (2) A report was circulated and believed that in the quarrel between the Shannars and the Maravars, the former had the support of the Government. The action of a Mussalman Deputy Magistrate in granting the Shannars the right to enter temples of worship gave countenance to this report.

THE *Indian Spectator* says, referring to the Rangoon outrage that, "it is a crime that must fill every Englishman with grief and shame." That being the case, this incident may be left alone to do its work; and no comments from the Indians are needed to rouse the rulers to their sense of duty. We must, however, take this occasion to inform Englishmen that the presence of the lower classes of Europeans creates a terror in the minds of the women of this country. Says the *Bombay Guardian*:

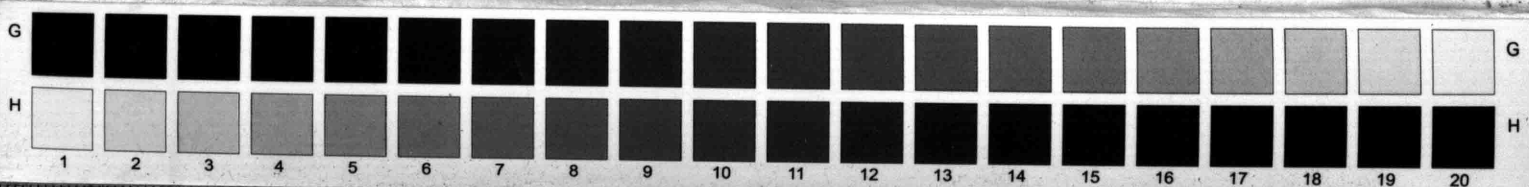
The British soldier is naturally feared by the native women. We have seen a woman servant in Bombay leap like a frightened deer over the seats of a tram-car in order to be under the protection of her European mistress when a couple of soldiers happened to take their seats on the same bench. The British soldier needs to learn that true chivalry protects all women and that real bravery always rejoices in the strength that is able to champion the weak.

When a school lad, we had the misfortune of witnessing, in a Mofussil town, five soldiers chasing a woman, an old one, and outraging her in an open hut. It was then about four in the afternoon, and the woman was chased in the public streets. If a low class European somehow or other manages to enter a village, the immediate result is the wholesale desertion of the village by its womenfolk. In railway carriages, Indian ladies never travel in unreserved second-class compartments for fear of coming in contact with Europeans. "And these are the foreign soldiers," says the *Indian Spectator*, "intended to form the bulwark of the Empire!" Why are these men imported at a ruinous cost to a poor country? It is because the people are not trusted. Why are not the people trusted? It is because, let us quote the *Times*, "conscience makes us cowards." When the tree-smearing panic here, the *Times* discussed the question and wanted to know, why such a meaningless and simple incident as the smearing of trees should create alarm? And the paper itself solved the question by replying that it was because "conscience makes cowards." The fact is, though British rule is excellent and though we are told times out of number by our rulers themselves, that their rule is excellent, they themselves have no such belief in their heart of hearts. If they had any such faith they would never have imported these mercenaries for the defence of the Empire. The *Pioneer* asks where were the police the military, the sentries, the officers, and the comrades of the assailants when the Rangoon outrage was committed? Well, as regards the comrades of the perpetrators of the outrage perhaps they envied the fortunate lot of the latter. As to the police, what could they do when the military were concerned? Here we enter into another phase of the question. The Police here are powerful enough in all conscience; but what are they when the military are concerned? The soldiers are pets of the Government, and this they have come to know. And, therefore, neither do they expect police interference, nor do they fear to commit any violence. They know that Government relies entirely upon them, and them alone, for the defence of the Empire; and hence they are irresistible.

THE *Hindu Patriot* had kept itself aloof from the disfranchisement controversy of the Dacca Division in the hope that the Lieutenant-Governor would be pleased to give a satisfactory explanation of his action to the public and that His Honor would distinctly declare in his Election Resolution that Dacca would be invited in March next, on the retirement of the Hon'ble Babu Jatna Mohan Sen, to exercise its right of election. But, as nothing of the kind has been done, the *Patriot* says:—

Although the Bengal Government Resolution of the 16th May last is altogether silent as to the reasons which had influenced His Honor in making up his mind to temporarily deprive the Dacca Division of the franchise in order to confer it on the Presidency Division, still it has been an open secret that the object of this arrangement is to prolong by another term, the tenure of office as a legislator of the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee in order to give the Legislative Council the benefit of his judgment and experience when the Calcutta Municipal Bill comes up for discussion. Now, a ruler who has shown so little consideration for Native public opinion as Sir John Woodburn has done in the matter of the Calcutta Municipal Bill, cannot complain if people refuse to believe that in arriving at this somewhat extraordinary decision he has correctly measured the importance of the question at issue.

It is really surprising that His Honor should be led to believe that, by allowing Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee to make a speech any portion of the odium which attaches to the passing of the Municipal Bill would be taken away. This attitude of the Government reminds us of the adage in Bengali, "the presenting of a pair of shoes



after killing a cow." The people are not at all anxious to enjoy the luxury of "a pair of shoes," that is to say, a fine speech from Babu Surendra Nath, by "killing a cow," that is to say, by getting a Division unjustly disfranchised and a dangerous innovation introduced.

The *Hindoo Patriot* goes on to say:—
Keen as has been the disappointment of the Dacca Division, it has been rendered all the keener by the absence of any intimation that Dacca will have her due in March next. It is bad enough that in the Resolution of May last there should not have been a single word of justification or even of regret for the punishment inflicted on Dacca for no fault of her own. Perhaps the Bengal Government thinks that it is beneath its dignity to explain or justify any measure it adopts. But the Government might have enhanced its reputation for justice if it had sugared the bitter pill of wrong, wholly undeserved as it admittedly was, with the promise of redress on the earliest opportunity.

Yes, that is the most regrettable feature of the Resolution of the 16th May last. The Government has vouchsafed no explanation whatever about the many points raised in this connection; neither has it expressed one word of regret for punishing a Division so unjustly.

The result of the controversy, says the *Hindoo Patriot*, "has, or at any rate, ought to have, disabused the mind of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of the notion that a policy of robbing Paul to pay Peter can ever commend itself to the approval or even the acquiescence of the great bulk of the educated public." That must be the verdict of every impartial observer. Sir John Woodburn must have come to realize by this time that by listening to the counsels of some interested parties he has pleased none but created a good deal of unnecessary dissatisfaction in the land.

WHILE Russia is preaching peace, England is arming herself to fight Transvaal! We think, Russia herself would have done the same thing, if China or Persia had insulted her in the way the Boer President insulted the British delegate. It is all humbug from the beginning to the end, this Peace Conference. This European nations know very well; yet, like going to church every Sunday to wash away their sins, many European diplomats think that they can hope to enter the kingdom of Heaven by posing as peace-makers. The Peace Conference Committee is discussing an important matter, namely, whether the savages are to be killed by what is known as the Dum-Dum bullet, or by other projectiles. The British delegate, Sir John Ardagh, was, of course, opposed to the proposal of discontinuing the Dum-Dum bullet, for it was invented by the British; but he was out-voted by the delegates of other nations. Sir John was so far agreeable that Dum-Dum bullets should not be used in the conduct of civilized warfare; "but," said he, "when it was a question of war with the savage tribes the employment of incised bullets, like the so-called Dum-Dum, may become a matter of self-defence inasmuch as fanatical savages, struck by small projectiles of latter-day rifles, receive such slight shocks that they can still rush forward, dealing death and destruction to the whites."

It need hardly be said that the argument of Sir John was not very convincing, and this was at once pointed out by Colonel Jilinski, who said:—
The argument by his Excellency Sir John Ardagh applies not merely to savage tribes, but to the soldiers of civilized races, and, therefore, proves either too little or too much. If, however, it could be shown by actual experience that savage tribes are so differently constituted from civilized men that the small projectile of British rifles often penetrates without disabling them, this drawback might be satisfactorily obviated by employing rifles of medium calibre, not less than 7½ millimetres, which do the work efficiently enough.

Sir John gave no reply and the proposal was carried by a majority of 18 to 3. But, is it really of any moment whether men are killed by this bullet or that when the horrors of war are to continue? Europe is no doubt a civilized, continent; but Jesus Christ no longer rules there.

It is gradually coming to light, what we guessed, that the Tinnivelly riots would not have occurred if the District Magistrate had listened to what his Indian advisers said, and if, after coming to know of the intended riot, he had taken ordinary precautions to stop it. When the Mutiny occurred the catastrophe did not take the Indians by surprise, for they had an inkling of what was coming on. Indeed, the Europeans had been repeatedly warned of the trouble that was brewing, but the authorities paid no heed. When the Orissa famine swept away three millions of people, it was found that the Government of Sir Cecil Beadon had been warned of the coming danger, but he failed to take a proper view of the situation. When the last famine decimated the Central Provinces, we implored the Government day after day, and week after week, to give up its policy of optimism and lethargy, but our voice was not listened to, till hundreds of villages were depopulated in that province, and the roads whitened with human bones. "Natives exaggerate," that is the firm conviction of the European authorities in India. It is weakness to give way to panic, that is another pet theory of theirs. But the fact is, they are utter strangers to the people though they live in their midst.

The *Indian Daily News* took exception to our article headed, "The Evil One and His Agents," because we said that some lawyers were now and then influenced by that nameless Being. But, our contemporary, we think, will agree with us when we say that there is not the editor of a single daily paper whose printer, or more correctly speaking, whose sub and proof-readers are not constantly in the grip of the emissaries of his Satanic Majesty. It was our contemporary, we believe, who told us the story of Mr. Labouchere and his friend. The latter, a regular contributor to *Truth*, was very particular about his commas, full-stops and inverted commas. But the printer of that paper would play ducks and drakes with his articles by putting commas where they were not wanted, and using inverted commas in places which should be free from them. The friend got so disgusted with this havoc of the printer that he wrote to Mr. Labouchere every time the mistakes were committed, till the latter, in his turn, was so

annoyed that he threatened his contributor with something like a duel if he would tease him again about the matter. Indeed, these misprints are simply unavoidable, and as they are not deliberately done by the subordinates, the only explanation is that they are victimized by the Evil One or His agents and made to play pranks which fill them with trembling and their chiefs with disgust and indignation. Now, our Madras friends will no doubt be surprised to find us stating that music is never cultivated in their Presidency. But we never intended saying this. We are, therefore, much more surprised than our Madras friends to see a statement to that effect in our columns. We were made to say in our article "Hindu Music in Europe":—
The Hindus love their music with fervour. How is it then that men cultivate it rarely and women, excepting here and there in Madras, never?

What we wrote was, however, as follows:—
The Hindus love their music with fervour. How is it then that men cultivate it rarely, and women, excepting here and there in Madras, never?

So in the first passage, we are made to say, in an unintelligible manner that, music is never cultivated in Madras; whereas, what we said was that, Hindu women never learn music with the exception of a few in Madras. And all this was due to the displacement of a single comma! The comma should have been put after "Madras" and not before "in," and then the meaning would have been clear. Similarly, we wrote that the evening party in honour of Mr. Woodroffe would be held on Tuesday, the 27th, at Mr. Bonnerjee's place. Our "however" looked like "1," and the emissaries of the Evil One were at once up and doing. They possessed one of our subs and made him settle the matter in this mischievous way: "The party I see comes on Tuesday, the 21st. It can't be 21st; it must be 21st. But how to get over the other difficulty, namely, 21st is no Tuesday at all? Well, if the 21st is not Tuesday, it is Wednesday. So it is all a mistake—it must be 21st, Wednesday." And we were made to say in our Wednesday's issue that Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee "gives an evening party at his residence, this evening, at 9-30 P. M." And, to the delight of his Satanic Majesty, we had to pay the penalty for the mischievous acts of his agents by issuing an extra slip, expressing our regret and warning invited guests not to go to Mr. Bonnerjee's place at 9-30 P. M. on Wednesday, but to wait till Tuesday, the 27th, arrived.

It can now be said that if the strike of the Poona signallers is at an end, it is because of the combination of the civil and military as well as the executive and the judicial authorities to put them down. We all know that soldiers were lent by Government to help the Railway Company against its servants. And now we see that some of the strikers have been sentenced to terms of rigorous imprisonment. And why? We do not know the reason exactly. We don't think that the strikers have got fair play. At least that is the public impression. It was expected that the Viceroy would intervene and protect the interests of the weak, the wronged, and the starved. But the public have been sadly disappointed.

As illustrative of the way in which justice is administered in the French territories, between the natives of the soil and Europeans, a correspondent sends us the particulars of a very interesting case of assault on an Indian by a European, which was decided by the French Court of Correction (Le Tribunal Correctionnel) at Chandernagar, on the 15th June. The Superintendent of Post Offices, Mr. J. T. Hall, paid a visit to the Chandernagar Post Office on the 28th of May last, and finding a young man, Benod, who by the bye is a Brahmin, without his uniform, asked him "Tom kon hai, cooly hai" (are you a coolie or what are you) and straightway proceeded to cane him. A case was brought by the injured young man, which came up for final disposal on the 15th instant. The Superintendent pleaded guilty but in extenuation of his guilt said there was grave provocation, as Benod had insulted him by repeating "Tom kon hai." This excuse was, however, proved to be false, and the Court, after examining the parties and hearing the advocates on both sides, fined Mr. Hall 100 francs and adjudged Rs. 10 as damages. The Court, however, took a very lenient view of the case, as it gave the offender the benefit of *loi Benanger*. It is a law which gives the Judge discretion to order the execution of a sentence instantly or keep the execution in abeyance till another offence is committed and brought home to the offender, when he is made to undergo the combined punishment for both the first and second offences. The law applies only in the case of a first offence, and of a light kind, falling within the jurisdiction of the "Tribunal Correctionnel." The sentence remains in force for five years from the date of its award; if the offender, within that period, gives satisfactory proof of his good conduct, he is absolved from all liability at the end of the term.

As the reader is aware, Mr. Ambler has been let off with a fine of Rs. 200. The Indian public were not quite unprepared for this result. Europeans here have their privileges which the natives do not possess. It may be remembered that Mr. Ambler was once before tried for the very offence and was fined Rs. 10. The sentence created indignation owing to its inadequacy, and the Government of Bengal, being apparently of the same view, applied for an enhancement of the sentence, with the result that a fresh trial was ordered by the High Court. Thereupon, the case came on for hearing at Purlia on the 19th instant and ended on the 21st. The accused was, on this occasion, tried with the help of assessors, two of whom were Europeans and one Indian. They returned a unanimous verdict of guilty under Section 323 I. P. Code, and the Judge concurring with them in their verdict, sentenced the accused as stated above. Referring to this result a Purlia correspondent writes:—

The accused himself admitted that he gave the deceased two slaps and that the latter fell down. The evidence clearly showed that the unfortunate man died within 5 hours after the assault was committed. Such being the case, even if the story of the accused is accepted and assuming for the sake of argument that the accused did not commit a more serious offence than one under Section 323, I. P. Code, a

fine of Rs. 200 appears manifestly inadequate. An application ought to be made to the High Court by the Local Government for enhancement of the sentence. Under Section 323, I. P. Code, the Sessions Judge could pass a sentence of imprisonment for one year upon the accused; but it is inexplicable to us why he was so lenient in awarding this punishment. Considering the position of the accused, a fine of Rs. 200 is no punishment to him at all. Sir John Woodburn has earned the gratitude of the Indian public by his action in connection with the case. Will His Honor be now pleased to move again in the matter?

Needless to say, if an Indian had slapped a European and the latter had subsequently died from its effects, he would have been treated in a different way. Nay, if an Indian had accorded to an Indian the treatment which Mr. Ambler did to the deceased peon, even then he would not certainly have been let off with a fine of Rs. 200.

The *Charu Mihir* of Mymensing is in trouble. The following notice has been served upon the proprietor and the printer of the paper by the District Magistrate, Mr. Roe:—
The printer, Mohomed Amiruddin Ahmed, and Proprietor, Babu Janakinath Ghatak, are called upon to show cause why they should not be prosecuted for defamation.

In a recent issue the *Charu Mihir* wrote:—
"No remedy is obtainable at the hands of the Police, because it is a body no less corrupt than devoid of any sense of duty. In most places the Police has private friendship with badmashies."

If the above action of Mr. Roe has created local sensation, this feeling has been heightened by another circumstance. A general impression, says the *Charu Mihir*, is prevailing in Mymensing that it has incurred the displeasure of the District officials by its writings relating to the outrages committed upon women in the district. This impression, we are told, has been strengthened by the curt treatment which, says the local paper, was accorded to its manager while he paid a visit to the District Magistrate. The editor had been summoned by Mr. Roe to see him at his house. He having some important business on hand, the manager was sent. At the interview that followed, Mr. Roe, says the *Mihir*, showed temper. He is said to have asked the manager angrily as to whence they had obtained their information about these outrages, nay, he is alleged to have gone to the length of giving him a hint about the horrors of the jail.

Of course, all these statements are those of the *Charu Mihir*. We do not know if Mr. Roe has a version of his own.
The conductors of the paper, we are told, were simply dumb-founded on reading the contents of the notice. The notice says "in a recent issue." But in what issue? Mr. Roe had no time to specify the date of the issue in which the offending para had appeared! So what the conductors did was to open the files of the *Charu Mihir* and go through them, issue after issue, till they landed upon that of the 10th *joista*. In that issue a letter was published regarding the *badmashies* of Mymensing, and it is believed, Mr. Roe had quoted from it. Here is the literal translation of the passages, which perhaps form the subject of complaint:—
Our hope is in the Police and the zemindars. Of the zemindars many are indifferent. If the ruffians have brought ruin upon you (say they), give information (to the police). Most cases do not even reach the Sub-divisional (court). The only gains are the sprinkling of salt on the wound (adding insult to the injury), the offering of *dakshina* (presents) and the slight satisfaction of the voracious hunger of the police stomach, over and above the ruin. In many cases, there results a familiar acquaintance, sometimes even intimacy, between the police and the *badmashies*. So what wonder is there in a defeat at the field of battle? Indeed, the greed and the lack of a sense of duty of the police are other causes of our present troubles.

The notice was issued on the 15th instant, and we do not know if there has been any further development of the affair. In the meantime, the *Charu Mihir*, just to hand, from which we have taken the above facts, has unearthed a number of cases in which women are alleged to have been outraged, to prove the inefficiency of the Mymensing Police.

In our last we published the petition of a father to the Lieutenant-Governor of the N.W. Provinces, praying His Honor to pardon his son, Swami Dyal, condemned with two others to death by the Sessions Judge of Lucknow, and we then showed how His Honor did not see his way to grant the prayer, though these three men were capitally punished practically on their own confessions, apparently extorted by the police, and not corroborated by any independent testimony. We also promised to publish another petition, submitted to His Excellency the Viceroy by another father, Choudhry Tulsi Ram, a Zemindar of Meerut, whose three sons have been sentenced to be hanged on a charge of murder by the Sessions Judge of Meerut and the Allahabad High Court, but which sentence was commuted to one of transportation for life by the Officiating Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces. That petition will be found elsewhere, and it will convince any unprejudiced mind of the utter improbability of the prisoners being guilty. At least, the prosecution evidence was quite insufficient to warrant their conviction. If this were not the case, the Officiating Lieutenant-Governor would never have exercised mercy in their case. It would also appear that, a private enquiry into the matter by the Local Government has brought to light certain facts which were not placed before the Sessions Judge and the High Court, when they passed the extreme sentence, but which go to establish the innocence of the prisoners in a satisfactory manner. Taking these circumstances into consideration and also having regard to the fact that the prisoners have already served a portion of the term of their imprisonment, we sincerely trust, Lord Curzon will be pleased to grant the prayer of the wretched father. It is a privilege to be able to save human lives and earn the blessings of distressed parents, wives and sons. Governors, vested with the divine prerogative of mercy, should always exercise it, whenever a proper opportunity offers itself to them. In England, more than one-third of the capitally-sentenced prisoners are reprieved every year. But here reprieve is almost unknown; though, considering that criminal

administration is carried on by foreigners in this country, the number of reprieved persons here should be much larger than that in England, where prisoners are tried by their own peers and sentenced by their own judges.

THE Sivakasi disturbances have proved a windfall to the Mussalmans, inasmuch as the riots have led many an oppressed villager to proclaim himself a Mussalman to save his life and honor. It is thus that the Hindus have ever lost while the Mussalmans have gained. This indiscriminate acceptance of converts has, however, done one great harm to the Mussalmans. It has no doubt swelled their ranks, but it has enabled a large number of the lowest of the low to enter their community. As there is no caste among them, many high-class Mussalmans had thus to mingle their blood with the low-caste Hindus who had accepted Mahomedanism. The inevitable result of such a policy must be the deterioration of blood. The Mussalmans form four-fifths of the population, but yet they are very poor and are at the same time intellectually backward. The reason for all this is these wholesale conversions. The European missionaries are converting the *Coles* and *Bhils* to their faith; they have made Christian brethren of the lowest of the low, but yet they will not allow intermarriage between their converts and themselves. Nay, they do not give that right even to a Brahmin convert, though a Brahmin is intellectually no way inferior, if he is not superior to a European.

VIEWED from the highest standpoint, Mr. Apar, as we said the other day, ought to resign his post. But then the question has another side. Since we cannot, under the rules, prevent an official from being elected, it would be an advantage if Mr. Apar could show that a man could be an official and yet thoroughly independent. Under the present practice, an official feels that he is bound to support Government on all occasions. But there is no reason why a man should commit an outrage upon his conscience simply because he is an official. If Mr. Apar can show that a man can be an official and yet thoroughly independent, he would leave a much-desired precedent behind him. Besides, the spectacle of Mr. Apar, as an official opposing the Government Municipal reform, will be a more striking condemnation of the Municipal Bill than that of a non-official doing the same.

ONE of the most prominent religious figures has just passed away from among us. It was the *Bangabasi* which first announced the death of Pundit Bijoy Krishna Goswami, but we waited for the confirmation of the sad news. There is now no longer any doubt as to the Goswami's having really departed this life at Puri. In his younger days he was a staunch Brahmo and follower of Babu Kessub Chander Sen. Afterwards he joined the Sadharam Brahmo Samaj, and latterly he became a devout worshipper of Sree Gauranga. His piety was of the most extraordinary kind. His manners were simple and charming, and he was regarded as a *guru* by many English-educated Bengalees. It is said that the number of his disciples amounts to about forty thousand. There is no doubt of it that Goswami Bijoy Krishna is now in the enjoyment of eternal bliss, for he was emphatically a good and pious man. We hope to publish some details of his varied life in a future issue.

LATELY, the subordinate executive and the Police of Tangail (Maimansing) have fallen out; and here are the particulars. The Police had sent up some men under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The case came up before the Deputy Magistrate of Tangail, Babu Kunja Behari Goswami. In due course he ordered ten of the accused to find security for good behaviour or in default to undergo rigorous imprisonment for one year. Some of the accused thereupon found some well-to-do men to stand security for them. There being some doubt as to the position of the man who wanted to stand security for the accused Ramjan, the matter was referred to the Honorary Magistrate and Municipal Vice-Chairman, Babu Lalit Chandra Mazumdar, for investigation, and he reported in favour of the accused. Now the ordinary course followed in such cases appears to be that similar investigations are entrusted to the police; so naturally the pride of the local police officers was piqued. The Police Inspector took the action of the Deputy Magistrate as a personal affront. He not only drew the attention of the District Superintendent of Police to it, but condemned it. He argued that if the Police were not consulted in such matters how could they be held responsible for the security of the lives and properties of the people. The Police Superintendent in his turn wrote to the District Magistrate who asked Babu Kunja Behari to explain the matter. A satisfactory explanation was rendered and the police officer had to apologize to Babu Kunja Behari for his observations on his action.

THE Nizam's Government have received a list of passed private students of the Imperial Forest School, Dehra Dun, who are candidates for employment in the Forest Department in case, His Highness' Government happen to want Forest Officers.

At the request of the political authorities the Officer Commanding at Wana took out a column of 150 rifles, 5th Punjab Infantry, and 30 Sabres, 5th Punjab Cavalry, on the night of 16th instant, to patrol the country in the direction of Karabot, Dargai, and Spin on the outlook, for a gang of 80 Mashud Waziris reported to be in the vicinity. The column returned to Wana without having seen anything of the Marauders at Jullundur.

THE Railway Police recently arrested at Mayavaram, on the South Indian Railway, a man named Aiyappa Chetty, hailing from South Canara, against whom five cases of cheating have already been proved. He had on him sovereigns, five-rupee pieces, notes and jewels, valued in all at Rs. 1,136. His method was to offer sovereigns in payment for articles which he pretended a desire to buy, then to get back the sovereigns and tie them up in a little bag. After some further haggling, he would close the bargain and hand over a bag, containing quarter-anna pieces, looking for all the world like the other bag. He practised this risky trick successfully from Bombay to Colombo.

Talutta and Mofussil.

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CONVICTS FOR PORT BLAIR.—The steamer *Shajahan* left Port on Friday with 7 male and 2 female convicts for Port Blair.

FOREIGN TRADE OF CALCUTTA.—For the month of May the total foreign trade of Calcutta was valued at nearly six crores, or an advance of seventy-four lakhs, equivalent to fourteen per cent. Imports and exports both rose in value, and the total trade would have shown better results, but for the diminished receipts of treasure. Exports of bullion were also less.

CONCLUSION OF AMLER'S CASE.—The re-trial of Harry Ambler, who stood charged with having caused the death of a native, was concluded at Purlia on Wednesday. The trial took place with the help of a jury who returned a unanimous verdict of guilty under section 323 I. P. Code. Ambler was convicted and sentenced to pay a fine Rs. 200.

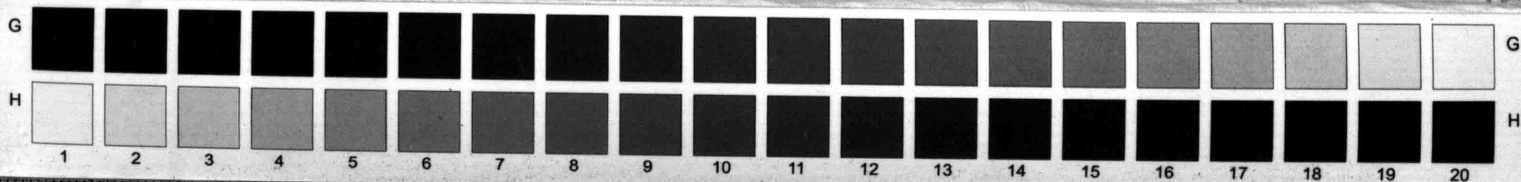
A RAJKUMAR COLLEGE FOR BENGAL.—A circular issued by the Bengal Zemindary Panchayat states that a conference will be held in Calcutta in August to discuss the question of starting an institution for the education of sons of Bengal Zemindars, on the lines of the Mayo College at Ajmere. The promoters do not seem able to make up their minds whether the college should be opened in Calcutta or in the mofussil.

SUGARCANE CULTIVATION IN ASSAM.—In 1881-82 the area under sugarcane cultivation in the Surma and Brahmaputra Valleys in Assam was 16,000 acres and this increased till 20,000 was reached in 1888-89, but since then the area has steadily declined until in 1897-98 only 15,000 acres were under cultivation. In the same periods the imports of sugar both refined and unrefined have risen enormously, the imports in the Surma Valley being 237,000 maunds in 1897-98 against 79,000 in 1882.

THE NADUA CASE.—Nothing has been heard of the Nadua case of late. The Inspector seems to have completed his inquiry and made over the papers to the D. S. P., but we do not know when the final reports are going to be submitted. We are however glad to learn that the two girls who were sent to *hajrat* in connection with the case have been released on bail. The unusual delay in the submission of the final reports is calculated to give rise to misapprehensions in the mind of the public.—*Eastern Herald*.

THE MOGHAL-SERAI-GYA EXTENSION.—The Moghal-Serai-Gya extension of the East Indian Railway will probably be open for traffic in December, when it is expected the big bridge over the Sone will be finished. The formal opening may not take place till the beginning of next year. Work on the Barun-Dalton branch of the Moghal-Serai extension is now in full swing, and has made good progress, though the final arrangements for the acquisition of the land were only completed on June 1st.

MAHARAJ NANDKUMAR CHARIT.—The following remark has been made on Babu Satya Charan Sastri's Maharaj Nand-Kumar Charit in the Bengal Library catalogue of books published in the current number of the *Calcutta Gazette*. An extremely interesting and well-written life of Maharaja Nunda Kumar (1705-1775) based on original sources of information, many of which have been discovered and made public by the writer for the first time. Nanda Kumar's father, Padmanabha was a collector of revenue under the Nawabs Murshid Kuli Khan, Sarfaraz Khan, and Alivardi Khan and his son early acquired proficiency in revenue matters. It was his proficiency, coupled with general abilities of a high order, that was the secret of his success in life. The author is apparently an admirer of his hero and has written his life in a becoming spirit. He has attempted to meet the charge of treachery which is ordinarily brought against the Maharaja, in connection with his alleged inaction during the capture of Chandernagore by the English. The book contains interesting reminiscences of Bengali life and society in the early years of the Company's rule in the country, and possesses great critical and historical value. It is written in good Bengali.



A RAILWAY MEETING.—The Consulting Engineer to the Government of India proposes to hold a meeting at Calcutta on Friday, 14th July, to consider the question of the best means by which the Bengal-Nagpur Railway may be afforded access to the interests of the public, the mine owners, and the two Railway Companies (East Indian Railway and Bengal-Nagpur Railway), concerned. The Indian Mining Association will be invited to depute two of its members to especially represent the Jheriah Coal interest and the Consulting Engineer requests the Chamber of Commerce to nominate two of its own members to represent commercial interests generally at the meeting.

COMMUTATION OR ENHANCEMENT.—The Judge has commuted the sentence passed on Mahadev Sing by Mr. Hamilton Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong, in the case, the facts of which are published by us, some time ago into a fine of Rs. 200. Whatever may be the technical character of this order, for all practical purposes, this commutation must be understood by the public as really a case of enhancement. Mahadev Sing had already served out 5 days of his imprisonment, when he was released on bail. He had only another 5 days to serve and a fine of Rs. 10 to pay. The man had spent some money in conducting his appeal. We really do not know if Mahadev finds the game worth the candle. It is pretty clear, not many will think of appealing against the order of lower courts after this.—*Eastern Herald.*

THE IMPERIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—At Friday's meeting of the Vice-regal Legislative Council, the Hon. Mr. Rivaz, in introducing the Whipping Bill, said that juveniles could now be whipped only for offences against the Indian Penal Code and not for offences against local or special laws. The proposed amendment would include the latter class of offences and exempt some other offences. It would also provide whipping for adults for rioting with arms. The Hon. Mr. Rayleigh, in introducing the Puddokotta and Travancore Marriage Bill, said that it would validate some Christian marriages solemnised by persons authorized to do so in Madras and not in Native States. The Hon. Mr. Rivaz introduced the Northern India Canal and Drainage Bill and said that Local Governments would be empowered by it to collect the canal cess from sub-tenants. The Hon. Mr. Dawkins in introducing the Companies Registration Bill said that this would extend markets to Calcutta and other places and would also secure English capital. The Hon. Mr. Allan Arthur spoke in support of the Bill. The Hon. Mr. Rivaz, in introducing the Indian Registration Bill, said that it would only make some technical changes regarding the registration of immovable properties. Next the Hon. Member introduced the Land Improvement Loans Act.

HOW A VILLAGE WAS RID OF ITS THIEVES.—Says the *Tribune*: The incident related below occurred in a certain village of the Punjab some time ago. The thieves did hardly well in not consulting their stars when in the dead of night they broke into a house at the farthest corner of the village where husband and wife were peacefully sleeping after a whole day's labour. The nocturnal guests grouping about in the dark when the owners of the house awoke and realised the situation. Sayeth wife to husband: "Every day I tell you, my dear, to shut the doors carefully; but you impertinent creature, you won't hear. Don't you remember that the box containing all my jewellery is in the niche just to the right of the yonder window, and can't thief take it from there and jump into the cart stuffed with cotton which is lying for a month beneath the window, and escape?" Men are so foolish that still you won't care!" On an evil moment did the wretches believe the story, and, on an evil moment too, did one of them happen to discover the niche and feel something to the intense joy of the whole party. A shrill resonant buzz tingled the silence of the night, and the next moment shrieks and screams of pain filled the air! It was a nest of hornets they had disturbed! The leader of the party loudly advised his men to jump into the cotton cart below, and one by one all of them got buried to their noses in a heap of fluff which looked like cotton from above! When in the morning the unfortunate creatures were brought before the thanadar their condition was decidedly unenviable and even their parents and children failed to recognise them! They were released amidst laughter and tears, and the villagers say that no clue has been found to their existence in the whole neighbourhood since that memorable occurrence.

ALLAHABAD WOLVES.—A correspondent writes that on Wednesday evening he had an exciting adventure with some wolves in the Alfred Park, a spot that is periodically haunted by these animals, although they are seldom seen and never a cause for alarm. He says that a friend and himself were cycling along when their attention was drawn to what appeared, by the faint light of the sinking moon, to be a large jackal going round and round in circles, as though trying to catch its own tail. It was performing these gymnastics in the centre of the cricket field near the pavilion, and so both the young men dismounted, determined to get closer on foot and see what the creature was up to. Providing themselves with a stout bamboo apiece, which happened to be resting against the wall of the pavilion, they cautiously crept towards the circulating animal till they were not three yards off. They then discovered it to be no jackal but a wolf, and a most mangy one at that. There was just light enough to see that flecks of foam were gathered round the beast's mouth, which was wide open and from which a great tongue lolled out. The wolf took no notice of them, but continued its mad gyrations and the young men could not resist flying at it with their bamboos. They say that they "hammered it well" till it fell to the earth with a crushed skull. While the panting youths stood gazing at their kill they heard a sharp sound, something like a back, and looking beheld a pack of some five wolves coming straight for them from the Government House side. In a moment, they turned to flee towards the pavilion, but they would never have reached it alive but that the pack was arrested for a minute by the gaunt body of their lifeless comrade which they proceeded to devour at once. Brief though the respite was, it enabled

the lads to reach the cricket pavilion, half on their bicycles and search of their lives. The wolves caught them just as they reached the iron gates leading on to City Road where, luckily, a policeman was on duty, at sight of whom the wolves at once stopped and turned tail, finding sanctuary in the jungly recesses bordering on the road. Our young friends visited the scene of their adventure next morning and secured the skull of the dead wolf as a trophy of their valour.—*Indian Standard.*

CALCUTTA MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

The following passages are taken from the Bengal Government Resolution, reviewing the report on Calcutta Medical Institutions for 1898:

The year was unusually healthy. The death-rate for Calcutta was 29.8 per thousand, and for Howrah 33.4 a rate which, in both instances, was not only lower than in 1897, when it was 36.1 and 38.5 respectively, but was lower in both than that recorded in 1895-1896. In both towns the deaths from cholera, fever and small-pox show a considerable decrease. It is satisfactory to observe that there was no case of small-pox in Howrah, where there had been a considerable outbreak in 1897. The mortality from undetailed causes in both towns shows a considerable increase. The Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals is not able to explain it, as the statistics are not yet supplied, in a sufficiently detailed form. He is of opinion that the increase is not due to plague, as has been suggested. The Health Officer of Calcutta suspects that many deaths by fever were returned as deaths by other causes, so as to avoid plague investigations. During the year plague made its appearance in a sporadic form in Calcutta and the suburbs, and a large number of the native residents of Calcutta temporarily left the City. This probably accounts to some extent for the decreased mortality-rate of the year. There were 164 reported deaths from plague.

The total number of out-door patients, which is given as 187,518, shows a decrease of 73,288. There was a decrease of 5,223 in the total number of in-door patients treated, and the daily average fell from 1408.16 to 1,266.74.

Altogether 123,567 men, 39,706 women and 47,977 children were treated as out-door and in-door patients during the year, as compared with 177,710 men, 48,981 women and 63,010 children treated in 1897, showing a total decrease of 78,511. The number of Europeans and Eurasians treated increased by 134 and 3,482 respectively, while that of Muhammadans and Hindus diminished by 25,933 and 52,303. The total number of beds available for in-door patients is 1,721, while the average number of beds occupied was 1,158. In Calcutta 259 per thousand of the population were treated as out-door patients.

The death-rate for all the hospitals, excluding the Eye Infirmary, was 13.2 per cent. of the number of patients treated against 16.4 in the former year. Thus the death-rate for men was 86 at the Police Hospital, 21 at the Campbell Hospital, and 22 in the Howrah General Hospital. Similarly, in the case of adult women, the Dufferin Victoria Hospital shows a rate of 76, and the Campbell Hospital of 30.

The number of small-pox patients admitted into hospital fell from 218 to 37. The total death-rate was 32 against 30 in the previous year. The number of admissions for cholera decreased from 1200 to 227 and the death-rate from 55 per cent to 54 per cent. Admissions on account of dysentery fell from 8415 to 5571 and the death-rate from 34 to 30. Malarial fever was less prevalent than in the preceding year, as was shown by the decrease in admissions from 46,025 to 37,276. The death-rate from fever decreased from 11 to 7 per cent. The total number of surgical operations decreased from 25,745 to 21,610. Death followed in 154 cases.

The number of women and children admitted as in-door patients decreased from 1535 to 1372. Of those 200 were Europeans, 519 Eurasians and 582 Hindus and Mahomedans. The death-rate for Europeans and Eurasians is given as 5.14 and for all others as 10.37 against 4.99 and 10.18 of the previous year. In the Eye Infirmary the number of both in-door and out-door patients decreased from 554 and 15,941 to 505 and 11,058 respectively and the number of operations from 1,927 to 965.

The invested capital of the Calcutta and Howrah hospitals shows a decrease from Rs. 5,92,700 to 5,91,700. The total income amounted to Rs. 9,90,680 against Rs. 7,29,502 in the preceding year. The total expenditure rose from Rs. 7,33,041 to Rs. 9,88,692.

The Comilla Victoria College was opened on Wednesday by the District Magistrate. The ceremony was grand and successful.

Nothing is known at Simla regarding the rumour that 15,000 troops are to be told off to the Cape owing to the strained relations between England and the Transvaal. The *Daily Mail's* announcement is regarded purely as hoax.

The Madras Executive Council met at Ootacamund on Friday, when one of the questions discussed was as to who should act as Chief Justice. It will probably be Justice Subramania Iyer, the next senior Judge now in Madras.

The Commander-in-Chief may possibly make a short trip into the interior about the end of the current month, but the statement published that His Excellency is making a tour amongst the hill-stations is erroneous.

The famous dacoit, Gordhana, the hero of many daring exploits, was hanged at Agra at 6 o'clock on Thursday morning in the District Jail, his appeals to the High Court and the Lieutenant-Governor having been rejected. Punctually at the appointed hour Gordhana was led into the enclosure, surrounded by a strong guard. He looked very fit and cheerful and was chatting freely with those around him. He mounted the gallows with a firm step, and addressing the crowd that had assembled to see him, wished them Ram Ram, and told them not to mourn for him, as he was only meeting the fate he deserved. With a grim humour he asked the jail officials to fire a salvo in his honour. He stood firm while the cap was drawn on and the noose adjusted, but he asked the hangman not to hurt his beard. In another instant the signal was given, the trap flew down, and Gordhana, the terror of peaceable citizens, was launched into eternity. The apparatus worked well, and death was instantaneous.

Law Intelligence.

HIGH COURT : CRIMINAL BENCH.

—JUNE 23.

(Before Justices Prinsep and Hill.)

A, GAYA MURDER CASE.

LIFE-SENTENCE SET ASIDE THE SESSIONS JUDGE CENSURED.

The appeal preferred by Bajrang Lal and four others from the decision of Mr. H. Holmwood, Sessions Judge of Gaya, who differing from the assessors, had convicted the appellants of murdering one Sham Sunder and sentenced them to transportation for life, was disposed of today. The facts briefly were that sometime ago the body of the deceased was found under a culvert on the Gaya Railway line with marks of violence on it. The police were informed, the body was taken care of and after three days it was identified by the father of the deceased. A woman, Kusila, who was under police restraint for three days, made a statement to the police and afterwards to the committing Magistrate to the effect that the deceased had been beaten to death by the five accused because he had a liaison with her who was a relation of the accused. This statement she withdrew at the Sessions Court stating that she had been made to depose in the wait to the police, but on the strength of this retracted statement the accused were convicted and sentenced as stated above.

Mr. P. L. Roy with Babu Dasarath Sanyal appeared for the appellant and Mr. Abdur Rahim for the Crown.

In delivering judgment, their Lordships after stating the facts, said:—

We have had occasion in some cases recently to notice an undue inclination on the part of Sessions Judges to act under section 288 Cr.P. C. There are several cases in this Court and in Allahabad Court amongst which we may refer to Aminulla XXI, Weekly Reporter 49; XII Bengal Law Reports, 15 appendix; and Dhan Shaha, I. L. R. VII All. 862, which have always been accepted as setting the law in this respect and the learned Judge in these cases have enjoined great caution on the part of Sessions Judges before acting under Section 188. In this instance although the Sessions Judge had before him the statement of Kusila that her evidence had been improperly obtained by the police, he, without further previous enquiry on the point, brought on the record her statement before the Magistrate and further in dealing with this case he has, notwithstanding this explanation which has not been denied, placed implicit reliance on the statement made before the Magistrate. Then, again, in respect of another witness, Raghu Lal, we observe that the Sessions Judge has also brought on the record the statement made by this witness before the Magistrate. Now we can find no possible reason for this, for although the Sessions Judge has stated that Raghu Lal has in some respects contradicted his previous evidence, the only difference that we can find is that he has two statements at the conclusion of his deposition before the Magistrate which are not to be found in his evidence before the Sessions Court, but it does not appear that this witness was ever asked regarding either of these matters nor are these statements in any way contradictory of anything he had afterwards said. The manner in which the Judge expressed himself in his judgment as well as in several notes on the evidence of some of the witnesses seems to us to indicate that at a very early stage of the case he had formed a strong opinion against the accused and in favour of the prosecution. Several of the notes to which we refer are open to very serious objection. For instance, we may refer to the remark made on the evidence of Foghu Chowkidar, who first found the corpse and gave information to the police. In answer to a question, did they, that is to say—various persons named, identify the body, the witness replied "yes," adding that directly the father identified it they all began to identify it, and this the Judge remarks, was volunteered, with the obvious motive of destroying the case. We find, on the other hand, that this is not the only witness who makes this statement and we can find no reason at all for the assumption that this was made with the obvious motive of destroying the case. Nor can we find in respect of this witness Faghu anything to justify the Judge's statement that he had tampered with the body before reporting its finding to the police. It may be that the position of the clothes was altered, but there is nothing to show that it was altered by Faghu Chowkidar. The Judge seems to have treated this case as if it had been a violent and unwarranted attack on the conduct of the Inspector. Whatever the result may be or the facts found in the case we think it was the duty of the Judge in the first instance to consider how far the imputation made against the conduct of the police had any foundation and we have already expressed our opinion on one point, that the Inspector was not justified in subjecting the most important witness, Kusila to unnecessary restraint. In referring to this matter the Judge thus expresses himself: "The only defence being that the case was entirely fabricated by him that the case was entirely fabricated by him and I noticed a long row of Kayesth pleaders come and sit in the Court when his cross-examination began. The defence did not venture, however, to directly challenge him in cross-examination as to his conduct." We think that this remark is altogether uncalled for and we also think that the remark in regard to the verdict of the assessors which conveys a very grave imputation on their impartiality was equally uncalled for. On the whole, therefore, we think there is not sufficient evidence to convict the appellants and we direct that they be acquitted and released.

RAJKUMAR Captain Bir Bikram Singh C. I. E., of Sirmoor, was received at the Viceregal Lodge on Tuesday afternoon by His Excellency the Viceroy.

THE Regulations for Quarantine against plague on arrivals from the Hedjaz between Yambo and Lith, except those by pilgrim vessels, are now withdrawn.

A SUGGESTION which has been made to establish a Sanatorium for Europeans at Simla on the same lines as the Eden Institution at Darjiling, is likely to be seriously considered. If accepted, it will place the present Ripon Hospital entirely at the disposal of the native community—a purpose for which it was originally intended, and for which it is now much needed.

TELEGRAMS.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

THE BOMBAY SEDITION CASE.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

BOMBAY, JUNE 22.

The *Gurakhi* case was resumed yesterday. Mr. Bhatye was defended by Mr. Bland, solicitor, and Mr. Sealy, pleader. Dattatraya Joshi, proof-reader, *Gurakhi* Press, examined, deposed that the articles were in Joshi's handwriting; that Bhatye had gone to Nassik on the 25th March and returned on the 31st idem after the second article was published; that Bhatye was angry with the witness for having passed the articles; that Joshi had authorized their publication; that the fourth article was composed but cancelled by Bhatye who also dismissed Joshi and published an apology in the paper of the 2nd April; that the circulation of the paper was from 14 to 16 hundred daily; that Bhatye was editor, proprietor and printer. Inspector Framji deposed that he had arrested Bhatye and searched the press for manuscripts. He had also arrested Joshi and searched his house at Poona. The case was adjourned to Saturday.

WRITER COMMITTED TO THE SESSIONS.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

BOMBAY, JUNE 22.

Laxman Narayan Joshi, the writer of the offending articles in the *Gurakhi* newspaper was placed to-day before Mr. Sanders-Slater, Chief Presidency Magistrate.

After recording some formal evidence his Worship framed a charge under section 24A, I. P. Code, and committed the accused to take his trial at the next Sessions. Accused was defended by Mr. Welinkar, pleader.

A REVERSAL OF ORDERS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

BOMBAY, JUNE 21.

On the petition of Mr. Nageswar Sitaram Phansolkar, on behalf of Joliffe, formerly an Inspector of the Bombay Police, the High Court to-day reversed the order of the Chief Presidency Magistrate transferring the trial of the three witnesses for perjury to Mr. Dastur's Court.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, JUNE 21.

In the House of Commons to-day Mr. Wyndham, Under Secretary to the War Office introduced a Bill to raise four millions for the purpose of arming the defences abroad with heavy guns, and for the erection of barracks both at home and abroad. The Bill, he explained, was merely a continuation of the policy of 1897, and there was no new departure.

LONDON, JUNE 21.

The Reichstag has finally agreed to the prolongation of the commercial arrangement granting Britain and her colonies favoured nation treatment. The Government insisted upon the inclusion of India in the arrangement on the grounds of expediency, notwithstanding the Indian Countervailing Sugar Duties Act.

LONDON, JUNE 21.

Doctorates have been conferred by Oxford University on Mr. Cecil Rhodes, General Kitchener and Lord Elgin, all of whom were heartily cheered at the ceremony.

PARIS, JUNE 22.

M. Waldeck Rousseau has formed a concentration Cabinet taking himself the post of Minister of Interior with General Gallifet as Minister for War, M. Delcasse, Foreign Affairs, M. DeLanessan, Marine, and M. Decris, the Colonies. The Socialists, M. Millerand and Baudin, have been appointed Ministers of Instruction and Works respectively.

LONDON, JUNE 22.

Despatches from the Soudan state that friendly Tagallas have attacked the Khalifa and his followers, numbering about three thousand, near Sherkeila; many Dervishes were killed and their only gun captured. The Tagallas now surround the Khalifa, who has taken refuge in the hills.

LONDON, JUNE 22.

Replying to Sir W. Wedderburn in the House of Commons to-night, Mr. Chamberlain said the Government had used every friendly means with the Transvaal to secure equitable treatment for Indian residents, but this matter was one of a number on which Her Majesty's Government and the Transvaal were not in accord.

LONDON, JUNE 22.

A Bill, introduced by Mr. Wyndham, provides for the expenditure of £130,000 for Wei-hai-Wei, which is to be garrisoned by two companies of British and six companies of Chinese Infantry, one company of British and one company of Chinese Garrison Artillery, and a contingent of Engineers.

LONDON, JUNE 23.

It is now stated that not more than five hundred troops are going to the Cape at present.

LONDON, JUNE 23.

The Cabinet formed by M. Waldeck Rousseau, combining such markedly differing elements, astonishes everybody. General Gallifet has been selected as Minister of War to restore discipline in the army.

LONDON, JUNE 23.

Herr Von Buelow, German Minister for Foreign Affairs, has been created a Court.

THE Nepal Government, it is said, is sending a grand collection of bronzes to the Indian Court at the Paris Exhibition.

THE profits of the Kashmir State Railway are estimated at 8 to 13 per cent. The force of the Jhelum river is likely to be used to create electric power.

MR. RAWSON, Consulting Chemist to the Behar Planters' Association, has arrived in Muzafferpore, accompanied by an assistant, and is already hard at work.

THE PLAGUE.

PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

THERE were on the 22nd instant two attacks and one death from plague. One more death was reported as having occurred on some previous day. The total mortality was 40 as against 46, the mean of the last five years.

KARACHI RETURNS.

THURSDAY's returns show plague nil. BOMBAY STATISTICS. THURSDAY's plague returns give 9 cases and 4 deaths and a total mortality of 84, last year there were 6 cases and 6 deaths with a total mortality of 73.

POONA STATISTICS.

THURSDAY's plague returns show 13 cases and 11 deaths in the City and a total mortality of 31; 2 cases in the Cantonment; 2 cases and 2 deaths in Suburban limits; and nil in the District. There were 46 cases and 31 deaths from plague at Belgaum during last week. The weekly summary published on that day shows that during the week ending 9th June the figures show an increase; in the Nasik District, where 20 cases and 15 deaths were reported, against 10 cases and 9 deaths in the previous week. Ahmednagar District, reported 2 cases only, while Sholapore District also recorded 2 cases. In Poona the figures show a slight increase: 74 cases and 55 deaths against 65 and 50 deaths in the previous week. In the District, the village Banera appear to be the only one infected.

PLAGUE IN EGYPT.

CASES of plague still continue to crop up at Alexandria, but in no other part of Egypt has the disease made its appearance. It will be remembered that the first case was on the 4th of May. The total number of cases since that date is 14, whereof only have died, 4 have been cured and the remaining 8 are in hospital. There was no new case from the 1st instant, until yesterday afternoon when 4 were admitted to hospital—1 Greek, 2 native policemen, and 1 hospital attendant. There is as yet no quarantine against Egyptian arrivals at Marseilles—only a medical inspection and disinfection. There are 3 days' quarantine at Trieste, 10 (including passage) in Italian ports, 12 in Turkish ports, 15 in Greek ports, 12 in Russian ports and 15 at Malta. At Trieste, and in some other cases, quarantine can be undergone on board steamers. Quarantine prices are somewhat high—being 12 shillings per person per diem on board that Austrian Lloyd boats not including wif.

It has been decided to introduce a 4½ pence per mile fare for passengers travelling in the intermediate class of carriages in train running on the Madras-Annore Section of the Bezawada-Madras Railway.

OWING to the health Mr. Sidney Hartwell has resigned the appointment of Official Measurer to the Calcutta Turf Club and proceeds home. He hopes to return to India in October or November.

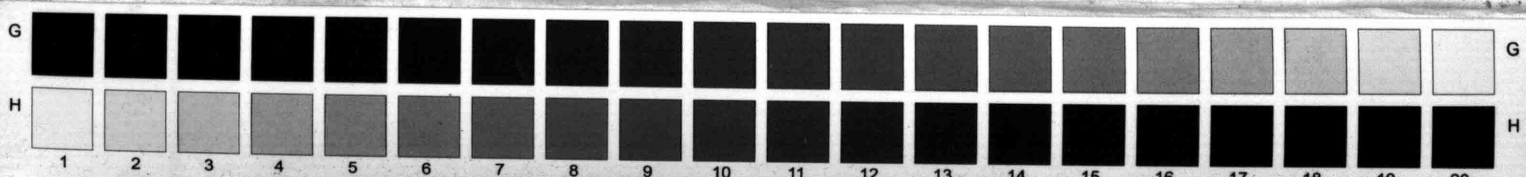
WITH regard to the heavy sentences passed on a Travancore Sub-Magistrate, a Travancore correspondent states that the Sub-Magistrate has appealed and that by order of the Madras High Court he has been admitted to bail in two sureties of Rs. 1,500 each, and his own recognisance of Rs. 1,000. It is expected that the sentence will be reduced.

THE unfortunate Nilgiri Railway has at last been opened for traffic, and trains have been running to Coonoor since the 15th instant. The line was originally opened to goods traffic in the beginning of October last, but three weeks later came the terrific landslide which undid so much of the work that had just been accomplished. Within a length of some nine miles there were actually 200 landslides, small and great, in almost every instance involving some damage to the line, and though it was at first announced that all could be put right again by the middle of January, events have shown how much too sanguine was such a calculation.

MR. JVENJEE NOORHAI, an enterprising Bombay merchant of Keyser Street, Colombo, is about to start a steamer service between Ceylon and the Maldives, and the arrangements are nearly completed. He has purchased the steamer "Ileafee," which is at present in Bombay, and with her arrival the new service will be inaugurated. The steamer is of 400 tons burden, and has accommodation for passengers, besides a carrying capacity of from 5,000 to 6,000 bags of rice. The owner is sanguine that there will be sufficient traffic as well as cargo to and from Minicoy to make the concern pay. He is in negotiation for the purchase of another steamer.

A MEETING of Chiefs and Headmen of the Kurunegala District, Ceylon was held at the Kurunegala Kacheri on Saturday last, to discuss and make arrangements with regard to the forthcoming Elephant Kraal. Mr. H. H. Cameron, the Government Agent, presided. The kraal will be held in the Katugampola Hatpattu, the site for the stockade being at or near about the village Welangiriya. A commencement will be made with the erection of the stockade and the grand stand on the 25th instant, under the supervision of Mr. L. B. Bogahalande, R. M. The drive-in of the elephants will probably commence on the 10th of July, or thereabouts, and this task has been entrusted to Hulugala R. M., and will be concluded about the end of July.

MESSRS. MORGAN, Prince and Newburn have submitted to the Government of India, on behalf of the promoters, proposals for a concession for a line of railway on the standard gauge between Jubulpore and Kamptee in the Central Provinces, together with a preferential right, if agreed to by the Nizam's Government, to extend the line to Warangal on the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway. The proposed line would be called the Indian Central Railway, and the promoters seek for running powers over the Bengal Nagpur Railway from a point on the northern side of the Kanham river to Nagpur. From the survey estimate and the traffic reports prepared from a reconnaissance survey made for the Central Provinces Government, the promoters estimate that the traffic of the proposed line would, under reasonable conditions for working, within a period of two years after opening, yield a return of four per cent. on the capital required for the Jubulpore and Kamptee section, which, it is believed, could be raised without a guarantee in London.



PETITION OF CHOWDHRY TULSI RAM TO THE VICEROY.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHE VETH,—

That with due deference a petitioner humbly approaches the foot of your Lordship's throne to beseech mercy at your Lordship's hands.

That your Lordship's petitioner is the unfortunate father of three young men who were sentenced to be hanged on a charge of murder by the Sessions Judge of Meerut and the High Court of the North-West Provinces.

That the evidence adduced by the prosecution being not only unreliable and inherently improbable, but a mass so incongruous and contradictory as was never heaped together in any charge that in modern days at all events has been brought into a Court of Justice, the Local Government has been good enough to commute the afore-mentioned sentence to one of transportation for life.

That your Lordship will be pleased to observe from the annexed memorandum in which the case for the prosecution is briefly discussed, on the basis of the record that except assertions of a most impossible nature there is absolutely no proof; that no motive has been assigned; that the theory for the prosecution is a most unlikely one; and that justice and laws required that the accused should at least receive the benefit of the doubt.

That nevertheless the unfortunate accused have been condemned and woe has been brought on your petitioner and his family. Their old mother has died through grief; their wives who are worse than widows are in sackcloth and ashes; their lands are lying uncultivated and uncared for, and their children have become orphans; and petitioner must end his days in grief and sorrow.

That a number of old retired native officers who distinguished themselves in the service of Government, and a host of native gentlemen of the Meerut district have submitted petitions to the Local Government expressing their implicit belief in the innocence of the accused and praying for mercy on them. Copies of their petitions are submitted herewith for your Lordship's perusal.

That your Lordship's petitioner ventures to hope that as the representative of that Most Gracious Sovereign, Mother whose mercy towards her subjects has never been known to be strained, your Lordship will take the case of the three accused into your merciful consideration.

Wherefore your Lordship's petitioner humbly prays that your Lordship will extend the Royal prerogative of pardon to your petitioner's three sons.

And your Lordship's petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c., &c.

MEMORANDUM.

QUEEN-EMPRESS.

VERSUS.

(1) Mallu, (2) Lakhmi, (3) Mukhtar, sons of Choudhry Tulsi Ram, caste Jaland-lord and resident of Mauzah Nek, Poli-station, Jani, District Meerut.

Capital sentence under sectn 302, I. P. Code, passed by the Sessions Judge of Meerut, on all three afore-mentioned accused. Confirmed by the High Court of Judicature at the N.W. Provinces. Commuted to transportation for life by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, N.W. Provinces.

A report was made at 5 o'clock in the morning on the 10th of March, 1897, at the Police-station at Jani, by one Lakh Singh, brother-in-law of a Dharman Singh of the said village of Nek, as under:—

"I live with Dharman Singh Dharman Singh has been away at Meerut for the last four days. To-night I was sleeping in the house in a *dalan* having three doors. Juma and Mare, sweepers, servants, were sleeping in the outer and inner ante-chambers. After midnight I heard a noise. I woke and saw four men with *lathis* standing in the *dalan*. Lantern was burning. I called out, com, thieves, and I recognised them to be Mallu, Mukhtar and Lakhmi, sons of Tulsi Jat, residents of the village. One man I did not recognise. He was a tall size. I can identify him by appearance. As I called out, Mallu gave me a *lathi* blow on my left leg and tukhtar gave another *lathi* blow on my head. Juma, a sweeper, who was sleeping in the inner threshold stopped the passage. The four men beat him with *lathis*. He has received severe injuries and is senseless. Mare, sweeper, topped the passage of the second threshold where a lamp was burning. Him also they gave *lathi* blows. Rurku Hajam and Shibba Dhinmar and many other men had come there on hearing my call. I came out with a lantern. They, too, identified the thieves by this light of the lantern. The people outside tried to stop the passage of the thieves, but they were not prevented and ran away. Then I went inside and looking up found padlocks of the box and almirah broken. I don't know what has been stolen. When Dharman Singh comes from Meerut he will dictate, and it appeared that the thieves came into the house over the wall of the southern *dalan*. I have come to make a report."

The police recorded, "Marks of slight injuries appeared on the right side of his head." This is the first report on which the case commenced. It contains a few passages which need exposition and the special attention of His Lordship.

(a) The High Court observes:—"The accused may have gone there thinking that their enemy Dharman Singh [whose house is said to have been raided by the accused] was there intending to give him a 'beating.' Now it is stated by no other than the complainant himself that Dharman Singh was absent from home. This circumstance must have been known to the accused, because they resided in the same village contiguous to Dharman Singh's house, and their father (petitioner) too, had gone to Meerut in the same case. Hence the above hypothesis of the High Court is purely gratuitous, and it is plain the High Court laboured under a misapprehension of facts."

HOW TO CURE A SPRAIN.

Last fall I sprained my left hip while handling some heavy boxes. The doctor I called on at first it was a slight strain and would soon be well, but it grew worse and the doctor then said I had rheumatism. It continued to grow worse and I could hardly get around to work. I went to a drug store and the druggist recommended me to try Chamberlain's Pain Balm. I tried it and one-half of a 50-cent bottle red me entirely I now recommend it to all my friends.—F. A. BABCOCK, Erie, Pa. It is for sale by

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

THE services of Mr. J. Adam, Executive Engineer, and grade, State Railways, are on return from privilege leave, placed at the disposal of the Foreign Department for employment in the Kashmir State.

I wish to say that I feel under lasting obligations to what Chamberlain's Cough Remedy as done for our family. We have used it in many cases of coughs, lung troubles and whooping cough, and it has always given the most perfect satisfaction. We feel greatly indebted to the manufacturers of this remedy and wish them to please accept our hearty thanks.—Respectfully, Mrs. S. DOTY, Des Moines, Iowa. Sale by

SMITH STANISTREET & CO. AND B. K. PAUL & CO.

A CARD OF THANKS.

I awoke last night with severe pains in my stomach. I never felt so badly in all my life. When I came down to work this morning I left so weak I could hardly work. I went to Miller & McCurdy's drug store and they recommended Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. It worked like magic and one dose cured me all right. It certainly is the finest thing I ever used for stomach trouble. I shall not be without it in my home hereafter, for I should not care to endure the sufferings of last night again for fifty times its price.—G. H. Wilson, Liverman, Burgettstown, Washington Co., Pa. This remedy is for sale by

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

THE following is the 14th paragraph of the Government Resolution on the Administration of Jails in this country:—

The average number of prisoners under sentence of labour on working days was 16,970,22, and of these, 6,968 were employed on manufactures, the rest, exclusive of the sick, convalescent or infirm, being employed on jail duties (6,011), or gardening (1,114), or jail buildings (1,000). This is another matter in which the Lieutenant-Governor regrets to say he has been far from satisfied in his inspections of the jails. There are jails in which the gardens are much too large. It is quite true that there are in every jail convalescents for whom light work must be found, and to whom the open air may be a necessary restorative; but imprisonment means incarceration, and to every prisoner who is given extramural duty, the sentence nominally passed by the Magistrates very largely ceases to be a punishment at all. The growth of vegetables for the supply of the prisons may be a proper, and, indeed, necessary economy, but the growth of garden produce for sale is indefensible, and must be stopped. Then there are employments which are, no doubt, in a sense manufactures, but which are in reality little more than a pleasant occupation. The Lieutenant-Governor again thinks that the intention of the Magistrates, when they sentence a man to hard labour, is that he shall be put to some really toilsome tasks, the memory of which will be by no means attractive to him the next time he feels tempted to crime. The Lieutenant-Governor has drawn the Inspector-General's notice to this matter in detailed Inspection Notes, and has, no doubt, that they will receive his special attention. On studying the figures of this report another instance came to light of the constant tendency in jails to the substitution of light for hard labour. In 1893 on an average population of 16,219 there were 3,620 convicts employed as prison officers and servants in 1898: on an average population of 16,970, there were 3,011 convicts so employed. The Lieutenant-Governor will be obliged if the Inspector-General will see to it that the convicts employed on these easy duties of the prison service are reduced to the minimum. The total cash earnings for the year amounted to Rs. 3,78,139-12 against Rs. 1,99,342-10 in 1897, the average earnings per head of the prisoners sentenced to labour being Rs. 22-5 against Rs. 11-10 in the previous year. The average earnings thus show a marked increase, but they were below those of 1895, when they reached Rs. 30-13.

THE Port Trustees of Karachi have decided to enlarge the dry dock at Manora, at an estimated cost of about Rs. 90,000. Plans and estimates are to be shortly submitted to Government for sanction.

A BIT OF THE TRUTH.

The most pertinent and startling question ever asked is this:—*What is truth?*

A Roman Governor pronounced it once, under circumstances which greatly worried and perplexed his official mind. And he was not the first man or the last—no by myriads. So far as I know there has been no satisfactory answer. Some people (radicals and out-casters of various sorts) fancy that in this, the tail end of a rather braggart and conceited century, they have flushed a far-sighted convey of truths by firing speculative shotguns into every way-side bush and bog.

But have they done it? No, gentle reader, no. They have put up crows and sparrows, the same crows that picked the bones of the cave dwellers, and the same sparrows that sold two for a farthing in the time of Plato. There were plenty of fools of old, and there are plenty now. The ancient doctors, indeed, prescribed some horrible stuffs as medicine:—they used electuaries of viper's flesh and co-manded pomegranate seeds for toothache because those seeds resemble human teeth. Very shallow and silly, to be sure, this sounds to us. But if you wanted to find things that come very near matching them in modern practice, I could show you where to look. On my table I have a list of about 300 new "remedies" introduced to a suffering world within the past twelvemonth. "Must be some good ones among them," do you say? Possibly. Time will tell. Meanwhile let us stick to whatever we are sure of. "We learn how to cure diseases," said Celsus, "by experience, not by reasoning."

"Some of the greatest truths in medicine," said a learned Scotch doctor, "came by the humblest means; not by synthesis or venection, but by the observations of peasants and the experiments of motherly women."

Concerning a medicine discovered by one such woman, thousands of stories have been told and letters writt n. Here is an example:—

"For many years I have suffered from indigestion and weakness. I seemed to have no energy for anything. I had a poor appetite, and what little food I ate caused me violent pains at the chest and between the shoulders. Frequently I had attacks of dizziness, and when I stopped I suffered from an unusual rush of blood to the head. The pain which I was called upon to bear was often very severe; it affected all parts of my body, and at night I got little sleep and refreshing sleep on account of it."

"As time went on and the complaint grew fixed upon me, I came to be exceedingly weak, and now flesh and became quite thin, living, as I did, only on milk, beef tea, and other kinds of liquid food. It will be understood, of course, that I had medical care, besides attending the South London Dispensary. Yet I received no benefit from what was done for me."

"It happened that in January 1889, a friend, Mr. Pullen, told me he had suffered in a similar manner and been cured by a remedy called Mother Seigel's Syrup. Acting on his suggestion I got a bottle and after having taken it I found great relief. Presently my appetite returned and food no longer distressed me. Convinced that Mother Seigel's Syrup was adapted to my ailment I continued the use of it until it was no longer needed. My health and strength were re-established, and I have since been well. This medicine had done what no other had been able to do. My husband, who suffered from biliousness, used it with the same result. You have my free consent to publish this brief statement if you desire to do so."—(Signed) Mr. Julia Massey, 133, Lonsdale Road, Kennington, London, S.E., January 20th, 1898.

There is no royal road to the discovery of truth or knowledge. Anybody may find it anywhere. It is not always he who seeks that finds. Valuable discoveries are usually made by what, for lack of a better word, we call accident. The medicine that cures is the medicine we want, no matter whether it is old as the earth or was picked up yesterday in the fields by a child. That Mother Seigel's Syrup cures is proved by a cloud of witnesses. It is a bit of the truth. Therefore it will not die out, and nothing can take its place.

THE AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, JUNE 25, 1897

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE JESSORE MURDER CASE.

AN EXTRAORDINARY REFERENCE.

It was a most extraordinary reference ever made by a judicial officer, remarked Mr. Justice Prinsep, while hearing the case of *Empress vs. Jadbah Dass* which had come up before his Lordship and Mr. Justice Hill on a reference made by Mr. L. Palit, Sessions Judge of Jessore. The case had been tried by a jury who unanimously returned a verdict of "Not guilty". There were two other prisoners and they all had been charged with the murder of a boy. The Sessions Judge, while accepting the verdict in respect of the other two prisoners and entering an order of acquittal in regard to them, disagreed with it in respect of Jadbah Dass, the present accused, and referred the matter to the High Court under section 307 with a recommendation that the prisoner be convicted of murder or at least of abetment of murder.

The letter of reference was an extraordinary document. It contained "a piece of special pleading" on behalf of the police and their doings in connection with the case. And it was this portion of the letter of reference, that elicited some scathing remarks from their Lordships. The case for the prosecution may be briefly stated as follows: On the first of January Jogsur Dass, a boy of about 14 years, went out in the evening and did not return home. His father searched for him the next day, but in vain. On the morning of the 3rd January his dead body was found in a field, and the boy's father went and lodged information at the police station. The police came and arrested Jadbah Dass on suspicion and sent him up. Then in the course of the investigation evidence was obtained from Jadbah's mother, grandmother and wife which led to the arrest of Rai Charan and Mangal. In the committing Magistrate's Court Jadbah made a statement of the nature of a confession, and gave the same version of the occurrence as that given by his mother. All the three female witnesses and Jadbah retracted the statements made by them in the committing Magistrate's Court. The depositions of these three witnesses and the examination of Jadbah in the committing Magistrate's Court were put in. "Without these," remarks the Sessions Judge, "there is no evidence at all against any of the prisoners." The first question that the Sessions Judge considered in dealing with the evidence was whether the evidence of these women was tutored or untutored, whether obtained by threats or coercion or inducement, or was purely voluntary. In considering the question of the evidence being manufactured by the police, the Sessions Judge observed: "It is an unfortunate fact in this country, that whenever a suggestion is made against the Police, charging them either with extorting a confession or manufacturing evidence it is generally considered necessary to see, not so much whether the suggestion is well founded, as whether it can be positively rebutted; I shall, therefore, first consider what the circumstances are which go to show that the evidence was not manufactured by the Police, remarking at the same time that this distrust of the Police may easily be, and is not seldom, carried too far." Thus we find, writes the Sessions Judge, "that the Sub-Inspector did not try to extort a confession from him. There is no suggestion that any attempt was made to extort a confession from Jadbah. If the Sub-Inspector had been so minded he could have easily refrained from formally arresting Jadbah and sending him up. There was no necessity for arresting Jadbah then. No one could have blamed the Sub-Inspector for not arresting Jadbah at that stage. If he had been wickedly disposed he could have easily kept Jadbah in the village to try by force a confession from him. But instead of doing anything improper he at once arrested Jadbah and sent him up. So far the Sub-Inspector's conduct of the investigation appears to have been perfectly proper and straight-forward, without affording any ground for even a suggestion to the contrary. If the police wanted to get up false evidence then it seems to me very unlikely that they should have gone to the accused's own people, especially when, as we have seen, the Sub-Inspector's conduct as regards Jadbah was so proper and straight-forward."

Jadbah's wife in the Sessions Court said that the Daroga and Jamadar had tutored her and said that they would dishonour her if she did not say what she was tutored to say. This is what Jadbah said in answer to the Sessions Judge whether he had made the statement before the committing Magistrate of his own motion. Jadbah: No, my mother, wife and grandmother were taken into the jail. I was inside the jail, and my mother, wife and grandmother were brought to the door and my mother said, "Say what I tell you to say or we shall be put in jail." I do not remember what statement I did make. Judge: Then it was your mother who told you what to say. Jadbah: My mother, wife and grandmother said, "Our caste and honour are about to be ruined." The Sessions Judge did not believe these explanations. He thought this story was incredible. He thought it was "abundantly clear that the evidence given by the three women and the confession made by Jadbah were not due to tutoring or coercion by the Police." In conclusion the Sessions Judge observed that the jury had no doubt returned an unanimous verdict of not guilty. In a case of this kind, however, the verdict of the jury did not stand on the same footing as in a case where they are called upon to decide on evidence given before them. The decision in a case of this kind, must rest on an elaborate process of reasoning. Having regard to the nature of the case, the Sessions Judge was not surprised that the jury should have returned the verdict they did. After giving the case his best consideration the Sessions Judge was of opinion that Jadbah was guilty of the murder of the unfortunate boy. The murder was an atrocious one and the evidence that the police had produced was the best that they, after an honest and careful investigation, could produce.

Babi Jyoti Prosad Sarbadhikari who appeared for the accused contended that there was nothing to show that the confession was a voluntary one. Moreover it had been retracted. It had always been held that it was unsafe to convict an accused person on a retracted confession if there was no other reliable evidence. The Medical evidence in the case did not support the confession. Prinsep, J.: We have great doubt whether this confession is a voluntary confession. We are of opinion that the letter of reference is a

piece of special pleading ever made by a judicial officer. It has placed many things before us which he did not place before the jury. The special pleading on behalf of the police officers he never laid before the jury. It is a most extraordinary reference ever made.

Hill, J.: The Judge himself says that the verdict is reasonable and that he is not surprised. Mr. Rabin was then heard in reply.

Their Lordships then delivered a lengthy judgment. After detailing the facts of the case and the method under which the evidence of one of the female witnesses had been taken which their Lordships condemned, the judgment went on to say that the jury unanimously brought in a verdict of acquittal. Now in the first place their Lordships observed that in making this reference the Sessions Judge said that "having regard to the nature of the case I am not surprised that the jury should have returned the verdict they did," and he added, apparently for coming to a contrary conclusion, that "the decision in a case of this kind must rest on an elaborate process of reasoning." But there was no apparent excuse for the Sessions Judge in not laying before the jury the same "elaborate process of reasoning" as adopted in making the reference to the High Court. The reference was of such a nature, their Lordships were surprised to observe, that it could be made by any judicial officer. It was a piece of special pleading with the object of exonerating the police from any suspicion in the investigation of this case and to show that their evidence was reliable. The Sessions Judge had lost sight of the fact that it was his duty to analyse the evidence and to place it before the jury and that he should not consider anything that he had not placed before the jury. Under section 307 Cr. P. C. it was the duty of the High Court to weigh the view taken by the jury and the Judge upon the evidence placed before the jury. Therefore unless the two opinions were based upon the same premises it was impossible for the High Court to form any opinion on the case. In the reference the Sessions Judge made he brought in many new matters, which could not have been recorded as evidence. Their Lordships were surprised to find that the Sessions Judge had not seen the impropriety of making a reference of that nature. In the result, their Lordships accepted the verdict of the jury, acquitted the accused and ordered his discharge.

THE ALLEGED BOMBAY SEDITION.

AT the Esplanade Police Court on Saturday afternoon, before Mr. J. Sanders Slater, Chief Presidency Magistrate, the inquiry into the case of sedition was resumed under Section 124 A of the Penal Code. The charge was preferred by Mr. Mirza Abbas Ali Baig, Oriental Translator to Government, against Vinayek Narayan Bha'ye, proprietor of the *Gurakhi*, published in Bombay, and against Luximon Narayan Joshi, the writer of articles in the *Gurakhi*, dated the 26th, 30th, and 31st March, 1899.

MR. BAIG'S INFORMATION. The information filed by Mr. Baig against Joshi stated:—I am informed that one Luximon Narayan Joshi, of Bombay, Hindu inhabitant, was the Sub-editor during the months of February and March last of a daily newspaper printed in the Marathi character and styled the *Gurakhi*. The newspaper was the property of one Vinayek Narayan Bha'ye, who was the editor, printer and publisher of it. The newspaper was printed at the Bombay New Press, in Girgaum back road, Bombay, opposite the Girgaum Post Office. The copies of the *Gurakhi* newspaper, dated respectively 26th, 30th, and 31st of March, 1899, now produced, and marked respectively A, B, and C, and shown to me, and which I have read, contain certain printed matter purporting to be three leading articles, entitled—(1) "What is the meaning of *Raja* and *Rajyasa*," on page 2 of the copy marked A, (2) "The Chapekars, Dravids, and Mr. Brewin—No. 1," on pages 2 and 3 of the copy marked B, and (3) "The Chapekars, Dravids, and Mr. Brewin—No. 2," on pages 2 and 3 of the copy marked C. These leading articles are of an extremely inflammatory and objectionable character, and I am advised, are calculated to bring into hatred or contempt, or to excite disaffection towards the Government established by law in British India. I am informed that Luximon Narayan Joshi was the writer of such articles or some of them, and caused the same to be printed in the newspaper. I accordingly charge Luximon Narayan Joshi as the writer of the printed matter appearing in the issues of the *Gurakhi* of the said dates, with committing in respect of these leading articles an offence declared punishable under Section 124 A of the Penal Code. The issues of the *Gurakhi* were published in Bombay and forwarded to and distributed among subscribers within the jurisdiction of this Court. An order under Section 106 of the Code of Criminal Procedure has been made for the making of this complaint.

IN COURT. A number of Brahmins, says the *Times of India*, were present in Court during the proceedings.

Mr. Nicholson, public Prosecutor, assisted by Inspector Framjee of the Criminal Investigation Department, appeared to prosecute. Mr. Sealy and Mr. Bland defended the first accused; Mr. Velinkar defended the second.

In response to an inquiry from the Magistrate, Mr. Nicholson stated that he wanted to take the case against Bha'ye only, and the other accused Joshi might wait outside in the meanwhile. He intended to lead evidence against the two accused separately.

Mr. Bland inquired whether the case would be committed to the Sessions or dealt with by the Magistrate.

The Magistrate stated that his intention was to send it on to the Sessions; but it was too early yet to say which of the two courses he should adopt—deal with the case himself, or send it up to the High Court.

Mr. Nicholson said he intended to ask for a committal, and would give reasons later on for having elected to follow that course.

SEDITION DEFINED.

Mr. Nicholson, in opening the case, read Section 124A:—"Whoever by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representation or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards Her Majesty or the Government established by law in British India, shall be punished with transportation for life or any

shorter term." He also read the explanation attached to the section that "disaffection" included disloyalty and all feelings of enmity; but that comments expressing disapprobation of either the measures or the administrative or other action of the Government, without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, did not constitute an offence under the section.

THE "GURAKHI" AND THE ACCUSED.

He said the accused, Vinayek Narayan Bha'ye, was the printer, publisher, editor, manager, and proprietor of the *Gurakhi*, the circulation of which was very large, extending to seven thousand copies a day. Its price was one pice per copy. The circulation was in proportion to its cheapness. It was published daily, except on Mondays and by reason of sending men into the bazaars to sell the paper, and also in the streets, the proprietor had managed to secure an increased circulation. According to the translation of one of the articles, the word *Gurakhi* meant "Coward." First published in the interest and support of the "cow-movement," it had since taken up other subjects. In February and March last, the accused was assisted in the editorship by a man named Luximon Narayan Joshi, the accused in the second case, and party to the articles that formed the subject of the present indictment. On the 26th March, which was a Sunday, the newspaper came out with an article headed "What is the meaning of King and Kingdom?"

MR. NICHOLSON'S COMMENTS.

Mr. Nicholson, in reading the articles, commented on the passages, and pointed out those that were most important to the inquiry. The article, he said, concluded with the words:—"Of all riches nothing is as precious as physical strength; and there is not a shadow of a doubt that any human being whatever, if he possesses it, will by any desperate acts, and by following the example of even the beasts and birds which fight furiously for their liberty, be able to defend his divine and natural rights." Here was an incitement to defend what the writer considered to be "divine and natural rights" by any desperate acts, and by following the example of even beasts and birds. That was distinctly against Government.

The Magistrate: It suggests violence.

Mr. Nicholson: Not only that; but it insinuates that the English do not conduct themselves in consonance with the principles they enunciate, and suggests violence in order to put an end to this. Part of the article likens Government to a snake hissing furiously, and I do not think it is possible to say that it does not come under the section. Mr. Nicholson added that it excited or attempted to excite disaffection and disloyalty. A few days after—on Thursday, the 30th March—another article appeared in the same newspaper. The first article was distinctly upon the proper mode of governing; the second was not on that subject. It was on the Chapekars, the Dravids, and Mr. Brewin, and of course it was notorious what the subject was that was denoted by these three names. In referring to the article previously published, it spoke of its having appeared in the issue proceeding the *Shimga* or *Holi* holidays, and apparently meant that during the intervening *Holi* holidays the newspaper offices were shut. Speaking of a forest-fire, the article pointed out that the Government, which was not such a government as should have been conducted on the principles suggested by the first article, was no better than a forest-fire, that is, if the suggestions made in the first article about the mode of conducting government be answered in the negative, then the position was that it was something like a forest-fire. It was stated to be the duty of everyone to escape from such a fire, and such conduct was not held to be blame-worthy. English rule was not considered "heavenly," and to take it so was described as "sheer folly." The present Government was referred to by the words "the dominion of our English rulers"—that is, the present Government established by law in British India. Citing the affair of the Chapekars, the article expressed an opinion that everybody must have felt the present rule to be indeed like a forest-fire. In saying that the murder of Mr. Rand was quite proper, the writer also stated that one could put his finger into the eye of another, but he failed to detect the mote in his own eye; he feared that according to that adage the Government might perhaps not approve of what he had said. That showed the writer was aware he was going too far. The article talked a good deal about the Dravids, which Mr. Nicholson thought was not worth going into.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE POLICE.

The story of the Dravids was told by the writer as he knew it, and in the course of it he made allegations against the police. Several times the article went on to say that they (the police) made them "understand matters well"—that is, beat them severely. Then there was a recurrence to the former remark that it was something like people being obliged to kill persons, thus disloyally following up his enmity to Government. It was stated that Mr. Rand had become inflated and disdainful by the secret instigation of Government, and that had he been living, it could not even be imagined what dreadful deeds he might have committed. Assuming that Mr. Rand did harsh things, the article hinted that he did them by the secret connivance of Government. Again the article stated: "This writing of ours is likely to enrage Government against us"—the writer seemed thereby to know for the second time that what he was writing was illegal. Government was likened to a *Myah Sahib's hookah*, or hubble-bubble, and the conclusion drawn was that Government knew that Mr. Rand was giving trouble, but they connived at the matter simply "under the influence of blood relationship." By the length of the *hookah* pipe was denoted the administration of India carried on from a distance of "ten thousand *kos*." It meant that England was a long way off from this country, and the only question there asked would be "Is he an Englishman?" If so, they would connive at his misdoings. This, Mr. Nicholson said, certainly came within the meaning of the section. The whole of the article, although it went to a certain extent into matters against the police, and in parts on the question of getting up evidence against the Chapekars, had underlying insinuations against the Government.

The Magistrate: And instigation.

Mr. Nicholson: Yes, instigation at first, and connivance afterwards. That article is likely to cause hatred and disaffection, and certainly should come within Section 124A.

Mr. Nicholson said that the promise the paper had made on 30th March to allude to the matter again, was carried out in its issue

of the 31st March on the following day. The article in the issue of the 31st March was a continuation of the subject and was headed "The Chapekars, the Dravids, and Mr. Brewin—No. 2." That article stated that it was now the settled opinion of the writer that Mr. Rand was "a tyrannical officer," the other article said that he was "instigated by Government." This article appeared not to be of the strength of the other two articles; but it was a continuation of them. Therefore, the prosecution thought that it should be before the Court, and that it would be also fair to the accused to afford him an opportunity to show what he meant by the article. It went on in its strictures against Government, which were lucid enough; but it did not go to the length to which the other two did. By that, however, he was far from meaning that the article did not come within the section. There were passages here and there to which he would briefly refer. Nana Sahib and the year 1857 were recalled. Altogether the writing was equally with the other articles against Government and equally tended to excite enmity against Government. It recommended that the Dravids should be raised to the dignity of *Sahibs* and granted *jaghirs* for their services, and a suggestion was made at the end of the article that the facts of the Chapekar case as given out were not true. They were made up, apparently, by the instigation of Government, which had "magnified them into a Himalaya mountain"; and that the whole affair from beginning to end was "a made-up thing." These three articles came before Government, and Government sanctioned the laying of the complaint against the man now before the Court. Accused was the proprietor and publisher of the paper, and as proprietor he got the benefit derived from the circulation. In the books of the paper he had put himself down as receiving Rs. 75 per month as editor, and when he did not work as such, for the mere selling of the paper. This was not the first time that he had written in this way. He wrote disloyal articles in April, 1898, and was warned in consequence of an article which appeared in March of that year. On that occasion he expressed himself as very contrite and the matter dropped; but in a short time he blazed out again. Mr. Nicholson said he would show that the articles before the Court were only a few out of several the accused had published. In the present charge these would go to show the feelings the accused had towards Government and possessing such feelings, he was likely to authorise the appearance of such articles as those before the Court in his newspaper. What the accused wanted to show was that what had appeared in his newspaper was not authorised by him. Mr. Nicholson pointed out, in conclusion, that he did not propose to go through the case entirely at that hearing, but would confine himself to evidence connecting the accused with the paper. Things had happened since accused's arrest, which would lead to further inquiries being made.

FORMAL EVIDENCE.

Formal evidence as to the publication of the article was given by Mr. Mirza Abbas Ali Baig, Oriental Translator to Government. The name of the accused, Bha'ye, was given in the paper as proprietor and publisher and also as manager. Mr. Nicholson also put into Court a copy of the *Gurakhi*, dated 10th March, 1899, which contained the following article:—

THE PLAGUE COMMITTEE AND EXTRAVAGANT EXPENDITURE.

Although in consequence of the outbreak of the epidemic of plague, the inhabitants of Bombay have suffered damage in every way, trade has sustained a terrible shock, and the middle class people have been reduced to beggary, yet the white (*i.e.*, European) doctors, nurses, and soldiers have had their fill of riches (*i.e.*, have reaped a rich harvest). We are surprised (to find that) Government do not (yet) think of curtailing the extravagant expenditure (on plague), although the epidemic of plague has not abated in the least (although) the damage that was to have been sustained has been sustained in every way (and) twenty-five lakhs (of rupees) have been spent like anything (or spent away). The mischievous tricks of soldiers, new appointments of high-salaried officers, needless importation of a good many English doctors and nurses, and the self-willed (*i.e.*, arbitrary) conduct of Government—these are not the (right) remedies for eradicating the epidemic of plague. By doing so (*i.e.*, by adopting such measures) (the fact that) Government are drawing (*i.e.*, drawing away) money by the shovelful is only becoming apparent to the public. So much expenditure has been incurred up to this day, but has a specific for eradicating the disease of plague come out of (*i.e.*, been discovered by) the brain of single medical man? No. Has any one found out even the origin of the (disease)? No. Is there any efficacy in English medicine? No. Then it becomes evident that in encouraging this nuisance there is no (other) motive whatever than that of gratifying the desire of the *Apas* for money to their heart's content. When is this shabby and confused (unsatisfactory) state of things to end? Before whom should we lay our difficulties (*i.e.*, grievances)? Where will (our present) state (in which we receive) blows after our mouths have been gagged, ultimately lead us? Whose back is the whip of Mr. Chalmers' bill going to peel (*i.e.*, lash)? And who is going even to answer these queries? All will be well if our reckless Government will, from benevolent motives, put a stop to the extravagant expenditure of the Plague Committee and abolish (the system of detention in) quarantine camps (which is tantamount to) imprisonment in a jungle, and (the system of) inspection by insolent soldiers.

A SUBSCRIBER'S STATEMENT.

Sadashiv Ganpat said he was a subscriber to the *Gurakhi* newspaper. The receipts produced were for payment of subscription for the past three months March, April, and May. He got copies of the papers containing the three articles I, II, III, in question, and read them.

Mr. Nicholson said he would for the present call no further evidence. He desired to have an adjournment to the earliest date possible, as he wished the case to be tried at the approaching Sessions.

The case was adjourned to Wednesday at 2-30.

THE CHARGE AGAINST JOSHI.

Mr. Nicholson examined Mr. Baig in regard to the charge against Luximon Narayan Joshi; and again called formal evidence as to the articles. Mr. Baig stated that sanction to prosecute was obtained from Government on the 16th instant.

The hearing of this case will be resumed on Thursday afternoon.

CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

A GENERAL meeting of the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta was held on Wednesday afternoon at the Town Hall, Mr. W. R. Bright, Chairman of the Corporation, presiding. There were present about thirty-five Commissioners.

CONSERVANCY OF THE TOWN.

The Chairman observed that the conservancy of the town was in a very deplorable condition; cart-loads of refuse could be seen deposited by the side of the roads, but this was due to a cause over which they had no control.

The success of the conservancy of the town depended upon three facts: (a) sufficiency of bullocks and carts; (b) sufficiency of carters; (c) adequate and punctual supply of wagons. The recent break-down of the conservancy was due partly to insufficiency of carters and partly to unpunctual supply of wagons. The carter establishment had been short ever since the outbreak of plague last year, and though some of the men came back there was another exodus early in March and at the beginning of April they were short by 79 carters. Subsequently others left while there was a partial strike. And though a few have returned there were on that morning 122 carters short at the two Gowkhanas. To meet this deficiency a coolie agent was at first employed and when he failed other steps were taken. Matters have since considerably improved and he now entertained every hope that the refuse would be removed properly.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

On the agenda there was the following item of business to be considered at the meeting:—

That on behalf of the Corporation the Hon'ble Babu Narendro Nath Sen should be again returned to the Bengal Legislative Council, and at the same time they express the hope that, as the proposed arrangement is to be made for the sake of this Corporation, the Municipal Bodies of the Presidency Division will fulfil its object by returning the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee.

When this item was reached some of the Commissioners observed that there was no further necessity of considering the question.

Moulvi Shamsul-Juda: I think, Sir, we can still consider the second portion of the question.

Babu Kali Nath Mitter: Are you prepared to raise a discussion on it?

Moulvi Shamsul-Juda: Well, I think we can discuss the question.

Babu Kali Nath Mitter: You will simply raise a useless discussion.

Babu Bhupendro Nath Basu: Better drop the question altogether.

The Chairman wanted to know the sense of the meeting as to whether it was for dropping the question or for discussion.

The sense of the meeting being entirely in favour of dropping the question altogether, the item was passed over.

The Gowingdah aders have all passed back through the Gumar Tochi from their annual tours in India. They were much less troubled by raiders this year than in previous seasons.

At Bombay, three Hindoos were charged, on the 21st inst. with possessing indecent pictures and obscene books, and were sentenced to two months' imprisonment. The property was ordered to be destroyed.

A PRISONER who was recently undergoing trial before the Jint Magistrate, at Agra, after bestowing foul abuse, on the Court Inspector, struck him a violent blow across the face with a book. He has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

THE Gumbah outlaws attempted on the 19th to carry off the flocks of the Gurguri village on the Kurram frontier but were beaten off, and two of their numbers wounded. They are now said to be hounding round Thal, looking for an opportunity to make a further raid.

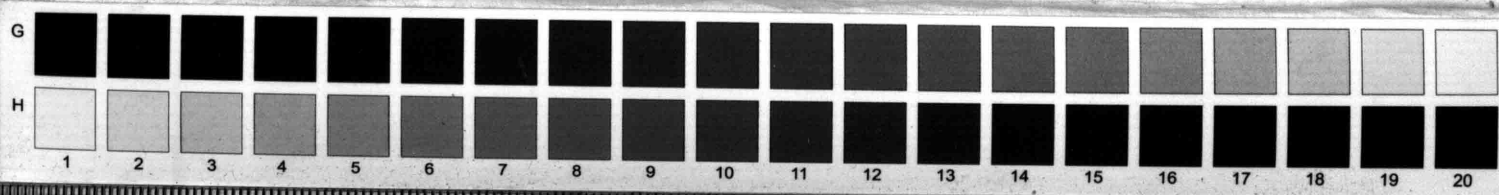
It is reported at Indore that important changes affecting, at all events for a time, the part taken by the Maharaja Holkar in the administration of the State, are likely to be shortly carried out.

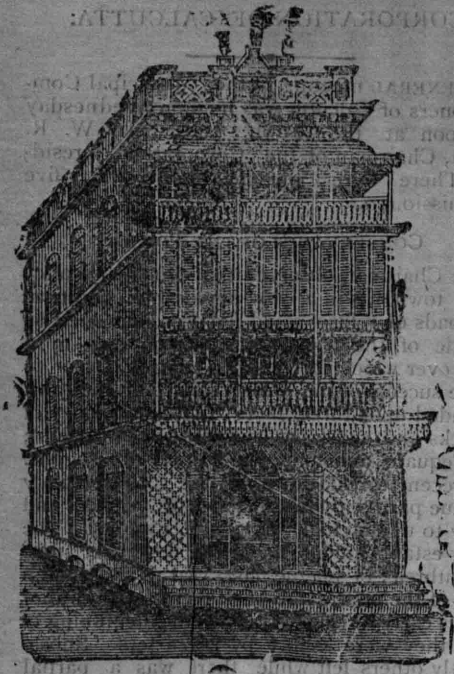
A FIRE broke out on Wednesday afternoon in the hold of the steamer *Irena* in the Prince's dock, in a cargo of sugar, rum, and molasses, consigned to Messrs. Graham and Co. Volumes of water were poured in, and the fire was extinguished in half-an-hour, but, owing to the nature of the cargo, the damages, by fire and water, were heavy. The amount is not yet assessed.

THE new vertical shaft of the Champion Reef Mine, which was on fire last Wednesday, and the top of which was hermetically sealed on the following evening to prevent air passing through, was uncovered on Tuesday morning to allow the gas to escape with a view to going down to examine the extent and amount of the damage caused. No one can say with any degree of certainty the amount of actual damage caused till the shaft is thoroughly examined, but this much is certain, that it will take three months at the very least to repair the damage.

A SIMLA correspondent wires to a contemporary: as certain statements have been recently made regarding the proposed legislation with reference to land transfers in the Punjab, it may be well to state that the question is still under consideration and that the proposals have yet to be put into legislative form for consideration by the Secretary of State. Certainly no bill be introduced during the present Session. It is an open secret that the question of land mortgage and transfer has been considered for some time past and that if action is decided on, the Punjab will be the first province to be dealt with, but the statement referred to is entirely premature.

IN order to check the continued border outrages, a flying patrol of 3 officers and 64 men of the Border Police have been sent to the neighbourhood of Bahadur Khel and Latammar to patrol the country; in consequence of which the reliefs of the Border Police at Fort Garnet and Muhammadvahi have been postponed. Salt depots and guardposts on this border have also been strengthened. A gang of about a dozen dacoits, some of whom mounted and others on foot, made a descent on the village of Moza, in the Jhang District, on the 10th instant, and were just making off with some buffaloes, when the villagers turned out *en masse* and attacked them. The cattle were recovered, but one of the villagers was killed, and three severely wounded.





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 Price for 7 doses — Rs. 10
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