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NO. 49

পদকপতক।

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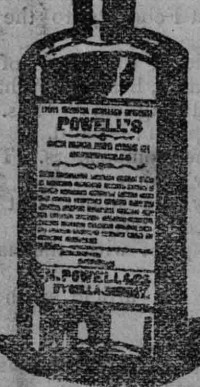
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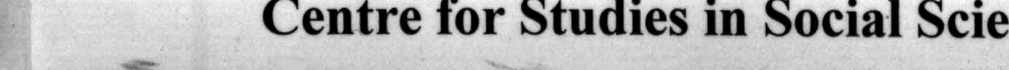
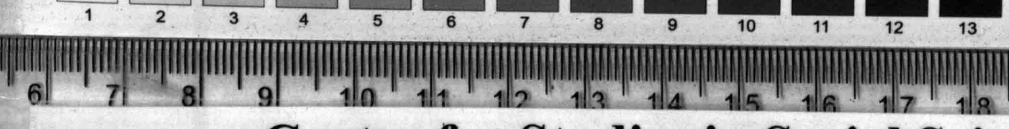
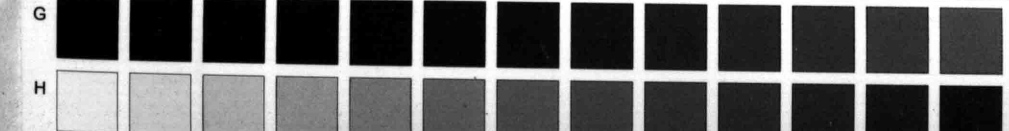
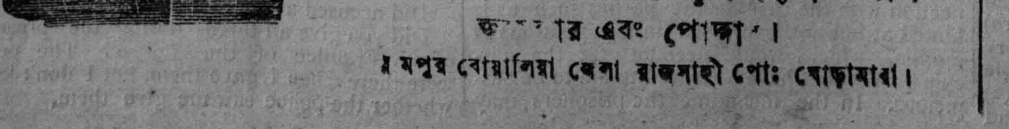
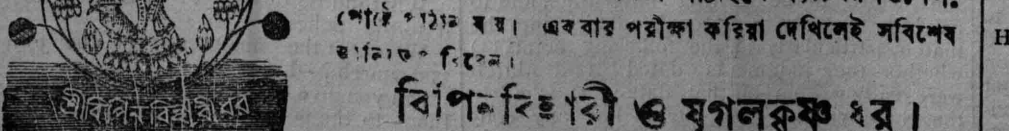
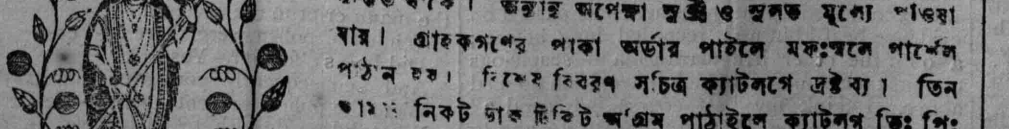
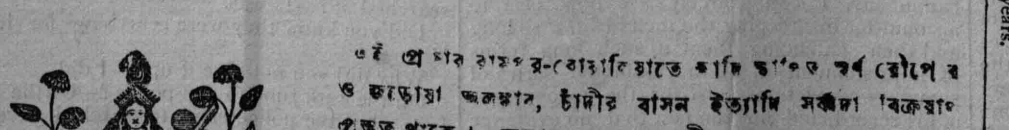
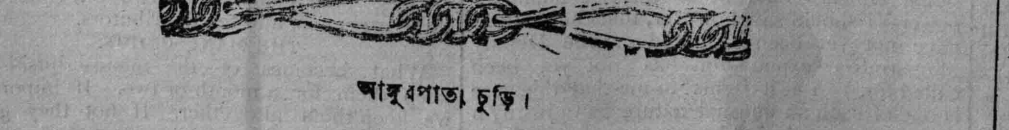


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EXTRAORDINARY PROCEEDINGS OF
A DEPUTY MAGISTRATE.STRONG REMARKS BY THE SESSIONS
JUDGE.

THE following judgment which deals with
the facts of the case, was delivered by Mr.
W. B. Browne, Sessions Judge of Cuttack, in an
appeal from an order of Babu N. Bhattacharjee,
Deputy Magistrate of Bhadrak, convicting
Ratnakar Mahanty and six others of various
offences and sentencing them to long terms of
imprisonment.

"The appellants have been convicted of riot
and theft. The complainant Lakhon Das states
that he was bringing home some paddy which
he had just reaped, on some pack bullocks
when he was assaulted by accused and others,
who took the paddy off the bullocks and drove
them away. As an example of the way in
which this case has been tried I would note
that the complaint was lodged on 12th Decem-
ber and the 7th December date given as 23rd
Aghran, while accused have been charged and
convicted of committing the offence on 21st
December. This irregularity is sufficient in
itself to invalidate the trial. On the same date,
12th December, complainant's son lodged an-
other complaint that he had been assaulted by
defendants on 24th Aghran. Two order sheets
were opened for these two cases and on each an
order dated 12th December 1898 was passed,
"I will hold a local enquiry to-morrow." There
is nothing to show whether such enquiry was
held or not. The next order on both order
sheets is dated 23rd December 1898. But the
date appears to have been altered in both
order sheets. The case of complainant's son
was ordered to be tried along with that of
complainant; but in fact complainant's son's case
seems to have been lost sight of altogether,
and no further notice was taken of it. Com-
plainant's son's case must have been false; for
he dates the assault on him on 24th Aghran, 8th
December; while Kalandi Naik, one of the
persons whom he accuses, was sent to hospital
at Bhadrak on 7th December and reported on
by the Civil Hospital Assistant on 8th Decem-
ber. The order sheet in the case under appeal is
meagre and imperfect. One fact seems to be
quite plain, that all the evidence was taken and
the case completed on the 2nd March; but no
judgment was delivered till 4th April. This
again is a serious irregularity sufficient to in-
validate the trial, and it becomes very signifi-
cant in view of connected facts to be
noticed hereafter. As to the merits of this
case it arises out of a dispute about a holding
of 5 mans of land. Formerly a ryot called
Hari Naik held this land; after his death his
widows relinquished the holding in
1892, and complainant, who is the landlord,
states that since then the land has been his
nijas. The defendants represent two brothers
of Hari Naik who claim to have a joint interest
in the land with him. The usual presumption
is that brothers are joint in interest; and
on the other hand, complainant has been recog-
nized by the Settlement Department as being
in possession. In this case there is no evidence
worth speaking of regarding actual cultivation,
so both the title and the possession of the 5
mans in question appears to me to be distinctly
doubtful. Complainant's story is that he was
robbed as he was taking the paddy home on
pack bullocks, and the place of occurrence is
put on a pathway near some tank. Defendants
say that complainant with a body of men came
and carried off their paddy from the land in dis-
pute. There evidently was some scuffle, and it
was not of the nature described by complainant;
for while he and his son had one small wound
each, Kalandi Naik, one of the opposite party,
had two wounds and a bruise. These three per-
sons were examined by the Hospital Assistant
on 7th or 8th December; several days before
the complaints of complainant and his son
were lodged. Complainant produces as witnesses,
the four men who were bringing his paddy and
bullocks. They all appear to be his tenants or
muliahs. Another witness, Benudhar Mahanty,
says he saw the affair as he was passing. He
admits having had numerous disputes with the
1st accused and with the father of the 2nd
accused, one Bhaglu Mahanty, who, though he
does not appear personally in any of the
connected cases, is evidently the principal man
on the side of the defendant. I do not consider
complainant's evidence to be at all satisfactory
or reliable. The defendants produced 2 or 3 wit-
nesses to prove that it was complainant who
attacked defendants as they were cutting the
paddy in the disputed field. Their evidence is
somewhat meagre. I understand that there was
a cross-case, the record of which has not been
forwarded as it ought to have been. The question
of title to the disputed land is obviously a doubt-
ful one. The question of possession and cultiva-
tion has not been gone into at all. Complainant's
evidence as to the actual occurrence is not
in my opinion worthy of belief. There evidently
was a fight in which both parties got hurt and
not an affair like that described by complainant.
In addition to this we have the serious irregu-
larities in the conduct of the trial; viz (1) the
date of occurrence has been altered by a
fortnight; (2) judgment was not delivered till
over a month after the case was finished; (3)
the complained altercation in the date of the
two orders bearing the date 23rd December 1898.
These considerations are quite sufficient to dis-
pose of this appeal. The appeal is allowed and
the conviction and sentence are set aside but this
appeal is only an episode in a much larger and
more complicated affair. When this appeal
was filed before me on 6th May four motions
against non-appellable sentences passed by the
Sub-divisional Officer of Bhadrak were filed at
the same time; and the records of these cases
were sent for. A fifth motion was filed on 13th
instant and the record has not yet been sent for.
All these cases are connected with one
another and with this appeal. In all of them
except the motion of 13th instant the complainant
is the same man Lakhon Das; and the
Defendants as a body are the same; some are
implicated in all the cases and others in one
or more of them. In the motion of 13th
instant the defendants are the same; but the
complainant is another person; he is evidently a
friend of Lakhon Das and the matter of his
complaint arose out of the quarrel between them.
In four of these summary cases, the
judgment was passed (or rather purports to
have been passed) on the same date viz 23rd
March. In the fifth judgment was passed on
21st April. The 1st thing that strikes one about
this group of cases is the number of heavy non-
appellable sentences passed on the same men
on the same date. I find that (1) (Baro)
Ram Das has got 13 months in the summary
cases; and two months in the appellable
case. He was convicted in all six cases. (2)
Dhusai Naik was convicted in 5 cases and

got 12 months in all. (3) Sidha Mahanty
was convicted in three cases and got nine
months in all. (4) (Little) Ram Das, a
youth of 18 years, was convicted in 3 cases
and got 6 months. (5) Bhaigi Jena was
convicted in 3 cases and got 6 months. (6)
Kalandi Naik (the man who got wounded) was
convicted in 3 cases and got 6 months. (7)
Kangali Sethi, a youth of 18 years, was convicted
in two cases and got 6 months. (8) Ankar
Khillar was convicted in 2 cases and got 4
months. (9) Chemai was convicted in 2 cases
and got 6 months. It certainly appears to be
a grave abuse of summary powers to pass an
accumulation of non-appellable sentences on
the same men on closely connected charges;
the result of which is that the principal men
among them are imprisoned for over a year,
and the others for very substantial periods.
Besides this, most of the men had already been
a long time in jail. The *hajat* warrants are
scattered through the different cases but I find
that Ram Das, (Little) Ram Das, Kalandi Naik,
Dhusai Naik, Bhaigi Jena and Ratnakar Mahanty
were sent to jail on 23rd January, i. e. two
months before 23rd March, when judgment
was passed (or purported to have been passed)
in four of the cases. Others were sent to
hajat on other dates. So a long time in *hajat*
must be added to the heavy sentences noted
above. Taking the four summary cases whose
records are before me. I find that the pro-
secution witnesses were examined on the
following dates. In case B. on 2nd Febru-
ary. In case C. on 24th February. In case
D. on 2nd February. In case E. on 1st
February. If it is not always clear on what dates
the defence witnesses were examined. In none
of the cases is there the smallest note of the
evidence on either side, the only note is that
the prosecution witnesses were examined on
such date. Now in all these cases, judgment was
passed (or purported to have been passed) on
23rd March. This again is a serious abuse of
the summary procedure, for no Magistrate can
be expected to carry in his head any distinct
recollection of evidence given nearly two
months before. There is no doubt that the
accused in these four summary trials were
sentenced to imprisonment on 23rd March, but
they allege that no judgment was passed in
these cases till long afterwards. They applied
for copies of judgment on 28th March and on
30th March an order was passed that they should
get them but they did not get the copies till
14th, 15th and 17th April. On each of the
applications for copy there is a note by some
clerk, "Record received on 13-4th April 1899," or
14th or 17th. An attempt appears to have been
made to alter one of these dates (case marked
B.). Where were the records received from?
It could not be from camp; for one reason
Sub-divisional Officers must always be at their
stations on 1st April. My impression is that the
Sub-divisional Officer kept back these records
and wrote his judgments about the 13th April
and anti-dated them to 23rd March. This is
a matter in which full enquiry should be made;
not only in respect of these cases, but as
regards the Deputy Magistrate's practice in
the matter. I need not say much about the
merits of the four summary cases; the record
is too meagre to enable one to do so. All these
affairs occurred in a village called Khandasara,
which is a *Khasmahal* under the Sub-divisional
Officer. Very convenient witnesses appear to
have been Ram Krishna Das, a *Khasmahal* peon.
They appear as witnesses to possession in case
B, Tusi Khan as a witness to facts in case C,
and both as witnesses to facts in the motion
filed on 13th instant. They are in fact almost
the only witnesses for prosecution whose names are
mentioned in the records. Case B relates to the
same 5 mans of land to which the appellable
case relates. The charge in case B. was that
on 5th December, defendants reaped one plot
of this land. The appeal case was that on 7th
December they took the paddy which com-
plainant was taking home from another plot of
the same land. As the claim to the 5 mans was
the same in both cases it seems to me to be
unfair to treat these as separate offences and to
pass separate sentences of 2 and 3 months.
Cases D and E both relate to a holding of 7
mans. Defendants set up a claim of title to
this land also, as to which I need only say that
it looks a plausible one. They have been
convicted of reaping one plot of this land on
25th November and another plot on 29th
November and have received separate
sentences of three months in each case. Case
C relates to an alleged theft of paddy from
complainant's Khola. It was returned in C
form by the police; but the Sub-divisional
Magistrate ordered it to be sent up.
The conviction appears to rest on a statement
by the peon Tusi Khan that the defend-
ants had confessed before the villagers. Com-
plainant had already brought five cases
against them; and it seems highly absurd to
suppose that they would confess to a sixth
offence. I think that the circumstances noted
above are sufficient to justify me in referring
the summary cases to the High Court; and I
also think it is pretty clear that the Sub-divisional
Officer is not fit to exercise summary
powers (I should say, however, that the motions
have not yet been admitted and the Deputy
Magistrate's explanation has not yet been
called for.) But it seems to me that this case
is one of such an unusual nature as to justify a
departure from the ordinary procedure. It is
highly desirable to have an impartial enquiry
made as to whether the judgments in the sum-
mary cases were really written on the 23rd
March; or at a date long subsequent. And I
must say that the whole affair arouses in my
mind a suspicion that there is something at
the bottom of it which does not appear in the re-
cords. It seems to me that the Deputy Magis-
trate shows a distinct animus against these
men; though what the motive for it may be I
cannot say. I can scarcely see how else to
account for his keeping the men in *hajat* so long
and then sentencing them to such long terms
of imprisonment in an accumulated series of
summary convictions; also for the meagreness
of his record, and for the fact that no evidence
was recorded and that judgment was passed on
evidence heard but not recorded long before;
also for the other irregularities and suspicious
circumstances most of which have been noticed
above. I think my best course is to send all
the records to the District Magistrate, and to
ask him to make a thorough enquiry into the
matter, particularly on the following points (1)
whether the judgments dated 23rd March were
really written on that date; (2) whether the
Sub-divisional Magistrate has any con-
nection with the case or the parties such as is
hinted at but not expressed in the petitions of
motion, which would account for the cir-
cumstances that have appeared to me to be sus-
picious. In the meantime the prisoners may

be released on Rs. 100 personal recognizance
each.

THE SEDITION CASE.

FURTHER EVIDENCE.

AT the Esplanade Police Court on Wednesday
afternoon, before Mr. J. Sanders-Slater, Chief
Presidency Magistrate, the hearing of the case
against Vanayek Luximon Bhatye charged with
publishing seditious articles, again came up
for hearing.—Mr. Nicholson, Public Prosecutor,
appeared for the Crown, Mr. Bland and Mr.
Sealy were for the defence.

A BRAHMIN'S EVIDENCE.

Datatraya Gopal Joshi stated that he was a
Kokani Brahmin employed in the office of the
Gurakhi newspaper as a proof-corrector. He
new the accused Bhatye and also Joshi. He
did not know whether they were Kokani
Brahmins; but he did know that they were
Brahmins. He had been engaged on the paper
for last eight months at Rs. 20 per month. The
paper was still being issued, and he was at
present editing it. Narayan Bhatye, the
accused, was the proprietor, and up to the time
of his arrest was editor, manager, printer, and
publisher. Witness knew the accused's hand-
writing. The postcard produced was written
by accused and signed by him in English. It
was dated May 20th, 1899, and addressed to
Joshi at Poona.

ACCUSED AND THE PAPER.

Mr. Nicholson here put in a number of books
and documents to prove the accused's con-
nection with the *Gurakhi*.
Mr. Nicholson: In these books is the accused
regularly put down every month from March
up to the end of April as getting pay as
editor?—Witness: He is.

He is credited with Rs. 75 a month for that?—
Yes.
There was an assistant editor up to the end
of January named Martand Vishwanath Toke-
kar?—There was.

He died in January, did he not?—Yes.
And when did Joshi come on?—I find his
name in the month of February, 1899.

What was he employed as?—I find the word
editor opposite his name, but he was to be
looked upon as assistant editor.

What was his pay?—Twenty rupees a month.
Who engaged the staff?—The accused.
How long was Joshi in the employ of the
Gurakhi?—From the 1st February to the 31st
March.

Do you see the article in this copy of the
Gurakhi, dated 26th March, headed "What is
the meaning of king and kingdom?"—Yes.

Did you correct that proof?—I did.
Who set it up? The compositors. There
are many; I don't know which.

Did you correct it by the manuscript? My
work is to see it is correctly written.

Who compares the print with the manu-
script? I do.

Did you compare the article with the
manuscript? I did.

Was it correct?—It was.
Is this (producing manuscript, the manuscript
with which you compared it)? Yes.

Whose handwriting is it? Luximon
Narayan Joshi's. From whom did you
receive that? From Joshi. He gave it to me.

Did you correct the article of the 30th?
"The Chapekars, the Dravids and Mr. Brewin."
No. I did.

Was it correct?—Yes.
Who gave you the manuscript?—Joshi.

You say the accused always gave you the
manuscripts to correct the proofs with. Did he
always do it?—At first accused used to give me
the manuscripts. Afterwards I got them from
Luximon.

Why was this? Did you get any instruction
from Bhatye on the point?—No.

Do you recognise this as the manuscript from
which you corrected the article of the 30th?—
I do.

Is it in Joshi's handwriting?—It is.
Do you see in the issue of the 31st an article,
No. 11, on the Chapekars, Dravids, and Brewin?
—Yes.

Did you correct that proof?—Yes.
Who gave you the manuscript?—Joshi.

Is this (manuscript produced) the same
and in Joshi's handwriting?—It is.

What became of the proofs of those?—The
compositors take them for correction, and after
that they are thrown amongst the waste paper.

What can you tell me, is the circulation of
the paper for the 26th March?—Sixteen hundred
and eight.

What is the average circulation?—From
thirteen to fourteen hundred.

Where does it circulate?—In Bombay only?
—No, in Thana, Ratnagerry, Kolaba,
Kolkapore, Karwar, Dharwar, and other places.

Did accused attend to the business of the
paper personally?—Yes.

And did he reside in the house where it was
printed?—Yes—his family resides there now.

Tell us what the staff of the paper is? The
Assistant Editor, myself, three clerks, two cor-
rectors, nine compositors, two bill-collectors,
three pressmen, and ten distributors.

THE MANUSCRIPTS.

What becomes of the manuscripts?—We
keep them for a month or two. If important
we keep them altogether. If not they go to
waste paper.

Do you keep them in any particular place?—
I keep them with me.

Have you any of March?—No, they are all
destroyed. We have nothing earlier than April.

Who kept the manuscript of the article of
the 26th?—I did.

Had you that article on the 14th June
last?—Yes.

Were you at the press when the police
searched it?—I was.

Did you know they were searching for it?—
Yes.

Why did you not give it up?—I did.
On the 14th June to the police?—On the 14th
June when the police came to search I gave up
the manuscript to the accused.

While the police were there?—Yes.
Did he ask for it?—Yes.

And consequently you gave him it?—Yes.
Were the police present then?—Yes.

What did he do with it?—I believe he gave
it to the police.

Who kept the manuscripts of the 30th and
31st March?—I did.

Did you give them up the same day—14th
June—to the police?—Yes, all three together.

Did accused ask for all three? He did.
Did you give all three during the presence
of Mr. Framjee of the Police? The police
were there when I gave them, but I don't know
whether the police saw me give them.

Had you any other March manuscripts?—
No, I had only the three.

All others had been destroyed?—Yes. Had
you any instructions to keep these three
articles?—No.

Did any one else tell you to keep them?—No.
Why did you keep them then? I had some
suspicions about them.

What suspicions?—The matter related to
political affairs. I thought the master, the
accused, would ask me about them. Therefore
I kept them.

Had the accused ever spoken to you about
them?—Yes.

When?—I believe on or about the 1st or 2nd
April. What did he say?—He said "Why did
you allow such matter to come in the paper?"

He didn't ask for the manuscripts?—He didn't
ask for them, but whether I had them with
me or not.

What did you say?—I said I had got them.
Did he reply?—No.

What was this article of the 1st April?
Have you got it now?—The proofs were printed
but it was not published.

Where is the manuscript?—I gave it to
Bhatye.

When?—After the arrest I sent them to him.
CROSS-EXAMINED BY MR. BLAND.

When did accused leave for Nasik?—On the
morning of the 25th March.

Did any one go with him?—I don't remember
Did his wife go with him?—No.

Who edited whilst he was away?—Luximon
Narayan.

Did accused see the manuscript of the
article of the 26th before it was published?—
No.

Nor the articles of the 30th and 31st March?
—No.

When did he return from Nasik?—On 31st
March.

At what time?—I don't remember.
After the paper of the 31st had been publish-
ed and circulated?—Yes.

When did he first hear of these three
articles?—I believe he might have known
about them in Nasik.

He came down on the 31st. How could he
have read them?—He might have.

When would the paper of the 30th get to Nasik
Next morning. It must have been posted on the
morning of the 30th. The paper that appears
on the 30th is published on the 29th and might
have been despatched at midnight on the 29th.

What did he say to you on coming down
about these articles?—He asked how I allowed
this matter to appear in the papers.

Did you refer him to anyone?—Yes, to Joshi.
What did he say to him?—What took place
between them I do not know.

What did Luximon leave accused's service?
—On the day he returned from Nasik he dis-
missed him.

Because of these three articles?—Yes.
Was accused not very angry that they had
appeared?—Yes.

Had not Joshi a fourth article ready for
publication, composed and set up?—Yes.

What was the title of that article, "Murderer,
or one who is proud of his own religion?"—
Yes.

Why did it not appear?—Because accused
stopped it.

Why?—He didn't approve of it.
You have a weekly edition of the paper.
When do you publish?—On Monday.

Did those three articles appear in that
edition?—Yes, they did.

Do you swear they appear in the first weekly
edition published after accused returned?—I
am not sure, but I believe they may have
appeared. I am referring to the *Vikshipt*.
Did they appear in that?—No.

Why not? Because Bhatye did not approve
of them.

Hadn't you started printing the paper before
they were discovered?—In it?—I don't know.
Look at this *Vikshipt* papers. The articles
are in some but not in others. Didn't you
stop the circulation of those with the articles
in?—Yes.

Did the accused publish an apology on the
2nd April expressing regret for the appearance
of the articles?—Yes. It is headed "Sheer
Madness."

RE-EXAMINATION.

Mr. Nicholson: I want you to look at this
paper of the 2nd April. You say it had reference
to the three articles. Just read it. Does it refer
to two articles or three?—There are no dates
mentioned.

Be careful, sir!—(After further perusal). The
dates are given but not the days. The Sunday's
article is not

Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JUNE, 29 1899.

INDIA, THE MISTRESS OF ENGLAND.

WHAT would a woman prefer, to be the mistress of a wealthy, or the wife of a poor, man? Of course, every woman would prefer the position of a wife even of a poor man. This accounts for the gigantic attempts made by the Philipinos to maintain their national independence. As a dependency of America, the Philippine Isles are likely to command the respect of the world. In league with one of the foremost countries in the world, under the protection of the giant republic of America, the Philipinos have a broad road opened out to them towards prosperity and progress. But yet they would not have the Americans; they would yet remain independent, though independence means to them danger and poverty.

If any one asks why the Philipinos are struggling to maintain their independence, when American supremacy means nothing injurious to them but every thing good, our reply is that, there is such a thing as sentiment which holds supreme sway over the minds of men. The reason, why a woman will reject wealth, rich apparel, servants and a luxurious life offered to her by a gallant and prefer the humble cottage of her husband, will explain the attitude of the Philipinos.

And thus when Mulhar Rao was arrested and Baroda occupied by British troops, the nobles surrounded the British Resident, and implored that the British Government would be pleased not to interfere with their independence. Lord Northbrook, the then Viceroy, generously permitted the Resident, Mr. Meade, to assure the people of the Baroda State that the British Government would not punish the people for the misdeeds of their sovereign, and interfere with their independence. Now, every one knows that Mulhar Rao was not a model Prince; that life and property were more insecure in Baroda during his rule than in the worst-managed district in British India, but yet the people of Baroda preferred their national Government which meant insecurity of life and continuance of barbarism to enlightened British rule. It is because they are human beings, and have sentiments that sway the human mind.

It is thus that, even when a conquering power tries to make the conquered nation forget their dependent condition by a kind treatment, the latter, though treated kindly, nay, generously by their masters, will yet engage in hopeless undertakings to liberate themselves from the yoke imposed upon them.

We have likened the condition of a dependent nation to that of a woman, who is the mistress of a wealthy man. The powerful man is smitten by the charms of a woman, and tries to take possession of her. He will employ all possible means to accomplish his object. His motive is lust; but he will forget it, or pretend to forget it and talk of pure love. He will tell her that her husband is a brute; that he loves her; and that he will make her happiness the object of his life. "I shall be yours for ever and ever," says he, "but promise me you shall be mine, stick to me and never forsake me?" When gentle means fail, he will try stratagems, nay, he will use force. But when he has obtained possession, he will, day by day, grow less enthusiastic in his attentions to her.

The woman feels that her master has ceased to feel that ardent love for her which he pretended he did in the beginning. But still she cannot help it. She has, by her fall, become absolutely dependent on her so-called lover, even for her food and protection. The tables are now completely turned. It is the woman that now tries to win the love of her so-called lover. She complains, and addresses her lover: "My beloved I see a change in you. You are not the man that you were." The lover at first tries to defend himself, but in time he gives up even that; he feels that he can no longer by any means, conceal the fact that he has ceased to feel any tender feeling for her. The woman in despair kneels before her lord and says: "My dear, why are you so indifferent to me?" The master shows vexation. He says: "You tire me very much by your complaints; You are always complaining and complaining, and you are, by your folly, making your company hateful to me. Do I not give you your food and clothing? Do I not protect you from others?"

The woman, non-plussed, bides her time. She makes another attempt to move the heart of her lord. "Will you give me a hearing?" says she. "I have now none in the world except thee. Do not, I beseech you, cast me away in this fashion." The master is a little moved. "Go on, I am all attention," says he. The woman proceeds, describing her sorrows in the midst of sobs and tears. She says that if she was indifferent before, she has, by habit and constant contact, come to feel an attachment for her lord; that her condition has become utterly helpless and she wants nothing but some sympathy from her lord. She feels that she has been able to make some impression. She attentively watches the face of her lord. And she sees that—he is sleeping!

In the beginning the master was anxious to secure a promise from the woman that she would remain faithful to him. But now the tables are turned! The lord himself is not at all willing to acknowledge that the woman is his mistress and a dependant. In the beginning the lord tried to force a promise from the woman that she should be his; in the end the woman tries to extort a promise from her lord that he would be hers and not forsake her, but unsuccessfully. We quote the following from our London letter:—

I am glad to say that India occupies a steadily increasing position in the speeches of public men, especially the leaders of the Liberal party. It is seldom now that any Liberal leader addresses a meeting without making some reference to Indian questions. This is a very healthy sign, and is undoubtedly very largely due to the action of the British Congress Committee, which is now beginning to bear fruit in the marked influence which Indian questions appear to have in the councils of the Liberal leaders. A great banquet was given this week on the Queen's birthday at which the Earl of Rosebery presided, being supported by a number of leading politicians and public men drawn from every section of

the political world. He proposed the toast of the evening—"Her Majesty the Queen, Empress of India." It is very seldom that this latter title is added in public meetings in this country.

We have read the Proclamation of the Queen many hundreds of times. Now, we have come to this pass, that a statesman, who had, by chance, remembered that the Queen of England was also the Empress of India, is lauded for his friendly feelings! Nay, the people of India are told that they can expect some improvement in their condition, since one of the statesmen of England happened to remember, that the Queen of England was also the Empress of India! There was a time when England would have been happy if India had acknowledged her supremacy. Now India would be happy if England would occasionally remember the fact that there is such a country as India, which is absolutely dependent on her for her prosperity. As a matter of fact, in our own minds, we have forgotten than remembered by her masters.

JUST now some members of the Calcutta press are hotly discussing a subject which arose out of the question of the disfranchisement of Dacca, but which has now been degraded into an extremely personal one. We confess we began the quarrel, that is to say, we objected to the disfranchisement of Dacca; and, as Babu Surendra Nath was the principal party to this vandalism, of course, our censure naturally affected him. This incensed his supporters, two in number, who began, not to discuss the question, but to abuse us and call us thieves, liars, and what not. While they were engaged in vilifying us in this way, Babu Surendra Nath began to pose as the much-injured simple man who was wronged by us, simply because we did not love him. Of course, we could not notice the abuse levelled at us by the supporters of Babu Surendra Nath, for the simple reason that we are not dogs. But we warned him that such support would not help him, but injure him much more than it would injure us. The *Indian Nation* offered precisely the same advice, to him, and so did the *Indian Empire*. We further assured Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjee that we could have no personal motive in meddling with this question of disfranchisement, because we never aspired to the honor of a seat in the Council.

We must explain here why we did never aspire to the honor. We did not do it, not that we have adopted the life of an ascetic, but because, we feel that the only object of a man to go to the Council should be to be of service to his country. We feel that being in charge of a journal, it is open to us to do as much good to our country as we desire to do. That being so, for us to occupy a seat in the Council is to deprive a worthy man, who has no such opportunity, of being useful to his country. We had to make this declaration, which was a personal one, only to prove that we had no personal interest in the question.

But what was the reply that came from Babu Surendra Nath's intelligent friends? They said that "if we had stood against Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjee we would have been nowhere." This was altogether a new issue raised simply with the object of saying some disagreeable things.

Yet seeing the way that the friends of Babu Surendra Nath were dealing with us, other independent journals could not remain quiet in the interests of truth, fair-play and the honor of journalism. This is what the *Indian Empire* says in reply to the challenge:—

The organs of Mr. Surendra Nath Bannerjee want to know the means of some of the gentlemen who would have proved formidable rivals to the Government nominee,—we mean Mr. Bannerjee—if they had competed the Presidency division seat with him. Now if they had sought this information from some of the Municipalities in the Presidency Division, they would have got the right answer immediately. For instance, the most important Municipality in the Division is the Cossipur-Chitpore, and it commands the largest number of votes. All these votes were entirely at the disposal of Babu Moti Lal Ghose if he had cared to stand for the Presidency Division. As a matter of fact, the majority of the Commissioners insisted on his coming forward as a candidate, but he would not. At the meeting of the Cossipur-Chitpore Municipality held to elect a delegate, a Commissioner openly declared that he had gone to the Editor of the *Patrika* to request him to contest the Presidency Division seat, and "he had no doubt if Mr. Moti Lal Ghose chose to stand as a candidate he would have got all the five votes at the disposal of the Cossipur-Chitpore Board, and he hoped the Chairman would agree with him in the view." (We quote these words from the report of the proceedings of the meeting submitted to the Magistrate.) Nobody contradicted the statement of the Commissioner and the Chairman would have never embodied it in his official report, if that were not the sense of the meeting. Now, backed by the biggest Municipality in the Division, would it have been really very difficult for Babu Moti Lal to oust Mr. Surendra Nath Bannerjee from the field in a fair fight? Then everybody knows that Mr. Surendra Nath Bannerjee has fallen and Babu Moti Lal has risen in public estimation; it is thus reasonable to suppose that most of the Municipalities in the Division, like the Cossipur-Chitpore, would have declared for the latter, if he were early in the field, and if the former had not demoralized many of the constituencies by presenting himself to them as Sir John Woodburn's man. As a matter of fact, long before the public had any inkling of the disfranchisement of the Dacca Division, Mr. Surendra Nath and his friends, aware of the secret intention of the Government, ran from one Municipality to another and implored the Commissioners and the Chairmen of these Boards, with folded hands and bended knees, to elect him (Mr. S. N. Bannerjee) again, and thus show respect to the "honored head of the Government" who, they said, was anxious to retain his services. In this way, Mr. Bannerjee extorted pledges from many Municipalities, weeks before the Election Resolution was published in the *Calcutta Gazette*; yet we think he would have found it very hard, though backed by the Government to secure the seat, if Babu Moti Lal Ghose and for the matter of that, Mr. A. M. Bose, had made up their minds to contest the seat.

That Babu Surendra Nath is mainly responsible for the virulent and vulgar abuse showered upon our heads is testified to by the *Indian Nation*, which is a paper not likely to hazard

an opinion without due deliberation. We do not choose to avail of more of our space than is absolutely necessary for the discussion of a personal matter. So we stop here to-day.

In noticing the election of Mr. J. G. Apar by the Corporation of Calcutta, we said that he was an official, and pointed out that there was nothing in the Law or the Regulations to compel him to resign his post in order to enable him to occupy a non-official seat in the Council. We also showed that if we took him for an official, his opposition to the Municipal Bill would be more effective than that of a non-official Indian member. But is Mr. Apar an official? An esteemed correspondent thus writes on this point:—

"It is quite true that there is no definition of the term 'official' in the Act or the Regulation, but, we think, it should be interpreted to mean a person who is under the control and influence, in some way or other, of the Government. Mr. Apar, as Clerk of the Crown, was, however, appointed by the Chief Justice under Patent; he is removable only by his Lordship. He holds his appointment 'with the liberty to practise as an advocate,' except during the Criminal Sessions or in cases connected therewith, or for or against persons charged with offences for which they are liable to be committed to the High Court." It would, therefore, be misnomer and anomalous to call him an "official". For, in civil cases he is entitled, as of right, to appear against the Government. In criminal cases he has been in the practice of appearing against the Crown and on behalf of prisoners in the Mofussil and in appeals to the High Court. In Calcutta he is debarred from appearing in certain cases specified in the terms of his appointment. But this condition does not carry forward the argument that he is an official; for, if he is prevented from appearing for the Crown, he is also forbidden to appear against the Crown. In short, his duties require him to be neutral in the cases mentioned in the terms of his appointment. The situation then seems to stand thus: If Mr. Apar is an official, he is an official only during the days on which the Sessions are being held. Up to 11 A.M., during these days, however, he can advise against the Government. It is only from 11 A.M. that he becomes an official and remains so until 5 P.M. or whenever the Court rises. He, however, becomes a non-official again and can again act as such till 11 A.M. the next morning. Mr. Apar is thus a non-official to all intents and purposes."

We learn that Babu Norendra Nath Sen had submitted an application to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, protesting against Mr. Apar's election by the Calcutta Corporation, on the ground of the latter's being an official. The Government referred the matter to the Advocate-General for his opinion; and the latter has held that Mr. Apar is not an official. The protest of Babu Norendra Nath Sen could not thus be entered.

WE have much pleasure in giving a prominent insertion to the following communication:—

In an article in your issue of the 20th instant, (Mufasil edition) it is said that three men, the name of one being Swami Dyal, were executed at Lucknow for the murder, it is understood, of Pandit Bans Gopal. I beg to inform you that only one man, Swami Dyal, was hanged, the death-sentence on the other two having been commuted to transportation for life.

It seems you were not aware that all the assessors concurred in finding the men guilty. There were no extenuating circumstances in Swami Dyal's case: the murder was a treacherous and brutal one, and there was and there is no doubt in the public mind as to the guilt of the men.

We are deeply thankful to our correspondent for the information; for we were very much pained at the idea that three men were allowed to be hanged for the murder of one individual, however atrocious it might be, under the benign rule of such a just and kind-hearted ruler as Sir A. P. MacDonnell. We were led into the error by the materials placed at our disposal, from which we came to learn that the three men were sentenced to be hanged not only by the Sessions Judge of Lucknow, but also by the Judicial Commissioner who confirmed the sentence on appeal. It also appeared to us from the petition of the father of Swami Dyal, which was printed in *extenso* in the issue referred to be our correspondent, that Swami Dyal was the least guilty of the three; and that if the crime could be fastened upon anybody, it was not Swami Dyal, but upon the other two. The natural inference therefore was that, when the Lieutenant-Governor did not see his way to pardon the former, he could not, as a matter of course, show his mercy to the latter who were apparently the greater scoundrels. Hence we thought that all the three men were to be executed.

The same correspondent assures us that we were also misled about the episode at the Ghazi Meah mela at Benares. In short, our esteemed correspondent desires us to put faith in the official and reject the non-official account. But the non-official account cannot be so summarily rejected. For the account that appeared in our columns was furnished by an eye-witness who is a well-educated man. And this account was confirmed by what appeared in the Anglo-Indian papers here. Indeed, the descriptions of the local correspondents of these papers with regard to the stampede on that occasion, tallied exactly with those sent to us and published in these columns. We are aware that the local officials came out with their version long after the occurrence; but it is clear that the higher authorities were not eye-witnesses to the incident but got their information from the police.

WE beg to invite the attention of the Government to a judgment of Mr. Browne, Sessions Judge of Cuttack, in an appeal preferred by one Ratnakar Mahanty and six others against the decision of the Sub-divisional Officer of Bhadrak, convicting them of various offences and sentencing them to various long terms of imprisonment. It discloses what may be called the extraordinary proceedings of the trying Magistrate, who has been asked to explain his conduct. It is certainly not fair to make any comments on the case or rather cases, at this stage, before the Deputy Magistrate has

submitted his explanation. We hope, however, that if the explanation of the Sub-divisional Officer be no found quite satisfactory, the Local Government will take note of his conduct.

FORMAL inquiry into the cause or causes of the Tinnevely riots has not commenced, but in the meantime facts have oozed out which are hardly creditable to the local officials. We have already stated how the late District Magistrate of Tinnevely got sufficient and timely warnings of the approaching trouble but he treated them with contempt. This is what the Tinnevely correspondent of the *Pioneer* writes: "Strange to relate, the Collector of the district, attended by the District Superintendent of Police, actually passed through this town (Sivakasi) just a little while before the disturbance began, and although the storm must then have been brewing, indeed, on the point of breaking, these two officers were carefully kept in ignorance that anything was amiss. They were touring in a westerly direction and went on 14 miles to Srivillipatur. Here, after the storm had burst at Sivakasi, a wire was despatched to the Collector apprising him of the trouble. The same afternoon the Collector and the District Superintendent of Police returned post-haste to Sivakasi, arriving about 5 o'clock in the evening, whereupon the rioters dispersed. In the meantime the local Sub-Magistrate had taken no steps to suppress the trouble or to break up the mob, and the police had absolutely refused to fire on the rioters even when the latter opened hostilities." The Madras correspondent of the *Englishman* telegraphs under date, 22nd June: "It appears that the Tinnevely authorities were warned of an approaching trouble by more than one missionary, one earnestly protesting to the Collector against the apathy of the authorities in view of a threatened attack on Sivakasi. This gentleman was informed that he was unnecessarily alarmed. Another missionary saw large crowds hovering round Chinnipuram on the 4th instant. The following day he drew the attention of the authorities to the seriousness of the situation, but his warning was unheeded, and the village was burnt and looted on the 8th. The District Magistrate appears to have completely failed to gauge the seriousness of the situation, notwithstanding the warnings. He was new to the district, but this ought to have made him more cautious." There is no doubt of it that the rioters have given great offence to the authorities by their riotous conduct. But then the fact should not be lost sight of that they were illiterate men, more led away by feelings and passions than by reason, and it was thus clearly the duty of the Tinnevely officials, to guide them and sober them down by tact and judgment, when they got information of the brewing troubles. But they failed in their duty; and the authorities should, therefore, treat the people with leniency.

WHEN we heard that Mr. Apar was going to compete the Corporation seat with Babu Norendra Nath Sen, we advocated the election of the latter in our issue of the 23rd May last in the following terms:—

We understand that Mr. Apar has made every arrangement to compete the Corporation seat with Babu Norendra Nath, and he is likely to prove a formidable rival. We have nothing to say against Mr. Apar; on the other hand, he is well known for his sympathy towards the people of this country. But, considering the peculiar circumstances of the case, we hope he will see his way to allow Babu Norendra Nath to be elected unopposed. The Government has interested itself on behalf of the two Municipal representatives of the Corporation; and it will not look well on the part of the European members of the Corporation to go against its wishes in this respect. Besides, Babu Norendra Nath Sen has done good service to the Corporation by representing its views faithfully and ably in the Select Committee, at a considerable personal sacrifice. The Corporation should not now throw him over-board, but return him unanimously.

Thus not only did we prefer Babu Norendra Nath to Mr. Apar, but we implored the latter to retire in favor of the former. So we did all that lay in our power to injure Mr. Apar and serve Babu Norendra Nath. But Mr. Apar did not accept our recommendation. He fought and won. After he had won, he thanked his electors and promised to stand by the rights of the Corporation. We had then two courses open to us,—either to rend the heavens with our cries of disappointment for the defeat of our nominee and abuse the Municipal Commissioners, who had elected his opponent or to take things as they were and give a warm welcome to Mr. Apar, and thus encourage him to do his duty boldly for which he had been elected. We took the latter alternative. We thought that the cause of the country would be better served by giving Mr. Apar our support than by heaping abuses upon him. There was another reason which moved us, namely, that for Mr. Apar, who is practically a European and an official to all intents and purposes, to advocate the cause of the country, would be a distinct service to the popular cause. Indeed, Babu Norendra Nath Sen in his elaborate Dissent on the Municipal Bill, has done the utmost that he and Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjee could do to oppose the measure. If he had been elected, he could have done very little more than what he had already done. But Mr. Apar is a new man and his ability is unquestioned. His strong, well-reasoned protest against the Calcutta Municipal Bill, which was published in the press, elicited admiration even from some of the supporters of the measure. Patriotic as Babu Norendra Nath Sen is, he ought to have, for the above reasons, rejoiced in the election of Mr. Apar when that gentleman promised to support the popular cause. As a patriot he might have considered the situation in the following light: "I have done my very best: I cannot do more. Mr. Apar is a European and an official. His voice may thus carry greater influence with the Government than that of mine. Let the responsibility therefore remain with him, for, I know positively, I will be of no further use to my country in this matter." It seems, however, that we have offended Babu Norendra Nath for not denouncing the election of Mr. Apar. We say this, because we see that since we said a good word on behalf of Mr. Apar, he has opened the columns of his paper to the abuse of this journal and us personally. To allow irresponsible correspondents to abuse a contemporary, or to ferret

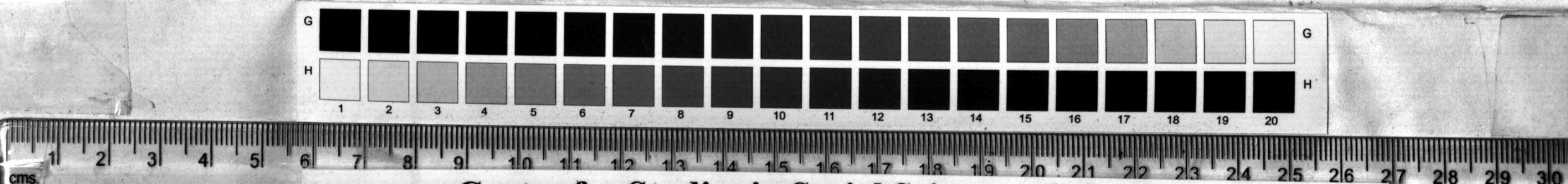
out invectives that have appeared in vernacular journals and reproduce them after having translated them into English, is a practice, which is not permitted by the code of respectable journalism. Babu Norendra Nath Sen can never point out that we have ever allowed a letter to appear in our columns abusing his paper or him personally. The duty of the Indian journalists is to educate the public and fight for right against wrong, and not to abuse one another.

THE *Daily Mail's* information, that if war breaks out with the Boers India will have to lend fifteen thousand troops to England, has no doubt been contradicted; but there is nothing unusual in the statement. Indeed, in the Suakin expedition, a very large number of troops was despatched from India, and a Bombay telegram informs us that, though no orders have been received there regarding troops for South Africa, the Government dockyard is working overtime so as to get the *Clive* and the *Cornwall* ready for sea within ten days. This shows that, in case of a war with the Boer Republic, India will have to lend a large number of troops to the English. This proves conclusively that India can spare thousands of troops, or, in other words, that India maintains many thousand troops more than it needs. Of course, England will be generous enough to pay the actual expenses for the maintenance of the troops for the time their services are availed of, but that opens another question. It is this, that paying the actual cost of the troops for the time their services are availed of is to deprive India of her just rights. Ordinarily no country lends its troops to others. If any does it takes into account the cost that was incurred in training them and for many other similar items. We had to incur a vast sum of money for the training of these thousands of efficient men. Suppose India was an independent country. Legally it is an independent country with a Government of its own. It has its own interests to maintain. It is immaterial to this discussion that the Government of India is in the hands of those who rule England. It is settled that England has no right to encroach upon the finances of India. That being the case, India has a right to make its terms with the British Government for the great service that it is rendering, namely, this lending of thousands of efficient troops. But is there any chance of India being fairly dealt with?

That we can easily spare these thousands of efficient men is a proof that we have thousands more than we need. If the Boer war does not take place, we would have yet to maintain them. If the war takes place, it will bring in some relief to India. But when the war is over, India will have again to maintain the thousands lent to England. And why, since India does not want them? Because England may go to war with the same Boers again or with another nation, and India will have again to lend these thousands of men. So it is to lend these thousands of troops to England in times of its needs that India has to maintain these men! England had now and then to borrow troops from European countries; but it had to pay heavily for it. For the transport of the Hessians who were sent to America by George III, Frederick the Great, through whose dominions they had to pass, charged a certain amount per head.

FROM a letter, published in another column, it seems, a conversation took place between Mr. Badshah, the Comptroller of Post Offices, and a sub-auditor of his, in which he is reported to have complained that his subordinates should have taken the protection of the press, instead of laying their grievances before him, "as they are his children and not of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*." In these sentiments we are in perfect sympathy with Mr. Badshah. Indeed, we complimented him once that, while he was in charge of Madarapore as Sub-divisional Officer he dealt with the people as if he were their *ma bap*. But we put it to Mr. Badshah to say,—does he treat his clerks in the same benevolent spirit? If so, why should they run to the press for help? The *Patrika* never claimed them as its children, for the simple reason that they are his and not the *Patrika's*. But he treats them as a step-mother, and hence they avoid him, and seek protection elsewhere in sheer despair. The other day we published a table of punishments which disclosed the terrible manner in which his subordinates are treated when committing trifling faults. One poor clerk, Grish Chander Brahmamanda, getting Rs. 35 a month, was reduced to the grade of Rs. 30 for wrongly posting a certain Money Order. Another poor wretch, Upendra Nath Roy, getting Rs. 20 per month, was degraded to a post of Rs. 15 for failing to notice certain irregularities of a Money Order voucher. And, in this way, some nine clerks were heavily punished for faults which they could not avoid because, under his management, one clerk has to do the work of two or three. We have not the slightest desire to interfere with the doings of Mr. Badshah; he is, as he truly says, the master of his department and the protector of his subordinates. It is a pity, however, that Mr. Badshah cannot act up to his professions. And this is, because, as we pointed out the other day, he has undertaken to perform some impossible feats. If he is a real *ma bap*, as he says he is, let him treat his subordinates in the same way as he expects to be treated by his own superior.

THE Calcutta Municipal Bill Agitation Committee should decide their course of action without further loss of time; for, a few weeks more and the measure will come before the Legislative Council for final disposal. Of course, the few elected members will oppose it with all their might; but, needless to say, that will avail us very little. On the other hand, the better course for them, according to many, would be to leave the Council room altogether when the Bill is brought forward for being passed into law. There is no doubt, that this last step will produce a greater effect upon the authorities here and in England than any amount of speechifying on the part of our honorable members. But we have yet to suggest a more practical and effective course. It is to approach His Excellency Lord Curzon with one or more petitions signed by the leading citizens of Calcutta. His Honor the



Lie t nan Governor, we fear, has no help in the matter. Both in his public utterances and private conversations he has distinctly given the public to understand that he is not in a position to make any concession with regard to the constitutional part of the measure. The rate-payers of Calcutta, however, cannot be satisfied unless the composition of the General Committee is altered exactly in the reverse order of the one proposed in the Bill. That is to say, out of the twelve members composing it the rate-payers submit that, at least eight should be elected by the elected Commissioners, and the remaining four appointed by the Government and the European Associations. As Sir John Woodburn does not see his way to grant this prayer, it is useless to wait in deputation upon him and put him in an embarrassing position. Lord Curzon has, however, yet kept his mind open as regards the measure. Judging from his previously declared views on Municipal institutions, His Excellency is not likely to sanction the absurd provision in the Bill, namely, that the management of the first Corporation in India should be vested in the hands of a General Committee of 12, of whom 8 are to be appointed by Government and 4 elected by popular representatives. Unless Lord Curzon has been thoroughly changed since he became the Viceroy of India, he can never sanction such an arrangement which means the practical extinction of the little local self-government possessed by the people of India. What the Municipal Bill Agitation Committee have to do is to convene a conference of the leading men of Calcutta at the B. I. Association Rooms, and then send up a memorial to the Viceroy signed by those present at the meeting, praying for the modification of Section 4 of the Bill. Similar memorials may also be separately submitted to His Excellency, bearing the signatures of the leading members of the B. I. Association and other important Associations, of the leading elected members of the Calcutta Municipality, and the leading residents, merchants, traders and general rate-payers of the city. We have every hope that such memorials will not go in vain; and that Lord Curzon will be graciously pleased to reconsider the whole situation. The Committee, however, must be up and doing; for procrastination in a good cause is always to be avoided.

IN reviewing the life of Gauranga—the review is reproduced elsewhere—the *Indian Spectator* "is struck by the close parallelism in some of the most important features in the lives of Gautama and Gauranga." Mr. Malabari, of course, begins by referring to the renunciation of the two Avatars. There is no renunciation in the life of Jesus Christ, but it is quite true that both Gautama and Gauranga renounced society to carry out the object of their mission. There was, however, a great difference in their objects. Thus, for instance, Gautama renounced to save himself and Gauranga renounced to save mankind. Gautama renounced society "in quest of Truth," to quote Mr. Malabari. He saw the miseries of mankind; and his feeling heart was touched, and he felt society to see if he could discover the means by which human misery could be removed or alleviated. But Gauranga renounced only to save mankind. Referring to his renunciation he oftentimes warned his devotees never to attach any undue importance to it. He used to say, "I had no business to renounce society to acquire my beloved Krishna, for it is not by self-infliction of pain that He could be had. It is by Love alone that Sree Krishna is to be acquired, and one can easily love God without renouncing society." To his devotee, Nityananda, next in importance to himself and who too was an ascetic, he uttered the command: "Go, enter society again, to show mankind that asceticism is not necessary for the acquirement of Krishna." And thus Nityananda was forced against his inclination back into society because the Lord saw that following His example every one of His important followers was renouncing society with the idea, that the life of an anchorite was necessary for the attainment of God. Indeed, such was the rush towards asceticism among the followers of the Lord that He feared the disruption of society, and he sent back Nityananda to society, again to stop it. We said, quoting Mr. Malabari, that Gautama renounced society "in quest of Truth," but Gauranga had no truth to seek. He explained fully to his principal followers the object of his renunciation before he left society. He said "the of unbelief men rends my heart. I tried to win them to the lotus feet of the God, but I am not winning them, on the other hand, I am offending them by leading the life of a householder. They won't accept salvation at the hands of one so comfortably placed as I am. I must renounce society, and offer them Bhakti in the garb of the poorest of the poor to make it acceptable." We must say, however, that Gautama in his quest of Truth was led into a dreary world of negation; but Gauranga discovered for humanity the *Brindaban*—the abode of peace and love, and the bower of eternal bliss.

As expected, the Hooghly drowning case, particulars of which appeared in our issue of the 10th and 12th June last, attracted the prompt attention of the Government of Sir John Woodburn, and a vigorous police enquiry was ordered. The incident appeared to us so incredible that we did not quite believe it when the information was first conveyed to us by a party who was not known to us. We, however, sent a reporter to our informant; and when the latter assured us that he was an eye-witness to the occurrence, we gave publicity to his information. Just fancy a woman jumped into the river, in broad daylight, from a jolly boat, in the presence of many passengers, on the attempt of the plague doctor to take her to the plague camp against her will, and was drowned! This incident proves conclusively in what light are many of the plague rules regarded in this country. Indeed, we think, the unlimited powers given to the plague doctors to drag every man and every woman to a plague hospital merely on suspicion of his or her having got the plague requires considerable modification. No one can reasonably object to a passenger being forcibly detained in a hospital when symptoms of the plague have developed in him; but it is not necessary, we think, to subject every one to medical examination simply because his skin is a little too hot; or to drag

him to a plague hospital because he is suffering from an ordinary type of fever. With regard to the Hooghly drowning case, the Police Sub-Inspector of Hooghly, Babu Nitya Gopal Rai, who has been deputed by the District Magistrate to investigate into the case, is now in Calcutta, working hard to gather all available information. He called at our office yesterday and we rendered him all possible help in the matter. Babu Nitya Gopal would be glad to receive communications from those who were eye-witnesses to the occurrence and are willing to supply him with information.

GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

Babu Khagendra Nath Mitra, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Diamond Harbour, is allowed leave for one month.
Maulvi Mohiuddin Ahmed, sub pro tem Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Tippera, is allowed leave for three months.
Mr. J. Johnston, Offg Jt-Magte and Dy Collr, Backergunge, is appointed to have charge of the Siraganj sub-div.
Babu Rama Ballabh Misra, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Collr, on being relieved of his appointment as an Assistant Settlement Officer in Champaran district, is allowed leave for one month.
Mr. C. R. Marindin, Commr of a Div on furlough, is appointed to act as Commr of the Orissa Div and Supdt of Tributary Mahals Orissa, during the absence, on furlough of Mr. G. Stevenson.
Mr. H.G.W. Herron, Jt Magte and Dy Collr, Midnapore, is allowed leave for three months.
Mr. R. F. G. Godfrey-Faussett, Principal, Police Training School, Bhagalpur, is allowed leave for three months.
Mr. F. A. Fullerton, Dist Supdt of Police, on leave, is posted to Jessore.
The following confirmations and promotions are sanctioned in the Police Department, with effect from the 1st April 1899:—
Confirmed in the first grade of District Superintendents.
Mr. J. B. Birch.
Promoted to the first grade.
Mr. R. F. H. Pugh.
Confirmed in the second grade.
Mr. L. E. Fabre-Tonnerre.
Promoted to the second grade.
Mr. G. D. Graham.
Confirmed in the third grade.
Mr. P. A. Sandilands and Mr. T. C. Orr.
Promoted to the fourth grade.
Mr. R. L. Ward.
Confirmed in the fourth grade.
Mr. H. M. Parish, and Mr. E. C. S. Baker.
Confirmed in the fifth grade.
Mr. F. L. Halliday, Mr. H. B. St. Leger and Mr. K. B. W. Thomas.
Promoted to the sixth grade.
Mr. J. R. berington, and Mr. W. A. Gayer.
Confirmed in the sixth grade.
Mr. R. H. Sneyd-Hutchinson.
Babu Ras behari Biswas.
Confirmed in the first grade of Assts Supdts.
Mr. H. C. Gordon, and Mr. C. B. Drake-Brockman.
Promoted to the first grade.
Mr. J. V. Ryan.
Mr. E. Robertson, Supdt, Calcutta Police, is allowed leave for three months, Mr. S. C. Aldridge, 1st grade Inspector, acting for him.
Maulvi Aminuddin, Rural Sub-Regtr of Chandpur, is appointed to act as Spl Sub-Regtr of Tipperah, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Akhy Kumar Ghose, or until further orders.
Babu Durga Kant Ray Chaudhuri, Spl Sub-Regtr, Murshidabad, is appointed to be Spl Sub-Regtr of Pabna.
Sahebzada Muhammad Amiruddin, Spl Sub-Regtr, Pabna, is appointed to be Spl Sub-Regtr of Murshidabad.
Babu Sasi Bhusan Sen, Head Master of the Hindu School, Calcutta is appointed to be Asst. Inspector of Schools, Rajshahi Division.
Babu Hem Kumar Neogy, B. L., is appointed to act as Munsif of Kandi, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Nikunja Behari Roy.
Babu Tejchandra Mukerjee, Munsif of Chapra, is appointed to act as Sub Judge of Saran during the absence, on leave, of Babu Atal Vihari Ghosh.
Babu Jadu Nandan Prasad, B. L., is appointed to act as Munsif of Chapra, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Tejchandra Mukerjee.
Babu Rajendra Lal Ghose, Munsif of Naugao, is allowed leave for four months and a-half.
Babu Uma Chaitan Kar, Munsif of Barabazar, now stationed at Purulia in Chota Nagpur, is allowed furlough for one year.
Babu Har Sahay Lal, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Magistrate, Rajshahi, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the second class.
Babu Khettra Bhusan Prosad, Sub-Dy Collr, Rajshahi Div, is posted to Jalpaiguri.
Babu Phanindra Nath Mukherji, Sub-Dy Collr, Mymensingh, is transferred to Munshiganj.
Babu Chintaharan Chatterjee, Sub-Dy Collr, Gaya, is posted to Bahubhusha.
Babu Sisir Kumar Chatterjee, Sub-Dy Collr, Bhagalpur, is transferred to Monghyr.
Maulvi Abdool Wassay Ahmed, Sub-Dy Collr, Vishnupur, is transferred to Kalna.
Babu Kedar Nath Banerjee, Sub-Dy Collr, Kalna, is transferred to Vishnupur.

THE BOMBAY GOVERNMENT have approached the Government of India with proposals for special legislation directed to the more efficient prevention of the introduction of the jigger pest into India.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA have sanctioned the immediate allotment of certain elephant mahals in Kamrup, Nowgong, Sib-sagar, Naga Hills, Jaintia Hills, Pani Sagar reserve and inner line reserves, and Lungai single reserve to the Khedda Department in exchange for the elephant reserve in the Cachar and Sylhet Districts.

THE TELEGRAPHS WIRE near Kuchbaz in Zhoib was cut on the 22nd instant, and 200 feet of wire were carried off. On the Thanadar of Wogal Kot with some Levy sowars and line riders going to the spot to repair the line they were fired on and retired. The offenders are believed to be Waziris, who are still in hiding in the neighbouring hills. The Thanadar has again gone to the spot with men of the Zhoib Levy Corps and some local Levies.

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THE PRESS MESSAGE BILL.—The Government of India are now considering the details of the Press Message Bill, and also the advisability of extending that legislation to the Inland Press Message.

CURRENCY COMMISSION.—Private advices received in India are to the effect that the results of the Currency Commission may be expected daily. It is believed that with the exception of Sir John Muir, all the other members of the Conference are practically unanimous on all the main points concerned.

LEGISLATIVE.—Mr. Charles Edward Buckland, C. I. E., Commissioner of the Presidency Division, is appointed to be a member of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations vice Mr. H. H. Risley, C. I. E.

THE LINGUISTIC SURVEY.—Mr. Grierson has nearly completed his survey of the languages belonging to the Indo-Aryan family, and he will shortly commence on the Kolarian and Dravidian stock. The whole work of linguistic survey, it is hoped, will be completed by May next.

COLD WEATHER MOVEMENTS OF GOVT. OFFICES.—We understand that it has been decided that the greater part of the Public Works Secretariat will remain in Simla next cold weather as it did last—a small camp only, with the Secretaries, Deputies, and Accountant-General coming down to Calcutta. The Legislative, Foreign, and Finance Secretariats will probably come to Calcutta as usual.

CROCODILES IN THE BURI GUNGA.—Crocodiles seem to have appeared in the Buri Gunga of Dacca, where formerly there were none. Some of these creatures have found their way into the lowlands to the west of the town, which are generally filled with water. The otherday a Mahomedan was caught in the thigh by a crocodile. A tug-of-war ensued and the Mahomedan, being a very strong man, succeeded in wrenching himself away, but not before the brute had got a good mouthful from his thigh.

THE INDIAN MUSEUM.—Dr. Watt has addressed a letter to the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, with reference to the subject of increasing the attractions of the Indian Museum as a depository of objects of commercial as well as of antiquarian interest. Dr. Watt has received instructions to make a tour through India, visiting the chief centres of industry in the country, and he is naturally desirous of enlisting the co-operation of all who are interested practically in the various trades and products of the Peninsula. The Reporter on Economic Products sets out upon his tour shortly.

INDIAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN ENGLAND.—The Judicial system in India seems to be attracting increasing attention in England. The *Law Times* in its last issue publishes two letters, and one article on Indian legal topics. One correspondent protests against leaving the office of the Advocate-General vacant for such a length of time on the same lines that we did in these columns. The next correspondent criticises the article on District Judgeship. A third contributes an article on the Judicial Committee.

ALLEGED MISCONDUCT TOWARDS A LADY.—What appears to be a dastardly attempt to annoy a lady when travelling on the East Indian Railway was made lately when Mrs. Lumsden was journeying from Dinapore to Howrah. From the information given by Mr. Lumsden, the Registrar of the Legislative Department, Bengal, to the Howrah Railway Police, it appears that Mrs. Lumsden, an hour after the train had left Dinapore, was about to settle down to sleep. She was travelling in a first-class ladies compartment. As she was

settling herself for the night, she saw a gentleman in the next compartment looking at her and making very indecent gestures. When the train halted at the next station, she informed Mr. Lumsden, who was travelling in another carriage. Mr. Lumsden got into her carriage and hid himself to see if he could find out who it was. Hardly had the train proceeded again, when Mrs. Lumsden screamed out, and on coming out, Mr. Lumsden saw a gentleman on the ladies' carriage foot-board looking into the carriage occupied by Mrs. Lumsden. The gentleman has been identified as Mr. Augier, manager of a colliery near Assensole. Three very respectable gentlemen, including a minister and an officer in Her Majesty's army, have come forward to give evidence against Mr. Augier, who cannot at present be found. Mr. Dossa, of the Howrah Railway Police, is making enquiries.

India and England
(From our own Correspondent.)

LONDON, JUNE 9.

KITCHENER'S GRANT.
THERE is very little to write about this week. With the exception of the debate, initiated by Mr. John Morley, on the proposed grant of £30,000 to Lord Kitchener for his services in the Sudan, Parliamentary proceedings have been very dull and uninteresting.

BRITISH SOLDIERS AND THE INDIANS.

A good deal of comment has been made in the papers during the last few days on two affairs in which British soldiers and natives of India were concerned. The first is the case of the four Privates of the Connaught Rangers who, shooting near Meerut last December, killed a peacock. This appears to have led to a quarrel between them and the villagers, the soldiers eventually firing at the natives, killing one and wounding another. Reuter telegraphs that the High Court has upheld the decision of the investigating Magistrate who committed the natives for trial and discharged the soldiers, holding that they acted in self-defence.

The other case is the disgraceful outrage on an elderly and respectable Burmese woman at Rangoon, by some men of the West Kent Regiment, in which from 12 to 16 men were implicated, and many others who were eye-witnesses, but did not interfere. It is stated by the *Times* correspondent at Allahabad, that some 40 men were either participants in or eye-witnesses of the outrage, which has since resulted in the death of the unfortunate woman; but that the regimental authorities have hitherto arrested nobody. The soldiers seem to have been under the influence of liquor, which they appear to have obtained from the regimental canteen.

With regard to the case of the Connaught Rangers it is quite time that, as suggested by Mr. J. Herbert Roberts recently in Parliament, these permissions given to Privates to go out on shooting parties should be entirely withdrawn. The contempt which the ordinary British soldier feels and expresses for the ordinary Indian, and his total ignorance of the religious feelings and caste prejudices of the natives constantly involve him in such cases as the one referred to.

The affair at Rangoon appears to have been on all fours with the Guntakul case. I understand that Mr. Roberts is going to put a question in the House of Commons with regard to both these cases, and I trust there may be some definite assurance given by Lord George Hamilton that action will be taken to prevent the constant recurrence of these scandalous breaches of discipline and morals.

THE SUGAR DUTIES.
I understand that next Thursday has been set apart for the discussion of the Sugar Bounty question, in India. Sir Henry Fowler will move a resolution thereupon, and a very interesting debate may be expected. The resolution will probably secure the votes of several Liberal Unionists and Conservatives like Mr. Maclean, but there can be no doubt that the Government will get an ample majority for their proposals. The fact that these countervailing duties have been accepted by so large a volume of Indian opinion will rather draw the teeth of the attack. It will be a Golden Club debate, and its interest will lie, not so much with the Indian side of the question, as with the attempts that the advocates of countervailing duties for the United Kingdom are making to use India as a stalking-horse behind which to hunt their own particular prey.

A return has been presented to the House of Commons showing for the years 1882-83 to 1898-99, inclusive, (1) the quantity and the value of imports of sugar into India from Germany, Austria, and Mauritius; (2) the acreage of sugar-cane cultivation in the several provinces of India; (3) the quantity of refined Indian sugar exported from Bengal and the North-Western Provinces to other provinces of India, and to the Native States; and (4) the quantity of Indian sugar, refined and unrefined, exported to Ceylon, the United Kingdom and to other countries. The quantity imported from Germany steadily increased from 1889-90 until 1897-98, when it reached a total of 203,309 cwt, but during 11 months of 1898-99 it was only 396,352 cwt. The supply from Austria was 3,087 cwt. in 1889-90; 945,754 cwt. in 1897-98, and 921,804 cwt. in the 11 months of 1898-99. The arrivals from Mauritius have not varied very much during the above 10 years, and the figures for the 11 months of 1898-99 were 7,592,636 cwt, which is more than for any previous complete year. The total acreage under sugarcane in India has fluctuated a little from year to year, on the whole, a tendency to increase until 1891-92, but since that year, when it reached 3,109,147 acres, it has fallen off, the area for 1897-98, the last year given, being only 2,675,763 acres. This latter figure includes, however, an estimate for Bengal. The exports of refined sugar from Bengal to other parts of India, had fallen off a good deal up to 1896-97, the last year for which statistics are available, but those from the North-West Provinces and Oudh to other provinces have been fairly maintained since 1886-87, though they have diminished since 1893-94. The shipments of sugar, refined and raw, to over-sea countries including Ceylon, have fallen off very much during the 17 years under review, and especially since 1889-90. In that year the export to the United Kingdom

was 1,168,354 cwt; in 1897-98 it was 447,070 cwt, and for the 11 months of 1898-99, 221,816 cwt.

HIGH CHURCH APPOINTMENTS.
Lord George Hamilton was called over the coals the other day by one of his constituents a clergyman, for making High Church appointments to vacant bishoprics in India. Lord George's ample majority enables him to give an occasional snub to a troublesome constituent, and he has sent the protestor the following letter:—

House of Commons, June 2, 1899.
"Dear Sir,—I have read with regret the letter written by the Rev. J. Campbell, which you sent me. He questions my good faith, and imputes to me insincerity because I, being a Low Churchman, have, in my capacity as Minister of the Crown, not refrained from submitting for preferment clergymen who are High Churchmen. Whatever may be the preference I individually feel for those who share my views, I should be sorry to be so unjust and prejudiced as to exclude from consideration for preferment men who have, under depressing influences in India, with rare devotion and ability promoted the work of the Church simply because their views on vestments and ritual differed from my own. None of those for whose preferment I am responsible will ignore the authority of their ecclesiastical superiors in the law of their Church. I note with surprise that he confesses he knows little or nothing of Dr. Welldon, the Metropolitan of India. He was the first scholar of his day, is a man of the highest intellect, and, as a writer, speaker, and preacher has scarcely an equal in our Church. But he is a Low Churchman. I fear that my appreciation of the good qualities of those from whom I may differ is not reciprocated by my clerical critic.—Believe me, yours truly
GEORGE HAMILTON."

VARIETIES.

"HILLS" writes to the *Pioneer*: Away on a deep gorge in the Mirzapur Hills I twice heard the cuckoo lately, or a bird with a call so exactly like the cuckoo's that I could not tell the difference. He called not once but many times on both occasions, and near to me. Can any other gentleman verify my statement? Is it known, too, that the Mirzapur Hills are a breeding ground for locusts? I put one or two locusts up at every second step, over miles of country. The grounds is full of small crevasses and holes, and, in these, this year at all events, the locust is evidently at home.

A CORRESPONDENT in the Isle of Thanet says that at Minister a Mr. Clark discovered a few weeks ago that a pair of tomtits had built a nest in the interior of a disused iron pump in his yard. The handle of the pump had been removed and the nest was built over the suction pipe, so that the only entrance was through the spout. When the iron top of the pump was raised it was seen that there were five eggs in the nest. This number was subsequently increased to nine, and, although they were frequently inspected by members of the family, they have since been hatched out, and there are now seven or eight young ones doing well in their snug quarters. The male bird has to pop up and down the spout to feed the hen.

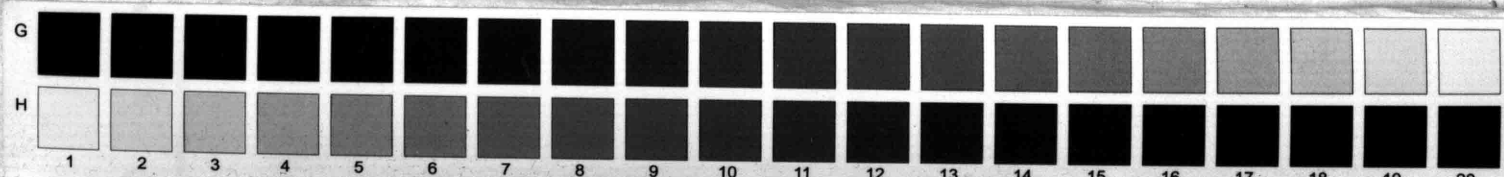
THERE is also to be seen in the covered shed in the girls' playground at the Burgh Schools, St. Andrews, a black bird's nest built in a corner of a pair of steps, which are laid against the wall. Despite the fact that every day the scholars are engaged in various games, the bird shows no signs of fear, and has brought up three young ones. A bird's nest can likewise be seen at the present time in the wheel of a signal at the crossing on the Blairgowrie line. This wheel turns the signal for every train that passes to and from Blairgowrie and the noise it makes is considerable. There sits the bird on four eggs not in the least disturbed, though the trains run within a few feet of its nest.

A CORRESPONDENT writes as follows to a contemporary:—Birds are said to fly from cholera. In Mauritius when the malady appeared at Port Louis, the minas, or as the people call it the martin, quitted the town until after it had ceased. So also jackdaws and sparrows, left Malmo, in Sweden, on the appearance of cholera in 1834. In 1846 at Karachi during a severe visitation of cholera, it was particularly remarked that the vultures, kites, and other birds of prey entirely disappeared almost simultaneously with the outbreak, returning gradually after the virulence of the disease had begun to abate. It would be interesting to know whether this phenomenon was observed during the outbreak in Karachi, which has just subsided.

MR. LEONARD LOAT, Superintendent of the Survey of the Nile, which is to examine the fishes of its waters, has begun work at Lake Menzaleh. During the first year he will confine the operations to below Wady Halfa, in the second to Berber, and in the third to Sobat, of even as far as Albert Nyanza. Drawings will be made of the fishes, and Dr. John Anderson, F. R. S., will compare them with the representations on Egyptian monuments. Of course the survey will have important economic results. The observations of the survey will be published in a book uniform with Dr. Anderson's fine "Reptiles and Batrachians of Egypt," which is the first volume of the "Zoology of Egypt." The next volume will relate to mammals, and the third to the fishes of the Nile.

A GOOD story is going the rounds of Simla Society just now which, if not perfectly true, is at least *ben trovato*. It seems that an unfortunate clerk in one of the Government offices with twenty-three years' service recently took leave and overstayed his leave by nine days. He was called upon for an explanation, and in the end the Secretary ordered him to be dismissed. The clerk thereupon appealed to His Excellency the Viceroy, who called for an explanation of the circumstances. The Secretary showed that the man had not only overstayed his leave for nine days, but was hopelessly incompetent as well. His Excellency thereupon ordered the man to be reinstated, and wrote across the Secretary's explanation that he considered the hopelessly incompetent man was the one who took twenty-three years to find out the other's incompetence.

PERHAPS the most extraordinary effect produced among the inhabitants of "Savage South Africa" at Earl's-court by the heat at home is that upon "brother terrapin". The giant land tortoises, which reside in the "Kaffir kraal," have commenced to lay eggs. Doubtless, they imagine they are back in the sandy



scrub of South Africa, and that London's fitful sun will incubate the prospective families. So, in the innocence of their hearts, they are preparing for such a contingency. Even the elephants have been induced to believe in the fixity of the weather. Mr. Mooney, their trainer, is responsible for this. Taking advantage of the sunny morning he gave them a real Soap-and-water Bath. Each one was ordered to lie down. Then came a process of scrubbing, after a liberal application of soft-soap, and a deluge from the fire-hydrant. The greatest appreciation was manifested for this kindly consideration. Still, there lurked a desire for something with less restriction than an orthodox spring-cleaning. So the gigantic beasts evolved a splendid scheme at night-time. While the keeper slept peacefully on his pallet in the stable, the huge animals silently freed themselves from their hobbles, stole into the arena, which adjoins their stable, and wended their way to the miniature river, which, twice a day, represents the Shangani in Matabeleland. In they plunged for a midnight bath. They spouted, trumpeted, and carried on the most hilarious jinks, until their ribaldry was cut very short by the appearance of their janitor, who promptly took steps to recover his little family.

GOVERNMENT AND THE MONEY MARKET.

THE *Gazette of India* contains a lengthy correspondence on the subject of the use of Government balances for the purpose of relieving temporary stringency in the money market. The Government of India's despatch, dated February 2nd 1899 is as follows:—

The proposal we would make to your Lordship is that during the months of January to May of each year, when large sums are withdrawn from the public in payment of Government revenue, it may be recognised as part of the ordinary business of management of the Treasury Balances to lend money to the Presidency Banks at one per cent. less than the declared minimum rate of discount of the borrowing Bank. It is not our wish and it might prove embarrassing in our own business, to give the Banks an open credit upon which they may operate or not as they please; but the kind of transaction admissible would be that the Banks might obtain, on the security of Government paper, loans, not less than ten lakhs of rupees on each occasion, repayable after a fixed period of one, two or three months, but in no case later than May 31, by which date we should again be in command of our own funds under ordinary conditions. We would not pledge ourselves to be always ready to lend, and it must be always remembered that, in the management of the public funds, the requirements of the public administration come before those of trade and commerce; but under ordinary circumstances we consider we could without difficulty spare 1½ crores of rupees during the months in question.

These arrangements would come within the meaning of the Despatch No. 225, dated 6th May 1875, of Your Lordship's predecessor (see especially paragraph 17) but we consider it desirable to re-submit the case now, as it is mixed up with matters that are at present under the consideration of the Currency Commission.

It will be observed that the President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, at the Conference of January 11, expressed the opinion that advances of the kind would not be required until the Bank rate threatened to exceed 10 per cent. We would not consider it necessary to prescribe a condition of the kind, but we believe it is the case that it would not pay the Presidency Banks to make loans on the above terms unless the rate for money approached that figure, and threatened to remain very high for some time.

We cannot say that the proposed facility for borrowing money in India would not in any way interfere with Your Lordship's Council Bill operations. But as the proposed loans would be only temporary, and the money would have to be returned to the Reserve Treasury by an early date, the effect would not be a permanent one. Though it might operate to slightly diminish the demand in January and February, it would, in the same measure, increase it in April and May. On the other hand, it is to the advantage both of trade generally and, through trade, of the demand for Council Bills, that the rates of discount should not be so high as they have been during the last two cold winters; and we believe that, so far as Council Bill operations are concerned, we may count upon obtaining quite as much advantage in this way as there may be disadvantage in meeting, in the manner proposed, part of the demand for money during the active season of foreign trade in India.

The Secretary of State in his reply, dated May 4th, 1899, says:—

Your Excellency proposes that, during the months of January to May in each year, when large sums are withdrawn from the public in payment of Government revenue, it may be recognised as part of the ordinary business of management of the Treasury balances, to lend money to the Presidency Banks in sums not less than 10 lakhs of rupees, at 1 per cent. below the declared minimum rate of discount of the borrowing bank, which would be required to deposit Government paper as security, and to repay the money at a definite date, in no case later than the 31st of May. For such purposes you consider that ordinarily you could spare a core and a-half of rupees without difficulty.

I am not sure that I understand the reasons why your Government solicits my sanction to such an arrangement. The management of the cash balances in India is entirely within your discretion. When it was proposed to institute a Reserve Treasury in order to guard against the risk of public inconvenience on the occurrence of an emergency, the Marquis of Salisbury, in his Despatch of the 6th of May 1875, No. 225, though not approving, precisely of the suggestions laid before him, left the matter in the hands of the Government of India, observing that it would be competent for the Financial Department either to retain the money so reserved in the Treasury "or to lend it for short terms under suitable conditions as to interest and security."

This expression seems so exactly to cover your proposal, that I have to look further for the grounds on which it is made; and I presume that these are contained in the last paragraph of your letter, in which you observe, "We cannot say that the proposed facility for borrowing money in India would not in any way interfere with your Lordship's Council Bill

operations." You think, however, that the transfer of part of the demand from the busy to the slack season of foreign trade would not operate disadvantageously while it would tend to prevent the rate of discount in India from rising so high as in 1897 and 1898.

From this point of view it appears to me that the suggested course is open to considerable objection. The remittance, to England, at a favourable rate of exchange of the amount necessary for the discharge of your sterling obligations, is one of the principal points to be aimed at in the management of the balances; and it is therefore desirable to take the utmost advantage of the season when there is the greatest demand for bills on India. The postponement of a portion of the Government remittances might stimulate imports on private account; and it might very likely be found that, when the time arrived for calling in the money due to you, the balance of trade had been to some extent adjusted, and that there was no such necessity for remittances from India during the early summer as you had expected.

I think, further, that any general understanding of the nature proposed would have the effect of inducing the commercial community to rely even more than at present on the assistance of the Government, instead of taking steps to enlarge the amount of loanable capital in the country, the scarcity of which seems to have been the chief cause of the high rates of discount in the year 1897-98.

In these circumstances, I am unable to approve of the proposal that you have laid before me. It is impossible to prescribe any specific amount which must be retained in the Reserve Treasury or be otherwise at the command of the Comptroller General on short notice in order to meet, not merely the disbursements of your Government in India, but also the probable amount of remittances to England; and it is essential that an adequate provision should be made for these purposes. Subject to this being maintained, I see no objection to your lending money to the Presidency Banks, on the security of Government paper, at such rate of interest from time to time and for such periods as you think best. I am inclined to think that the rate should, as rule, be not below the bank rate.

A SAGACIOUS ANIMAL.

SIXTY-TWO years ago I was the second mate on the ship "Carolina" of Boston, commanded by Captain Stephen Lemist. He had on board a fine black shaggy Newfoundland dog called Neptune. "Nep" was the pet of all hands as well as of his master. He had the full liberty of the quarter deck, and sometimes availed himself of it by carelessly walking about on the taffrail. We were bound to New Orleans, and were being towed up the Mississippi in company with four other vessels. "Nep" was walking on the rail, as was his occasional custom, when he unfortunately lost his balance and fell overboard. It was impossible to stop without disarranging the tow which the captain of the tug would not consent to do. So Captain Lemist and the grief-stricken crew were constrained to leave the dog to his fate. For awhile he swam after the fleet, but, finding that he could not keep up with us, he struck out for the western shore of the river, seeing that he was nearest to that side. The only satisfaction that we had was that his life was in no danger, for we were sure that he would reach the land. As for ourselves, we mourned that we had for ever parted company with our dear ship-mate, and the captain, as I can see him now, laid his head upon the binnacle and sobbed like a child. We were about fifty miles below New Orleans at the time of the accident, and in a few hours were berthed at the levee, where we remained for three days discharging our cargo. A freight of cotton and tobacco for London was engaged, and we were towed up to Lafayette, some three or four miles above, to take it in, and were berthed the third outside, in a tier of vessels, the cargo being carried on planks over the decks of the others. One morning after we had been there two days, as we were busily engaged at our work, to our utter astonishment "Nep" walked on board!

It is almost needless to say that our joy equaled his own. Wagging his organ of cognition, as a dog's tail has so aptly been turned and crying in a dog's language of delight, he jumped upon every one of his old friends, entirely ignoring the stevedores, whom he did not know, and then rushed down the companion-way in search of the captain, who did not happen to be on board. Then he came on deck dejected and woebegone, taking no further interest in any of us beyond casting about his inquiring looks. I expect to be believed, for I am telling the truth, when I say that the big tears stood in his eyes. The captain had gone ashore to his consignee's office in the city, as the Chief mate knew. Come "Nep," said he—"come along." "Nep" understood him readily enough as he jumped on the stage over the other vessel's decks, and followed him down to the office, where he was clasped in his fond master's arms. There is not a particle of fiction in this pathetic story. How Neptune found his ship was beyond our ken; we merely guessed that he had travelled fifty miles up the river till he came to the ferry, crossed over to New Orleans, and then found his way up to Lafayette, walked over two tiers of ships, and reached his old home again.

How did he find it? He yearned to tell us, for he knew that it was in our minds to ask him. But, alas, he could not speak. He was denied the gift that God has given to so many human brutes who have immortal souls, while he, when "life's fitful fever" was ended, went back to the dust whence all of us came, but who knows if this is true? Why should a dog not be immortal because, although with two legs more than a man he happens to have no voice, and why should all men be immortal because they can stand up on two legs and make more noise than dogs from their mouths? —John Codman, in *New York Times*.

THERE are abnormally high floods in the upper reaches of the Irrawaddy. The Myitkyna town is partly submerged. The water is breast high. Several outlying places are completely submerged, and many houses have been washed away. The railway near the station has been breached, and the engines are unable to leave the shed. Extensive damage has been done to cultivation along the river bank.

HYDROGEN LIQUEFIED.

PROFESSOR DEWAR'S TRIUMPH. HYDROGEN has been liquefied by Professor Dewar. He announced his achievement on June 7th at the Royal Institution. The Professor had been announced to deliver a "Commemoration lecture" in connection with the celebration of the institution's centenary. Thus it was a crowded and distinguished company to whom he broke the splendid news.

Like a preacher, he commenced with a text. Sir Humphry Davy had said "Fortunately for the active and progressive nature of the human mind, even experimental research is only a method of approximation to truth." Then he quietly announced that he had the pleasure to introduce to the lecture room "a new agent of research, namely, liquid hydrogen." Loud cheers burst forth from the throng, but the professor begged for silence. The experiments he had to make were of a very delicate and difficult nature; and would those present kindly remain still? The audience strove hard to comply with this request, but every now and again the excitement and enthusiasm found individual vent. But the misdemeanour was promptly and angrily hushed. Liquid hydrogen the Professor explained, was a precious and costly liquid, excessively volatile, and it had to be preserved with great care. There must always be something that would enable them to preserve it as much as possible from radiation. Therefore, in his experiments, he would surround it with liquid air. The audience were then permitted to see a tube of liquid hydrogen thrown upon the screen, lecturer drawing attention to the surrounding air solidifying as a snow. In another experiment a piece of cork sank to the bottom of the liquid hydrogen. Next, proof was afforded that the newly-discovered liquid is not a magnetic one. The temperature at boiling point is 21 degrees absolute, or minus 252 degree—a temperature sufficient to give a pressure that is immeasurable. Still another experiment demonstrated that such a perfect vacuum can be produced by means of the new agent that mercury distils upwards. In conclusion Professor Dewar said he thought that the liquefaction of hydrogen was a triumph of theory as well of practice.

The lecture over, the audience were free to applaud, and they did so with vigour. Lord Kelvin next rose and spoke words of enthusiasm. They had listened to "a brilliant, a beautiful and a splendidly interesting lecture." Davy and Faraday would hardly have expected that before the end of the 19th century their scientific dreams and prophecies would have been so literally and so splendidly verified. Three or four years ago the liquefaction of hydrogen seemed to resist all efforts. Not yet were we at the end of such discoveries. "But," Lord Kelvin confessed, "any doubts that I can say are mere weakness in respect of the subject." He had moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer. This was now seconded by Sir George Stokes, whose description of Professor Dewar's discovery was "a grand achievement." In returning thanks, Professor Dewar said he desired to share the credit of his discovery with Mr. Robert Lennox, from whom he had received admirable assistance. The Professor went on to hint—though he did not actually mention figures—that the experiments leading to the discovery had involved immense financial outlay. The late Duke of Northumberland, the Goldsmiths' Company, Dr. Mond, Sir Andrew Noble—these and many others had contributed towards the necessary funds.

THE GRIEVANCES OF THE BENGAL JUDICIAL SERVICE.

IN the Government of India's despatch dealing with the pay, pension and leave rules of High Court Judges there are also several paragraphs dealing with the lack of inducement to enter the Judicial Service. At present the vacation enjoyed by the subordinate Civil Courts in this country is approximately one month, and owing to its existence and the presumption that District and Sessions Judges avail themselves of it, it is laid down by Article 306 of the Civil Service Regulations that privilege leave is not admissible to such officers save in cases of urgent necessity, when it may be granted on half-pay, subject to the condition that it shall in no case be combined with the vacation. But a Sessions Judge is required to dispose of a certain amount of criminal work during the periodical vacations, and as if to meet his case more fully Article 308 declares him eligible for privilege leave under the ordinary rules, provided that he certifies that he has not been absent from his station for more than fifteen days of the recess. The result, then, is that a District and Sessions Judge must remain at his post, even if, owing to the Civil Courts being closed, he has little or no regular work to do, throughout half of the vacation in order to retain his right to privilege leave under the ordinary rules. The vacation usually includes a number of public holidays allowed to all officers, executives as well as judicial, so that the advantage to the latter is really less than that appears at first sight; and, while it is open to executive officers to add those holidays to his privilege leave under the conditions prescribed by Article 254 of the Civil Service Regulations, it is held that it is not open to a judicial officer to do so, because such holidays are "vacation," and Article 306, as noticed above, peremptorily forbids the combination of privilege leave with vacation. The Secretary of State agrees with the Government of India that the restrictions are unnecessarily harassing and for the future the Civil Service Regulations will be amended so as to remove as far as possible all obstacles in the way of the enjoyment of the usual Civil Court vacation and to provide that its incidence shall in no way affect the grant of regular leave. The only conditions are:—

(1) That suitable arrangements should in each instance be proposed by the District and Sessions Judge concerned, approved by the High Court, and made for the disposal during the vacation of any criminal work requiring attention; and (2) that a District and Sessions Judge should obtain the express permission of the Local Government to avail himself, without prejudice to his regular leave, of so much of the vacation as is not needed for the disposal of criminal business.

Subject to these conditions, full advantage may be taken of the vacations which may be combined with regular leave whenever such a combination can be arranged under Article 254 of the Civil Service Regulations so as to involve no additional expenditure.

The Government of India also proposed to regrade the District and Sessions Judgeships

in Bengal in the following or a somewhat similar manner:

	Rs.
First grade, 4 on	2,750
Second grade, 11 on	2,500
Third grade, 10 on	2,000
Fourth grade, 5 on	1,800

The Secretary of State's approvals of these alterations being carried out in consultation with the Government of Bengal, provided that if any increase of expenditure is found necessary, the proposals be submitted anew for his sanction.

MRS. MAYBRICK.

MRS. MAYBRICK is likely to be released from prison very shortly. At least that is the information to be obtained from those who have all along taken a great interest in the case, acting under the belief that she is guiltless of the crime for which she was condemned to death by Sir James FitzJames Stephen in 1889. It is said that Mr. Choate, the American Ambassador, is bringing pressure to bear on the British Government in order to get them to re-open the case, and that the course of events points in the direction of a favourable reply.

Mr. J. H. Levy, who has written a book which gives an exhaustive history of the case, and concluding that a gross miscarriage of justice has taken place, was seen by a *Daily Chronicle* representative. Mr. Leody believes that "the Government will now be compelled to admit that Mrs. Maybrick has been wrongly imprisoned. And what is more, Mr. Choate, the American Ambassador, who is fully *au fait* with the case in all its bearings, has sent me to say that he is instructed by the U. S. Government to press the British Government for her release."

Besides this, went on Mr. Levy "the Government themselves have really given up the case, because when Lord Salisbury received the American deputation he told them that since the trial his Government had got information which led them to believe that Mrs. Maybrick was guilty. That evidence has never yet been brought before Mrs. Maybrick or her counsel, and she has never been called upon to plead to it. In fact, it is another 'secret dossier' upon which she has been kept in prison. In spite of all our pressure, we have never been able to find out what these fresh facts are. We are ready and willing to meet them if we can only get the opportunity. But how can you meet evidence, if you don't know what it is? And the unwillingness of the Government to lay this before us take as a sign that they are beginning to see that Mrs. Maybrick has been wrongly convicted. Indeed, this would have been done long ago were it not that the *amour propre* of certain officials stood in the way. The Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Charles Hopwood are strongly supporting our appeals. The latter gentleman (who, you know, is the Recorder of Liverpool) told me, the other day that he was in Court during the whole of the trial, and that the unfairness of the judge's summing up could only be judged by those who were in Court. It was bitterly prejudiced."

"And what made you take so much interest in the case?"

"Because after examination I feel convinced that a great injustice has been done to an innocent woman. I don't know Mrs. Maybrick personally, nor any of her friends. The case is one of the most instructive in the history of our criminal law, as illustrating the necessity for a Court of Criminal Appeal."

"I believe," concluded Mr. Levy, "from information in my possession that she will soon be released, especially as the U. S. Government are taking the matter up so strongly. Mrs. Maybrick is now in Aylesbury Prison. She is in a very weak state of health. The Baroness de Roques, her mother, who is now in England, saw her a few days ago."

"LOUD MURMURS."

A LITTLE incident at Saturday's cavalry dinner at Simla, reported by the Allahabad correspondent of the *Times*, throws light once again upon the well-known disposition of our fire-eaters in India. There were, it seems, to have been no speeches. But the chairman, Col. Mackenzie, forgetting the bimetallic proverb about speech and silence, insisted upon proposing the Viceroy's health. So doing, he made bold to say "I am sure I express the unanimous feeling of you all in hoping that his Excellency's reign may be one of unbroken peace." But instead of unanimity this pious aspiration elicited loud murmurs, whereupon Lord Curzon was good enough to remark:

"I observed that certain of his observations were received with murmurs, somewhat deeply echoed by the Commander-in-Chief. At the same time, as a civilian, while sympathising with these murmurs, I cannot but share the excellent sentiments expressed by Colonel Mackenzie. From which it will be seen that Lord Curzon has not had experience of the Front Bench in vain. He is perfectly ready, at the shortest notice to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. The importance of the matter arises of course from the fact—not that British officers in India are anxious to have a little fighting, but that they can easily make fighting appear necessary. Major Gatacre, who astonished a country audience the other day, by praising war for the sake of war is an Anglo-Indian officer; and it was an Anglo-Indian officer, Sir Lepel Griffin who said, *apropos* of the Chitral business, that if frontier wars did not occur in India they would need to be invented in the interests of the troops. These being the prevalent views, what is one to expect under a system which, while it gags the tax-payers, gives the military clique—the men afflicted with brevet-mania and K. C. B. mania a majority in the Viceroy's Council? For the military members include (1) the military member proper, (2) the Viceroy, and (3) the Commander-in-Chief, who, as Lord Curzon noticed, 'somewhat deeply echoed' the murmurs against a policy of peace. What happens is what is to be expected; and it will undoubtedly continue to happen until British tax-payers contribute towards the cost of, and therefore vigilantly examine, the warlike operations of the British Government beyond the frontiers of India."

The non-official members of the Legislative Council of Madras will meet on 29th July to elect a member in place of Mr. Ananda Charlu, who has vacated his seat on the Viceregal Council. Mr. Ananda Charlu has been offered for re-election and is expected to succeed.

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

ALLEGED DEATH FROM KICKING.

(From our own Correspondent.)

KARIMGUNJ, JUNE 24. The dead body of a cooly named Choon Lohar of the Pollarband Tea Estate, has been sent to Silchar from Luckipore Police station for *post mortem* examination. It is alleged that the death was caused by a severe kick inflicted by one of the assistant managers of that garden. The name of the Shahab and further particulars will follow.

AN OFFSHOOT OF THE BOMBAY SEDITION CASE.

BOMBAY, JUNE 27.

Mr. Dastur, third Presidency Magistrate, had before him yesterday what might be called an offshoot of the Bombay Sedition Case. Superintendent Macdormott charged two young men with aiding and abetting the offence of fabricating false evidence. The prosecution alleged that the first accused had carried a letter written by the second to his brother at Deolali, to give evidence before the Sessions Court, to the effect that Mr. Bhatye proprietor of the *Gurakhi*, was with him on the 25th March. Mr. Slater had given sanction for the prosecution.

Mr. Macdormott subsequently applied for permission to withdraw the prosecution, but on Mr. Sealy, pleader for the defence, objecting, the permission was not granted. Bail was granted.

(FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.)

LONDON, JUNE 23.

A deputation from the Aborigines Protection Society waited upon the Secretary of State for the Colonies to-day, and submitted a statement relative to the land tenure ordinances of Ceylon, asking for a special inquiry into the alleged injustice to natives. Sir West Ridgeway, Governor of Ceylon, was present at the interview to refute the charges. Mr. Chamberlain declined to grant the inquiry asked for, and expressed confidence in the Ceylon Government.

PARIS, JUNE 23.

The new Cabinet has decided to remove a number of superior officers for action in connection with the Dreyfus case, contrary to military discipline.

LONDON, JUNE 24.

Intelligence has been received of the massacre by brigands of two Engineers and then Cossacks on the Manchurian Railway near Kirin.

LONDON, JUNE 24.

Public meetings are being organized throughout the Cape in support of Sir Alfred Milner's policy on the Transvaal question.

LONDON, JUNE 26.

A Ministerial Declaration made in the French Chamber of Deputies to-day admitted that the Cabinet was of composite parts, but had been formed for the defence of the Republic, and was above minor differences.

A stormy debate ensued, confidence in the Government eventually being voted by 263 against 237.

LONDON, JUNE 26.

Sir Thomas Lipton's Yacht *Shamrock*, which will contest the America Cup with the American Yacht *Columbia*, has been successfully launched on the Thames.

LONDON, JUNE 26.

The Cliftonian Choolboy, whose name is Collins, and who is the son of an Anglo-Indian, continuing his innings in the House match, has increased his score to 598, and his innings is still unfinished.

The next Legislative Council at Simla will be held on the 14th of July.

WITH the permission of the Nizam's Government, 355 ounces of gold were recently despatched to England by the Hyderabad (Deccan) Mining Company.

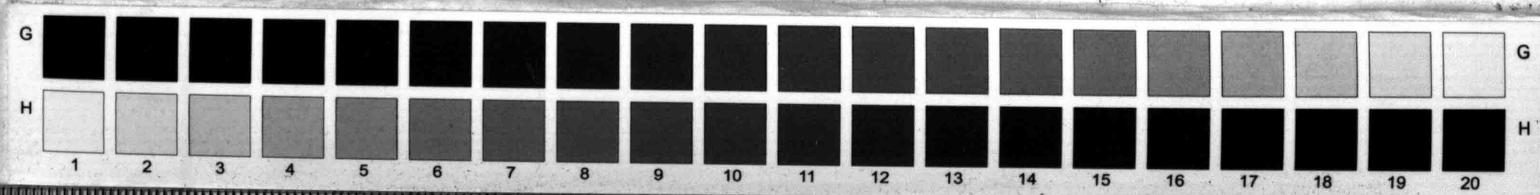
IN the 43 large Municipal towns of the Punjab, during the week ending Saturday the 3rd June, 988 births were registered (541 males and 447 females), giving a birth-rate of 36 per mille of population; 991 deaths were registered (528 males and 463 females) giving a death-rate of 37 per mille of population.

A LANDSLIP occurred at Mussoorie at 9 o'clock on this night of the 19th instant. Rocks several hundred tons in weight rolled down the hill-side on the south side, narrowly missing several houses; but fortunately little damage was done. A stable of one house was demolished, but the horse and the *syce* within it escaped with their lives, though both were slightly injured.

IT is notified that during the calendar year 1900 not more than 44,400 chests of Bengal Opium will be offered for sale, and not more than 3,700 chests in each month; also that not more than 2,000 chests each month will be Benares opium, and not more than 1,700 Patni opium. No reduction in these quantities will be made without three months' notice.

ON TUESDAY evening some barbers, living in Vachhawali, Lahore city, fell to quarrelling among themselves, and in the course of the altercation one man ran amok and attacked three of his caste fellows with a razor inflicting severe injuries, one of whom has died since of his wounds. The murderer escaped and is still at large.

SINCE 1860, the Italian Government, assisted by Sir James Hudson, have made researches on the pearl oyster at Turin with a view of farming it for the sake of its pearl. The results were hopeful, and to-day Chevalier Comba wishes to profit by them in growing pearl oysters on the south coast of Calabria. A company has been started, and the Government have granted the coast line between Bova and Torre di Riaci. It is proposed to acquire 10,000 male *Aggrina margaritifera*, of which 500 will be reserved for reproduction, each bivalve yielding 600,000 eggs. At the end of seven years there ought to be nearly four million oysters, having a value of about eight million francs as food, apart from the possible yield of pearls by natural or artificial growth.



Correspondence.

THE COOLY QUESTION—ON WHAT IT HINGES.—I.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—The laws regulating the relation between tea-planters in Assam and the coolies are unfair in the extreme. Experience has taught us that while the oppressive incidence of law falls heavily on the labourers, the interests of their employers, the tea-planters, are invariably sought to be preserved. The crux of the whole matter resolves into this: The labourers or coolies are, by their low birth and position, supposed to be the worst scoundrels capable of all that is bad in human nature; whereas the exalted position of their employers and their colour raise a presumption in their favour which at once places them above the remotest suspicion of probable complicity in anything that could be called illegal. Such are some of the prepossessions by which our administrators are actuated in dealing with the coolies as against the planters. It is also a well-known fact, that 9 out of 10 Magistrates and the tea-planters within their jurisdictions are friends, and they often act as hosts and guests towards one another. There would have been no harm in this if all the Magistrates were above human weaknesses. As it is, some of them at least are unconsciously now and then led to stretch a point in favour of the tea-planters when there is a quarrel between the latter and their coolies. Besides, there are other points which are too well known to require any mention at my hands.

As an illustration of the extent of the immunity from law which the tea-planters have been accustomed to enjoy, I would cite here an instance which occurred within my knowledge three years ago and for the accuracy of which, even at this distance of time, I am prepared to take the fullest responsibility. During the Durga Puja holidays, the tea-planters of certain quarters in the district of Sylhet organised a volunteers' parade in their neighbourhood and the nearest Magistrate was also present there. In course of target-shooting, a European tea-planter happened to shoot a native passer-by who died instantaneously. Taking it to be an unhappy accident, it certainly followed that, according to the established procedure, a judicial enquiry was to have brought home the fact as such; but the tea-planter was never required to go through a police enquiry, much less a judicial trial, nor even was a post-mortem examination of the deceased's body deemed necessary. The matter was allowed to be dropped by paying, it was understood, a hundred rupees or so to the deceased's relatives and it is not unreasonably believed that the Magistrate was instrumental in bringing about the compromise. If one were to speak of the iniquitous deeds of the past, innumerable instances could be multiplied to disclose an incredibly appalling state of things. Then, again, tea plantations in India are invariably situated far away in the interior, and in districts which are the most backward in point of education and enlightenment and where public opinion is almost dead, and the press, if there is any, is not bold enough to rise superior to the importance of the occasion. Consequently the other side of the question, with its horrors and iniquities, is but imperfectly known to the world outside, and the Government, on the other hand, labours under the complacent optimism that the coolies in all tea gardens are happy and prosperous and thus it invariably makes short work of their sore points.

It must in fairness be conceded that a certain percentage of labourers have voluntarily submitted themselves to the rigors of a garden life and thereby have acquired positions of comparative prosperity. This, however, does not mitigate the condition of others, whose lot appears to any impartial observer to be one of woe and misery into which they have been led by their ignorance and credulity on the one hand, and the impotence of the law on the other. To make my points clear, I should refer to the law as it exists. Act I of 1882 is intended to facilitate the immigration of labour to tea plantations. The provisions of this Act, as far as one can see, are so equitably adjusted as to safeguard the interests of both the planters and the coolies, and ought, with greater vigilance, on the part of the authorities, to be effective for the prevention of fraudulent recruitment. But yet corruptions and abuses exist, and they are apparently due to loopholes in the laws. Looking beneath the surface, it would appear that though the provisions of the said Act are sufficiently comprehensive and stringent to meet the emergency of all bona fide cases, another Act, namely, Act XIII of 1859, looms from behind to be requisitioned at the option of tea-planters, evidently to invalidate the wholesome effects of Act I of 1882. The Act of 1859 is simple enough, in that "it extends to all contracts and agreements whether by deeds written or verbal and whether such contract be for a term certain or for specified work or otherwise between the employer and the employed and impose no restrictions or conditions on the transit of coolies to gardens. Under its operation coolies are supposed to be freemen all the way from their country to the garden and are not subjected to the various checkings at different stages on their journey, such as before the Magistrates at both ends, the registration officers and the medical officers, &c., as required by Act I of 1882—a procedure which, if faithfully and conscientiously followed, is sure to bring to light all cases of fraudulence, misrepresentation and coercion. Whereas the absence of it in the other case is only calculated to propagate those evils, because, with the facilities thus afforded by Act XIII of 1859, a set of unlicensed recruiters or agents can be let loose on the country to decoy poor and ignorant people—as it is not unoften done—from their homes, under false pretences. In this way if a recruiter can only manage to deliver a number of people to a tea garden his task is done, for Act XIII, making "verbal contracts" valid, can then be fastened upon them and they are there for ever. Absconding then is the only way out of the danger; but with the strict watchfulness exercised on new-comers and refractory coolies by the garden authorities, that is not also a likely contingency to be avoided of with any success. It may also happen that the people so enticed away come to realise their position at the end of their railway or steamer journey and successfully manage to frustrate the vicious objects of their abductors. These are only cases upon which

some light breaks in now and then, and I can bear my personal testimony to a good many of them. The latest case of abduction that I came across was reported in some of the leading Calcutta papers. The victims were three women from the Jubbulpore district. By the kindly intercession of certain people the matter was brought to the notice of the authorities and the women were sent back to their country at the cost of the garden concerned and safely made over to their husbands. But the miscreants who were responsible for this iniquitous deed are yet at large, and it does not seem that any serious endeavour has been made to bring them to book. I shall resume the subject in my next.

THE DATE-SUGAR INDUSTRY IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—A Joint Stock Company has been formed here this month with some respectable merchants of this place as share-holders, members, or directors, for the manufacture of date-sugar and *jaggery* from the date-palm juice in the Central Provinces, having its registered office at Khandwa, C. P. The Prospectus with application forms for shares will soon be issued. A complete scheme has been formulated for working with the help of experts imported from Surat, Nowari and other places in the Bombay Presidency, from the N.W. P. and Behar and from Bengal (Jessore, etc., etc.). To work with the aid of the improved and modern appliances for the extraction and clarification of juice, and then for its concentration and granulation for the production of the better quality of *gur*, and its subsequent treatment in the "Centrifugals" for turning out *unrefined* sugar, is the present aim of the Company. "The industry of producing date-palm *gur* and sugar have hitherto been confined to Bengal, Jessore being recognized as the central place for the industry. By very careful and elaborate experiments in these parts it has been established during the last cold weather that this industry is not only quite feasible here but that it would prove a highly profitable business. I need hardly say that these shrewd people of Bombay, having subjected the whole scheme to the strictest possible scrutiny and compared the results with the authoritative Reports that exist, have resolved to float this Company, to advance the necessary capital and to direct this concern, with their usual business talents. I own a large stake and responsibility in the business; and to promote its interests and to commence working on the lines now followed in Jessore which I had adopted during the last season in my experiments, in view to adopt eventually the improved methods of the modern times, I am extremely anxious to secure the co-operation of my own countrymen, Bengalee workmen (*gachies* or *seelies*) and Bengalee youths and gentlemen, more or less familiar with the processes of tapping and boiling, just to enable them to direct the experts to turn out the reasonable quantity of work. By the Memorandum and the Articles of Association, the ground-work of the Company's scheme has been laid out on such a plan that any person from Bengal, be he an expert or a small capitalist, may join the Company as a shareholder, a member or a servant or strike out his own line of work with his own resources or even those supplied by the firm. It is needless to say that this is a splendid opportunity for our people to shake off their idleness, and to engage themselves in a useful and profitable employment. But no one can do better than bring with him a set of *Gachis* at reasonable rate of salaries to be borne by the firm. Further communications on the subject may be made to me. Arrangements for starting the business are being rapidly pushed through to enable the firm to commence work from the beginning of October next. There is one important point about the business regarding which I require some light in addition to what I have derived from reports and past experiences. The point is this:—Suppose a *Gachi* or *Seeli* takes up, which I suppose he can, a circle of 200 trees in a part of the dense date forests of Khandwa, and divides them into 7 *Mahals* of, say, 30 trees in each. Having cut all the trees in each *mahal* during the seven successive days, one *mahal* each day, he ought to proceed to give a renewed cut in the *mahals*, for *jeeren* juice, in the same order as in the first week, so that, some one of the seven *mahals* gives the *jeeren* juice every day. Taking the *Dokat* juice and the day droppings into consideration, the *seeli* has really to climb from 60 to 80 trees during the whole working day. Is not this the rule of working? I shall feel extremely thankful if you or any of your numerous constituents or correspondents favour me with a detailed reply on this subject.

HARIDAS CHATTERJI, Pleader, Khandwa, C. P.

MR. BADSHAH AND HIS CLERKS.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—The other day the following conversation occurred between Mr. Badshah and Babu Sarat Chandra Roy, a sub-auditor and a favourite of his, who was lately promoted from the grade of Rs. 40 to that of Rs. 70.

Mr. Badshah.—How do you like the scheme of decentralisation which I have submitted to Government for approval?

Sarat Babu.—Yes, sir, it is all right; but one thing is hard on us: we shall have to go to Bombay. This is very hard on us, poor men that we are.

B.—How do you know that you shall have to go to Bombay?

S.—Because we are working in the B section; and as the B section is going to Bombay we shall have to go there too.

B.—No, that is not the thing. It has not yet been definitely settled whether the B section will go to Bombay or somewhere else. It may be Jubbulpore, Nagpore, Bombay or Madras. But where do you like to go to?

S.—Yes, sir, we like a place where living is cheaper than in Bombay. Certainly we like Madras.

B.—Of course, that is quite true.

B.—How do your men work? Do they work hard or do nothing?

S.—Yes, sir, my men are working very hard.

B.—Do they complain? How do they like me?

S.—Yes, sir. They are all satisfied with you; but they complain of one thing: they do not get any increment of pay.

B.—Yes. Tell your men that go they must. I will consider their case before sending them to Bombay or Lahore. Tell them also that they are my children and not the children of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. If they have anything to represent, let them come to me and not take the protection of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*.

In the above the exact language is not reproduced but only the purport of the conversation with some omissions here and there.

Now, you see that Mr. Badshah feigns regarding his clerks in a *ma-bap* spirit, but does he actually treat them as such? Certainly not. For then the clerks, would not have raised this hue and cry against him. It is a fact that he has deprived them of holidays, half-holidays, leave (casual, medical, privilege or any other kind) either by cutting down their pay or paying only a nominal allowance; and has punished them either with reduction, suspension or fine which varies from annas 2 to Rs. 30 according to his own whims and not in proportion to the gravity of the mistakes they happen to commit and without considering the poor pay they get as a *ma-bap* master should consider. It is, we presume, not the fault of the clerk that he commits a mistake as much as it is of the master; for every body knows that clerks are liable to commit mistakes if you put on their shoulders a heavier burden than they can well carry. The other day, a mistake was detected by the Postmaster of Darjeeling, of the passing of Rs. 2476-0-6 as interest of an account bearing a balance of Rs. 6000 instead of Rs. 247-6. The clerk who made that mistake was fined Rs. 3 to be realised in 3 instalments. Now, we hear that Mr. Badshah has issued an order for checking the total amount of interest passed in the Darjeeling office. But what do we find? We find that in every volume of 500 accounts some 20 to 30 mistakes are committed. The same thing will be found in every office if the Comptroller would kindly enquire and have it checked. The way in which the clerks are made to work and the conditions under which they serve, are sufficient for mistakes. Does the Government know how many thousands of rupees have these clerks passed as excess interest on S. B. Deposits? We implore the Government and the Comptroller-General to have the interest of the S. B. Department re-checked by competent men and then decide how the "grand" system of decentralisation, which has been submitted to them for approval, will work. We are sure and confident that Government will get lots of mistakes in every office during the last two years. We will not say anything more to-day.

AN IMPARTIAL OBSERVER.

INDIA AND ENGLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, JUNE 9.

VERBOSITY OF OFFICIAL REPORTS.

I HEAR that Lord Curzon, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State is endeavouring to reduce the multiplicity and verbosity of Indian official reports. They are a weariness to all who have to read them, and I never look through one of these documents without being amazed at the waste of energy and industry that they demonstrate, and the trivialities that one has to skip. Who on earth reads these voluminous local and district reports which are brought out annually, generally about 18 months after the end of the year they report upon, which are full of the most complicated explanations of things that are clear enough in themselves, and of the bald, crude opinions of subordinates on matters of the smallest details? I have never so much struck with this as when I am reading as, for my sins, I have to do every year the various Excise reports of the different provinces, which are full of endless complicated tables, most difficult to understand. I believe I am the only person in the United Kingdom who ever reads these reports, and I gravely doubt whether anybody reads them in India either, unless it be the persons who have to correct the proofs. If Lord Curzon can succeed in reducing the number and volume of these endless reports of all the departments of Indian administration, he will confer a considerable benefit upon those of us who have to study them. It would be very interesting to obtain a return showing the cost of all these publications.

THE INDIAN LADY LAWYER.

Mr. J. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India last night whether his attention had been drawn to the unsuccessful application of Miss Sorabji for permission to plead before the Allahabad High Court, whether he was aware that the lady referred to has taken law honours at Oxford and has passed the L. B. Examination of the Bombay University and has complied with all the necessary regulations and whether he would state the grounds upon which she is prevented from practising before the High Courts of India.

Lord George Hamilton replied as follows:—I am aware that Miss Sorabji applied to the High Court for permission to practise as a pleader and that the Court, which has an absolute discretion in the matter under Letters Patent, refused its assent to her application. I do not know what honours Miss Sorabji may have taken at Oxford or elsewhere nor do I know the grounds of the Court's refusal, but I think it probable that it was on account of her sex, which would equally have debarred her from practising in any Court of Law in this country.

A CARD OF THANKS.

I wish to say that I feel under lasting obligations, or what Chamberlain's Cough Remedy as done for our family. We have used it in many cases of coughs, lung troubles and 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. DOTT, Des Moines, Iowa. Sale by

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THE MARAVARS.

THE Maravars, who have taken such a prominent part in the faction fights that have convulsed the Madura and Tinnevely District during the few days, writes "R" in the *Madras Times*, affect the coastal tracts of the two Districts named, and are also largely met with in Trichinopoly, Tanjore and even Coimbatore. To-day, they constitute, on the whole, a fairly, law-abiding and prosperous agricultural community, who pay the Government share of the produce of the land without any extraordinary fuss or nonsense, and live on fairly amicable terms with their neighbours. But when roused to lawlessness and excitement, their old warrior and dominant instincts rudely assert themselves, and a Maravar riot is conducted with almost as much fanaticism as a characteristic Moplah outbreak. The very origin of the term Maravar, as related in a pretty tribal legend, indicates the warlike instincts and proclivities for which the race has been celebrated during a very long period in the stirring history of the Pandya country. When Rama was waging war against Ravana, the valiant Maravars fought with such courage and loyalty for the King that he gratefully exclaimed in classic Tamil:—"Maraven" (I will never forget you). Ever since, the tribe has borne the title of Maravan. Picturesque as this legend is, Nelson, Taylor, Mullaly, and other authorities prefer to trace the tribal name from the Tamil word which signifies "to slay." The Maravar profession, in the old freebooter days that terminated with the introduction of British rule, had been crime, and in following it the men of the tribe never hesitated to burn, pillage and slay. The last Census fixed the total Maravar population at a little over 30,000. This evidently shows that the tribe has considerably dwindled in numbers, for history declares that even so late as the beginning of this century, the Rajah of Ramnad, whose dynasty claimed military service from the Maravar hordes, could easily summon to his aid in a day or two as many as from thirty or forty thousand Maravar warriors. One authority ascribes the decline in the population to frequently recurring famines and to consequent emigration of large numbers of the tribe from their home districts. Socially, the Maravars are split up into seven main and over 250 minor sub-divisions. Among the latter, however, the points of difference are slight, and do not possess any serious bearing on the social concerns of the tribe in general.

The Maravars, who are now almost entirely cultivators, a few of them being employed as watchmen, are ranked as the lowest among the respectable castes. They themselves have, possibly, no correct perception of their exact social status, for many of them assert that the Kallars and the Agamudiyans are but sub-divisions of the Maravar community. Nominally, they profess a modified form of Hinduism, but there is no doubt that, like their numerous Dravidian brethren of Southern India, demon-worship is their real and proper religion. They propitiate Bhadrakali, Mathureviran and several other of the malevolent imps in whom the Dravidians of the South fervently believe, and they employ liquor, flesh and fruit in the performance of their propitiatory rites. Flesh enters largely into their diet, but they abstain from beef and pork. Their very diet is a proof that their claim to be ranked in religion with the Sivaites is purely fictitious. On the birth of a child, the mother is considered unclean for ten days, and at the end of this period a purificatory ceremony and a banquet to relatives take place. If the family is well circumstanced, the banquet is a necessary function, while in the case of indigent Maravars, only purification by the sprinkling of one of the unsavoury products of the cow is insisted on.

The marriage customs of the tribe present several interesting features and are quite distinct from those of the Brahmans. The children of two brothers may marry; widows belonging to nearly every major sub-division are free to remarry, and divorce may be effected at the will of either the husband or the wife. The widows of the Setupathi, or ancient dynastic sub-division, practised *suttee*, but this custom was abolished when the British subjugated the country. The marriage ceremony itself is of peculiar interest. A marriage having been arranged, the principal relatives of the bridegroom visit the family of the bride, and, whether the two contracting parties have consented or not, tie the *tali* round the bride's neck. Outside the house, conch shell are vigorously blown. The bride is then conducted to the bridegroom's house, and a feast ensues. Processions are formed and a large concourse of friends and relatives goes round the village in great state. Under a marriage booth a cocoanut is broken and almost mystic religious rites are performed. Those observances involve the expenditure of much money. In the case of poor Maravars they need not necessarily precede the union of the couple, but the bridegroom is bound to fulfil his obligations some day or other. In the quaint phraseology of the tribe "the defect must be cured." Should he die before fulfilling the rites, his widow and other relatives must do the needful before the burial. Then the function assumes a most gruesome form, as the dead man is set up in a sitting posture with his wife beside him while the ceremony lasts. After this, the *tali* is removed and the widow is free to marry again if she chooses. Among certain sub-divisions in Tinnevely there is a curious marriage ceremony by proxy, a stick representing the bridegroom, and one of his friends tying the *tali* round the bride's neck. This completes the union. Most of the funeral customs of the latter day Maravars have been borrowed from the Brahmans. When a man dies, the nearest female relatives stuff boiled rice into the mouth of the corpse before it is removed for interment, while the male relatives do the same at the burning ground. The son, or some near male relative, walks round the funeral pile thrice with a vessel containing water and then breaks the vessel. The funeral party take a bath before returning home, and the next day, the ashes of the dead are consigned to a stream or a pond.

The ordinary clothing of the Maravars does not differ materially from that worn by their Hindu neighbours, but both men and women are distinguished by their peculiar ornaments, chiefly by their earrings, which are worn in distended lobes. In fact, the women distend the lobes of their ears to such an extent that they actually rest on the shoulders. The men and women are very well-built and have a striking and pleasing appearance. It is easy to tell from their mein and bearing that they came of a martial stock. The Maravars are recognised as being amongst the principal criminal tribes in the Madras

presidency,—dacoity, robbery and cattle lifting being their favourite criminal pursuits. The women occasionally assist in cattle-lifting, but generally it is their province to dispose of the stolen property, which they carry in their big baskets to professional receivers, who are mostly Komatis and Nattukottai Chetties, on whom the robbers implicitly rely. Maravar men, women and children are remarkably reticent, when questioned regarding crime that members of the tribe have been suspected of committing, and strict code of honour is observed by these interesting yet naturally lawless people. Under the beneficial influence of British rule, the Maravars have to a considerable extent been turned from the paths of crime into those of order and honesty. They are, however, responsible for an appreciable proportion of the grave crimes committed in the Districts in which they are found.

NOVEL ASTRONOMY.

A THEATRE capable of seating 6,000 persons is now being constructed around the end of a giant telescope for the forthcoming Paris Exhibition.

Here, comfortably seated in arm-chairs, refreshed with cooling drinks, visitors to the exhibition will be able to view the marvels of the moon as revealed in a picture 32 ft. in diameter. Mars will be shown 12 ft. wide.

The screen on the stage will be 75 ft. square, and here the sun, the moon, the planets, stars, comets, and nebulae will be "turned on" one after the other. The audience will not be required to look through a telescope or to crane their necks in an effort to follow the movements of the earth. They will just sit still and watch the celestial pictures, as if they were watching the biograph.

This extraordinary feat is to be accomplished by ingenious mechanism devised by M. Francois Deloncle, the celebrated French astronomer. The size of this telescope is so enormous that it was impossible to build it in the ordinary way. The reflector has a diameter of 6½ ft., a thickness of 11 ft. 9 in., and weighs 3½ tons. One of the object lenses registers 800 lbs. weight.

A telescope of such proportions would fall down of its own weight if constructed on the ordinary upright principle. What at first was a difficult problem was solved by disconnecting the reflector from the telescope and building the tube horizontally upon a series of piles like an aqueduct. The siderostat, which is manipulated by clock-work, is an entirely separate piece of mechanism.

Another difficulty that had to be contended with was the obtaining of perfect lenses of the diameters decided upon by the astronomers concerned in the project of M. Despret, the Director of the Jeumont Glass Works, offered to supply the giant lenses, and succeeded admirably.

M. Gautier, the well-known maker of astronomical instruments and a member of the Bureau des Longitudes, undertook the polishing of the lenses and the reflector, as well as the mounting of them. In order to accomplish this task he was obliged to invent special machinery. His work is now finished, and pronounced eminently satisfactory.

M. Mantois, the great French manufacturer of lenses, constructed the two formidable object glasses. One of these is photographic, and the other astronomical. The body of the instrument consists of twenty-four tubes of thick steel plating, each 8 ft. 2½ in. long. This gives a total length of 196 ft. 9 in. with a diameter of 4 ft. 11 in. The movable plane mirror which projects the images of the celestial bodies into one end of the tube is 6 ft. 6 in. in diameter.

M. Barre, of the National Observatory of Paris, says: "This telescope will, at the beginning of the twentieth century, open a new phase in the history of astronomy. We hope that the work undertaken by M. Gautier will have the complete success it merits, to the great advantage of science."

The theatre which will house the great telescope is to be called the Palais de l'Optique, and is being constructed between the Eiffel Tower and the Avenue de Suffren, opposite the Champ de Mars railway station. At certain hours, and when special weather conditions prevail, the public will be allowed to look directly through the instrument. When the weather is cloudy the telescope will project upon the screen photographic images of the heavenly bodies. A staff of astronomers will superintend the work and devote special attention to Mars.

PLAGUE NEWS.

CLEAN BILL IN CALCUTTA.

On the 26th June Calcutta reported a clean bill of health. The total mortality was 39 as against 46, the mean of the last five years.

BOMBAY RETURNS.

PLAGUE attacks reported on Monday number one and plague deaths 10, the total mortality being 95; last year it was 63, and 79 in 1897.

INOCULATION OF LANCERS AT POONA.

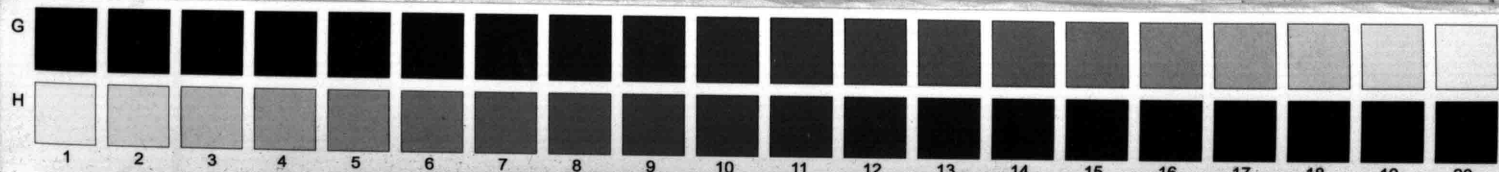
PLAGUE is slightly increasing in the Cantonment. Two fresh cases have occurred in the lines of the 1st Bombay Lancers. The whole regiment has been invited to be inoculated against plague. The men came voluntarily in great numbers. Two hundred and seventy have been inoculated up to date.

THE WEEK'S SUMMARY.

THERE was continued improvement in plague for all India for the week ending 24th June, deaths being 470 against 550 in the previous week. Bombay city reports 43 deaths. There was a slight rise in the Kolhapur State and Goona City, but an improvement at Belgaum. Only one death was reported from Karachi, and only 35 outside the Bombay Presidency viz., 14 in the Mysore State, 10 in the Hyderabad State, and four at Calcutta.

THE Bombay Dockyard has ceased working overtime, in view of a more peaceful outlook in the Transvaal, and the Commander whose leave was stopped, has been allowed to go on leave.

THE income of the National Indian Association in aid of Social Progress and Education in India reached the sum of £296 during last year, and the amount spent in carrying out the Society's objects during the same year was £271.



A UNIVERSITY SCANDAL.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—The idiosyncrasies, the whims and caprices of our *Alma mater*, the Calcutta University, have oftentimes been scathingly criticised in the newspaper columns. Very regrettable are, however, the sad mistakes, the fatal errors which sometimes crop up in the publication of the names of successful candidates. Not often do we hear of candidates who really have passed the University Examinations but whose names are not duly published in the Gazette through mistake. Here is a case which you and your readers will read with interest and surprise. My younger brother, Jamini Kanto Dastidar, appeared in the last Entrance Examination from the Government High School, Sylhet. The result was duly published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of May 17, and his name was not to be seen in the list of successful candidates. Of course, it was thought that he had got plucked. The boy, submitting to the irony of fate, recommenced his studies and went to school on the reopening day (June 19) when to his joy and surprise he learnt from the teachers that his name had appeared in the *Assam Gazette* of June 19 (received here on the morning of June 19) in the list of successful Entrance candidates from Assam. The Registrar was immediately telegraphed to and after a torturing delay of two days, the reply came that he has passed the Examination! Now, Mr. Editor, may we ask who is to be responsible for the heavy losses, the considerable mental affliction, the deep humiliation which the boy had to undergo through this sad mistake on the part of the authorities? Who knows how many candidates thus meet with their sad fate! Of course, the error might have been rectified when the cross-list had to be sent to the authorities of the school. But that would mean a greater delay and a heavier loss. Now, are not these errors fatal? Don't we see the lives of many unfortunate boys quite ruined, their energies totally shattered, themselves rendered perfectly useless merely by failures in our University Examinations? Don't we hear of suicides from failures? And just see how our University authorities can allow blunders to be committed which may endanger the lives of our young students!

NALINI KANTO RAY DUSTIDAR.
Sylhet, June 24.

THE Waziris have made another raid into the Afghan territory on the 23rd instant. A band carried off from the Malik Pira Gul's village in Khost some 15 women and children, who had been gathering date and palm leaves in the hills.

TRANSFRONTIER news states that an Afridi Jirga lately went to Kabul and represented to the Amir that their women, who had fled to Peshawar, had never been surrendered by the British authorities notwithstanding applications, and they asked the Amir to come to an arrangement with the Indian Government for the return of these women. The Amir has made no reply as yet to the petition.

In the Poona Sessions Court on Monday Haidashaw was charged with committing robbery at St. Mary's School last December. Captain Edwards, of the 2nd Grenadiers, deposed to the finding of stolen property in the accused's box before the regiment left Poona. Miss Walters identified the accused, who had threatened her with a knife. The accused retracted his confession. The Jury gave him the benefit of the doubt and acquitted him. The Judge, however, differed from the Jury and referred the case to the Bombay High Court.

AN examination scandal is reported from Burma, and the Patamabayan examination, which was to have been held last week in Rangoon, Mandalay and Moulmein, had to be cancelled at the last moment. The sets of papers for each of the four examinations in Pali had been sold broadcast over the country, and copies of the papers were sent on the eve of the examination to the Director of Public Instruction, who had no option but to cancel the examination. The Director is said to have discovered how the papers got out, and he has also found out whence all the recent tampering with examination papers has originated.

THE current number of the "Indian Forester," which is rather late in making its appearance, contains an extra amount of reading matter, notably an interesting report by Mr. E. M. Buchanan on "Forest Tramways in the Andamans." This is dated May, 1897, but its publication now will no doubt be appreciated by foresters. Among other papers we find Mr. J. S. Gamble writing on "The treatment of bamboo clumps and bamboo forest," while Mr. Brown has much that is interesting to say about "Satinwood" in Ceylon. A correspondent, "E. Mc. A. M.," referring to wire-ropes, says there is no difficulty in erecting them but he is doubtful as to their successful working.

THE Wills Regulation is the latest legislative measure that has been passed by the Travancore Legislative Council. It is provided that a person may devise his private property by will subject to certain limitations mentioned in the Regulation. A Hindu co-parcener, for example, cannot dispose by will his undivided interest in the joint property. The Makkathayam Hindu cannot dispose of more than one-half of his property if he has children, wife, father, mother, or undivided brother living. The Marumakkathayam Hindu and Mahomedan may similarly dispose of only one-half of his self-acquired property, if he has brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces or cousins living. The testamentary right enjoyed by other classes of people before this regulation came into force are not affected by it.

WOULD NOT SUFFER SO AGAIN FOR FIFTY TIMES ITS PRICE.

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, Burgetstown, Washington Co., Pa.

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THE IMMEDIATE CAUSES OF THE FACTION RIOT IN THE SOUTH AND ITS REMEDIES.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to the *Hindu*:—Your readers may remember the articles that appeared in your journal about the Sivakasi temple case. Last year the Shanars of Sivakasi attempted entry into the Visalakshiamman Koil for the first time claiming it as their birth right calling themselves "Tamil Kshatriyas" (Nadani der-Nader) who, tradition says, were completely extirpated by the Brahmin Saint Parasurama. The non-Shanar Hindus at Sivakasi opposed their entry, and as a sequel to it a case was launched before the Deputy Magistrate of Srivilliputtur by the aggrieved parties. Unfortunately the judgment of Syed Mustafa Sahib Bahadur, the then Deputy Magistrate in the above case, was to the effect that there was no evidence to show that the Shanars should not enter into the Hindu temple, and that the parties should seek redress in a Civil Court. Thus on the whole the judgment was favourable to the Shanars. This was extremely revolting to the religious susceptibilities of the non-Shanar Hindus, and consequently the temple was closed to prevent its being polluted by the Shanars. Even now the temple remains shut up. The pent up wounded religious feelings of the non-Shanars, especially of illiterate and highly excitable Maravars, found vent in the Sivakasi riot. The one important fact which was ignored and which remains to be noticed is that the Shanars wherever numerous and influential, where not only on the defensive but also on the aggressive. For example, the Sivakasi Shanars incensed at the hostile attitude of their Maravar co-residents to their religious aspirations, and, at the neutral attitude of the other non-Shanars when rumours of the apprehended riot and looting were rife, harassed them in all possible ways and compelled them to take refuge outside Sivakasi. Crowds of these homeless people present a pitiable sight in the streets and temples of Srivilliputtur. This aggressive acts of the Shanars were some of the causes that led to the riot and would have been brought to the notice of the authorities ere long had not the non-Shanars been implicated as the accused out of spite by the Shanars in the riot case. The Shanars of the adjoining places on the Madura-Tinnevely frontier who contributed to defray the expenses of a civil suit going on in the Madura Sub-Court, about the right of Shanars to enter the Hindu temple at Kamutty in Madura District, also looted and plundered. Information about these reported lootings and apprehended riots was given to the authorities early enough. But they did not realise the gravity of the situation as they ought to have done. The then Collector, Mr. Scott, once came to Sivakasi before the memorable riot, made a slipshod enquiry, put down all the information tendered as false and frivolous and left the place threatening the people with condign punishment if they repeat their complaints in future. Again, the Shanars wired to the Collector forewarning him of the riot at Sivakasi, and he came to the place the night before the riot and believing the information given to be false as before, left it quietly for Karisalkulam, 30 miles off, to enquire into the murder and looting reported there, without having made proper arrangements to meet the riot.

Next morning the town of Sivakasi was besieged by the rioters, and the whole town was in a blaze; soon news of this reached him and the D. S. P. while returning from Karisalkulam. They at once galloped off to the scene of crime, and by the time they reached the place the rioters had dispersed and all was quiet there. On their way to Sivakasi these worthy officers arrested a blind and a deaf man suspecting them to be rioters (poor fellows!) returning from Sivakasi. Had it not been for the scepticism and short-sightedness of the Collector, Mr. Scott, Sivakasi riot might have been averted by the timely calling-in of the troops and reinforcements of the police who came a day after the affair, although the Acting Deputy Magistrate, Mr. T. Ragaviah, B. A., had submitted lengthy reports and urgent telegrams to the Collector of the certainty of the riot taking place.

The deplorable riot is thus the immediate result of the ill-considered judgment passed last year by the then Deputy Magistrate, Syed Mustafa Sahib Bahadur. The solution of the problem, therefore, lies in cancelling the Deputy Magistrate's order in the Sivakasi temple case, and in issuing stringent orders prohibiting the Shanars from entering the temple. Unless this is done no amount of quartering the military in the disturbed parts and vigilance on the part of the authorities will put a stop to such risings. Perhaps the rioters may remain quite so long as there is the regiment. But the moment the force is withdrawn the pent-up feeling of the non-Shanars will give itself vent with redoubled vigour to another disturbance of a similar nature till these caste disputes are settled once for all by preventing the *soi-disant* Tamil Kshatriyas from having access to the interior of the holy temples. We look to Sir Arthur Havelock's paternal Government to see that nothing is left undone that can be done not only to prevent further bloodshed and violence but arrest the offenders and probe the whole matter to the very core.

In this connection I wish to draw attention to the following: Your contemporary *Madras Mail*, in its sub-leader of the 11th instant, jumps to the conclusion that the riot has nothing to do with the executive administration of the locality. It also seems to say that the authorities were equal to the occasion. But this is contradicted by the fact that the Collector, Mr. Scott, and D. S. P. were absent from the scene of crime (Sivakasi) at Karisalkulam when the riot was at its worst. Again, in its issue of the 14th instant, it insinuates that the Kallar and Maravar Zemindars of Madura and Tinnevely Districts had a hand in the riots in the South as evident from the pre-arranged combinations amongst the Maravars. This insinuation, to say the least of it, is very absurd as it is uncharitable for the following reasons:—

(1) None of the present generation of Zemindars who are educated and respectable as a class will court their own ruin by encouraging the *badmash* element.

(2) Most of the Zemindaries referred to are under the management of the Court of Wards, and consequently their rulers are powerless even if they wish to encourage the rioters.

(3) Such risings take place not only in British and Zemindary tracts but also in Travancore territories, for instance, the riot at Shencottah

When the religious feelings of the Hindus especially of the illiterate and obstinate Maravars and Kallars are excited, they will not refrain from committing such excesses unless their religious scruples and prejudices are respected.

Lastly, to a casual observer of a village in the south such organisations will strike as a peculiar characteristic of the Maravar and Kallar communities. The late anti-Kallar movement in the Madura District and the Kudikaval system in the Tinnevely District prove it to be so. I draw pointed attention to these base and reckless insinuations because they are calculated to throw the authorities on the wrong scent and will lead to unnecessary troubles and grievous blunders. I sincerely hope that your contemporary will not lose its head misled by partisans, but will take a dispassionate view of the critical situation in the truth.

THE CRISIS IN THE TRANS-VAAL.

PREPARATIONS IN INDIA.

THE *Bombay Gazette* writes:—As our correspondent wired from Simla on Wednesday evening, though there is not at present any intention of carrying native troops from this country to South Africa, the impression at Army Head-Quarters is that there would be room for the advantageous use of from ten to fifteen thousand Native troops in garrisoning such places as the Cape, Natal, and Zululand, while British troops now in Natal moved to the front. Such a force, it is believed in Simla, could, if required, be embarked within a fortnight without difficulty from the Bombay and Punjab armies alone, and would form no small addition to the British fighting strength in South Africa, which is to be raised to 25,000 men—none too many for such an enterprise. We find that so excellent are the arrangements in the Bombay Dockyard, that, if it were necessary, at least a couple of regiments could be despatched before the end of the week. The Indian Marine steamships *Clive* and the *Canning* are both in the dock undergoing their annual overhaul, but there being no heavy work needful on them they may be considered practically ready for sea at any moment. In the dockyard are all the needful stores and fittings, ready to hand and the boxes for cavalry and transport animals only require placing in position. Further than this, there are other vessels of the Indian Marine in the dockyard which could be ready for service within a limit of ten days, and beyond these the British India Company has all its fittings for horses and troops as well as several available vessels, which might be got ready within the time specified by our correspondent. As for the troops, the officers at all events are eager to go. They would only be too glad of an opportunity of avenging General Colley and their comrades who fell at Majuba Hill, and would enter into a friendly rivalry as to which regiment should be first ready to move. Should Indian troops be ordered for service in South Africa, it would not be to fight the Boers, but merely to garrison Cape Colony and Natal. But already Simla has been flooded with applications for service either in the British Colonies or against the Boers. If orders for the despatch of troops should be issued, there would at once be a rush of officers back from leave, whilst the scores of Bombay officers, now on plague duty, would immediately rejoin their regiments. Fever and plague, together with staff duties, at the present moment have left the Bombay regiments generally under-offered. Of nine British officers not counting attached Subalterns in the 1st Grenadiers six, according to the last Indian Army List, are absent from Ahmednugger. Of the 2nd, seven out of eleven are absent; in the 3rd four out of eight; of the 4th, five out of eight; of the 5th, seven; 7th, six out of nine; of the 8th five out of eight; and of the 9th five out of nine. The 10th Regiment has eleven officers, excluding attached, and of these eleven we find one acting as Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General; another serving with the Uganda Regiment; a third employed as tutor to a Nawabzada; a fourth, Provost-Marshal, Malakhand; and a fifth serving in the Commissariat Department. Every regiment is practically the same. But at the sound of the first war note every officer would be in his place—or, if it out of it, scrambling for service with some others regiment, should his own be not one of those selected.

A FINE Arts Exhibition will probably be held at Mussorie about the middle of September.

MR. WOOD, Under-Secretary, Foreign Office, paid an official visit to His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda on Monday last on behalf of the Foreign Department.

THE East Coast Railway Traffic result has been improving of late. It appears that there has been a brisk traffic to Vizapatam in manganese ore, due to a number of chartered steamers having come in together. There has also been an increase in railway material carried for the Godavery bridge, and so an increase of passengers and goods between Bezawada and Coconada during the closure of the canals. The traffic on the recently opened Bezawada-Madras section is developing slowly, but during the time the Cuttack-Kola extension kept open there was a fairly good interchange between the East Coast and the Central Provinces. The reasons are that the Madras traffic has settled routes, while the other traffic requires outlets.

The number of mines at Singareni in Yellandu during the year 1898, at which coal was being worked, was 6 (No. 1 Incline Nos. 13, 14, 15, 16 and Bottom Pit). The average output for the year 1898 amounted to 394,621 tons and 6 cwt. The number of persons employed at the mines was below ground, 4,023 males and 996 females; above ground, 1,374 males and 395 females—making a total of below and above ground, 6788. The number of deaths caused by injuries received within the year was 11—the details of which are as follows: Four workmen by fall of roof stone, one whilst ascending by machinery; four by trucks, one by machinery and one by railway loco engine. Whereas the number of persons seriously injured by mining accidents was 9—one injured by fall of roof stone, four by explosions, three by trucks, and one by machinery.

THE LORD GAURANGA.

MANY years ago, in the chapter on "the religious tendencies of India" in his "New India," Mr. H. J. S. Cotton described Chaitanyism as the latest outcome of Hindu and Buddhist evolution. The reader of the two volumes of Mr. Shishir Kumar Ghose cannot fail to be struck by the close parallelism in some of the most important features in the lives of Gautama and Gauranga. Gauranga like Gautama was not, indeed, a prince. But he was a Brahmin of the bluest blood, a man of learning, and a great teacher of youth. According to the Hindu ideas, it is a question which of the two positions has a greater claim on the regard of society. Gauranga, like Gautama, goes through the complete prescribed curriculum of studies, marries, and is happy, in spite of occasional outbursts of religious enthusiasm. The finest of Indian intellects have always, in the midst of prosperity and enjoyment, as in adversity and affliction, longed for the renunciation typified in those of Gautama and Gauranga. Some of our readers might remember the fine passage in the *Excursion*:

"I have seen
A curious child, who dwelt upon a tract
Of inland ground, applying to his ear
The convolutions of a smooth-lipped shell;
To which, in silence hushed, his very soul
Listened intensely; and his countenance
soon
Brightened with joy; for murmurings from
within
Were heard, sonorous cadences! whereby
To his belief, the monitor expressed
Mysterious union with its native sea."
The Hindu, who lives in the bosom of his family and society, may be "inland far" from the ocean of immortality. Nevertheless, he now and then endeavours to commune with it through media which, as fanciful, are as real to him as "the convolutions of the smooth-lipped shell" to that curious child of nature, and hears with growing intensity, every time it is listened to, the voice that calls to renounce.
"The time, the time is come!
Choose thou the way of greatness or the way of good."

This faith in self-renunciation, as an indispensable means of saving mankind is inherent in Hindu blood. Buddha was sure that, if such an one as he, having so much to give, gave up all, and set out in quest of Truth, the veil must some day lift at some point, revealing to him and, through him, to the world the message which would ensure salvation. Gauranga might, with equal truth with Gautama, have described himself as "I, who ache not, lack not, grieve not save with griefs that are not mine, except as I am man," and he, like his illustrious prototype, felt that unless he gave up all, his mission would be a failure. The scene of the Great Renunciation is told with touching simplicity in Mr. Shishir Kumar Ghose's pages—the struggle with fond mother and loving wife, the crowning conquest of the spirit over flesh. "The feelings that the renunciation of the Lord evoked," writes Mr. Ghose, "are too extraordinary, too unworldly, and too grand to be described in language. The incident occurred more than four hundred years ago; yet a portion of the feelings created on that occasion still remains. The renunciation of the Lord has been dramatized by different bhaktas and their plays are called 'Nimai Sanyas.' When they are enacted, they create something like a feeling of madness in the audience." Truly has it been said by a close observer of Indian culture and character, that, since the Great Renunciation of Buddha, no religious reformer has had a chance of success in India unless he gave proof of his vocation by first giving up all to follow "the gleam."

We hope shortly to return to Mr. Ghose's volumes, the result of half-a-lifetime of study, or prayer and meditation. These volumes, and the mass of valuable vernacular material on which they are based, are already having a visible effect on the hearts and minds of millions in Bengal. They are destined apparently to exercise a wider influence. Who can grudge success to the Message of Love from Nadia?—*The Indian Spectator*, May 28, 1899.

A new vessel will shortly be built to replace the "Warren Hastings," while the "Clive" and the "Canning" will be examined in order to see if they are worth repairing.

THE following latest news about the riot in South India comes from Satur. The Shanars of Sivakasi are reported to be assuming a violent attitude. The Pillaiyarcovil temple at Sivakasi and a house have been sacked, the former because the Shanars were denied worship there. There has also been looting near Srivilliputtur. Mr. Hammick, the Special Commissioner, is at Satur and was to have met the zemindars on Monday. He was then to have proceeded to Sivakasi. Except for this new Shanar trouble the outlook is hopeful.

MR. C. A. Barber, Government Botanist of Madras, is engaged in investigating the prevalence and character of the "rind fungus" disease which attacks the sugarcanes of the Presidency. Mr. Barber, who has studied sugarcane disease in the West Indies, thinks that should rind fungus prove to be parasitic, and not merely saprophytic as in Java, energetic measures will have to be taken to stamp it out. It may even be necessary to introduce new species of cane, known to be immune, from other countries. Should this step be considered advisable, the Madras Government will probably seek the assistance of the Government of India. Meanwhile Mr. Barber is making a tour of the various cane districts of the Presidency with a view to ascertaining what species of canes are conspicuously free from rind fungus, and the result of his investigations will prove of interest and value to the whole of India.

HOW TO CURE A SPRAIN.

Last fall I sprained my left hip while handling some heavy boxes. The doctor I called on said 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 cured 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.

THOUSAND DAYS IN THE ARCTIC.

MR. JACKSON'S ACCOUNT OF HIS EXPEDITION.

In two large volumes of some thousand odd pages, Mr. F. G. Jackson, Commander of the Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition, '94-'97' describes the experience of a "thousand days in the Arctic," as he has named his book. In a work of such scope there is ample room for the exhaustive treatment of the subject in hand, and in Mr. Jackson's book, which is practically a reprint of his diary during his three years' sojourn in Franz Josef Land, we have a picture of daily life in the Arctic regions such as has never before been given to the public, for the conditions under which Nansen spent three years in Polar seas were materially different from those experienced by Jackson. Though the author only professes to have given the "plain words of a plain man," the "plain unvarnished tale" is so absorbingly interesting that we would not change the vigorous and sometimes homely English in which the writer naturally recorded the day's events for the most polished diction or rounded phraseology.

OBJECT OF THE EXPEDITION.

Mr. Jackson published in 1892 his plans for reaching Franz Josef Land by water, and his desire to map out its northern coast line as well as to make investigations into the flora and fauna, mineralogy, etc., of the country. His plans, however, met with no financial support, until in 1894 Mr. Alfred Harmsworth offered to fit out the expedition and to supply the sinews of war. It will be remembered that Nansen's expedition in the "Fram" had started in 1893, and many speculations were rife as to the probability of the two parties coming across each other, which, as is well known, they eventually did.

HOW IT WAS FITTED OUT.

Never has an expedition to the Polar regions been so elaborately fitted out as the Jackson-Harmsworth expedition. The personnel of the party was carefully chosen, and included a doctor and geologist, a botanist, a mineralogist, and also a gentleman versed in the science of astronomical and magnetic observations. With such a band of men, each well equipped with the necessary means of investigating in his own department, it was only to be expected that weighty additions should be made to our knowledge of the Arctic regions, and not the least valuable parts of the book are the concise and tabulated appendices, written by various members of the expedition. As far as creature comforts were concerned, everything that foresight could provide against the rigor of a three years' sojourn in the icy wastes of the Far North was included in the stores of the "Windward," even to musical boxes and photographs of the Royal Family.

LIFE IN THE ARCTIC CIRCLE.

As one reads of the comforts and comparative luxuries of "Elmwood," the substantial log cabin erected on Cape Flora as the headquarters of the exploring party, one cannot help thinking of the hardy race of the old explorers to whom such comforts were totally unknown. Yet must not be supposed that either pluck or endurance was lacking in Mr. Jackson's party. Indeed, nothing is more striking than the constant strain made upon the physical and mental powers of the party, during the whole of their three years in Franz Josef Land. In the early spring, if it can so be termed—it is more correct to say, after the return of the sun, and before the melting of the ice, there were the sledging journeys, during which the actual explorations of the expedition took place. It is, in itself, striking that for the sake of a month or six weeks' travelling a whole year is willingly spent by men in whom the thirst for discovery is so great.

HORSES V. REINDEER AND DOGS.

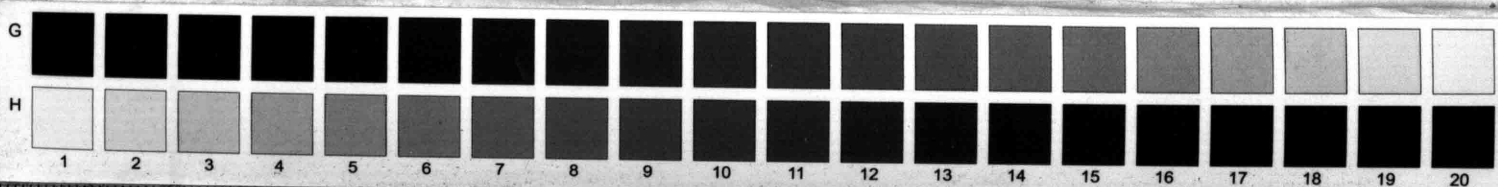
Contrary to the opinion of many explorers, Mr. Jackson holds that the sturdy ponies from Northern Russia are far more suitable for sledging journeys than either reindeer or dogs. The former seem unable to subsist without their native lichen, while the latter can be successfully fed on a mixture of dried vegetables and oats. In the first place, four ponies were taken out in the "Windward," all of which died in Franz Josef Land, but only two from the effects of the climate. Mr. Jackson much regrets that more horses were not sent out to him when the ships returned in 1896, the four reindeer which were sent instead all died before being of any use. Dogs are not equal to the continued strain of sledge work. In one journey alone Mr. Jackson lost twelve dogs. In addition, these dogs are so ferocious that they kill each other on every opportunity. However, both as beasts of burden in need, and as bear-dogs always, they are necessary to explorers.

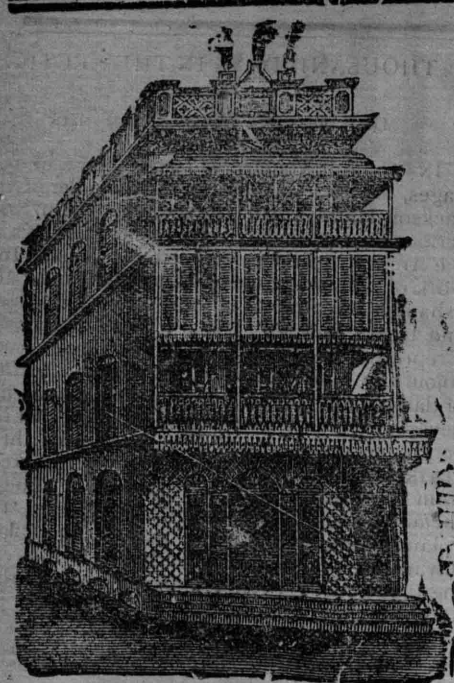
THE MEETING WITH NANSEN.

Naturally the most interesting chapter in the book is that describing the meeting of Nansen and Jackson. It is curious to note that excess of joy moves Mr. Jackson to the strongest language he uses in his book. He has nothing but praise for Nansen and Johansen—and we know how much they appreciated their hearty welcome at Cape Flora. There are a few meetings of explorers which will become historic, and the two which will certainly be most familiar to the up-growing generation will be those of Livingstone and Stanley in the heat of the Tropics, and of Jackson and Nansen among the snows of the Pole.

SOME time ago the Amir issued orders to all the headmen in the country to collect fodder and grain, and to deposit them with his agent. Almost all have since complied with the order except a few tribes whose headmen were lately summoned to Kabul, where they have been punished receiving rigorous imprisonment for their clans' disobedience.

FROM the report on the working of the Lunatic Asylums in the Madras Presidency for the year 1898 we find that there were 580 patients on the rolls at the beginning of the year, 436 being civil, and 144 criminal—insanes. The 134 admissions included 113 of the former and twenty-one of the latter class. The number of lunatics discharged as cured or improved was less by four than in 1897. There was a considerable decrease in the number of beggars admitted, and a noticeable increase in the number of unskilled labourers, and of persons of unknown professions. Mania was the prevailing type of insanity. Epileptic forms of mania, melancholia and dementia showed also a marked increase. Specific causes of insanity were assigned in 71 per cent of the cases. There was a large decrease in the number of admissions due to ganja-smoking and to other intoxicants. The majority were of cases of unknown origin.





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CHYAVANA-PRASA,
OR
Our Own Health-Restorer.

This medicine not only allays all local irritation
but improves the digestion and strengthens the consti-
tution. Hence, it is used with the most signal suc-
cess in Asthma, Bronchitis, Cough, Consumption,
Influenza, and all affections of the Throat and the
Chest.

It diminishes the secretion of mucus in the
bronchial tubes and lessens the irritation of the res-
piratory centre. It increases longevity and renders
the organs strong. It sharpens the memory and in-
tellect and gives vitality to the old and debilitated
tissues. It restores the body to beauty and the
bloom of early youth and supplies physical strength
and power or endurance to it. It stimulates the
appetite and induces activity in the flow of the secre-
tions. It is of great service to the young, old, and
the weak. It is infinitely better than Codliver Oil.
For proving its superiority to Codliver Oil, one need
only use it for a short while. The tradition is that
it was with this medicine that the Aswini, the cele-
brated physicians, restored the Rishi Chyavana, em-
aciated and weak with age and passions, to the bloom
and beauty of youth.
Price for 7 doses — Rs. 2 0
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SHULANIRVANA CHURNA
OR
SPECIFIC FOR ACIDITY.

A most valuable Tonic and Digestive. It is a
wonderful remedy against gastritis with indiges-
tion, costiveness, diarrhoea, high coloured Urine,
occasional Diarrhoea, a dirty-coated Tongue, Vomiting
of green matter, a nasty taste in the mouth,
dreadful dreams and sleeplessness, heavy drowsy
feeling after eating, alternate constipation and re-
laxation of bowels, soreness and extreme sensitiv-
ness of the right side of the abdomen, sour taste in
the mouth with eruptions of wind from the stomach
a constipated condition with clay-coloured stool
and difficult defecation, headache accompanied with
obstinate constipation or diarrhoea, &c. &c. It
would be as efficacious in acute as in Chronic case.
Price for one phial Rs. 1.
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Specific for Diabetes.—The regular use of the
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Keshranjan Oil or the best sweet-scented oil
for verugo, and headache, caused by nervous debil-
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As to the Prophylactic effects of these Amulets
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KUNTALINE is made from a selection
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highly refined and made perfectly odourless
by a new and harmless process which is our
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KUNTALINE is Beautifully Scented,
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fragrant, and is without doubt the finest
perfumed Hair Oil offered to the public.
Its odour is very mild and refreshing.

KUNTALINE is an excellent Preserver
and Invigorator of the Hair. It will arrest
the falling off of the Hair, and bring about
a new and steady growth. It will also keep
the Head cool, and free from dandruff and
can be used for Infant's and Children's hair.

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KUNTALINE is a highly refined and
absolutely pure oil. The following Analytical
Certificate from the most celebrated and
eminent chemist in the land, Dr. P. C. Rai,
will prove it.

"I have put to careful analysis a sample
of KUNTALINE prepared by Mr. H. Bose, and
I have found it to consist of vegetable
oil in a highly refined state, and perfectly
free from any Acid, Alkali Metal or other
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to be THE BEST HAIR OIL in the
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KUNTALINE is put up in round 6-oz
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Scented Kuntaline are perfumed with
the odour of fresh flowers only. They will
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the finest perfumed Hair Oils made.

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Nepal and Cashmere musks. Rs. 40 per tola.
Chavanaprasa.—The best of the Ayurvedic
rasayanas. It is stated in Ayurveda that the very old
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of the Indians are aware of the name of this
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so nice as the Chavanaprasa, which can be used both in
good health and during illness. This medicine, if
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debility and other troublesome diseases. It is a
marvellous remedy for diseases of the lungs, heart, liver,
impurity of blood and weak constitution. Besides
these, the descriptions and effects of this medicine,
as proudly related by the *richis* (old clever physicians),
have all been proved to be true after long trials.
Price Rs. 4 for a phial for a month's use, packing two
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Kalpaka-latika-Batika.—It is a marvellous
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This is especially beneficial to students—for it im-
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It is an infallible medicine for debility. A for-
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Many persons have been cured by its use, and the
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DEAR SIR,—The ornaments which you have sup-
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marriage, have all been of approved design and of
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the promptitude with which my order was complied
with. Thanking you for the same and wishing you
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Commr. Habiganj, Sylhet. Dated 3rd January 1899.
Babu Nityananda Biswas of Rampur-Boaleah has
elected my orders with great promptness, and the
workmanship he has exhibited is highly creditable.
He is, as far as I am able to judge, honest and trust-
worthy in his dealing with his customers. He fully
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Nickel, keyless, openface gent.
size, set with secondhand, bold
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