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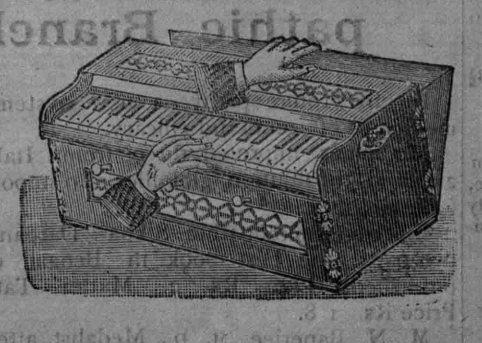
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BRITISH SOLDIERS AND VILLAGERS

It affords us much pleasure to find that the Congress organ, India, is getting more and more useful. There is scarcely an Indian grievance of importance which escapes its lynx eyes.

A case which has recently come before the North-Western Provinces High Court on appeal reminds us of the difficulties that are everywhere growing up between the British soldiers and the people in India.

The Indian publicists are placed in a most awkward position with regard to these cases between villagers and soldiers. What almost always takes place is this. Soldiers go out on a shooting excursion, enter a village and kill a sacred bird or animal, either from sheer ignorance or from wantonness.

In years gone by whenever a poor native lost his life at the hands of a European, the latter, as a rule, escaped punishment by throwing the blame upon the eldest and spleen of the deceased.

As for the Indian publicists, they are at their wit's end and know not what to do. They are bound to accept the verdict of the jury; for they cannot question the verdict without attacking the jury system, which is so essential in this country.

THE JAIL ADMINISTRATION IN BENGAL AND THE N.-W. P.

The convict population excites the pity of some, and the resentment of others. There are men, who weep over their fall, and there are others who gloat over their misery. The idea that the criminal population is forsaken of God and man, is one which cannot stand to reason.

The darkest blot on the jail administration in India was the brutal way in which Indian convicts were worked and punished for short work. The result was a heavy mortality amongst them. The prisoners were lodged in palatial buildings and they ate better food and drank purer water than they did at their homes.

The above fact was brought home to the authorities here by the efforts of the Indian Relief Society and the London Howard Association. A Jail Committee was appointed in Bengal and the evidence of two members of the Relief Society was taken upon the statements made in a pamphlet on the subject of Bengal jails, published under the auspices of the Society and submitted to the Indian Secretary of State through the Howard Association.

No wonder, therefore, that Sir Antony Macdonnell should be of opinion, to quote the Pioneer, that "jail life is quite sufficiently irksome" and that the number of convicts employed on really hard work should not be increased.

It is also a mistake to suppose that, under the present system, the prisoners are lightly worked. The Pioneer argues the question thus: Outside the jails a labourer would starve if he earned Rs. 17 per annum; but, in the jails of the United Provinces, a prisoner does not earn more than that sum.

The Sanjibani announces that the Calcutta Municipal Bill has been vetoed by the Viceroy. We have, however, received the following telegram from our Simla correspondent, contradicting the statement.

The Sanjibani's statement that the Viceroy has disallowed the Calcutta Municipal Bill is without any foundation whatever.

On Thursday our Simla correspondent wired that there was no foundation for the statement of the Sanjibani that the Calcutta Municipal Bill had been vetoed by the Viceroy.

ANGLO-INDIAN administrators should consult big maps of India, for they ought to have some accurate notions as to the vastness of the area and population of this empire of India. The Sivakasi riots have taken away our breath. What is possible in Southern Madras is possible in Bengal, Oudh and Karachi.

WHEN Lord Curzon made up his mind to impose countervailing duties on imported sugar, his Lordship was led by the highest motive which could influence a Viceroy.

WHILE on this subject, we are glad to find that the Sugar Act of Lord Curzon has given an impetus to our countrymen in the Central Provinces to form a Joint-Stock Company for manufacturing date-sugar and jaggery from the date-palm.

The success of Mr. Paranjpe ought not to be allowed to remain unutilized. His success should impart a new life to India. Among the

greatest drawbacks in the way of educational progress and intellectual advance in India are the lack of tenacity among the Indian students and the want of a bracing intellectual atmosphere. In European countries the real intellectual work begins after the university career is over, while the service that is done by the various learned Societies in bringing to a focus the works of the different investigators and in stimulating a healthy emulation between them, is simply invaluable.

If Mr. Chamberlain is an Imperialist, there is an amiability in his imperialism, which makes him an idol to the Colonists. There is no doubt of it that Mr. Chamberlain takes a fatherly interest in the welfare of his subjects, more than what Lord George Hamilton takes in that of the Indians.

IF the lot of the Uitlanders be considered hard, how much harder still is the fate of the few Indians residing in the Transvaal, chiefly as traders. For, if to the Uitlander, chiefly as traders, the rights of franchise and naturalization, to the poor Indian is rudely denied even justice and fairplay.

THE carelessness of the Colonial office has been characterised as "reprehensible," and the indifferent attitude of Mr. Chamberlain towards the grievances of the Uitlanders has been severely criticised by a certain section of the English press.

But Mr. Chamberlain has now made up for past remissness. One of the reasons for which England is going to war with the Boers is the maltreatment of the Indians in that country.

CONSIDERING the genius of the Hindu race, the success of Mr. Paranjpe, says the Times of India is not so great a miracle as is likely to be supposed. The decimal system was invented in India, and from here introduced into Europe.

those days. Latterly Babu Ananda Mohan entered Cambridge and obtained the sixth place. Justice Gurudas Banerjee is also a distinguished mathematician. The researches of Dr. Ashutosh Mukherjee have secured for him a high European reputation.

We publish elsewhere an account of what transpired in the court of the Joint-Magistrate of Monghyr, while hearing the case of McCullagh vs. A. Rahman, late Sub-Inspector of Jamalpur.

The judgment in the contempt case will also be found elsewhere. The Magistrate gave the complainant a chair to sit upon, but he would not allow the accused Mussalman to appear in court with his shoes on!

We have had occasions to notice the manifold disabilities under which the Medical College students in Calcutta have had to labour in prosecuting their studies in that institution. In fact, it became quite impossible at one time for students to try their chance in that branch of education.

So all their prospects are ruined for ever, for they are not even eligible for the appointment of third-grade P. W. D. Overseers. Their labour, hardship and expenses have gone for nothing, simply because they had the misfortune of being plucked twice in five of the most difficult of examinations, though their failure may be due to sudden illness or any other mischance.

Again, the very difficult nature of C. E. college examinations makes it impossible for any examinee to hope to pass at the first attempt. The practical examinations in carpentry and smithy often frustrate the expectations of many a good workman.

DURING the months of May and June the people of India, especially those of Bengal, live largely upon mango and jack. But the misfortune is that a large quantity of these fruits are wasted. If these could be preserved, the food-stock of the people would be greatly increased.

But how to do it? One hundred mangoes would sell for a pice in June, while in other months wealthy people would pay a rupee for one. The lucky man who would be able to discover the way of preserving mango and jack would do as much service to humanity as did he who first taught his fellows to dig wells for water.

