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NO. 70.

পদক-পতক।
সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে
মূল্য ৩০ টাকা।
পরিশোধিত হইয়াছে।
অমৃতভাঙ্গার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্য।

অনুসঙ্গবলী।
শ্রীমদেবের দাস, প্রণীত।
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বেলায় পুরে লিখিত।
মূল্য ৩০ আনা। ডাকমাণ্ডল ১০ আনা।
অমৃতভাঙ্গার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্য।


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CALCUTTA DEAF AND DUMB SCHOOL. ANNUAL REPORT.

The sixth annual Report of the Calcutta Deaf and Dumb School for 1898-99 states that the principal event of the year was the return to Calcutta of the principal, who was deputed to England in September, 1894.

The pupils are taught to speak, to understand the spoken language of others by lip-reading, to read, to write and to count. All the pupils who attend school can talk more or less, while three or four of them can intelligently hold a conversation.

The want of a properly organised boarding establishment was long felt. The Committee are of opinion that an institution like this is likely to attract pupils from the mufussil.

Our income was greatly enhanced by the Government of Sir Alexander Mackenzie granting us a monthly aid of Rs. 125. The grant, which was made in March, 1896, has since been raised to Rs. 150.

The school occupies an old rented house—No. 4 College Square. Although it has been thoroughly repaired, it is not a proper house for the location of a growing institution like ours.

APPEAL TO THE VICEROY. The following open letter to the Viceroy appears in the British Deaf Monthly:

European v. Indian Medical Science. Triumph of the latter. THE ATANK NIGRAHA PILLS.

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your late constituency, Southport, and by your promising not to lose your interest in the subject, we venture to address you on behalf of the 200,000 deaf and dumb of the vast country over which you now exercise almost royal sway.

N.-W. P. HIGH COURT.

THE SAHARANPUR RAILWAY ASSAULT CASE.

THE Acting Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Blair have just decided the appeal of Muktar Ahmad Shaik, aged 23, from the sentence of transportation for life passed upon him by the Sessions Judge for an offence under section 376 of the I. P. C.

A Mother Tells How She Saved Her Little Daughter's Life. I am the mother of eight children and have had a great deal of experience with medicines.

their minds. They believed this man was a railway thief, and he found his way into this carriage, and took advantage of his position with a defenceless girl to commit this dastardly and atrocious crime upon her.

ASSAULT ON A JUDGE IN COURT.

THE Acting Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Blair have just decided the appeal of one Chand Singh, of Jaunpur, from sentence of transportation for life passed upon him by Mr. B. J. Dalal, the officiating Sessions Judge of Jaunpur, for an offence under Section 307, I. P. C.—attempted murder.

The case was of an attack upon a Judge by a prisoner during the progress of his trial. It appears that on 10th May last Chand Singh and three other persons were brought up for trial on a charge of dacoity before Mr. Marshall, officiating Sessions Judge of Jaunpur, and the prisoners' handcuffs having been removed, one of them, Bindraban by name, informed the Judge that Chand Singh carried two stones which he intended to throw at the Judge.

The Sessions Judge in deciding the case said that the stone was a very heavy one, and is such that any reasonable being would know that if it were thrown at a man's head that man will be killed.

MAHOMEDAN EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

THE following are extracts from a circular issued by Delawar Hossain Ahmed, Syed Amir Hossain, and Mirza Shajaut Ali, of the 13th Mahomedan Educational Conference.

Calcutta Committee trust that gentlemen who are faint-hearted or diffident will summon up courage to attend the meetings of the Conference and promote the cause of Mahomedan education and that those who cherish the slightest regard for the welfare of the community will show their sympathy by becoming members of the Conference.

MISS DAISY LEITER.

MISS DAISY LEITER, the youngest of Lev Z. Leiter's daughters, is likely to make a matrimonial match fully as brilliant as that of Miss Mary Leiter, now Lady Curzon, Vicereine of India.

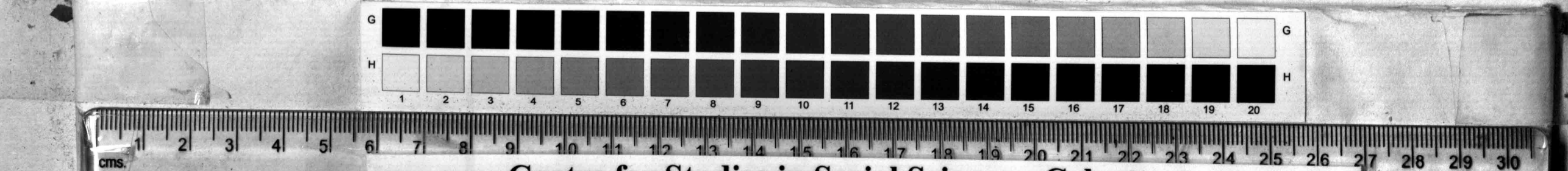
When Alexander Pope wrote the celebrated line, "All the blood of all the Howards," he put into poetry the traditional esteem in which the Earl's great family is held.

The blood of two Kings runs in the veins of the young Earl who is suing Miss Leiter. He is descended directly from Edward I, one of the English Plantagenets, and from Philip the Bold of France.

Miss Daisy Leiter, is the third of the three charming sisters who were born and brought up in Chicago. In the estimation of many she is even prettier than her sister, Miss Nannie Leiter, whom Carolus-Duran declared was the handsomest woman in America.

When Lord and Lady Curzon had gotten well settled at Simla, India, last spring, Mrs. Leiter arrived with her two daughters. At a dinner given by the Vicereine on their arrival the Earl was first presented to Miss Daisy Leiter.

MR. E. DU CANE SMITHE, Executive Engineer, Punjab, is appointed to officiate as Superintending Engineer from the 17th of July. Mr. Campion, Superintending Engineer, Punjab, officiates as Chief Engineer and Secretary, Government Public Works Department, and from the 14th of July Mr. Dallas, Executive Engineer, is transferred temporarily from the Ghaziabad-Moradabad Railway to the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway.



THE Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, AUGUST 6, 1899.

MR. SKRINE AS A STATESMAN. I.

THE Englishman quotes the following from Mr. Skrine's book, "The Heart of Asia":—"Thus we must always be sojourners in India, and our dominion can never strike its roots deeply into the soil. But for the bayonets on which our throne is supported it would fall."

And the Englishman then observes:—"These are not light words, and they are uttered, let it be remembered, by one who has always been a general friend of the natives of India. But friendship should not blind one to facts."

The question whether Mr. Skrine is a friend or not is irrelevant. His claim to be called a friend, however, rests upon the testimony of the editor of the Englishman, who is a new-comer. His sentiments, which are approved by the Englishman, lead to one conclusion, viz., that according to their opinion British rule is a failure here. British rule here is, however, two hundred years old. So long the rulers were sojourners in this country; and we are now assured that they will ever remain so. And we are further assured that British rule would fall if not supported by physical force. Here we have a severe condemnation of British rule and nothing else; and the prospects held out are gloomy in the extreme, gloomy both for the rulers and the ruled. As for Englishmen, they are told that they must consider their residence in India as banishment and their position as dangerous. While the Indians are told that they must for ever remain a subject race, and kept overawed by physical force.

We think, however, it is impertinence on the part of puny men, to lay down a programme for the future guidance of nations, which shall hold good for ever. But puny men can learn by experience. If experience has convinced Englishmen that the methods that they had adopted in governing this country have failed to establish the foundations of the Empire on a natural basis, they should change them. The utmost that Mr. Skrine can say is that if they follow their present methods they must for ever remain sojourners in India. If he had said that, we would have found some reason in what he said. If the Empire has failed to take root, the methods hitherto adopted to govern the country must be faulty; and they must be changed and others given a trial. That is the logical inference that one can draw from Mr. Skrine's contention. Yet, whenever the Indians or their friends in Parliament have prayed for an inquiry their reasonable prayers have been rejected with scorn.

The prospect held out to the Indians is not bright. Neither is the prospect held out to Englishmen, that they must always remain sojourners in India and surrounded by British bayonets for their protection a bright one. That being the case, is it not reasonable to try whether the prospect can be made better? But an inquiry is resented. It is resented, not by the general body of Englishmen who desire nothing better than a happy life for the Indians under British rule. But it is resented by those who are interested in maintaining the present state of affairs. They dread any change of method, lest the process interferes with their interests. And the general body of Englishmen are guided in this matter by the few thousand Englishmen who are in charge of this country.

The greatest mistake that the rulers of India committed was to undertake a task which was impossible, though they did not see it in the beginning. Their wish was to govern India alone without native help. They undertook not only to govern the Empire, the provinces and cities, but also the villages and hamlets. They undertook to do everything, from fighting on battle fields to appointing Chowkidars in villages. They undertook to do everything alone and single-handed, not only without native co-operation but also without native advice.

Now, this made the work of the administration difficult, almost impossible. The work they undertook was beyond the strength of man. Then, there was another difficulty. Native methods and European methods often differ as poles asunder. Whatever the Europeans touch they make more symmetrical, methodical, costly and cumbersome. Take for instance, their system of administration of justice. The machinery is perfect in every respect; only it is costly and does not carry out the object for which it was organized. Native methods are simple, unscientific, cheap and effective. They replaced all native methods by those imported from a highly civilized and wealthy country. Now we are told that there is no hope for India!

Let the Government take charge of the Empire and of the provinces, but let them leave the Indians in charge of their villages. And that will make the British Government take root if it has not done so already. Let the Indians have entire control over their District Boards and village Panchayats for the disposal of civil and criminal cases, and enjoy some other petty privileges, and then the British Government will be acclimatized in India.

MR. SKRINE AS A STATESMAN. II.

MR. SKRINE is not the first philosopher who has ventured to predict the future of India; many others preceding him did the same. What they urge is that a closer connection between India and England is impossible; that Englishmen must for ever remain mere sojourners in India; and that they must for ever have an adequate British force behind them to enable them to govern the country at all.

Now, this supposition suggests other questions. Is it possible for a nation to grow, nay, exist, if they are for ever kept overawed by brute force? That is one point. There is another, which is, is it possible for Englishmen to grow, if they, in this manner, continue to rule a vast nation under purely despotic principles?

We have been taught even from our infancy to believe that there are moral laws, which are as sure in their effects as the physical. If there is any truth in the existence of moral laws and their potency, ere is a danger in keeping a nation for ever in strict subjugation. Thus, is it possible a nation to remain free if it undertakes to

rule another under despotic principles? This question can be settled by a reference to history.

We do not at all admit that brute force is the arbiter of the destinies of the human race. Take, for instance, the case of America. The negroes were more helpless in their condition in that country than the pariah dogs here in India. Yet the Americans took upon themselves even to annihilate their own countrymen for the purpose of liberating the negroes. What business had they to slaughter their own countrymen for the purpose of securing liberty to the blacks? Who impelled them to act in this suicidal manner against their vital interests?

The same thing happened in Ireland. We have no business to inquire whether Ireland had any complaints against England or not, but we know that England has some complaints against Ireland. Ireland is in a chronic state of disaffection. The people have rebelled every twenty-five years, and they have done much to exasperate the feelings of Englishmen against them; yet they found a friend in Mr. Gladstone, who, in his turn, found almost the half of England to support him, in his efforts to grant the right of self-government to Ireland. If he, Mr. Gladstone, had begun early, or if he had lived a few years more, he would have succeeded in carrying out his idea entirely. What power led Mr. Gladstone to go against his country, for the purpose of helping Ireland?

Now, if Mr. Skrine is of opinion that the natives of India should ever be kept in subjugation by brutal force, there are Englishmen who do not take such a gloomy view of the future of this British connection with India. Take, for instance, the cases of Englishmen like Messrs. Wedderburn, Hume, Caine, Herbert Roberts and others. They do not surely hold the view entertained by Mr. Skrine and others of his way of thinking. What their view is, is very clear. They do not wish that there ought to be a severance of the connection that exists between the two countries, but yet they would consider it a great misfortune to agree with Mr. Skrine in the view that, England and India must for ever remain in a state of variance.

The highest ambition of Englishmen has been to win India by a good rule, to make India a source of strength and not of weakness to England—and to make India grateful for the protection that England affords her. Somehow or other that desire has not yet been fulfilled. The difference between the two races has not been healed, and, therefore, the cry is raised that it can never be healed. And why? Why do the Colonies cling to England, and why it would be a difficult thing for England to make the Indians as grateful for her protection, as she has been able to do in the case of other dependent countries?

Those who raise the cry, that a union of hearts between India and England is not possible, are interested in doing so. They do not like union. They do not like that India should be anything but a place where Englishmen must come only to make their pile, backed by a British force. Their interest would be served by keeping India apart from England, by fomenting race-feeling and preventing any enrapport between the two races. And thus, they are always trying to show that a union is impossible, and that British bayonets are essential for the maintenance of the Empire.

But, as we said before, if brute force is made the means of maintaining the Empire, then England will suffer along with India. Those who raise the cry that brute force alone maintains the Empire, libel both the Indians and Englishmen, and they libel humanity. They are traitors to their own country, and traitors to the human race. Let no Englishman ever dream that any unnatural connection between two nations can be kept up for ever. Of course, India has been rendered utterly helpless, and England is irresistibly strong. But the negroes were weaker than the Indians, and yet they achieved their political liberty. In the same manner, the regeneration of the Indians will come from Englishmen themselves. For, Mr. Skrine cannot stop the progress of liberalism. They are going to stop war, and what does that mean? It means that God has not yet been supplanted, and that moral laws yet hold their empire supreme in the human heart.

Those silly Englishmen, who advocate brute force, only throw the Indians into despair and seek to demoralize their own countrymen. They cannot, however, stop the progress of humanity. England itself is in a bad way; for it is in the hands of a few thousands of the upper classes. Has not England its House of Lords? When England has been able to achieve its freedom fully, India will get its share. Let it not be forgotten that the great bulk of Englishmen are on the side of the Indians, and their highest ambition is to make their dependants sharers in the blessings they enjoy. But the vast body of Englishmen are not yet in power.

THE Indian Spectator talks of the "dialectic skill" displayed by the Government of India in framing its despatch on the Calcutta Municipal Bill. "This dialectic skill is employed to make it appear to the public that the scheme recommended by Lord Curzon's Government had the approval of and was, indeed, suggested by the Minute of Dissent recorded by the Hon'ble Babus Surendra Nath and Narendra Nath." Now, the mistake of the representatives was to refer to the Bombay scheme at all; for the rate-payers were never for it, whether in part or in full. The Bombay scheme is not founded upon the principle of election as it obtains in Calcutta, and that is its great initial defect. Whenever the Bombay scheme was offered to Calcutta, it was rejected with scorn, and this game was tried from the very beginning. In Calcutta the rate-payers had and yet have the privilege of electing their representatives, who, being two-thirds of the entire Corporation, had large control over that body. Sir A. Mackenzie wanted to destroy this practically complete system of election that the Calcutta rate-payers enjoyed and to introduce in its stead the Bombay scheme which is based more upon nomination than upon election. To pray, therefore, for the Bombay system in its entirety, as an alternative is to play into the hands of Sir A. Mackenzie. It is no compliment to Lord Curzon that he employed "dialectic skill" in depriving the Indians of a valued privilege. Surely the representatives never meant seriously when they said, "let us have the Bombay system in its entirety."

We need hardly point out that the Government of India has an important work before it, namely, the solution of the question of separation of the two functions, executive and judicial. The question has been discussed threadbare and more than one Secretary of State for India has admitted the necessity of reform. The only ground against the carrying out of the reform was alleged to be the question of expense. But with authority, has shown in a paper that the cost. Even if the reform entails some cost, the Government ought to make the sacrifice for a reform which will effect the purity of the administration. The only objection against the reform is, that it is one advocated by the Congress; but, we hope, Lord Curzon will not consider that as a point against it, but rather as one in its favour. The reform has been so often prayed for, not only by the nation but also by Englishmen of high position and authority that any further agitation in its support is not absolutely necessary. Indeed, as we said before, Secretaries of State, both Conservative and Liberal, have accepted the necessity of reform. The memorial on this subject, which will be before the Viceroy in a few days, is so very influentially signed, it is supported by the Parliamentary Committee of Parliament—that any further agitation is not necessary. Yet it would not be altogether a dissipation of energy on the part of political Associations in this country to approach the Government again on the subject. There is a European Association at Calcutta under the presidency of that distinguished lawyer, Mr. Pugh. Would he mind taking the trouble of making his Association take interest in this great work? Then we have the Trades Association and the European Chamber of Commerce. Will they do something in favour of this reform, in which they are as vitally interested as the Indians?

The full text of the resolution, which was unanimously passed at the meeting of the Calcutta Corporation on Wednesday last, with the exception of two European official members, runs as follows:—

"That having regard to one of the principal grounds for the introduction of the Calcutta Municipal Bill as summarised by the Government of Bengal in their letter No. 383 T. M., dated the 17th June, 1897, since quoted by the Government of India in their despatch No. 93, dated the 17th June, 1899, and lately published for general information, namely, 'the growth of party spirit and the appearance among the elected Commissioners of a class of professional and in some cases corrupt politicians,' the Commissioners in meeting respectfully solicit that they be furnished with the information that may be at the disposal of the Government upon which such a grave charge has been based. They beg respectfully to point out that a charge so definite as regards the persons against whom it is brought involves a reflection upon the character of every elected Commissioner, and they must express their deep regret that an imputation of this kind should have been made by the Government of the Province against a public body entrusted with such responsible functions as the Corporation, and communicated to the Government of India without any public enquiry and without affording the elected Commissioners an opportunity of explanation or defence."

When it came to be known that the Government of Bengal had brought charges of corruption against the Municipal Commissioners, the latter felt themselves very much humiliated. They discussed how to meet this unlooked for attack of the Government, and determined upon demanding from it an explanation, and resigning if they got no redress. But they were persuaded to bear every thing with patience in consideration of the interests at stake. The prospect looked hopeful; the Liberals sided with the rate-payers; and Lord Curzon's attitude was friendly. It was thus thought that any action, which savoured of aggression, would be injurious to the interests of the rate-payers. And so the Commissioners remained quiet over the attack made against them behind their backs. The Despatch of the Government of India has, however, proved sorely disappointing. But more: The Government of India has accepted the charges brought against the Commissioners as gospel truth! The Commissioners met privately to consider the situation and they thought that the first step should be to approach the Government with an humble prayer to the effect, that they should be furnished with the information upon which the charge against them is based. What the Government will do in such a circumstance we know not. But the Commissioners find themselves in a difficult position. If there is any man guilty, the innocent have to suffer for him. This unpublished paper has affected the reputation of all the Commissioners; for no one knows any thing about what it contains. The position of the Government is not at all enviable; for we do not see how it can deny the redress sought by the Commissioners. To say that it is a private document will not do in this case; for a revolution has been sought to be effected basing upon its contents. To say that it has injured none, is to deny patent facts. The Government declares upon the strength of that paper that some Commissioners are corrupt; and such a declaration brings every one of them to a position of suspicion. Now an innocent man will not like even to be suspected. Already people are naming freely half-a-dozen Commissioners. How unjust, if they are innocent! Yet they cannot help it; they cannot, with the Government declaration before the world, stop the mouths of the public.

It is a well-known fact that Indian Judges are very severe with old offenders, even when they are convicted of trifling offences. Instances are not rare in which old offenders have been transported for life for stealing such valueless things as brinjals or plantain leaves. Only the other day, *Truth* was very hard upon a Judge of the Madras High Court for sentencing a man to transportation for life for stealing some betel nuts. It seems that the strictures of the London paper have had little effect upon the Madras judicial officers, as the following case, hailing from Trichinopoly, will show:—

"One Narain alias Ponusami with 4 previous convictions against him, was convicted of the theft of plantains in the garden of Vakil Sanjiva Rao in broad daylight and sentenced

to transportation for life by Mr. H. G. Joseph, I. C. S., Sessions Judge of Trichinopoly."

Mr. Justice Wills of Manchester had lately to try a worse case than the Trichinopoly one, and this is the way how he disposed of it. The accused, Michael Brady and James Dillon, two old offenders, were found guilty of robbing a till at M. d. l. The Judge passed on them severe sentences, namely, five and three years' penal servitude, respectively, because of their previous convictions. In his cooler moments, he, however, changed his views by arguing the matter thus:—"It is true, that the offence committed was a petty one, but the history of each prisoner showed that neither tried to live honestly. If, however, petty crimes were treated on the same footing as big crimes, old offenders might take it to heart, and say, 'if we get severe punishment for petty things, then we will go in for big things.' It was desirable to discourage that spirit." The next day, his Lordship came to court and revised his sentence, and instead of the sentences previously passed of five years' penal servitude in Brady's case, and three in Dillon's, sentenced each of them to eight months' hard labour. We wish our Judges viewed criminal matters in the light Mr. Justice Wills did in the case under notice. The object of punishment is reformation and not the infliction of bodily pain, and, since man is not a beast, the way to reclaim him is, as a rule, to treat him kindly.

WHAT an amount of good may be effected by the efforts of a few earnest men, devoted to the cause of the country, will be perceived from the success which has attended the Shahdara Panchayat in the Punjab. Only in November last, the Panchayat was established by the exertions of Lala Gobind Ram, Banker and Member of District and Local Boards, and Shanker Dass, Banker and Contractor, and Proprietor, Anglo-Sanskrit Middle School, and to-day it counts amongst its members no less than 65 gentlemen—40 Mahomedans and 25 Hindus. A correspondent of the Tribune has the following remarks on the institution:—"Since its establishment two hundred and sixty applications have been entered in the register. These deal with land, debt, divorce cases, family disputes, &c. More than two-thirds of the cases have been disposed of and the Committee have shown much ability and wisdom in deciding them. The method of transacting business, we are glad to learn, is such as entails no expenses to either party. Two or three members are appointed to decide a case, and, if either party objects to any one of the members, the President, considering his objections well grounded, withdraws the member objected to and appoints others. It is creditable to the Committee that in all the cases (excepting five or six) both the parties have shown their willingness to abide by the decision of the Panchayat. The funds at the disposal of the Panchayat, which are the proceeds of *dharti*, and used for cleaning the village streets and public places, making and repairing the village drains, paying the Chowkidars and doing such things as may be necessary for the preservation of public health and maintaining peace and order. It is remarkable, indeed, if we are correctly informed that not a single case of theft or house-break-in has occurred within the limits of the town since the establishment of the Panchayat."

The good results emboldened the members to make an application to H. H. the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab for vesting them with criminal powers in ordinary cases. In reply, His Honor directed the matter to be referred to the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore. The official has already made enquiries regarding the working and constitution of the Panchayat from its president and there is every likelihood of the application being granted. Some new life and blood ought to be infused into the Bengal Zemindary Panchayat to make it a really useful body. They ought to place themselves in communication with the Shahdara Panchayat, and learn from them the secret of their success.

THERE is one point in the reference of the District Judge of Patna to the High Court in re the Barn Whipping case, which deserves notice. Says he:—

"The Sub-divisional Officer acted with great want of judgment in trying the case summarily and also in inflicting whipping as a punishment in the case of one of the accused. The accused, one of whom is a Mukhtear and another a clerk of a Mukhtear and also the old man Willayet Hosain, might have been enlarged on bail pending further inquiries."

If all the accused might have been enlarged on bail, as the Judge says, the remark applies with greater force in the case of the accused who was whipped. He has been whipped and cannot be unwhipped. It is now all the same to him whether the High Court confirms or upsets the decision of the Sub-divisional Officer.

MR. SKRINE gives up in despair the task of winning the hearts of the Indians, and he says they must ever be kept in subjugation. But is it a difficult task to win the heart of an Indian? Is he not the gentlest creature in the world—affectionate, grateful and law-abiding? In their gatherings they meet in hundreds of thousands, yet they meet in peace and disperse in peace; drink is unknown to them. But how do the other races behave? Here is an account of how a picnic party behaved, which we reproduce from the *New York Journal* received by the last mail:—

"There descended upon Carteret, N. J. in a midsummer madness of drink and gambling and rag-time melody, two barge loads of Sunday picnickers from this city, and when they embarked in sobered haste, carrying their wounded with them, they left behind three senseless and bleeding constables, two fatally hurt, probably, while the third had lost an eye.

Such was the outing of the Gay Coterie Club, of the East Side, no particular address. At Carteret, ten miles south of Elizabeth, is a picnic ground known as Union Grove, and there the excursionists poured ashore.

There was bloodshed immediately. Five of the male picnickers set upon one of their number, and began to beat him, to an accompaniment of shrill protests from the women. The victim, who is described as a stout young man, was borne to the ground, and as he lay there a stockily-built youth of swarthy complexion jumped on him with an open clasp knife and stabbed him seven times about the head.

Thus while it settled the stout young man for the day, did not settle the elements of disturbance, and soon the tumult was so great that the proprietors of the picnic ground sent for help.

Constables John Dolan and John Barrett, reinforced by John Donovan, went bravely to quell the riot. The excursionists forgot their own differences in order to present a united front to the foe, and many of them drew knives and pistols.

The Constables, with their staves, knocked pistols from the fists of several of those within reach, but a moment later they were overwhelmed in a rush by the main body of the Gay Coterie, and from the outset their case was a hopeless one.

They did not recover their feet again. Donovan's eye was knocked out with a beer glass and he was beaten into insensibility. Dolan was stabbed several times in the back and neck and fainted from loss of blood. Barrett was kicked and clubbed savagely and left for dead.

For an hour the riot raged, while the women shrilly implored their escorts to forbear. A score of the inhabitants of the place made an effort to interfere, but they were driven off. A dozen or more of the excursionists were hurt in one way or another, and these were carried on board barges when the excursionists suddenly realized that some of them were in danger of suffering the penalty for murder.

When all had returned in a panic on board the barges, the hawsers were cast off and the Gay Coterie headed for home. At a late hour last night they were reported passing Elizabethport, suspiciously quiet. Such is the ferocious nature of man in every other part of the world. Wherever they meet in numbers they drink gallons of liquor and then fight and break heads. But in India the people are as gentle as lambs. Where in the world can they shew such a well-behaved race as the Indians? If their rulers fail to win the heart of such a race it is thus no fault of the latter surely. A single constable will walk unconcerned through vast crowds of Indians and find neither a drunken man nor meet with any sort of violence from any one. When Messrs. Malony and Skinner were distributing a proclamation, in Jessore, they were surrounded by fifty thousand ryots who were then in a state of frenzy, but they uttered not even a disrespectful word. Similarly Mr. Herschell was surrounded on the same occasion, in Nadia, by even a larger crowd. Mr. Herschell trembled with fear but he was treated with the utmost courtesy. Even unenlightened Mussalman rulers had succeeded in winning the affections of the Hindus whom they now and then treated with great cruelty.

We regret the unfortunate Madras Standard defamation case—not that the complainant had no right to complain, nor that no offence was committed, nor yet that justice had been miscarried but that there should have been this spoke in the wheel of Mr. Pillay's abilities and inclinations to serve the public manfully. We sincerely wish that the effects of this infliction have passed away and that Mr. Pillay will continue his journalistic work, with that vigour and independence of criticism which he has eminently brought to his task. If he has now and then lapsed into excesses of severity, or risky personalities he has oftener combated successfully against sham and has put down no few plausible pretensions with the trenchancy and steadfastness which alone could put them down. It will thus be pure affection, we think, to deny, at least, this measure of approbation to one whose occasional mistakes seem traceable more to overflowing zeal and a superabundance of public spirit than to any set purpose to inflict wounds on individuals. Let us, however, not be misunderstood. Needless to say that we do not defend attacks on personal character or discount the right of the offended to seek amends. But, except in cases where actual malice can be proved, or serious damage results, of which instances may be easily conceived, the balance of advantage to the public seems to be in favour of the amends being, in the shape of an ample apology, accepted as a ground for dropping further proceedings. To have it in one's power thus to punish guilt and to refuse to drive a public man to the lowest depths of humiliation, appears to us to outweigh, in the dealings of public men, all considerations of pure personal dignity, however plain may be a public man's right to demand his pound of flesh. When a man, guilty as regards things done in the discharge of a duty to the public, cries *peccavi* and the accuser drops the matter, he keeps in his own hand the function of punishing and we are not aware of any privilege more dignified and dignifying. Mr. Iyenger, above all others, might, from what little we have heard of him, well afford to take this course; for we think that few could misunderstand him in consequence of the writing complained of, offensive and objectionable as it was. While, on grounds of expediency and high-mindedness, we thus express our disappointment at Mr. Iyenger rejecting the apology published, without even dictating any other, if that one was, in his view, inadequate, we cannot but feel surprised that Mr. Pillay thought fit to plead "not guilty" and thereby practically neutralize (as we think) all that he, as a public man, had previously and deliberately done by way of amends to another public man who had a right to complain. We have no hesitation to pronounce that plea as supremely injudicious and extremely ill-advised. It should be borne in mind, however, that the libel of which Mr. Pillay was convicted was not a gross one; and it is possible for any respectable paper, at an unguarded moment, to commit this sort of libel. We, however, perfectly agree with Mr. Iyenger that when a journal prostitutes itself in such a way as to become a positive nuisance, like some vernacular papers in Bengal, it should not be spared but dealt with severely.

THE proposed changes in the constitution of the Calcutta Municipality means punishment to the rate-payers, for they take away from the latter the power that they enjoy of electing two-thirds of the members. Of course, if they committed any offence, they ought to have been punished. But we object to the punishment of the rate-payers for the offence of their representatives. The Irish nation was not deprived of their right of returning members to Parliament because of the obstructive tactics of their representatives. To make its ground strong, the Government ought to prove some offence against the Commissioners, which has

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta. Includes a ruler and a grid.

not as yet been done. Even if some offence were proved against the Commissioners, that would not in any way justify the Government to take away the privilege from the rate-payers who are innocent. If the Commissioners are proved guilty, the rate-payers should be given the chance of making better selections. Sir A. Mackenzie, after an experience of less than a couple of years of the work of the Corporation, brought some charges against the Commissioners. The Government has adopted these charges without an inquiry, and this means condemnation without a hearing. If Sir A. Mackenzie has brought some charges against the Commissioners, how is it that the Government ignores all the good things that all his predecessors had said of them? If Sir A. Mackenzie spoke against the Commissioners, his immediate predecessors, Sir Charles Elliott and Sir A. P. MacDonnell, had spoken highly of them. Chairmen of the Corporation like Sir Henry Harrison and Mr. Lee spoke highly of the work done by them. It is an open secret that the immediate predecessor of Sir A. Mackenzie was bitterly opposed to the changes proposed by his successor. Is it the policy of the Government to accept the last voice?

It will be remembered that, along with the signallers, two Maharratta Station-masters fell under the displeasure of the G. I. P. Railway Co. and they were prosecuted with a zeal worthy of a better cause. They were convicted of gross negligence, at Karkalla by the Magistrate who tried them and sentenced, one to six weeks and the other to three months' imprisonment. Mr. Aston, Sessions Judge, on appeal, delivered judgment the other day and decided that the sentences which they had already undergone were quite sufficient for the offence with which they were charged. The remainder of the sentences was quashed and the accused were released. It seems, they were put into jail as soon as they were sentenced by the Magistrate. Was this necessary? Did it not show vindictiveness? Judging from the manner in which the case was viewed by Mr. Aston, the probability is that they would have been discharged by the appellate Court. Why were they not released on bail when they had appealed against the Magistrate's decision, specially as they were charged with offences which could hardly be called criminal. The result of the quarrel between the G. I. P. Railway Co. and their servants has done unmitigated mischief all round. It has not, in the least, served the interests of the Company; it has only brought ruin on hundreds of families and embittered the relations between the rulers and the ruled.

The American papers are now taking more notice of India than they used to do before. And one of the reasons is that Lady Curzon is an American lady. That brilliant Chicago paper, the *Inter Ocean*, gives an account of the youngest sister of her Ladyship, Miss Daisy Leiter and her proposed marriage with the Earl of Suffolk. This account will be found elsewhere. It is interesting to note how the American paper talks of Benares, Delhi, and Lucknow. Yet sometimes they make horrible mistakes. This same paper writes Gharbasha in the place of Chyabassa, and Sindha Bhong in the place of Singbhun!

We congratulate the people of the South on the wisdom and discretion displayed by their representatives in the Madras Council for having re-elected, on the 29th ultimo, Rai Bahadur P. Ananda Charlu to represent them in the Supreme Legislative Council. This will come as a welcome news to people all over the continent, for Mr. Charlu is virtually the member for whole India.

The persistency with which agitation is being carried in the Rangoon outrage case, has at last produced some result. The West Kent Regiment has, we understand, been ordered to Aaden. Considering the fact that the offenders in this dirty case all belonged to that Regiment, it is well that the Regiment has been transferred.

OUR Silchar correspondent writes:—On the 27th ultimo on taking his seat, the Deputy Commissioner framed charges against Mr. Falcktyer under Section 325 I. P. C. of causing the death of a coolie named Chuni Lohar by grievous hurt, and committed him to the district sessions. The accused remains enlarged on bail for Rs. 2,000 furnished by him on the 19th idem.

The Peeler down south seems to entertain very curious notions of his own importance and the claims of morality and decency upon himself. Ere this we had several occasions to refer to the reprehensible practice of hauling up little boys before criminal courts on a charge of indecent exposure; and though in every such case the police received a snub from the Magistrate, they seem to have contracted so great a likeness for this work that they are still at it. On the 29th ultimo, a similar case occurred in which the ultra-purist of a constable brought up before Mr. Chester an urchin of seven for having appeared in Adam's original garb, before the fall of man. Considering the fact that in India it has never been deemed anything like an offence, for boys, little even in respectable families, to appear nude, we cannot but thank the Magistrate for having reprimanded the constable. We hope, however, that the Commissioner of Police will issue a circular to the effect that his subordinates should not waste public money and time by such frivolous prosecutions.

HERE is the story of how the Natu brothers were removed from their residence, as told by the *Mahratta*:—While visiting the plague hospital the Commissioner, Mr. Cappel, and the Collector, Mr. Carmichael, came across a patient, whom upon inquiry they discovered to be a servant of the Natu brothers and that he had caught plague upon the premises of the Natu. Thereupon Mr. Carmichael, the Collector, who is a very good man and is personally acquainted with the Natu, being before an Assistant Collector at Poona, went to the bungalow of the Natu brothers, full of anxious inquiry and told the Natu brothers not to stay in the infected place. The Natu thanked him and Government and told him that they would immediately go away, not to Poona as it was infected but to their Inami Village. The Collector immediately undeceived them reminding them that they were still prisoners but they were

only to change their quarters and he sent a telegram to the Government. Next morning he again anxiously went to the Natu and sent another telegram to Government. Meanwhile as fate would have it another servant of the Natu caught plague. The good-natured Collector was really much alarmed on the score of the Natu and, it is said, receiving no reply to his telegrams sent another pressing telegram to the Government. On receiving the reply he went back again to the Natu and told them that the Natu were to stay permanently at Belgaum till their release, but the Government allowed them to go to Dharwar if the brothers liked till the disappearance of plague at Belgaum. Bala-sahab Natu curtly replied that his location rested with Government alone, so he was loath to exercise his choice, that he would go to Dharwar if the Government would transfer him there, and not of his own choice, or he might stay where he was if the Government would so order. The Sirdar told the Collector that he felt the fun, or rather advantage of being a State prisoner because while ordinary mortals had only one omnipotent power, viz., God to watch over his life, they, the State prisoners, had two omnipotent powers to watch over their lives, viz., their God and their Government. If any harm would happen to their lives at Dharwar, let it not be said that the Natu went to Dharwar of their free choice. Being in a dilemma, the Collector perhaps again applied to Government for a way out of the difficulty and then again, after a time, informed the Natu that they should sleep that night in the fort and wrote to the Cantonment Magistrate to allow them to occupy a bungalow in the fort and wrote to the Police Inspector to send a party to watch over the belongings of the Natu because the Natu were to take to their new bungalow such articles only as were needed for the night. The rest would be sent to them after disinfection in the morning. But a new difficulty arose. The Cantonment Magistrate had no power to allow the Natu to stay in the fort without the consent of the highest military authority here, so the Magistrate wrote to that officer. But that officer would permit the Natu to sleep neither in the fort nor in Camp even, because their house was infected. The Collector was in a sad plight and was quite in a fix. He really believed that the continuance of the Natu to dwell in an apparently infected house threaten d, every minute, danger to their lives and on each anxious visit to the Natu he was happily relieved to find the brothers and their family safe till then. He again sent a telegram to the Government stating perhaps the objection of the military officer, and receiving a reply told the Natu that all the obstacles were removed and that they might stay in the fort only for a few days more, as the officers had consented. The Natu removed to their new bungalow in the fort late at 11 o'clock in the night and are fortunately safe till now.

MAULAVI GHAFUR KHAN, the British Agent at Kabul, is coming down to India on privilege leave, owing to ill-health.

MR. HARRINGTON, Agent of the Simla-Kalka Railway, having completed the plans, proceeds home on the 19th of August, returning to Simla in October.

FROM Hungary it is reported that six persons including three women, were burned with red-hot irons to extract from them a confession of theft. They were afterwards proved to be innocent.

It is understood that Mr. Hanbury White, the newly-appointed Agent of the East Indian Railway, will not come out to India till quite the end of the year. Meanwhile Mr. Douglas will officiate.

MR. SCOTT, employed with the Burma Boundary Commission, is expected back in Bhamo on the 14th instant. He has had a long interview with the Chinese Viceroy at Yunnan on local matters.

THE want of rain is much felt in Sind generally. The prices of fodder are exceptionally higher, and much anxiety is felt at the absence of rain which usually falls in June and July. The Karachi Municipality has taken steps to husband the water-supply.

A CURIOUS murder trial has taken place in Hungary. A man suffering from lung disease was strangled. He had voluntarily consented to being put to death so that his murderer might marry his wife. The murderer has been sentenced to fifteen years' hard labour, and the wife to five.

AN Austrian medical student wrote to a wealthy lady threatening that unless she sent him 10,000 florins, he would work a terrible revenge upon her by opening in her room a bottle containing bacilli of various infectious diseases which would certainly cause her death. He was arrested, and a bottle found in his possession actually contain d bacilli, which he had stolen from his professor's lecture-room. He was sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour.

OVER 200 negroes have lost their lives in the floods in Texas. Government boats rescued numbers of people who were held captive by the waters. Negroes dropped exhausted into the flood from the trees in which they had clambered, after holding out for three days and three nights without food. Some on mounds, were surrounded by venomous serpents, thus adding to their misery and danger.

THE annual Railway Conference, over which Lord Curzon will preside, meets on the 14th of August. The members are the Hons. Colonel Gardiner, Sir E. Collen and Mr. Dawkins, Mr. Upcott Secretary, P.W.D.; Mr. Becher, Accountant General and Captain Mc. Elhinny, R. E., Secretary. There are various schemes and matters connected with 142 lines to be considered, and these do not include the tramway questions, the latter being left to local Governments.

THE scare at Lahore continues unabated and is unprecedented, but it is clear that its existence is due to the fabricated stories of notoriety-mongers. Though every thoroughfare about the civil station and city is patrolled by large bodies of mounted and foot police, armed with carbines, swords and lathies, whilst every person found in possession of a gandasa, dang or chawl, has been sent up for trial, and there is quite a panic amongst the *badmashes* themselves, there is no quieting the disgraceful and ridiculous alarm that prevails. Several of these shaves have been investigated, and all have been proved to be equally false and foolish.

Calcutta and Profusill.

AN EXEMPTION.—Maharaja Monindra Ch. Nundy of Cossimbazar has been exempted from personal attendance in Civil Courts.

VACATION JUDGES.—It has been settled, we believe, that Mr. Justice Sale and Mr. Justice Stanley will act as Vacation Judges.

EXTENSION OF LEAVE.—The Hon. Sir G. C. Paul, K. C. I. E., Advocate-General of Bengal, has obtained an extension of leave until December 31, 1899.

JAIL GUARDS.—The paid warder guards in the jails in Bengal have always been a troublesome lot. Only the veriest ruff-raff apply for these appointments and great difficulty is experienced in enlisting and retaining the services of suitable men especially in the districts of Eastern Bengal. We understand that a proposal for improving the position of the jail warder guard is at present under the consideration of Government.—*Hindu Patriot*.

GOOD NEWS TO PENSIONERS.—It is well-known what an amount of trouble, one had to undergo in drawing pension from the Accountant-General's Office at Calcutta. Besides the rush of people, one had also to look about for members of the light-fingered fraternity. But now arrangements have been so made that not the least inconvenience is felt in transacting business there. Ample accommodation has been provided for seating those who go there for drawing pensions, &c. A European constable, has also been posted there.

ALLEGED SHOOTING A NATIVE.—There is a case pending in the Howrah Courts in which one Mr. Solomon stands charged with having shot at a native lad. It is alleged that a drunkard having entered the compound of Mr. Solomon was remonstrated with by the latter, and went away only to return a little while after, at the head of a band of 40 or 50 Mahomedans, who came with lathies ready for a fight. Mr. Solomon finding it impossible to disperse the mob with words of mouth, brought out a revolver and fired several blank shots without, however, pacifying the angry mob. He then sent a bullet, he says, at the ground, which, it is said, struck the son of his bread-supplier in the leg.

FARIDPUR-MUNSHIGUNGE EXTENSION.—The result of reconnaissance survey of the Faridpur (Shikarpur) Munshiganj extension on the metre gauge in connection with the Eastern Bengal State Railway shows that the country traversed is for the most part densely populated and, although subject to very high floods, would not require excessive bridging. An estimate has been submitted for a line, 40½ miles in length, estimated to cost Rs. 58 lakhs, including cost of building, ferry steamers, flats, pontoons, with shore connection, etc., for an ordinary wagon transhipment ferry at Faridpur, and a wagon and passenger ferry between Munshiganj and Narainganj.

LEGISLATIVE.—So far as the present intention of the Government is concerned, there will be four more sittings of the Council, and of the measures introduced this season, the Telegraphic Press Messages Bill, the Central Provinces Court of Wards Bill, and the Punjab Courts Bill will be passed before the Council finally adjourns. The Whipping Bill, Transfer of Property Bill, Merchant Shipping Bill, Companies' Branch Registration Bill, and the Scotch Kirk Bill stand over till the Calcutta session. It is also probable that a Bill to amend the Assam Emigration Act and the Currency Bill will be introduced by the end of the season. Of the additional European members of Council, Mr. La Touche vacates on the 1st October, Sir G. Evans on the 13th September, and Mr. Allan Arthur on the 30th December.

GRAZING TAX ABOLISHED.—The Chief Commissioner of Assam has directed the discontinuance of levying grazing dues on cattle which are conveyed into the province from up-country for sale. It was never contemplated, he says, "that a tax of this kind should be levied on droves of horses, cattle or sheep which are conveyed into this province from up-country for sale. Such a tax, when levied, as appears now to be done, at the boundary of a district, is equivalent to an octroi, and is open to all the objections which might be brought forward to an octroi on sheep or cattle. It is to the interest of the Assam Province that every encouragement should be given to the importation of up-country cattle and sheep, and Mr. Cotton is not prepared to support any measures which tend to discourage it. The loss of income to the Forest Department which this will involve will be very considerable, and will be amply compensated by the gain to the province at large."

INDIA AT THE PARIS EXHIBITION.—The Government of India have informed the Bengal Chamber of Commerce that very little space remains for commercial exhibitors in the Indian Section of the Paris Exhibition, and that any applications not yet sent in should be forwarded without delay. The Indian pavilion will be divided into three courts: In the "Imperial" Court exhibits of the Government of India and of Native States will be shown; in the "Private Exhibitors' Court" the more artistic productions of Indian manufacturers and merchants will be displayed; while the "Commercial" Court will be reserved for trade and economic samples. As only 430 square feet of space is available in the Commercial Court, it is obvious that no very comprehensive representation of the trade of India can be attempted. The Indian Committee of the Royal Commission are chiefly anxious to secure exhibits of articles now manufactured in India, which were until recently imported from abroad, in order to illustrate the progress made by India "in supplying many of her requirements from internal sources" instead of relying on foreign imports. Under this definition would come manufactures of cotton, silk, wood, jute, and other fibres, and soap, paper, leather, chemicals, malt liquor, and cigars. As an additional inducement to commercial exhibitors, it has been decided that, if suitable and sufficient exhibits are forthcoming exhibitors in the Commercial Court will probably be granted free space, in which case the expenses to which they will be put, will be reduced to the cost of freight and installation of exhibits.

POLICE PROVIDENT FUND.—We hear it is proposed to establish a Provident Fund for the benefit of the families of officers of the Police Department in the superior grades.

ERRATUM.—In our review of *Padma* a mistake crept in as to the name of the author. It should be Babu Promotha Nath Rai Chowdhury and not Priya Nath Rai Chowdhury.

CONFIRMED.—Mr. J. W. Chalmers, Officiating Superintendent of Government Printing, Bengal, is confirmed in that appointment from 2nd August 1899, *vice* Mr. J. Petty, retired.

A LEAVE.—Mr. W. H. Johnstone, Assistant Engineer to the Calcutta Corporation, has been granted furlough for one year to England. Mr. Johnstone will leave Calcutta for Europe on or about the 5th proximo.

A BIG ZEMINDAR IN TROUBLE.—A correspondent informs us that the District Magistrate of Bettiah has issued a warrant for the arrest of a big zemindar of the locality under sections 363, 109 and 376 of the I. P. Code for abetment of kidnapping and committing rape upon the person of a girl, who is under medical treatment.

ELEPHANT CATCHING.—A correspondent writes:—"On the 25th instant five elephants were captured in pits on the Anamalai Hills. Three elephants—one a tusker—were captured in one pit, and a big cow and a calf in another. Fortunately all the animals were taken out of the pits uninjured, and will form a valuable addition to the Forest Department's herd of working elephants. Mr. H. A. Glass, the District Forest Officer of Coimbatore, was present and supervised all the arrangements. The hills, as their name implies, are infested with elephants, and it is anticipated that this capture will be followed by others."

RIVER LEVELS.—On the 2nd of August the height of the Ganges at various points was as follows:—Mirzapur, 2nd, 1½ A. M., 21' 50", fall 1 foot 6 inches, clear, (206'22); Benares, 2nd, 1½ P. M., 23' 00", fall 6 inches, cloudy; very warm (196'80); Buxar, 2nd, 8½ A. M., 21' 67", fall 1 foot 7 inches, (169'05); Monghyr, 2nd, 10½ A. M., 24' 75", fall 1 foot, (101'85); Sahibganj, 2nd, 8½ A. M., 26' 42", fall 4 inches, (68'00); Goalundo, 2nd, 10½ A. M., 21' 75", steady, (118'00); Brahmaputra—Gowhaty, 2nd, 7 A. M., 26' 90, 1¼ inches, (148'76).

CROP PROSPECTS IN BENGAL.—The rainfall during the week was general, and in parts of Bengal proper and Behar excessive. In Orissa more rain is still required. The excessive rain has continued to cause considerable damage to the *bhadoi* crops in the Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions, and the early rice and jute in some parts of the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions have suffered. Prospects are good in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions, and fair in the Rajshahi Division. Cattle-disease still exist in several districts. Fodder is everywhere sufficient. Prices of common rice are reported to have risen in a few districts.

ACCIDENT TO A PASSENGER TRAIN.—The Government Railway Police are investigating a case of a rather serious accident which occurred on the Dacca section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway to No. 135 up mixed train. The train on Friday last was on its way to Mymensingh. The line from Sirpur passes through dense jungles, where the country is submerged with rain water during this part of the year. The train, which was running at the rate of 30 miles an hour, when about a couple of miles from the Keordi Station suddenly left the rails with the exception of the engine and the brake van, causing no small amount of inconvenience to a large number of passengers not only of this train but to those of other trains arriving on either side of the scene of the accident. There were no foot-paths along this portion of the line, and in consequence some 18 hours were occupied in the transhipment of passengers. Messrs. Collins, Assistant Loco Superintendent, and Chatterjee, Executive Engineer, proceeded to the spot at once with a breakdown gang, and after incessant toil amid all the inclemencies of the weather for 18 hours restored through communication. It has been deemed desirable that all trains should pass in this locality at the rate of three miles an hour. Sudden subsidence of the line on account of the heavy rain is alleged to be the use of the accident.

A GHOST STORY.—A ghost story is told in the "Moulmein Times" (a Burmese newspaper) of the 14th ultimo.—We were informed, that some three days ago, about 11 P. M. after a shop belonging to a native of India in the Myetssa bazar at Moutgan (opposite Leong Chye's Mill) had been closed, there came and stood about ten feet in front of it, a figure in the form of a Madrasse woman of very dark complexion and white eyes, and whispered and beckoned to the shop-owner. The shop-owner, in an excited manner, enquired what she came there for and what she wanted. She replied that her husband was under the shade of a tamarind tree to the east side of the shop. The shop-keeper, wishing to enquire into the matter, went under the shade of the tamarind tree but found no one. He then got angry and came back to his shop and struck the woman with his fist. He also called out to his neighbours, eight of whom came out; and, on looking at the woman carefully with a lamp they found that she did not wink her eyelashes, that the corners of her eyes were quite red and that her eye-brows were about an inch long and, on feeling her hands, they were as hard and stiff as wood. They proceeded to strike her with sticks and three cornered pieces of wood, in fact with anything they could lay their hands upon, and had this woman been a human being, the blows were quite sufficient to have smashed all her bones, but in this case she did not move an inch nor even blink her eyes. At this juncture a durwan from Leong Chye's mill came up; and after looking at the woman said that he had seen her very often at nights and that she was not a human being but a ghost. When this was said, a native policeman arrived at the scene, and he, with several other natives, again struck the woman but she did not move. Then a gharry driver looked at the figure with a lamp, and tried to set fire to her eyelashes. The woman then gave a hard slap on the gharry driver's face. This scene was going on for nearly an hour but she did not attempt to resist any one else. She then went under the shade of the tamarind tree and disappeared.

MAULED BY A BEAR.—Jamat is a native of Sejamora under the jurisdiction of the Brahmanbaria thana. A few days ago he went as usual to graze cows at the foot of a neighbouring hillock. While looking after his cows he was attacked by a bear and severely mauled. He is now lying in hospital in a precarious condition.

RIVER LEVELS.—On the 3rd of August the height of the Ganges at various points was as follows:—Mirzapur, 3rd, 1½ A. M., 21' 00", fall 1 foot 6 inches, clear, (206'22); Benares, 3rd, 12¼ P. M., 22' 00", fall 1 foot, cloudy, very warm, (196'80); Buxar, 3rd, 8½ A. M., 21' 67", fall 1 foot 9 inches, (169'05); Monghyr, 3rd, 1½ A. M., 23' 75", fall 1 foot, (101'85); Sahibganj, 3rd, 6½ A. M., 25' 83, fall 7 inches, (68'00); Goalundo, 3rd, 10 A. M., 21' 75, ready, (118'00); Brahmaputra—Gowhaty, 3rd, ¾ A. M., 26' 85, fall ½ inch, (148'76).

SEA SNAKE.—A South Arcot correspondent writes:—Sea snakes are committing great havoc in Cuddalore New Town. They belong to a species of deadly snakes, and their bite is generally fatal. Quite recently we have had several such cases. They come from the sea into the back waters and cause considerable mischief. People have been prohibited from bathing in the Gadilam, which abounds in these reptiles. Arrangements are being made to kill them either by catching them by spreading nets or by applying dynamite. The sooner this is done the better.

A SENTENCE SET ASIDE.—On Thursday last Mr. P. L. Roy appeared before Justices Prinsep and Hill in support of the rule obtained by Babu Tara Kant Mozumdar, Civil Court Nazir of the Bogra district, who was convicted, under section 457 of the Indian Penal Code of lurking house-trespass and sentenced to six weeks' rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 500, the sentence being modified by the Sessions Judge of Rajshaye on appeal. The case for the prosecution was that the accused came at midnight to the house of the complainant and, forcing open a window, entered the house. The complainant's mother rushed outside and called to the neighbours for assistance. The Magistrate who tried the case disbelieved the case for the prosecution as regards the accused's alleged acts of impropriety towards the mother, but convicted him of lurking house-trespass and sentenced him as stated. Counsel contended that there had been no lurking house-trespass within the meaning of the section, and the finding of the District Judge that there had been no criminal intention on the part of the accused showed that the appellant could not be convicted of any offence whatever. Their lordships set aside the conviction and sentence, and directed that the fine, if paid, be refunded.

THE CALCUTTA CORPORATION

RESOLUTION AGAINST THE STRICTURES PASSED ON THE COMMISSIONERS.

ON WEDNESDAY there was a meeting of the Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality when there was a very fair attendance. There were several items of ordinary interest.

After disposing of the ordinary items of business, the Commissioners proceeded to consider what was the principal object of the meeting, *viz.*, the propriety of addressing Government on the unpublished letter of Sir Alexander Mackenzie to the Government of India, which Lord Curzon has quoted in his letter and on which he has mainly based his conclusions.

In a temperate speech Babu Kally Nath Mitter introduced "the subject" and said that the elected Commissioners had done their duty through good report and through bad report, but when the Government of Bengal thought it fit to prefer a *casus* against them which the Supreme Government quoted with approval, it became a matter for very serious consideration: there was nothing disloyal in the resolution which he had the honour to move, which was to the effect that in fairness to the elected Commissioners, the Government ought to publish the materials at its disposal so that if the charges therein contained were true, the Commissioners or their constituents might take action and free the Corporation from the black sheep; in any event there ought to be an enquiry as had been held in some previous cases. The resolution also expressed regret that charges were made behind the backs of the Commissioners without giving them an opportunity of defence or explanation; and he was sure that for its own sakes as well as for the sake of the Corporation the Government would be pleased to accede to the request contained in the resolution: the nominated Commissioners were also affected, because if there was any truth in the unpublished charges formulated by Government they were associating themselves with a class of men with whom they ought not to associate.

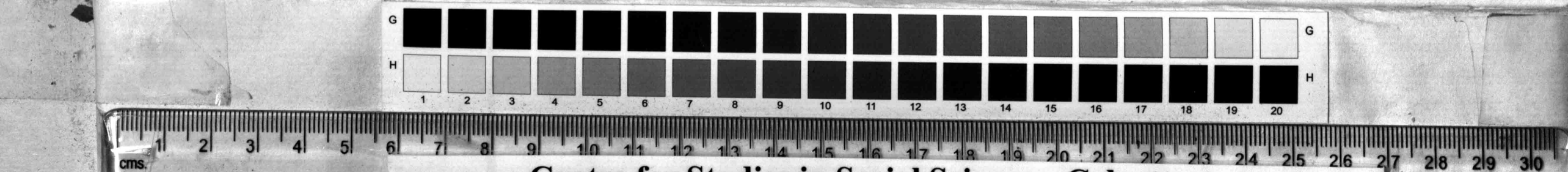
The Hon'ble Mr. Aparc seconded the resolution in a short and pithy speech supporting the position taken up by Babu Kally Nath Mitter.

The Hon'ble Mr. Oldham rose to oppose the motion. He said that though he was a nominated Commissioner he would prefer to have been an elected Commissioner; the charges did not apply to the elected Commissioners as a body, and it was no use asking the Government to publish them. He would call the attention of the Commissioners to the Bhagalpore election where Government made certain charges of corruption against some of the constituencies but did not, though asked to do so, publish the materials, on which such charges were based. It was no use fighting the Government in a matter like this, which had better be dropped.

Mr. Banks supported the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham and cited certain passages from the speech of Sir Alexander Mackenzie delivered at the Bengal Council to show that he did not intend to apply his observations to all the elected Commissioners.

The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee with his usual eloquence spoke in reply. He said that it was foreign to the instincts of the Englishman to make a charge without affording the persons affected an opportunity of explanation or defence. He hoped that in a matter like this, the elected Commissioners would have the sympathy and support of the nominated Commissioners.

The matter was then put to the vote, nearly all the Commissioners present voting for it. Some of the nominated Commissioners abstained from voting; and thereupon Babu Surendra



WILD PIGS OF TEXAS.

"THE most interesting creature to me in the West," said a man recently, returned from a trip to the Rocky mountains, "was the peccary."

"A man who has thus brought down upon himself the enmity of a drove of peccaries needs be well mounted if he would escape their fury."

"If a bear sees a drove of peccaries before any of them see him," said Joe, "he may be able to sneak away and make his escape, but if he is discovered by the peccaries there is sure to be one bear less in a very short time, no matter whether he is grizzly or silvertip, cinnamon, brown or black."

"You think he'd have escaped, do you? Well, let me tell you that if the bear had climbed clear to the top of the tree he wouldn't have escaped. He would only have gained a respite."

tree he might starve to death, with the satisfaction of knowing that his carcass would not fall to the ground to be torn into nothing by the tireless wretches below; but as the bear could have had no way to secure himself a fixed tenure in the tree it would have only been a question of time when, grown weak from hunger, he must have lost his grip on the branches and received the patience of the peccaries by tumbling among them to be supinely annihilated.

"FOOLHARDY DEEDS OF PLAINSMEN. Lots of other ranchmen told me similar things about the peccary. Hunters have been known to undertake the foolhardy task of hunting peccaries by killing one in a drove and getting to safe place in a tree when the entire drove will at once gather about the tree and wait, with every eye fixed upon the hunter for the vengeance their instinct or reason or whatever it is, tells them is inevitable."

"Physically as well as morally," said Joe Barker, "the peccary seems to be an abnormal sort of creature. It has the general appearance and habits of the hog, but the hoofs and the three stomachs of the cow. On its back it has a gland which secretes a musk, and three minutes after a peccary is killed its flesh will be entirely pregnated with the secretion."

A REGIONAL BUREAU FOR INDIA.

At a meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bengal held on Wednesday last, Mr. T. H. Holland, of the Geological Survey of India, explained the scheme drawn up by the Royal Society for the formation of an International Catalogue of Scientific Literature. During recent years the enormous increase in scientific literature, in so many different languages, has made it practically impossible for investigators to keep themselves posted up in the progress being made by their contemporaries in other countries, and to find some means of removing the difficulty, the Royal Society organised an International Conference, which was held in London during July 1896. As a result of the Conference, a Committee was appointed to draw up a scheme for the preparation and regular issue to scientific men of completely classified catalogues, giving the titles and subject-matter dealt with in all scientific publications. The scheme drawn up by this Committee was considered at another International Conference held last year in London, and a complete programme has now been devised for the regular cataloguing of scientific publications from the 1st of January 1900. The scheme sanctioned by the Royal Society included the formation of Regional Bureaux, organised in the various countries of the world for the purpose of collecting and classifying the titles and subjects of all scientific papers published within each defined region. These will be regularly forwarded to the Central Bureau in London, when they will be printed and distributed to other parts of the world, first in the form of slips, and afterwards at periodical intervals in the form of a classified book-catalogue for each of the seventeen recognised sciences. The Royal Society have determined to recognise the following sciences:—Mathematics, Astronomy, Meteorology, Physics, Crystallography, Chemistry, Mineralogy, Geology (including Petrology), Geography, Palaeontology, Zoology, Botany, Physiology, (including Pharmacology and Experimental Pathology), Bacteriology, Psychology, Anthropology and Anatomy. The system of classification will be sufficiently detailed to permit workers in any special branch to readily ascertain what has been done, and what is being done in the particular form of research he may be engaged in. The advantage of this system will be twofold:—In the first place every scientific worker will be able to avoid publishing researches already overtaken in other countries, and in the second place, due notice will be taken of his own work, no matter how obscure the journal in which it is published. To workers in India these are important considerations, for Indian scientific men in the past, have often had occasion to lament the neglect from which they have suffered, owing to the fact that their observations and discoveries remain unnoticed until superseded by those of observers living in the scientific centres of Europe.

DR. Carl Peters, explorer, has discovered cyclopean ruins up the Zambesi, The British India Company has purchased four steamers from the New Zealand Shipping Company. A NEW addition to the Queen's Regulations has been published, and will shortly arrive in India. COTTON for forward delivery was easier in Bombay on Tuesday owing to rumours of a heavy rainfall at Kathiawar and elsewhere. MR. MARTINDALE arrived in Simla on Wednesday (the 2nd August) and is staying at Viceregal Lodge as their Excellencies' guest. THE Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab proposes to leave Simla for a short tour in the Hazara district in the end of September or beginning of October. IT is proposed to make the Indian Finance Membership a pensionable appointment. Communications on the subject have been passing between the Government of India and the Secretary of State.

CRIME IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES

THE last Police administration Report of the Central Provinces throw some side light on crime in that part of the country. There is related in it a case where the offender was a Brahman. It appears that six men were reported one night to be behaving strangely in the Jharsuguda Sarai; they were known to be addicted to the use of ganja, and no notice was taken of their behaviour beyond placing a guard over them. The next morning they were found to be still in a semi-unconscious state, and medical aid was summoned. The Hospital Assistant who attended them declared that they were probably under the influence of a mixture of ganja and dhatura. That same night one of the men died, and necropsy disclosed death by narcotic poisoning—apparently dhatura, as seeds of that plant were found in the stomach. When the survivors were in a condition to relate what had befallen them, they stated that a Brahman, who had volunteered to accompany them in their pilgrimage to Puri, gave them some sweets to eat and soon afterwards disappeared with their money. Some remnants of the sweets were produced, and it was ascertained that they had been manufactured for the Brahman by a Bania, and that a powder given by the Brahman had been added to the other ingredients. Prompt action on the part of the Police led to the arrest of the poisoner at the Bilaspur Railway Station, where he was instantly recognized by one of the aggrieved parties who went with the Police. While being brought back, he tried to escape by jumping out of the train. Rupees 261 were found in his possession. Enquiry elicited the fact that the man had come originally from a village in Mirzapur, and the police Superintendent of that district was communicated with and furnished with a copy of his photograph. On this he was identified as the perpetrator of a similar offence in Mirzapur. The complainant in that case was sent down and he picked out the prisoner from among 15 other under-trial prisoners in jail. This case ultimately ended in acquittal. The Chemical Examiner found dhatura the contents of the stomach, but not in the sweetsmeats, and the evidence was not absolutely conclusive. The accused was again arrested and sent down to Mirzapur, where he was awarded a sentence of three years' rigorous imprisonment for the similar offence committed there. In the same report are also to be found mentioned two cases of murder due to brutal ignorance and superstition. One of these murders arose from a belief in witchcraft and was committed in the Chanda district. The victim was a young boy whom his aunt enticed to her house on a promise of giving him fruit to eat. This she did and put the boy to sleep; while asleep she struck him with her fists and rendered him insensible; and then deliberately cut his throat with a knife and disposed of the body by placing it in a hollow scooped out in the floor of the house for working a weaving loom. The father of the boy was reported to be a wizard, and the death of two of the woman's children was ascribed to witchcraft practised by him. The culprit on conviction received a death sentence. Another instance of a superstitious reason for murder is furnished in a case reported from Raipur:—A Chamar whose children never long survived their birth is said to have consulted a jatruwaliah as to the means of averting such calamity in future, as he was expecting another child to be born to him. He was advised to propitiate his tutelary deity, and it was suggested to him that the best way of doing this was to offer some other person's child as a sacrifice. Shortly after this a young child was sacrificed in the village and was not to be found. The Chamar was observed by the villagers to be going very frequently to a well in his enclosure for no apparent purpose. Suspicion was thus roused, the well was dragged and the body of the child brought up. Other circumstances also tended to establish his guilt and a capital sentence was awarded him.

THE NORTON ASSAULT CASE.

JUDGMENT. THE following is the full text of the judgment delivered by Justices Prinsep and Hill in the above case:— This case is of some local importance, and has excited considerable interest in the community. Of the two accused we have only one before us, who is known as the first accused, styled, Prince Jani Mirza, whom the Magistrate has convicted of an assault upon the complainant Norton, but at the same time has abstained from passing sentence, requiring him within the terms of section 562, Cr. P. C. to give a bond to appear and receive sentence when called upon. We were moved on behalf of the complainant, who represented to us that on the facts found by the Chief Presidency Magistrate, this order was not a proper order. Prima facie, we were of opinion that there were good grounds for this, and we also thought that the sentence on the second accused was inappropriate and inadequate. We accordingly called upon the two accused to show cause why the order, under section 562 in respect of the first accused, and the sentence in respect of the second accused, should not be set aside, and such other order passed as this Court may seem fit. The second accused has not been arrested, and after one postponement the case has proceeded against the first accused only. The Magistrate has found that the two accused were driving one evening in different conveyances abreast near the north entrance of the Fort; that the complainant Norton was driving with his wife in a pony-car, and being unable to pass their conveyance owing to the crowded state of the road he called out, "Hi you: biyin hath luga" so as to obtain space on their side of the road to enable him to pass. It was contended before the Magistrate and also before us that, in addition to these words, Norton used the abusive expression soor, which excited a corresponding objectionable expression from the accused in reply. The Magistrate has found that Norton did not use this expression, and, after hearing the whole of the evidence, we agree with the Magistrate. The road seems to have been cleared without any movement on the part of the accused, and Norton passed on trotting, the other two conveyances passing at a walk. From this spot Norton drove at a trot in the direction of Prinsep's Ghat, and had about reached that place when he was overtaken by the first accused whose conveyance was driven with a faster horse. The question which arises, and which has been contested in argument before us is "Who was the driver

of that conveyance?" It has been found by the Magistrate that the driver was the first accused. Norton and Mrs. Norton, his wife, both stated in the Magistrate's Court that the first accused was not driving, but was seated by the driver. The Magistrate, however, has preferred the evidence of Major Williams on this point, and has held that the accused was himself driving. Major Williams had not a very good opportunity of seeing who was driving, and his attention was probably, not specially directed to that matter, for he was rapidly passing the accused. Both Mr. and Mrs. Norton positively say that the first accused was not driving. It has been represented before us by learned counsel on behalf of the accused that this was an exaggeration, and it is suggested that it was deliberately made for the purpose of adding force to the complaint made. We can see no reason either for disbelieving Mr. and Mrs. Norton in this respect, or for thinking that this statement was either due to a mistake or to any desire to exaggerate their case. The two conveyances were then abreast near Prinsep's Ghat. The conveyance in which the first accused and two companions were seated having overtaken Norton's conveyance, and having reached it, pulled up. It is important to notice these facts because they seem to show unmistakably that it was the intention of the driver and the occupants of this conveyance to pursue and overtake Norton's conveyance. The first accused as stated by Norton and by Mrs. Norton then turned round, and deliberately put out his tongue for the purpose of offering an insult. The Magistrate has accepted this statement, and we have no doubt that the Magistrate's finding is perfectly correct. Mr. Norton next states that he asked the first accused for his name. The evidence for the defence is, to the effect that on Norton saying something, the first accused turned to his companions who did not understand English, and asked what he said, upon which the companions replied, "He is talking some gibberish" which raised a laugh, and it is stated that it was this laugh which caused annoyance to Mr. Norton. We think there is no reason to accept this view of the case. Norton undoubtedly spoke to the accused, as he has described and it seems that thereupon the first accused caught hold of the whip and commenced to strike at Norton and his pony. For the defence it is contended that in so acting, the first accused was merely defending himself from an apprehended attack by Mr. Norton who had raised his whip in a threatening manner. We can find no evidence upon which we can adopt this suggestion. Mr. Norton states, and we think truly states, that he took his whip out to lash his pony, and bring it alongside the conveyance of the first accused, and there is nothing to show that he in any way raised his whip or attempted to use it on the first accused. Indeed, it is impossible to believe that, if Norton was attacked, as he admittedly was attacked, by the first accused, that, if he had his whip ready at hand, he should not have retaliated. The assault by the accused could not be regarded as an act of defence against an apprehended attack by Norton. There has been a good deal of stress laid in the course of the argument by learned counsel for the accused, that Norton admitted that he attempted to stop the conveyance of the first accused in order to obtain his name by wearing him towards the edge of the road, and it is suggested that this was a provocation which the accused might justly resent. This, however, is no part of the assault. The assault was committed at an earlier period, and the only excuse made was that it was done in self-defence to protect himself against an apprehended attack by Norton. We think there are no grounds at all for believing, that there was any such reasonable apprehension, or that the assault was committed with that object. It seems to us that, on these facts the assault of the first accused was premeditated. Mr. Norton had no particular reason to take offence at what had passed on the previous occasion. He was not obstructed in any particular manner for it appears that he passed on very soon after he had asked the accused to make way for him, and we do not think there was anything particularly insulting in the terms used by Mr. Norton towards the accused in saying, "Hi you biyin hath luga". It was not perhaps a very courteous mode of address, but it was not insulting as it is a form of expression generally used by Europeans who are not scholars, and not in the habit of using honorific terms. Nevertheless, although there may have been no reason on Norton's part to take offence, there is no doubt that what Norton did caused great offence to the first accused for he pursued Norton and overtook him at a distance somewhat about half-a-mile, and while he was so proceeding there was a lapse of some time during which one would suppose that any feeling of irritation might have cooled. The incident was deliberately renewed by the first accused by putting out his tongue for the purpose of insulting Norton, and in so doing, it seems to us, he brought himself within the terms of section 504 of the Indian Penal Code, by intentionally insulting Norton, and thereby giving provocation to him either intending or knowing it. Likely that such provocation would cause him to break the public peace. We observe that although the Magistrate found that this insult was offered, he has not dealt with the particular offence which has been indicated. In excuse for his proceeding in this direction the accused in his written statement states that he as usual was driving towards his house, which lay in that direction. We observe that the evidence for the defence shows that he did not proceed homewards, but went a considerable distance in the opposite direction, towards Dhuruntollah, where he left his two companions, and then went home in another conveyance. It is possible that he may have changed his mind, but this deviation is not explained, and we are inclined to think that the explanation offered was made to meet the suggestion which was inevitable, namely, that he was driving with the intention of overtaking Norton for the purpose of renewing the incident that had taken place. Mr. Allen, who appeared for the accused, has vigorously contended that his client had reason to complain of Norton's conduct, and that Norton had no reason to complain of what occurred. It seems to us from the evidence that Norton had throughout shown great forbearance and self-control. If he had not done so, we have no doubt that a very serious breach of the peace would have taken place in a most public place in Calcutta, thereby causing a public scandal. Norton proceeded in a very reasonable manner

to demand the name of the accused, and there was no justification at all on the part of the accused in assaulting him in the manner that he did. We observe that in the statement that the accused himself put in, in his trial before the Magistrate, he expressed regret and offered an apology to Mrs. Norton. He states that, "I emphatically deny that I ever struck or abused or in any way insulted either Mr. or Mrs. Norton, but I say at once that if my whip at any time touched Mrs. Norton, or if my conduct in any way inconvenienced or annoyed her, I offer her an ample unreserved apology, and ask her to feel assured that I never had the slightest intention of striking her or of causing annoyance to her or her husband, Mr. Norton. I only did this to protect myself from what I apprehended as an assault." It will be observed that the apology then made, was made solely to Mrs. Norton, and that there was no expression of regret in any way towards Mr. Norton. Mr. Allen, however, informs us that at the close of the trial, he, on behalf of his client, offered an apology also to Norton. No doubt he was competent in this manner to act for his client, but when we have a statement deliberately made by the accused to this effect, we cannot attach any importance to a statement afterwards made at the close of the trial by counsel for the accused. This apology, it may be observed, is coupled with an emphatic denial that he ever struck or abused or in any way insulted either Norton or Mrs. Norton. The denial, as we have already observed, is contrary to what has been amply proved by the evidence on the record. And it may be added that, however, apologetic the attitude of counsel may have been in the lower court, in the argument before us there has been no attempt at apology, and his attitude throughout has been one of complaint of the conduct of Norton, that Norton is altogether responsible for that occurrence and that his conduct amply justified whatever his client did. The Magistrate, having found all the facts against the accused, has summed up the case in this way. He states that he is not prepared to find that the lash on Mrs. Norton was intentional, but that whilst the accused was striking Norton one of the lashes given, inadvertently, fell on Mrs. Norton. He finds also that the first accused has committed an assault at least on Norton. He next finds that the first accused is a boy fourteen years old, and a gentleman who as he has no doubt, got frightened when he found Norton insist upon getting his name, and used his whip in a manner that he ought not to have done. Now, in respect of this, it may be observed that the evidence before the Magistrate of the boy's age consisted of the evidence of the munshi, who is a witness for the defence, and who stated that he has been only two or two-and-a-half years in the family. We think that this evidence is not reliable, for we observe from the evidence given by this witness in regard to the facts of this case that he has shown very great bias towards the first accused, and in some respects has overstated the case, so as to make statements describing the facts in a manner in which they could not have occurred. The Magistrate had an opportunity, no doubt, of forming his own opinion as to the age of the first accused from his appearance. The accused has also been present in this Court, so as to enable us to form a similar opinion, and we have also been confronted with his younger brother who was a witness in this case, and who described himself as a boy of thirteen. Now, accepting the statement of the younger brother, that he is thirteen, and comparing his appearance with that of his elder brother, the first accused, it is impossible not to come to the conclusion that there must be at least four or five years difference in age between them. At all events, we have no hesitation in saying that from the appearance of the elder brother his age certainly exceeds fourteen years. The next ground taken by the Magistrate is that the first accused got frightened when he found that Norton insisted upon getting his name. The evidence shows that, so far from getting frightened, he had deliberately pursued Norton, and had deliberately insulted him so as to provoke an assault, and thereupon himself became the aggressor by commencing the assault. We cannot understand how it could be found upon these facts that the first accused lost his head through fright. The Magistrate finally sums up that, considering the age of the first accused, and the trivial nature of the assault, and the fact that he apologised to Mrs. Norton for what he unintentionally did to her, an order under section 562, such as he passed, was a proper order in this case. We have already expressed our opinion that we do not agree with the Magistrate that the age of the accused is fourteen years, nor can we accept the Magistrate's description of the offence as trivial. It was, we think, an aggravated assault. It was, as has been shown, premeditated and carried out as a renewal of a very trifling incident which had already occurred, and after an interval of at least five or six minutes, and we cannot regard it as trivial having regard to the character of the assault as well as to the place and time in which it occurred. And, as to the fact relied upon by the Magistrate that the accused had apologised to Mrs. Norton in no way affects Norton, who is the sole complainant in this case. Having regard to these circumstances we think that the order under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is not a proper order. No doubt the accused is a member of a distinguished family, but he should have recollected that when he acted in this unjustifiable manner, he was likely to bring a stain on his character. We accordingly set aside the Magistrate's order and direct that Prince Jani Mirza, accused No. 1 be fined Rs. 100; in default, fourteen days' simple imprisonment.

THE Indo-European Telegraph Office at Karachi will presently be lit by electric light. Two most successful trials have taken place. The installations were worked by dynamo of 190 volts circuit, and Hornsby Akroyd oil engine of eight horse power.

Troublesome to the Army. During the civil war, as well as in our late war with Spain, diarrhoea was one of the most troublesome diseases the army had to contend with. In many instances it became chronic and the old soldiers still suffer from it. Mr. David Taylor of Wind Ridge, Greene Co., Pa., is one of these. He uses Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy and says he never found anything that would give him such quick relief. It is for sale by SMITH STANISTREET & CO. AND B. K. PAUL & CO.

