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NO 73

পদক-পাতক।
 দলপ-বহিরাহ
 বলা ৩০ টাকা।
 পরিশিষ্ট বহু।
 স্বতন্ত্রাধার পত্রিকা থাকিলে প্রার্থনা।

শ্রীমদেবপ্রকাশ।

শ্রীমদেব প্রভুর প্রিয় অমৃতচর ও শিবা
 শ্রীশ্রীশানানগর কৃত।
 শ্রীমদেবপ্রভুর সীমা সর্বকালে অনেক নতুন
 কথা আছে এবং শ্রীমদেবপ্রভুর হৃদয় সীমা
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 মমৃত, বালা, পত্রিকা থাকিলে প্রার্থনা।

অনুসঙ্গবন্দী।

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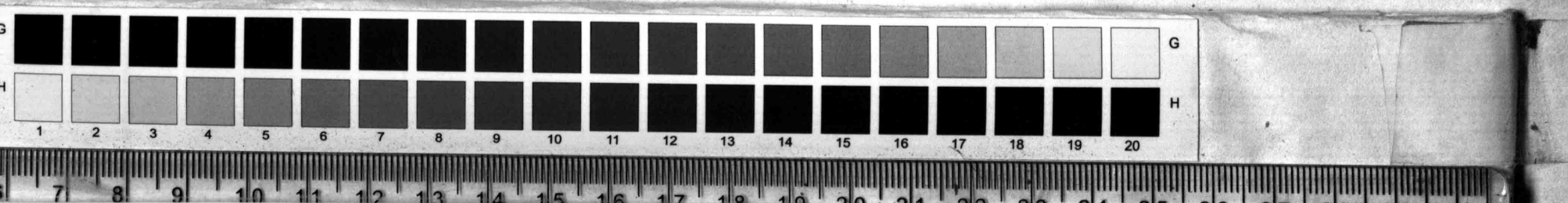
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Women detectives are useful and much used; indeed, they are as indispensable to the successful conduct of a detective agency as this on the authority of a man manager of such an agency—as love is to the world or water to the sea; but they are elusive, they work in secret, the public never hears of them, and theirs is one vocation and performance that must get along without the vanity balm of praise and recognition.

"There is something wrong at the Heighupton hospital. Patients have had their jewelry stolen from time to time, and some of the nurses have lost money and valuables," says the Heighupton superintendent on enlisting detective aid.

"Humph! Suspect any body on the premises? Injuries the head of the agency."

"Not a soul. All trustworthy people. It's a mystery," came the answer, and the first step toward the clearing up of the mystery is for the head detective to send a telegram to his right-hand woman auxiliary.

"Ever been a trained nurse?" he asks as she comes in bag in hand. "The right-hand woman smiles. 'I guess I can get a certificate,' she says, 'and the cap and uniform are rather becoming. Where to? What's up?'"

"That is what she is to find out, she is told, and next day there is a new nurse taken on at the Heighupton hospital, and in three or four weeks discoveries are made that astound the hoodwinked hospital officials and turn good money into the coffers of the Up-to-Snuff detective agency. The amateur nurse did not study her materia medica and probe into hospital and sick room ethics for nothing. A mere man would have been of no use in this emergency.

"Sharp & Wily are suing us for injury to that Krobes girl last winter. They say she was lamed in getting off the car and want big damages," says the lawyer of the railroad company to the detective he employs. "There's" screw loose somewhere. Find out what their game is."

The right-hand woman, or the one next best, if she is detailed elsewhere, is set to work on this trail. The injured girl is a seamstress who worked in the family of her lawyer. There is reason to suspect that her injury did not result from the railroad trip; but Sharp & Wily are hard to cope with and have carefully covered up their tracks. The woman detective bethinks her that she needs a seamstress, and sets about securing the injured girl for the job. She succeeds in this, but fails to find out anything worth while further than to get an insight into the girl's character. Her report as to the progress of the case, written and submitted at stipulated intervals to the head office, is interesting reading. Several months after, just when the railroad counsel are about giving up hope, there being no clew to work on, the injured girl in a moment of conscience-stricken emotion induced by several visits to a clairvoyant owns to having been snubbed by Sharp & Wily to allege injury and sue for the damages, half of which were to go to them.

"And who was the clairvoyant you took the girl before?" the head detective asks of his successful employe. "Mrs. Starseer, the great know-your-fate expert," is the answer, and the head detective shakes hands with Mrs. Starseer and says she is a great one with resources all unexpected and invaluable.

Sometimes it is as a demure hard-working secretary, a stenographer, a diligent but not overclever, that the woman detective works, one so thick-skulled and unnoticing, indeed, that the business man at whose elbow she sits talks out his plans quite naturally to his confidential helpers, and is more than glad to pay the woman and let her go at the end of two weeks' trial. Afterward, perhaps in puzzling how the Up-to-Snuff people could possibly have got hold of his business. Miss Thick-head's employer may half suspect that the young woman was brighter than he took her for, but he can't prove it, nor can any one else proud it.

The detective sometimes works in the guise of a nursemaid, again as the telephone girl in a hotel lobby, or as the captivating demonstrator at a country fair, showing how delightful Froth & Bubb's preparation tastes made without milk, or how tapioca custard can be made without boiling. "Jack of all trades and mistress of one" might be inscribed on the woman detective's letter paper, with a mask and domino as exemplars, but then she uses so many different shades and qualities in her various characters.

The detective's life is as full of incident as an egg of meat. A thousand dollars worth of silks and satins have been stolen from a wholesale house and woman's services are needed in the investigation. The owner of fine diamond rings and ornaments wakes up one day to the fact that paste has been substituted for the genuine stones. Consternation, and the detective agency answers to her appeal by sending a first-rate woman to talk over matters. Things have been disappearing from Rank and Fashion's store, and they ask for an expert woman's services for a day or two, somebody who can act on the quiet and do nothing loud or sensational. Her shops usually never had a detective in pay. A lady comes out of Rank and Fashion's one day all ready to get into her carriage when a small gloved hand is laid upon her arm.

"You have goods of the house not paid for. Kindly come back with me," the owner of the hand says quietly. "The lady looks justly indignant. 'Do you know who I am?' she says haughtily. 'You are making a mistake. I have a running account here and I am given first view of all their prettiest things. The firm will not overlook—'"

"I know who you are, but you must come," says the detective in a tone that admits no mistaking, and the two pass back to the elevator and up to the fourth floor private room reserved for such delicate business. "There are four pairs of \$2 kid gloves in your corsage, some nick-knacks from the jewellery counter and an expensive lace handkerchief up your sleeve," the shoplifter is told. "Give the things up quietly and nothing will be said only you must close your account here once for all and never enter these doors

again. Persist in refusing to return them and there will be trouble," and the detective glances at the telephone so conveniently there by her desk.

A moment's hesitation for review of the consequences, for thought; the startled husband in his downtown office, of the embarrassment if not public exposure, and then the woman weakens.

"I don't know why I took them," she says lamely, drawing the gloves from her dress. "I was going to give them to my maid; she's a comfort. When one pays out so much money for yearly accounts little things like these don't seem to matter."

"When I first went into the business it worried me to have to pump people and then give them away," said an experienced woman detective. "I felt as if I was a sneak and not acting on the square, but after I had helped show up several polished dishonorable I got my bearings and felt better. My business is to circumvent criminals, just as other women's business is to sew, or cook, or take dictation. People who class women detectives in with adventuresses are unfair. An adventuress works only for her own benefit, and to get money or advantage from her victim. She isn't true to anybody, not even to herself. The conscientious detective is faithful to her employer, and derives no individual gain from the pretenses and deceptions she has recourse to. Her work benefits the whole community, the whole world. Women are not as extensively used in detective work in this country as in England. There they are trusted with diplomatic and international work involving big issues, but they are recognized as indispensable on many occasions, and are coming to be more trusted."

"I got into the business by accident. A man I knew well was a detective, and when mysterious things happened, murders and robberies that I read of in the papers, I used to think them out and from a theory of my own as to the guilty party. Of course a detective lives with his finger on his lips, and this man never told me anything, but he saw I had an instinct for the trade, and when I was 17 offered me employment. The firm put me on several unimportant cases to try my mettle, and in a couple of years I was made all over the country for them and giving satisfaction. Many women in the belief that they can do big things in detective work apply for place at the different agencies, but only one out of a dozen ever gives satisfaction. They may be clever dissemblers, really quite accomplished, but lacking in discretion or in judgment as to what should be done with the knowledge gained; or they may be self-willed and lazy about sending in their reports. Every detective has to carry out instructions to the letter just like a soldier. I worked at a will case for three years and never failed to send in a detailed report of progress or back-sets each night if I was anywhere within reach of a post office. In this case a fortune turned on the life of a little child whose mother died at its birth, and whose father, a physician, would only have the money if the child lived. The baby was a twin whose fellow died when two days old, and was itself so delicate and anaemic that the identity of the healthy, stronglimbed boy presented three years later as this 'self-made little one was doubted by next-heir-at-law. The physician had moved off with his charge and scattered his original staff of servants to the four winds; but we tracked him and them and eventually proved the case. I helped prove it through the old nurse, who had been pensioned off with a Texas stock ranch on which to set her son up in business. I got caught on purpose in a northern near the old woman's cabin, was too sick to travel for a week, and in the enforced companionship further strengthened our acquaintance by the delicacies I had brought in my trunk. Many circumstances in the nurse's past life were related that helped rivet suspicion. The real child had died and its place been supplanted. One successful detective, a married woman, got her first insight into the science of being other than she seemed under the direction of a shrewd advertising agent for a fashionable store, who employed her to shop and get inside knowledge for his firm. Although in reduced circumstances she had the grand air and fine taste, just the requisites needed. The articles purchased on her shopping tours were sent to her home address but were afterward transferred to the firm's warehouses where later she made her report all on the quiet, not as an ordinary employe. Discovering her value, she offered her services to a secret agency and now scarcely a month passes but her thoughts and energies are bent on some important mission. She went off on the 11:30 P. M. train for Memphis and from the look of her, well groomed and carelessly at ease, you would take it to be some social or domestic pleasure that called rather than the shadowing of a sly and slippery villain; and then a light unnoticing manner that conceals the let-nothing-escape qualification beneath is the main armor of a detective."

GIGANTIC GAME FISH.

DR. FREDERICK W. TRUE of the Smithsonian Institution has just started for Newfoundland, where he is going to hunt finback whales. His object is to secure specimens of these interesting cetaceans for the National museum, but incidentally, he will see some of the most tremendous sport that can be had in the world. Persons who have had an opportunity to take part in this species of chase declare that tiger hunting is tame by comparison. Besides, it has the advantage of being something entirely new.

Recently a fishing station has been established on the Newfoundland coast for carrying on the finback-hunting industry, and it is thither that Dr. True has gone. The importance of the fact is realized that hitherto this species of whale has not been recognized at all commercially. While it yields a valuable oil, as well as other useful products, it is such a formidable creature to tackle that the pursuit of it has been regarded as hopelessly unprofitable. Besides being one of the largest whales—it reaches seventy feet in length and a weight of thirty tons—it is enormously powerful and almost incredibly active. From a sportsman's point of view, therefore, it is typically a game fish, and as such it is now sought.

Fishermen who have been so lucky as to catch a tarpon never tire of telling about the exciting experience. Imagine a tarpon seventy feet long and weighing thirty tons, and you have a notion of the finback whale when it is coveting on the end of a line. Fortunately, the species is very numerous, having

not been an object of pursuit by man until lately. The chase of it in boats is practically out of the question, by reason of the formidable character of the animal and its extreme activity. Only within the last few years has a method been found by which it may be taken without too much risk, and at a cost of labor and material so low as to render its capture commercially profitable.

The first stations for the finback whale fishery were established on the coast of Norway, and there the enterprise is conducted on quite a considerable scale already. Such a station comprises a plant for boiling, drying, and grinding the flesh and bones of the animals, which are converted into fertilizer, and for converting the oil into marketable shape. The latter product, derived from the blubber, is utilized chiefly in the manufacture of leather goods. In connection with such an establishment there must also be a coopeage, for making the tens of thousands of barrels and hogs heads required to contain the oil. Last, but not least, there must be several small steamers for the whaling expeditions, and these are built expressly for the purpose.

Last summer Emperor William went to Norway for the purpose of hunting finback whales, and he declared that it was the greatest fun that he ever had in his life. It was more than exciting—it was stupendous. No small boats are employed for the capture of the animal, which is shot with a lance fired from a sort of cannon on the bow of the whaling steamer. To this lance a line is attached, and the whale, immediately on being struck, starts off for the other end of creation at the rate of about sixty miles an hour, dragging the vessel after it. If the lance holds and the line does not part there follows some simply gorgeous sport, the fish keeping on until its great strength is exhausted.

Now it dives to the bottom of the sea, sinking like a stone and bringing an enormous strain upon the bow of the steamer, which is actually dragged partly under the water, so that the waves break over her in foamy sheets; again the enraged quarry rises to surface with incredible velocity and leaps clear into the air, exposing the whole of its great body. This sort of thing goes on until the beast is utterly exhausted, when it lies helpless and floating so as to be easily dispatched. This is the sort of sport that Dr. True is going to engage in on the Newfoundland coast, and incidentally he will secure at least two or three of the finbacks for scientific purposes. One of them may be shipped to Washington entire; if not, a cast in papier mache will be made of it. The skeletons of the others will be carefully divested of flesh, disarticulated, and packed in boxes for shipment.

The finback fishery, having had its first beginnings in Norway, was next taken up in Iceland, and there is every reason to suppose that it will become an important industry in Newfoundland. Whales of this species are very plentiful in those waters, and it may be expected that before long well-to-do sportsmen in this country will make expeditions to Newfoundland for the purpose of hunting them. This may be done, indeed, in steam yachts, but not to the best advantage, inasmuch as such vessels are too fragile. The steamers employed in the fishery, as already stated, are specially constructed, being made extraordinarily stanch; otherwise they might suffer serious damage from the pranks of the fish. Of course a whale is a mammal but one speaks of it as a fish from a non-scientific view point.

This year some enterprising Japanese have sent an order to Norway for several steamers of the kind used in the finback fishery. These whales are plentiful in Pacific as well as in Atlantic waters, and it is proposed to engage in their pursuit off the coast of Japan. Indeed, it is likely to be more profitable there than elsewhere, inasmuch as the Japs, who eat very little of the flesh of land mammals, are fond of whale meat. Accordingly it is the intention of those who are engaged in the enterprise to tow the newly-caught finbacks to land and sell their meat fresh in the market, in which shape it will bring more money than in the form of dried and ground fertilizer.

Here, then, in the finback fishery is found an entirely new and profitable industry which is likely to revive whaling to a considerable extent though employing novel methods and apparatus hitherto unthought of. The finback is one of the whalebone whales but the "bone," it yields is of little value, coming in very short pieces, and lacking elasticity. A single "right" whale on the other hand, sometimes produces several thousand dollars, worth of this valuable stuff. As is well known, the whalebone is found in the mouth and its purpose in the animal's economy is to strain the food. The creature takes several barrels of water into its mouth at a gulp, and, with the aid of this strainer, separates out the minute pelagic mollusks and other tiny organisms on which it subsists.

Naturalists say that the ancestors of the modern whales were land animals, walking on all fours and covered with hair. Even now the unborn whale has hair, which disappears at birth. As if to confirm the theory mentioned, there has recently been found in Alabama a fossil whale with hind legs. Of course, the flippers of a whale are true arms, having parts that correspond to all the structural elements of a human forearm, including the various bones in detail and even the five fingers of the hand. The "right" whale, by the way, is so called not because it is the right kind of a whale, but for the reason that its back is a straight and unmarked by a fin, as in the case of finback.—"Washington Post."

MR. NIGEL JONES, Assistant Superintendent, Telegraphs, Bombay, is transferred to Ajmere, vice Mr. Mackenzie, who proceeds on leave.

The Madras Government have passed final orders on the scheme for the resettlement of the Masulipatam portion of the Krishna District.

INTIMATION has been received from Home that the Plague Commissioner's report will be published at the end of this month.

MR. O'CONNOR, Director-General of Statistics, closes his office at Simla early in November and proceeds to Calcutta. He probably visits Bombay during the cold weather.

A RESOLUTION will shortly issue in the Public Works Department regarding the formation of a Royal Commission to consider railway projects as proposed by Lord Curzon in his recent speech.

ADVICES from Home state that there are several candidates in the running for the Finance Membership, vice Mr. Dawkins. The question which believe is not likely to be settled before November.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS.

BABU BEPIN BEHARY BANERJEE, Offig Dy Magte and Dy Collr, is posted to Chittagong. Mr. T. A. Pearson, Chief Presy Magte, Calcutta, is allowed leave for one month and ten days, under article 211 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Maulvi Syud Falzuddin Hossain, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, on leave, is posted temporarily to Mysmensingh.

Babu Srigopal Bhattacharjee, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, on leave, is posted to Cuttack.

Maulvi Mahomed Abbas Ali, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Tangail, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Fakir Chandra Chatterjee, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Mysmensingh, is appointed to have charge of the Tangail sub-div.

Mr. G. Gordon, Dist and Sess Judge, Chittagong, is appointed to act, in addition to his own duties, as Judge of Dacca, during the period of the ensuing Civil Court vacation.

Shamul-ulama Abul Khair Muhammad Siddiq, Asst Insp of Muhammadan Education, Rajshahi and Burdwan Divs, is allowed leave for two months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Maulvi Muhammad Sulaiman, B. A., Dy Insp of Schools, Pabna, is appointed to act as Asst Insp of Muhammadan Education, Rajshahi and Burdwan Div.

Babu Brajendra Kumar Guha, Asst Insp of Schools, Burdwan Div, is appointed to have temporary charge of the office of Inspector of Schools, Burdwan Circle, in addition to his own duties.

Babu Nagendra Nath Chatterji, sub pro tem Munsif, of Govindpore, but will continue to act in his present appt as Munsif of Maulvi Bazar.

The following promotions, confirmations and appointments are sanctioned in the Judicial Branch of the Provincial Civil Service:—

Promoted to the second grade of Sub Judges. Babu Kali Kumar Bose, Babu Gopal Chandra Banerji, retired.

Confirmed in the third grade of Sub Judges. Babu Triguna Prasanna Bose, Jadu Nath Ghosh and Maulvi Abdul Bari.

Promoted sub pro tem to the third grade of Sub Judges. Babus Goneshyam Gupta, and Aswini Kumar Guha.

Confirmed in the first grade of Munsif. Babu Bepin Behary Chatterjee, Lolit Kumar Bose, Bhuvan Mohan Gangooly, Surjo Narain Das.

Promoted sub pro tem to the first grade of Munsifs. Babus Sasi bhushan Basu, Mohim Chandra Sircar, and Prayag Nath.

Confirmed in the second grade of Munsifs. Babus Annada Charan Sen, Bankim Chandra Mitra, Brajendra Lal Dey, and Maulvi Ali Ahmad.

Promoted sub pro tem to the second grade of Munsifs. Maulvi Ali Ahmad, Babus Pankaja Kumar Chattopadhyaya, and Sasibhushan Sen.

Confirmed in the third grade of Munsifs. Babus Surendra Nath Ghose, Umesh Chander Chuckerbutty, Lolit Mohan Dass, Rajendra Lal Lahiry, and Dino Nath De.

Promoted sub pro tem to the third grade of Munsifs. Babus Rajendra Lal Lahiry, Dino Nath De, Achinta Nath Mitter, and Bhugobutty Charan Kundu.

Confirmed in the fourth grade of Munsifs. Babus Nagendra Nath Chatterji, Mohor Lal De, Bejoy Kesub Mitter, Jotindra Chandra Sen, and Sarat Chandra Ghose.

Appointed to the fourth grade of Munsifs. Mr. Mahomed Zahoor, Babu Durga Das Chuckerbutty.

Appointed sub pro tempore to the fourth grade of Munsifs. Maulvi Amir Ali, Babu Kumudini Kant Roy, and Onil Chandra Dutt, B. L.

Babu Triguna Prasanna Bose, Munsif of Lakhimpur, and Addl Sub Judge of Birbhum, Faridpur and Saran, who is now acting as Sub Judge of Birbhum, on deputation to Bankura, is confirmed as Sub Judge of Birbhum, but to continue on deputation to Bankura.

Babu Mohor Lal De, sub pro tem Munsif of Lakhimpur, is confirmed in his present appointment.

Babu Durga Das Chuckerbutty, Offig Munsif of South Raajan, is confirmed in his present appointment.

Maulvi Amir Ali, Offig Munsif of Araria, on deputation as an Addl Munsif of Dubrajpur, is appointed to be a sub pro tem Munsif of Araria, but to continue to act as an Addl Munsif of Dubrajpur.

Babu Durga Charan Sen, Munsif of Araria, who is now acting as an Addl Sub Judge of Faridpur, is appointed to be a Munsif of Patuakhali, but to continue to act, until further orders, in his present appointment.

Babu Jadu Nath Ghose, Munsif of Bagerhat, and pro tem Addl Sub Judge of Bhagalpur, who is now officiating as Sub Judge of Jessore on deputation to Khulna is confirmed in his present appointment.

Babu Sarat Chandra Ghose, sub pro tem Munsif of Bagerhat, is confirmed in his present appointment.

Babu Joghesh Chandra Mitter, Sub Judge and Asst Sessions Judge, Jessore, who is now acting as Addl Dist and Sess Judge of Dacca and Mysmensingh, is appointed to be Sub Judge and Asst Sess Judge of Dinajpur, but to continue to act, until further orders, in his present appointment.

Babu Bejoy Kesub Mitter, sub pro tem Munsif of Bhola, is confirmed in his present appointment.

Babu Shyam Kishore Bose, Sub Judge of Patna, who is now acting as an Addl Sub Judge of Sylhet, is appointed to be Sub Judge of Rangpur, but to continue to act, until further orders, as an Addl Sub Judge of Sylhet.

The services of Babu Aswini Kumar Guha, Munsif of Patiya, who is now officiating as Sub Judge of Rangpur, are placed at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner of Assam. He will, however, continue to act as Sub Judge of Rangpur.

Babu Kumudini Kant Roy, Offig Munsif of Patiya, is appointed to be a sub pro tem Munsif of Patiya.

The services of Babu Nagendra Nath Chatterji, sub pro tem Munsif, are placed at the disposal of the Chief Commr of Assam.

Babu Jotindra Chandra Sen, sub pro tem Addl Munsif of Munshiganj, is confirmed as Munsif of Gaibanda.

Babu Nilmani Dass, Sub Judge of Patna, on deputation to Mysmensingh, on leave, is appointed to be Sub Judge of Dacca.

Babu Tara Prasanna Banerjee, Sub Judge of Dacca, who is now officiating as Sub Judge of Saran, is appointed to be Sub Judge of Mysmensingh, but to continue to act, until further orders, in his present appointment.

Babu Bhagavati Charan Mitra, Sub Judge of Midnapore, who has been appointed to be Sub Judge of Mysmensingh, on deputation to Saran, is appointed to be Sub Judge of Patna, on deputation as an Addl Sub Judge of Mysmensingh, but to act as an Addl Sub Judge of Birbhum, Faridpur and Saran, on deputation to Saran.

Babu Ghaneshyam Gupta, Munsif of South Raajan, is appointed to be a Munsif of Araria, on deputation as an Addl Mnsif of Dubrajpur. Babu Ghaneshyam Gupta, who is now officiating as Sub Judge of Patna, on deputation to Mysmensingh, is appointed to be sub pro tem Addl Sub Judge of Birbhum, Faridpur and Saran, but to continue to act as Sub Judge of Patna, on deputation as an Addl Sub Judge of Mysmensingh.

Babu Lalit Mohan Pal, Sub-Dy Collr, Pirojpur, is allowed leave for one month, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Mathura Nath Banerjee, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Collector, Godda, is allowed leave for one month.

The orders of the 26th June 1899, transferring Babu Kadar Nath Banerjee, Sub-Dy Collr, Kalna, to the Vishnupur sub-div, and Maulvi Abdool Wassay, Ahmed, Sub-Dy Collr, Vishnupur, to the Kalna sub-div, are cancelled.

THE DEATH OF A SYCE.

VERDICT AND SENTENCE.

ON the 4th of September, before Mr. H. F. Aston, Sessions Judge, and three Assessors, Mr. Henry Wilson, Stud Groom to H. E. the Governor, was charged under Section 304 (a) with causing the death of a syce, named Bapoo Rajooje, by a rash and negligent act on the night of the 19th August, and further with causing simple hurt to the same, an offence under Section 323 I. P. C.

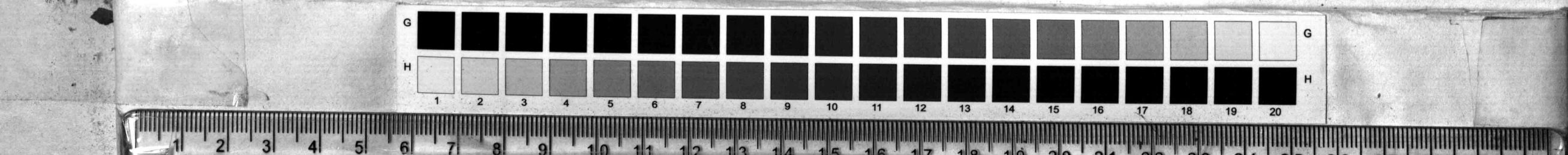
The same evidence that was given before the Magistrate was repeated.

Questioned by the Court, Wilson said that he wished to make the same statement that he made before the Cantonment Magistrate. Mr. Narayan Ramchander then summed up the facts of the case for the prosecution. He said that if he had known accused was going to make the same statement as he had done before the Committing Magistrate, he would not have called a single witness. Accused's statement contained all that there was of the evidence. The prosecution could not say that accused caused the rupture of the spleen, and he, therefore, had nothing to say to the charge under section 304 (a). It might seem strange, he added, that he should take that view of the case. But his duty was to see justice done in the matter. It was most clearly and honestly admitted by accused, that he gave deceased two or three slaps. If that was hurt and caused bodily pain or disease then he was liable to punishment under that charge.

Mr Crawford, in addressing the Court for the defence, said that the course adopted by the Government Prosecutor made his task an easy one. Whatever accused had done, he said was a trifling offence. The essence of an offence under section 304 (a) was doing something rash and negligent. If the death was imputed to him and he had known that the slap he gave the man would cause death it would have been no rashness. In order to obtain a conviction under section 304 (a) it would be necessary to prove that the act caused death. Now, the evidence, which was perfectly clear, showed that accused's act had not caused the man's death. Accused admitted slapping deceased on the head, after which Bapoo, with apparent good honour, picked up his puggee and ran to catch the pony. It was on evidence that he did not catch it at once, and the task apparently took three or four minutes. According to Dr. Sabin's evidence a man with his spleen ruptured by the deceased would only be able to perform his duties for about a minute after; therefore the slaps could not have been the cause of the rupture. Now anyone with any knowledge of a horse knows how it runs away when one goes up to it and catches its ear the most sensitive part of it. It would throw up its head, and thereby probably strike the man on the side or chest. There were many ways in which such an injury might come about; it might have been a kick of a knock, etc., and that it did occur in some such way was very probable when regarding the bruises on his nose. They heard he had come back leaning on the pony's neck, and according to what Dr. Sabin told them the fainting caused by a ruptured spleen would lead to the man's falling down, and the first portion of his body likely to strike the ground would be his nose. Then, as to causing hurt, they had to consider whether what accused did was likely to cause hurt, and whether he did cause any hurt. Hurt being bodily pain, he thought it would be straining the thing to say that the slaps on his puggee caused bodily pain. If, therefore, they considered he did not thus cause pain his client was entitled to be acquitted under that charge also.

Mr. Aston, in explaining the charge to the assessors, said it was not proper in a case of the kind to frame a charge under that of causing death, by a rash and negligent act, and had application been made to him at the commencement of the trial, he would have allowed that charge to be struck out. But as none was made it was not for him to suggest such a course, and he allowed it to go on in order that he might have the whole of the evidence before him and prove it to the bottom. But he now saw that that charge was abandoned by the prosecution and it was for them to confine their attention to the other charge of causing hurt only. The punishment was less if the hurt had been caused by grave and sudden provocation, and they were entitled to consider if such were the case.

In giving their opinion Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Apte were of opinion that there had been grave and sudden provocation. Mr. Chetham found accused not guilty under both heads. His Lordship then delivered judgment. He found accused not guilty of the first offence; causing death by a rash and negligent act; but convicted Mr. Wilson under the second and sentenced him to pay a fine of Rs. 25. The fine was paid.—The Advocate of India.



THE Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA SEPTEMBER 21, 1899

THE EFFECT OF THE MUNICIPAL MEASURE.

WE can guarantee the Government has not been able to realize fully the injury that it has done to Indian aspirations by its Municipal measure. We very well remember the time when the citizens of Calcutta were first asked to elect their representatives. At that time people were afraid to stand, and rate-payers loath to vote. When the representatives found themselves, for the first time, face to face with the Chairman of the Corporation, they had not the courage to utter a word, lest they said something foolish or unconstitutional. The representatives, however, gained knowledge and ground slowly, and could have rendered valuable service, if they had not been driven from office at the next election. The result of the several elections was that, with the exception of a few, every one was unseated and thus the Municipal Board was again filled by new and inexperienced men.

It thus took more than a dozen years for the voters to pick their men, and the representatives to learn their duty. The twenty-eight Commissioners who have resigned form the pick of our society. And what is more, they are the result of a quarter of a century's training. Of course, we had Rajendra Lal, Krishnadas and K. M. Banerjee, but they are dead. We have now Maharajah Sir Joteendra Mohan Tagore, but he has retired. The twenty-eight Commissioners who have resigned can safely be called the best men that we had in Calcutta for Municipal purposes. Well, the Government has driven them from office. No, we beg pardon, the Government has done no such thing. These twenty-eight men have found their position untenable and have therefore resigned.

They have found their position untenable because of the action of the Government. There is no doubt, they are not in the Council Chamber of the Corporation because of this Municipal Bill and of the charges of corruption upon which it is based. The city of Calcutta has lost them, the Government has lost these able, trained and public-spirited men for ever! Now, we dare say, a greater wrong to a nation than this cannot be conceived. They cannot re-enter, because the doors have been shut against them. Besides, if they were thought unfit before, they would be thought equally unfit in the future. How can a member seek to re-enter the Municipality which he has left under the plea that the charge of corruption is hanging over his head? No, it is certain, the country has lost for ever the services of these trained and public-spirited men, the best men that Calcutta could afford for managing its municipal affairs.

The Government has either to persuade them back by some means, or to give up their municipal measure. We fear the Government will do neither, but continue in its work as if nothing has happened. But we dare say, this outward calmness of the Government covers a penitent heart. Sir J. Woodburn, Mr. Bolton, Mr. Baker and their colleagues cannot but be ill at ease on account of this wholesale resignation, though they have no desire to say so. For, they are men and have some generosity at least in their hearts. What can they do now to repair the mischief? Certainly they would do much to be able to do it. Nothing occurs to us, however, that they can, or are likely to adopt to remove the wrong. What they will try to do is to create a race of "Babblers" in the place of Brahmins. What the Government will probably do is to induce some inferior men to do duty for the trained men that have left. But is it possible to make a superior man of an inferior one by mere election?

Of course, the resignation of the Commissioners will not stop the course of the sun, or cause a revolution in England, or hasten the recall of Lord Curzon, but it has thrown the people of India into blank despair. Calcutta is the seat of the Empire and the centre of political thought, whatever little of politics we have here. If the pick of Calcutta society are now forced to retire to give place to inferior men, the effect of such an arrangement on the country will be disastrous in the extreme. Where is the Government leading the people to? What are its intentions? What is the destiny that the Government has voted for the Indians? Who is to reply to these questions? So we say the Government has not been able to realize fully the significance of the measure that it has introduced in haste, and pursued with so much determination and pertinacity.

THE IMPENDING FAMINE AND PROTECTION OF THE COUNTRY.

THE welcome rains have, no doubt, improved the situation,—but how far has yet to be seen. When any disaster overtakes the country, the chief ruler has to bear the brunt of the blow. We, therefore, congratulate Lord Curzon on his good luck. His Excellency would have found his situation intolerable if he had found himself, in the first year of his rule, face to face with a famine. In India the prevalent idea is that famines and such like calamities owe their origin to the sins of the king. Indeed, under Hindu rule when a famine overtook the land, the king had either to provide against it, or to expiate his sins on the funeral pile. Of course, funeral piles are now out of date, but there is not much difference between a Hindu king reducing his body to ashes in a slow fire, and an English Viceroy coping with a wide-spread famine. A famine in India means sleepless nights to a Viceroy—a ceaseless anxiety lest he fails in his duty and causes the death of fellow-beings by his neglect or blunder. When Lord Lytton came to know that, while he was organizing the Delhi Durbar, millions of men were dying in the south, he felt himself the most miserable of men.

The idea that famines are due to the sins of kings is not altogether absurd. Why should a country suffer from famine when a crop has failed? If a man starves because he is out of employ on account of illness, it is presumed that he foolishly squandered away his resources when he was in health.

Every man ought to provide himself with means to meet unforeseen contingencies. In the same manner, every nation must always remain provided to meet external aggressions, internal dissensions and providential visitations. If India cannot meet the strain brought about by the failure of a single crop, there is something radically wrong somewhere. Bearing in mind the fact that this country is governed not by the nation that inhabits it but by rulers who are aliens, there is no doubt of it, that the latter must bear a portion of the responsibility for the visitation of famines. In short, our contention is that India should be relieved of some portion of the burdens imposed upon it and its poverty removed to a certain extent.

We have some experience of these famines. We have been watching them for the last thirty years. And our deliberate conclusion is, that India does not suffer from grain-famine but money-famine. What we mean is that in the worst of years it has been found that there is sufficient grain in the country to feed the people. But yet, in every famine that occurred, people died of starvation, because they had not money enough to purchase the grain. The grain was purchased by foreign exporters, while the people of the country starved. It also sometimes happened that while they had plenty or more than plenty in one side of the country, there was famine in another. There was no means of supplying the deficiency of one quarter by the abundance of the other.

The Government, however, by opening railway communications with feeder roads, is trying its best to remedy the evil mentioned in our last sentence. It has now become possible to feed the south, when overtaken by famine, by a supply from the north, if there is abundance there. But mere supplying the grain will not do in cases where there is dearth of money to purchase it. The Famine Commissions have, however, done immense service to the country by their labours; they have examined every aspect of the question and have thus made it possible for the Government to feed myriads of its subjects in times of famine with the resources at its command.

Without going into details, we can lay two general principles, which should be followed by the Government, in meeting an approaching famine. One is to make *tuccavi* advances to the people freely, without any interest. If this is done before the people have been incapacitated by starvation, it will be possible for them to save themselves without any further help from the Government. These *tuccavi* advances, if made with a little care, are not likely to cause any loss to Government. Loans advanced by Government are never withheld, except under rare circumstances. There is another principle which the Government should follow. The Government should see that the country is not denuded of its grain-stock in famine years by foreign merchants. Such is the poverty of the people that when their food-stuff is being carried, say, to Russia, they have not the money to outbid the merchants who export it. Of course, trade ought to be always kept free, but sufficient grain can yet be retained in the country without, in any way, interfering with the principles of free-trade.

Garsten constructed a rice depot at Patna and the godown in which the rice was deposited was nick-named "Garsten's Folly". His idea was to purchase a large quantity of rice every year and store it in big godowns for times of emergency. It so happened, however, that the godown in which his purchase was stored was not properly constructed and the grain was spoiled. And thus his scheme failed and latterly became an object of ridicule. What we mean is that his plan should be adopted, avoiding his blunders, and given a further trial.

Thus, for instance, let the Government establish grain centres in every province. Let a large quantity of grain be purchased at that time of the year when it sells the cheapest and stored in properly constructed godowns. Let this grain be disposed of next year when the Government has been assured of a bumper or sufficient harvest for that year and with the proceeds let new grain be purchased to be stored again. By this method, as one can see at once, the Government will not lose a pice, nay, make some profit, while it will always be in possession of a large quantity of grain. The other advantage that can be derived from the arrangement is, that it will retard the free exportation of grain in years of scarcity.

Of course, what we are advising the Government to follow, the people themselves can accomplish. But the Indians are not Americans, they have neither the capital nor the enterprise for such large undertakings. They can, however, yet do something in that direction in their small way. Let every one, who can afford it, purchase his year's supply of grain at the time of the year when it is the cheapest. This will at least retard to a considerable extent the exportation of grain in years of dearth.

A BOMBAY FULLER CASE.

THE Fuller case, upon which was based the famous Fuller Minute of Lord Lytton, was recently repeated in the Bombay Presidency. Mr. Fuller was convicted of having ruptured the spleen of his syce, of which the man died, and let off with a fine of Rs. 30. Mr. Wilson, stud-groom to H. E. the Governor of Bombay, was charged with a similar offence in reference to his syce. The syce died of a rupture of the spleen, alleged to have been caused by the accused, but the latter was not convicted on that count but merely of simple hurt, and fined Rs. 25. A short report of the case will be found elsewhere; and the *Mahratta* which is printed at Poona, where the incident occurred, has the following comment upon the result of the trial:—

The case of the stud-groom to His Excellency Lord Sandhurst, who had caused the death of his syce by rashly assaulting him was tried by Mr. Aston, the Sessions Judge of Poona, and resulted in the conviction of the accused of the offence of simple hurt and a sentence of a fine of twenty-five rupees. The majority of the jury held that the accused had a grave and sudden provocation in that the syce had allowed the horse to run away, but they also held that he was guilty of a rash and negligent act which caused the death of the syce. The Sessions Judge sided with the minority who held that the accused was guilty of only simple hurt and so awarded the light sentence. It has, indeed, come out in evidence that the deceased had a spleen abnormally enlarged; but we do not see how the accused could be absolved of the rashness of his act in giving the deceased blows which could break that spleen. The enlarged spleen may be the deceased's misfortune, but it cannot in any way be a mitigation of the rashness of the accused

whose duty to take care was, if anything, enhanced by the weak state of the deceased's health. But even supposing that the Judge was justified in the view he took of the quality of the act of the accused that it was an offence only of simple hurt and not rash action causing death still the levity of the sentence has, in our opinion, no justification whatsoever. Twenty-five rupees must be only a flea-bite to the Governor's groom; and the fine therefore of such a small sum can neither have punitive nor deterrent effect upon the man who has evidently proved that he thinks very lightly of the loss of native life. As it is the accused's contempt of native life will only have received countenance by the judicial levity of which the Poona Sessions Judge seems to us to be clearly guilty.

Mr. Narayan Ramchunder, Public Prosecutor, who prosecuted Mr. Wilson, surrendered to the defence, and then justified himself by stating that "it might be strange that he should take that view of the case. But his duty was to see justice done in the matter." Yes, Mr. Ramchunder, the Government Prosecutor, presented "a strange" spectacle, but then, all men cannot be so justice-loving as he proved himself to be, to the gratification of his countrymen. Yet, considering the peculiar circumstances of the case, we think, he might have done better by leaving that duty to those who were keenly on the watch to see justice done. The accused admitted having administered two or three slaps, but that was on the head of the deceased. As for the rupture of the spleen, that was a proved fact. This rupture of the spleen, however, helped the accused out of his difficulty. For, if the rupture had not been brought forward as a plea for the defence, the death would have been attributed to the blow. Yet this rupture made the blows a serious affair; but this difficulty was also obviated, how, we shall presently shew. The defence undertook to prove, (1) that death was due to the rupture; and (2) that the rupture was not due to the blows.

The accused admitted having administered slaps on the head. The rupture and death followed immediately after. But the defence said that the rupture was due to other causes than the slaps, for, they were administered on the head and not on the splenic region.

The defence had to solve the great problem how the spleen of the syce was ruptured, since the rupture could not be attributed to the slaps which were inflicted on the head. The head is about a cubit and half apart from the spleen. And, therefore, the learned lawyer argued that the assault could never have been the cause of the rupture. What is it then? "It is undoubtedly the horse," triumphantly pointed out Mr. Crawford, the learned counsel for the defence.

It was then the horse which did it. One has to read the short account, reproduced elsewhere from the *Advocate of India*, to see how cleverly the learned counsel proved this. It seems, according to the statement furnished by the accused, Mr. Wilson, that the syce, after receiving the slaps, had to catch a run-away horse. Says Mr. Crawford: "Accused admitted slapping deceased on the head, after which Bappow, the syce, with apparent good humor, picked up his paggree, and ran to catch the pony." The "good-humor" is undoubted. For was he not slapped on the head? Who can help being in excellent humour when slapped on the head? And what did the pony do? It did not allow itself to be caught "at once." "Nor any one" says Mr. Crawford, "with any knowledge of a horse knows how it runs away when one goes up to it, and catches its ear, the most sensitive part of it." Thus the spleen was ruptured. It is dangerous to catch a horse by the ear, says Mr. Crawford, for the rupture of spleen is the inevitable result, specially if the horse be a pony and a run-away one. Is it not?

We, however, doubt very much whether the ear of the horse is its most sensitive part. But then it may be urged that we have no knowledge of the ways of horses. But, continues Mr. Crawford, if a pony and a run-away pony is caught by the ear "it would throw up its head and thereby strike" the spleen of the man who ventures upon it. Bappow did so and the result was that his spleen was ruptured! Q. E. D. We can, however, suggest a better way. A horse, even if it be not a pony, has four legs. It runs on its legs and anyone who has any knowledge of the ways of horses will testify to the fact that when a horse runs it moves forward and not backwards. This means that when a horse runs, one has to follow behind to catch it and as the hind legs of a horse are its most sensitive parts, Bappow approached near and got a kick which caused the rupture of his spleen.

The most important point, then, in this memorable case, is the settlement of the question whether the hind leg or the ear is the most sensitive part of a horse. We hold that it is the hind leg, though we cannot claim to be an authority on the subject.

In the end we must say, however, that when there were the slaps, followed by the rupture of the spleen and immediate death, laymen, all over the world will feel disposed to attribute the rupture to the slaps rather than to the horse, however sensitive its ears might have been. We have no desire to insinuate that the rupture was due to the blows inflicted upon the deceased. What we mean is that when the blows are admitted, and the immediate rupture of the spleen and death are proved, it will be difficult to persuade the outside public that the blows had absolutely nothing to do with the rupture. It is quite certain, Mr. Wilson never meant to kill the man or to do him any serious harm. Yet we think Mr. Judge Aston should have inflicted a heavier fine so as to convince Europeans here, disposed to be violent, that life is always sacred, even when it is enshrouded in the body of a native. By the bye, is the Judge a relation of that famous Mr. Aston who sent a writer to transportation for life? As for Mr. Crawford's learned discourse on the way of horses, he might have profitably omitted it.

ALTHOUGH it is hoping against hope, yet, let us trust, that the Transvaal business will be amicably settled. We are just now vitally interested in the question, for, a large portion of India is again threatened with famine, and we rely greatly upon the help of England if a calamity like that again overtakes the country. But the attention of every Englishman will be wholly engrossed with the war if one breaks out, and India will be sadly neglected. It is well-known that, our good Queen-Empress is reluctant that a war with a Christian State like the Transvaal should take place at the latter end of her brilliant reign. It also appears that, a large section of the Liberals is dead against fighting the Boers.

Indeed, a meeting was held last Saturday at Manchester in which such important Liberal members as Mr. John Morley and Mr. Leonard Courtney took part, and entered a strong protest against the forthcoming war. A greater disaster than war cannot be conceived; and, although the Transvaal would come down in due course, yet it seems pretty certain that there would be an immense loss of life on both sides. For, the Boers are not only a fighting people but are excellent shots; and, it is said, they are very skilful in guerilla warfare. Again, if the Orange Free State makes common cause with them, a larger number of English soldiers would be required to crush the combined forces of the enemy than the present strength of the expedition. We are, however, not concerned with this phase of the question, for, with the unlimited resources at her command, England will ultimately come out victorious. But what concerns us immediately, as we said, is the diversion of England's attention from India to the Boer State, when the former is almost in the grip of another famine, and will require the active help of the English people to extricate her from her difficulty. During the famine which took place three years ago England contributed her mite of subscriptions very liberally, but yet tens of thousands of people died of starvation. This time, if a widespread famine again visits the land, the Indians will require English aid on a larger scale than on the previous occasion: For, they have scarcely been able to recover themselves from the terrible effects of the last famine. We are thus vitally interested in the cessation of the threatened hostilities between Great Britain and the Transvaal, and we hope, peace will at last be restored by moderation on both sides.

IN 1864 America had to fight the battle of humanity. The slave-holders were on one side and the humanitarians on the other. Humanity won, on that occasion; but, at what a sacrifice! America was well-nigh ruined by internal dissensions. America just now finds itself in a similar difficulty again. The President is subjugating the Philippines, who are fighting for their liberty. But a party has arisen in the country, headed by Bryan, who will not permit it. The battle is getting fiercer day by day. The Imperialists, that is to say, those who are for the subjugation of "the rebels," allege that the Philippines would have long ago succumbed had they not got support from the anti-Imperialists, that is to say, the party that follow Mr. Bryan. These latter hold that the holding of foreign territory is opposed to the genius of the American constitution, and that the subjugation of the Philippines will not in any way better the condition of the Americans, but ruin it. Aginaldo has now sent an appeal to the European Powers and to Japan, asking for the recognition of Philippine independence. The Imperialists say that Aginaldo has been instigated by Mr. Bryan's party to take this step! Of course, no European Power can say that Aginaldo is right, for they are all foreign territory-holders. Here we see a fight between right and right. America has ever been able to resist the temptation of acquiring territory, but now that poor country has been sorely tempted. The Americans have realized that they have strength, and can play the part of conquerors if they like to do so. But the constitution will not permit it! Men have a natural desire to lord it over others; and do not the Americans envy the lot of their cousins in England, who have a Queen, nay, an Empress, a Court and an aristocracy, as also many conquered nations to do homage to them? Millionaire Astor has money enough to purchase the half of London, but in America, his own country, he is only Mr. Astor and nothing more. He wanted to be a lord, but his country has not the gift in its possession. So he came to England, purchased the *Pall Mall Gazette*, threw his country over-board and became a British subject. His countrymen in return burnt him in effigy! However this fight between the President and Mr. Bryan will settle the destiny of America. If America once tastes the forbidden fruit, then the next step for it will be to vote itself an Empire.

We are glad to hear that matters spiritual are engaging the serious attention of some of the eminent scientists of the day who had all along been absorbed in things mundane. Existence after death is a problem which is being sought to be scientifically proved by men of note, whose interest in the question is daily gaining ground. The reader is already aware of the announcement made by Professor Hyslop that he would, in the course of the next 12 months, demonstrate scientifically that the existence of a human being does not end with his death. Professor Hodgson has also declared his belief in the fact that the spirits of the so-called dead can and do communicate with those who are still in flesh and blood. And how did he, come to this conclusion? He spent full twelve years to prove that the mediums were only frauds, and at last he came across revelations through a medium which left him no option but to believe in the existence of an after-world. Another scientist has come forward to declare the same fact. Rev. J. Minot Savage, well-known on both sides of the Atlantic, also gives it as his opinion, formed after patient investigation, that the spirits of the dead live after their separation from their bodies. He says that, under proper conditions, their presence is very easily known and they can give intelligent communications to those who are willing to receive them. These facts prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that we are on the eve of wonderful revelations from the unseen world.

A BOMBAY correspondent enquires of us about the fate of a Parsee gentleman who had been sent to jail in England and there turned insane. The facts appear to be these: Sometime last year, Mr. Davitt, M. P., interpellated the Secretary of State in the Home Department about the imprisonment of this Parsee in one of the London prisons. The man had been sentenced to four years' penal servitude by the Recorder of London in 1892. The term of his imprisonment was already over, but he had become insane in prison; and, so, after the expiry of his term, he was kept in a lunatic asylum. The Home Secretary said that he knew nothing of the case. But Mr. Davitt pressed for more information and hinted that the man had become insane because of his imprisonment. The Home Secretary

promised to give Mr. Davitt the desired information. Our correspondent is anxious to know further particulars of the matter. The correspondent will feel deeply obliged if any English gentleman residing in London, can furnish him with information about the unfortunate man.

A WRITER in the *Times* attributes the immunity of Calcutta from the plague "to the timely and comprehensive measures of sanitation forced upon the city by Sir A. Mackenzie." This shews the unfair way in which the natives of India are treated by a certain class of interested Anglo-Indians. Why not attribute this immunity to the intelligent and energetic supervision of the Town by representative Commissioners under the guidance of their able Chairman? "Portions of the city are cess-pools," says the writer; so much greater is the credit to the Commissioners. "All credit is ours, all discredit yours," that is the way they apportion credit and discredit. If it is possible to drive plague by sanitary measures, the Bombay authorities would have been able to do so. See the malignity of the writer,—Sir A. Mackenzie "forced" his reforms!

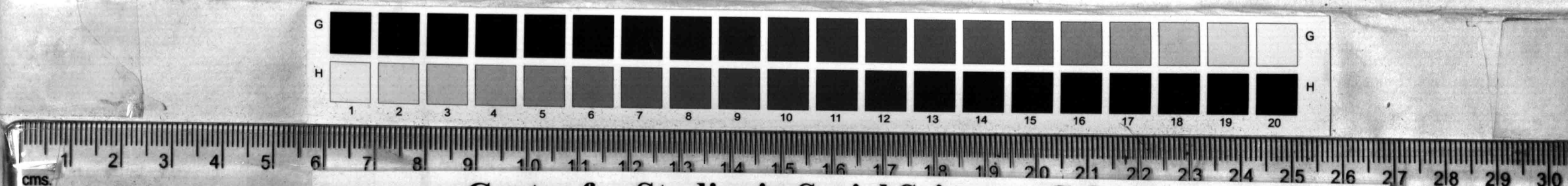
THE Jungipore case, which has resulted in the acquittal of the accused, Babu Tarini Prosad Dhar, manager of the Lady Zemindar of the locality, by the District Judge on appeal, has a public significance, which should not be lost sight of. Babu Tarini Prosad, a gentleman of high position, suffered all sorts of humiliation and indignity—nay, he was sentenced to one month's rigorous imprisonment by the Magistrate of the District,—and that for no fault of his own. It is fortunate that Babu Tarini Prosad should come out of the machinations of the Police with a whole skin. But, then, ought not somebody to be made responsible for all that he has suffered, innocent that he is? We don't know if the local Government has taken any action in the matter. We are told that Babu Tarini Prosad has made a representation to the District Magistrate of Berhampore detailing his grievances and asking advice as to the course he should adopt for their redress. The Magistrate has not, as yet, given any reply.

We hear from Deoghur that Babu Raj Narain Bose left this world on Sunday, at 9-30 P. M. His death will be mourned by a large circle of friends. As Head Master of the Midnapore School, he acquired a fame which spread all over the country. As a learned man, he was an intimate friend of Dr. Rajendra Lal Mitter, Babu Bhudesh Mookerjee, Babu Gourdas Bysack and others. As a pious man, he was the colleague of Maharshi Debendra Nath Tagore. He was, next to the Maharshi, the most prominent member of the Adi Somaj of the Bramhoes. His moral courage was such as to lead him to forsake Hindu society. Indeed, he was one of the first to do so, at a time when it was social death to do so. His sermons in Bengali created a good deal of sensation in the country, and they are yet read with profit and pleasure by a large number of our countrymen. When he retired from public life, he made Deoghur his home where he was one of the greatest attractions to those of his countrymen who visited or resided in that sacred place. His piety was of a high order, for he was always happy, which is one of the sure symptoms of a pious heart. He died at the age of 73, though he looked much older. He yearned after God and we have not the least doubt he will find His lotus feet. We cannot say we are sorry for him, for he was suffering here, and his proper place is not this but the other and better world. But we are sorry for his children and wife whom he leaves almost destitute. We dare say, the Government and the public will do something for them.

THE object of the public meeting to be held at the Town Hall next Friday is to enter a last protest against the Municipal Bill which will be passed into law in about a week. Such a protest is absolutely needed, not for present, but for future, use. The question of local self-government will have to be fought over in England when the General Elections take place. This last protest will thus give a good handle to our friends in England to urge that the retrograde measure was opposed, in all its stages, from the very introduction of the Bill to the final passing of it. The attitude of the Government has no doubt made the citizens of Calcutta lose all hope in the matter. But they have yet a duty to perform; and we doubt not, they will attend the meeting in large numbers and make it a grand success. Of course, there was no necessity for further demonstration after the numerous public meetings that had been held protesting against the measure; but the changes for the worse, introduced in the Bill since then, demand a protest. For instance, the number of elected Commissioners has been reduced from fifty to twenty-five. This is a new change of a most obnoxious character, and it requires an emphatic protest. We, however, attach greater importance to ward meetings. Not only should each ward hold a meeting, but appoint a committee of active men to explain to the rate-payers their duties at this juncture, specially with regard to the filling up of the vacancies caused by the resignation of the twenty-eight members. The first duty of these committees should be to watch keenly the progress of the forthcoming bye-elections.

THE *Champion* suggests that the Regiment implicated in the Rangoon outrage case should be disbanded; and it goes on to observe:

We do not wish to say more than is needful on this subject but some one must speak out. The Anglo-Indian papers—dumb dogs—are as silent as the grave. One would imagine that there was not an incident of this character in existence, if one were guided by the "news" that appears in their columns. And yet in Indian society it is the one subject of discussion, and we are not exaggerating when we state that the failure of the prosecution in this horrible case has caused widespread dismay and indignation. "Can nothing be done?" is the cry. "Are these men to escape, and will no one aid us?" "Are we to be as helpless as the poor woman when she was dragged into the mullah by these soldiers?" And what reply can be given to these passionate outbursts? Most Englishmen, who remember the qualities which have built up their nation, must surely sympathise with these laments, and would, we are certain, help if they could. Lord Curzon is the one man upon whom the Indian public must rely.



SPIRITS AT A SEANCE.

Special Correspondence of the Inter Ocean. CHESTERFIELD, Ind., Aug. 18.—The spiritualistic "powwow," with its hideous and weird scenes is to be revived next week at the famous Indian mounds, which are adjacent to the Indiana Spiritualists' Camp, Chesterfield, just east of this city. Scenes more weird than those pictured by Haggard in "She," more dramatic than those handed down with the history of the Druids, and more sensational than the marvelous transformation of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, are portrayed in these midnight monster seances, in which the spirits of dead Indians are supposed to return and occupy the bodies of the living. So sensational and so dangerous did these "powwows" become some years ago that all of the Spiritualists' associations ruled against permitting them to be held in connection with the camps. The Indiana Association was one of the last to take this step, and this was one only two years ago. Despite this action, the "powwows" continue. Last year a dozen mediums of note drove one night from the camp to the mounds, and there at midnight they held one of the most remarkable "powwows" in history.

and a stout line and his minnow, being hooked through the mouth, left the point and barb of the hook clear. Even under these circumstances the chances against the angler were a thousand to one. But the cast was true and the hook fell just across the neck of the snake. Mr. Martin gave a quick jerk and the hook sank deep into the snake's neck. He gave a stout tug and out of the hollow log came a four-foot water moccasin. His snakeship was taken very much by surprise and set off at a rate only excelled by a badly scared bass. Mr. Martin yanked him toward the boat. At this point the snake began to rage and the snake started on a beeline for the boat. He came like a torpedo-boat, head up, and tongue shooting back and forth. He curved in and out of the water like the traditional sea-serpent and he made the water boil behind him. Young women, as a rule, are not fond of snakes and about this time the two ladies began to show unmistakable signs of interest in the proceedings. Nobody knows just how they showed their interest, as their father is loyal and Mr. Martin gallant. It is intimated on the other side, however, that they behaved exceedingly well, and that it was the two men who were excessively interested. All agree, however, that the interest of all concerned was intense. But Mr. Martin has a strong arm and a quick eye. He gave the snake the butt of his stout bamboo pole and succeeded in checking him in his mad career and swerving him off to one side. The snake made repeated rushes at the boat, Mr. Martin skillfully checking him and keeping him at a safe distance. This sort of treatment took a good deal of the ginger out of the moccasin and after a minute or so of fast and furious plunges he turned tail and made a dash for liberty. Mr. Martin did not dare to let him get a straight pull on the line, but pitted the rod against the snake. The rod bent and creaked, but it held. Then Mr. Martin reversed the situation and got a pull on the snake. This threw the moccasin into another spasm of rage and he started for the boat again with all his former fury. Mr. Martin played him as before until his rage and strength waned. Then, quick as a flash, he brought down the heavy bamboo pole with all his force on the snake's head. It was a terrific blow and it made Mr. Snake see stars or whatever corresponds to them in the snake world. He came in tamely to the boat, and several heavy blows from an oar in the hands of Mr. Peters laid him out limp on the water, to the accompaniment of a chorus of cheers from quite a crowd that has assembled on the shore. On examination it was found that the snake was hooked in the back of the neck just behind the head. The hook was firmly fixed, and the snake had no chance to get away if the tackle held. After marveling at the luck of Mr. Martin's cast and measuring the snake, which was an inch or two under four feet, the two men proceeded to take him off the hook. But snakes die hard, and all of a sudden the moccasin made a desperate effort to come back to life. He nearly succeeded and it took several more blows with the oar to make the job a sure thing. In the scrimmage, Mr. Martin got a scratch from the hook about an inch long on one of his fingers. Most men would have been badly scared, for all of the moccasin snakes are poisonous. But Mr. Martin coolly put his fingers in his mouth and sucked the blood from the scratch. Then he remarked to his frightened companions: "Now, don't get frightened. I'm not. This snake got rid of all his poison in fighting us. Besides, I've stuck the scratch clean as a whistle. I'll watch it pretty close, and if it begins to swell—which it won't—then it's time to get worried. In the meantime let's go on with our fishing."

NIGHT SHOOTING IN CEYLON.

To admit being very fond of shooting by night no doubt at first hearing suggests a smack of the poacher, but when it is explained that the sport—for such it undoubtedly is—is practised on dangerous game in the wilds of Ceylon or India, all stigma attaching to it ought to at once vanish. There has always been to me an intense fascination about it. The "vast solitude" of the jungle in the quiet moonlit night—the silence only broken by the occasional deep bark of the sambur or hoarse grunt of the leopard or may be the shrill trumpet of the elephant enjoying his bath in the tank—and the long watch rewarded at last (it is to be hoped) by the advent of the beast sought for, followed by the successful shot, all unite to make night shooting most delightful to the true jungle man. The proper game of the night's sportsman are bear and leopard—cheetah as they are so often erroneously called in writings on Ceylon. Deer of all sorts are protected by law during the time when night shooting is chiefly practised, and if they were not to kill them when coming to water at night would be the height of poaching barbarity. Elephants, too, are never fired at by night, except by natives who wish to drive them from grain fields. It would be gross cruelty on the part of a European to shoot at them; for in the uncertain light, the chances are ten to one against killing outright, and to follow the wounded elephant and despatch him is, in the night, next to an impossibility. No deer, elephant, and buffalo must be stalked and slain in the day, but the case is different with regard to bear and leopard. These beasts are hard to find in the day. One may walk the jungle for years without getting a chance at either in daylight. But at night they are easily found, the leopard comes to his "kill" after sunset, and both he and the bear come for their water at night, and then they may be legitimately shot. The best months for night shooting is September, the height of the dry season. Water is very scarce, and every hole containing muddy water in the otherwise dry bed of a water-course, are sure to be visited by animals at night. Of course, wherever there is a tank with water in it, there will be the favourite drinking place; but tanks are not everywhere, and the best sport is to be had in places where there are none. The tank is too large, and it is always uncertain at what part of it animals will drink, so that one cannot know certainly at which particular spot to watch but with a water-hole there can be no doubt whatever on the point. Having found a good water-hole, where the fresh tracks of bear and other animals show that it is nightly visited, your trackers, during the day, prepare an ambush within easy shot of the water—say from ten to fifteen or twenty yards according to the character of the ground—and to leeward as far as can be judged, of the path by which the animals come. This is necessarily a difficult matter and one which must nevertheless be carefully considered and the best possible done. The natives make two kinds of ambush—the ground and the tree ambush. The latter is what is called in India the "machan," and consists of a platform of jungle sticks arranged in the fork of a tree. They (the natives) generally use it for waiting by a "kill" for a leopard, that is if there is a tree handy. I have never liked this kind. The platform of rough sticks is a very uncomfortable place for you and your tracker to pass the night on and there is always a danger of your game, with all the shadows of the trees and flecked light of the moon about you. The ground ambush is much freer from these drawbacks, and I always use it if practicable. It consists of a semi-circular hedge of bushes, behind which you and your man lie. This is far more comfortable, and being on the same level with your quarry, or nearly so, you are more likely to make a good shot. On plains, or in sandy bush-jungle (both excellent grounds for bear), a pit is hollowed out with the native hoe, large enough for shooter and tracker to lie in comfortably, and the edge of it fringed as usual with bushes. This "hide" is perhaps the best of all. Many a disappointment does the night shooter have to put up with. Sometimes no bear nor leopard come to drink at all. Again, one will be coming and catch your wind, and the harsh grunt which you hear as he makes off tells you that he will not give you a chance that night. Again, a fair chance occurs and you miss clean, not a yell follows the shot—a hit bear always yells. How you have managed to miss you cannot tell; but, absurd thought it may sound, it is quite easy to miss a large bear at twelve yards' range at night. Men who have doubted this have been out with me and afterwards, confessed its truth. On the other hand, the good nights occur, and when in the early morning you boil your coffee and feast your eyes on the carcasses of two big bears, or a magnificent leopard, lying on the ground, the outcome of your night's vigil, you feel happy indeed and at peace with all the world. During a very dry September a few years ago I went on a night shooting trip in the Southern Province of Ceylon. The party consisted of myself and horse, horse-keeper, and servant. I picked up a couple of trackers from a hamlet where I made my headquarters. For a week various places were watched at without a shot being had at either bear or leopard. Tracks of both were greatly in evidence at the different water-holes we tried, but not an animal gave a chance. More than once bears wended us and broke away. Spotted deer and Sambur came to drink under the moonlight, but they were, of course, allowed to go scot-free. The only shot I had was at an old sow, and she was brought to bag. The best of the moon was over, and she was rising very late, when I started to try a new ground. It was some distance from camp, so I rode there, and arrived with my trackers in the afternoon, and sent my horse back before it got dark. The water-hole was in a little open space in bush-jungle. During the early part of the night we (i. e., myself and two trackers) were almost in darkness, for the moon did not rise until after midnight, but there was starlight, and we could just make out the little grey patch surrounded by shadowy bushes, which was some dozen yards in front of us. One, two, three o'clock, passed but no bear came, and I began to feel very sleepy. At last I lay down on the rug, and, telling my man to touch me if anything came, fairly went off asleep. It seemed to me that I had hardly closed my eyes when the magic touch of the tracker awoke me. By the way, what a marvellous thing that touch from a native khairi is! It is not a shake, or anything in the least violent—a mere touch, but it wakes you instantly, and you make no noise. I think nearly all old Indian sportsmen will bear me out in this. To resume, I awoke, and saw at once that a bear was at the water-hole. It seemed a very large one, standing motionless close to the edge of the jungle—a couple of yards or so from the drinking place I took up the Express, and aimed carefully for the shoulder. A fearful yell and a sound of struggling on the ground followed the shot, but when the smoke had cleared on we discovered that the bear had got away. We could still hear him yelling and staggering in the jungle not more than thirty or forty yards away, and as it was then impossible, owing to the bad light to follow him, we had to remain where we were. It was, however, close upon dawn, and in half an hour we could just see sufficiently to penetrate into the jungle after our wounded beast. We could still hear his cries—as we supposed—in a distance, although he had now got a long way away, so, without waiting to pick the blood tracks we pushed forward as fast as we could in the direction whence the cries came. It was tough, we were getting through the bush jungle, but the cry continued, and we were by them guided and encouraged to hold on. After, perhaps three-quarters of a mile of struggling through thorny bushes, we came to a perfect little hill—a most unusual feature in the low country jungle—and a fresh burst of cries told us that the bear was on the top of this hill and quite close to us. I went straight up the hill and when half way up the bear appeared in the bushes above me about ten yards away. I gave a perfect front shot, and the Express bullet caught him in the centre of the "horseshoe" in his breast and he rolled down several yards down dead. He was not a full-grown animal, though nearly so; in fact, a young male rather more than three-quarters grown, nothing like so huge as he had seemed when I fired at the water-hole. Where had the first shot struck him? We looked in vain for wound. Not a mark of bullet was on him, save that in the breast which had killed him. Then one of my trackers saw through the mystery. He said, "This is not the bear you shot at first? We shall find him dead in the jungle not far from the water. This one is the cub, and he has been yelling for the old one." We went back straight to the water-hole to look for blood tracks. It was now broad daylight, and on arriving at the place the first we saw was the mark of the ground where the bear had rolled over to the shot. Blood was everywhere, and we picked up off the ground a piece of blood-stained bone about an inch square which looked as if it had

been cut of the shoulder. How this Express bullet drove this large fragment through the animal's skin has always been a mystery to me, but so it undoubtedly had done. We followed the blood track for a considerable distance, but, as is always the case, it got less and less—owing to the blood clotting in the hand and eventually we lost it in every direction in hopes of finding my wounded game, but saw more of him. It was terribly disappointing, for the trackers and I agreed that he was a perfect giant among bears—H. J. E. S., in the Field.

TELEGRAMS. [FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.] LONDON, SEPT. 15. The Transvaal Blue-book, which has just been published, contains the despatches which passed between the 16th May and the 8th September, and includes Mr. Chamberlain's despatch of the 8th September, which agrees with the summary already telegraphed on the 13th September. Additional interest in the Blue-book lies in Sir Alfred Milner's despatch of the 23rd August, in which he strongly deprecates the acceptance of a quinquennial franchise as a liberal fulfilment of the Bloemfontein demands, since it is impossible to regard the franchise as a panacea for the grievances of the Uitlanders, and the settlement of other questions, including the position of our Indian subjects in the Transvaal. Sir Alfred Milner points out that all the franchise proposals of the Transvaal Government are encumbered with provisions against which the Uitlanders have justly protested and hence a careful examination of the latest proposals is absolutely essential. He urges a settlement now of all outstanding questions, several of which are incapable of being submitted to arbitration. In a further despatch, dated the 31st August, Sir Alfred Milner urges the termination of the present suspense, as the distress it is causing is really serious, and he fears a reaction against the policy of the Home Government, if matters are allowed to further drag on. LONDON, SEPT. 16. It is understood that the reply of the Transvaal Government to Mr. Chamberlain's last despatch refuses to accept the demands therein en bloc, and urges the acceptance of a joint conference, while upholding the Convention of 1884. Advice from Pretoria state that popular feeling is much excited there, and that the young Boers asked to be led immediately to the field of action. It is considered at Capetown that it would be impossible and undignified on the part of Great Britain to again embark upon an interchange of arguments with the Transvaal. A meeting was held at Manchester last night to protest against Great Britain entering upon a war with the Transvaal. Mr. Jhon Morley and Mr. Leonard Courtney addressed the meeting amidst constant interruptions and shouts of "Remember Majuba Hill." A resolution was carried by a large majority recognizing the need of reform in the Transvaal, but urging the adoption of pacific means. Colonel Ian Hamilton has been appointed Assistant-Adjutant General of the Forces in Natal, and Colonel Sir Henry Rawlinson, Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General. LONDON, SEPT. 15. The Calcutta mails of the 31st ultimo arrived at Brindisi to-day. LONDON, SEPT. 16. The reply of the Transvaal Government to Mr. Chamberlain's last despatch was handed to Mr. Conyngham Greene, British agent at Pretoria, this morning and will be published on Monday. A note in Le Temps denies the statement made by the Times correspondent in Paris that the French Consul-General of the Transvaal has been instructed to use his influence to get Mr. Kruger to accept the British proposals. The Northumberland Fusiliers, one thousand strong, sailed for the Cape to-day and had a most enthusiastic send off at Aldershot and Southampton. LONDON, SEPT. 17. From what has transpired of the Transvaal's reply, the general opinion at Capetown to-day is that the same will not be accepted by the British Government, and there seems little hope of a pacific settlement. LONDON, SEPT. 17. Colonel Schneider who was military attache at the Austrian Embassy, Paris, has been removed. LONDON, SEPT. 18. Mr. Chamberlain returned to Town to-day, but it is not probable that the Cabinet Council will meet before Friday. LONDON, SEPT. 18. The steamer Clan Mackay has been hoisted. PARIS, SEPT. 18. The High Court met to-day. The public prosecutor's statement which has been referred to a committee showed that a close co-operation existed between the Anti-Semites and the Orleansists in all the disturbances since October; their common aim being a change of Government. LONDON, SEPT. 19. The attitude of Orange Free State is much commented upon at Capetown, where it is believed that the executive are not unanimous. Urgent British orders for pack mules and waggons have been received in America. The Queensland Mounted Infantry are preparing to embark for service in South Africa. WASHINGTON, SEPT. 19. The Chinese Minister here has protested against the exclusion of the Chinese from the Philippines, as being contrary to international law and a violation of the treaties. The French Cabinet to-day decided in principle to pardon Captain Dreyfus in a few days. Dreyfus desists from his appeal for a revision of the sentence. MR. W. S. ADIE, I. C. S., is posted as Assistant Comptroller, Assam. LIEUTENANT-COLONEL YATE is posted as Resident at Merwara. MR. F. C. MURRAY, Punjab, is temporarily promoted to Superintending Engineer, 3rd class. ESTIMATES for extending the Anand-Petlad Railway from Petlad to Gambay have gone Home for sanction. It is notified that Medical Officers alone may transmit cultures of plague germs from place to place, and then only under certain specified precautions. A REPORT has been called for by Government on enteric fever amongst the troops in India, and on the measures from time to time taken to combat it.

TELEGRAMS.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE GANAPATI PROCESSION.

BOMBAY, SEPT. 18. The Ganapati procession, to-day commenced at three o'clock and ended at eight o'clock. It was the grandest ever known. Nearly fifty Melas other Ganapathis besides, passed successfully. Police arrangements were excellent. Great enthusiasm prevailed and lacs of people gathered on the seashore. The educated section of the community joined heartily. There was no rain throughout.

RAITFALL IN MADRAS AND BOMBAY PRESIDENCIES.

BOMBAY, SEPT. 19. Heavy rain has fallen at Madras 2.04, at Bangalore 1.32, about quarter inch at Sholapur, Bellary, Cochin, and Masulipatan, 0.11 cents at Bellary and Khandwa, 0.03 at Malee-on and Bombay, and 0.02 at Goa. Rain in local showers is likely in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies, Mysore and on the Malabar Coast.

SMALL-POX AT PESHAWAR.

LAHORE, SEPT. 19. Small-pox has broken out in Peshawar. On the 15th Private Walton, of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, was admitted into hospital suffering from small-pox. The lines of the Royal Scots Fusiliers and the 27th Punjab Infantry have been placed out of bounds until further orders, though the disease has practically died out in the city. This is the first instance of entry into the British line this year. All necessary precautions have been taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

IN AID OF THE HINDU COLLEGE.

SIMLA, SEPT. 17. At the instance of Babu Hari Das Gupta and Dr. Balkrishna Kaul, a public meeting of the Hindu residents of Simla was held here to-day, in connection with the Central Hindu College at Benares, under the presidency of Mr. Justice Protul Chunder Chatterjee. Dr. Richardson addressed the meeting at considerable length and a sum of Rupees 250 was subscribed on the spot.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

SIMLA, SEPT. 17. Mr. Justice Protul Chunder Chatterjee distributed prizes to the students of the Anglo-Sanskrit High School this morning. After the distribution of the prizes, he urged, in the course of a speech, the necessity of the spread of Sanskrit education in India.

MR. J. MILNE, Registrar, Home Department.

has been placed on special duty in connection with the decentralisation work of the Army Head-quarters Offices.

MR. H. C. HILL, officiating Inspector-General of Forests.

has been granted six months' leave on urgent private affairs from the 21st October.

MR. G. A. GRIERSON.

has been granted 8 months' furlough from the last November on the expiry of which he will continue his work on linguistic survey at the India Office, on completion of which he will retire. He leaves Simla on the 10th October, and will embark at Bombay on the 1st November.

ON Saturday last a violent whirlwind.

which blew from the direction of Payagwee towards the public buildings caused much consternation among the people about the Courts, from thence it travelled towards the direction of eastern town, where it did some damage taking in its violence sundry articles of clothing, which were kept out for drying, to some considerable distance.—Mandlay Herald.

MR. J. N. TATA, the Parsi millionaire.

who has been on a visit to Mysore in connection with his silk industry scheme, has left for Bombay. It is satisfactory to hear that the experiments conducted in sericulture by the two Japanese experts whom he imported for the purpose have succeeded and will tend to the improvement of the industry. It is stated that Mr. Tata means to acquire lands below the Marikanave reservoir or the farther extension of mulberry cultivation.

THE programme of railway construction.

in the Bombay Presidency for the ensuing year will necessarily be much affected by the development of the apprehended famine in Western India. Amongst the lines the earthwork on which is likely to be commenced with famine labour are the Nagda-Bara section of the through line to link the Bombay Presidency with Delhi and Muttua; also the new line through Cutch to connect Karachi with the Bombay railway system.

It is reported that Mr. Dadabhai Nusserwanjee's solicitors.

have written to Captain Field, of H. M. S. Marathon, informing him that their client intends instituting an action against him in the District Court of Colombo for Rs. 75,000, as compensation for and damages sustained by him owing to his arrest in connection with the recent trouble in the Maldives.

THE poisoning of cattle is largely prevalent.

in the Meerut district, and is believed to be the work of chamars who want the skins. Rumour has it that poisoned lumps of goor are thrown about, and that a man picked up one of these and gave it to a sweeper. The man consumed some and gave a little to his child and threw the remainder to his pigs. The men, boy, and two pigs died.

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

INDIA AND ENGLAND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, SEPT. 1.

PRINCE RANJITSINGJI.

THIS will be a memorable year for the youth of India. Two young men, drawn from their ranks, have this year beaten the youth of Britain on fields, where hitherto they have been supreme. Mr. Paranjyee has carried off the greatest prize of British University life, and now Prince Ranjitsingji has made a record in the great national game of cricket that is without rival in its history. "Ranji," as he is affectionately called by the British public, beat all previous records three years ago; till then, the famous batsman, Dr. W. G. Grace, had held the record for a year's batting for twenty-five years in succession, with an aggregate score of 2739, but "Ranji" put him out of the championship by 2780 runs for the year's play. That record has remained unbeaten, till he himself passed it a few weeks ago. Last week he got within 36 runs of the grand total of 3000, no cricketer since the game was invented, having ever got into the third thousand.

This week, an enormous crowd assembled on the ground at Portsmouth, in spite of torrents of drenching rain, in the hope of seeing Ranji strike the ball which should at last land him in the cricketers' paradise of 3000 runs for the season, and they were not disappointed. He reached his 3000 amid roars of applause, and carried out his bat at 3036. He still has two more matches to play before the season closes, and, with reasonable luck, he ought to leave off with at least 500 ahead of his brilliant and hitherto unrivalled predecessor in the blue ribbon of cricket, Dr. Grace.

I give you below the highest scores of the five batsmen living: Prince Ranjitsingji 3036 (not yet closed) Dr. W. G. Grace 2739 Abel 2218 A. E. Stoddart 2072 Gunn 2057 The average of the last four is 2521 runs; Ranji has already beaten the average of his four greatest rivals by 20 per cent., and it is likely enough to be 30 per cent. before the season closes.

Prince Ranjitsingji is not only supreme as a batsman, but in the field he is even greater still. In the match at Portsmouth, just referred to, he was the means of disposing of five of the Hampshire men in one way or another; and judges of fine cricket always prefer to see Ranji in the field than before the wicket.

MR. BEPIN CHANDER PAL'S WORK.

MR. W. S. CAINE has arranged a series of meetings, in important political centres, for Mr. Bepin Chander Pal, whose eloquent advocacy of the demands of progressive India attracts large and enthusiastic audiences wherever he goes. On September 23rd and 24th he speaks at Charley and Blackburn, important Lancashire towns; September 30th, October 1st and 2nd at Bradford, a city with a population of 250,000, and the centre of the great woollen industries of Yorkshire; October 3rd Newcastle-on-Tyne, represented in Parliament by Mr. John Morley; October 7th, 8th and 9th Sheffield, the centre of the steel industries; October 14th, 15th and 16th Birmingham; October 17th Manchester; November 25th and 26th Halifax; November 27th Nottingham. Mr. Pal will be accompanied by Mr. Caine at Bradford, Sheffield, Manchester and Nottingham. Mr. Pal talks of going over to America early next year on a lecturing tour, if his arrangements can be made to fit in with it; but if he is not able to go, Mr. Caine will arrange a fresh series of meetings for him in this country. A few weeks ago, Mr. Pal gave a series of addresses in Liverpool, in connection with the British Temperance League, of which Mr. Caine is president, and made a very profound impression on his audiences. He gave one of them on the Sunday evening at Myrtle Square Chapel, where Keshub Chunder Sen preached his first sermon during his still memorable visit to this country. I wish we had a dozen Pals at work in the British constituencies this and next winter.

PLAGUE AT OPORTO.

THE plague has been practically stamped out at Oporto. Yesterday there was only one death, and no fresh case has been reported. There is an outbreak in the Astrakhan province of Russia, 21 deaths having occurred; and the Government has sent a special Commission of Doctors to deal with it. Russia and Portugal are both lamentably behind other European nations in sanitary science, and these outbreaks have naturally created great alarm all over Europe, and the most stringent means are being taken against infection. A sanitary cordon, held by 3 or 4000 troops, seems to have been the successful means employed at Oporto. Three or four isolated cases have occurred on the railway between Oporto and Lisbon. A sanitary cordon is to be established at Alexandria, where 88 cases have occurred, of which exactly one half proved fatal.

DREYFUS AFFAIR.

THE situation in France grows graver every day. The Dreyfus Court-martial drags its slow length along. The details are mostly dull, often squalid, and only an expert who followed this miserable scandal from the beginning, can grasp the real bearing of most of the evidence on the final issue. But what has been made abundantly clear to the ordinary observer is the fact that the whole business has concentrated into a struggle for supremacy between the military and civil power of the French Republic; a struggle is going on to a greater or less degree in every nation in Europe, and which is inevitable to the floated and competitive ornaments which are the curse of nineteenth century civilization, and to which India is no stranger.

The Supreme Civil Court of France has declared Dreyfus innocent. He is now being tried over again by a military Court. Abstract justice and the laws of evidence count for very little and the Generals of the French army are moving all the powers of earth and hell to secure the re-conviction of their unhappy victim. There is every reason to fear that a bastard *esprit du corps* on the part of the officers presiding over the court-martial may lead to a second condemnation of Dreyfus, which of course will mean the supremacy of the military power over the civil and that court-martials are able to override the supreme civil court of France and the foundations of civil power will be merged in a military dictatorship.

On the other hand, if Dreyfus is acquitted by the court-martial as he must be if evidence outweighs prejudice, the discredited generals who will thus be found guilty of one of the vilest conspiracies of modern times are almost certain to attempt the overthrow of the not very strong Government of President Loubet and the establishment of a military dictatorship. No one seems to know how far the army would follow them and anything or everything is possible, whichever way the verdict goes. All are agreed, however, that France is in the midst of one of the gravest crises in her chequered history, and so far no Frenchman, either soldier or civilian, has yet appeared, who seems strong enough to pilot the ship of state through the terrible crisis to which it is so steadily and certainly drifting.

THE RANGOON OUTRAGE CASE.

RANGOON, 13th SEPT. THE trial of Private Johnson in connection with the alleged outrage upon a Burmese woman named Mah Goon, by soldiers of the West Kent Regiment, is still proceeding. Yesterday and to-day have been devoted to the repetition of evidence given in the previous case. To-day Corporal Nurse was examined. In reply to a searching examination by the prosecuting Counsel, he said he was told to find out the men who were at the scene of the occurrence. It was due to a slip of memory that he did not order Sullivan's arrest for not obeying the order to go back to barracks. "Is it also due to a slip of memory," asked the Counsel, that on the numerous occasions you were examined you did not mention a word till Private Thorpe's trial of seeing Sullivan? Witness: "I think I stated it in the lower court." Witness said he did not believe at the time that the condition of the woman was due to men of his regiment. He never heard whisper of any name from that day to this though he had constantly been with the men of the regiment. In answer to questions by the jury, he said he had been seven years in the regiment, four as a non-commissioned officer. He had been five years in C. Company, out of thirty or forty men present on the occasion in question, he could only recognise Goff. It was his duty to arrest any soldier not properly dressed. These men were not properly dressed. He did not arrest any one because he could not identify them. He did not think of stopping to take the names of any of the soldiers. A new draft had come in February, and that was how he did not recognise them. He could not say if the men present were from the new draft. THE case was adjourned.

RANGOON, 15TH SEPT.

THE trial of Private Johnson, in connection with the alleged outrage upon a Burmese woman named Mah Goon, by soldiers of the West Kent Regiment, is still proceeding. Sullivan's examination and cross-examination occupied part of yesterday and to-day. Sergeant Allwright deposed that when in the hospital in May he heard Thorpe and Sullivan having an altercation. Sullivan said he was not going to get into trouble for the sake of a few men. Witness asked him what he meant. Sullivan would not reply. Witness reported the matter to the Colour-Sergeant. Witness never heard, till the arrest of the men in June, that any woman had been in the barracks dancing. After Horricks' acquittal the witness got orders to make enquiry. He got no order before that.

Colour-Sergeant Macdonald, examined, said he questioned Sullivan on the 7th June, but failed to elicit any information, Sullivan denying all knowledge of the outrage. The following day Sullivan told witness that he saw a woman dancing and singing in the barracks on April 2nd. A few days later, after some persuasion, Sullivan gave up the names of Coombar, Johnson, Martin, Thorpe, Boulter, Guff and Lance-Corporal Rodgers as directly concerned to his knowledge. The same evening Sullivan was taken to Captain Burt, and his statement was put in writing. Sullivan singing it. The men named were arrested that day and put in separate cells. Before the Horricks' trial witness received no order to enquire into the affair, but he tried, as a non-commissioned officer, to find out what really occurred. After Sullivan made his statement to witness, Sullivan was assaulted. He never heard the men discussing the affair, but witness and other non-commissioned officers discussed it, as they desired to get at the truth. Sullivan was the only man who made any statement to witness. None of the others volunteered any information till after the Horricks' trial. Witness did not know or think that the woman was outraged by soldiers. Captain Burt, examined, deposed to getting, by the aid of Corporal Nurse, the names of the men at the scene of the occurrence. They were practically the names of the witnesses summoned but not examined for the defence of Horricks. Sullivan was amongst them. Witness did not question them. On June 12th came Sullivan's statement, and the men named were put in the cells. The following day each man made a statement to Major Morse. When witness was going round the cells later, he spoke to two of the accused, and they made further statements to him. On June 23rd all the accused made statements to the Commissioner of Police. The statement made to Major Wylie, Cantonment Magistrate, by Private Johnson, the present accused, was here read out admitting connection with the woman. Witness was not present when Johnson commenced his statement before the Cantonment Magistrate. Counsel for the prisoners had told witness that no statements should be made by the accused before the Magistrate. Colour-Sergeant Macdonald's report to him on June 12th was the first official intimation he had that men other than Horricks were concerned. Prior to the Horricks case he made efforts to secure evidence for the defence.

Cross-examined: He could not say when he first heard of the outrage. He did not remember seeing a paragraph on the subject in the local paper on April 4th, which said that twelve soldiers were directly concerned. He saw on April 7th a letter signed "Buddhist" in one of the local papers, in which the names of a dozen witnesses of a brutal outrage were given. He did not know it from April 2nd and the police were daily in the barracks making enquiries about the outrage. Lieutenant Pack-Beresford, Adjutant of the Regiment, said Corporal Nurse reported the affair to him on April 2nd, and an hour later mentioned the name of Goff as one of the soldiers present. Before witness went on leave three weeks later he got several names, and

took down their statements. These statement and Corporal Nurse's were conflicting. The tenor of those statements was to exonerate Private Horricks. On his return to Rangoon in August he heard for the first time the story about the woman dancing. No policeman ever asked him for assistance in connection with the case. Police evidence was then called, and the prosecution closed. The case was adjourned.

Varieties.

M. JURNELLE, in a recent note to the Academies Sciences, Paris, mentions a new rubber plant in Madagascar. It is the piralahy, a liana common in the island, and a new species of the genus Landolphia. The Sakalaves draw from it a clear rubber containing 5 per cent. of resin, and suitable, apparently, for industrial purposes.

THE process of arresting decomposition after death, according to Dr. Rechter's recent discovery, is now being tested at the Brussels Hospital with complete success. A body which, when placed in the preserving chamber, had reached an advanced stage of decomposition, is now in an excellent state of preservation, thus placing beyond doubt the utility of Dr. Rechter's method.

THE ruins of Chepstow Castle, in which Henry Martin, one of the Judges of Charles I. was confined for upwards of twenty years after the Restoration, are to be sold by public auction in the early days of next month. They cover an extensive area near the mouth of the Wye, and the walls on one side are nearly perpendicular with the cliff, which overhangs that river. The castle itself is said to date from the time of William the Conqueror, and it stood two sieges during the Revolution. It has been successively in the hands of the Fitz Osbornes, the Clares, the Bigbods, the Herberts, and the Somersets, and it is now placed on the market by order of the new Duke of Beaufort.

THE ceremony of "throwing the dart" is an ancient custom performed by the Mayor of Cork every third year. Accompanied by the members of the Corporation and leading citizens, he proceeds by steamer to the mouth of Cork Harbour, and casts into the sea a dart in order to assert his authority as Admiral of the Port. The Mayor's guests are then entertained at dinner. On 21st August the function was observed with due solemnity. Mr. Eugene Crean, M. P., Mayor, presided. The toast list opened with "Our Native Land," and did not contain the toast of Her Majesty, but before the Mayor had the opportunity to submit the first arranged toast Sir John Scott rose and proposed the health of the Queen, which was warmly received. The official toast list was then proceeded with.

A CURIOUS natural phenomenon has exhibited itself, to the consternation and abject fear of the peasants, in the mountains not far from Modena, at a small hamlet called Brandola. A gentleman, while walking one day, heard a concentrated howl of fear from some peasants near, and at the same moment a noise which sounded like distant thunder. He raised his eyes, but saw nothing. On going forward, however, he saw a thin column of smoke, with flashes of light at the base, on the top of a mountain peak, while a boy almost dead with fright cried, "Look, look, the mountain which opens and burns." An acrid odour meanwhile pervaded the atmosphere. Shortly after the gentleman was enabled to distinguish a small vertical crater about twelve or thirteen feet long, and nine or ten wide, with a liquid greenish substance, at the entrance, disturbed here and there by large bubbles of yellowish water, and above all a dense stratum of smoke. The spectator saw all this at no great distance, but a slight shock of earthquake occurring, he went farther off but still observed that every now and then flames shot up through the smoke, accompanied by a distinct rumbling. This seems to put the cap to the extraordinary season all over Italy, the opening of a new volcano, however small, having without doubt its connection with the recent severe earthquake in Rome and her environs.

THE subject of liquid air in its application in medicine and surgery has been treated in a dispassionate manner by Dr. A. Campbell White in the *Medical Record*. In applying liquid to the tissues of the body, Dr. White has used it in the form of a spray and by means of a swab dipped into the fluid. If a spray of liquid air is applied to the skin, the part at once becomes anemic and perfectly colourless. If the application is made only for a few seconds, the colour as quickly returns, and the skin is congested, for some minutes thereafter. Within much less than a minute's time by means of a spray, the part is frozen as hard as ice, but, strange to say, in a few minutes circulation returns without any injury to the tissue, provided the part is not in the end of some extremity. There is no pain in the application excepting at the very beginning, but there is a slight burning or tingling. It also completely anesthetizes the part to which it is applied without freezing it solid. Dr. White has tried liquid air as a local anesthetic in a number of cases with invariable success. It has one important advantage; that is the absence of hemorrhages during the operation, enabling the operator to apply the dressing before any hemorrhage sets in, the dressing then being sufficient to stop any oozing. Dr. White has found the use of liquid air beneficial in the local treatment of ulcers, etc. He states that an abscess, boil, or carbuncle in the early stages is aborted absolutely with one through treatment. If it is more advanced several applications at intervals of twenty-four hours are necessary. Liquid air had also been used with advantage in cases of sciatica, neuralgia, etc. A number of other diseases have also been treated with liquid air with marked success. Where no loss of tissue is desirable, liquid air should be applied by the spray, had not by the swab. In conclusion, Dr. White considers that we have reason to hope that we have in liquid air a therapeutic agent which will remove many otherwise obstinate superficial lesions of the body, and cure some lesions which have hitherto resisted all treatment at our disposal, including the knife. He is of the opinion that in the use of liquid air in medicine, that is to say, in pulmonary diseases, in the reduction of fever, etc., a large field is open which present many obstacles at the very start, and possibly holds out much hope in the future.

THE SIALKOTE SHOOTING CASE.

(Tribune.)

THE recent punkha-cooly killing cases at Peshawar have again drawn public attention to the "untoward occurrence" near Sialkot, which cost the life of a young woman the other day.

The main cause of the frequency of such cases, according to popular idea, is the tendency to whittle down the gravity of the offence. Considering how the greatest possible advantage is taken of every loop-hole of escape in the case of British soldiers, charged with murder, or rape and murder combined, and how the proverbial iron grip of the law becomes as the tender clutching of the baby's hand when military accused are concerned the belief of the people does not appear to be quite unfounded. The Sialkot affair, in our humble opinion, affords another illustration of this sort of misplaced leniency. An analysis of the facts connected with the incident shows that—

- (a) Gunner Dance, accompanied by his friend Hole, was shooting within the precincts of a village;
(b) He fired across the courtyard, in which the deceased was lying on a cot nursing her babe, resting his gun on the low wall surrounding the enclosure;
(c) He fired without ascertaining whether there was anyone about who might be injured;
(d) He was stalking doves in a village lane alongside inhabited tenements.

Not to mention other circumstances, the facts aforesaid prove that his firing at such a place, and in the manner he did, was a rash and negligent act. But the District Magistrate, who inquired into the matter was decided in his opinion that "the mere fact of resting a loaded gun on the courtyard wall was not a rash and negligent act within the purview of Section 304 A, Indian Penal Code." Suppose a native sportsman went into a village, say, the suburb of Mozang, 'stalking' doves. Suppose he discharged his piece over the low wall surrounding a courtyard in which a woman happened to be lying. The shot instead of bringing down the bird blew off half of the woman's face. Would he not be doing a thing dangerous to the life and limb of Her Majesty's lieges?

From the conflicting nature of the evidence it was impossible to get at the true facts. Therefore, the way the poor woman met her death, while lying in her own house with her child at her breast, will for ever remain a mystery. The District Magistrate, like Lord Lansdowne, would not believe anything ill of the British soldier. "It is absurd to suppose," he said, "that a British soldier would deliberately and intentionally fire at such short range at an inoffensive woman lying on a charpoy suckling her infant. Such a supposition must be rejected as beyond the sphere of all practical probabilities." The District Magistrate, it is evident, does not find time to read newspapers, so his belief in the soldier's innate chivalry is excusable. The most noteworthy point in the evidence is the difference of opinion between the doctors who examined the wounds. The Civil Surgeon Captain Cochrane, I. M. S., was of opinion that the principal wound was caused by a discharge of a gun from fairly close quarters, about 20 yards or so. The Assistant Surgeon (the late Dr. Duni Chand), held on the other hand, that the injuries found were caused by two separate discharges from a gun which must have been fired at a distance of more than three feet, it may be from a distance of 6 to 12 feet. Another noticeable point was the wide divergence in regard to important particulars between the statements of Dance and Hope. However, what was to happen has happened, as the native saying goes. Our excuse for referring again to the sad and deplorable event after the lapse of a considerable time is, as we have said at the start, the reawakening of fresh interest in such cases, by the Peshawar cooly-killing business, and the wide prevalence of an impression that the case of Dance was a fresh instance of making too light of accidents of this nature.

THE drivers have struck on the Indian Midland Railway, and consequently an interruption of traffic will prove an unpleasant difficulty in the transport of troops for the Transvaal. Mr. Richards, who has been representing that system at the Traffic Conference, left Simla on Monday last for the seat of the trouble.

THE Government of India have ruled that white officers of the British service going to South Africa are not to receive advances of pay, officers, warrant, N. C's., and men of the Indian Service and all Indian establishments and followers may be granted three months' advance of pay.

MR. DINKINSON, Conservator of Forests, and Mr. Prevost, for some time Officiating Conservator in Burma, are shortly expected back from furlough. It is understood that one officer will be posted to the Southern Circle, Central Provinces, when Mr. Hearle, the present officiating Conservator, proceeds home on long leave. The other officer will probably be posted to the charge of the Central Circle, North-West Provinces, causing Mr. Fordyce to revert to his substantive appointment of Deputy Conservator, Bengal.

A WONDERFUL CURE OF DIARRHOEA. A PROMINENT VIRGINIA EDITOR. ALMOST GIVEN UP, BUT WAS BROUGHT BACK TO PERFECT HEALTH BY CHAMBERLAIN'S COLIC, CHOLERA AND DIARRHOEA REMEDY. READ HIS EDITORIAL.

From the Times, Hillstille, Va. I suffered with diarrhoea for a long time and thought I was past being cured. I had spent much time and money and suffered so much misery that I had almost decided to give up all hopes of recovery and await the result, but noticing the advertisement of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy and also some testimonials stating how some wonderful cures had been wrought by this remedy, I decided to try it. After taking a few doses I was entirely well of that trouble, and I wish to say further to my readers and fellow sufferers that I am a hale and hearty man today and feel as well as I ever did in my life.—O. R. MOORE. Sold by SMITH STANISTREET & CO AND B. K. PAUL & CO.

CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

SEVENTH DAYS' DISCUSSION IN COUNCIL.

FORTY-ONE amendments were discussed and disposed of, at the Council on Tuesday. A few of them only were adopted, the rest being thrown out. The officials again disagreed yesterday on an amendment moved by the Raja Bahadur of Nashipore. The Hon'ble Raja Bahadur was supported by Mr. Baker and the two representatives of the European merchants while he was opposed by the elected members, and by Messrs. Bolton, Buckley, Oldham, Buckland and others. The amendment, which, if carried would have been of distinct service to Europeans and wealthy native gentlemen, who at times leave their town residences and go to the hills or their country houses, was, it is needless to say, lost.

The following is a report of the discussion in respect of some of the more important amendments:—

The Hon'ble Raja Bahadur of Nashipur proposed that the following section be inserted after section 152 A:—For the purposes of sections 151 and 152 in the presence of a care-taker not the mere retention in an otherwise unoccupied dwelling-house of the furniture habitually used in it, shall constitute occupation of the house.

The Hon'ble Mr. Baker supported this proposal as also the Hon'ble Mr. Mackenzie. The Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerjee opposed it on the ground that if adopted, it would affect the municipal revenues.

The Hon'ble Messrs. Bolton and Oldham agreed with Babu Surendranath Banerjee. The amendment was put to the vote, and lost, four voting for it and thirteen against it.

The Hon'ble Dr. Asutosh Mookerjee proposed that there should be assessment with regard to each but that may be raised at the time of construction and not at the commencement of each year as proposed in the Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. Baker opposed it on the ground of administrative inconvenience. The Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerjee also opposed it.

The amendment was lost. The Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerjee moved that for section 153 the following be substituted:—One half of the entire consolidated rate imposed upon bustee land and the huts built thereon shall be paid by the occupiers thereof, and the other half by the owners; and the other provision of the Act as to the payment and recovery of the consolidated rate shall apply to such bustee land and huts.

This was the law under the Act of 1876. It was in the Act of 1888 that the provision of rates and taxes for bustee lands and huts to be realised from bustee owners was introduced. There was a loud protest by the bustee owners made at the time but that protest was not held.

In the new Bill this provision of the Act of 1888 has been included. Babu Surendranath proposed that they should go back to the old law. In the first place, he said, in the interest of the Municipality they should have a provision for the direct realisation of taxes and rates from the bustee people instead of the bustee-owners. The collection from this source, the Hon'ble member observed, had fallen off under the Act of 1888 in comparison with that under the old Act. The Corporation had appointed a Committee and Mr. O. C. Dutt, the Collector, who, it was said, was the person on whose representation the late Sir Henry Harrison had introduced that provision in the law of 1888, had said in his examination that there was a great falling off in the collection with regard to bustee lands. It was higher under the law of 1888 than under the old law. The Hon'ble member raised his voice both in the interests of landlords and tenants. It was an injustice to the landlords that they should be made to pay for their tenants in advance. It was also an injustice to the tenants that they should be made to pay to the tender mercies of the agents of their landlords, who were mostly unscrupulous men and in many instances worse than Municipal underlings. When Municipal peons of Conservancy, Engineering and other departments daily visit these bustee people and pocket their perquisites, what an amount of harm would be caused if the Collector's peons also visited them. If his amendment were adopted the collection of bustee rates would improve and justice would be done to both landlords and tenants.

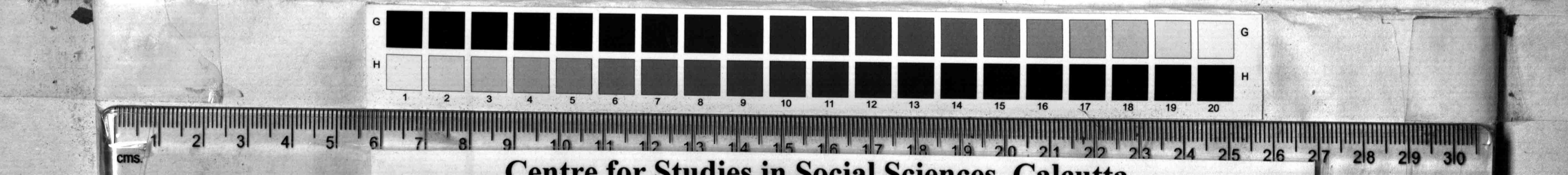
The Hon'ble Mr. Baker opposed the amendment. He read a note recorded by Sir Henry Harrison, on the subject, at the time the change in the old law was made. It was entirely in the interests of the tenants that this provision was incorporated in the law of 1888. By the enormous improvement which bustee lands had undergone the landlords had benefited much and it was proper that they should be required to pay in advance the rates on behalf of their poor tenants. Moreover, the Hon'ble member pointed out that in the Bill both provisions—the provision under the old law and that under the Act of 1888—had been retained and the Chairman had been empowered, with the sanction of the General Committee, to exclude any bustee area from the operation of the provision of 1888 and place it under the old law. They would now have an opportunity to find out the real cause of the falling off of collections—whether it was due, as the Hon'ble mover of the amendment said, to the new provision, or to the Warrant Department being notoriously inefficient and probably corrupt.

The Hon'ble Mr. Oldham agreed with the Hon'ble Mr. Baker.

The Hon'ble Mr. Bolton was glad to find that provision was made for the working of both systems side by side. The amendment was then put and lost.

THE defence of Private Johnson opened on Monday. A Military Policeman deposed that he knew the woman and had seen her soliciting the soldiers. He could not state definitely when, but it was in September, October or November last year. It was his duty to arrest women importuning in the cantonments. He did not arrest Mah Gone. Several Privates of the regiment deposed to Mah Gone coming to the barracks on the 2nd April and dancing there. This concluded the defence.

THE great success of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy in the treatment of bowel-complaints has made it stand out over the greater part of the civilized world. For sale by SMITH STANISTREET & CO. AND B. K. PAUL & CO.



AN INSECT THAT CAN COUNT.

AN account of a curious insect-found in the French colony of New Caledonia, is contributed by Lieutenant-Colonel Delauney, of the French army, who believes, from the regularity of certain gyrations that he has seen it make, that it can count, or estimate number, up to six. We translate Colonel Delauney's letter in La Nature. He says:

"In my capacity as an entomologist I have observed many curious customs and habits of insects. I have often employed my time in watching the sports of the flies in the sunshine; I have looked on with interest at the toilet of these same diptera, as they rub their legs, bodies and heads; and I have seen other things. But I never had the fortune to witness so extraordinary a spectacle as that offered me by an insect in New Caledonia on September 20th, 1892. I was walking on that day in my garden at Noumea, when my attention was attracted by the singular movements executed by a small insect on a banana leaf; it was turning about its own head as a pivot, describing rapid circles; every now and then it made a sudden stop, and then went on again; it seemed, in short, to be a sort of 'skipper,' which was executing its gyrations on a leaf instead of on the surface of the water. All of a sudden the insect came to a full stop, and I waited patiently a good quarter of an hour to see what it would do. I resolved to observe and note the number of circles that it should describe in either direction, and when it began to move again, I put down the following data successively: Six turns in the direction of the hands of a watch, then a stop; six turns in the opposite direction, a stop; five in the first direction, a stop; five in the opposite, a stop; four in the first direction, a stop; four in the second, a stop; three in the first, a stop; three in the second, a stop; two in the first, a stop; two in the second, a full stop. I waited for the insect to begin to move again, but I waited in vain; an hour was passed uselessly in this occupation; the creature was immovably and seemed to be asleep. I then decided to put it in my poison bottle, and some time afterwards I examined its corpse at my leisure. It belonged to the order of Hemiptera. Its length was about three millimeters (3/16 inch) and its form was in general that of a 'water boatman,' with its large head and powerful legs, although it was flatter than this coolepter. Its colour was a light tan. I made a note of what I had observed, and placing the insect in a little paper box, I packed it in cotton and sent in with a letter to M. Stanislas Maunier, at the Museum. Alas! Three months later this scientist sent word that he had received both my letter and the box, but that there was no insect in the letter. Owing to its smallness and lightness the Hemipter had slipped out. Six months afterwards I was fortunate enough to find one of the same kind of insects again. I hastened to capture it and placed it in a large box with a glass cover. I then promised myself a very interesting series of observations. But on the morrow there was no insect in the box; it had disappeared. My servant had evidently involuntarily aided it to escape by displacing the glass cover of the box while setting my table to rights. During more than a year's stay in the colony I never met with the creature again. However, this may be, in reporting the observation of September 20th, 1891, I may be permitted to think that I have seen an insect that knows how to count at least up to six, since it made movements numbering successively from six down to one."

AN OUT-CASTE ELEPHANT.

THE following account of the way a young elephant lost caste with its people, and was rejected by the jungle-folk, as witnessed by "Hopliux," a Forest Officer, on tour is given in the Indian Forester.

It happened in this way—some nine years ago I was in charge of the Ganges Division, and after spending a few days at Chila, a bungalow on the left bank of the Ganges, and nearly opposite Hardwar, I moved my camp northwards to the Kanaun bungalow, which, unlike Chila, is built on the top of a highish cliff immediately overlooking the Ganges. In the rains, no doubt, the cliff is riverwashed but at the time of which I write, there was a narrow strip of beach between the foot of the cliff and the water, and a zigzag path led down to it from the plateau on which the bungalow was situated. On arriving in camp, as is my usual custom, I took a stroll round the 'parad' and it was naturally not many minutes before I found myself on the extreme edge of the cliff, from whence I knew that a magnificent view up the river could be obtained. On reaching this point of vantage my attention was almost instantly attracted to a black object in the water some way further up stream, which now and again appeared only to completely disappear again and again, but which was rapidly approaching the spot opposite to where I stood. It was not many seconds before I recognized that the strange-looking black object was nothing more or less than the head and trunk of a young elephant, and if I could have doubted the evidence of my eyes, my ears would have told me the same thing, as every time the little beast got its head above water it gave vent to a curious scream, which was on ly attributable to a frightened young elephant. Calling to my orderly to follow, I ran down to the river and waded out about 30ft. into the water by which time the water was well above my waist and it was becoming a matter of great difficulty to stand against the current, and waited for the elephant to be washed down to the same spot. By this time my orderly was also in the water and shortly afterwards the baby elephant was carried down upon us, and between us we were not very long in capturing and bringing him ashore in a half-drowned condition. He was quite a little fellow, standing about 3 ft. at the shoulder and was not probably more than a few weeks old. After landing he stood still for some minutes to recover himself, and to empty himself of the water, which he had evidently freely partaken, and which now poured from his trunk, then suddenly resenting the curiosity I evinced in his welfare, he unexpectedly charged me and, what might be expected, was my undignified fate.

I then, with the help of the orderly and others, tried to persuade the little elephant to go to the top of the cliff, but nothing would induce him to budge a step, and the more we pushed and pulled, the more obstinately immovable he became, so I called

in other help in the shape of two female Government elephants and a rope—the latter tied round the baby elephant and attached to the former was not successful and though at first the captive was only moved by brute force, he very soon trotted along of his own free will by the side of his relatives. Once at the camp he seemed very subdued; in fact it was some hours before he got over his experiences of a ducking in the river. I gave him some milk by pouring it down his throat out of a wine bottle and got him all kinds of dainties in the way of green-stuff, but of the latter he would have none.

The same day, late in the afternoon, I heard far away in the distance, the frequent roaring of an elephant and I judged that there was one search party, and that the mother, out in quest of the little elephant, now comfortably installed in my camp. Thinking that perhaps I might have difficulty in rearing so young an animal, I decided to return him to, as I supposed, his sorrowing parent. Accordingly with this intention I again fastened him with a rope to one of the Government elephants and led him forth into the jungle—time about six o'clock—and went in the direction of the still bellowing mother. When I thought we were within a quarter of a mile or so of her, I tied the youngster to a tree, sent my elephant to some distance off, and climbed into the tree myself to watch the tamasha. Very soon the elephant began to answer the mother's calls and I hadn't long to wait, before she, accompanied by a big tusker, made her appearance. The little elephant in his excitement, at once forgot he was bound and charged forward, but with sufficient force to break the rope, and the next moment I saw that he was free and hurrying towards the mother, who immediately turned round to see her own footsteps followed. The youngster was quickly lost to sight in the distance, and I was the last I expected to see of my little elephant and after having given the reunited trio time to get away, I descended from my look-out and went back to camp. I thought no more of the elephants, till to my very great surprise, about 10 o'clock that same evening, I was informed by one of my servants that the little elephant had returned. Disbelieving the man's very improbable statement, I went out to see for myself and sure enough I found it to be a fact, and a fact which I could only account for, by supposing that the wild elephants would have nothing to do with their young one after its having been handled by man, but even if my supposition is correct, and the parents did cast him off, it is curious, that he should have thought of returning to his human friends, and in a less degree, than that he should have found his way back to my camp. Having elected me as his proper guardian, I could do nothing but keep the bacha, and very soon he became a very affectionate pet and would follow me about and greet me by twining his trunk round my neck. For other human beings he did not manifest the same fondness and the unwary stranger took the same humble position as I myself had been forced to take on my first introduction, but then, his charge I was irresistible. One of my Government elephants soon became very fond of the baby and I believe after a bit fully looked upon him as her own young one, and the feeling of affection being reciprocated by the youngster, the two were soon practically inseparable.

Shortly afterwards I had to make some long marches and thinking it best to have the little elephant in one place, I left him at Kanaun along with his foster-mother. To let him out of my sight was a great mistake, as I discovered ten days later, when I got a report from the mahaut in whose charge I had left the elephant, to say that the bacha was dead. The mahaut attributed its death to an unpropitious fate. Kismet has to answer for many things, and among other things the sore back of a certain mahaut.

CENTRAL ASIAN NOTES.

ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 25. (Reuter).—The Turkestan Gazette, in an article dealing with the situation in Afghanistan, gives a denial to the reports published in the English Press regarding collisions between Russian troops and Afghans on the frontier, and adds that "this campaign in the Press" constitutes another reason for redoubled vigilance on the part of Russia in that quarter.

The Central Asiatic city of Tashkent would appear to be rapidly becoming the great half-way halting-place for distinguished travellers between Europe and the East. The Turkestan Gazette mentions that two British officers, Lieutenant-Colonel McEwing, Commander of the 1st Punjab Uhlans Regiment, and Colonel Herbert Powell recently made a short sojourn in Tashkent, and were very courteously treated by the Russian Staff. Two Russian officers—Lieutenant-Colonel Polosoff and Staff Captain Snessareff—left Tashkent fortnight ago for British India. The Gazette, which is an official organ, observes that "these interchanges of visit by Russian and British officers between the Russian Central-Asian capital and British India are alike interesting, instructive, and promotive of friendly sentiments among Russian and British Indian officials."

Among other arrivals at Tashkent last week was a leading member of the French Geographical Society, M. Saint-Ives, and Lieutenant Bourgoigne, who are conducting a scientific expedition through Central Asia. The French savant, Professor Plenot, is prosecuting similar researches in Persia and Turkestan. The Daily News Odessa correspondent writes:—The leading Russian papers express great satisfaction at the completion of the new road, made by Russian syndicate, between Teheran and Resht, which is on a lagoon opening into the Caspian Sea. The new road is about 215 miles long, and during the two years occupied in its construction about 200 labourers have died of malaria. A great impetus to Russian trade is now expected.

The Secretary of State has formally sanctioned the construction of the extension of the railway from Peshawar to Jamrud.

The Government of India have nearly completed the consideration of the question of constant transfers, and after the question has been settled with the Local Governments, an order on the subject will be passed at the beginning of the cold weather.

MR. MACINTOSH relieves Mr. Meyer as Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, on the 15th of October, and Mr. Scott O'Connor succeeds Mr. Newmarch at Rangoon and will be relieved, at Allahabad by Mr. Tomkins.

SOME FREAKS OF FAME.

LITERARY celebrity is a strangely fickle and uncertain thing. Critics have laid down canons whereby we are to tell what we may justly admire. We respect the canons, more or less, but do not admire, in accordance with them. In literature, as in painting, it is impossible to perform the feat which Hogarth attempted, to "fix the fluctuating ideas of taste." We know with what misgivings of a charge of rusticity Addison ventured to see beauties in "Chevy Chase." We know how polite ears found Dryden's "Palamon and Arcite" finer than Chaucer's and preferred Pope's Homer to the original. We know the extraordinary views put forward by gentlemen who wrote with ease upon the "Ancients and Moderns" controversy. That most well-bred and most rapid of authors, Lord Shaftesbury, was pleased to observe of Shakespeare that "notwithstanding his natural Rudeness, his unpolished Style, his antiquated Phrase and Wit, his want of Method and Coherence, and his Deficiency in almost all the Graces and Ornaments of this kind of Writings; yet by the justness of his Moral, the Aptness of so many of his Descriptions and the plain and natural Turn of several of his Characters, he pleases his audiences and often gains their ear, without a single Bribe from Luxury or Vice." There is a charm in "Shaftesbury; he is so distinctly a Person of Quality, and uses his capital letters with such effect; but after the lapse of a hundred and eighty years or so his literary judgment seems, to say the least, amazing.

But if reputations rise and fall in a fashion thus strangely capricious, the slender foundations on which they are sometimes based are more wonderful still. There are, indeed, numbers of small men who have gained an unenviable immortality merely because some greater man has been good enough to ridicule them. There is the crowd of Grub-street "wits" who have been preserved, like flies in amber, in Pope's "Dunciad." Boswell was told in one of Johnson's unmerciful moments that his only chance of fame would have been a similar fate to theirs; yet he has contrived through the mere accident of his hero-worship to win both the gratitude and the contempt of posterity; and, indeed, of the hero and the worshipper it would be hard to say which has done the more to rescue the other from oblivion. To most people "Satan Montgomery" is only known through having been vituperated by Macaulay. Bavius and Mævius would have been utterly forgotten if Virgil had not made them celebrated by using them as types of the worst possible poets. Chærius owes a like debt to Horace. The Reverend Mr. Gastrel's sole claim to renown is that he barbarously cut down Shakespeare's mulberry tree; he has even earned the distinction of an abusive sonnet by Rossetti. If it was a bid for celebrity, he has his reward; yet we are told that he did it merely to "vex his neighbours." Other people when moved by this amiable desire have chosen less mischievous methods of vexing their neighbours; as a rule they keep fowls, or learn to play the cornet; but some have selected more heroic means, and have attained such immortality as is connected with giving their names to a "leading case" on Ancient Lights. Yet leading-case celebrity can scarcely be called immortality; it is a mere preservation of a name. The case of the ingenious Taltarnum has been a favourite puzzle for law students from the end of the fifteenth century to the present time; yet the personality of Taltarnum is lost in oblivion. He is a mere "party"; of no more vitality than the A and B about whom we all in the days of our youth are required to make unprofitable calculations in our arithmetic books.

It is said that Horace Walpole proposed to make a collection of the "bons mots" of persons who, on the principle of "Single-speech Hamilton," had made but one. There may be such persons; yet there are probably as few who would rest content after one joke as after one oration. Facetiousness and speech-making are both insidious habits; possibly they may each be checked if taken in the early stages; but they quickly become ingrained in the constitution, and are then ineradicable. Even single-speech Hamilton was fluent enough in the Dublin Parliament; it was only at Westminster that he sat mute for forty years to preserve his reputation as an orator. Yet, it is this forty years' silence, and not the Dublin eloquence, which has made him famous.

But there are many men whose popular celebrity depends on as slender a thread as that of Gerard Hamilton, or even as that of the unnamed gentleman who were to win an immortality on the strength of a solitary sparkle of conversation. Their monument "pyramidum altius" is, as it were, an inverted pyramid; substantial and wide-spreading enough at the top, but resting on a tiny and somewhat precarious apex. Such a fate is perhaps most frequent in the case of lyric poets. It may be that we have made their acquaintance through the medium of an odd volume of those "Miscellaneous" and "Elegant Extracts" whereby our grandfathers took short cuts to literary learning, or of an "Anthology" whereby a later generation performs the same process. Perhaps even our knowledge has its beginning in the Latin verse-book of our school days, into which some fragment has found its way through the mere chance of its being "suitable for elegiacs"; for one may scrape an acquaintance with English literature by means of a verse-book which can only be equalled, for comprehensive superficiality, by that curious knowledge of things in general which we derive from the examples in the syntax. There is, at any rate, a vast number of poets who are known to everyone, even of those who make no claim to be more than "general readers," but of whom few can recall more than a single poem. Of such slender credentials to immortality one may mention Crew's "He that loves a rosy cheek," and Suckling's "Why so pale and wan, fond lover?" the song "To Anthea," from prison, of Lovelace, whose popular fame rest upon this; and on the lines "I could not love thee, dear, so much, Loved I not honour more." Then there is Southwell's Burning Babe," to have written which, Ben Johnson declares, he would have been content to destroy many of his own works; there is David Mallet's ballad of "William and Margaret," there is the translation from Sappho, who herself survives but in two poems of any length, which was contributed to the "Spectator" by Ambrose Phillips, and is, perhaps, the only poem now read of him whose chief claim to renown is that he gave his name to the school of "Nabby-pabby." There is Mickle's "Cummor Hall," which seems to have suggested to Scott his novel of "Kenilworth"; there is Shenstone, whose lines record-

ing that he found his "warmest welcome at an inn" are probably the only poetic efforts whereby "that ingenious and elegant gentleman" is now remembered. There are many others of these solitary poems which have won for their writers a place in almost every memory. It is a curious fate that a lyric of a dozen lines should make a man remembered; yet no doubt one could find almost as many instances of a twelve-book epic making a man forgotten.

A HAUNTED YACHT.

THE haunted house is now-a-days a somewhat unusual thing. The end of the nineteenth century is too matter-of-fact to encourage the ordinary well-certified ghost. But a haunted yacht is a distinct novelty, and one which suggests that the latter-day spectre has recognised the necessity for giving a fresh initiative to his performance. The naval ghost has turned up off the West Coast of Scotland, and has caused considerable consternation on board the steam yacht Cling to Thee, which is well known in Rothesay Bay and the Kyles of Bute. The other day, or rather the other night, one of the sailors on board the yacht fell overboard and was drowned. The event took place between twelve and one o'clock in the early morning, when the yacht was lying in Rothesay Bay. The next morning, at the exact hour of the fatal occurrence, the skipper and the engineer were awakened by a series of raps on the deck overhead, and distinctly heard the tread of naked feet on deck. They rushed upstairs without waiting to dress, but found nothing or nobody. No one was seen to leave the yacht; and, though a most careful search was made, nothing was discovered. On the following night the noises were repeated, and continued for a quarter past twelve until a ter one o'clock.

An effort was made to induce someone to stay on board the steamer one night, and a volunteer was forthcoming, but as the hour approached when on land churchyards yawn, and it is suggested that the sea gives up its dead, his courage failed him, and just before midnight he went over the side into his boat and left the haunted vessel. Shortly afterwards the yacht left Rothesay Bay for the Kyles, where it was used in the day-time by pleasure parties, and was anchored in the bay at night. Here, however, the nightly visitations continued, and, in fact, became more marked. At the exact hour the sounds of bare feet were heard on deck, the rappings commenced, and the crockery on the yacht was moved in a mysterious manner, which cannot be explained. One night the visitation took a more demonstrative form, and while the two men were in bed the lid of a heavy saucepan was thrown at them. It fell between the two beds, and the men were on deck in a minute and made a complete inspection of the vessel, but once more found nothing. No one else was sleeping on the yacht, and the mystery is still unsolved.

Neither of the men professes to be in the least suspicious, and the ghost in this case has been heard, but not seen. The invariable appearance at the time when the sailor was drowned naturally connects the ghostly visitant with him. The spirit-rapping is a very ordinary feature of a ghost story, the tread of the bare feet on the deck is an artistic detail, but the saucepan-lid is a new departure, which indicates an abnormally bellicose disposition on the part of the ghost. There must, of course, be some natural explanation of these visitations, but it is not at present forthcoming. The matter is being inquired into by the "Glasgow Weekly Mail," and it is possible that a solution may be found. It is not considered probable that the visitations can be the work of a practical joker, for a strict watch has been kept both on and off the yacht.

HOLLOWING OUT THE EARTH.

WHEN the amount of coal required to meet the world's annual need is considered, one begins to feel, really sorry for the poor old earth from which it has to be taken.

In 1897 no less than 567,313,000 tons were dug out of the coal mines and in due time disappeared into the air in the form of smoke. If all this coal were evenly distributed over the surface of Great Britain it would completely cover the country to a depth of three feet. If, however, it were only conveyed to the administrative county of London it would bury the whole county beneath an avalanche of coal which would stand a height of 3,310ft., or nearly ten times the height of St. Paul's.

The money value of all this coal is as stupendous as its bulk, for at the mouths of the pits from which it was taken it was valued at £169,465,000. Shared out among the good people of Great Britain this sum would supply each person with £4.10s. Or if they preferred to have the coal, they would get about 3 1/2 tons for every pound of the £4.10s.

The sum represents more than a quarter of the National Debt, so that if the world would only copy General Both's example and have a self-denial year and go without coal every other year for eight years, Great Britain might pay off the National Debt with the saving on coal. How we should make any money at all without coal is a question that should not be asked at this point.

To take another illustration: The money value at the pit mouth of the world's annual coal supply is worth more than the rents of all the houses and farms in the United Kingdom. To get the coal from its original abiding places no fewer than 2,399,936 persons are required, in or out of the mines.

Where are the big holes which this coal-getting makes? The largest one is in the United Kingdom, where, in 1897, no less than 202,130,000 tons of coal were raised. The next largest is in the United States, where 178,769,000 tons of coal were worked in the same year. Then Germany took out of the earth 91,055,000 tons of coal, France 30,337,000 tons, and Belgium 21,492,000 tons. These five are the great coal winning countries of the world.

At the pit-mouth it seems that the average value per ton of coal is highest in France where it is worth 8s. 8 1/2d. per ton; Belgium comes next at 8s. 2 1/2d. per ton; Germany, 7s. 1 1/2d. per ton; United Kingdom, 5s. 11d. per ton; and the United States, 4s. 7 1/2d. per ton. A final point: compared with 1886 the United Kingdom in 1897 increased its output of coal by 44,612,000 tons a difference of £21,594,000 in money value.

A MUNICIPAL BILL PROTEST MEETING.

A PUBLIC meeting of the residents of Ward No. 4 was held on Sunday evening under the presidency of Babu Mahendra Narayan Das, when and where the following resolutions were passed:

The first resolution moved by Babu Harish Chunder Mitter and seconded by Babu Anuntam Ghose, retired Subordinate Judge, ran as follows:—That this meeting desires to record its deep sense of regret and disappointment at the manner in which the representations of the rate-payers of Calcutta in respect of the Calcutta Municipal Bill have been wholly disregarded by both the Government of Bengal and the Government of India.

The second resolution which was couched in the following language was proposed by Babu Fanchowrie Banerjee, Editor of the "Basumaty" and seconded by Babu Gonesh Chandra Mukherjee, pleader:—That this meeting expresses its strong disapproval of the provisions of the Calcutta Municipal Bill, about to be passed into law by which (1) the number of elected representatives of rate-payers on the Corporation will be reduced from 50 to 25, and their proportion on the General Committee from two-thirds to one-third, thus placing the representatives of the rate-payers in a position of standing minority; and by which also (2) the Executive, as represented by the Chairman, will be rendered practically absolute, freed from the control hitherto exercised by the Corporation. And that this meeting views with alarm the prospect of an irresponsible Municipal Executive being established in Calcutta with vast and varied powers, which, as they must be delegated to subordinates, will in their practical operation, be attended with grave abuse and will entail oppression upon the poorer sections of the community.

The third resolution, moved by Babu Atal Chandra Ghosh, pleader, and seconded by Babu hupendra Nath Dutt, attorney-at-law, was to the following effect:—That in view of the practical effect of the new Municipal Law, which, when it comes into operation early next year, will materially cripple the usefulness of the representatives of the various wards, and having regard to the immediate cause which has led to the resignation of the 28 elected Commissioners of their seats on the Corporation, this meeting desires to express its approval of the action taken by these 28 gentlemen, including Babu Nalin Behari Sircar and Kumar Mamatha Nath Mitter, the two representatives of Ward No. 4; and this meeting further begs to affirm that their action has been quite in accordance with the general feeling of the rate-paying Indian population of Calcutta.

The fourth resolution was proposed by Babu Debendra Chunder Ghosh and seconded by Babu Krishna Chunder Das, and ran as follows:—That this meeting feels it its duty to record its high appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the Corporation by their elected representatives, Babu Nalin Behari Sircar and Kumar Mamatha Nath Mitter, and of the able and conscientious manner in which they have discharged their duties as Commissioners; and begs publicly to declare that these gentlemen have always commanded and do continue to command the fullest confidence of the rate-payers and residents of this ward.

The fifth resolution which concerned the formation of a strong Ward Committee was moved by Babu Jadu Nath Sen, retired Engineer, and seconded by Babu Jyotish Chunder Mitter, attorney-at-law. The meeting, then, dispersed.

It is understood that one or two European officials of the Postal Department will accompany the Transvaal Contingent in view of the arrangements for the delivery of letters from India.

AT the last Criminal Sessions, held at Dehra-Dun, a mehter was charged with assaulting an English child of tender years. The Judge sentenced the scoundrel to six years' rigorous imprisonment. The offence was committed at Chakrata, and the Saharanpore Sessions Judge tried the prisoner.

CHOLERA has made its appearance in the European quarters at Ghazipur and there have been five cases, of which two proved fatal. The others are progressing favourably. The Collector and Civil Surgeon are personally attending to sanitary measures.

It is stated that Mr. Rivaz succeeds Sir Antony MacDonnell in the N.W. P., when the latter's term of office expires. Mr. Ibbetson's health has not been all that his friends could wish, and any immediate change might interfere with his taking the leave home of which he stands in need. For the present, however, he has every intention of serving through the time that Mr. Rivaz will be away, and in the event of the latter's quitting the Council at any time, Mr. Ibbetson would be the natural man to succeed him permanently.

A RATHER curious story comes from Como According to the Rome correspondent of the Telegraph, a large dog, of evident good breed and "station," was seen to go to the edge of the lake, and after looking at the water fixedly for a moment, deliberately to jump in, keeping his head under water. A man pulled him out, and drove him off, but ten minutes later he again approached, and again threw himself in, this time without hesitation. The man again pulled the dog out, notwithstanding his struggles, and drove him for some time inland, returning to the same spot to watch developments. Not long after he heard a tremendous splash somewhat further down the lake, and saw a dark object moving into the open. He hurriedly jumped into a boat, but arrived too late, the poor beast being quite dead, having persistently held its head under water.

LIEUTENANT H. WOOD, R. E., from the Trigonometrical Office at Dehra Doon, is at present in Delhi, under orders from Government, fixing up a site on the Ridge for the party of Austrian astronomers who visit India in November to photograph and take observations of the expected great fall of meteors on the 14th of that month. Dr. Griesbach, of the Meteorological Department, will represent the Government of India. The Pir Ghaib, an old mosque next to Hindu Rao's house and the Water-works reservoir, will be the head-quarter station, with another station six miles away. The two stations are connected by telephone.

