

পত্রিকা-পতক।

দুইপাই হইয়াছে
মূল্য ৩০ টাকা।
পত্রিকা-পতক।

অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা অফিসে প্রাপ্য।

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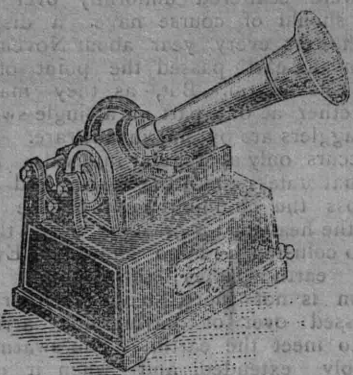
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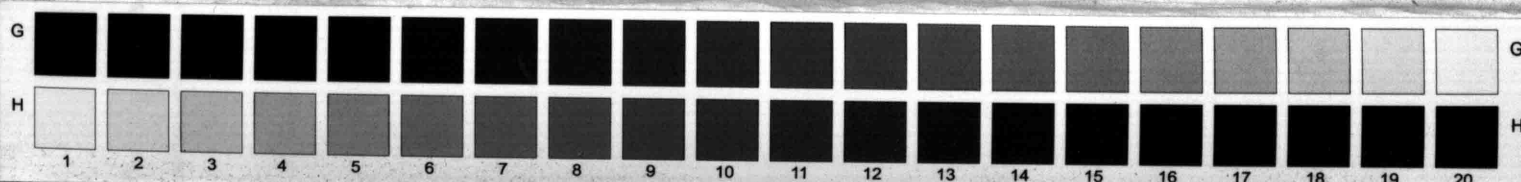
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SHOOTING STARS.

EVERYONE is fairly acquainted with Laplace's great nebular hypothesis of the origin of the world and speaking generally it may be advanced that the result of the study of the problem of the early history of the solar system has been to discredit the details of the theory in many directions. But the light thrown upon the question during the present century establishes more firmly than ever the general view that the solar system has been evolved by some process of condensation out of a diffused mass of matter bearing a general resemblance to the star clusters and nebulae with which the greater part of our sky is covered as revealed to us by the telescope. Now evolving slowly by the process of condensation and aggregation of particles from the initial nebular stage of meteoric dust into the hottest of stars at another time from the hottest of stars cooling down to the dark cold bodies floating in space and now by some convulsion in nature, pulverised back again into the original state of meteoric dust, the universe passes and repasses through the cyclic change, ever changing and yet remaining unchanged. Nature is not the great void it is supposed to be, but is permeated with particles of matter of various sizes, either in the solid liquid or gaseous form, which float in infinite space, obeying the one law of universal gravitation. Many of these small dark solid bodies which belong to the solar system, and revolve either in isolated masses or in swarms, round the parent sun when they happen in their flight to approach our earth sufficiently close to be influenced by her attraction, suddenly become incandescent by friction as they rush through our atmosphere, and manifest themselves to the denizens of the earth by a sudden flash, a luminous trail lasting for a moment or two, and vanish as suddenly as they appeared. These are called the shooting stars or meteorites—the basis of formation of our universe. It has been proved that they are of celestial origin, and consist of fragmentary masses generally revolving in swarms or clusters round the sun in definite orbits. We say generally, for there are isolated masses floating in sidereal space which occasionally cross our path and are named "sporadic" meteorites, of which we shall speak anon.

Professor Langley advances that the swarms of meteorites are made up of solid fragmentary masses of a size between a cherry and a cherry stone. Each tiny member acts as an independent planetoid, flies through space with a velocity a hundred times greater than that of a rifle bullet, in well-defined elongated elliptical orbits—so elongated in some cases that one end of their path reaches as far out as the orbit of Uranus, while the other end passing our orbit closely approaches the sun. The meteorites move round these definite orbits, but it by chance, as it very often happens, they pass so near the earth as to be attracted by her gravitation, there comes a sudden flash of fire from the contact of the little planetoid and our atmosphere, and the tiny meteorite, which may have existed for ages past as a separate entity, disappears in a moment in the form of vapour mingling its existence with that of our earth. Four principal swarms of such meteorites are known to exist, besides many more of lesser importance. They are named (1) Andromedes; (2) Leonids; (3) Persids; and (4) Lyrids. Way each is named after a star constellation we shall presently see. Perhaps more clearly to comprehend what the phenomenon of shooting stars actually is, how it originates, and why its showers take place periodically, it is as well to study the history of "Biela's comet." This comet was named after its discoverer, an Austrian, who first saw it in 1826. It was found to have a periodic time of about six and a half years. It duly returned as predicted, in 1832 and 1839. But to the surprise of all, when it returned again in 1845, it was found to have disappeared into two. The twins traversed the same orbit, and when again seen, in 1852, they were far apart. But that was the last appearance of the twins, and somehow they disappeared. On November 27, 1872, that is after an interval of exactly three times the period of revolution, as the earth was passing the point of the last comet's

path, a brilliant shower of meteors or shooting stars was seen raining down in thousands from the heavens. This shower repeated itself in 1885, thirteen years after, and on both these occasions the showers appeared to radiate from a point located in the constellation of Andromeda, and hence named the "Andromedes." The direction of the appearance of this shower and its periodic time of recurrence were found to be identically the same as those of the last Biela's comet, and naturally lead to the inference, subsequently corroborated by other evidence, that the newly-created meteoric swarm, was but the remains of the great Biela which by some convulsion in nature in our times, was first disrupted into two and then pulverised into the swarm which periodically pays us a visit about November 27th every thirteen years. If the meteors were scattered uniformly over the orbit, we should of course have a display of the showers every year about November 27th, when the earth passed the point of the orbit of this swarm. But, as they mainly crowd together at one part in a single swarm rough stragglers are by no means rare. The display occurs only at regular intervals. It is obvious that unless both the earth and the swarm cross the common point of the two orbits in the heavens at the same time, there can be no collision and no showers. Every year the earth passes this point, but the swarm is not there, having either already crossed over or having not arrived in time to meet the earth. The swarm is considerably extended, and when it does meet the earth at the proper time, it is usually the advanced guards of the swarm which meet the earth first. After a year's revolution the earth comes back to the same point and just manages to meet the rear guard of the swarm, which has not altogether passed over the crossing point during that interval. And thus for two and sometimes three years the showers continue in varying intensity. The great November shower however is that of the "Leonids" a name given to another meteor shower which occurs on or about the 13th November, because the point—the radiant—is located within the curved blade of the sickle which marks the constellation of Leo. The history of this swarm has been traced back to the year A. D. 126, when the planet Uranus, is believed to have captured some wandering sporadic meteorites, and deflecting them from their course, drew them into the solar system. Professor Newton, however, completed his calculations about the Leonids in 1864. He found that this swarm met the earth on an average of about 33 1/4 years on or about 12th and 13th November, and predicted that a shower would occur in 1866, which was observed as predicted. The orbit of this swarm has been found by calculations to be identical with that of the Temple comet discovered in 1866, and reveals the intimate connection existing between "meteors" and "comets"—a connection which, once in our time at least has been demonstrated by the appearance and disappearance of the great Biela and its reappearance in the shape of swarm of meteorites. A similar breaking up has been observed in Brooks comet of 1890 and it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that meteors and meteorite swarms are as suggested by Prof. Schiaparelli the debris of ancient but now disintegrated comets.

The Leonids assuredly furnish the most brilliant of star showers. With a swiftness unsurpassed among the other meteor streams, and with a brilliancy quite dazzling, they are easily distinguished from the Andromedes, with their dull reddish colour and slow gentle flights.

The third swarm known as the "Perseids" and associated with Comet III of 1862 are as swift as the Leonids in their flight and invariably leave a phosphorescent streak. Unlike the Leonids and Andromedes the swarm is more or less scattered over the whole orbit, and the display of these showers occurs every year about the 9th to the 11th August, as the earth traverses the common point in the orbit of the swarm.

The Lyrids, the orbit of which is also found to be identical with that of Comet I of 1861, give the April showers about the 19th and 20th of that month.

If a careful observation is made during one of these showers, it will be noticed that the meteorites radiate from a single point in the heavens. Near or at the point the shooting stars appear to have no tail, as the motion of the particular meteorite is along our line of sight. Away from this point, the meteorites leave trains which become longer and longer as the distance increases from the radiant point. This point can be easily located by prolonging all the tails their intersection giving the locus of the "Radiant." Actually, however, it must be noted no such point exists as all meteorites we know move in parallel courses, and this apparent radiation from a point is merely the effect of perspective.

One practical result of a careful observation of these showers has been to determine correctly the height to which our atmosphere extends above us. Observations made on the luminous part of a meteor simultaneously from two stations some miles apart have enabled us to determine the exact height at which the meteorite first begins to glow. The height of the ordinary meteorite is seldom found to be above 100 miles, though not a few have been found so high as 200 miles, demonstrating the fact. But our atmosphere must extend out at that height at least, if not more to render the meteorite incandescent by friction as it rushes through the upper regions of our atmosphere.

The average height of their appearance is, however, 75 miles, and they are vaporised about 15 miles above. In addition to those swarms, which belong to the solar system, there are innumerable isolated bodies loosely scattered in sidereal space. These occasionally cross our path, giving rise to striking effects. These "sporadic" meteorites, so named to distinguish them from the meteorites of the solar system, are masses irregularly scattered in space, and do not belong to any special region of the heavens. During the usual meteorite showers it is remarkable that no sound is heard and no mass ever reaches the ground. Not so with the incursions of the "sporadic" meteorites. They hiss and detonate as they rush through the atmosphere, and often masses of stone and iron more than a ton in weight have been known to reach our earth, and bury themselves deep in the ground by the force of impact. Both are purely of cosmic origin, and there is, of course no qualitative difference in the constitution etc., of the tiny meteorites, each on an average not more than a grain in weight which compose the meteorite

swarms of the solar system, and of the "sporadic" meteorites, except in size, the latter being considerably larger. Though cases are on record when an ordinary meteorite, during the usual showers, has managed on account of its comparative large size, to reach the earth. During the Andromedes shower of 1885 an iron meteorite fell at Mazzapie, in Mexico, which has since been preserved under the name of a piece of Biela's comet.

Professor Newton has calculated that of the meteors seen and unseen something like twenty millions enter our atmosphere daily. These figures, startling, no doubt, as they appear, point to at least the fact that space is by no means the void it is popularly believed to be. Recent researches have gone a step further. It is suggested that in the course of ages the shooting stars and other sporadic meteorites which have reached the earth must have contributed to no small degree in thickening the crust of our earth. At various times and at various localities in the Arctic Circle a peculiar kind of black powder has been collected from vast tracts of snow and ice, containing iron, nickel, etc. In Greenland specially considerable quantities of this powder known as "kryckonite," mixed with grains of metallic iron, have been found an inland ice. In its composition it is very different from the volcanic dust ejected from our volcanoes, and as no other origin could be ascribed to it, it must presumably be accepted as of cosmic origin. From the quantity thus collected on the ice planes it would appear that if the dust which falls on the whole surface of our globe be taken into consideration—the non-detection of such fine dust in other inhabited places than on ice and snow being obvious—something like half a million tons in a year drop from the celestial place on to the surface of the earth. It is not difficult to conceive how much an immense amount of meteoric dust could be translated from immeasurably distant sidereal space including our solar system, when we take into account the thousands and millions of shooting stars which fall from hour to hour and day today and which have been falling in showers during unnumbered geological ages. Geologists admit now how some sedimentary strata, specially those that have been deposited in the open sea and in mid-oceans far from land, are of cosmic origin, and could not be of terrestrial origin as they were first supposed to be.

The expected phenomenon of shooting stars in November next is, scientifically speaking, not of any special importance though as one of the few of Nature's phenomena which can be seen once or twice in a life time, it must have some fascination for the popular mind. The Radiant in the constellation of Leo does not rise till after midnight, and expectant sightseers must be prepared for a long vigil. In a single night the number of luminous meteors seen in the six hours, preceding midnight is about half that seen in the six succeeding hours. This is because after midnight the observer's meridian is in the direction of the earth's orbital motion while before midnight it is in the opposite direction. In the early morning hours we are therefore on the forward half of the earth as regards its motion in its own orbit while in the evening hours before midnight we are on the hind half. Thus during the former period we see both the meteors which the earth meets and those which it overtakes, on account of the higher velocity of our earth, as we have already seen that the earth passes the crossing point of the meteoric orbits every year, while the meteors themselves take thirteen and thirty-three years to complete one revolution in their orbit. During, therefore, the nearly night hours we see only such meteors as are overtaken by us. The Leonids, however, are moving in a direction opposite to that of our earth; hence their velocity is great. The Andromedes on the other hand, move almost in the same direction as our earth; the collisions are therefore not evidenced by high velocities. The general appearance of a meteorite when captured—a very rare phenomenon—is that of an irregular management of a stone of a volcanic origin, not unlike a piece of loose iron from a furnace. The presence of the moon up to about 2 A. M., the time of its setting on the 13th November, will to a small extent only detract from the brilliancy of the phenomenon, but it is possible that the display may not itself be as brilliant and striking as it is expected to be. It is by no means certain that this year we shall be passing the densest part of the swarm. A certain amount of doubt still exists as to the exact period—33 1/4 years—and it is more than likely that as on two occasions the intervals have been 33 years—in 1833 and 1866—the odd part of the period may carry the maximum phase of the phenomenon to November, 1900.

Besides the sudden appearance on the solar system of the new planet Eros may prove a disturbing element—a contingency by no means impossible.—Times of India.

OVER 1,600 mules are coming in to Simla daily from the interior with potatoes, grain, fruit, wool, charcoal, and firewood. Each animal carries two maunds, so that the new railway will have plenty of work for the goods trains. The potatoes this year are unusually plentiful and exceedingly good. About two-thirds of those brought in are being sent to the plains.

The Viceroy's visit to Kathiawar will be quite private. His Excellency will first proceed to Ahmedabad, where he will meet Lord Sandhurst and travel by rail to Wadhwan and by carriage road to Rajkot, visiting the relief works at Dholia. He will remain at Rajkot for two days. There will be no ceremonies, but if the port question comes under discussion, the principal State officials will be called to Rajkot to confer with His Excellency.

A DELHI telegram, dated 31st ultimo, says:—Their Excellencies spent a quiet morning, and this afternoon drove out to see the Purana Killa and Nizam-ud-din's Tomb. The Viceroy leaves here to-night for Ajmere, via Hissar and Rewari, at each of which places he inspects relief works. Lady Curzon will visit the Dufferin Hospital, rejoining the Viceroy at Rewari in the evening. Their Excellencies will then go together to Ajmere, where the Viceroy will inspect the Jalia relief works. During his stay at Ajmere, His Excellency will also present fresh colours to the Merwara Battalion, and invest Sir Pratap Singh with the C. B.

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THE Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, NOVEMBER 5, 1899.

FAMINES AND THE CHARITY OF THE PEOPLE.

IN explaining his famine policy His Excellency the Viceroy was pleased to appeal to the people of India to do their duty in these words:

In dealing the liberal and sustained plan of action with which the Government of India are prepared to meet the emergency, I feel that I have a peculiar right to call also upon India's own sons to come to her rescue in the hour of her trial.

Whether it is due to climatic influences or to their religious training, the fact is that the social instincts of the people of India differ considerably from those of the Westerns. In Europe and in America the people are more independent; here, they are more reliant. In the West parents do not like to depend upon their children for their maintenance; here, the parents feel that they have claims upon their children and the latter consider it a sacred duty to maintain their parents. In our school-books we have the story of the "Field of the Pious," the moral of which is not appreciated by Indian students. In that story it is told that at an eruption of the Vesuvius, two sons carried, in the midst of the general ruin, not their property but their aged parents. The spectacle so delighted the spectators that they named the place through which they passed, "The field of the Pious." In India, a son, acting in a contrary way, would have been put down for a monster.

In Europe sons and daughters have to provide for themselves. The sons, on attaining manhood, will consider it a disgrace to rely on their parents for support. Daughters, in the same manner, know very well that it is they alone who will have to find their homes and provide for themselves. But, in India, the duty of the parents is more exacting. Thus, here a father must provide for his daughters. He selects the bride-groom, and he has to undergo immense sacrifices for the purpose of providing for them. A man who has several daughters to provide for is almost a ruined man, unless he is wealthy. "Kanya-dai," or the responsibility of marrying daughters, is one of the greatest difficulties of the Indians.

But the greatest defect or merit of our social system consists in the duty of maintaining poor relations. A man, who has anything to spare, is surrounded by his kinsmen in straitened circumstances. The struggles for existence are increasing day by day; indeed, these struggles now defy description. When a man has luckily been able to secure his competence, his poor relations flock to him for assistance. A Deputy Magistrate who draws, say, Rupees four hundred per month, can manage to exist without much difficulty if left alone. But he has half-a-dozen brothers, who have no means of living. If he shuts his doors against them, they starve. The society will not permit it, nor has he the heart strong enough to resist the silent appeals of brothers and sisters in distress. Nay, the family feeling is stronger here than perhaps in any other part of the world. A man who has to spare and does not provide for his brothers or widowed sisters, is not only considered a brute, but such a man will consider himself a degraded man.

But poor relations do not mean only poor brothers and sisters. They form a very large class. A man who has anything to spare has not only to feed his poor widowed sister but also her half-a-dozen children, not only a destitute uncle but also his family consisting of many members. A man, who is, in any way, related to a man of substance, will run to the latter for help when he is in distress. This state of things holds good not only with the Hindus, but also Mussalmans.

Then again, both the Hindus and Mussalmans have to be hospitable. If a guest comes he must be entertained. A man can never be turned away from the door who comes hungry. There is a village near Baranpore (which is about a few miles from Calcutta) called "Gochanpore." Ages ago the inhabitants of this village once refused to entertain a hungry wayfarer, a stranger, who had claimed the rights of hospitality. This offended society, and the village was punished, and that in a peculiar manner. Society refused to utter its name, and gave it a new one. They nick-named it "Shupari-charanpore." Shupari being an equivalent of "Gua." Describing the Hindus (he might have said the same of the Mussalmans also) Abbe Dubois says:

They will never suffer the needy who has implored their charity to go unassisted. Their hospitality among themselves, it is well known, has no bounds. Even the humble, the distressed pariah, as long as he has a measure of grain in his possession, will cheerfully share his pay of millet with the weary traveller of his caste who may happen to take shelter in his hut; and in all their wants and distresses the Hindus of all castes will readily assist each other, more effectually than the Europeans would do in the same circumstances. What the Hindu possesses he keeps for himself. What the Hindu possesses he is always disposed to share with those who have nothing. In fact, it might be said that a wealthy Hindu considers himself as the depository or the distributor rather than the proprietor of his fortune, so greatly prone is he to acts of charity and benevolence; and it is chiefly from his cause that those frequent revolutions in the fortunes of the Hindus and those frequent passages from extreme opulence to extreme poverty arise.

We have not the least desire to praise or defend the social customs of this country; we only state things as they are. There is not the slightest exaggeration in the description of the Abbe, given above.

European officials claim that they need more pay than the Indian for their maintenance, for they (the former) are used to a more generous diet, meat and drink. But, as a matter of fact, the needs of a Hindu or a Mussalman are far greater than those of a European. Of course, a Hindu can live upon humbler food, but it is not the food that troubles him but his obligations. His obligations include also large expenses for religious purposes. A Hindu or a Mussalman is always poor. He has his burdens, proportionate to his wealth. His burdens increase with the increase of his wealth in a geometrical ratio.

When a famine or semi-famine overtakes the land, the Government spends a large amount of money to afford relief. But the people do infinite times more, though their acts of charity are never published for general information. It is not possible in India for a man to

die of starvation in a village if it has enough to save him. That is an impossible supposition. People die when there is no food in the village or they are so utterly destitute that they have not the means of purchasing grains.

In times of difficulty the house of the well-to-do is surrounded by starving beggars. He has to feed them as he has to feed himself and his family. When he sees that his resources are exhausted he flies from the place. But he cannot eat a mouthful of food, if he has hungry guests in his house, or even in his neighbourhood.

In short, if the well-to-do sons of India had not taken charge of the starving people in their neighbourhood, the Government would have found it impossible to save lives during famines. People run to the Government for relief, when their neighbours cannot any longer afford them any.

In this connection we are obliged to refer to another point. We are obliged to do it because, it seems clear, it has escaped the notice of the Viceroy. We would earnestly entreat His Excellency to make himself acquainted with the famine policy inaugurated by Sir John Strachey and Lord Lytton. That will lead His Excellency to the history of the Famine Insurance Fund. The history will inform his Lordship that the Government imposed a tax for the purpose of providing against famines which it then called "the Famine Insurance Fund," but which it now styles as "Famine Grants." When imposing this tax, the Government offered a pledge. It was to the effect that if the people paid the tax, they would be exempted from paying subscriptions towards the relief of the famine-stricken. What the Government said was this: "Pay this tax and we shall never trouble you for money in the matter of famine-relief." That tax has not yet been remitted. Nor have the people ever taken or do they intend to take any advantage of this pledge which the Government had given for the justification of a tax, severely felt by the poorest of the poor. But we have already shown that the people do much and have scarcely the means of doing more.

THE VICEROY'S REPLY TO THE DELHI ADDRESS.

WHEN Lord Curzon arrived in India, His Excellency's speeches filled the people with wonder. The art, the skill, the sentiments—all not only served to make them models of their kind, but also showed the breadth of mind of the ruler, his keen sense of justice, and his kindly feelings towards the people in his charge. How is it then, we have to find fault with the first speech delivered by His Excellency after his departure from Simla, to see the Empire for himself? This is what His Excellency is reported to have said in reply to the Delhi Municipal Address:

I have not, since my arrival in this country, received a more model address than that which you have just presented to me. My experience of addresses in India, although as yet inconsiderable, has taught me that they are sometimes, and I am far from saying improperly, made a vehicle, skillfully designed, of petition or appeal, and that occasionally, even under a delicate disguise of compliment, may be detected a remote echo of complaint.

I am happy to observe, in your address you ask me for nothing, you complain of nothing, but, on the contrary, record for the most part a condition of affairs which testifies good management in the past, reflects the existing contentment, and is a good omen for the future.

His Excellency praises the Delhi Municipal Address because it "asks for nothing and complains of nothing;" and from this fact, Lord Curzon draws the conclusion that they are in such a state of bliss that they have nothing to ask for! Now, we must say the inference that His Excellency draws is not a fitting reward of the forbearance shown by the citizens of Delhi. They are happy because they find the representative of the Sovereign in their midst; and, in their happiness, they do not like to make any complaint. But His Excellency, in our humble opinion, ought to have realized their consideration and expressed his obligations. He ought to have told them that he appreciated the motives which had led them to forbear from mentioning their wants and grievances in a complimentary Address, but that he would always be glad to hear what the people had to say, and to pay due regard to their just grievances. We think that would have been a better reply than what His Excellency was pleased to give.

The tour of His Excellency means trouble to him and cost to the people in many ways. The only justification for these troublesome and costly tours is that they enable the supreme ruler to see things with his own eyes, and inquire into the wants and grievances of the people. The citizens of Delhi would scarcely find another opportunity of meeting the supreme ruler face to face. Here was an opportunity—a rare one—which they found of making known their wants, and here was a rare opportunity for the supreme ruler to make himself acquainted with the actual condition of the subjects. Who, after the above declaration of Lord Curzon, would venture to make their inmost wishes known to His Excellency? But the duty of the Viceroy is not to discourage but encourage the unburdening of the hearts of the people.

We remember the following incident because it made a noise at the time. As Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal Sir Richard Temple paid a visit to Khulna. In the midst of a vast crowd he was being pressed rather unceremoniously by those who had come to see him. One who had approached His Honor with a view to present a petition was pushed aside by the police. At this Sir Richard expressed his displeasure and made it known that he was there to receive petitions of complaint. The result was that hundreds came forward with petitions, which were accepted and duly disposed of.

It oftentimes happens that the rulers, in their tours, cannot fulfil the just requirements of the people and then they openly say: "Yes, when I have come into your midst, you expect me to leave behind something to remind you of my visit, but I regret I have not the funds, etc." In England, it is quite otherwise, for the people there have no rulers but govern themselves. But here, when a ruler goes outside his capital, people expect something from him; and the rulers, who undertake such tours, very well know that they will have to do something for those whom they were going to visit.

We hope, however, the people will not be guided by what His Excellency apparently says. To a superficial observer, the speech may appear to show that His Excellency

is too indolent to like being pestered with petitions and that he likes nothing better than an easy life and amusements. But the speech has a hidden meaning. First of all, we all know that Lord Curzon is one of the most industrious of Viceroy's that ever came to India. Indeed, he is actually doing two men's work. So it is likely that his nature is not to shirk responsibility, but to court it. His Excellency was, no doubt, disappointed to see that the citizens of Delhi, misled by the officials, had presented to him an Address, which contained some phrases and no information. So His Excellency was only a little sarcastic when he said that, since the citizens of Delhi had no complaints he was obliged to arrive at the conclusion that they were in the Garden of Eden. That Lord Curzon was sarcastically inclined would be strengthened by another admission of His Excellency, when he said that he did not consider it was "improper" to make Addresses a vehicle of complaints. Alas! these tours give the people an only opportunity of making known their wants and grievances to the supreme ruler. Nothing should be done to deprive them of this only opportunity.

AN OFFSHOOT OF THE CHUPRA CASE.

It will be remembered that when Messrs. Corbett and Simkins instituted proceedings before Deputy Magistrate Moulvie Zakir Hossein, against constable Nursing Singh, for assault and intentional insult, the latter brought a counter-case against them stating the real facts, namely, that he had been violently assaulted by the above two Europeans, one being the Assistant Police Superintendent, and the other, the District Engineer, of Saran. The Moulvie, however, not only dismissed this case but remarked that Nursing Singh had been rightly served. The District Judge, Mr. Pennell, in the exercise of his revisional authority, delivered the following judgment, in which, it would be seen, he strongly commented on the conduct of the officiating District Magistrate and others concerned in the matter:

REVISION CASE No. 6. (a) of 1899.
In re Narsingh Singh vs. Corbett and Simkins.

Revision against the order of Moulvie Zakir Hossein, Deputy Magistrate of Chupra, Dated the 8th September 1899.

JUDGMENT.
In this case one Narsingh Singh lodged a petition before M. Zakir Hossein, Deputy Magistrate of Chupra, on the 23rd August. In this petition he complained that Mr. Corbett, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, and Mr. Simkins, the District Engineer, had beaten him and unlawfully compelled him to labour against his will. He asked that they might be dealt with according to law.

The Deputy Magistrate examined the complainant on oath and thereafter adjourned the case till the disposal of a case brought by Mr. Corbett against the complainant.

On the 8th September the Deputy Magistrate delivered judgment in the latter case, sentencing the complainant to two months' rigorous imprisonment under Sections 352, 114 and 504 I. P. C. On the same day he passed the following order in the present case:

"This complaint is utterly without grounds. I have found in the counter-case that this complainant, as accused in that case, was the aggressor and that he was rightly served. I dismiss the complaint under Section 203 Cr. P. Code."

This case has come before me not on the application of the complainant, but in connection with his appeal in the case in which he was convicted.

In the latter case I am this day delivering judgment acquitting the complainant.

It is only on the evidence recorded in that case that the Deputy Magistrate has purported to act in dismissing the present complaint. After carefully considering that evidence I am entirely unable to agree with the Deputy Magistrate that the present complaint is without grounds, that complainant was the aggressor, or that he was rightly served. On the contrary, it appears to me that the deposition of Messrs. Corbett and Simkins themselves in the case which Mr. Corbett brought against the complainant, furnish good grounds for their prosecution under Sections 323 and 374 of the I. P. C.

I therefore set aside the order of dismissal passed by the Deputy Magistrate and direct that a further enquiry be made into Narsingh Singh's complaint.

If the charge of this district were continuing in its present hands, it would seem to me very doubtful if any fair enquiry could be had and I might probably deem a reference to the High Court necessary.

In the counter case I have found that the present District Magistrate was at the bottom of the dismissal of this case, that he has substituted his position to screen Messrs. Corbett and Simkins from justice. Fortunately, however, the permanent District Magistrate, Mr. W. C. Macpherson, will be back here in a few days and as I think it probable that all parties will feel confidence in his impartiality, a reference to the High Court is not required.

I direct that the further enquiry into Narsingh Singh's complaint be made by Mr. W. C. Macpherson himself.

(Sd) A. PENNELL,
Sessions Judge
7-10-99

Now we need make no comments on the case as apparently it will come up for enquiry before Mr. Macpherson, the permanent Magistrate of Saran. We shall invite attention to only remarkable statement in the depositions of Messrs. Corbett and Simkins. They said therein that the constable, Nursing Singh, gave Mr. Corbett great provocation by snapping his fingers in his face. Now, Indians, when they mean to insult a person, never snap their fingers at him. This "snapping of fingers" is a phrase which is peculiarly English and unknown in this country. Here is another remarkable point. Mr. Corbett was transferred to Backergunge when the case against Nursing Singh was still pending in the court of Moulvie Zakir Hossein. The accused constable applied to the Moulvie to summon him so that he might be cross-examined as some fresh charges had been brought against him (the constable) in the absence of the complainant, the Assistant Superintendent of Police. The Moulvie granted the application, but added a most extraordinary condition. It was that the accused must deposit the pay and travelling expenses of Mr. Corbett, who was then at the other end of the country! As Mr. Pennell remarked in his judgment, the amount would mean

pay of the constable for several years. The accused was denied the benefit of cross-examining the complainant—a benefit to which the meanest subject of Her Majesty is entitled under the law.

With regard to the assault committed upon the constable, the following facts are admitted by Mr. Corbett and Mr. Simkins. Mr. Corbett seized the man by his shoulders, turned him round, kicked his bottom, and told him to go. Mr. Simkins omits the kick in his deposition, but Mr. Corbett is explicit on the point. The constable then retreated two or three yards and then ran at Mr. Corbett. Mr. Simkins hit him on the head with a rattan, and Mr. Corbett struck him in the face with his fist, causing him to fall against a house. Mr. Corbett says that he hit the accused three times in the face, and that each time the man ran at him. It is not, however, asserted by either Mr. Corbett or Mr. Simkins that the accused or any one else had actually struck either of them.

The third time Mr. Corbett hit the man he fell on a hedge. The former then sat on the latter and thrashed him, and Mr. Simkins with Mr. Corbett's help gave him 6 or 7 cuts with the rattan on his bottom and back.

Up to this time, none of the villagers had done anything; but while Mr. Simkins was thrashing the accused with Mr. Corbett's help, one Sita Chamar came up and raised a lathi and asked him to let the constable go. Mr. Simkins snatched the lathi from this man and hit him on the head with his rattan. Mr. Corbett then let go the constable and subsequently forced him to do the earthwork, which was derogatory to his position as a Rajput.

Let us add here what we stated the other day, namely, how unequal was the fight between the constable and the two European officials. The constable was at the time ill, but, apart from that, he is not a man of any exceptional physique. His two European opponents are, however, thus described by Mr. Pennell in his judgment: "Mr. Corbett is a sturdy young fellow, and Mr. Simkins an exceptionally powerful and well-built man in the prime of life." No Englishman can read the above account without feeling himself humiliated at the conduct of Messrs. Corbett and Simkins, who are at least men of some education and culture, and the duty of one of them was to preserve and not to break the peace.

The proclamation of martial law all over Natal means that the population of the Cape and Natal are not absolutely to be trusted. A great many of them are of Dutch descent, if not actual Boers, and their sympathies may lead them to go against England. As a matter of fact, the capture of two thousand British soldiers and 1,500 transport animals is attributed to the treachery of Cape Boers who are the descendants of Dutch fathers and native mothers, many of whom were the drivers in the Mountain Battery. The military authorities have, therefore, to be made supreme to enable them to crush any overt or covert acts of hostility with promptitude. It is not unlikely that the Boer population in Natal and the Cape would be disarmed if they show any sign of disaffection. The real fact in these so-called wars is that they are not wars properly so-called but mere skirmishes. Of course, there was something like a battle at Elandslaagte and there the English gained a brilliant victory; but everywhere else the fighting strength of the contending forces rarely exceeded a few thousand men. Our frontier wars were more serious than these Boer affairs. The Boers are, however, better armed and better disciplined than our Borderers. The attitude of all Continental Powers, there is no doubt of it, is generally hostile. Germany has always sympathized with the Boers. And as for France the advice of the press of that country to the Boers was to begin war at once, before English reinforcements had reached South Africa. Indeed, Kruger faithfully followed the advice offered to him by the French press. We are told that America is against the Boers, and that the aggression of the latter has alienated American sympathy from them. This is very gratifying, for real mischief might have been apprehended from that quarter. A great many American papers are, however, in sympathy with the Boers. England knew it very well, when plunging into this war, that though it would receive no sympathy from the rival nations, yet none of the latter would venture to offer open hostilities. The capture of two thousand British troops will only strengthen the determination of the British nation to terminate the Boer business as speedily as possible.

WHEN transferring Mr. Pennell to Noakhaly, the Hon'ble Mr. Bolton, we submit, ought to have taken into consideration one inevitable result of his action, namely, that the public would be led to draw the inference that the transfer in question meant a punishment to the Chupra Judge, awarded not for administrative purposes but for the satisfaction of vindictive feelings. Of course, Mr. Bolton is too high to be actuated by any such petty considerations, but high officials in India have not only to do the right thing but also to persuade the public to believe that they are incapable of acting in an improper way. That Mr. Pennell had no other motive to take such a strong view of the case than the improvement of the administration of justice is abundantly clear from the fact that he sent a copy of his judgment directly to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal after he had delivered it. It is quite evident that Mr. Pennell expected thanks and not censure for having performed a disagreeable duty in the interests of the administration. His transfer to a penal station is thus bound to cause sorrow, surprise and suspicion in the public mind. We hear from our Chupra correspondent that Mr. Pennell is so very unwell that the insalubrious climate of a place like Noakhaly is sure to tell seriously on his shattered constitution. We are further told that, as in duty bound, Mr. Pennell has represented the whole matter to the High Court for its information. This reminds us of the case of Mr. Judge Staley and Deputy Magistrate Babu Atool Chander Chatterjee. The local authorities of Backergunge were up against the latter because he would not convict a police case, and Mr. Staley, Judge of Backergunge, took up the side of the Deputy Magistrate and made a strong representation to the High Court. Sir Comer Petheram was then the Chief Justice and Sir Charles Elliott the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. They had a fight over the matter, and His Honor in revenge transferred both Mr. Staley and Babu Atool Chander Chatterjee to other districts. The

subject was at last referred to the Government of India, which decided more in favour of the Chief Justice than in that of the Lieutenant-Governor. In short, Babu Atool Chander was given promotion and Mr. Staley posted to a more important district. We sincerely trust, a similar unseemly quarrel between the High Court and the Local Government will be avoided this time. The responsible rulers of the land must always sink their private feelings when they have to decide a case involving public interests of vital importance. A deviation from this rule is bound to produce disastrous results.

THAT the Viceroy takes a good deal of interest in the fate of petty clerks is evident from the following letter we have received from Rawalpindi:

The Chief Commissariat officer, Rawalpindi, insisted on keeping his office open, in spite of the most respectful and earnest protest of the native clerks during the last Puja holidays. Overwhelmed by the requests of the clerks, Babu P. Gupta, late editor of the Punjab Times, sent a telegram to His Excellency the Viceroy with the result that the officer has been censured and called upon to submit an explanation. The telegram was thus worded: "Chief Commissariat officer, Rawalpindi, has kept his office open during the Dussera holidays. Religious feelings greatly outraged. Solicits intervention of your Excellency." The officer censured, has issued a circular to his subordinates asking them to state the name of the gentleman who conveyed the information to Mr. Gupta.

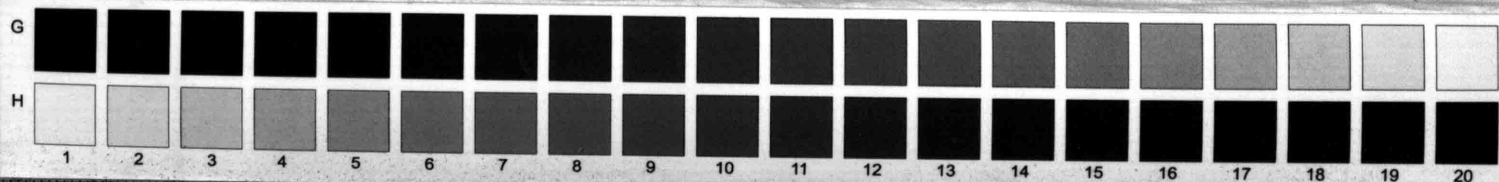
It is also an open secret that the Viceroy asked for a return from the heads of departments showing the number of clerks fined by them during the last five years. A contemporary went to the length of saying the other day that, these fines were remitted by His Excellency, who has also ruled that no clerk ought to be fined in future by his superior.

ELSEWHERE is published the circular of the Comptroller of the Post Office addressed to the clerks of that department, who, under the Decentralization Scheme, have been compelled to leave Calcutta and serve in such distant parts of the country as Nagpore and Lahore. We say "compelled" advisedly; for, we are assured that, under the rules of appointment, the clerks are not bound to go outside the limits of the capital of India. If we have been correctly informed about the matter, a test suit should be instituted against the Secretary of State for India by a clerk, and the real position ascertained in a court of justice. Taking it for granted, however, that the Government is within its rights to transfer hundreds of clerks to any part of the Empire at its sweet will, surely it ought to give them sufficient compensation for the hardships to which they may be subjected by the new arrangement. The so-called concessions granted by the Government, which Mr. Badshah euphemistically calls "generous", only betray the mournful fact that these wretched quill-driving animals have none to protect their interests. They had to get a bonus of only two months' pay, which, however, must not exceed Rs. 100. That is, a clerk drawing Rs. 40 per mensem gets only Rs. 80, but a clerk drawing Rs. 100 will get more than Rs. 100! How generous! What magnanimity! Let it be borne in mind that these clerks will not only be practised from their homes and hearths, they are entitled to a holiday of twelve only during the year, but they will be obliged to maintain two establishments, of their native places, and another town where they serve. Their expenses would thus be doubled. How would they manage to make the two ends meet? But that is not the concern of the moment! They must be satisfied with a bonus of two months' pay not Rs. 100 so generously granted to them there nobody amongst the responsible of the land to say a word in their favour, they have their chief in Mr. Bolton, but his interests lie in showing that he cannot devise a better securing economy than by recommending pay and additional work for his staff. What strikes us as very strange is that the clerks of the Comptroller of the Post Office should be treated in a different manner from those who accompany the Government of India to Simla. Why should not they be allowed the same concessions which are allowed to the Simla clerks, who also enjoy the privilege of residing in Calcutta for five months? The lot of these ill-paid and hard-worked officials ought to move the kind heart of Lord Curzon.

THE new body of Municipal Commissioners who assembled at the Town Hall on Monday last, the majority of whom Europeans and Eurasians, gave the idea as to how they mean to transact affairs in future. There were 11 business before the meeting, and their discussion in no time was met with no sort of opposition everything in his own way. Of business excited some interest the appointment of a Resident on a salary of Rs. 400 per mensem. Rs. 100 as horse-allowance, three candidates, two Hindus and one European. The Chairman was generally recommended one of the three. He said that he could speak experience of that gentleman's knowledge. The result of the vote showed that Mr. Martin, by date, had obtained the largest number of votes, all the European Commissioners as also the apparently, voting for him is not distant when all the Municipality worth over to the Whites.

FOR an independent of the Boers, the article quoted in an Chicago Inter-Ocean, is not friendly. The information which is papers.

WHEN General responsible, there Though we don't it appears to us sending the two These temporary mate success of



Calcutta and Howrah.

THE RAILWAY CONFERENCE.—Mr. Allan Arthur leaves Calcutta for Bombay on the 8th instant to join the Railway Commission, which will probably occupy some ten days in discussing questions affecting the Western Presidency.

THE LAW MEMBER.—Mr. Raleigh, Legal Member of the Viceroy's Council, will leave Simla about the 6th instant. He visits Aligarh College and arrives at Bombay about the 18th, where he will stay for a week, and reaches Calcutta at the end of the month.

TIKARI RAJ.—The case of Moulvi Abdul Ayub circle officer, Raj Tikari, under the Court of Wards, has at last been decided by the Commissioner of Patna. The Moulvi has been dismissed from the service on the charges brought against him by the manager of the Raj.

AN INDIGO EXPERT.—At a meeting of the Behar Indigo Planters' Association, it was resolved to re-engage Mr. Rawdon, the Agricultural Chemistry expert, for a further period of three years, it being considered that one season was too short a time in which conclusive experiments in the effects of the various manures on changes of crops of indigo could be made.

RECORD RAINFALL.—We hear that up to the 21st ultimo a rainfall of no less than 150 inches has been registered at a garden in the Behal district of Assam. Most of this was measured by the manager himself, and there is not the slightest doubt about its accuracy. The manager is curious to know if this rainfall is beaten by any other garden in Assam, or any other part of India.

BEHARI SETTLEMENT IN BURMAH.—Babu Harihar Prasad Singh, son of the late Rajai Prakash Lal Bahadur, C. I. E., of Dumraon, has written a most interesting monograph on the Jaipur settlement in Burma, which was founded by the late Raj Bahadur and colonised from Behar. The settlement has been in existence since 1839, and during the last ten years 2,000 acres of forest have been cleared, and 800 acres brought under cultivation.

MR. TILAK'S CANDIDATURE.—Mr. Tilak is said to be a candidate for the representation of the Central Division in the Bombay Legislative Council. He has two formidable rivals in Messrs. Gokhale and Garud. In Nasik Mr. Tilak has the best chance, in Ahmednagar Mr. Gokhale's prospects are the brightest while Satara is said to be divided. Sholapur is in favour of Mr. Tilak, Poona in favour of Mr. Gokhale, and Khandesh is going to vote solid for Mr. Garud. The issue of this triangular duel will be watched with great interest.

THE "ASIATIC QUARTERLY REVIEW."—We are glad to learn that satisfactory arrangements have been made by the wife and son of the late Dr. Leitner to carry on the publication of the *Asiatic Quarterly Review*. The current issue has several articles of interest on Indian topics. Sir John Jardine writes on questions of Church regulation in India; Sir Roper Lethbridge on the Indian sugar duties; there are two articles on the Currency question, one by Mr. Leslie Probyn and the other by Mr. John Twigg, late of the Bengal Civil Service; and finally, Mr. Popham Lobb has something to say on the coming struggle for Persia.

THE NUDUA RIOT.—The Judge of the Assam Valleys Districts has dismissed the appeal of the six prisoners against the sentence of four years' rigorous imprisonment passed upon each of them by the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur for assaulting Mr. Bellwood, Manager of the Nudua Tea estate. The Judge is said to have upheld the sentence on the ground that the assault committed was a murderous one, but, on the other hand, has expressed the opinion that there was no rape, as was alleged by the defence. It is said that the prisoners intend appealing to the High Court.

VIOLENT CRIME.—A Bhadrakali correspondent writes to a contemporary:—"Thefts and dacoities are on the increase. One case of theft is reported to have occurred in the house of one Krishna Chandra Kundu only a few days ago. The miscreants taking advantage of the absence of the owner, made a hole in the wall, but failed to take away any valuables which were kept quite secured. Within the last month, two cases of dacoity took place at Balli, the latter of which was committed in the house of Babu Nabinchandra Sur, but the loss amounted to only a few rupees and some jewellery. Another attempt at dacoity was reported to have been committed two days ago in the house of Babu Madhab Chandra Banerji but it was frustrated."

A SHOOTING CASE AT A PLAGUE HOSPITAL.—On Monday last, before the Police Magistrate of Alipore, Moulvi Seraj-ul-Huq, Inspector of the Ekbapore Thana, charged a young European, named S. S. Russell, late of the Plague Department, Calcutta, with doing a rash and negligent act under the following circumstances:—On Saturday last, Russell was firing at a chatty floating in a tank with a Saloon rifle in the compound of the plague hospital on the Budge-Budge Road, when one of the stray shots passed over the wall on an adjoining bungalow and hit an old Mahomedan in the nape of the neck. The bullet was extracted and the injured man subsequently taken to hospital by the police. Russell was arrested and the rifle taken charge of by the police. The case is pending.

HOWRAH BRIDGE.—From the Resolution on the administration report on the Howrah Bridge for the year 1898-99 we find that the receipts amounted to Rs. 1,66,471, showing a decrease of Rs. 14,452 as compared with those of the previous year. The receipts from railway traffic were Rs. 1,36,604 as against Rs. 1,51,408 in 1897-98. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,75,924, showing an excess of Rs. 7,358 over that of the previous year. The cost of lighting the bridge with electricity was Rs. 10,726 against Rs. 9,823 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 903. The bridge was opened for the passage of vessels on 151 occasions, of which 101 were on the ordinary fixed days of the week, and 50 were on Sundays on special application. No sea-going vessels collided with the bridge during the year under review, but there was a large increase in the casualties to (1) inland steamers and flats and (2) cargo and passenger boats. In both these cases the number of casualties was unprecedented, being 22 in the

one case and 133 in the other. Of the boats which collided with the bridge 16 were lost and four lives. There were altogether 169 cases of collision as compared with 129, 109 and 78 respectively in the three preceding years.

THE FIGHTING AT LADYSMITH.—Amidst the dismay and consternation which the first publication of the news is sure to give rise to it is to be sincerely hoped that no exaggerated estimate of the extent of the British defeat will be generally formed. Practically—to put the matter at its worst—the sum of the reverse amounts to this. Two battalions of British Infantry, the Gloucesters and the Irish Fusiliers, have been obliged to capitulate, the 10th Mountain Battery has lost its guns, owing to a stampede among the mules, and 1,500 transport animals, by some means which require explanation, have fallen into the hands of the enemy. On the other hand, it cannot be too strongly insisted that our main position at Ladysmith remains unassailed; the lines of communication between Durban and the front are still open, and the Army Corps from home is already practically on its way out. We have no wish to ungenerously minimize the Boer success. General Joubert has made his name. With an undisciplined force of irregular horsemen, with no organised commissariat and transport, and hampered by dissensions among his commanders, he has met on equal terms a trained and disciplined army of British troops, and inspired with a stubborn pertinacity which must command the admiration of his foes. In the absence of details it is impossible to gather a definite idea of the progress of the desperate fighting that took place round Ladysmith on Monday. But it is clear that the naval detachment from the *Powerful* arrived only just in time. The Boer forty-pounders, which must have been removed from their mountings on the forts round Pretoria and placed on field carriages, were rapidly mastering our artillery when the seamen came up with a six-inch gun landed from their warship. A vessel like the *Powerful* would probably carry field mounting for one of her big guns. The arrival of the 6-inch altered the face of the battle. Five rounds were sufficient to silence the Boer artillery. A general British advance was then ordered against the enemy's front and apparently the Boers took the opportunity to attack our flank. Our London correspondent speaks of brilliant charges by the 5th Lancers, and it is possible that this gallant regiment saved the situation as the tars had saved it earlier in the day. By nightfall the enemy had sullenly drawn off. The capitulation of the Gloucesters and Irish Fusiliers was previous and not subsequent to the battle on Monday. On the night before they had been sent out with No. 10 British Mountain Battery to clear the left flank of the enemy. It is evident that Sir George White in ordering this movement had in view the fact that Boer marksmanship has in no wise deteriorated. By attacking at night he hoped to neutralise the effect of the enemy's fire. On the other hand, of course, there was the danger of the column losing its way. This is exactly what seems to have happened. The force apparently blundered into the midst of a large host of Boers. The mules of the battery stampeded and finding themselves surrounded, and without artillery, the whole force capitulated. It would be easy, we imagine, to find fault with the surrender, but before passing judgment one should wait for a more detailed narrative of the circumstances. Of one fact we feel certain. No British force would have thus capitulated unless the officers were fully assured of the absolute futility of fighting.—*Englishman*.

ASSAULT ON A ZEMINDAR BY A EUROPEAN.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

DINAJPUR, NOV. 1.

YESTERDAY, Mr. White, a local leather merchant, appeared before the District Magistrate, in answer to a summons taken out against him by Munshi Raifuddin Chowdhuri, a big Mahomedan Zemindar of the district, charging him with assault. The story of the prosecution is that the Zemindar, while on his way home back from the bazar, met the accused driving in a cart near the Foudrai Court premises. In his attempt to cross the road, he unwittingly caused the horse of the cart to shy. This action of the Zemindar roused the worst passions of Mr. White, who in a fury chased the Zemindar, who, in the meantime, tried to get away but was overtaken. Mr. White now got down from the cart and began to mercilessly horse-whip him causing several deep cuts on his buttocks, from which blood oozed out. So severe was alleged to have been the assault that the Zemindar fell down on the ground. On being released from the grip of Mr. White, he presented himself before the Senior Deputy Magistrate, who, on taking cognizance of the case, submitted it to the District Magistrate for disposal. Before Mr. Garrett, accused admitted the assault but pleaded provocation. He was, however, let off with a fine of Rs. 10 only. In the counter-case instituted by Mr. White charging the Zemindar with having endangered his life by intentionally frightening his horse on a public road, accused was fined Rs. 5.

OWING to the abnormally heavy rain that has fallen in Madras and along the Coromandel Coast, the Madras-Nezavada line and the East Coast Railway have been breached in several places, causing a delay to the mail trains on Sunday and Monday last. At the previous breach at the 37th mile on the East Coast Railway, the lines have sunk, and on the Madras-Nezavada line breaches have occurred between Eravur and Tada stations, about fifty miles from Madras.

ON the 25th ultimo a terrible explosion occurred at Amraoti, by which Raisakirdo Lall and others met with their deaths. The man is a manufacturer of fireworks, and he had stored in a basket in his house two thousand rounds of crackers, which were exploded by a concussion. The basket was placed on a high stool, near by being some kurbis, which attracted the attention of a goat. In driving it away the animal knocked over the basket, and the fall exploded the crackers. Every member of the household suffered terrible injuries, Raisakirdo Lall, his son, an infant child, and a servant were picked up dead. The former's wife and the son's wife were seriously injured.

THE VICEROY'S TOUR.

REWARI, NOV. 1.

His Excellency the Viceroy, with Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Wigram, and Mr. Fanshawe, Commissioner, arrived at Sirsa at 6-30 A.M. The party were met by Mr. Humphrey, Deputy Commissioner, and Mr. Berkeley, D. S. P., and rode out four miles.

Famine relief-works under Mr. Wakefield have commenced. Two camps, of four thousand and five hundred each, are making a channel. The labourers work in gangs of twelve, all belonging to the same family if possible. Each gang is given a daily task of six hundred cubic feet. An overseer inspects the works daily and give each gang a ticket for full or short work completed. The workers are paid weekly according to the tickets. Hospital sanitation, water-supply and excellent kitchens have been started for dependant unable to work, to whom food is given free daily. The workers are Mahomedans from an area of forty miles round.

The Viceroy arrived at Hissar at 11-30 A.M. and rode out two miles to the works in charge of two Naib-Tehsildars numbering nine thousand acres. The workers are in gangs of fifty of the same family and village. All the arrangements are perfect. The water-supply which is deficient has to be brought in bullock carts. A poor-house under a hospital assistant, which is separate from the relief-works, distributes food daily free to those unable to work. The Viceroy was much interested in the Government Cattle Farm under Veterinary-Captain Gunn. The labourers on both works are in good condition, and are not emaciated. The authorities have not been premature in starting works. Small wages varying from one anna to one anna nine pies is sufficient for the subsistence of one man, provided he starts in fair condition, and people would not work for such small wages unless in distress. The Viceroy paid special attention to the payment of wages and kitchen arrangements, and was greatly impressed with the completeness of all details. His Excellency's visit was a complete surprise to the natives, who were unaware of his presence.

The Viceroy on taking leave of Mr. Fanshawe, the Commissioner, and Mr. Humphreys, Deputy Commissioner, congratulated them on their work.

His Excellency arrived at Rewari at 7-30 P.M. and met Lady Curzon and party. H. H. the Maharaja Pertab Singh of Jodhpur has been presented with the insignia of "C. B.", but he is at Ajmere with a broken leg and was unable to take part in the ceremony.

PLANTER VS POLICE.

A HAILAKANDI correspondent of the *Sanjibani* sends to that paper the account of a novel incident which certainly has a grim humour in it. It was by no means an edifying spectacle—an exhibition in which the "caneing" powers of two persons were tested—one a planter, and the other a policeman.

During the recent Pujans, there was a party of pleasure-seekers in the Akini tea-garden—and a round of gaities was arranged for by the Manager, Mr. Teed. Among the guests were the Sub-divisional Officer of Hailakandi, Mr. Graham, and his wife. Mr. Graham ordered the Head Constable of Katichora outpost, to collect for him ten *begars*. The writer-constable, Hrishipada Dutt, in pursuance to this order, collected nine persons and with them came to the Akini garden, hoping to secure the tenth man there. He was accompanied by a constable named Kotai Miah. On the arrival of the party at the garden, they found that theatricals were going on; and naturally enough they stopped there to have a peep at the show. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Graham was there. But Mr. Teed and several of the neighbouring planters were present. The sight of the police officer seemed, curiously enough, to unhinge Mr. Teed, so much so that with his cane he threw up the pugree of the constable; and when the latter tried to put it round his neck, again was it displaced. This fun, however, did not prove quite palatable to Hrishipada Babu, and he asked—"Why do you tease the constable, Sir?"

"Who are you?" Asked Mr. Teed. "And why are you here?"

"I belong to the police force of Katichora and have come here with *begars* for Mr. Graham."

The planter now fell foul of the police officer and began to crack jokes at the expense of the latter's bald head and curling hair. When, at last, Hrishipada Babu found that the Shaheb was going a little too far, he observed "Don't you tease me." This uncorked the phial of the planter's wrath and he ordered the policeman to clear out. He could not do that, replied Hrishipada Babu, without first placing the *begars* before Mr. Graham. No sooner was this said than Mr. Teed gave the officer a tremendous blow on the nose, while another gentleman handed him a cane as, perhaps, the better mode of chastisement. Up rose the succulent cane in the air, and the next moment it would have descended on the head and shoulders of Hrishipada Babu with a terrific switch, but Mr. Teed was anticipated by the latter who now used his own cane to very good purpose, cutting open Mr. Teed's brow in several places.

The matter, in due course, came to the notice of Mr. Graham; but when he heard of all that had taken place he dissuaded the planter from seeking the protection of the law courts.

Really, had Hrishipada Babu been less brave and powerful than he evidently is, it would have been difficult for him to save his hide; but as it was, he taught Mr. Teed, says the correspondent, a lesson which he will not forget in a hurry.

A NEW sub-division in the Lucknow Provincial Division, to be called the Goomti Bridge Sub-division, with head quarters at Lucknow, has been formed.

LITIGATION, which threatens to be prolonged, has commenced at Kumbakonam, in South India, relative to the recent election of a member of a Hindu Temple Committee. Charges of menacing, intimidation and bribery have been made.

ELABORATE preparations are being made by Mr. Nagamvala of the Poona Observatory for observing the great meteoric shower of November. He has issued printed instructions to the several districts giving hints as to the way the observations are to be made in order that they may be of scientific use.

Correspondence.

PROSPECT OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I do not think it is quite time yet to review fully the effects of the recent legislation imposing a countervailing duty on imported sugar. We shall know more in December when the new foreign imports of sugar again arrive; and we shall then be able to judge of its effects on the indigenous sugar industry more correctly than we can now, as the first 6 months of the year are the heavy importing months. But briefly speaking, as far as I can judge, the countervailing duties have saved the situation and have made sugar-growing and refining now possible to pay, whereas the condition of things, prior to the passing of the Act, was such that the trade of refining could only be carried on at either a loss or at such a small profit as not to make it worth the risk, while the demand of about 6000 to 8000 tons of raw sugar in this district (24-Perghs.) necessary to feed the refineries was in course of being stopped for good. This year sugar manufacturing will begin under much better auspices and on a sounder basis which must react on the cultivation of raw, especially of date, sugar in which a large part of Bengal is most concerned.

It is said that four or five factories (out of some 25 or 30 stopped of late years) at Kotchandpore, will reopen this season. This is a hopeful sign and shows clearly what encouragement the recent Government measure has given to the local sugar trade. We may look forward now to more factories following this example either during the coming season or in the next, and thus a steady increase in the growth and cultivation of date trees to supply this growing demand, should take place; and wealth and prosperity would return to the sugar districts.

OPTIMIST.

DECENTRALIZATION OF THE COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Here is the notice issued by the Comptroller Postal Accounts, to all clerks who will go to Nagpur and Delhi:

It has been finally decided by the Government of India, with the approval of the Secretary of State, to decentralise the work of the Comptroller's Office. The office will be broken up at first into four divisions:—

- (a) The Central Account office at Calcutta.
- (b) The Bengal Circle Audit office to be located at Calcutta.
- (c) The Punjab Circle Audit office to be located at Delhi.
- (d) The Bombay Circle Audit office to be located most probably at Nagpur.

The Comptroller's office has been working under the decentralisation scheme since the 1st March 1899 and there should be no difficulty in carrying it to completion at local centres. Officials in each circle office have been already selected.

The Viceroy in Council has been pleased to sanction the concessions noted in the accompanying list to the men who are about to be transferred to Delhi and Nagpur. I hope that the officials of the out-going offices will recognise that the concessions are very liberal. I propose also, as far as may be practicable and with due regard to the interest of the officials of the central and Bengal circle offices, to retransfer men from the outgoing circle offices whenever vacancies occur in the two offices at Calcutta.

The work of the outgoing offices will be stopped on the 21st December 1899, and Deputy Comptrollers and their assistants of all grades will kindly see that it is more than current up to that date. On the 22nd and 23rd the men of the outgoing offices will come to the office and help in packing up registers and records. The bonus and advance of pay will be made over to the men on the evening of the 23rd December. The officials then should proceed to the circle centres and report themselves to their Deputy Comptrollers at the circle centres on the 29th December. It must be clearly understood that the outgoing officials must assemble at their new centre on the 29th. No excuse will be admitted for absence. On the 30th and 31st December they should help in unpacking their records, in their new offices and in arranging them. The 1st January will be a holiday. On the 2nd January they should resume work.

It is possible that unless special arrangements are made some difficulty may be experienced by men going out and their families in proceeding to their destination. I propose, therefore, to arrange, if possible, with the Railway Companies to attach special carriages on certain fixed days to the trains for Delhi and Nagpore. For this purpose it is necessary to know when the men propose to start and how many members of their families will accompany them. The Deputy Comptrollers concerned will kindly issue instructions to their Superintendents to collect information on the subject; each official (including menials) should be asked on what day he proposes to leave Calcutta, what members of his family he proposes to take with him and whether he desires that arrangements should be made for him and his family to travel in a special carriage with others of the office staff. This information should be obtained by the 4th November and submitted to me on the 5th.

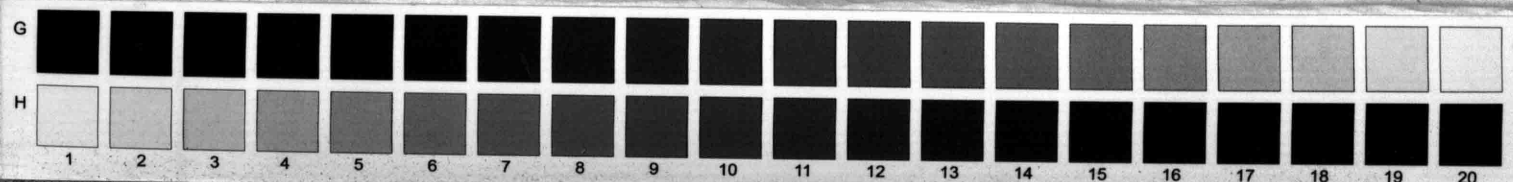
A large number of the men going out will be promoted to higher grades from the 1st January 1900. Orders on the subject will be issued later. If any of the apprentices of the out-going circle offices desire to go to the circle centres they should give in their names and permanent appointments on Rs. 20 and Rs. 15 will be given to them from the 22nd December 1899.

K. J. BADSHAH,
Comptroller.

Calcutta, the 24th Oct. 1899.

CONCESSIONS TO OUT-GOING MEN.

1. The grant to all non-gazetted officers of a bonus of two months' pay not exceeding Rs. 100.
2. The grant of an advance of one month's pay to be realised in 6 instalments instead of three.
3. Grant of travelling allowance under article 1205, Civil Service Regulations, to be extended to a period of six months after transfer instead of two months as prescribed in the rule.
4. Grant of free passage for themselves and



their families to their homes to those who may be pensioned within three years after their transfer.

5. In case any members of the Circle Audit offices transferred from Calcutta desire to have a portion of their pay disbursed to appointed agents in Calcutta, this should be done by the central office without any extra charge.

THE ROMANCE OF "THE LUCKIEST MAN IN KLONDIKE."

Dr. L. ORVILLE WILCOXON is known as "the luckiest man in the Klondike." He is twenty-seven years of age. In the spring of 1898 he went to Alaska with just about sufficient money to pay his expenses. Within twelve months he was worth £250,000, and has claims which he expects will make him a millionaire inside three years.

Dr. Wilcoxon's story is altogether romantic. When at home he fell in love with a pretty girl of good family; but he received a gentle hint from the young lady's parents that his circumstances hardly justified him in marrying. So Dr. Wilcoxon hid him straight away to the Klondike—and the marriage is fixed to take place early next month. The doctor is now at home awaiting the happy day.

"Dawson," says the doctor, "has now quieted down to business. There are telephone connections all over the Klondike; there are hospitals, clubs, and theatres; the two banks do £700,000 worth of business a month; and every other man dresses for dinner in the evening. Dawson has been transformed in a few months."

Dr. Wilcoxon as soon as he "struck" it rich combined money-lending with goldmining, charging interest at the moderate rate of 5 per cent. per annum. He also made several lucky "buys" as they are called, including a claim on the Lower Sulphur for which he paid £2,000, and sold for £40,000. He has received several good offers for his other claims; but after his marriage he proposes to return to the Klondike and superintend their working himself.

TRAINED WINGED POSTMEN.

PERHAPS no other member of the feathered community has won so much fame for such extraordinary instinct, amounting almost to intelligence, as the homing pigeon. Only those who have participated in the hobby of homing can fully realise the fascination it possesses, and the ever-increasing interest that surrounds the birds. There is something noble about the appearance of the broad-chested, bright-eyed messenger of the air, as he skims through space, with scarcely a perceptible movement of his pinions, and alights at the entrance to the home he loves so well, after having flown hundreds of miles, looking as fresh he would after a morning flutter around the loft. It is pleasant to note the intense satisfaction when he gets inside amongst his mates. Every feature of the sport is full of interest, and there is no better illustration of the fancier's enthusiasm than to watch him sky-gazing for hours at a time, starting up at the sight of every flying creature in the hope that it may when flying, develop into the bird he is so anxiously waiting for.

The purposes for which the homer has been utilized are numerous. Before the electric telegraph connected so many country districts with the centers of population, the birds were used all over Europe for conveying news and even now, some English sporting papers maintain large flocks of homers for carrying results of racing events from outlying places. Extensive experiments have been tried in order to test the capacity of the homing pigeon as a medium for conveying naval and military despatches in time of war, and the results in many instances have been highly satisfactory. But of all the accomplishments credited to the homer probably none has been of such practical benefit as that of a number of birds of the Great Barrier Island Pigeon Agency. These creatures are trained to carry messages to and from the great barrier island and Auckland, New Zealand, and the system has expanded so much that it has now become as important means of intercourse between the inhabitants of the island and their friends and business connections in the City. At the time of the wreck of the steamer Wairarapa on the Great Barrier Island, it was four days before news of the calamity reached the capital and this fact gave rise to the pigeon-gram system. At first but few birds were available for the purpose, but in 1896, with the increasing population on the island it was found necessary to reinforce the feathered army, and at the present time large numbers of messages are daily sent from the island to the metropolis, and vice versa, by this means. At first, 2s. per message was charged from the island, to the City, but when a team of birds had been trained to fly from Auckland to the island, messages were sent at a cost of 1s., and the messages to the City were reduced to 6d. each. The reason of the extra expense from Auckland to the island is the difficulty experienced in getting birds to leave the City on their journey across the water. No messages for the island are sent from the City after 10 A.M., as the island is often developed in a fog after that hour. Some idea of the despatch with which the birds deliver their messages may be gained from the fact that they average (bad weather and head winds taken into consideration) from sixty-five to seventy minutes, the journey being about 58 miles. One bird will carry as many as four messages at a time.

The New Zealand Graphic gives the following information on the subject: The messages are written on tissue paper (quarto size) with carbon lead, the tissue paper being perforated down each side, and on being folded, is sealed with the pigeon's stamp, which secures the privacy of the messages. The messages are then wrapped round the pigeon's leg and covered with a waterproof legging. This protects them from wet in case of bad weather, or from the bird pecking it off during transit. To open the message the receiver cuts through the perforation. There are now 100 birds engaged in the service. At both termini the usual trap for homers is used on entering which the wires fall back and strike an alarm. This notifies an attendant who removes the messages and the bird is permitted to enter the main loft.

As evidence of the public appreciation of the service, the agency has been subsidised by a Steamship Company, by Mining Company, by Mining Companies working at the island, as well as by merchants in Auckland.

TELEGRAMS.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

THE TRANSVAAL WAR.

LONDON, OCT. 30. Sir George White reports that an engagement took place before Ladysmith to-day in which the Boers were repulsed after several hours' fighting.

The British loss was about one hundred, and the enemy's loss greater. The Boers were very numerous, and had many guns.

All our forces were engaged to clear the position commanding the town.

The position was, however, found to be evacuated.

The enemy attacked with great vigour, but were pushed back several miles.

The British returned to camp unmolested.

The Irish Fusiliers, the Gloucesters, and the Mountain Battery were sent out last night to clear the left flank, but up to the present have not returned to camp.

Night firing caused the mules to stampede with some guns, which Sir George White hopes to recover.

MEMORABLE ACTION AT LADYSMITH

(From Pioneer's London Correspondent.)

LONDON, OCT. 31. The Times correspondent telegraphs from Ladysmith on Monday, that the Boers, without warning, fired their forty-pounder on the town at daybreak from the north.

The Cavalry, under General French with six batteries and an infantry brigade, were then sent towards the west, while Colonel Ian Hamilton, with another brigade moved out to the north, to attempt to turn the enemy's defences.

The enemy had skillfully taken up positions to make the most of their artillery, covering the north and west approaches to Ladysmith.

Until noon a continuous artillery duel went on.

"I went," says the correspondent, "with General French and Colonel Grimwood's infantry brigade. Six batteries at daylight opened a long range fire on the position above the Newcastle Road, where the enemy had a siege gun, while three battalions covered the right flank."

"The enemy returned the fire rapidly, their range being good, but their execution small."

"Our batteries rained shrapnel on the Boer position, and their gunners were seen constantly flying to cover."

"At 8 A.M. the Cavalry discovered the enemy in great strength to the west and fell back."

"The guns then changed front and met the enemy's heavy attack successfully."

"The British Infantry force, consisting of both Battalions of the King's Royal Rifles, the Leicestershires, Liverpools, Royal Dublins, Devons, Gordons and Manchester returned to camp at 2 o'clock."

"On the left the movement was hampered by the Mountain Battery Mules stampeding over to the enemy's position."

"Their position was much extended, the front held by the enemy covering seven or eight miles."

"Our retirement was not molested."

"The enemy showed in position in great numbers."

"The Naval Brigade from the cruiser Powerful arrived with two quick-firing guns, and in five rounds, silenced the enemy's forty-pounder, which dropped eleven shells into Ladysmith, but no serious damage was done."

"All our troops behaved splendidly."

"Doctor Jameson was a spectator of the action."

LONDON, OCT. 31. The following are probably the names of the officers who have capitulated to the enemy.

GLoucestershire REGIMENT.

Majors Humphrey, acting in Command, H. Capel Cure, D. S. O. W. R. P. Wallace; Captains S. Duncan (wounded), S. Wilcock, B. O. Fyffe, C. J. Venables, V. E. Russell, G. S. Tulloch, R. Conner (wounded), F. S. Stayer; Lieutenants A. Bryant, F. C. Nisbett, J. O'D. Ingram, R. M. M. Davy, C. S. Knox, W. A. Temple, A. H. Radice, J. E. Ruck, W. L. B. Hill, W. R. J. Rawson, P. H. Short; 2nd Lieutenants H. C. W. Theobald, H. H. Smith, R. L. Beasley; Honorary Lieutenant K. J. Gray.

ROYAL IRISH FUSILIERS.

Lieut.-Colonel R. C. Carleton, in Command. Majors F. H. Munn, C. S. Kincaid; Captains, R. M. de Berry, T. H. B. Conner, G. B. H. Rice (wounded), W. B. Silver (wounded); Lieutenants A. L. S. Heard, P. Gould, A. H. C. MacGregor, W. D. Dooner (wounded); A. L. J. M. Kelly.

10 MOUNTAIN BATTERY.

Major G. E. Bryant, Captain F. R. C. Hudson, Lieutenant G. D. Wheeler, G. R. H. Nugent.

RUMOURS OF RENEWED FIGHTING.

LONDON, OCT. 31.

The newspapers in deploring the Ladysmith disaster suspend their judgment pending the receipt of details.

They say the loss will not affect the issue, and that Great Britain is resolved to effect the object in view at any cost.

The first Battalion of the Suffolk, the Essex and Derbyshire Regiments have been ordered to mobilise.

The first Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders and Scots Greys sail for the Cape on Wednesday.

There is vague news that fighting was renewed at Ladysmith to-day.

The transport Gaika has arrived at Durban.

From the T. D. News Correspondent.

LONDON, NOVEMBER 1st.

Colonel Carleton, Royal Irish Fusiliers commanded the captured column.

ARTILLERY DUEL.

LONDON, NOV. 1, 10-15 P.M.

There is a singular dearth of news from the seat of war in South Africa.

The Times, in a telegram from Ladysmith, dated Tuesday evening, says an intermittent artillery duel continues.

The men of the Naval Brigade have knocked the Boers' 40-pounder off its platform, and silenced the guns on the Hepworth Ridge near Reitfontein.

The Boers have abandoned the position.

The Queensland Contingent has sailed from Brisbane for the Cape amid great enthusiasm.

A report current at Aldershot which is not confirmed, states that another division goes out to South Africa immediately.

TELEGRAMS.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

GENERAL WHITE WOUNDED.

THURSDAY'S ARTILLERY DUEL.

LADYSMITH INVESTED.

LONDON, NOV. 2, 5-10 P.M.

Sir George White telegraphs from Ladysmith that Lieutenant Egerton of the Powerful was dangerously wounded this (Thursday) morning by a shell.

The above is the only despatch received to-day.

LONDON, NOV. 2, 11-45 P.M.

Communication with Ladysmith was cut off at 2-30 o'clock this afternoon.

LONDON, NOV. 2, 11-35 P.M.

The Governor of Natal telegraphs that communication with Ladysmith has been interrupted since 2-30 this afternoon.

A report emanating from Brussels states that the Boers have occupied Colenso and completely invested Ladysmith, and that General White is wounded.

The War Office is unaware of anything to confirm this.

The name of Major Campbell of the Kings Rifles is added to the list of wounded at Dundee.

CASUALTIES AT LADYSMITH.

LONDON, NOV. 3, 2-40 A.M.

In Monday's action near Ladysmith, six officers were killed and nine wounded; and 54 men killed and 231 wounded.

The following is the list of killed.

Royal Artillery.

Lieutenant Macdougall.

King's Royal Rifles.

Major Myers.

Lieutenant Marsden.

Lieutenant Forester.

Surgeon-Major Edward Gray.

Natal Rifles.

Lieutenant Chapman.

The following is the list of the wounded.

Royal Artillery.

Major Dawkins.

Lieutenant Belcher.

Kings Royal Rifles.

Major Riddell.

Lieutenant Johnson.

Irish Fusiliers.

Captain Rice.

Captain Silver.

Gloucesters.

Captain Fyffe.

Captain Stayer.

Captain Wilcock.

LONDON, NOV. 3.

The list of casualties given in the last message apparently includes partially the losses sustained by the captured column.

The Daily News says, when they surrendered, the column had nearly 200 killed and wounded.

The Boers acknowledge 73 killed and 200 wounded at Reitfontein.

SIR REDVERS BULLER'S PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.

(From the Bombay Gazette Correspondent.)

BOMBAY, NOV. 3.

On Monday the war correspondent of the Central News agency visited the scene where the conflict took place.

He saw twenty dead and over one hundred wounded collected, and it is computed that the prisoners total 870.

The troops fought for seven hours before they were compelled to surrender by reason of want of ammunition.

November 2. A telegram received from De-aar, dated Wednesday relating to the plans of General Sir Redvers Buller, states that part of his force will concentrate at De-aar for the purpose of invading the Free State.

Preparations are incessantly going on, and thousands of mules conveying war material are being hurried forward.

A force is being organised for the immediate relief of Kimberley, and after clearing out the enemy, will continue its march to Mafeking.

LONDON, NOV. 3.

Lord Charles Beresford has been appointed Second-in-Command of the Mediterranean Squadron.

Plague News.

PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

ON Thursday there were reported 5 cases and 6 deaths of which one death took place that day. Wards 2, 5, 11, 14 were affected. The total mortality was phenomenally low being only 47 as against 67, the mean of the last five years. The largest number of deaths was reported in Wards 3, 8 and 9.

BOMBAY RETURNS.

PLAGUE attacks reported on Thursday numbered 14 and deaths to, the total mortality being 105; last year it was 87, and in 1897, 99.

POONA MORTALITY.

THERE were three cases and four deaths on Thursday in the Poona city, the total mortality being 14. In the district there were 70 cases and 56 deaths.

COOLIES have begun dag-belling the line of the new Simla-Kalka Railway from end to end. Mr. Harrington, the Chief Engineer, is expected back from England about the middle of next month.

THE cost of making good the damages done to the roads and buildings in the Military Cantonments at Jalapahar and Lebon, by the recent slip and cyclone, is estimated to amount to over Rs. 71,500, which will be defrayed by Government.

THE Government of India have ruled that binoculars and hunting saddles, imported by military officers as part of their military equipment cannot be passed free of customs duty under the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, as no special kind of these articles has been prescribed for use of military officers as part of their equipment.

Law Intelligence.

HIGH COURT : VACATION BENCH.
—OCTOBER 31.

(Before Justices Sale and Stanley.)

AN APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER.

MR. K. N. SENGUPTA instructed by Moulvie Mastafa Khan, moved on behalf of one Shah Reza Hossein for the transfer of a criminal case, pending against the petitioner, from the file of the Sub-divisional Officer of Bihar to that of any other Magistrate in the district competent to try the case. The facts as alleged in the petition and the affidavit in which counsel moved for the transfer appeared to be these. On the 6th of September last, one Soorie and her brother Khiran complained before the Sub-divisional officer of Bihar against two other persons namely Wajid, a constable, and one Kelayat, under Sections 55, 323, 354 and 426 I. P. C. The Sub-divisional Magistrate upon examining the complainants issued summonses under some of the above named sections against the accused persons who were ordered to appear before the said Magistrate on the 12th of September last. On the 15th of September a petition of compromise was filed in the above case and the accused were discharged. Nearly 3 weeks after this i.e., on the 7th of October last, the above named Wajid, who was one of the accused in the above-mentioned criminal case, in the false belief that the present petitioner, Shah Reza Hossein had been instrumental in bringing the above named criminal case against him, maliciously brought a false criminal charge against him and also two other persons in the court of the Sub-divisional Officer of Bihar under secs. 323 and 384 I. P. C. After examining the above named complainant Wajid, the Sub-divisional Magistrate issued a warrant against the present petitioner only, although the complainant had complained against two other persons also, under sections 323, 384, 114 and 504 I. P. C., and fixed the 30th of October for the appearance of the present petitioner before him. On the 21st October last i.e., nearly 9 days before the date fixed for the appearance of the accused the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Bihar issued a proclamation under S. 87 of the Criminal Procedure Code and without waiting for the return of the writ of proclamation simultaneously issued an order for the attachment of the petitioner's property under S. 88 of the same Procedure Code. The petitioner in his petition for transfer describes himself as a man of some position and respectability who, as the spiritual guide of a large and influential community of Mahomedans in the Sub-division of Bihar, is held in high esteem. His father is an Honorary Magistrate of Bihar and also the Juffindar Nasta of a certain durgah at Bihar and the petitioner being the eldest son of his father, expects to succeed him in the last mentioned post which is held with reverence by the members of his community.

Mr. Sengupta urged that the petitioner believed that the Sub-divisional Officer of Bihar in issuing the above named orders had been actuated by motives which made his client reasonably apprehend that he would not get a fair trial at the hands of that officer. The latter and the father of the petitioner, counsel submitted, had not been on the best of terms, as would appear from the official correspondence which had been going on between them from time to time, since the 11th of February last, a portion of which had been appended to the petition for transfer.

Their Lordships after hearing Mr. Sengupta granted a rule calling upon the District Magistrate of Patna to show cause why the case should not be transferred from the file of the present Sub-divisional Officer of Bihar to that of any other Magistrate in the district, competent to try the case and pending the hearing of the rule, all further proceedings were ordered to be stayed.

THE EUROPEAN POWERS AND THE BOERS.

THE *St. James's Gazette* says:—A question of considerable importance to this country will speedily arise for decision. Will the European Powers and the United States recognise the Boers as belligerents, or will they regard the war as one between a sovereign State and its rebellious subjects? In the latter case there would be no necessity for the Powers to take any formal notice that war was going on, an obvious advantage to Great Britain, for it would enable us to continue the purchase of mules in Spain and America, of tinne provisions in the United States, and of warlike stores generally wherever we found a market. It would also allow the Boers to continue the importation of arms via Delagoa Bay, providing, of course, that the cargoes were not intercepted by British men-of-war. It is doubtful whether we should have the right to stop any steamers carrying such cargoes as they would all be flying the flag of some friendly Power. The Boers, too, could go on enlisting recruits in Holland and Belgium, as they have begun to do. These recruits would be able to land at Lorenzo Marquez and reach the Transvaal unmolested. Such, at least, is the contention of Boer sympathisers, but a more weighty opinion is that friendly Powers—and all nations come technically into that category—would be at liberty to allow Great Britain to purchase war store and to make use to their harbours, while denying such rights to "rebellious vassals. Neither the Continental Powers, nor the United States of America, ever have recognised the claim of the Transvaal to be "an independent Sovereign State." In abstaining from such recognition, they are as the "Law Journal" reminds us acting on a principle on which there is no difference of opinion among jurists. That principle is laid down in "Hall's International Law" as follows:—

"A State in its perfect form has in virtue of its independence, complete liberty of action, object to law, in its relations with other States. But so soon as compacts are entered into which are not intended to be revocable, or are not likely by the nature of their provisions to be susceptible of unilateral revocation, and which, at the same time, subject the external action of a State to direction by a will other than its own, it ceases within the sphere of these compacts to be independent, and consequently to be a person in international law."

It is perfectly clear from this that the Transvaal is, as Professor Westlake himself admits, a "dependent" State. The exact international

status of such a dependent State in time of war has never yet been determined. Obviously the Power (apart from the combatants) most interested in this question is Portugal, for, upon the decision arrived at, depends the privileges accorded to Boers or British at Delagoa Bay. In the present nebulous state of international law, authorities could be found to support any course Portugal chose to adopt. There is the precedent she herself set in 1896, when British troops were allowed to land at Beira and march through to Mashonaland. It, however, Portugal were to allow the British to use Delagoa Bay as a base for operations against the Transvaal, there can be no doubt that the Boers would, if able make reprisals, in which case a virtual, if not a declared, state of war would exist between Portugal and the South African Republic.

The action of the Orange Free State in throwing in its lot with the Transvaal somewhat complicates the legal position. The Free State is, in law, a sovereign International State, though in practice, its position of dependency upon England is marked by the fact that all correspondence with it, is carried on, not by the Foreign Office, but by the High Commissioner and the Colonial Office. The alliance of the two Boer Republics, one of the partners being admittedly "sovereign," will afford the European Powers justification for recognising the belligerency of the Boers. That recognition will be followed by proclamations of neutrality, and very possibly an interdiction on the export of any goods which might be classed as contraband of war. In this way the purchase of mules for transport, now being made by British officers in various countries, would be rendered useless, although it is usual, after a proclamation of neutrality, to allow a few days grace, during which the Powers at war with each other can complete contracts entered into with friendly States. There can be little doubt that this custom will be followed by the United States, if by no other nation. For the rest, the Great Powers and the Little Powers will undoubtedly in practice adopt a policy of neutrality, whether or not their sympathies are pro-Boer. To Portugal alone is the matter one of vital interest. May she not be tempted to solve the difficulty by giving Great Britain an opportunity to exercise that right of pre-emption over all Portuguese territory south of the Zambezi already secured to us by treaty? Such a solution would be beneficial to England and Portugal alike, and would render the isolation of the Boers absolute.

SOME JOURNALISTIC ANECDOTES.

A collection of journalistic stories whose only drawback is that some of them have been heard before, are published in the *Cornhill Magazine*. One or two of the following are familiar, but bear repeating:—

Many are the humorous errors and quaint expressions for which the young and inexperienced reporter is responsible. I have read in a description of a shower of rain in an Irish newspaper the following delicious sentence:—"The heavy rain-drops varied in size from a shilling to eighteen pence."

A body was found dead, hanging from a rope in a room of the house in which he lived in a provincial town. The reporter thus finished up his account of the affair:—"It is believed that the deceased put the rope round his neck as a joke, and found when too late that he had made a fatal mistake."

A young reporter was sent to do "a penny reading" in Dublin. "O whole," he wrote, "the entertainment most mirth-provoking and soul-stirring could be had for the money."

A reporter in the same city, who had been by drink to very wretched circumstance the *Freeman's Journal* an account of which thus concluded:—"No motive assigned for the rash act, as when was picked up the sum of 7½d. was found in his pocket." The old journalist could stand a man committed suicide with three farthings in his possession.

Mishearings by the reporters are a ludicrous mistake. "What do you want?" asked John Bridg in a speech during the movement for Italian unity, "want to be a nation." The answer was given in a morning paper as "They want to be in Asia." Another political orator was represented as having declared that "England was getting further and further from the Land of Promise," when he had only deplored our retrogression from "the van of progress."

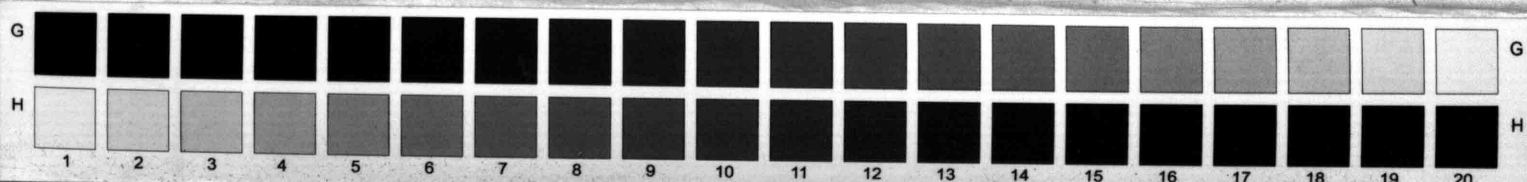
A highly-respectable witness, who was examined before a Select Committee of the House of Commons in regard to a railway scheme, was asked, "Is your father a partner in the Moor Works?" to which he replied in affirmative. In one report of the evidence this version of the question and answer was:—"Is your father a pauper in the Workhouse?" Yes.

Some reports have the "journalist" as it is called, abnormally developed ever on the look-out for "copy." Called to see the young lady who one Sunday evening, she met him with a colourless face. "Oh T in an agitated voice, 'we have scare! Ma was coming down caught her foot in the carpet whole length—'" "Hold on, excited youth, diving in his hippocket for his note whipped out a pencil from "Now, go on; go on, but be calm! For Heaven's her?" "Gracious, no!"

Crush her skull? he asked the sake of the *Morning Tom* gasped the girl, petuously "it wasn't serious?" he gasped to say she didn't break fuss!" "Why, certainly herself a bit." "Well, man, with an expression as he sadly restored their places, 'that's a business.'"

Not long ago a Salvation Army man was walking up the street and asked him to "save?" "Oh, no, a spirit of intense had he to any."

One morning train, Mr. Parn train for Rosc arriving in the from Dublin train. Will Postpone.



Mr. Parnell was pleased to learn that Mr. T. M. Healy, M. P., was coming down; delighted, too, were the local promoters of the demonstration, and the meeting was gladly postponed for a few hours. At three o'clock the railway station and its approaches were thronged with people, with bands and banners, and the train from Dublin steamed in amid terrific cheering for "Tim Healy." The train pulled up, a carriage door opened, and the local reception committee rushed to it, when out stepped "Healy"—but it was not Mr. T. M. Healy, M. P. It was Mr. W. Wallace Healy, a well-known reporter on the staff of the *Irish Times*. He had been "marked" for the Roscommon meeting, had missed the mail train, it was most important that his paper should have a report of Mr. Parnell's speech—hence the telegram.

AID IN THEIR DREAMS.

"SCOFF at the subject as you will," observed the man who believed in the invisible side of life, "but neither you nor another can define satisfactorily what is superstition. The other morning some friends were telling me at breakfast of odd experiences they had had in thought transference, telepathy, and so forth a few days before. I went down town that same morning into a banking-house; in a back office was a group of men listening to another man, a head-headed money-maker, who was relating some of the strangest psychic experiences I had ever listened to. On one point, however, I was at odds with him. He tried to explain all phenomena on a material basis, on brain function alone.

"In this relation I told him of a little experience that had befallen myself during my later school days. I had worked desperately hard over a problem in mathematics. Do what I would I could not get it right, and at last, exhausted, I went to bed leaving it unfinished. I was tried and promptly fell asleep, but with sleep came a dream of that problem. I dreamed I worked it out. I could see it all completed, and enjoyed the achievement to the full, as I might have done had I been wide awake. When I awoke next morning I remembered my dream, and the solved problem stood out before my waking vision. While dressing I noticed on a table near me a sheet of paper and a pencil. I went over to it, and there on the paper, in my own handwriting, was the problem completed just as I had seen it in my dream. I was bewildered.

"At breakfast I told my mother."

"It was not a dream," she said. "At least it was not ordinary dream. I heard you moving about in your room and went in to see if anything was amiss. I saw you take a sheet of paper, sit down, and write out that problem with the paper, on your knee, and go back to bed again without striking a light. I watched you, but did not touch you—I have often heard there was danger in awakening a somnambulist—and, near as I was, you never saw me. Your eyes were wide open, but they were sightless, only your mind or soul was awake."

"What do you call that?" I asked the materialist.

"Brain function," he answered.

"Hang your brain function," I said to him. "According to the theory on which you base your reasoning we know nothing except what comes to us through our five senses; that is, we take in from the world around us, furnish the food, our brain being the machine that sends and transmits it again. Now where do the five senses come into play in that experience of mine?"

QUEER VISION OF A WOMAN.

I know a woman—have known her all my life—one of the keenest, brightest high-minded I ever knew, who saw in broad daylight through the streets of her native town a fully equipped electric car more than a year before the thing came to pass. She did not live in New York or in any other large city where such things were common, but in a little town in Maine where there was no talk about them. She pointed out the sight out to others—she saw it more than once, but no one besides her could see it. The first time she ever saw it she went directly after into the office of a lawyer with whom he was having business, and told him of the strange sight she had just seen. To her surprise, instead of poo-hooing at it, he revealed a pleased interest and quietly remarked, "You have merely seen something which already exists somewhere else and is coming to us. You will see that a reality yet. Things have been shadowed to me in that way more than once."

Now, I mention this last merely to show how a man would not suspect of an interest in the like was quite interested with it all, and would meet with instances in every walk of life. The instance I speak of was recorded at the time and well-known among the woman's friends, and when electric cars became a reality much commented upon.

Now another woman in the same town—one of its former postmaster—who dreamed at night the completed details of an invention which her husband and another man were working for years. They had been near to a working success, but one rest practically worthless. This was the case at which the woman's dream came. She had no practical knowledge of the thing, but had been long known as one of the most gifted and had even given public. As a matter of fact, that way her husband first became charmed with her—for she was one of many mental graces. After that, he strictly forbade any more such gifts that might become a hindrance. He could hardly put an end to her dreams and the gift he was so proud of enabling him to make money. Men will marvel as much as we do at such psychic gifts, even as we do at the blindness of the learned and firmly believing that all were in league with the

BEETLE FORM.

I have witnessed an action that seems to me a diabolical and thoroughly was witnessed by at least three persons in a private sitting in the daughter of our

"The musician mentioned had for many years been the friend, fellow traveller, and general factotum of a world-renowned violinist, whose name is as unique as his reputation (and for that and other reasons I may not set it down here though I am willing to give it in private to any one). For the memory of that recently departed great violinist our host had a singular veneration, coupled with a keen sense of the market value of his name as a talisman to conjure with.

"The host's daughter had long been known to possess psychic gifts, and after the death of an only and beloved young brother, she suddenly and unexpectedly developed a clairvoyant faculty, claiming that she saw and conversed with her brother. The family was talking this over on the night I speak of, and we were giving our opinions. The girl herself remained silent, looking on and taking in what we said.

"Suddenly the young woman's head fell against the back of her chair and drooped to one side. Her father said 'She has passed into trance state.'

"We grew silent and listened. Soon she began to speak of certain spirits she saw—her brother not being among them—and whom none of us knew or recognized from description. A waggish fellow present said, 'Never mind those imps; call up the man your father thinks so much of; tell us something about O. B., how he fares in another world.'

"The medium breathed hard; presently her voice sounded strangely as she said—the voice purporting to be that of a spirit—'He is not here; you will find him, if you look sharply in the room you sit in, in the shape of a big black beetle.'

"Some of us kept serious, others laughed, jumped from their chairs, and declared they were going to search for that beetle.

"They actually got down on the floor and searched the room fore and aft; no beetle was visible.

"In the same spirit of waggy they again questioned the medium, and she repeated the same thing, then added, 'You did not search thoroughly; search again and you will find, under the edge of the carpet near the fireplace.'

"They went immediately and did so, and there under a corner of the carpet at the fireplace unearthed an immense beetle, which waddled out of reach as quickly as it could.

"Some questioned afterward whether the girl was not cognizant of the beetle's lodgment there. I did not question that. The girl was well-known to me as a simple-minded and extremely conscientious; the least likely to perpetrate a practical joke of that sort of any one I knew. Beside, her high esteem of the dead man would prevent it. Beside that, the whole family solemnly declared that they had never seen such a thing as a beetle in any room above stairs or anywhere except occasionally in the cellar.

"I cite this as a queer example of a sort of phenomena I have seen several times. If there is real intercourse between the living and the dead brought about by a living medium I have seen enough to convince me that practical joking is not confined to this earthly sphere, and that a good deal of it goes on at the other side by those which the mediums are fond of calling earth-bound spirits, and elements still undeveloped.

"Do I believe in current superstitions regarding lucky or unlucky days, numbers, etc.? I am often asked this, and I reply yes and no. The same dates or numbers that are lucky to one person are not always so to others, and if any one marks as lucky for him any certain day above another, I fail to see the harm of his keeping to it. One of the greatest surgeons I ever met, a man renowned in several cities, said once in my presence that he liked to undertake a critical case on Friday; he had never lost a case dating from that day. 'I am willing to confess that I would not knowingly sit down and make the thirteenth at a table. There may be nothing in it, but I know of at least test cases which proved fatal within the year.'

THE LUCK OF NO. 13.

"And, by the way, a man of my acquaintance—one whose story can be substantiated in every detail—is the central figure of one of the strangest number-thirteen stories I ever heard. Several years ago, when high-class bicycles were at high prices, he saw a wheel at \$150, which especially captured his fancy, and he determined to buy it. As the bargain was about to be completed somebody noticed that the number of the wheel was 1313. More than one declared they would not take it at any price. My friend, however, was all the more determined to brave superstition, and bought the wheel. He afterward told me that the number of small mishaps he had with that wheel were beyond count—but the closing and romantic mishap crowned all the others.

"It was stolen one day while he left it at the doorway of a store. He immediately advertised it, and received account after account, which resulted only in sending him on one after another wild goose chase. Finally, and after one end of trouble and out repeated expense, the thief was located. But that did not brought bicycle, for the thief, who was an employe known to the owner of the wheel, had absconded with it to another town in another state, and sold it there. The owner of the wheel, who was a determined fellow, with a still yearning fancy for his unlucky property, sent at once and ordered the detectives, who had traced the wheel, to find a lawyer in that town and prosecute the thief.

"But, strangest fatality yet, it turned out that the lawyer employed to prosecute proved to be the man who had bought the wheel—at a paltry sum—from the man who stole it. Through the advertising and the talk it had made the queer case excited much curiosity. People wanted to see the lawyer no less than the thief. As the former was going along the street one day he was pointed out to two strangers staying temporarily at a hotel in town. The strangers instantly recognized the lawyer, called him by another name, and declared he was once a resident of their own place—a town in the South—which he had left a few years before to escape arrest for embezzling. The end of it all was that the lawyer took flight, left town one night and has never been heard from since. The practice he had acquired was left unattended to; his household effects and some property remained unclaimed. The owner got his bicycle by simply taking it. But he never cared to use it afterward. It had cost him three times its value. Since then he does not scorn the superstition of No. 13."

OUTRAGE ON AN ENGLISHMAN IN SZECHUEN.

On the 6th of September while Mr. Warburton Davidson, of the Friends' Mission, was on a missionary journey in the Yengting-hsien district, 7 days north of this city, writes a Shunging correspondent to the "China Gazette," he was the victim of a brutal attack which nearly cost him his life. He had gone into a temple in the market town of U-longtsin where he was preaching and selling books, when the crowd hustled him and beat his native assistant. He then left the temple and went to an inn for refuge, where he was followed by a hooting crowd who threatened to pull down the house. Two elders of the town then advised him to leave, as they said they could not protect him. This he did, but being badly pelted with stones and having got beyond the town, he took to his heels. Being unable to find a path he returned to the same town and was met by a hostile crowd of men, women and children armed with sticks and other more dangerous weapons, who set up and beat him. He was overpowered and left for dead in a padi field with eyes, mouth, and ears full of mud. His worst wound was evidently a sword cut on the back of the head. He managed, on regaining consciousness, to crawl out of the padi field and get to a boat, but the boatmen would not take him on board. Later on, a boat was found which conveyed him to the mission station at Sae-hung-sien from which place he was brought to this city by this colleague Mr. Mason. He is now, we are glad to say, on the fair way towards recovery, but his nerves have got a very serious shock. The British Consul, Mr. M. F. A. Fraser, has taken the matter up and will send two foreigners to Tong Chuanfu commissioned to have those who are to be blame for the outrage punished.

THE BOER PARLIAMENT.

A NOBLE pile of buildings, stately, imposing, and dazlingly white in the blatan sunshine against the bluest of blue skies. The Volksraad building fronts on to Market-square, Pretoria, and looks directly into the church, which is less imposing—almost humble in its modest absence of any particular order of architecture, save the practically utilitarian. To the right of the Government buildings is a great square block of four or five verandahed stories in height. This is the Grand Hotel, and stands on the site of what was once the comparatively humble dwelling of Mr. Lys, one of the oldest and most resolutely honest and reputable Transvaal burghers. He is now dead, and his son lives elsewhere. To the left of the buildings is a queer, wedged-shaped block of offices, behind which is the theatre, and in front of which are two or three gnarled old oaks, the appointed centre of the weekly auctions which take place on the Market-square.

Every Saturday, in the piping times of peace, the square is full of hucksters, buyers, wagons, carts, horses, oxen, and stray stalls, where almost any thing may be brought from a rifle to the late comic song. It is a very ordinary thing to see sails advertised in the Pretoria papers as taking place "under the oak."

The summit of the Raadzaal or Government building is surmounted by a bronze female figure, which is intended to typify the Spirit of Liberty. Incredulous Boers, however, always agog to spy out some hidden taunt or allusion, insist that it is a statue of Queen Victoria.

There is a great portico and a flight of steps that give access to the inner hall. The doors are guarded by artillerymen in cords, jackboots, a blue coat a white helmet, a revolver slung across their shoulders, and a carbine in the hand. From the hall a staircase, wide, well-proportioned, and handsomely appointed, leads up to the first floor, where the great Raadzaal, or House of Commons is situated.

A fine large lofty hall, well decorated in sombre colours, on the walls portraits of past Presidents of the South African Republic, galleries for the Press and the public. A great dais on which sit the Chairman of the First Raad, the Vice-Chairman, and Paul Kruger, when he deigns to be present, which is too often for the equality of some of the members. Below them sit the secretaries and clerks, and below them again are three concentric horseshoes of desks, each with its own armchair. Here the members sit. There are not thirty of them, all told. Here and there, between the Raadsleden, or members, are bottles of water and glasses, which are much used by intending speakers.

Above the Chairman's head is the Transvaal coat of arms, surmounted by the vierkleur, or four coloured national flag—red, white, blue, and green—below which is the country's motto, "Eendragt maakt magt" (Union makes strength).

Round about the horseshoe tables sits a medley of more or less uncouth farmers. Nearly all have fine, striking, picturesque heads and by a curious freak of atavism despite all their terrible degeneration for nearly a century, the heads in the aggregate distinctly suggest the same type as in Rembrandt's "States General" at the Hague. And no wonder for the Boer of to day and the burghers of that date are directly related by descent in the fourth and fifth generations.

The speaking is hoarse, gruff guttural, hesitating, rarely fluent, unless one of the leaders and known orators gets up to pour forth his views. The President is a poor speaker as to manner, his matter on the controversy is often excellent, convincing, full of apt similes, and exactly calculated to the mental capacity of his audience. Now and then the ever-wily Oom Paul simulates anger or disgust, talks about resigning, and stalks out of the Council Chamber. But it is mere bluff, and has occurred too often for even the youngest member to be taken in by his periodical cry of Wolf.

The sittings of the Raad take place in the mornings; occasionally in times of stress in the afternoons, but never in the evening. Very often a "secret session" takes place. All strangers, and the Press are excluded, and the debates are said to wax very hot and personal. Each hour an adjournment takes place for smoking and pipes are produced, which are promptly loaded up with the curiously dry, but very fascinating, Boer tobacco from Magaliesberg.

The present pile of Government buildings is of quite recent date. Formerly the Raad sat in a tumble-down shanty with thatched roof just across the Church-square. During the building of the present edifice their Honours met in the theatre, and it is said that the meretricious surroundings were not without their effect upon the speeches.

The present Raadzaal was arranged according to the designs of Mr. Bourne, a well-known London architect.

WORKS OF PUBLIC CHARITY AND ENDOWMENTS BY ZEMINDARS.

THE old religious spirit of Hinduism is reflected in Orissa more than anywhere else in the Province. It is still known as the Promised Land of the Hindus. What rich endowments were created by the ancestors of the petty chiefs or landlords of the Orissa Tributary Mahals none can form an adequate idea who has not been among the temples there.

Sir William Hunter says in his book on Orissa: "Hundreds of monasteries dot the province and enjoy an aggregate rent-roll of £50,000 a year. Every town is filled with temples and every hamlet has its shrine. This lavish devotion extends into the hill country. Up the Mahanuddy, each rocky islet, or wooden crag that rises from its banks, is crowned by a temple to some gods. Even foreigners feel that they are treading on hallowed ground; and the villagers still tell how the image-breaking Mussalmans retired abashed before the sanctity of Orissa. These temples give shelter and food to thousands of Brahmin priests and menials and serve to stave off to some extent the poverty and pauperism which prevail in the Province."

Hardly any organised temporal charity exists in Orissa. The Maharajah of Mourbhun is the only exception. He has endowed the Cuttack Ravenshaw College with a gift of Rs. 20,000 for providing scholarships to students. He has established schools and charitable dispensaries and maintains a poor house. A glance at the *Calcutta Gazette* will show that the Bengal zemindars pay a large amount regularly every year for the benefit of the public and the poor. For instance, they paid about 22½ lakhs during 1897 and 11½ lakhs during 1896 for works of public utility.

No exact figures can be given at present regarding the amount of money contributed by the zemindars during the last famine, but the following extracts from the *Gazette* will give some idea:—

(a) Many wealthy zemindars have done much to help the rayats through the prevailing distress. This is especially the case in the district of Moorsshedabad, where the Collector observes "that had it not been for the assistance rendered by the zemindars, Government must have undertaken relief measures on a much larger scale than has been found necessary."

(c) "Pulin Bihary Singh of Ukhra in Burdwan remitted a whole year's rent on account of bad harvests. One new dispensary was opened during famine at his own cost by Rai Gobind Prasad Singh, Zemindar of Ranka."

(d) "Generous contributions were made by the Maharajah of Gidhor, Raja Bahadurs of Ranchi and Kaira, and Rai Comolowar Bose Bahadur to the Famine Relief Fund."

(e) "Assistance was rendered by the zemindars. Nearly all have done excellently well, headed by the Maharajah Harballal Narain Sen, C. I. E., of Sonbursa; Rai Gungint Singh Saheb and his brother Babu Narpal Singh, proprietors of Harwat Pergunnah have also distinguished themselves as has the Maharajah Tarack Nath Ghose of Nathnagar by extensive and most unobtrusive charity."

It remains now for me to give below the endowments set forth in my articles in detail, either with their market value:—

Donors	Capitalized Value. Crores.
Burdwan Raj	2½
Cooch Bihar Raj	2½
Orissa Temple Endowments	1
Burdwan Raj	75
Nawab Abdul Gani	50
Hutwa Raj	30
Gidhor Raj (Baidyanath and Endowment)	30
Domraoh Raj	25
Moorsshedabad Nawab	25
Moshin Endowment	25
Tagore Famine Endowment	15
Tipperah Raj	15
Natore Raj	15
Rani Sunomoye	12
Pikeparah Raj	10
Battiah Raj	10
Surji Kanto Maharaja	10
Midnapore Raj	10
Tikari Raj	10
Dighapatya Raj	10
Seal Family Endowment	10
Tarkeshwar	10
Nadya Raj	10
Jyikisson	6
Sagore Dutta	6
Maisadal Raj	6
Hetampore Raj	6
Putyo Kani	6
Durga Charan Law Maharaja	6
Bihari Lal Mookerjee (including Government.)	5
Naldanga Raj	5
Bhukailash Raj	5
Raja Sonbursa	5
Bhaggocool Roys	5
Rani Bhavani	5
Sarada Presad Roy of Chuckdighi	4
Rani Arnakali	4
Radha Nath's Endowment Bally	4
Raja Harish Chandra	4
Joydebpraj	4
Dhumpat & Sitab, Azimgunge	4
Kakma Raj	4
Raja Soshi Shekar	4
Minor Endowments mentioned in articles	10
Total	11½ crores.

I have taken these endowments at their lowest estimate possible and hence it is likely that I have under-estimated some of them.

The total of all these sums comes up to eleven crores and a half. Large as this amount appears, it does not represent even half the actual sum spent by the zemindars on charity. Now let us compare this amount with what is spent in charity by the landlords of England—the richest country in the world. According to the statistics published by the Charity Commissioners lately the net amount of charities and endowments in England at the present day comes to fifty-five millions sterling. Now this sum represents the total charity subscribed by the landlords of England as well as by the general public. The total yearly income derived from real estate on this head is £1,558,250, the capitalized value of which represents approximately the amount of property endowed by the English Lords for charity. Calculated at the rate of 5 per cent, this income will be represented by a capital of close upon thirty million sterling. The total income of the landlords of England is about 100 million sterling every year.

Thus their expenditure for charitable purposes is in proportion to their income—one third of it. The income of the Bengal landlords, on the other hand, is about ten crores of rupees, and their total outlay in religious endowments and charities is more than eleven crores. Thus while the Bengal landlords are about ten or fifteen times poorer than the English, yet they have spent three times more in proportion to their income than the latter have done in public charities. This may seem a strange conclusion, but it is a surprisingly true one. The facts set forth in these articles testify it most strongly and in the most convincing manner.

Even if the whole charity of England and Wales represented by 55 millions sterling is supposed to have been contributed by the English landlords alone, the amount is only half of their annual income. This still makes the Bengal zemindars doubly generous in comparison to their English brethren and yet not even half the charities of our landlords have been taken into account in this comparison.—"ICH DIEN" in *Capital*.

THE following gentlemen, who have displayed liberality in constructing works of public utility at their own expense, have received sanads from Government in recognition of the public spirit thus displayed:—Rohak District, Lala Manku and Bansi; Delhi District, Lala Pribbu Mal; Karnal District, Muhammad Rustum Ali Khan, Umar Daraz Ali Khan and Lala Sabu Val; Hoshiarpur District, Sardar Bahadur Hira Singh; Kangra District, Sudda Rupa and Bhika; Mullain District, Lala Kishen Chand and Dwarka Das, Maliks Karim Baksh, and Hoa Ram; Amritsar District, Sardar Karm Singh; Gurdaspur District, Lala Nihal Shah; Jhelum District, Lala Karam Chand and Rup Chand. In addition to sanads, khillats have been given to the undermentioned gentlemen for the exceptional liberality displayed by them:—Hissar District, Lala Mohun Lal and Sheo Lal; Kangra District, Lala Sira Mal and Chamba Mal; Sialkot District, Lala Jai Ram; Rawalpindi District, Rai Bahadur Sardar Sojan Singh.

INTIMATE STRANGERS.

Suppose a man to have lived fifty years without ever having seen the reflection of his own face. Now lead him before a mirror and let him have a look. He will, of course, recognise the outlines and general appearance of his body; but his features will be as new and strange to him as those of a person he has never before met. As he has worn that mask all his life; has touched it with his hands times beyond counting; has by means of it expressed the feelings and passions of half a century; has heard its peculiarities remarked upon by others—yet, bone of his bone and flesh as it is, the glass presents it to his gaze as a novelty. Fortunately Nature has so made us that we are commonly satisfied with our looks, otherwise this man might grope the hour he first beheld his own countenance.

On a page of a book which lies on my table this bright morning is a picture which—were it published without title or description—probably most of us would not understand; yet the original is vitally important to every human being. No mirror throws back its structure to the eye, nor has the owner ever laid hands on it. Nevertheless its name is daily on our lips, and on its faithful performance of duty largely depend our efficiency and happiness.

Still, people are continually alluding to it in words of wailing and complaint. They find no end of fault with it when it goes wrong, and when it goes right, seldom pay it the compliment of doing good work. "The way of the world," you remind me; "alas! the way of the world."

For example, here is one who says that in the early part of 1890 she began to suffer from a bad stomach and indigestion. Now the stomach tries to be good and not bad. It makes constant and mighty efforts to accomplish its task and so furnish the rest of the body with health, strength and beauty; but it often fails dismally and then its owner characterises it as a "bad" stomach.

Now who, or what is accountable? Continuing, our correspondent adds: "I had no relish for food, and after eating I had pain at the chest and sides. Whatever kind of food I took nothing agreed with me. I made use of various medicines in hopes of relief, but none of them did me any good. At last a neighbour, Mrs. Tyrell, told me how she had benefited—having had the same complaint—by Mother Seigel's Syrup, and recommended me to try it. Somewhat encouraged by what she said, I procured a bottle of this remedy, and soon found that it relieved me as nothing else had done. I could eat better, all food agreed with me, and I felt better every day. Since that time—now four years ago—I have kept well, taking an occasional dose of the Syrup when I seemed to need it. My daughter suffered from the same trouble, and Mother Seigel's Syrup had the like good effect in her case. You are at liberty to make any use you like of this statement."—(Signed) Mrs. Elizabeth Naulty, Foresters' Arms Inn, 96, Scouring-burn, Dundee, July 2nd, 1897.

This lady's stomach did not become "bad" of "halice prepnese and afrethought," as the lawyers say of certain criminals. The cause lay in the conditions of her life, her habits of eating may be—with possibly inherited weakness. There are so many things, and combinations of things that tend to produce or develop dyspepsia, it is hard to trace them in individual instances. The symptoms (or consequences), however, are more humorous, dangerous, and deceptive than the uninstructed imagine. It is for this reason that so great a multitude of alleged "dyspepsia remedies" are prepared.

But the, "bad" stomach having been slow to abandon duty and strike work, does not respond to any and all sorts of drugs that may be thrown hopefully into it. The cure must be exactly adapted to the disease, and if there is a medicine which so perfectly meets this requirement as Mother Seigel's Syrup, the world has not yet heard of it. The tired and inflamed organ receives it for the genuine stimulus and healer that it is—and the "bad" stomach is changed back into a good one.

You now guess what that picture on my table represents—a machine in your body you will never see, but which in other ways you may study and know more about.

THE TRANSVAAL JUST BEFORE THE WAR.

(Inter Ocean, Oct. 1, 1899.)

PRETORIA, Sept. 30.—The wildest excitement prevails here. Vice President and Commander General Joubert started to-day for Volksrust, on the border of Natal. Twenty-six ammunition trains have already started for Volksrust.

It is believed that all government departments and the courts of justice will close and that martial law will be proclaimed to-morrow. As soon as martial law is proclaimed the foreign postal service will cease.

Crowds at the stations cheer the departure of the military trains. The war office is working night and day and commanding is actively proceeding. Men, guns and provisions are constantly hurrying off to the border.

The Volksraad, in order to obtain the support of as many outlanders as possible, has decreed that those who help the Boers shall receive the franchise. The Volksraad will probably adjourn until Wednesday to await the result of the British Cabinet meeting.

CONCENTRATING AT LAING'S NEK.

Johannesburg, Sept. 30.—Both sides are concentrating their forces at Laing's Nek, where the first conflict is expected. Breast-works are being thrown up and strategic positions occupied in that neighborhood.

The Transvaal reserve artillery has been dispatched to Standerton and Wakkerstroom, and also to Rustenburg, which will probably form the base on Bechuanaland, in the direction of Mafeking, where a British counter force is assembling and fortifications are being raised.

In Rhodesia, the British colonists are actively preparing for defence. The administrator at Bulawayo has informed the chamber of mines that the forces will be doubled and the forts strengthened and machine guns mounted. There were constant patrols in the country districts. Water is scarce in Rhodesia, but there will be enough if it rains soon.

According to advices from Pretoria, the authorities are serving out no more. Mousers, but are giving the Burgers Martinis instead. This is mainly due to the defective Mauser carriage, which is constantly bursting in the barrels and destroying the bolt action.

GENERAL BULLER SAILS ON OCT. 14.

General Sir Redvers Buller, who will command the British troops in South Africa in case of war will sail for the Cape on Oct. 14.

A dispatch from Pietermaritzburg, says the Governor of Natal, has issued a proclamation in view of the impression that many of the Dutch farmers may join the Boers. The proclamation warns "wickedly disposed persons" that the punishment of treason is death and confiscation of property. The mounted Natal volunteers, including the reserves, have been warned to be in readiness.

Bloemfontein advices say all the women and children are leaving. The Government has issued a circular to the railroad employees, who are mostly British subjects, notifying them that in case of war they will all be dismissed and paid in full. Those volunteering to bear arms will be allowed to do so and those resigning will be allowed to remain in the country without being commandeered, but they will be expected to serve the state loyally.

The British forces are reported from various points in Natal to be speedily moving nearer to the Transvaal frontier. Hussar scouts have advanced to Dannhauser, beyond Glencoe, in the direction of Laing's Nek, on the main railroad. The British camp at Glencoe is protected by strong breast works of stones. All the railroad bridges from Colenso to Newcastle are guarded day and night by a mixed force of police and infantry. The batteries which left Glencoe ostensibly for Dundee, a few miles distant, have suddenly been ordered to Newcastle.

The occupants of trains from the Transvaal arriving at Ladysmith confirm the movement of the burghers in the direction of the frontier. They also declare that the Boers insulted them when passing the stations, and that one Boer assaulted a passenger without provocation.

FIVE-YEAR FRANCHISE FAVORED.

A dispatch to Dalziel's news agency from Pretoria, under yesterday's date, says that in the secret discussion in the First Raad of the five years' franchise only one member opposed it. There are two branches of the Transvaal Volksraad, known as the First and Second Raads. The latter has little power and the First Raad is the real legislative centre.

Cape Town advices say the outlanders there are indignant at the Transvaal's confiscation law, which practically places at the disposal of the Transvaal their whole property, the nature and definition of the offences being such as to embrace every possible contingency and render them liable to confiscation whatever they do, even in claiming their rights.

It is reported from Durban that a south-bound train, due at Durban to-morrow, has been stopped at Volksrust for the purpose of seizing prominent outlanders.

A report from Vryberg, by way of Durban, says a native laborer has sworn an affidavit before a magistrate that he saw between twelve and twenty armed Boers enter the colony from the Transvaal and visit a farmer named Haasbrouck. They remained in the house a considerable time and crept back across the frontier by a dry-water course.

Durban dispatches state that about 1,800 Boer artillerymen, including the reserves, are encamped at Volksrust, where the field cornet has now issued 925 rifles and 45,000 cartridges.

The farmers of this northernmost part of Natal are leaving their farms and coming down the country. Mails from Durban for Cape Town are now sent by sea instead of across the Transvaal.

SMALL HOPE OF PEACE REMAINS.

The chances of peace in the Transvaal are slighter than ever. Very few now believe that war can be averted. Even these hope

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rather than believe. Everything goes to show that the Boers have practically abandoned the idea that a peaceable solution is possible, and are ready to fight some resolutely, others eagerly, and even confidently.

Considering how numerous the latter are it is no small credit to the Boers' self-restraint in so long refraining from taking advantage of Britain's unreadiness. While, therefore, the situation almost gives at least a slight hope of peace, it is plainer than ever that the Cabinet's conscience is not yet dead despite the utterances of the jingo press.

So few here credit the possibility of peace, that interest now mainly centres in the probable lines of the actual campaign, which the government intends shall be very thorough. Even if, as generally believed, actual hostilities should begin within a fortnight, the real war is not likely to commence until the British are re-enforced, they keeping, meanwhile, chiefly on the defensive.

The majority of recent dispatches relate to the movements of British and Boers on the Natal border. Taking Majuba hill as the apex of a triangle, with the sides sixty miles in length and the base eighty miles, extending from Harrishmith in the Free State on the left to Vryheid in the Transvaal, the left corner gives the area containing the British positions, Glencoe, Dundee, New Castle, Ladysmith, Dannhauser. The Boers occupy Wakkerstroom, Wtrecht, Vryheid, Sandspuit.

In the event of the Free State retaining central the Natal Border will be the probable line of the main British force. Otherwise General Buller will advance with 20,000 troops through the Orange Free State toward Pretoria. The war office estimates that a two months' campaign will suffice to end the war, when a complete army corps gets to work, but is paying the Boers a compliment in preparing even a more extensive force.

The Standard this morning hints that "the government has decided upon a scheme of mobilization which might include the major portion of the active army, involving in all probability the outcalling of the reserves."

The preparation of one army corps is taxing the War Office to the utmost. It has already spent over £1,000,000 and is still short of provisions and supplies, for which it is now ransacking the world. In the beginning of the week the war office tried to get 3,000,000 pounds of canned meats from the colonies. Australia only afforded 250,000. The War Office is now contracting for millions of pounds of colonial mutton at fivepence per pound. As usual, the War Office will no doubt prove scandalously overexpensive, but there is little doubt that England's forces will be finally placed afield in good shape.

GOVERNMENT'S DELAY CENSURED.

The papers are filled with comment on the personnel and material of the British forces in South Africa or on the way there. The Government is censured for not permitting the War Office months ago to put an adequate force on the scene of action. Much has been said regarding the alleged physical unfitness of a large percentage of the British rank and file going to South Africa or already there. But it can be said that the regiments selected are believed to have the highest standard of physique, and all are comparatively long-service men.

The Australian horses, which will be used by the cavalry and mounted infantry, will probably suffer more from the change of country than the men.

General Sir Redvers Henry Buller will have supreme command in South Africa. Meantime the military responsibility is divided between Major General George Stewart White and Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick William Forster-Walker, the latter at the Cape and the former in Natal. Under Generals White and Walker will be many officers specially selected for their knowledge of Boer methods and South African campaigning. General Sir William Simmons, General White's second in command, is one of the few survivors of the massacre of Isandlwana. The artillery in Natal will be commanded by Colonel Downing who has the highest scientific and practical reputation.

Many British officers believe the Mauser rifles, with which the Boers are partly armed, are superior to the Lee-Metford rifle of the British for use against civilized troops. A small-arms expert says:

"The Lee-Metford will stop savages, but that is not the object most desired when fighting against civilized forces. Under a well-managed Mauser fire troops will come on dropping gradually and not realizing the necessity of cover or retreat until they find half their number disabled and unable to face the full weight of short-range fire. In other words, Mauser armed troops are more deceptive to the enemy than those armed with Lee-Metfords, the effect of the latter being visible to the officers directing the fight."

GENERAL JOUBERT OF THE TRANSVAAL.

WHATEVER are the faults of the Boers and their leaders, it is undeniable that they have their virtues which do credit to any nation possessing a single spark of patriotism; and of all the Boers and their leaders, General Joubert, the Commander-in-Chief, is at once the most conspicuous in point of ability, courage, tact, strength of mind, determination of purpose and many similar qualities essential to Military Service. To a right comprehension of the current events our readers ought to have an idea of the man who has the will, though not the power to the same extent, to shape such events, and to-day we are able to give the following sketch of General Joubert's life and work, gathered from the English Press.

If the Transvaal Republic is engaged in war with Great Britain or any other State, it is on General Pietrus Jacobus Joubert that she will rely to get the maximum amount of fighting out of the Boer soldiers. Joubert himself is a typical old Boer—old, indeed, for he is now sixty-eight years of age; and much of that long life has been spent in the service of his country either in the field of diplomacy or on the field of battle.

This sturdy fighting man, with his rough-looking beard, is, when in his war clothes of impressive appearance, and altogether he is an interesting character. He is not a gentle enemy. When he goes to fight his motto is "No quarter!" and his greatest friend would not call him tender of heart, but for President Kruger's reasoning with him he would have had the Jameson raiders shot like dogs, every one of them.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Transvaal Forces comes of an old French Huguenot

family, which has been long settled in Africa. Like Mr. Kruger, the General was born in Cape Colony, and it was at Congo that he first saw the light of day. He was bred on a farm and in the fullness of time, like most other Boers, he became a farmer himself. But other things besides farming soon claimed his interest, and he has had no small share in the making of the history of the Transvaal Republic during its eventful career.

In due course he became State Attorney to the Republic, or Attorney-General, was made Vice-President of the Council, and when President Burgers found it necessary to pay a visit to England, Joubert ruled in his absence. He was acting President, and that is the nearest he has ever been to the highest position in the Republic, which he much covets.

In the late seventies and early eighties, when there was trouble between England and the Transvaal, Joubert was a great man. He and President Kruger came over to this country, and when they returned, the former, after conference with the High Commissioner, Sir Bartle Frere, formulated the demand for the independence of the Republic. And the Government changing hands, however, Mr. Gladstone wrote, in 1880, to both him and Kruger, stating that the demand could not be granted.

It will be a long time before the memory of events immediately subsequent is effected from our minds. On December 30th, 1880, Kruger, Joubert and Pretorius formed themselves into a triumvirate and proclaimed the Republic independent. The result, of course, was war, and in that war Joubert commanded the Boers, and by common consent commanded them well.

The British troops were defeated at Laing's Nek on January 28th following, and again at the Ingogo River on February 8th. Finally, on February 27th of that year, came the crushing British reverse at Majuba Hill, the stigma of which smarted almost as much to-day as it did eighteen years ago.

Sir George P. Colley was the British Commander, and as Majuba Hill overlooks Laing's Nek, where Joubert had his men encamped, he determined to steal up there on the night of the 26th with a view to surprising them. At half-past ten next morning the Boers began their attack, and a most deadly attack it was. The conflict was of the fiercest possible description; but the British got the worst of it. Their ammunition ran short, and at last they turned tail and fled. Different tales are told as to the respective losses, Joubert swore that but five of his men were killed, though some said the number ran to three figures. Our loss was estimated at 280, and certainly there was no doubt as to the decisiveness of the Boer victory. It secured their independence.

Sir George Colley fell with his face to the enemy. At the conclusion of the engagement Joubert discovered a dozen of the enemy in hiding, amongst whom was the correspondent of one of the London daily newspapers. He commanded them to lay down their rifles. A few words were exchanged between Joubert and the correspondent, and the upshot was that the General gave him a pass to the Boer camp on condition that he saw the report before it was telegraphed. Joubert knew there was a British officer killed, but was not sure as to his identity. "Who is he?" he asked of the correspondent, but the latter did not himself know, and could only ask to be taken to the body. There it lay, with the helmet covering the face.

"You have killed the bravest man on the field," the correspondent exclaimed.

"Yes, he fought well," he admitted. Subsequently Joubert declared to the representative of this same newspaper that for three years he had been writing to England to try to prevent that war.

Still, there was fairness in Joubert, for when the Boers started filibustering in Bechuanaland, in 1884, he declared himself unable "to hold office under a Government which so deliberately broke faith with England and violated the convention by annexing Moutsoia's territory."

What he can do in the way of mobilization is more than any other nation can do, for he can fetch every man of his army from the farms, and collect them armed upon the same field within forty-eight hours. For his military purposes he has had the Transvaal mapped out into seventeen divisions. There is a Commander over each of them, and then each division is split up into smaller sections, with field cornets and assistants in command.

By this system Joubert has but to give the word and with astonishing quickness the call to arms is sounded throughout the seventeen divisions. Officers ride at full gallop from one farm to another handing the summons of war to each occupant. The latter's rifle, ammunition, and food supplies for a fortnight are always ready in his homestead, and without any hesitation he mounts his horse and rides away. How deadly is his fire when in action we know. "A man per bullet" is Joubert's estimate.

Once Joubert and President Kruger were in Paris together, and a lady questioned the General on the training of the Boers when youngsters. Joubert explained it:

"The Transvaal Boers," he said, "are hereditary marksmen. In past generations they were particular, whether Calvinists or Armenians, to have their children taught to read as a necessary part of religious instruction. Homesteads were at great distances from schools and churches, and wild beasts and hostile Kaffirs infested the country.

"Still, to school the children had to go. Each boy was provided with a gun and a pouch filled with ammunition. He was expected on his way home to keep his hand and eye in practice as a marksman, and he showed he did so by bringing home a bag filled with game. The Kaffirs stood in awe of these Transvaal children, who were taught not to be aggressive or to provoke attack."

While Joubert was saying all this the President sat near by quietly smoking a big pipe and not interrupting with a word. Joubert roused him.

"Is not that so, President?" he asked. "Yes," responded Mr. Kruger; "we try to make our youngsters understand that the meek shall inherit the earth."

Reverting for a moment to the Jameson raid, a story is told of Joubert which gives a pretty good idea as to what would have been the fate of the Doctor and his comrades if General had had the settling of it.

When they surrendered their arms, they were marched off to prison, and outside the prison walls there were gathered together in speculation as to what would be the result. A story came out that opinion was in favour of the Boers, and according to one of them, one of them.

Outlanders, but with such practices as the Boers had been guilty of he had no sympathy for them.

President Kruger was anxious that no such extreme and drastic measures should be enforced and he took Joubert in hand with a view to winning him over to his way of thinking. The two shut themselves up in a room and remained there in anxious talk and argument the whole night through. When they rose Oom Paul had triumphed, and Joubert was now for mercy.

The crowd outside had to be told of the decision, and Joubert told them, and told them skilfully.

"Fellow burghers," he said, "if you had a beautiful flock of sheep, and a neighbour's dogs got into the pasture and killed them, what would you do? Would you pick up your rifle and straightway proceed to shoot those dogs, thus making yourself liable to greater damage than the sheep destroyed, or would you lay hold on those dogs and carry them to your neighbour, saying: 'Now, here are your dogs, I caught them in the act, pay me for the damage done, and they shall be returned to you?'"

At this he paused for a moment, waiting for his meaning to go home to the minds of the crowd. Then he slowly and quietly added: "We have the neighbour's dogs in gaol here. What shall we do with them?" Joubert gained his point. Almost everyone was for asking the "neighbour" to pay for the damage, and the result was the Transvaal's bill of costs to Great Britain, with the remarkable request for a million sterling extra for "moral and intellectual damage."

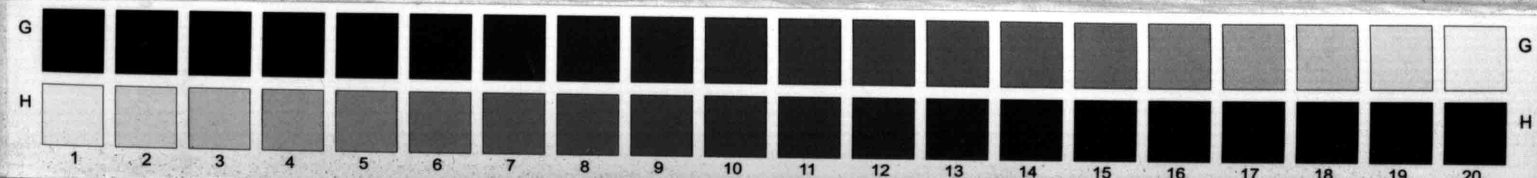
Between the General and Mr. Kruger there is nowadays much difference of opinion. They have fought side by side, and was once bosom friends, but of late years have drifted apart. Mr. Kruger is President, and General Joubert would like to be. The latter came desperately near success in the elections of 1893. There were three candidates in the field: Kruger, Joubert, and Kotze. The last-named had no chance, and only polled seventy-six votes; but between the other pair it was a neck-and-neck race, and Mr. Kruger only won by 872 out of a total poll of nearly 15,000, the actual figures being: Kruger, 7,881; Joubert, 7,009. By the time the elections came on again last year the situation had altered greatly, and Mr. Kruger was a hot favourite. There were again three contestants, and the General came out last, the result being: Kruger, 12,858; Schalk Burger, 3,753; Joubert, 2,001.

Though nearing the allotted span of man's life the General bears himself boldly erect. He has many a wound from bullet and spear to show for the wars he has been in. His eyes are as keen as ever, and the sobriquet of "Slim Piet" ("slim" meaning crafty), which was applied to him long ago, is not less merited now than then, for an acuter man than the General is seldom met with.

SOME ONE HAS BLUNDERED.

THE news of the occurrences of the 29th and 30th October, at Ladysmith, were received in India with a feeling which bordered somewhat closely upon one of consternation, for the disaster was brought very close home to our doors by the fact that the Officer responsible for so ineptly handling the pieces upon the chess board of war was not so long ago commanding in India, and also by the fact that the main proportion of the troops, which have suffered by the faulty tactics of their General, were Regiments which were very recently in India. It would be idle to seek for extenuating circumstances in a grievous mistake such as Sir George White has been guilty of: for it would be impossible to find any. The serious consequences we cannot yet fully estimate, and the far-reaching effects of this British reverse are still, we fear, to be encountered. Our reverse will not affect the ultimate issue of the war; but the damage which has been done to British prestige is by far the most serious aspect of the defeat. The history of 1881 will in a measure repeat itself, and those whose sympathies were not actively enlisted on behalf of our enemies, will now waver no longer, and we regard the upheaval of the entire Southern portion of South Africa as not by any means an impossible eventuality. Without in the least desiring to assume an alarmist attitude, the unsettling effect, which a success by the Boers is bound to have upon the Afrikaner and Dutch population of both Cape Colony and Natal, cannot be disregarded; and to this must be added the risk which past experience has introduced us to that the warlike tribes, whose territories lie cheek by jowl with our own colonies, may become disaffected. That the Boers have not been idle in their efforts to enlist the active sympathies of the black population we have direct evidence and though both the Bechuanas and the Basutos have so far turned a deaf ear to the voice of the charmer, who doubtless charms with no lack of wisdom, it would be dangerous to speculate upon their attitude from one moment to another. A breath of wind from an adverse quarter has before now been sufficient to change their views: we dare say that this may not occur again? placing aside the Basutos and the Bechuanas there is a still more formidable enemy to be reckoned with—our old enemy, the Zulus—who, however much they may hate the Boer, cannot be kept in subjection their of greed. Boer emissaries, doubt, have already begun to work upon the fact that the Boers have not so far been victorious in the commercial venture, and that the success of the altering the situation, but it is in the main, ably supported by the Boers.

which to congratulate ourselves; the blundering has been consistent, from the firing of the first round down to the date of the present situation with which we find ourselves confronted. It is an invidious task to frame an indictment against one whom we have all known as a gallant soldier and a courtly gentleman, and many of us even as a personal friend. present is no time for the weighing of considerations. Sir George White's missions relieve the necessity for proof added; but his confession does not absolve him from his errors, nor restrict the public or the press to an eloquent moment of silence. One of the world's most distinguished diplomatists once said that, anyone to tell him of a General who had never made mistakes, he would reply that he then could never have made war. Talleyrand was unquestionably right, as he usually was, in his caustic epigrams; but though war cannot be made without mistakes, it is sometimes inconceivable to the lay critic how the same mistakes come to be repeated. Let us, shortly, follow Sir George White through the engagements which have occurred in Natal since the 10th of October, when we first met the Boers at Glencoe. General Penn, Symons and General Yule were then in a position which now turns out to have been one of extreme danger, for the information supplied by the Intelligence Department, as to the strength and disposition of the enemy, must have been faulty in every particular. The Boers baited the trap for our General, and he rose readily enough, and dashed upon the Boer frontal attack with vigour, and crumpled it up. This was on the 20th. On the 21st, the main assault by the Boers, which was not from the north at all, but from the west began to develop, and though Sir George White managed to move up in time to intercept it at Elandslaagte, the battle is described as having been won by the dogged pluck of the British soldier, and not by any masterly Generalship. On the 22nd the Boers, whose first movement on Glencoe was clumsily executed, their flank attack being late, created a demonstration to the north of Glencoe, and General Yule had to fall back with all speed; he was within an ace of being taken in flank by the enemy, and it was only the smart skirmish at Retfontein which saved his retirement from being turned into a rout. So that here we have two separate examples of the tactics which the Boers were adopting, two lessons which closely trended upon its asters. And yet they were apparently entirely disregarded. The ruse which was so nearly successful at Glencoe, was cleverly carried out at Ladysmith. The Boers, it will be remembered, commenced to invest Ladysmith on the 28th, and were then reported to be in force four miles away on the right of position. A demonstration was made by Sir George White, but failed to bring about any action, and the Boers are then said to have disappeared in the direction of Retfontein. On the 29th, the cavalry reconnaissance by the 18th Hussars was reported to have located the enemy "in a strong position." Reuter did not say where; but subsequent intelligence obtained by a balloon survey, that the Boer army was in the position of a half-moon round the town. On the night of the 29th, Sir George White sent away two battalions of the ill-fated Gloucesters and the Royal Fusiliers, backed by a Mountain Battery. These troops evacuated the exarthen position of the 18th Hussars at Glencoe, and advanced into an unknown country, and apparently lost all touch with their main body. There could have been one result. The Boers on the morning of the 30th, at a very early hour opened long-range ordnance upon the British position, and although the opportunity the Blue-jackets from H. M. S. "Thetis" with two 6-inch quick-firers silencing the superior artillery of the enemy, much damage. General Joubert was full in drawing us into an engagement centre and on our right, and of carrying out his own plan of operation, permitted our frontal attack to be permitted. In the meantime our right had been threatened, and the advance of the French's and Colonel Buller's that is to say, narrowly failed. It had already befallen the British that had been attached on the 29th, and the flanking screen of these luckless regiments and the captured was received sent in to bury their the British casualties. So that, it has been allowing his main attack severely mortally wounded, driven back, and been killed.



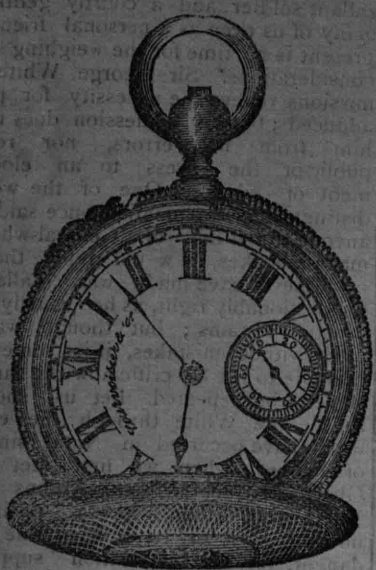
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