

Amrita Bazar Patrika

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VOL XXXV.

CALCUTTA THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1904.

NO. 43

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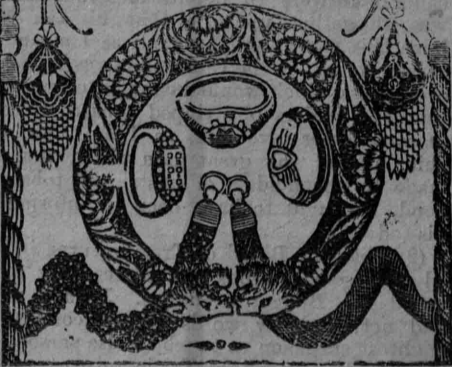
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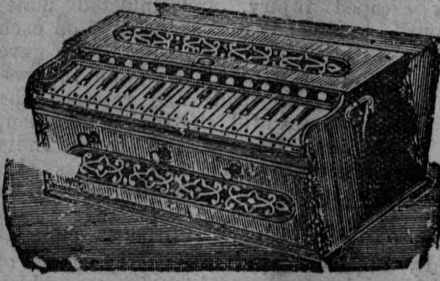
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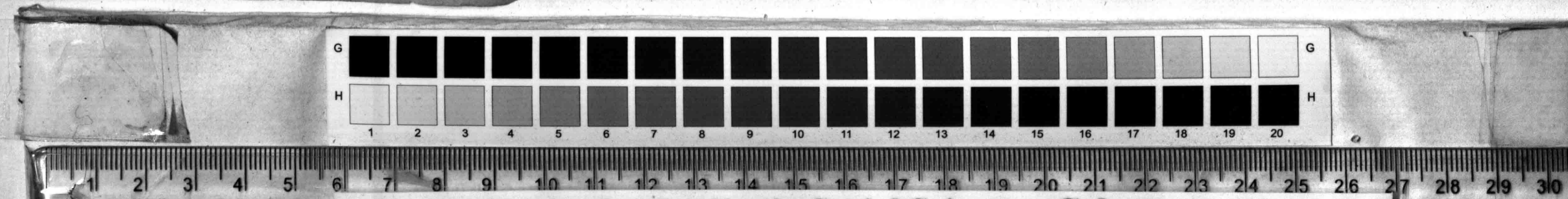
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TWO NOTABLE EDITORS.

SILK BUCKINGHAM AND JOHN BLACK.

In connection with our recent sketch of the circumstances that led to the suppression of the Press of India by the Marquis of Wellesley, its liberation by the Marquis of Hastings, its gagging by Mr. John Adam, and its final emancipation by Lord Metcalfe, some mention should be made of a Calcutta journalist whose ill-treatment had not a little to do in bringing about an important change in the attitude both of the Government of India and the Directors of the East India Company towards the incipient "Fourth Estate." This was Mr. James Silk Buckingham. Born at the village of Flushing, near Falmouth, in Cornwall, and son of a man who having once been a "merchant captain" of a ship, subsequently became a farmer, Buckingham was brought up in some comfort, but had little schooling, and when quite a young lad, he went to sea. He made numerous voyages that were more perilous than profitable, and then falling in love, married in an improvident manner. The world consequently did not go well with him, and he betook himself to London in search of the means to keep the body and soul of his wife and himself together. There, after a while, he obtained employment as a compositor at a printing press at 14 shillings a week. Then he again went to sea, and arrived at length at Bombay, but was unable to carry out his wish of trying to have a shake of the pagoda tree, since he was not provided with the requisite authority of the ever jealous magnates of Leadenhall Street, who regarded Hindustan as a close preserve of theirs. But he was permitted to land, and although he was no more than a mate on board an insignificant merchant ship, he was invited by Colonel Hunt, the "governor" of the fort at Tannah, about eight miles from Bombay, to dine with him and Mrs. Hunt, and spend the night at their house. He declined the latter part of the invitation, as he had another engagement to fulfil in Bombay. But he duly went out to Tannah by palanquin, with a party of eight bearers, and dined with the Hunts.

After dinner he took leave of his kind host and hostess at 10 p. m., re-entered his palanquin, and set out for Bombay. It was a bright moonlight night, but, in accordance with invariable etiquette, two "mussauljees" or lantern-bearers accompanied him, with their lights burning. The whole party accordingly comprised the eight bearers, two "mussauljees," and himself, or 11 persons in all. The bearers ran along at their best speed, singing as they went, with a "mussaulje" on each side of the palanquin. All went well as a plain of some extent was crossed. But, just as broken country was reached, the bearers suddenly halted, dropped the palanquin on the ground, and rushed away. Mr. Buckingham, thus rudely awakened from a post-prandial reverie, looked out of one of the doors of the palanquin to discover what was amiss; and his feelings may be more easily imagined than described when it is said that, according to his description, he saw, to his great dismay, "a huge tiger in full career towards me with a tail almost perpendicular, and with a growl which too clearly indicated the intense satisfaction with which he anticipated a savoury morsel for his hunger." It was only too obvious that, unlike Mr. Buckingham, that tiger had not dined. Mr. Buckingham related what followed in the autobiography that he commenced in 1855, but he did not live sufficiently long to carry beyond the year 1815:—

To get out of the palanquin, and try to escape would be running into the jaws of death—to remain within was the only alternative. All I could do, therefore, was in the smallest possible space of time, to close the two doors, and lie on my back. I had often heard that if you can suspend your breath and put on the semblance of being dead, the most ferocious of wild beasts will leave you. I attempted this by holding my breath as long as possible, and remaining as still as a recumbent statue. But I found it of no avail. The doors were hardly closed before the tiger was close alongside, and his snelling and snorting were horrible. He first butted one of the sides with his head; and, as there was no resistance on the other, the palanquin went over on its beam ends, and lay perfectly flat, with its cane bottom presented to the tiger's view. Through this and the mattress, heated no doubt by my lying on it, the odour of the living flesh came out stronger than through the wood, and the snuffing and snelling were repeated with increased strength. I expected every moment that, with a powerful blow of one of his paws, he would break in some part of the palanquin, and drag me out. But an other butting of his head against the bottom of the palanquin rolled it over on its convex top, and then rocked it to and fro like a cradle. All this while I was obliged of course to turn by body with the revolutions of the palanquin itself; and every time I moved I dreaded lest it should provoke some fresh aggression. The beast, however, wanting sagacity, did not use his powerful paw as I expected; and, giving it up in despair, he set up a hideous howl of disappointment, and slinked off in the direction from whence he came. I rejoiced, as may well be imagined at the cessation of all sound and smell to indicate his presence; but it was full a quarter of an hour before I had courage to open one of the side doors and put my head to see whether he was gone or not. Happily he had entirely disappeared, and I was infinitely relieved.

It was indeed a narrow escape, which redounds to the credit of the builders of the palanquin. Had the panels given way while the tiger was over, but would possibly have been saved. "So much

and as he was a journalist by instinct, though not by training, his paper soon proved a commercial success. There were many abuses rife in the administration in Bengal in those days, and Mr. Buckingham regarded it as incumbent upon him, as a free journalist, to expose them, in view to their removal. In this he was aided and abetted right willingly, if, perhaps, somewhat insubordinately, by a "knot of young men, chiefly in the public service, of ardent temperament and brilliant talents," who—according to Mr. John Clark Marshman, C.S.I., the once famous editor of the "Friend of India"—"used his columns to ridicule the follies and imbecilities of various officers of Government." No man, not even a Napoleon or a Wellington, is a hero to his own valet; and the little weaknesses of Viceroy's, Governors, Secretaries and other big-wigs do not escape the notice of their subordinates who have to do their bidding, and to maintain the while a demeanour suggestive of profound admiration, not to say of awe, for the genius of them in authority over them. So Mr. Buckingham was not in want of themes capable of being discussed in a manner that was more amusing to the community at large than to the exalted functionaries whose foibles were held up to the light of day.

On one occasion the Government of Mr. Adam ordered their Secretaries to wear a green uniform, and when the "Journal" presumed to find in this attire a symbol of the "green of the State," Mr. Buckingham was hauled up before the Supreme Court for bringing the Government into contempt, and was acquitted. Later on the Presbyterian Chaplain in Calcutta, a Scot, like Mr. Adam, the Provisional Governor-General, was appointed Clerk to the Committee of Stationery without prejudice to his ministerial duties. Mr. Buckingham animadverted in his best manner on the absurdity of employing a minister of the Gospel in counting sticks of sealing wax, yards of tape, and reams of paper when he ought to be in his study, composing a sermon, or engaged in religious exercises. Mr. Adam thereupon resolved to tolerate Mr. Buckingham's presence in Calcutta no longer; so he caused his Government to put in force the retrogressive regulations that they had at his bidding introduced after Lord Hastings's departure. Accordingly, Mr. Buckingham's license was revoked; his printing press and material were seized; the publication of the "Journal" was stopped; and he was ordered to leave the country. He had to yield to the "tyranny of despotism," and he left Calcutta almost as poor as he was when he first took up his residence there. When he reached London he claimed compensation from the Court of Directors. For a long time his claim was disregarded, but eventually the Directors relented, and admitted that he had been badly treated; by granting him a pension of £200 a year. It may be added that he started the "Oriental Herald" in London in 1824, which lived five years, and the "Athenaeum" in 1828, which still lives. He entered Parliament in 1832, as the first member for Sheffield in the reformed Parliament and held the seat five years. In 1851, the year of the Great Exhibition of All Nations, Queen Victoria granted him a pension of £200 a year from the Civil List in "consideration of his literary works, and useful travels in various countries." He died in 1855, aged 69, being survived by his wife who had shared his joys and sorrows during nearly half a century.

A day or two before the death of Mr. Buckingham there had passed away another old journalist, of almost the same age, who also had commenced life under adverse circumstances, and had succeeded in gaining a foremost rank in the profession of journalism. We refer to Mr. John Black, for many years editor of the "Morning Chronicle." The son of a labouring collier he was born near Dunse, in Berwickshire, and losing his father in his infancy, and his mother when he was but 12 years of age, he was thrown, while yet a very young boy, on his own resources. He attended the parish school at Dunse, and so far from being a dunce there, he came to be recognised both by the teachers and by the other boys as a very clever little fellow, who did not mind hard work, and was at the same time a good walker. Thus it was that he attracted some notice among the good people of Dunse, and at the age of 14 obtained employment as an errand boy in the office of a local factor. A little later on he made his way to Edinburgh and became clerk to a writer for the Signet, and he devoted such leisure as he had in the evening to the study of Latin, Greek, modern languages, and music. Having spent several years in this fashion he resolved to try his luck in the great metropolis, that has always exercised a strong fascination for Scotsmen of intelligence and enterprise.

So he took leave of Scotland, and tramped on foot to London, where he arrived possessed not of the proverbial "half crown" but of no more cash than 1½d. in his pocket. He was, however, furnished with letters of introduction to Mr. Perry, the proprietor and editor of the "Morning Chronicle," who soon perceived that his visitor had the makings of a journalist in him. Black was, as yet, in the rough. In appearance, in demeanour, in speech he was ungainly; but he had knowledge and latent capacity. So Mr. Perry, who was an Aberdonian, gave him a start as a reporter, and then encouraged him to try his hand at the writing of articles. Black acquitted himself so well, and improved so rapidly that Mr. Perry was induced to make him sub-editor. This brought Black into intimate daily association with Mr. Perry; and in 1821 when Mr. Perry resigned the editorial chair, he was promoted to it. He occupied that responsible position during the following 23 years; and he worked so hard during that period, showed so much tact, and rendered such important service to the cause of the Liberal party, that the paper became more and more prosperous, and ran the "Times" close in its circulation. He lived over the printing office in Norfolk Street, Strand. He married, and it is said that the small rooms of the pair were so encumbered with books, both on the walls and on the

floor, that it was difficult to walk about without stepping upon some of them. "At one time the pair were obliged to creep into bed at the end, the bed-sides being piled up with dusty volumes of divinity and politics, and defying entrance in any other way; for it was one of the editor's peculiarities that he would not have his books moved, or dusted by any hand but his own."

He had an inseparable companion at one time in a large Newfoundland dog, named "Cato." He had the courage of his opinions, and on two occasions he was "called out" to fight a duel with individuals who had been offended by the freedom of his criticisms. One of these gentlemen was Mr. Roebuck, the "Tear 'em" of politics who was born in Madras in the year 1801 (his father having been a civil servant here), and like Mr. James Silk Buckingham, became member for Sheffield. Black escaped injury, and inflicted none—"honour" having been "satisfied" on each occasion, without bloodshed. But if he gave offence to some men of note he won the respect of others. He made and retained the friendship of James Mill, the Indian historian, with whom he often walked to the India House from the Strand; and he was also honoured with the regard of John Stuart Mill, who expressed this opinion of him:—"Black played a really important part in the progress of English opinion for a number of years, which was not properly recognised. I have always considered him as the first journalist who carried criticism, and the spirit of reform into the details of English institutions. Very early in his editorship he fought a great battle for the freedom of reporting preliminary proceedings in the police courts. He carried his point, and the victory was permanent." Black had the further distinction of having been among the first to recognise the genius of Charles Dickens, who began his literary career as a reporter in the office of the "Chronicle."

Years glided by in the customary manner, and shortly after Black had entered his sixtieth year, he received an intimation from the proprietors of the paper—Mr. Perry having long ago died, and his executors having sold the paper for £42,000—that they would like to have a younger hand at the helm. So he reluctantly retired, and was constrained, as he had made little provision for his old age, to part with his accumulation of some 30,000 books. A subscription was raised by his many friends, and was largely aided by the proprietors of the "Chronicle," for the purchase of an annuity for him; and a small house was placed at his disposal at Snodland, near Maidstone. He lived 12 years more and found congenial occupation the while in the resumption of the study of Greek and in gardening. As for the "Chronicle" it never prospered after the severance of his long connection with him, and it long ago departed, like Black, in peace.—C. L. in the "Madras Mail."

THE POLICE DEFAMATION CASE.

The Police Defamation Case against Gubbi Thimmaya came on Friday for further hearing before Mr. A. Ananda Rao, first class Magistrate, Bangalore City on the 25th instant. Mr. Ranga Rao, Amildar and 2nd class Magistrate of Gubbi, was examined for the prosecution, and the complainant was recalled and cross-examined by Mr. Sabbapathi Iyer, Bar-at-law, for the defence. After the case was closed for the prosecution, the Magistrate called on the defence counsel to say if he had anything to urge against a charge being framed.

Mr. Sabbapathi Iyer addressed the Court contending that no case was made out against the accused and that there was nothing beyond one statement against the other. The complainant's statement denying the receipt of the jewels, he stated, was wholly interested and was not sufficient to sustain a charge. He further argued that the accused was compelled by the Inspector-General of Police (Mr. Madiah) to present the petition forming the basis of prosecution and that the accused had no complaint to make against the complainant as he had already stated before the District Magistrate of Tumkur.

He repeatedly observed that the accused was wired for and compelled to give a petition by the Inspector-General accusing the complainant. The learned counsel for the accused merely expressed to the Inspector-General his opinion regarding the jewels produced in the Courts of the Magistrate and the Sessions Judge. The prosecution not having proved the denial of receipt of the jewels in question, and besides there being no other interested statement of the complainant, no charge could be framed against the accused.

The Magistrate interrogated the counsel for the defence how the prosecution wants to prove the negative beyond denying the truth of the imputation made against the complainant. The learned counsel repeated that the complainant was an interested one and that there was no independent evidence to support it. On the other hand the counsel for the prosecution when asked by the Court, would appear to have contended that the accused made serious allegations before the Inspector-General impugning the complainant, accusing the latter of extortion and suppression of evidence and so on. The accused deliberately swore before the committing Magistrate and the Sessions Court that the jewels produced before them were identical "jewels worn by the deceased Honnamma. The accused's subsequent versions before the Inspector-General of Police and the Magistrate of Tumkur were wholly opposed to his previous sworn statements and petitions. The counsel further observed that the accused's statements before the Inspector-General were utterly reckless and defamatory and that the accused should be charged with having committed offences under Sections 182, 211, and 500 of the I. P. C.

The case was adjourned to the 27th idem for further orders. This case was again heard on the 27th instant. All the witnesses for the prosecution having been before examined, a charge was now framed against the accused under Secs. 182, 211 and 500 of the I. P. C. The case now stands for the defence and has been adjourned for 21st June, 1904. The accused has produced a list of persons who will speak in his defence in the next hearing. Bail was allowed for the accused and one Gan-gadharappa stands security for the accused as accordingly executed a bond of Rs. 200.—"Morning Herald."

NOTES FROM DACCA.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Dacca, May 27.

ANOTHER SENSATIONAL CASE.

Dacca has become a seat of sensation, since the notorious letter of Mr. Risley was published in the "Indian Gazette." The numerous mass meetings were followed by the visit of Lord Curzon; then came the defamation and outrage cases. Now comes a most sensational case in which the Mortgage Company are one of the parties.

Before Mr. Garth was vested with highest powers in the Nawab's Estates, he was a partner of Mr. Weatherall, in his agency of the above-mentioned Mortgage Co., and they administered the mortgaged properties.

It is said that in almost all the Estates under their management the income of the properties greatly reduced and some of the proprietors were completely ruined. And the mournful accounts of some of these wretched land-holders are heartrending. Their were now and then pending some suits against the said firm, instituted by some of the mortgagees for damages, after they had liquidated their debts; but they could hardly get a decree,—such is the justice of the day! The alleged fact of the present case is as follows:—Srimaty Haro Kumary Chaudhry, executrix of the estates of the late Krishna Prasad Dutt, took a loan of one lakh of Rupees from the Mortgage Co., and the property mortgaged was placed under the management of Messrs. Garth and Weatherall. A calculation was made that if a certain sum be paid regularly from the income of the said estate the whole sum plus its interest may be realised within 19 years. So the estate was contracted to remain under the management of Messrs. Garth and Weatherall for 20 years but now that a part or the stipulated time, has elapsed, the Mortgage Co., have sued the mortgagees for the irregularity of payment and (ii) non-payment, for the sum of some Rs. 90,000. The mortgagee submitted that it was the duty of Messrs. Garth and Weatherall to pay off the sum by instalments, for such was the understanding between them, before the deed was executed. But the Company are good that the mortgagee herself was responsible to them for payment. Mr. Garth and the local Sub-Registrar were examined on Thursday last, and the hearing was put off for Monday next. The case was being heard by the 1st Sub-Judge. An application was made for the transfer of the case to the Judge's Court, but it was not granted. On a second application being made, it has been transferred to the file of the District Judge.

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

The result of the University Examinations have been published. But the results of the Dacca Schools and Colleges in the Entrance and B. A. were poor. The result of F. A. is satisfactory for both the colleges. The Jagannath College and the Jubilee School have shown brilliant success this year in comparison with other institutions. We can not understand why the Government College has done so badly in the B. A., specially in the B. course.

BUDGET SECRETS.

MR. M'KENNA, M.P., EXPLAINS HIS INSINUATIONS.

In an "authorised statement," published on Saturday, it was asserted that the reason of Mr. Balfour's silence regarding the M'Kenna incident in his Albert Hall speech was that a letter had been addressed to him by Mr. M'Kenna which was "in the nature of an explanation and appeal." Mr. M'Kenna has now, the Prime Minister having no objection, sent the text of this letter for publication. In it he states that what he meant to convey by his speech in the House, which was delivered without notes, was:—

(1) That when the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed threepence extra duty on stripped tobacco, the effect of his tax was, immediately before getting a single penny for the revenue, to transfer considerable sums of money from the pockets of the owners of the stocks of stripped tobacco in bond to the pockets of the owners of unstripped tobacco in bond. There are large stocks of both kinds at present in bond—approximately, 150,000,000 lbs. of stripped and 50,000,000 lbs. of unstripped. I estimate the gain on one kind and the loss on the other to be, roughly, 1½d. per lb.; the gain, therefore, to the owners of unstripped tobacco in bond being approximately £300,000.

I asked, on this state of the facts being present to my mind, who it was who advised the Chancellor of the Exchequer to put on this tax. My impression from the Chancellor's answers to deputations was that he was altogether unaware that his tax would have this effect, and I meant, as I mean now, to assert that if the Chancellor was not aware of the loss which would instantly occur to the innocent holders of stripped tobacco in bond, in some cases involving, as I am told, total ruin, and of the great gain which would be made by the holders of unstripped tobacco in bond, he ought to have been so informed by his advisers.

(2) That the Board of Trade returns indicated that some persons had successfully anticipated the Budget proposals. I have not, I had not, and my words do not convey, the slightest suspicion as to who those persons may be, but the Board of Trade returns raise a prima facie case for inquiry. These are the issues which I intended to raise, and to these I mean to confine myself in all discussions of the subject on the Finance Bill.

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NOTICES OF BOOKS, ETC.

Sansar.—By Babu Mon Mohun Gossain, B.A. It is a drama of real life. Pure and pathetic in sentiments, ennobling and elevating in its aim, romantic and wonderful in its plot, and simple and natural in its style, this social drama reflects a very great credit on the author. The deep and tender pathos that breathes all through makes the reader pause, sigh and sob. The struggle between virtue and vice has been sought to be shown in a prominent and clear light. Virtue and vice have been placed side by side and the juxtaposition has made the virtue shine with great brightness and ultimately virtue has obtained a decided victory over vice. The impression left by the book on the mind of the reader is holy, happy and wholesome from a moral point of view.

The Indian Stamp Law.—by Mr. Jhamatma Vasanlal Gidvani, Pleader, District Court, Hyderabad, Sind. Besides the Indian Stamp Act, the book contains all Government Notifications, Rules, etc., with commentaries and notes of cases, etc. Considering that the Stamp Act is an important branch of the fiscal law and is of everyday use to lawyers, Judges and the general public, the book is of great use as it contains copious notes, full commentaries and satisfactory annotations on the several enactments of the Legislature and the mass of conflicting rulings of the several High Courts. The arrangement of the notes, case-law and rulings is very satisfactory and obviates the necessity of referring to the original reports. The very fact that the book has undergone five editions speaks well of it and is an unmistakable sign that it is highly appreciated by the general public.

"Valmiki's Ramayana."—A book written in Bengali verse almost of every variety, consisting of 420 pages, each page containing a couple of columns. The simplicity of its diction is almost on a par with that of the original Sanskrit work. The vividness of description of natural scenery brings us in the midst of them. The world-wide sympathy with the sufferings of humanity, the deep devotion to perfect resignation to the will of God, the heart-felt hatred to the social evils that have of late crept into our society, which the book pleads often in most suitable language shows us clearly the inner nature of the author. Although he followed closely the father poet, the author introduced several improvements more suitable to the tastes of the readers of the 20th century. The high moral tone of the book carefully preserved throughout should make the book a standard work inculcating principles of ethics into young minds. The book is to be had of the author at Raghunathgunj or Rampurhat.

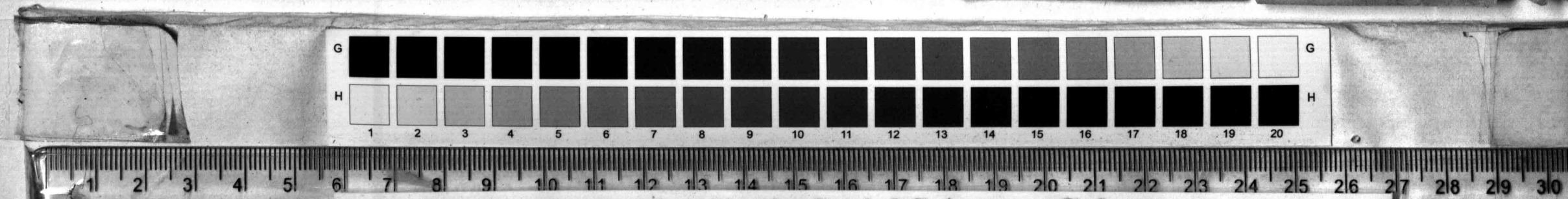
Rajputana Kavya.—By Babu Prasanna Kumar Nag. Rajput ladies were reputed for their high sentiments of patriotic feelings and nobleness of heart. The magnificent valour displayed by them in the battlefield of Chitor is the subject matter of this neatly-printed and well-bound brochure. Poems like these develop patriotic and heroic feelings in human heart. The style is bold and the expressions are happy all throughout. Our young authors should bear one thing in mind that there is a vast difference between literature and word-reading. Literature is always alive while word-reading is without life. In blank verse, the law of cadence should be strictly observed.

Police Portrait System.—By Mr. C. Fassar. The author, who is the Assistant Inspector-General, Government Railway Police, Bengal, in publishing "The Illustrated Guide to the Police Portrait System," hopes that by following it the police will be better able to recognise habitual offenders. The illustrations convey readily to the mind of the student those impressions which ensure recognition of the original of any portrait. But in a non-criminal country like India the book will not be of much use, for they are less required.

Index to Trotter's Railway Map.—Messrs W. Newman and Co. have published this handy volume. It contains (1) a list of all railways in India, Burma and Ceylon; (2) list of terminal junctions; (3) list of military commands and stations; (4) list of all statuses in alphabetic order. The book is of great use to all railway travellers.

The Russian War Office sates that General Kuropatkin has ordered a general retreat. For the moment he will hold on to Liao-yang, but there is no intention on his part to fight a general action there if he can possibly avoid it. The plain truth is that Kuropatkin has not yet got enough troops on the ground to risk a general action. Pending the arrival of reinforcements, he will, if, as will probably happen, he is hard pressed by the Japanese advance, retire from Liao-yang to Mukden, and from Mukden, if necessary, to Harbin. Harbin is geographically better suited than either Liao-yang or Mukden for a concentration of the Russian army. It is certainly not by any means healthy just now, but with the advance of summer matters may be expected to improve. At the present moment Kuropatkin has in Manchuria, roughly, 150,000 men, exclusive of the Port Arthur garrison. Five army corps of 50,000 men each are now in course of mobilisation, one at Kharhoff, two at Moscow, two at Kazan, the last two are really the reserve corps, but one only will be held at Irkutsk for reserve purposes, the other going up to the front. This arrangement will, therefore, give Kuropatkin an additional 250,000 men in all. With his present 150,000, he will thus have a total of 400,000. But the whole of these troops cannot reach him before the end of July.

IT WORKS LIKE MAGIC.—The relief obtained from Chamberlain's Pain Balm when applied to a burn or scald is so nearly instantaneous that it seems almost magical in its effect. An injury of this kind heals without maturation when this remedy is applied and unless the wound is very severe does not leave a scar. For sale by Smith, Rastanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents, R. K. Paul and Co., Abdol Rahaman and Abdol Karoon, Calcutta, escapa.



Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JUNE 2, 1904.

SIMULTANEOUS INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION IN ENGLAND AND AUSTRALIA.

SOME TIME ago Lord Tennyson, as Governor of the Australasian Colony of Victoria, in an address delivered to the students of the University of Adelaide, threw a hint that the Indian Civil Service might offer them a career...

This petition has been under the careful consideration of the Imperial Government; and we are credibly informed that His Majesty's Government is disposed to accede, if not to the entire set of terms embodied in the Australian petition...

The Australians may enter the army or the navy of England exactly upon those terms as English youths themselves, but in the petition of which we are speaking the Australians have shown commendable self-sacrifice—they have not, it must be said to their credit, in the remotest manner, suggested that any number of appointments in the Civil Service of India should be specially kept reserved for them...

They might have demanded that a portion of the Civil Service appointments, say, one-third, be reserved for them. As Mr. Chamberlain yet controls the Ministry, they might have easily made this proposition, but they have not done it apparently for two reasons; 1st, it would be a glaring violation of the sacred principle of open competition...

Of course the attitude of the Australian petitioners towards the people of India is quite different. Why were the Indians created by God if not to supply fat berths not only to Englishmen but also to the descendants of settlers in a quondam penal settlement? So they calmly counsel the Imperial Government to shut the doors of the Indian Civil Service to the children of the soil altogether and declare without prevarication that, if it is desired to keep the Indians out of the service, it would be much better to tell them so, as they were told in unmistakable terms during the Ibert Bill controversy!

It is himself among the excellent land-lords who conform to the tradition of their order and themselves provide for their tenants what the Maharaja properly calls a necessity of health and life.

So it was the duty of the land-lord, according to Sir John Woodburn, to make the provision of wholesome water in villages. Indeed, very few District Boards spent any money for the supply of water, and they were indirectly encouraged to disobey the order of his predecessor by Sir John whose object development at the hands of Sir James Bourne was to make the Zemindars responsible for this duty.

So the Australians are going to have a concession, which, though granted to the Indians by a Parliamentary vote, was withdrawn immediately from them by a clever dodge of Mr. Gladstone, the most moral and pious statesman of England! Let it not be forgotten that it was Queen Victoria as the Sovereign of England who had practically guaranteed to the Indians a Simultaneous Civil Service Examination in India.

"And it is our further will that, so far as may be, our subjects of whatever race or creed, be freely and impartially admitted to Offices in Our Services, the duties of which they may be qualified by their education, ability and integrity, duly to discharge."

But how can the doors of the public services be "freely and impartially" opened to the natives of the soil, if the Civil Service Examination is not held equally in India and England? The Indians are required to pass the examination in English with the best youths of England; besides, they have to travel ten thousand miles and incur enormous expenses simply for the privilege of appearing at the examination.

Bear also in mind the fact that the late Queen issued the Proclamation with an oath. When the document was drawn up, Her Majesty commanded her ministers by a letter to make the deed a really sincere gift to her Indian people. Her Majesty implored her servants in the name of God to do the thing fairly and to do her wishes were at last fulfilled.

Mr. Herbert Paul's resolution for holding a Simultaneous Civil Service Examination along with one in England was passed in Parliament in 1893.

Mr. Gladstone was then at the head of the Ministry, and his action totally neutralized the effect of the motion. The Tory press, headed by the "Times," raised such a howl against the reform that, Mr. Gladstone was alarmed, and instead of giving immediate effect to the Parliamentary vote, he invited the opinion of the Indian Government on the subject.

Mr. Gladstone was asked to explain whether the Government of India was bound to carry out the Parliamentary mandate or not. He could not venture to say, either "yes," or "no." As the Government of India was bound to execute the order of Parliament, Mr. Gladstone had no option but to say something to conciliate both the oppositionists and advocates of Mr. Paul's resolution.

The Government of India circulated Mr. Paul's Resolution to all Local Governments and Administrations for their opinions, and they made an unusual delay in submitting their reports. In the meantime, the Liberal Ministry resigned; the Tories succeeded them; and the question of the simultaneous examination in India was shelved.

The only hope of the Indians now lies in the forthcoming Parliament when the Liberals are expected to come into power. But, even then, they are not very hopeful; for, so long as Sir Henry Fowler has not left the House of Commons for good, they expect nothing from the British Parliament.

WATER SUPPLY PROBLEM IN BENGAL.

As we said the other day, by adopting a hammering policy, we were fortunate enough to draw the close attention of Sir Alexander Mackenzie to the question of water supply in Bengal. Convinced that the people of this Province were sorely suffering from scarcity of water for drinking, culinary and bathing purposes, he not only took up the problem for solution but passed an order to the effect that every District Board should "set apart at least the sum of Rs. 5,000 a year for the improvement of water-supply, to be spent either in digging or improvement of wells, or in the excavation or restoration of tanks to be reserved for drinking purposes only."

It was expected that Sir John Woodburn would follow in the wake of his predecessor and make the Boards spend still larger amounts for this great need. But when the Maharajah of Cossimbazar, as a member of Council, appealed to His Honour in earnest terms for help in this matter, the reply of Sir John simply astonished the public. Said he:—

"I have no doubt that he (the Maharajah) is himself among the excellent land-lords who conform to the tradition of their order and themselves provide for their tenants what the Maharaja properly calls a necessity of health and life."

So it was the duty of the land-lord, according to Sir John Woodburn, to make the provision of wholesome water in villages. Indeed, very few District Boards spent any money for the supply of water, and they were indirectly encouraged to disobey the order of his predecessor by Sir John whose object development at the hands of Sir James Bourne was to make the Zemindars responsible for this duty.

This is all right; but if the Government had any intention of making the land-holders and the local public provide for water, it should have never imposed a cess upon land. After having imposed the cess and appropriated its proceeds to diverse, and we must say, sometimes to illegitimate purposes, it is surprising that the Government should now come forward and tell the Zemindars and the general public to provide for their own water, the authorities undertaking to pay only one-third of the cost to a maximum of Rs. 5,000 for any one district.

THE GODDESS KALEE AND THE GRASS-HOPPER.

Low at the Goddess Kalee's shrine, His knee a zealot bent, And in a fit of holy zeal, From Heaven but rarely sent, He vowed that chosen from his herds, With all convenient speed, The lordliest of the buffalo bulls, Should in her honour bleed. The Goddess hailed with glad assent, This tribute to her fame, And waited longingly and long, The gift that never came, Before her feet with streaming tears, The devout fell again, Told her of drought and failing crops, Of toil, and want, and pain, And Kalee, pity-touched, decreed, That he his vow should keep, But in lieu of lordly buffalo, Might sacrifice a sheep. Drying tears, the man went forth, Among his fat and thriving flock, One halt, or lean, or blind, The hours glide by, day follows day, And when the Goddess died, He strove to still her lawl ire, By promising a kid. For her, and her alone, should be

The first that came to hand. He had not counted, first would come the fattest of his band. So time went on, and once again before her he appears, Lies prostrate at great Kalee's feet, And bathes them with his tears, "Goddess! look down and pity me, My children cry for bread; A kid is much; deign to accept A grass-hopper instead." "Well, be it so!" The Goddess said, In deep disgust and pain; And rendered bolder by her words, The zealot spoke again. "Lady," he said, "to catch you one Would cost me time and trouble, Stretch out your hand in yonder field, And take them from the stubble." Thus India to thy prayer at last A gracious ear is lent, Of buffalo, sheep, or kid is here, But grass-hoppers are sent.

"Pay the cess," and we shall see that all your local needs such as drinking water, roads, irrigation, etc., etc., are supplied," declared the Government in the seventies in the most solemn manner possible. The cess was paid, and the land-holding classes were thus absolved from the duty of water supply in rural tracts.

"Pay the cess," said the Government, "and we, in return, would furnish you with a maund of advantages." The cess was gladly paid, but the Government demurred and said that as a maund was too much the people should be satisfied with a seer only.

The Government came forward again and observed that it could not possibly give a seer; let the people have a "chuttuck."

And, we are now told, we must dig our own tanks and wells! So, when the road-cess was imposed, we were promised "the lordliest of the buffalo bulls;" but His Honour would have us now catch grass-hoppers at our own cost and trouble!

A LIBERALITY UNEXAMPLED IN THE WORLD.

The above were the expressions used boastfully by Lord Curzon in his last budget speech when claiming liberality for the British Government in the matter of employing the Indians in the public services of their own country. We did not choose to contradict this absurd statement on the part of the Viceroy, as the subject is a delicate one. We, however, expected that some high-minded Englishman would, in due course, come forward to show the utter hollowness of Lord Curzon's utterances by facts and figures, and our expectation has been realized.

It is quite true that, Mr. Charles W. Mc Minn sought to remove the happy delusion of his Lordship by presenting the noble example of Akbar before Lord Curzon almost immediately after the delivery of his speech. Indeed the fact is recorded in that highly reliable work, "Ayeen Akbari," that, when this Moghul Emperor chose his civil titles and commands, out of 414 high posts, "the corpse delite," he gave 44, or eleven per cent., to Hindus, and some of them were the bravest warriors. So, four hundred years ago, when the feeling between the Mussalmans and the Hindus was very bitter, the Mussalmans Emperor was liberal enough to nominate Hindus to eleven per cent. of his military governorships! Let us see the liberality of the present rulers.

In India, under British rule, there are 2,373 civil and military posts with an annual pay of Rs. 10,000 or more, and just 60, or less than 2 1/2 per cent., are held by the children of the soil, Hindus and Mussalmans combined. "What then becomes of Lord Curzon's boast," to quote Mr. Mc Minn's words, "that no races since the Romans have treated the conquered with so much liberality?" But, although the figures, quoted above, ought to settle the question raised by Lord Curzon, yet they were flaunted before his eyes not by an Englishman, but by Mr. Mc Minn, who is an Irishman, and therefore no better than a "Native," specially as he serves under a "Native" Chief.

But here is the testimony of a pucca Englishman, as good an Englishman as Lord Curzon, and at least as good an authority on the subject as his Lordship himself is. In short, the following contribution from our London correspondent will not only be read with intense interest by the general public, but, it will show that Lord Curzon's boast, namely, that the Indians are better treated by England than the subjects of Russia, Holland, and France in the matter of public employment has no foundation in fact. But let our correspondent speak:—

"Great as are Lord Curzon's natural and acquired abilities they are limited. Every now and then he makes that limitation so painfully apparent as to cause intelligent observers to seriously doubt whether he can be right in any of the assertions he puts forward. Beyond all Indian administrators, and under the influence of what the late Lord Beaconsfield called "intoxication with the exuberance of his own verbosity," the present Viceroy has made the most amazing blunders, blunders which wholly discredit any of his statements full proof of which is not simultaneously afforded. Before he had been in India two years, namely, at Simla, in October, 1900, he made a mistake of 100,00,00,000 (one hundred crores) of rupees, when estimating the gross value of the agricultural produce of India. It fell to the lot of the present writer to expose this tremendous blunder. Lord Curzon, on March 28, 1901, in his speech in Council, by way of defence, made an elaborate explanation. The lameness of that explanation may be judged by the following sentences in the speech, uttered within three minutes of each other:—

"At Simla I spoke of it (agricultural income) as being now between 350 and 400 crores." "I find that in my desire to be on the safe side I underrated the totalling in my Simla speech. I then said between 300 and 400 crores."

"Such confusion of thought and contradiction of statement show how imperfectly the noble speaker had grasped the subject on which he was dogmatizing." "Dogmatizing?" Yes, for he says, among other things, between the passages quoted above, "I have since made more detailed inquiries into the matter." The result of his enquiries left him floundering in a bog of imperfectly-understood and badly-appreciated facts. Why do I recall the incident? For the reason that his Ex-

1904 is even more inaccurate and more untrustworthy in some at least of the statements he makes, than even he was in 1900 and 1901. His assertion in the Budget debate in March last at Calcutta, concerning the liberality of the British authorities in the employment of Indians in the public services of their own country, as being

"a liberality unexampled in the world," constitutes, I think, the record inaccuracy proceeding from the lips of a responsible statesman anywhere and at any time. The whole passage in which this amazing sentence occurs is:—

"Will anyone tell me in the face of these figures that our administration is unduly favourable to the European or grudging to the native element? I hold on the contrary that it is characterised by a liberality unexampled in the world. You may search through history and since the days of the Roman Empire you will find no such trust. I have endeavoured to procure from Foreign Governments, the corresponding figures for their foreign possessions, the Russians in Central Asia, the Dutch in Java, the French in Algeria, in Cochinchina and Tongking. I have, unfortunately not been successful. But I have visited the majority of those countries and I have seen what there prevails and if anyone thinks that they show proportions even remotely comparable with those which I have quoted I can assure him that he is gravely mistaken."

"It is a misfortune that the Viceroy always makes the final speech in an Indian Council debate. When he has made his statements, let them be never so disputable, *Bos locutus est*, an oracle has spoken, and no reply is permissible. In reply to his Excellency's opening question, there were, I should think at least half-a-dozen members of the Council who could have answered this grandiloquent, one might say grandiose, series of assertions, and have shown the puerility and question-begging character which, as a whole, they exhibit. Why did Lord Curzon confine himself to Russia in Central Asia, the Dutch in Java, the French in Algeria, in Cochinchina, and Tongking? Why go to the most backward nations? It is no compliment to the Indian people that peoples lacking their civilization and culture should be selected for comparison. Why did not Lord Curzon turn, for example, to the United States, and explain how it is that Cuba has already received independence and that the Philippines are on the eve of receiving "practical independence?"

"Let Anglo-Saxons compare with Anglo-Saxons, and not with Muscovites, or Dutchmen, or Frenchmen. If Lord Curzon, when his mind was turned towards Tongking, had gone as far eastwards as Manila, and had learned from his wife's countrymen what they had already done for the Filipinos and what more they were on the eve of doing, this particular purple patch in a speech full of purple patches would not have appeared. And by so much the speech as a speech would have gained. There is too much colour in it. If his Excellency had had a talk with the chief of the Philippine Commission, and then had attended a full meeting of the Governor's Council, corresponding to his own Executive Council, and had found that of the eight members three were Filipinos, from how grave and amazing a blunder, from what a glaring example of self-righteousness based on untruth, would he have been spared! But, his Excellency may be followed in his strange excursions;—even without that special information which he asked for and couldn't get! The Viceroy of India asks for information, and cannot get it! This seems almost inconceivable. However, there is information available to the multitude for these very countries, even though it be not in "corresponding figures," and where the Viceroy lacked information humbler individuals may find plenty.

"The Russians in Central Asia.—Why, Lord Curzon, confine the comparison to Russia in Central Asia? Take Russian Asia as a whole and you have the remarkable fact that an Armenian, Loris Melikoff, was Commander-in-Chief of one of the Russian armies in the Russo-Turkish war of 1878; that Sergius de Witte, born a Circassian of Dutch descent, recently Minister of Finance at St. Petersburg, and likely to be in full political control of the Russians in a few months; M. de Plevne, a non-Russian, the Czar's right-hand man in all administrative affairs; and, likewise, that in Turkestan and indeed in every other Province brought under the domination of the Czar, the way is open to the highest office, civil and military, in the Empire to any Russian subject whatever his race. When has the boasted "liberality" of England put an Indian into the highest rank or offices—civil and military, especially military? Concerning Loris Melikoff I must go into a little detail and show, Armenian though he was, he occupied a position in the highest government circles in St. Petersburg, was, indeed, as great a man in Russia as Lord Curzon is in the British Empire, may be, even greater. In 1878, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army of Armenia, he fought a number of battles in that part of the Turkish Empire, lost one, was victorious in all the others, and achieved a brilliant triumph in the capture of the great mountain fortress of Kars. In civil life he was even greater. When Nihilism was at its worst and the provincial government of Western Russia was suppressed, he was appointed to fill charge of affairs with distasteful powers tempered by the advice of an Executive Commission. The Nihilists, in a proclamation, asserted that they would desert from the struggle against constituted authority which they had initiated, provided large reforms of self-government were granted. Melikoff seized the opportunity thus afforded and began a work of far-reaching reforms which, had not a Nihilist, who refused to be controlled by the consensus of opinion among his comrades, assassinated the Czar before Melikoff's reforms could be properly understood or tested, would, probably have changed the current of European history, and would certainly have changed the current of Russian history. An historian not particularly friendly to Melikoff, is constrained to say:—

"Repressive measures imposed by Nihilism had never wisely conceived. Melikoff, a host of Siberian good...

St. Petersburg and Kiev the death sentence was commuted; and out of 16 who were convicted of participation in the plot to blow up the Winter Palace two only suffered the extreme penalty. So good was the effect of the experiment that a ukase of August 16, 1880, annulled the drastic measures of Feb. 22. Melikoff became Minister of the Interior and a tentative return was made to civil government. Encouraged by his apparent success, the General gradually inculcated his master with the idea of granting a constitution. He held that the battle against anarchy could be won only by enlisting the good-will of the Russian people. The Nihilists were an insensational minority; in point of fact their number never exceeded ten thousand. The most absolute government in the world had been checkmated by an inner ring who, in Anatole Leroy-Beaulieu's words, had "made a pact with death." Their strength lay in the national discontent. After all, the Liberal party demanded no more than the most elementary safeguards for person and property, the discontinuance or banishment to Siberia by executive order, the substitution of law for the arbitrary will of police officials. They would be content with a measure of participation in the government of their country. If this boon were granted them, Alexander I would reconquer that love which he had won by his earlier reforms, and the handful of Nihilists would be disarmed.

"Such were Melikoff's arguments; and his influence grew daily more pronounced, owing to the support given him by Princess Jurievski, with whom Alexander had contracted a morganatic marriage after the Empress's death in June, 1880. In the succeeding February he had before his master a scheme which he believed would restore the empire's life to its normal currents. The first step contemplated was an exhaustive enquiry, carried out by the Senate, as to the people's needs and the results of existing legislation in every district of the empire. A special commission was then to be appointed in each state-department, charged with the duty of preparing a project of reform based on Senate's investigations. The commissions' reports would be discussed by a representative council, elected by the autonomous bodies already in being—nobles assemblies, zemstvos, and municipalities; but the final word would rest with the Czar."

"When, let any Indian ask Lord Curzon, was an Indian subject of the British Crown, ever permitted to exhibit such noble statesmanship as is here described. Yet, since the first President and Governor of Fort William in Bengal was appointed on the 26th May, 1700, to say nothing of an earlier period, there have, literally, been hundreds of Loris Melikoffs available, if only the "liberality" of which Lord Curzon untruly boasts, had really been exercised.

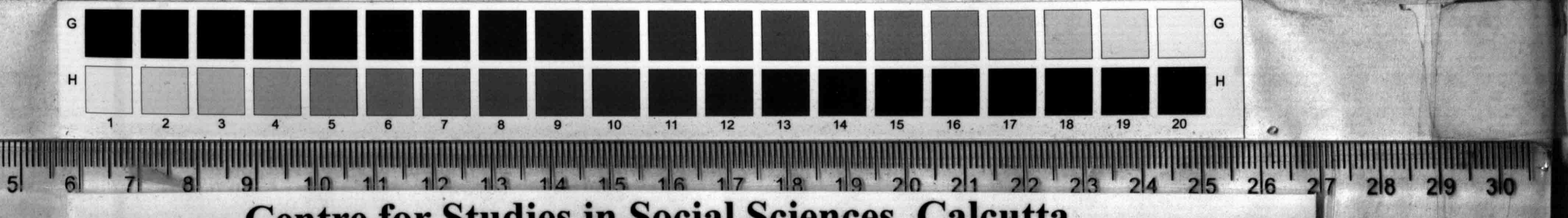
"To Russia in Central Asia did Lord Curzon make appeal. I also make appeal there to a distinguished ex-Anglo-Indian civilian, whose testimony, unlike Lord Curzon's, is first-hand testimony, the evidence of his own senses what he saw during his stay in Central Asia. This is what that gentleman writes to me in reply to an enquiry made to him. "Every man irrespective of creed or colour," he writes, "who passes under Russian sway, becomes *ipso facto* a Russian citizen, and is disqualified for no post whatever by reason of his birth or race. Skobloff said truly, 'The strength of our Asiatic Empire lies in the fact that we have no prias.' I found a far higher degree of national prosperity and happiness in Turkestan than in British India. At Samarkand I stayed with Colonel Kulchanov (Qul Khan Russianized). He was a Mahommedan, but the fact did not keep him back in the service. At the date of my visit he was District Officer of Samarkand and had Europeans under him. I dined with the family and sat next to Madame Kulchanov, a Mussulman like himself." This piece of personal experience is worth all Lord Curzon's general observations."

As to how the people of Java as well those of Algeria, Cochinchina, and Tongking are treated by the Dutch and the French respectively is described in the second letter of our London correspondent which we intend publishing to-morrow. Let it not be forgotten that the Indians are not inferior to the rulers in intellectual and moral qualities, and many of the races are nearly two hundred years under British rule. The people over whom Russia and France hold sway are, on the other hand, not only far less civilized than their rulers, but they are comparatively for a shorter period under their rule."

Let us, for ready reference, reproduce here portions from the letter of our Krishnagore correspondent published in our last:—

"One day during the trial of a Sessions case, Mr. McBlain left the court at about 2 p.m. muttering something which no body present in court could understand. The jurors, witnesses and the pleaders engaged in the case waited in court till 6 p.m. not knowing whether the Judge would come back or not, as they received no intimation about the intentions of the Judge. In this very case, the court (Mr. McBlain) retired for lunch one day, telling the jurors to come back within 5 minutes. One of the jurors, a Hindu, had to go to a shop at some distance from the court house for a drink. He was late by some ten minutes. Proceedings were drawn up against him for contempt of court."

"Yesterday (25th instant) Mr. McBlain came to court at the usual hour and entered into his private chambers, from which he did not come out during the day. As no intimation was given to the parties and that the Judge would not be present in the chamber and take his seat at 11 o'clock, one, who had any business to transact with the court, was obliged to wait till 6 p.m. when the 'camera' was closed."



[From our own Correspondent]

London, May 13.

A NOTABLE FACT FOR LORD CURZON'S MEDITATION.

The native Governors [of Provinces] on the whole have proved to be quite satisfactory. They take great pride in their provinces, and, with the exception of two or three, who seem to be listless and fearful of making enemies, they are exerting all their influence, which is very great among the people, to industry and law-abiding habits.

CIVIL GOVERNOR, WM. H. TAFT PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, IN REPORT TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

LORD CURZON'S MISCALCULATIONS CONCERNING TIBET.

It would have been to Lord Curzon's advantage if he had been fair towards Sir Henry Cotton before the last named gentleman left India. Much as he might have disliked a Lieutenant at Belvedere who held the broad and liberal views Sir Henry is known to possess, it would have been better for the Viceroy to have faced the contingency. Had he been just, and had he appointed Sir Henry Cotton to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, Lord Curzon would have spared himself the very severe beating he has received in the columns of "The Times" on the Tibetan question by the ex-Chief Commissioner of Assam. Because of his eminence as an Anglo-Indian official, even "The Times" could not deny Sir Henry a hearing. For the same reason the Editor had to accord to him big type and space on an inside page a day or two ago. The result is that, in the sight of all the world, Sir Henry Cotton has proved himself to be possessed of acumen, forethought, and a complete knowledge of Tibetan character, with a very shrewd idea as to the manner in which the Younghusband Expedition would find itself compelled to fight its way to Lhasa. On the other hand, it has been made abundantly clear that Lord Curzon, with all his cleverness, is lacking in every one of these qualities. With an ordinary man, such a grave miscalculation of a situation as that made by the Viceroy concerning Tibet would, for a time at least, have closed his active career. And, even Lord Curzon will find himself under an eclipse. He may be welcomed by Mr. Balfour and other Ministers with pleasant words, but, in their hearts, they will be mad with him for the serious difficulty in which he has placed them. As Sir Henry Cotton says in his letter to "The Times" of the day before yesterday, Mr. Balfour is now face to face with "the unhappy contingency" which he refused, not a month ago, to contemplate. He would not believe, although Mr. Gibson Bowles pointed out its inevitableness, that the British Government would be driven from one stage to another until nothing short of permanent annexation was reached. That contingency, however unhappy it may appear to Mr. Balfour, is in sight. Nothing could have been worse for Lord Curzon's credit as a statesman than that the Tibetans should be so bravely resisting the advance of Colonel Younghusband's warlike force,—"peaceful Mission" no longer, in anyone's mind or on anyone's lips. In this latest communication, with great force and dignity, Sir Henry Cotton ruthlessly indicates the serious position which has now to be faced. We have, he says, shattered the suzerainty of China in Tibet and are now proceeding to assume the responsibilities in that country which have hitherto been exercised by China. He concludes with a series of most apt sentences which well deserve quotation at length. Sir Henry says: "We have already shown that we are in a position to despise the protests of China, and for obvious reasons we can afford to ignore the uneasiness in Russia, but the ultimate effects of our action will be wide-reaching, and will, I doubt not, prove as great a misfortune to India and Great Britain as Mr. Balfour contemplates. Is it too late to check Lord Curzon's policy, and to insist on adherence to the 'wishes, desires, and intentions' of his Majesty's Government? I fear that it is, for there is no alternative but to withdraw our Mission from the heart of the country and, if necessary to open negotiations on the frontier from which we ought never to have advanced. There is no choice before us but the adoption of this course or meek surrender to the policy of Lord Curzon towards which we are surely and rapidly drifting."

The "meek surrender" is what will happen, and with it a heaping up of expenditure which India cannot afford to pay and which England certainly will not assume. In view of the terrible mess into which he has thrown Tibetan affairs, it would be wise of Lord Curzon to find a decent excuse for not returning to India. He has outlived any useful purpose in your country, and, when the impartial historian records his verdict on the Curzonian period of rule, that verdict must be to the effect that while there was much show and loud and frequent trumpeting, naught of real and permanent good to India or the Indian people resulted from Lord Curzon's too much bepraised and "strenuous" administration.

General Kuroki, who shares with Admiral Togo the honours of the war so far, is a soldier of wide experience. He is in his sixty-second year and is a typical Japanese of the old aristocratic, fighting, Satsuma caste. He has been a soldier all his life and won fame as a young man in the great Japanese war of rebellion. Ten years ago he came conspicuously to the front in the China war. His wonderful organizing skill went far to bringing about the early defeat of the Chinese in the neighbourhood of the Yalu. At the beginning of the present war he was retained in Japan as long as possible to assist in organizing the mobilization of the army and was then given the important command of the army of the Yalu.

LAND TAXATION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Last week, dealing only with the Budget details of the Philippine Islands, I declared there was no Land Tax in these Far Eastern isles. Nor, so far as the accounts went, was there. But, in the Civil Governor's latest printed Report, it is stated that an attempt is being made to levy a Land Tax, but the impost is of so very trivial a character, that it cannot be considered of any importance. "Under no circumstances," says the Civil Governor, "is the provincial board, or are the Municipal Councils together, able to tax any land in the provinces, in the aggregate, more than seven-eighths of one per cent. of its value. Less than one per cent. of value, that is, I suppose, capital value, the selling price, not the annual produce of the soil. Instead of being made, as it is in India, the sheet anchor or taxation, the Land Tax in the Philippines has, deliberately, been placed very low. In his Report, the Civil Governor says: 'The Land Tax is a very trivial impost, and is always the same.'"

Ram Lal Pal, has served Government faithfully with credit for upwards of 35 years and is very popular with the officers and the people here. Such popular officer's transfer will be regretted by everyone.

"Thousands of notices are still flying round the District to the alarm of the public summoning the people to prove within 3 days that their lands are not belonging to khas mehals." It will be seen that Mr. Carey defied even the Board of Revenue. Surely, he should be relegated to some department where he can do no mischief. We also trust that, some steps will at once be taken to remove the public alarm referred to by our correspondent.

It will be remembered that, Mr. Carey, Magistrate of Murshidabad, instituted eight criminal cases against Bibhuti Sekhur Mukherjee, a clerk, in the local Collectorate; and they created a good deal of sensation at the time in consequence of their utterly frivolous and harassing nature. As Mr. Carey showed his usual zeal in the conduct of these cases, the accused moved the High Court and got them all transferred to Burdwan. Of these, one has already been disposed of ending in the acquittal of the accused. Another case, namely, the extortion case, has just been finished, and also resulted in favour of the clerk. Thus, of the eight cases, instituted against Bibhuti Sekhur, he has been found innocent in two, which means, that he was dragged and put to immense trouble and expense at least in connection with these two cases. A perusal of the judgment in the extortion case, published in another column, will show upon what flimsy grounds was the unfortunate man prosecuted. It was found by the trying Magistrate that "there was not an iota of truth in it." And this is the way Mr. Carey was discharging his high functions.

HAPPY is the country which can do without news. Lisbon was for several days without its daily papers, the computers, though paid better than in any other country, having struck work. Happy is also the country which has no history. India must be, from this point of view, a very happy country. The people here have no craving for news; nor do they care how other countries fare. An American globe-trotter came to our office to acquaint himself with the way newspapers were managed in this country. "How many do you issue every day?" he enquired. And when we informed him that we have only four editions, he was surprised. He was again surprised to hear that Indian newspapers did not enjoy a larger circulation than those in America and England. His idea was that the Indians being two hundred and eighty millions strong, they ought to have several newspapers with millions of subscribers. We explained to him the real situation. Of these two hundred and eighty millions, with the exception of a million or two at the most, all the others till the ground and worked eighteen hours every day for securing a mere pittance to keep their bodies and souls together. That being the case they had neither time, nor opportunity, nor inclination to read newspapers, or for idle talk. "If they are so industrious," enquired he, "why do not the people of India get rich?" But this is a point which we are not disposed to discuss to-day.

HAPPY is the country which has no history nor a newspaper. Happy must be the Indian official whose name does not figure in newspapers. Sir Ashley Ewen used to say with pride that he did not make any noise, that he was a quiet administrator, that he was neither a reformer nor a statesman. But there are others who cannot do quiet work. Such was Mr. H. A. D. Phillips. He was ever fighting either with his superiors, or the High Court, or the Zemindars in his district. He is dead. But his career ought to form a lesson to his brethren in India. Those officials who are over-zealous, show their predilection from the beginning of their career. Mr. Phillips became well-known in the country even when only he was an assistant. Mr. Magistrate Carey, we regret to say, is following in the footsteps of Mr. Phillips. Is he the same official who insulted the Mooktears in his court in 1892? The following quotation from the "Statesman" of that period will show what we mean:—"At the same time, it is possible to take an exaggerated view of an indignity such as that said to have been inflicted on Moulvi Ali Hossein by Mr. Carey, and we cannot say that we think the action of the Mooktears, in leaving Mr. Carey's Court in a body, as they are said to have done, to mark their disapproval of his conduct, is to be applauded."

Those officials who make themselves famous by their over-zeal injure their own interests. The Government never trust them. Mr. Phillips had ultimately to go disgraced. Will not England intervene and put a stop to this dreadful war between the Japs and the Russians? When Boers fought, the Russians might have intervened but they did not. They had no object in stopping a war which was weakening their hereditary foe, England. In the same manner, England has no interest in putting a stop to the present war which is only weakening England's hereditary foe, Russia. For, as a matter of fact, Japan is indirectly fighting England's battle. Yet England has an interest in stopping this war. This war is creating an impression in Asia, which is dangerous both to Russia and England. This impression is that, the Asiatics are not so contemptible after all, and can fight even with a first class European power. Now this knowledge among the vast hordes of Asia should not be allowed to grow, both in the interests of England and Russia. The Jap-Russian war has brought another unexpected fact to the notice of the Europeans. It is this that the Asiatics can, not only manipulate the modern implements of war, but add some of their own inventions to them. Shimore powder, invented by the Japanese, is an explosive which explodes with terrific power. Within a small but defined radius the bursting shell tears men to atoms. Nay more, the result of the fighting at Kinchuan appears to show that the Japanese are proof against the irresistible effects of modern artillery and rifle fire.

We know at one time "sedition" possessed Government. It is now "Official" which are unbinding their minds.

Charles Elliott and Sir Commer Petheram over the famous case of Babu Atul Chander Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate, but which fortunately ended quietly. Well, last year, the Calcutta High Court recommended an extension of service for several old Sub-Judges amongst whom was Babu Jadupati Bannerjee. The Government of Bengal accepted the recommendation in respect of all, barring the last-named officer. He was informed directly by the Government of Bengal that he was not entitled to any further extension. Thereupon Babu Jadupati brought the fact to the notice of the High Court and prayed for its intervention. The High Court was naturally not pleased with this unwarrantable interference of the Government, for it cast a slur on their action; so the Hon'ble Judges asked the latter to explain why their recommendation in regard to Jadupati Babu had been rejected.

The Government of Bengal in reply sent to the High Court some papers relating to a case in which the Sub-Judge was implicated, about five years ago. The facts of this case are of a sensational character, and briefly stated are these. Babu Jadupati had an altercation, in a steamer, with one Mr. Butler, a District Engineer, under the following circumstances. The Sub-Judge was travelling with his wife to Chupra, and while crossing the river by the ferry steamer, he was sought to be prevented to pass through a passage only open to first-class passengers, while Jadupati Babu held a second-class ticket. In the steamer was present, besides the District Engineer named above, Mr. Blyth of the Opium Department. The altercation ended by Jadupati Babu being felled down, and severely hurt. A report of this unseemly scene was made to Mr. Bourdillon, the then Commissioner of the Patna Division, who immediately sided with the District Engineer against Babu Jadupati. Mr. Blyth was, however, of opinion that the matter was too trifling to need any serious notice. The celebrated Mr. Pannell came in afterwards as Judge of Chupra, and took the side of Jadupati Babu as his official superior. The papers of the case were ultimately sent up to the Bengal Government, and Sir John Woodburn dropped the matter. Indeed the incident was soon after forgotten, and Jadupati Babu not only got his usual promotion, but also an extension of service. It would seem, however, Mr. Bourdillon did not forget it, though it was four years old.

WHEN the papers of the case were placed before the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court, they found nothing blameworthy in the conduct of Babu Jadupati, and again recommended an extension of his service. The tone of their communication being firm, Mr. Bourdillon climbed down and accepted their recommendation. If Mr. Bourdillon had, however, stuck to his original decision, then the High Court was prepared for a fight; for, their Lordships were determined to assert their rights this time, as Mr. Bourdillon had, in the matter of Mr. McBlain, shown them very little courtesy. They had conclusive evidence in their hands that Mr. McBlain was neglecting his duties owing to some special cause, and that he deserved some substantial punishment. Mr. Bourdillon, however, got Mr. McBlain examined by a Civil Surgeon who certified to the effect that, Mr. McBlain's indolence was due to no other reason than to the bad state of his health. Thereupon Mr. McBlain was allowed to go home on furlough in the hope that he would behave better when he resumed his duties after the expiry of his leave. Mr. (Sir James) Bourdillon is, however, no longer at the head of the Government. The Hon'ble Judges are not likely to change their previous opinion about him, specially after his recent performances at Krishnagore, and Sir Andrew Fraser is certainly the last person to afford protection to an officer who has merited the serious displeasure of the highest tribunal in the land. What we beg to urge is that, both His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and their Lordships of the High Court will be pleased to take prompt action in this connection; for, the life, liberty and honour of millions of souls are in the keeping of Mr. McBlain as the District and Sessions Judge of Nadia. By the way, why not Sir James Bourdillon, who is now the master of Mysore, relieve us of his protegee, Mr. McBlain, instead of taking away a popular Judge like Mr. Staley from amongst us, as he contemplates doing?

HERE is another matter in which Mr. Carey figured in his usual way. He had resolved to demolish a Mussalman Masjid that stood upon the land acquired for the Berhampore College hospital. This the Mussalmins were not willing to permit, and hundreds of them assembled to offer resistance if necessary. They also despatched the following telegram to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor:—"From Pirbuzh Sabanwalla and others. Dated 21-6-04.

"Collector Mushdabad about to demolish our Musjid, violating Mahomedan religion. Great sensation prevails. Representation follows."

The representation had the desired effect; for, Mr. Hamilton, who is officiating for Mr. Carey, went to the spot under the order of the Government, and assured the Mussalmins that the Musjid would not be demolished and thus quieted them.

The following letter contains the account of yet another extraordinary act of Mr. Carey:—"We are glad to find that the case between Mr. Carey and his Serishtadar has been decided by the Board of Revenue in favour of the latter. Mr. Carey had stopped increment of pay to his Serishtadar on certain groundless charges. Thereupon, the Serishtadar appealed to the Board of Revenue against his order. The Hon'ble Mr. Hare, the then member of the Board, decided in favour of the Serishtadar and allowed him increment. Mr. Carey was not the man to abide by some of the Board too easily. He de-

would not come back on that day. Certain it is, however, that the parties engaged in the case, the juror, pleaders and others, used no knowledge that the Judge had retired for the day. For, if they had any such knowledge, they would have never waited four hours in Court expecting his return. Surely it was the duty of the Judge to assure himself, before he left Court for the day, that he had been understood. He certainly did not take that trouble. Let us now come to discuss his doings of the 26th. He came to Court at the usual hour, and entered his private chamber from which he did not emerge for the whole day. The result was that every one, who had business, was obliged to wait, say, about 7 hours in Court, not knowing when he would come back. If he had only told them that he would not come to Court for that day, he would have saved the trouble, annoyance, and money of scores of people who had business with him. He was in his private chamber adjoining the Court room. He could thus see that the men were waiting for him. But he took no notice; and after making them wait for several hours, he drove back to his home without a word of apology to the parties, whom he had kept waiting.

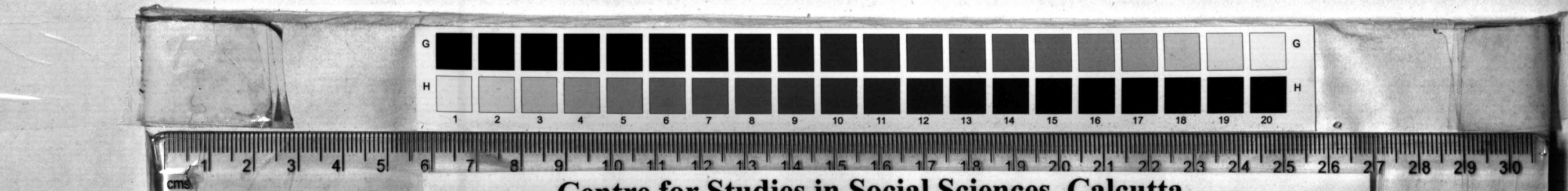
MAY we inquire what led Mr. McBlain to behave in this manner? Is it due to his utter contempt for the people of this country? If that be so, there is no reason why he should regard them as cattle, sheep, dogs or donkeys. The only reason for his treating his fellow-beings, some of whom are fully his peers in everything, and perhaps superior to him in something, is that he has power, and was possibly irresistibly tempted to enjoy the pleasure that is derived from the exercise of authority. But there is another pleasure which is higher, namely, that which is derived from treating dependants and fellow-beings with courtesy. Besides we do not think there can be much pleasure in lording it over a fellow-being who is helpless. It must be borne in mind that men who enjoy high position are generally very courteous in their dealings with their inferiors. Emperor Edward is the pink of courtesy; so is Sir A. Fraser; and so is Mr. Allen, the Mayor of Calcutta. We cannot at all comprehend why high officials in India should prefer haughtiness to sweetness of temper. Then there is another consideration: there is a political danger in treating a subject people with needless contempt. We think nothing makes British rule so unpopular as this haughty bearing of officials towards the people of this country. For, beless though they are, they have their self-respect. It is this haughtiness which has the effect of undermining the strongest of alien Governments.

NEITHER can we approve of the way Mr. McBlain is said to have treated a juror. The latter was thirsty, naturally so in this hot season. Being a Hindu he could not satisfy his thirst by a glass of whiskey, and he had to seek drinking water which was not unpolluted. In short, he had to go to a shop at some distance for a drink, and he was thus ten minutes late. Mr. McBlain might have easily excused him, especially as the juror was giving his service gratis, and as the Judge himself, though paid handsomely for his work, was not free from such faults, that is to say, of keeping people waiting for him. By the bye the High Court is very strict now, and does not permit vagaries in its subordinates.

HERE are the latest doings of Mr. McBlain supposed to us by various respectable parties at Krishnaghar. On the 20th May, during the course of the hearing of an appeal, there was a passage-at-arms between him and the pleader for the appellant. Taking advantage of his position as a Judge, he uttered threats in unparliamentary language at the unfortunate pleader. The latter, in the interests of his client, requested the Court to give a proper hearing to his arguments. This offended Mr. McBlain who went the length of coming down upon him with such expressions as "Hold your tongue; sit down; you are a young pleader of much impudence." The pleader had no option but to sit down expecting that the Judge might relent when, to his utter consternation, Mr. McBlain called upon him to show cause, "on or before the 6th June," why he should not be reported to the High Court for "unprofessional behaviour!" The Judge then drew up a proceeding and handed a copy to the offending pleader. Let us here remark "en passant" that the Judge's demand that the pleader should submit his explanation on the 6th June is illegal, for he was entitled to 15 days' time according to section 14 of the Legal Practitioner's Act while Mr. McBlain has given him only ten days. One of the senior and leading pleaders writes to us in these pathetic terms:—"Mr. McBlain is treating us very shabbily. He has made the place too hot for us; and if he does not mend his way, old men like myself will be obliged to give up practice, which I can ill afford to do."

Another leading member of the Krishnaghar bar, writing to an eminent Counsel in Calcutta, complains that the pleaders are being treated by Mr. McBlain as "mere coolies." Such expressions, "as sit down," "don't waste my time," "bad manners among the pleaders of the district," says he, "are a part and parcel of the welcome with which pleaders appearing in Court almost daily are greeted. Even the pleaders, who can teach him law, fare thus at his hands." But the expressions, "as sit down," continues the pleader, "are a contempt which which the pleaders are more offended by than any other."

Mr. Carey was not the man to abide by some of the Board too easily. He de-



"The Land Tax has not added greatly to the income of the Provinces, and was not expected to do so, because the limit of one per cent. of the tax was made so low."

Everything in this respect, so far as the Philippines are concerned, is exactly the opposite of what is experienced in India. Let this special point be noted. Certain agriculturists, not being sufficiently advised of the time limited for appeal, have failed to appeal within the regulated period, and have lost their rights thereunder. What, then? The rights are lost. Be it so. That is the look-out of the ignorant Filipinos. They must suffer for their ignorance. Such reasoning does not prevail in the Philippine Commission, says Governor Taft:

"It will be very necessary, therefore, to give every one an opportunity to have the assessment reviewed; but it has been a great step to have the assessment taken, and it is not at all impossible to remedy much of the injustice which has been done, by additional curative legislation."

If only such language were heard from gubernatorial lips in India!

THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIAN HISTORY.

To study English history without Indian history when the action and reaction of each has been so marked on the other is to expose ourselves to the ridicule of civilised nations.

The Emperor Akbar was great as a warrior and as an administrator. The British, with certain advantages to help them, are endeavouring to put into practice the broad and tolerant statesmanship which was so marked a feature of his rule at a time when, in Europe, men were being burned at the stake for religious differences and taxes were often collected by extortion. Akbar is an example to those who follow him.

Lord Reay was responsible for the first of these two statements; the Secretary of State for India for the second. The occasion on which both were uttered was the annual meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, held last Tuesday. I leave these weighty remarks without comment of my own; they do not need it. The Secretary of State was present at the meeting for the special purpose of presenting the first of the Society's Public School medals to Mr. W. N. Ewer, of Merchant Taylors' School, London, for his essay of the great Moghul Emperor. It is to the Indian Princes of the Madras Presidency that the Royal Asiatic Society is largely indebted for the funds which have enabled it to endow the scheme for interesting boys of English Public Schools in the history of India. Lord Reay also announced at the meeting that the London University was showing its appreciation of the need for facilities being offered to students of oriental literature, languages, and history, by arranging for lectures on oriental subjects. Both the B.A. and M.A. degrees of the University would in future be within reach of those students who wished to confine their attention to oriental studies. For this forward move the events of the Far East are in a large measure responsible.

WAR NEWS.

If the "large Russian vessel" observed at Talienvan Bay on the 24th May and probably the same that took part in the Kinchau battle was really the "Bayan" from Port Arthur several other conclusions must be drawn. In the first place as the "Bayan" which according to the testimony of British naval officers who saw her was roughly handled in a running fight with Japanese cruisers and destroyers in April, she must have been repaired fairly effectually at Port Arthur. In the second place, which is important, inasmuch as she is an armoured cruiser of 7,800 tons and 22 feet draught the channel of Port Arthur must be open for anything under battleship displacement and perhaps is clear even for these. Lastly the Japanese torpedo craft must either be keeping a bad watch or the waterway between Dalny or Port Arthur must be so safeguarded by mines or the guns of the coast forts as to enable the Russian cruisers to get out and back again without molestation.

The Terrible nature of the wounds inflicted upon the officers and crew of the "Varyag" when she engaged the Japanese ships at Chemulpo in her gallant but hopeless fight, bore testimony to the immense power of the new explosive "shimose," the shattering force of which has again been recently commented upon in the land operations north of Port Arthur and at and prior to the action at Kinchau. The Russian Military Press state that it is the most powerful explosive ever yet invented, and whilst it possesses these properties, it is at the same time far more easily handled than any other high explosive. Unlike many other explosives it does not explode when burnt or from concussion. A shot fired from a 6-in. gun with shimose at an armour-plate made a hole 3ft. in diameter. Further, it did not explode till it had reached several feet behind the plate. A gun cotton shell similarly fired would have made a hole of six inches. The shimose shell blew into from 2,000 to 3,000 pieces. A gun cotton shell would probably blow into from 10 to 150. The enormous power of shimose was first found out at Chemulpo, when a sailor was found wounded with no less than 160 fragments from one shell. It can thus be seen one shell of shimose falling upon deck would be capable of wounding every man of the ship's crew. Another recommendation is its cheapness. It is half the price of gun cotton. Before this new discovery all other explosives, from Lyddite downwards, pale into insignificance.

Major Colombo, 6th Gurkha Rifles, has been placed on special duty at Simla to compile a history of the military administration in India during Lord Curzon's Viceroyalty.

The Secretary of State for India has sanctioned the appointment of four Additional Sub-Judges in Sind, to be posted at Larkana, Rohri, Hala and Nowshera. Additional Judges have for some time past been employed at these places as a temporary measure. The Secretary of State has now agreed to make the appointments permanent.

A vigorous war against rats is being waged in the Colony of Mauritius. In each immigrant camp a certain number of men are specially appointed and from the results of their operations, as noted by the Inspector of Immigrants in his report, the rats are really having an uncomfortable time. In one camp seven were destroyed about 50 rats daily, and in another the weekly bag consists of three hundred.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

Election of a Delegate by the District Board of Dacca.—A meeting of the Dacca District Board was held on the 27th instant to elect a delegate to take part in the forthcoming Bengal Council Election. Rai Akhaya Kumar Sen Bahadur was unanimously elected delegate.

Ry. Administration Report.—The Administration Report on the Railways in India for the calendar year 1903, which will be issued under the imprimatur of Mr. C. W. Hodson, M. Inst., C. E., the Offg. Secretary for Railways, is, it is believed, ready, and will be published next Thursday.

Ranaghat-Murshidabad Ry.—The survey of the proposed extension of the Ranaghat-Murshidabad Branch, Eastern Bengal State Railway, from Laigola by Gheria, which was recently ordered, cannot be put in hand until after the rains, as the country to be surveyed has been badly flooded.

Weather and Crop Prospects in Bengal.—Rainfall during the week throughout the Province. The fall was heavy in some parts of North and East Bengal where the excessive rain has retarded the weeding of rice and jute. Ploughing and sowing continue. Prospects generally good. Cattle-disease reported from 13 districts. Fodder and water generally sufficient. The price of common rice has risen in five districts, has fallen in five, and is stationary in the remainder.

Serious Allegations against a European.—On Tuesday, before Mr. D. Weston, Chief Presidency Magistrate, Mr. Hume, on behalf of Mr. K. A. Donnthorne, of the Calcutta Port Commissioners, applied for and obtained a warrant against Mr. George Samuel Edward Nicoll, who was employed under the Port Commissioners, on charges of criminal breach of trust and misappropriation in respect of Rs. 1,200, which, it was alleged, he had taken between the 7th February 1903 and 5th January 1904, in the capacity of a servant.

Civil Medical Department.—Third grade Assistant Surgeon Jamini Kanta Mukerjee doing special duty in connection with anti-cholera inoculation at Purulia, is allowed privilege leave for three months. First grade Assistant Surgeon Kasi Nath Ghosh is allowed privilege leave for three months. Third grade Assistant Surgeon Sarat Chandra Datta is appointed to act at the Midnapore Dispensary. Third grade Assistant Surgeon Harendra Kumar Das is appointed to do supernumerary duty at the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta.

Weather and Crops in Assam.—The following report on the state of the season and prospects of the crops for the week ending the 24th May, 1904, has been published:—Continued rain, especially heavy in Darrang, Goalpara, and Sylhet, delaying cultivation and growth of rice, sugarcane, and jute. Ploughing for and sowing of early and late rice, plucking of tea, and sowing of cotton in progress. Planting of sugarcane nearly finished. Tea prospects improved, weather being less unfavourable. Cattle disease prevalent in seven districts. Prices of common rice—Silchar 13, Sylhet and Dhabri 16, Tezpur, Nowgong, and Sibsagar 14, and Gauhati and Dibrugarh 13 seers per rupee.

Tornado at Pabna.—A Pabna correspondent writes on the 27th instant:—"A few days ago a terrific tornado swept over three villages of this district, about 12 miles from the headquarters. Men and cattle were lifted high in the air, and then thrown down with violence to the earth. Seven people are reported to have lost their lives and about twenty more were more or less seriously injured. The District Magistrate and the Civil Surgeon visited the villages and arranged for the relief of the sufferers. A civil hospital assistant was deputed to attend to the injured, and the Civil Surgeon opened a subscription list headed by the Magistrate and Judge. About Rs. 300 has been raised, and rice and clothing have been freely distributed among the sufferers."

A Shocking Story.—Our Tangail correspondent has sent us particulars of an outrage alleged to have been committed on a female passenger by name Kusum, an inhabitant of Jhowail (Tangail Sub-division) on board the steamer "Ibis" on the 26th instant. The poor woman related her story of shame to a number of people. On being asked if she was willing to proceed against the perpetrator of the outrage, she said that there was none to look after her interests. Babu Chandra Kamal Dutt, teacher Pagaldighi School, who was a fellow passenger by the same steamer, took pity upon the woman and made a representation on the subject on her behalf to the Traffic Superintendent. It is hoped that a due enquiry will be instituted into the matter of her complaint.

Corporation of Calcutta.—Says the "I. D. News":—"Service on the General Committee of the Calcutta Corporation appears to be very popular among the Commissioners, for we may judge by the number of candidates for the vacancy created by the death of the late Mr. H. M. Rustomjee. The following seven gentlemen will contest the election, which will take place at the next monthly meeting of the Corporation to be held tomorrow:—Messrs. C. Radcliffe, and J. H. Vallentine, Babus Nalin Bihari Sircar, C.I.E., Rai Kailash Chunder Bose, Bahadur, C.I.E., Mr. W. T. C. Beckett, Mirza Suzat Ali Begg, Khan Bahadur, and Mr. R. H. M. Rustomjee. We can quite understand that it is a sense of public duty and not the fees which attract our "patres conscripti."

Dacoity At Soonerpore.—A dacoity of a serious nature was committed on the night of the 28th instant in the house of Babu Brujo Mohan Kar, a rich and respectable resident of Soonerpore. A gang, numbering about twenty ruffians armed with deadly weapons, forcibly broke open the "sudder" doors and entered the house at dead of night when all the inmates of the house were fast asleep. The dacoits after having tied the master of the house to a stake began to torture him in order to extort from him the place where he kept his valuables. When he could not endure the inhuman torture he showed the dacoits the place where he kept his treasure. The dacoits after having taken all the valuables worth about Rs. 5000 decamped. The inmates of the house recognised some of the culprits and the Divisional Police Inspector Babu D. N. Mookerjee arrested with great difficulties three of the ruffians with lots of stolen properties in their possession. The three accused will shortly be placed on their trial before the Joint Magistrate of Alipore.

Hony. Magistrates.—Babu Hari Nath Bagchi is appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate of the Sadar Independent Bench in the district of Pabna. Mr. Tomyns Reginald Browne is re-appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate of the Independent Bench at Jamalpur, in the district of Monghyr. The gentlemen named below are appointed to be Honorary Magistrates of the Sadar Independent Bench in the district of Rajshahi:—Babus Srish Chandra Ray, Kali Mohan Chowdhury, Anunda Gopal Mukerjee, Radhika Mohan Goswami, Krishna Kanta Saha, Rakhal Charan Mandal, Maulvi Mahomed Yusuf is appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate of the Independent Bench of Gumla, in the district of Ranchi.

Medical Department.—Captain E. O. Thurston, I.M.S., is appointed to officiate as Professor of Surgery, Medical College, Calcutta, and "ex-officio" Surgeon to the College Hospital, pending the assumption by Major R. Bird, I.M.S., of the duties of the post. Babu Satis Chandra Ghosh, a passed student of the Medical College, Calcutta, is admitted into the service of Government, as an Assistant Surgeon. Maulvi Abdul Ghafor, a passed student of the Medical College, Calcutta, is admitted into the service of Government, as an Assistant Surgeon. Lieutenant H. E. Smith, I.M.S., Regimental Medical Officer, Buxa Duars, is appointed to have medical charge of the civil station of Buxa, Alipore Duars subdivision, Jalpaiguri district, in addition to his own duties.

Reward of Disinterested Labour.—Our readers are aware how from time to time, Municipal Commissioners, members of District Boards, Jurors, Assessors and Honorary Magistrates—men who perform their work gratis—fare at the hands of the authorities. The punishment inflicted on Jurors and Assessors for late attendance has become notorious in Bengal. Scarcely a criminal session passes without such cases. The "Pratikar" of Murshidabad reports a recent case. Babu Bishnu Charan Sen, a member of the Sen zemindar family, was summoned as a Juror at the last session. He attended court at the usual hour for the first two days, but on the third day he was late for half an hour, and for this was fined Rs. 25. The Judge on being told that the Juror was subject to head disease and that just before he came to court he had an attack, reduced the fine to Rs. 10. The aggrieved Juror further submitted a petition to the Sessions Judge stating the circumstances and the reason of his late attendance. The Judge was kind enough to excuse the Juror this time. Now before inflicting the fine, is it not proper to ask the reason?

Tragedy At Joynagore.—A most inhuman and cold-blooded murder was perpetrated at Joynagore in the morning of the 29th instant under the following painful circumstances. One Hari Charan Nascar, a young man of the locality for the last two years became a dangerous lunatic and his elder brother was obliged to keep him in chains. Lately the lunatic managed to break his fetters and ran away and his brother could not find any clue to his whereabouts. On the morning of the day of occurrence when all the female inmates of the house were busy with their domestic affairs, the lunatic appeared all of a sudden, found his brother's daughter, a girl of four months old lying in a cradle hanging in the verandah and took the baby in his arms and began to fondle her. The female inmates came to the spot hearing the baby crying and were startled seeing her in the lunatic's arm and tried to take away the baby. The lunatic rushed into a room, came out with a sharp "dao" in his hands and cut off the head of the baby with a single stroke in the presence of all the female members. The villagers came to the spot hearing the frantic cries and lamentations and after a good deal of difficulties secured the murderer. The lunatic will shortly be placed on his trial before the Joint Magistrate of Alipore.

Burdwan Experimental Farm.—Among the many experiments carried out at the Burdwan Experimental Farm was one which should prove of interest to those concerned in the growing of jute. It was decided to try the effect of thick and thin sowing of the jute plant. Seed was sown in two plots, one at the rate of 22½ seers per acre, and the other at 11½ seers per acre. The contrasted plots equally received six ploughings, two harrowings and one weeding each, and were each manured with 11 maunds of bonemeal per acre. The result of the experiment showed that the output of the thick sown plots was 1,645 per acre against 1,740 from the thin sown plot, a practical demonstration of the higher yield from thin sown plots. Another experiment was tried of harvesting the plants at different stages, e.g., (a) before flower buds appeared; (b) when the plants were in flower; (c) when they were in flower; (d) when the fruits had set; and (e) after the fruits had matured; but the results were conflicting. This was doubtless due, remarks Mr. Mookerjee, Assistant Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal, to the difficulty of obtaining an evenness in the distribution of plants grown from broadcast seed. Fifteen varieties of jute, the seeds of which were procured from the most important jute districts, were grown for comparison. The plants, however, when they came up, were found in each case to be a mixture of several varieties and races. The removal of all plants not true to type, so thinned the plots that their returns were not comparable; but with greater precautions it was hoped to continue the experiment.

The Hajipur-Kathar Extension of the Tiroot State Railway is, we hear, to be doubled immediately between Barauni Junction and Bachwara Junction.

Information has been received from the Government of Bengal that the Solaya Port in Kathiawar has been declared to be infected with plague, and that the plague regulations, issued by Government, will be enforced in the Ports of Orissa and "hitagong" against vessels arriving from that port.

A telegram has been received at Ernakulam from H. H. the Raja of Cochin at Kodakal stating that certain distinctions have been conferred upon him and the Dewan by the French Government on the recommendation of the Governor of Pondicherry, which place they lately visited. The only Indian Prince to be decorated with a personal distinction by the French Government was the Raja of Travancore.

TELEGRAMS

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

London, May 28.

Reuter wires from Tokio to-day that the Russians have abandoned Nankwanling, have been driven from Sanshilipu, and are retreating on Port Arthur.

The Japanese captured fifty cannons. The Russians left four hundred dead at Kinchan and Nanshan. The Japanese losses were three thousand killed and wounded.

Washington Government advices dwell upon the terrific power of the Japanese Shimose powder, which is a secret known only to the inventors. The explosions of the shells have astonished the United States Army observers.

Reuter's correspondent at Tokio says that the attack on Nanshan was one of fiercest and bloodiest affairs of modern warfare. In the earlier rushes every man participating was shot down before he reached the first line of the trenches and it became necessary to suspend the infantry charges and resume the Artillery attack, before the final successful assault was made. The fortunes of the day possibly hinged upon the Russian minefield at the foot of the ridge, the electric wires connected with which were destroyed by the Japanese, thus preventing the explosion at the critical moment.

The Japanese victory at Kinchan is hailed by the London press as establishing an even stronger claim than the Yalu victory to their superiority on land as well as on sea, since the Russians at Kinchan had ample time to prepare their defences.

The "Daily Telegraph" says that the victory is one of most perfect examples possible of how fighting ought to be conducted and the qualities going to make an almost ideal army. The Japanese, it adds, is the compeer of the proudest European soldiery.

The "Standard" says that the valour of the Japanese soldiers again refused to recognise any obstacle insurmountable. All odds were against the victors.

The "Graphic" says the Russians were driven out of their stronghold by superior generalship and the most indomitable bravery.

London, May 30.

General Oku reports that his casualties at Nanshan were about three thousand five hundred men. Sixty-eight cannon, ten machine guns, a quantity of rifles, ammunition and a number of prisoners were captured. The enemy left over five hundred corpses. We began the action at midnight of the 28th instant. The fourth division was on the right, the first division in the centre, and the third division on the left. The darkness was intense but Kinchan was soon captured. Our artillery opened on Nanshan at 5-40 a. m. four gunboats assisting from Kinchau Bay. Three hours later the Russian artillery fire slackened, and our infantry advanced to within five hundred to three hundred metres from the Russian outworks.

Two thousand Russian Cavalry were routed by the Japanese at Haiyangcheng. General Oku has successfully occupied Lushuntun in Talienvan Bay, and followed up this brilliant achievement by capturing four guns.—"Statesman."

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

OCCUPATION OF KINCHAU.

(From the Japanese Consul.)

Bombay, May 28.

The Commander of the Army attacking Kinchau reports as follows: On the 27th our observation, and the enemy's cannon aiding, showed that the enemy had at Nanshan Hill, south of Kinchau, four 15-centimetre shrapnel ten-tens to fifteen cannons (10.5-centimetre shells proved the range at 8,500 metres), two 12-centimetre quick-firers, besides, at least, ten forts. At the foot of the hill wire netting and mines were laid. On the 22nd the attacking force commenced operations, as pre-arranged. On the 23rd the reconnaissance discovered the enemy's right wing on Huashantao, with about eight heavy guns facing the sea. Fragments of the enemy's shells showed 20-centimetre guns, 15-centimetre short cannons, ten half 8-centimetre cannons, and 7-centimetre quick-firers. Small bodies of Infantry and Artillery were observable. Staying at Kinchau, on the morning of the 25th we attacked Kinchau, engaging the enemy's Artillery on Nanshan. At dawn of the 26th we commenced a cannonading lasting five hours, while three Japanese warships assisted from Kinchau, Bay. A Russian gunboat attacked our left wing from Talienvan. We took Kinchau at 5-30 A.M. and after a severe fight occupied Nanshan. We are pursuing the enemy. The detailed report of our attack on Kinchau is as follows:

The enemy built several covered trenches around the forts on Nanshan and offered a stubborn resistance under strong defence works. Nevertheless, after several attempts, we finally succeeded in taking the enemy's position by storm, driving the enemy towards Nankwanling. This severe fight continued sixteen hours.

Admiral Togo telegraphs: The Captain commanding a detached fleet, consisting of four gunboats and a torpedo flotilla, reports by wireless telegraphy that the fleet reached Kinchau Bay and, co-operating with our army, bombarded Nanshan on the 26th instant. Upon witnessing our army occupy Nanshan fort they withdrew. The Captain of the "Chokai" was killed. There were nine other casualties. The damage to ship is insignificant.

Bombay, May 28.

The commander of the army attacking Kinchau reports: A detachment of Infantry, Artillery, Nankwanling on the 26th instant. The Artillery plied the

TELEGRAMS

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

commenced on the early morning of the 28th. The enemy's defensive works were nearly of a permanent nature and the artillery consisted of 60 guns of various calibres and 2 quick-firing field artillery. The companies of Infantry ranged in two or three lines of covered trenches with loop holes and set the machine guns. All important points offered stubborn resistance. We ranged all our field guns upon the forts. The enemy's principal artillery were silenced while the quick-firers previously retired to Nan Kwanling and fired till late at night. Our artillery concentrated fire upon the enemy's trenches and the infantry advanced within 400 to 500 metres of the enemy, but the wire entanglement, the mines and the trenches lay before us and the enemy's Infantry fire and machine guns remained unabated. We further approach 200 metres of the enemy and several charges still proved unsuccessful, the officers and men all falling 20 or 30 metres of the enemy; whereupon our artillery made a preparatory firing and in the evening, with several cannonading, last charged and with great difficulty opened a breach through which we gained the whole height. We expelled the enemy and captured all guns on the forts. A fortunate incident in this attack was the discovery of a mine wire at the eastern foot of Nanshan which we cut and the explosion was prevented.

The Tibet Expedition.

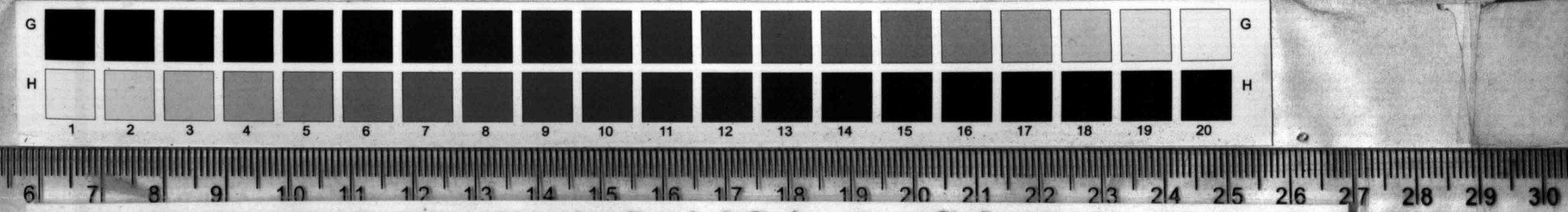
SEVERE FIGHTING.

BRITISH OFFICER KILLED.

Gyantsé, May 26.

The garrison were engaged to-day for fourteen hours in a most arduous fight in which the Tibetans showed desperate courage, but for their ad-apt use of cover and the care with which the operations were conducted our losses would have been lamentable. As it is a regret to report that Lieutenant Garstin of the Engineers was killed, Captains O'Connor, Secretary to the Mission, and Mitchell of the 30th Pioneers, were severely wounded. Lieutenant Walker, R. E., had a slight wound; and three Sikhs were killed and seven men severely wounded.

The Tibetan losses were very heavy and there were 37 prisoners taken. On the 24th a large convoy arrived at Gyantsé with additional troops and guns. They round the village of Naimi, six miles in the rear very strongly held and effectually blocking communications except for large parties. This is the reason why the Mission has been isolated for a week. Besides blocking the rear and continuing the bombardment of the camp from the fort, the enemy for the past few days, have been seen busily engaged in fortifying and mounting jingals in a village a thousand yards to the right. It was vitally necessary for the village to be stormed, otherwise the enemy would have ensnared our flanks. Accordingly a force made a sortie at two this morning, Colonel Brander commanding, with Major Peterson in charge of the storming party consisting of two companies of the Pioneers and a Company of the Sappers. The village was quietly surrounded on three sides before dawn and huge breaches made in the wall of a large house with gun cotton, before our presence was discovered. But the village consisted of a number of strong stone houses separately held. A storm of fire poured on the storming party. The fort also woke up and bombarded the village, and our troops alike. The fire from the fort was so heavy that the guns of the maxim reserve company and Gursias were placed on a height overlooking the village and occupied a greater part of the time in an attempt to subdue it. There were about four hundred armed Tibetans in the village firing rapidly, and uttering war-like cries calling to our troops to come on. As practically each house, some with walls, thirty feet high and ten feet thick, had to be stormed separately, the operations lasted many hours. The Tibetans obstinately refused to flee and seven breaches with gun cotton were necessary, the making of which operation caused the greatest danger. Lieutenant Garstin, was shot through the head and Captain Sheppard displayed admirable courage. Of the seven officers with the storming party three were hit. In the majority of instances when the houses were finally entered the Tibetans absolutely refused to surrender. Wounded men who were unable to load the muskets throw stones. In one case a man, bleeding from the head, dung himself on a Sikh and with hands and teeth and hung on like a cat till killed with a bayonet. The majority of the Tibetans carried swords, but apparently did not know how to use them. The swords were very long and heavy, and fashioned like those known as Crusaders' great blades. About noon when most of the village was taken a gallant attempt was made from the fort to reinforce. Fifteen men mounted on black mules followed by forty warriors dashed out. The Tibetans had begun building a covered way from the fort towards the village. The last five hundred yards of the dash had to be made absolutely in the open. The enemy came under the fire of both the troops on the hill and of the maxim at the corner of the Mission Camp. Of the whole party only one man escaped the terrible zone of fire alive. After the destruction that occurred, the reinforcement, isolated and unable to move, was absolutely in the open. About 100 men were seen to be retreating towards the fort.



Calcutta Gazette.—June 1.

Mr. W. N. Delevingue, Officiating Additional Sessions Judge, Bankura, is appointed to act as District and Sessions Judge of Rangpur, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. T. W. Richardson.

Babu Surjo Narain Dass, Munsif of Malda in the district of Rajshahi, is appointed to act as Subordinate Judge, Purnea.

Babu Jyotish Chunder Sen, Deputy Magistrate, Champaran, is vested with powers under section 133 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

These are most excellent sentiments, but does any one who has given his serious attention to the events which are transpiring suppose that they will be adhered to? The discussion which took place in the House of Commons on April 13 last, when these remarks were made, was of a professed character.

High Court.— June 1. CRIMINAL BENCH. (Before Justices Pratt and Handley.) SENTENCED TO DEATH. Their Lordships delivered judgment to-day in the case of Wahed Ali Howladar, who was convicted under section 302 I.P.O. by Mr. B. C. Mitra, Sessions Judge of Khulna differing from both the Assessors and was sentenced to be hanged.

OUR POLICY IN TIBET.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "TIMES."

Sir.—We have reached a critical position in our relations with Tibet, and already the bandogs of the Press are whooping on the Government to advance to Lhasa and assume the permanent control of the foreign affairs of the country.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST A POLICE OFFICER.

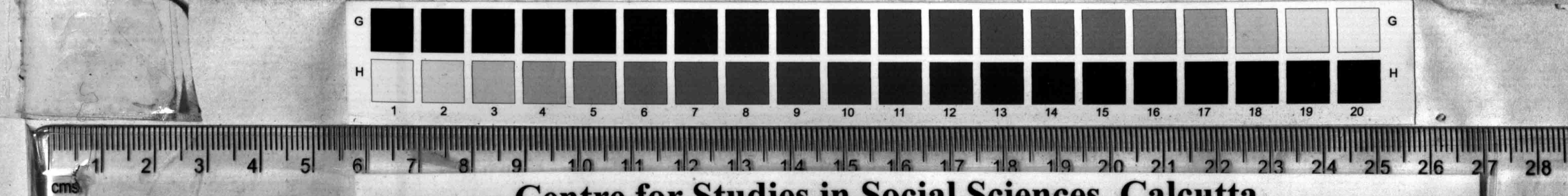
Tangail May 28.

On the 3rd of March last one Mahbat Sheikh of Gala Station, Tangail, lodged a complaint at the court of the S. D. O. of Tangail, charging (1) Police Sub-Inspector Eklas Uddin Meah, and (2) one Altu Sheikh, under sections 363, 497 and 498 I.P.O.

High Court.— June 1.

CRIMINAL BENCH.

The "Times" correspondent at Paris notes:—The "Gil Blas" contends that there is no ground for the suspicion that Japan desires armed intervention by China in her own favour.



A STRANGE BUT TRUE INCIDENT.

(Special for the Patrika.)

An inhabitant of this town had got a tumour in his throat which within a short time assumed such a malignant type that the powers of both the Homeopaths and the Allopaths of this town failed to give him any relief.

A week after his boy, aged 10 years, awoke one fine morning and said "Father, here is your medicine in my hand, this will cure you beyond all doubt" and showed him a certain root in the palm of his hand.

On the 4th day again the little boy awoke from his slumber and said "Father, the little boy of whom I spoke and who assured me that he would come again, visited me last night, took me along with him in the adjoining garden and showed me the plant, the juice of whose leaves would effect your complete cure."

K. L. Saha, Medical Practitioner.

CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

Our readers may remember that there was a hot discussion, attended with an ugly scene, at a recent meeting of the Corporation of Calcutta when the question whether the Vice-Chairman should be the controller of Municipal accounts or not came into consideration.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3906-M., dated the 11th April, 1904, with which you forward a copy of the Proceedings of the Corporation appointing their Vice-Chairman to be Controller of the Municipal Accounts, and state that the question of the re-organisation of the Accounts Department has been referred to the Vice-Chairman, whose proposals in connection therewith are now under the consideration of a Special Committee appointed by the Corporation for the purpose.

Letter from Mr. Barrow to the Chairman, dated, 8th October, 1901.

Letter from Mr. Barrow to the Chairman, dated, 22nd November, 1902.

On the other hand the respective functions of the Vice-Chairman and the Engineer in regard to the checking and payment of bills have now been defined; and if provision is made for the prompt submission of disputed points for the final decision of the Chairman (or other constituted authority) at the earliest possible stage, as enjoined in Mr. Baker's letter quoted above, the Lieutenant-Governor hopes that the modification which the Corporation have made in Mr. Barrow's proposal may be found to work safely.

The section of the Mountain Battery which was in the Chumbi Yangtse, having arrived with the two companies assignment of common shell as shrapnel only was original.

THE EXTORTION CASE AGAINST BIBHUTI SHEKHAR MUKERJI.

ACCUSED DISCHARGED.

JUDGMENT.

Burdwan, May 27. The following important judgment was delivered in the above case:-

This was a new case instituted by Mr. Carey, the Dist. Magistrate of Murshidabad, over and above the seven cases already instituted, of which one has already been disposed of ending in the acquittal of the accused and two others have been sent back here for retrial.

Mr. Carey in his proceedings is supposed to have instituted this new case under Sec. 384 I.P.C. on a report made by the D.S.P. of Berhampore, which report, strange to say, does not form a part of the record. The facts of the case are extremely simple. One Nalini Mohan Roy, "ammoktar" of Hasmatara Begum, the mother of the complainant Reza, went on December 6, 1901, to draw the pension of Hasmatara Begum. When he went to Berhampore he took with him the gun and sword license of Reza for renewal.

As to these facts as alleged no other witnesses have been examined by the prosecution, though altogether 16 witnesses were examined, most of whom were brought from Berhampore to prove the bad character of the accused, but this was disallowed by the court.

In cross-examination it leaked out that there could be no prosecution for possessing a gun without a license, if the license is submitted for renewal on the 6th December, that accused was not visible from the place where the Duftry stood, that Nalini got a copy of his deposition, (before the Jt. Magistrate of Berhampore, from where the case was transferred to Burdwan) from a person Fudan, and that probably there was a letter annexed with it purported to have been written by Radhica P. Sen, the Public Prosecutor of Berhampore, and that Fudan was Reza's servant and that also Reza enquired of Nalini if Nalini had got a copy of deposition. Reza, however, denies this. It also so transpired in cross-examination that Reza in 1903 had his gun with him without a license from January till about May, and that Nalini had often to request the Magistrate and Collector of Murshidabad for realising his money lent to the Political pensioners from the Political Pensions (which are not attachable according to law). Besides these there are other glaring discrepancies.

In the cross-examination of Murari Mohan Das, Murari Babu had to admit that counterfoils of passes were preserved and there was an unauthorized register of petitions which was in vogue in 1901. The prosecution produced these on the third hearing date (the 13th May). In the unauthorized register it was found out that the license was ordered to be granted on the 20th December, 1901, and from the counterfoil it was found that it was made ready on the 30th December 1901, and was signed by the Magistrate in charge of the gun-license on the 20th January 1902, before which date the pass could not have been delivered. This completely shattered the case for prosecution and the Dy. Magistrate Roy Khetra Nath Mitra Bahadur's remark on this point is worth quoting:-

"When therefore all the facts of the case are taken into consideration this delay of two years made in bringing the matter to the notice of the authorities, the subsequent consultation and coaching up and the overwhelming evidence in black and white that the license which was not signed until the 20th January, could not have been delivered on the 20th December, leave no room for doubt that the case is a false one and that there is not an iota of truth in it."

These facts stand out prominently notwithstanding the attempt to smoothen it with a huge heap of irrelevant rubbish. I discharge the accused under Sec. 253 C.P.C.

VEGETATION ON MARS.

In a paper read before the American Philosophical Society, reported in "Nature," Mr. Percival Lowell discusses the 375 drawings of the Martian surface made by him during the opposition of 1903. Having plotted the values allowed to the "visibility" of 85 canals, at different periods, with regard to the time of their minima visibilities after the martian summer solstice, he found that these minima appeared in regular sequence from the North Pole towards the equator. Mr. Lowell believes that the canals are strips of vegetation dependent for their growth—and therefore for their visibility—upon the simultaneous presence of sunlight and water, and he points out that on a planet, such as the earth, where water is constantly present all over the surface, the appearance of vegetation solely depends upon the amount of sunlight received; therefore, in the northern hemisphere, it simply progresses northward with the sun. On the other hand, he concludes, from his curves, that there is no constant supply of moisture on the surface of Mars, and, therefore, although the sun may have reached the summer solstice, it is not until the snowcap melts and loses the water supply that the vegetation appears. Further, his curves indicate that when melted the water moves southward at a remarkably steady rate of 53 miles per day, and, as the figure of the planet is shown by its sphericity to be in a state of fluid equilibrium, he contends that the water must of necessity be conveyed southwards by artificial means.

Interesting Items.

DELUGE OF LIBELS.

Much excitement has been caused in the little principality of Lippe-Detmold by the arrest of Herr Kracht, a millionaire resident, and his wife on charges of sending anonymous letters of the most malicious character for the past seven years to large numbers of persons in fashionable society, not even excluding his Serene Highness the Prince, who had conferred on Herr Kracht the title of Privy Councillor. Many of the letters were addressed to Herr Kracht, and many more to the daughter of a rich and titled inhabitant of the principality, who is now Frau Kracht. Finally suspicion fell on the husband, and he was taken into custody, but still the anonymous epistles continued to pour in. Then the wife was arrested and they finally ceased. The police allege that she wrote about 110 of the letters that figured in this inexplicable case.

CURIOUS MARRIAGE STORY.

When George Sedgwick, a soldier, returned from the South African war he found that his wife had been unfaithful to him, and he obtained a decree nisi against her, which has not been made absolute, because he could not pay the fee. He fell in love with Helen Scutchings, the daughter of his landlady, and is alleged to have induced her to tell the St. Pancras registrar of marriages that she was twenty years old, whereas she was only seventeen. The marriage took place, and the pair lived as man and wife with the girl's parents until three weeks ago. Then an old lover, Alfred Woodley, appeared on the scene, there were, according to the young wife's story, "lots of kisses," and next day they parted. Sedgwick was charged at Marylebone Police Court on Saturday with inducing the girl to make a false declaration to the registrar. Mr. Curtis Bennett said that it was clear the whole family were concerned in the matter. He discharged the prisoner.

BEE-HUNTING AS A PASTIME.

Bird study as a fad is beginning to pall on the vacationists who has not the true love of the feathered folk and a new out-door recreation is wanted. Some bright young women who spent last summer in a western Massachusetts town, tired of hunting birds which never sat still, felt this need and supplied it. They turned bee hunters. Discovering a veteran bee hunter, and overcoaching a feminine distrust of the little insect who so sharply resents interference with her affairs, they were initiated in the art of lining bees, and thereafter every tramp abroad was with an object in view. Bee hunting possesses a charm peculiarly its own, and it can be practised wherever flowers grow, even within the limits of the town. Yet seemingly there are few who know this or are at all aware of the stores of sweetness to be had for the seeking. The necessary outfit consists of a box three inches square and as many deep. This is divided into an upper and lower story by means of a slide. The cover is fitted with a glass window. In the lower compartment is placed a piece of comb filled with a syrup of sugar and water. The slide is pushed in place and the nearest posy bed or clover patch is sought. With the box in one hand and cover in the other it is an easy matter to trap a honey bee busy robbing a flower of its sweets. Watching her through the glass window, the moment she quiets down the slide is gently drawn. It does not take the bee long to discover the syrup and she at once begins to load up with this treasure. The box is now placed on a post and a sharp watch is maintained. Presently the bee is satiated, and circling her bearings, starts straight for the hive or tree. When she comes back, for she will surely return, she will bring another with her, and in turn this one will bring a third, and so on until a line is established. Then while one or more fill with the syrup the cover is replaced and the box carried forward along the line of flight. From the stopping point a new line will be started as before. Thus in time will the bees lead straight to their home.

CHILD "SORCERESS."

Some further amazing details of the powers of the "magnetic girl" at Vladikavkas, in the Caucasus, are sent by the correspondent of the "Novoe Vremya" in that town, telegraphs our St. Petersburg correspondent. It will be remembered that the girl, who is only twelve years old, apparently possesses the property of causing objects to fly into the air at her approach. The correspondent states that during the Russian Lent, when it rained heavily for several days in succession, those in the house with the girl were greatly surprised to see water constantly pouring on her head and shoulders, which were always wet, so that she could hardly find time to dry herself. When the weather became finer the weird manifestations changed their character. Things began to fly about the house, and dozens of glasses and plates were broken. Once while the girl was sitting with a child in her arms various objects such as blankets and pillows flew out of the bassinette, which was standing about five feet away. They moved, however, in the direction opposite to that in which the girl was sitting. On another occasion as she was approaching a sideboard a glass of oil on the top shelf, which she could not reach, spilt itself on her. It has been noticed that not only glass and metal, but such things as india-rubber boots jump into the air at her approach. The correspondent adds: "The phenomena I have described were also witnessed by me in my own house."

CHAMBERLAIN COUGH REMEDY

The mother's favorite. It is pleasant and safe for children to take and always cures. It is intended especially for coughs, colds, croup and whooping cough, and is the best medicine made for these diseases. There is not the least danger of giving it to children for it contains no opium or other injurious drug and may be given to children as young as to an adult. For sale at all chemists. Smith Stanistreet and Co., Ltd., 11, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C. 4.

ESCAPE OF A MENAGERIE LION.

During a performance with two lions in Hancock's travelling menagerie at Dawlish, South Devon, the other night, one of the lions made his escape owing to the door of the cage not being properly fastened. A scene of wild excitement followed, the booth being crowded with people at the time. In the panic many women fainted, and numbers were greatly bruised in the rush that was made for the exits, but no one was seriously hurt. The lion escaped through a door in the tent to an adjoining field, and was captured soon afterwards by means of ropes in a neighbouring plantation.

FISH PRESERVATION.

At a meeting of the Committee of the Nilgiri Game Association, Mr. Farr, an expert in fish culture from Ceylon, gave a short account of the experiences of the Ceylon Association in breeding trout. He told the members present that in 1899 the Association placed fry of the "Salmo iridens" or rainbow trout in their streams and that these fish in one year weighed up to 1 lb. and that now they were up to 4 lbs. One stream in which they had turned 200 fry had already had 500 taken out of it to stock other places. The "Salmo iridens" itself bred in one year and after two years the native born fish were breeding. There is now every reason for believing that the Association will be able to stock all the suitable streams in Ceylon. Very much more extended operations for hatching the trout are to be undertaken and the Ceylon Government are to be applied to for material help in obtaining the services of an expert. The Association then hope to be able to supply not only Ceylon but the whole of the Hill Stations in India and Burma. An idea of the progress made by the Ceylon trout could be obtained from the fact that the Association there could charge its members Rs. 50 a year for fishing, Rs. 15 a week and Rs. 5 a day, while outsiders were made to pay about six times as much. They are able to do practically as they like in this matter as the streams are entirely in their own hands, being leased from Government. In the Nilgiris, however, this is very different, everything being under Government, and the local Association is unlikely to obtain any concessions until many years have passed and a vast amount of correspondence has been written. The principal food of the rainbow trout is the fresh water caddis. The fish grow to a very large size but a peculiarity is that as soon as they are full grown they disappear. They seem to take to the habits of salmon and go down to the sea.

MARRIAGE CUSTOMS IN SOUTH INDIA.

A Brahmin who marries a third wife has, as a preliminary proceeding, to go through a mock marriage with the "arka" plant ("Calotropis gigantea"), apparently with the object of preventing any ill-luck, which he may have experienced in his previous married life, from pursuing and disturbing him in his third marriage. A widower amongst the Oriya classes who wishes to remarry is enjoined to go through the ceremonial of marriage with a "sahada" or "shadi" tree (believed to be the "Strobilanthes asper"). The value of a Yurkala bride is fixed at 20 pawodas, and if an uncle foregoes his preferential claim to marry his son to his niece, he receives eight pagodas out of the 20 paid to the girl's parents by anybody else who may marry her. In a Coorg marriage, the bridegroom carries a war knife in his hand and has to cut through a plantain stem with one blow, thus giving proof of physical strength, which has always been regarded by this race as an essential requisite in a suitor. A custom similar to this is said to obtain amongst the Kallars of Tinnevely and Madura, where a young Kallar has to give proof of his prowess in bullbaiting before he can claim the hand of a Kallar maiden. Among the Kikolans at least one girl in every family is dedicated to temple service. It is said that as a "dasi" or dancing girl, can never become a widow, some people, believing that the beads in her "tali" bring good luck to women who wear them, send the "tali" required for a marriage to a "dasi" who prepares the string for it and attaches to it black beads from her own "tali." A Kavari bridegroom of Tinnevely carries a dagger at his waist before he enters the marriage booth, as also do the Vakkaligas of Mysore. An Oddy bridegroom, when proceeding to his bride's home, carries a curved knife partly concealed by a cloth, and when the "tali" is tied round the bride's neck, he touches the knot of the "tali" string thrice with the knife.

Among the Kambalals of Tinnevely, if a bride is taken from a lower class, the bridegroom does not personally take part in the ceremony, but a "katar," or rude sword, is sent to represent him and the "tali" is tied in the presence of this weapon. In all the Oriya castes, with the exception of the Brahmans, a bride is married to an arrow if a suitable husband has not been found for her before a certain age, the actual marriage being left to be performed at any subsequent time. A Kadir (jungle man) of the Cochui Hills has to go through a long period of probation before he earns a wife as a reward for his constancy. When he intends to marry, he leaves his own village and lives in another for a whole year, during which time he selects a girl. At the end of the year he returns to his village and after obtaining the sanction of his village community, returns to the village of his bride-elect and gives her a dowry by working there for another year. Presents to the girl's mother, of cloths and iron tools, and a feos complete the marriage.

SLIGHT INJURIES OF THE FACE

and cause several days of blood poisoning. Pain relief. The loss of the face. Pain relief.

"FIREMEN OF THE PLAINS."

The "firemen of the plains" work with a system—each man knowing what is expected of him and bravely executing it like firemen of the city. Cowboys are the "fire fighters of the plains," and burning grass is the material consumed.

We will take, for illustration, the great Espuela or "spur" ranch in the lower Panhandle country of northwest Texas, and go back a dozen years, when destructive fires were more frequent than they are now. Hundreds of cowboys were employed on that ranch, living in camps widely separated, covering the unsettled counties of Dickens, Crosby, Garza, and Kent.

Great and very destructive prairie fires often occurred, and systematic plans were adopted to fight successfully the devouring element, which not only involved a great loss of grass, but of stock also. One of the most successful plans was the following: It was understood among the men at the various camps that when a smoke was discovered ascending from the prairie, each and every cowboy must saddle his horse and gallop away toward the fire straight out in a line from his camp.

This had to be done at night also, the fire then being detected by its light; and the boys would come from every direction, striking the line of fire at many different points almost at the same time. If the fire had spread much, the men from the different camps would sometimes be many miles from each other, those from the same station going in a squad together.

If it was at night the scene would be one of wild and weird grandeur. The great line of fire, the galloping horses as the cowboys approached it, some from camps on opposite sides, their forms and those of their horses standing in relief in the bright glare of the burning grass. Herds of bellowing, frightened, stampeding cattle made the scene more terrible and exciting as they ran before the pursuing, crackling, roaring flames. Above the din could be heard loud shouts of command from leaders of the assembling men which would remind soldiers of a battlefield. The resemblance became more realistic when rapid pistol shots were heard far out on the prairie in the midst of the running cattle.

The men were not standing still on their horses; the fire was travelling, and they were going with it until ready to begin their attack. Cattle must be sacrificed to save cattle. As soon as an animal fell, four cowboys dismounted and sharp knives and hatchets were at work, and in less time than it takes to tell the slain animal was cut in twain. The halves were split so as to lay flat upon the ground, and to each hoof the end of a rope was fastened, the other end being around the pommel of a cowboy's saddle. They dashed away to the line of fire, dragging the severed parts after them.

When they have reached this, two men would cross-plunge through the blaze. Tom tried it, but his horse wheeled and turned away from the blaze, snorting loudly and in terror.

"Give me your end of the rope, Tom," one of the other men said, "I can go over; Black Duncan will face it," and with a great plunge he cleared the line of fire.

One of the other two also crossed, and without a moment's halt and with scorched faces, they wheeled their horses and ran parallel with the fire, dragging the bloody half of the beef over it, smothering the fire out as fast as their horses could run and drag the weight. One man was then on one side of the fire and the other on the opposite, each with his rope to the foot of a beef, straddling the blaze and beating out the greater part of it.

They wore slick duck jackets and leggings upon which the fire could not easily take hold. It was hot work, however. They could get only the length of their ropes from the fire. The two men with the other half of the beef were going in the opposite direction, taking the other end of the line of fire. Suppose the fire was travelling south and the line extending east and west, two dragged east and two west, fast receding from each other, and every moment widening the black streak which marked the trail of the smothered flames.

While these four men were getting ready to do this work other cowboys were sitting on their horses nearby, their faces lit up by the burning grass and cheering their companions, who were crossing the fire line to fight the main battle.

These, however, who were idle had their work to do. Each held a rolled slicker in his right hand, and when the breach was made in the fire line they divided their forces, and followed the boys who were sweeping the flames in order to extinguish effectually any which might be left. Unextinguished spots were left sometimes by the plunge of a scorched horse jerking the drag of the line of fire, or by its striking a great bunch of hard turf and jumping over a spot.

Very often cowboys that carry the drags had to hunt weak spots to cross, or else there would be danger of horse and rider perishing in the effort to get through.

Before the plan described was put in practice, wagons loaded with water and tow sacks were run to a fire, and the boys had to dismount and fight the flames with wet sacks. They were supplied with these by men galloping back and forth between the wagons and fire fighters. The dry, hot sacks were carried back as fast as wet ones were furnished.

The other plan was the best, being more rapid and efficient. Hoses would get men and men burned at times, especially when the wind was high—those on the line being most exposed. Some of the boys would stay in their saddles, their faces to the skin, and their hands to the reins, while the rest of the squad would face the fire.

IN HER DISTRESS SHE PRAYED TO GOD AND HE HEARD.

A TRUE STORY.

(Special for the Patrika.)

A few years back and in a village not far from the imperial city of Calcutta—village Harinava in the district of the 24-Pergunnahs—there lived a Brahmin, who in the latter days of his struggle for existence became blind of both eyes. His family consisted of but two members, his old and imbecile mother and his devoted and faithful wife. The unexpected blindness of the poor pious Brahmin dealt a death blow to the devoted and tender heart of his partner in this life. She determined to essay out all her efforts and try heart and soul to avert this sad calamity which befel her earthly lord to her great distress and difficulty. She was a pious woman and fully believed in the existence of her creator and His mercy towards His children. Indeed, she was so devout a believer in God that she would not but think the calamity of her husband a scourge inflicted on him by Heaven for her past omissions and commissions either in this life or in a life previous thereto. So she did not take recourse to any human agency to heal her husband but made up her mind to propitiate God Siva—the deity of destruction according to the Hindu mythology. The lady therefore took her husband and mother-in-law to Tarkessur, where a very famous shrine of Siva stands from time out of memory. My European and Eurasian readers will have seen and read a description thereof in the East Indian Railway Time Table and, indeed, some of them have visited the shrine itself. To a Hindu it needs no introduction nor, perhaps, to an Islam. People in their hundreds and thousands flock there and hold "Dharna" to propitiate the deity and to thereby relieve their dear and near ones from pain and misery, sorrow and suffering. And, I dare say, few return disappointed and regret the hardships they voluntarily undergo; and these are in cases where the afflicted man (or woman) has run out the chart of his (or her) life.

On her arrival at Tarkessur, the heroic heroine of my story held a "Dharna" in front of the temple. Two days and two nights passed without any dream or "Adesh" dawning upon her and she continued to pray in a prostrate condition. Not a drop of water did she drink nor a morsel of food did she eat these two days, nor did she attend to any Nature's call. The sun rose for the third time since she fell herself flat on the pavement in front of the temple, and he set again. The evening approached and merged into midnight and the night began to wane on. The pious lady grew weaker and weaker but more and more wrapped up in her prayer. All the members of her body save her heart and soul ceased to exert and she concentrated all her energy and vitality into that one and only end and aim of her then life. In the small hours of the morning, however, she swooned away into a trance and found that an ascetic, almost angelic in appearance, with long spear in his hand, the emblem of Siva, standing at her head. The figure moved his lips and spake, "Get up, my child, no more need thee lie in that state. Thy husband has regained his power of vision. Bathe him with the holy water, give him a drop or two to drink, offer something at the yonder altar and wash his eyes with the holy water flowing out from the feet of the deity. Get up, rise, my child, God has smiled on you." The virtuous woman got up slowly and silently; she did not give out a single syllable of the oracle she had just heard. Her heart beat violently in joy, fear, devotion and suspicion. Slowly and steadily she performed what the oracle had advised her to do. And at last with a devout heart gave her husband some "charamrita" to hold, washed his eyes with his sprays and sat staring at them. With every breath she was sending forth sincere out-pourings of her heart at the shrine of the Almighty and promising to offer "pujas" at the yonder altar. She could no more bow her head to the ground after the Hindu fashion. Repeated such bows have made her forehead inflame and irritate continued abstinence from food and drink have made her pale and thin and yet she was praying ceaselessly as if she had then the strength of an elephant.

"What have you splashed against my eyes?" asked the husband of his wife. "Charamrita, my Lord; pray to God and He will smile on you," replied my heroine. The husband did not respond to these words, but with all his heart prayed to the Almighty Father and prostrated himself before the presiding deity over and over again. His wife sat silent; honest tears trickled down her wan cheeks and rolled down her breast in profusion. After a good many prostrations the husband sat up. Suddenly with a steady glance he looked at his right toe. He was seated just in front of the temple door within the full sight of the deity therein. He slowly looked up towards heaven and then straight through the open door into the temple. And then with a sudden start he glanced at the face of his wife. Their eyes met. Though the husband could utter naught, his wife fully understood what he meant to convey by his look. Overjoyed, almost maddened with glee, she forgot the world, her present situation and the presence of the people around her; and with her dark long hairs flowing in profusion around her shoulder and unmindful of the loose condition of her cloth she rolled on the pavement once, then jumped up and catching hold of her husband dragged her at the door of the temple. There they went on the ground together and prostrated over and over again in the exuberance of their pilgrims and the "sebayots" stood in amazement and bewilderment—tumbled up and down and hearts had

what had taken place in the meantime kissed her son and daughter-in-law, and said unto the latter—"Mother, you are purity incarnate" and fainted.

Another cry of acclamation burst forth from the multitude and it dispersed with a conviction never to be disputed or forgotten. Jatindra Mohan Banerjee.

RAVAGES OF A MAD ELEPHANT.

A Thrilling Account.

A correspondent writes from Mavelikaray under date May 23 to the "Malabar Daily News":—

"This place was entirely under the absolute sway of a mad elephant for two days from 21st to 22nd, belonging to one of the palaces here. At about 2 a.m. on Saturday, the startling news that "Kesavan" (so the elephant is named) had gone mad and had seriously injured its "mahout" became widely known. Soon after, it attacked a goldsmith's house, where a poor dumb cripple was done to death. Then it began to pull down cocoanut trees in the adjacent compounds. While this work of destruction was going on, the people residing in the neighbourhood took to their heels and sought refuge in various places. Thus left practically undisturbed, "Kesavan" spent the whole of the remaining day in wrecking houses into matchwood and doing a thousand other mischiefs too numerous to mention. The dark and rainy night which followed held the whole town in breathless fear, which was overcome to some extent, by the dawn of day. In the morning it was found that the temple flag staff was down, parts of the temple, the Ottupura and the Cutcherry buildings were destroyed and that some more houses were in utter ruin. At 7 a.m. on Sunday, the 22nd, a large number of people arrived at the scene and chased the elephant from place to place by throwing stones. By this means it was prevented from going on with its work of destruction to any great extent. During this time some "mahouts" also arrived and joined the mob with the necessary preparations for imprisoning the elephant. One of them boldly advanced and threw a stone at some vital part of the elephant. But unfortunately for him, he missed the mark and, when running for his life, he stumbled and fell down within a yard's distance of the dreaded animal. It at once inflicted some deadly wounds on his body with its sharp tusks from the effects of which this brave man expired soon after. Meanwhile people became frenzied over the safety of their lives. They determined to incapacitate the elephant by any means and, if need be, to kill it. A crowd consisting of more than two thousand people surrounded it on all sides and began to throw stones at it with increased vigour. The elephant also became more turbulent and destroyed anything and everything that came in its way. Thus the battle continued for two short hours after which it turned and fled, towards the river. The two banks of the river were crowded by people who sent an incessant shower of stones and shots and shells, which at last sent the elephant bleeding and quite exhausted into an adjacent place. Here certain young men displayed courage of a high order with a remarkable combination of tact and strength. One fellow clung himself fast to the tail of the animal and another equally brave youth attached a strong iron chain to one of its legs. Soon afterwards it was led into the palace compound where it was securely fastened to the great relief of all people. Besides the two men killed, it is estimated that not less than 30 houses have been completely or partly destroyed and a large number of cocoanut trees hopelessly pulled down.

INTELLIGENCE IN BIRDS.

POLICE SYSTEM OF THE PARROTS.

Prince Kropotkin, distinguished scientist, and exile from Russia on account of his extreme political theories, has spent nineteen years in gathering the materials for his book, "Mutual Aid," recently published, which is to prove that the so-called "lower animals" are in many respects as sensible and "civilised" as human beings. Pelicans, says the Russian scientist, always go fishing in numerous bands, and after having chosen an appropriate bay, they form a wide half circle facing the shore, and narrow it by paddling towards the shore, catching all that happen to be enclosed in the semi-circle. On narrow rivers they even divide into two parties, each of which draws up half-circle, and both paddle to meet each other—just as if two parties of men dragging two long nets should advance to capture all fish taken between the nets when both parties come to meet.

The hunting-parties of the great white-tailed eagles are equally well planned. They generally go out in small parties of ten, flying high in the air and far apart. In this way they can cover an area of twenty-five miles at once. When one of the eagles discovers food he utters a loud, piercing shriek, which is repeated by the others. The eagle who made the discovery flies down to his prey, but never attempts to eat it until all his companions have arrived. Then, for so it is written in the laws of etiquette obeyed by the eagles, the older birds eat first, while the younger ones mount guard and try to keep all other animals at a distance.

The detective system of the cranes is described as being very remarkable. If hunters are in the neighbourhood several cranes are always sent to watch them, and give warning of their approach. If a large body of cranes is moving to a new feeding-place one crane is sent ahead to see if any enemies are lurking near. On his return, if he reports nothing dangerous, three or four birds are sent ahead with him to make sure that he has told the truth; and not until the second report is made, and everything is known to be favourable will the general order be given to ad-

are the cleverest of all birds, Prince Kropotkin. They have a police system that no other birds possess. They venture to attack the old age. The but

Even more wonderful stories are related in "Mutual Aid" about the civilisation of the ants. Some of the towns of these tiny creatures have been found to contain as many as 1,700 nests, with an average of 300,000 ants to a nest. Thus, single ant town would contain a population of 610,000,000.

EXTRAORDINARY PLAGUE STORY.

A weird story is reported from a village in the Ludhiana district. Plague having broken out, all the residents, with the exception of the lambardar, fled. The latter also decided to migrate, and left in company with his wife and children. He could not, however, take his mother with him, and intended returning for her the next day. Meanwhile thieves in the neighbourhood heard of his departure and went to the village. The lambardar being the richest man there, they first went to his house and broke in, when they heard the words: "Have you come? I had almost gone mad with waiting for you." They mistook the voice for that of the demon of Plague, and so great was their terror that two fell dead and the rest took to their heels. The following morning the lambardar returned for his mother, and discovered the two dead bodies.

WHITE VS. BLACK.

At Mazagon, Bombay, Mr. P. H. Dastur disposed of a case in which Edward Wright, a seaman on board the H. M. S. Pomone, charged Jala Vajir, a hack victoria driver with assault. Mr. Ashbury, pleader, defended the accused. The complainant in his evidence said that on the 4th instant, at about 9 p.m., he was passing along Grant Road, when he saw accused alternating with two soldiers. Accused struck one of the soldiers with a horse-necklace made of glass beads. The complainant went to see if the soldier was hurt, and he turned round and also struck him with the necklace on his head, causing a wound on his left eye. The accused pleaded that complainant was with the soldiers who drove in his victoria and refused to pay the fare. An altercation took place, when the soldiers assaulted him and he struck them in self-defence. The Magistrate believed the story of the complainant and dismissed the case with costs of Rs. 10.

DISCLOSURE OF AN OFFICIAL SECRET.

The "Advocate of India" states that the Government of Bombay have recently had cause to institute a strict inquiry into certain circumstances which led to the disclosure of some matters of grave importance in connection with a Native State. The information, which was acquired from outside sources was such that the Government guarded against any disclosure with greater vigilance than ever, but, despite all safeguarding, a leakage took place. Through what channel the official secret was divulged does not appear to have been ascertained, as otherwise, no doubt the culprit would have been brought to book ere this under the provisions of the much-

dreaded Official Secrets Act. At all events, this much is certain, that it culminated in the compulsory and summary resignation of the then Acting Assistant Secretary to the Bombay Government in the Political Department, the dismissal of Parsee clerks, and the reduction of another official in the same department from Rs. 400 to Rs. 200 per mensem. Other portions of this interesting episode are not so easy to verify as the foregoing. However, giving it for what it is worth, it is stated that in connection with this divulgence, a substantial bribe of Rs. 25,000 was offered, but whether it was actually paid, is another story. As far as Native State is concerned, it is believed that an employee there was placed on his trial for being implicated in some way in this case, and has been heavily sentenced.

THE ASSAULT ON PORT ARTHUR. A PICTURESQUE DESCRIPTION.

The recent attack on Port Arthur is picturesquely described by a Russian correspondent as follows:— "It was night. The Japanese fireships were divided into three groups. Three ships came from the south, five from the north, and two were moving in the centre, but while still far from the shore they struck upon a mine, flared up, and went suddenly to pieces. All our land batteries were belching fire unceasingly, working as they had never worked before. The fireships heroically advanced, in face of a most horrible and murderous fire, moving steadily forward to certain ruin. Three torpedo-boats followed.

"When the first fireship had almost disappeared in the waves the crew gathered on the prow, and with one loud shout of 'Hurray!' which is the Japanese 'Hurray!' went down to death with the vessel. On the second fireship the Japanese climbed upon the masts, and, brandishing lanterns, made signals to their people. Their boats, although fiercely assailed upon by a very hailstorm of bullets and shells, never wavered a flag, handkerchief, or rag in sign of readiness to surrender. The sailors on the boats tried, indeed, to save their lives by a stratagem. All ceased rowing and lay as if dead or wounded, hoping thus to deceive the Russians, and then at a favourable moment seized their oars and plied them with night and main.

"One sailor, having escaped from the fire-ship and leaped on shore under Electric Cliff, was called on to surrender, but in answer he rushed wildly upon the Russians with a revolver and bravely met his death. Another Japanese blue-jacket was drowning when our men dragged him from the waves, but once out of the water he endeavoured to strangle himself with his necktie. One of our launches approached another fireship to save its crew, but the Japanese began to fire upon us. Our seamen covered the rescued enemies with cloaks and carefully carried them ashore. All the wounded prisoners are on board the Mongolia. "To-day one captive officer put an end to himself by slitting open his body, declaring he would rather die than go back with shame to his fatherland."

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