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NO 51

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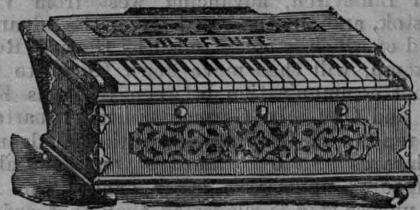
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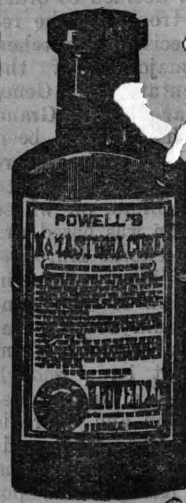
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NOTES FROM ULUBERIA.

(From our own Correspondent.) Uluberia, June 26.

ALLEGED MURDER.

The preliminary enquiry held in the case of Emperor vs. Sreemanta Purkait by our Sub-divisional Magistrate having been finished, the enquiring Magistrate has committed the accused to take his trial before the Court of Sessions on charges under sections 302, 304, 369 and 404 of the Indian Penal Code. The facts of the case, though already stated, may well bear repetition. The deceased Kusum Kumari Dasi, a girl aged about 9 years and a Kaibarta by caste, was the daughter of one Gopal Jasu of village Baidyanathpore, in Bagman. She was married to one Hem Chandra of village Khanjadapore in Bysak last. Since her marriage she went to her husband's house three times and each time she returned to her father's place after spending a few days there. The last time that she thus returned from her husband's house was on a Sunday or two days before the day she was murdered. The story of the prosecution is as follows: On the day of the occurrence which took place in the month of Jaistha last, the accused and a servant in the employ of one Ananta Jasu, a cognate relation of the deceased's father, beckoned her to a place. The girl followed him and, when she arrived at a place at some distance from her father's house, he murdered her by pressing her neck. The girl's ornaments were then taken off from her person and kept concealed by the accused at a certain place behind a betel plantation, and the dead body was afterwards removed and thrown into the river Rupnarain. Two days after the murder, only the left arm of the girl was found on the left bank of the river and there was found also a skull like the skull of the deceased. The accused is said to have made a confession before the Police which led to the discovery of the stolen ornaments. He also made a confession before the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, which was however afterwards retracted. The case has created great sensation here.

COMMITTED TO THE SESSIONS.

The case in which one Jaynuddi Shaik of village Rabibhag, in thana Bagman, and another person named Bhiku Shaik of the same village were charged, the first with having falsely personated one Sadoraddi Kazi on the 14th May last before the Sub-Registrar of Uluberia Babu Tatak Nath Biswas and with having in that assumed character got a deed of lease said to have been executed by Sadoraddi Kazi and one Samiruddi Shaik in favour of Basirannessa Bibi was fully enquired into by our Sub-divisional Magistrate, who at the close of the enquiry committed the accused day before yesterday to take their trial before the Sessions on a charge under section 82 of the Registration Act.

A CHILD MURDER CASE.

Of the three cases committed to the Sessions last week by our able and energetic Sub-divisional Magistrate Babu Nityananda Bhur the case of Emperor vs. Lakshmi Dasi was by far the most sensational. The preliminary enquiry in the case continued for several days and, on every day, the court-room was filled with spectators who evinced great sympathy for the accused. The accused stands charged with the murder of her child who was only a year-and-a-half old. The accused who was big with child seemed to be in her teens. During the pendency of the police investigation in the case, the accused was brought up in custody of and placed by the side of the police before the Sub-Deputy Magistrate, Babu Nisi Kanta Chatterji, to have her confession recorded, but the Sub-Deputy Magistrate is said to have made a note of the fact that though the accused made a confession of her guilt, it was in his opinion not voluntarily made. The Assistant Surgeon, Babu Rash Behari Bakshi, who held a post mortem examination over the body of the murdered child, deposed before the enquiring Magistrate to the effect that the knife, which was produced by the police in Court and with which the murder was said to have been committed by the accused and which was, according to the story of the prosecution, brought out from under water in a tank—a fact which was denied by the accused during the enquiry—was one with which the six contused wounds which he found on the neck of the child at the time of the post mortem examination of the body and the infliction of which was in his opinion the cause of the child's death, could not be caused. The Civil Surgeon of Howrah, Mr. Gibbons, was however afterwards examined in the case and he having differed from the opinion expressed by the Assistant Surgeon regarding the instrument with which the wounds were caused, the enquiring Magistrate relying upon the circumstantial evidence in the case pointing to the guilt of the accused committed her to take her trial before the Court of Sessions on a charge of murder. The facts of the case for the prosecution will appear from the following deposition of the accused's mother-in-law who was examined as a prosecution witness in the case:

"My name is Kunja Tatini. I am a Tanti by caste. I live in Banibun, in thana Uluberia. I know the accused; She is the wife of my eldest son, Hari Magi. On Friday, at Jalpanbela, I made over to the accused her son Jiban about a year-and-a-half old and went out of my house to bring Sag. When I left my house there was no one in my Bari except the accused and her son Jiban. My two sons Hari and Sudha had gone to work in the Fuleswar Cotton Mill; my third son Mangobinda went outside the village to cut bamboos. I was collecting Sag in Dwijabar Chowdhry's tank at about a Rashi to the north of my house. About an hour after I had left my house my daughter-in-law, the accused present in Court, came to me at the tank and said, 'Jiban was feeling ill and had become restless.' I at once returned home and the accused accompanied me. I asked her where the child was. I opened the Agar (bamboo door) of the north-facing room. I found the child Jiban lying on the floor of the room and bleeding from wounds on the neck. I raised the child and found the neck cut on both sides. I poured into the child's mouth some milk. The child died soon after. I placed the child on my lap and wept. I found blood-marks on the accused's cloth. I asked the accused why and how the murder was committed. The accused did not utter a word about that but said 'what have I done.' She said this constantly. She wept at night. While I was bringing the babe from inside the room my daughter-in-law was flying

away. I asked the Ganesh Santra to bring her back. Some time after I did not find blood-marks on her cloth. She changed her cloth. The cloth on which blood-marks were found was washed and spread by my daughter-in-law for drying in the air in our west-facing room. When I left my house to bring Sag she wore a red-bordered cloth; the blood-marks were found on that cloth. My son was married to the accused about 12 years ago. During these 12 years the accused came to our house 4 times. She used to remain at our house for about a month each time. She generally lived at her father's house which is in Jangalbilash, at about a Rashi from our house. The accused was the pet daughter of her father hence she used to spend most of her days at her father's place. She used to do household work at our house according to her capacity. I went out of our house early in the morning of the day of occurrence to husk paddy. I heard something against her character. This Chaku (knife) is ours. This was kept in my room (Kulangi) of our room. My daughter-in-law brought out the knife from under water. (Seeing the cloth produced in Court the witness said.) This is the cloth which the accused wore at the time when I was called by my daughter-in-law. It will appear from the aforesaid deposition of the witness that no particular motive for the crime on the part of the accused was assigned by the prosecution though the accused's confession disclosed the fact that at times the accused's mother-in-law would call the child a scoundrel. It was suggested by the prosecution, however, that the suggestion was one wholly based on hearsay, that the accused was unchaste. The local public watched the case with considerable interest. The life of the accused however is now in the hands of a Sessions Judge and jury.

THE FLOUTING OF PUBLIC OPINION.

(From Our Own Correspondent.) Chandpur (Tipperah) June 24.

Your readers may remember that His Excellency Lord Elgin once halted at Chandpur to grant an interview to the late Nawab Asanulla of Dacca. To commemorate the visit, a fund of Rs. 8000 was raised to which the Nawab contributed Rs. 5000 and it was proposed to prepare a Town Hall or a park out of the fund. The former proposal fell through as no proper site could be found. The public then adhered to the latter and sent in a memorial to the District Magistrate who ordered the Sub-Divisional Officer to convene a public meeting in which a unanimous resolution in favour of a Town Hall was carried out. Mr. C.C. Bette, a jute merchant and a municipal commissioner was away from town when the meeting was convened. He did not like the proposal. Having returned to town he got up a counter memorial signed mostly by Bazar people and his brother merchants and sent it along with a letter to the local Municipal Chairman refusing to serve any longer on the Municipal Board. This was followed by something more strange. To our great surprise the District Magistrate came to Chandpur all on a sudden by the evening train. He left by the night mail. Why he came, we could not understand for he did not inspect any office nor was there anything amiss in the town. Next morning Mr. Bette, the dissentient Commissioner, withdrew his letter of resignation. Shortly afterwards we came to learn that the District Magistrate did not approve of the resolution carried out at the public meeting in favour of a Town-Hall. What business or 'locus standi' Mr. Scroope had to interfere with the disposal of the money raised by the public is more than what a sane thinking man can guess. Surely he did not subscribe a single farthing to the Fund.

A minor but distressing episode of the war has received less attention than it deserves. A little paragraph in the English papers states that Mr. Edward Soper, Engineer to the Construction Staff at Dalny, left that port in a small yacht with two Russians, bound for Wei-hai-wei, when the Japanese approached the town. The Russians arrived at Wei-hai-wei without Mr. Soper, and stated that he had been washed overboard. The English papers do not, however, mention certain important facts which should not escape notice. Mr. Soper knew more about the harbour and works and approaches of Port Arthur than any European other than the Russians; and he knew a great deal more of the later developments there, so far as the harbour was concerned, than any Japanese could possibly have known. He took out ocean dredgers from England to Port Arthur, and when he arrived, he was induced by an offer of high pay to superintend the dredging operations. The new anchorages at Port Arthur were dredged by him, and he afterwards conducted similar work in Talienswan Bay. When the creation of Dalny was decided on, he was one of the first men sent to that then desolate spot. Much of the harbour and dock work was done with his aid; and he used to point with pride to the rough little house, almost the only building existing there, which sheltered him and the other engineers when the undertaking was begun. Though still quite young, he was in some respects a remarkable man. His activity was unbounded, and he radiated energy. He spoke and wrote the Russian language like a native, for his father had at one time been in Russian employ in St. Petersburg. He was one of those adventurous Englishmen exceptionally qualified for the congenial task of developing a new country. His home in Dalny was like a little piece of England in an alien land; and many of his compatriots, wandering far afield, had reason to be grateful to him for a kindly welcome; he and his young wife were always eager to rescue strangers of their own blood from the discomforts of Dalny inns. It is said that he was regarded with suspicion because of his nationality. He was constantly watched, he said, and was made to feel that he was mistrusted. "They think I know too much," he remarked on one occasion, "and I feel I shall not be able to stay here much longer."

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NOTES ON THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

AN APPALLING COMBAT.

The following is an extract from the account of the battle of Nanshan, sent by the correspondent of one of the Russian papers who witnessed the fighting: "The entire Japanese fleet took part in the battle. The cannonade was beyond description. The whole isthmus seemed on fire. Shrapnel shells burst by the thousand. Common shell was falling everywhere—at the foot of the hills, on the slope of the hills, on the railway. Our guns fired incessantly. Soon the Japanese infantry, covered by artillery, attacked, but recoiled before our own infantry, which, despite its inferiority in numbers, defended, with amazing obstinacy, the heights, swept, as if under the blade of a razor, by the guns of the ships. "Some of our forts were blown literally to pieces. It was a living hell. On certain of our prepared positions not a stone was left standing. "The 5th Russian Regiment suffered the worst. The wounded only ceased fighting when they fell to rise no more. "Our soldiers, though they had lost their officers, defended the positions with great intelligence. "This appalling combat lasted fifteen hours. Many of the wounded remained in the ranks. Many others, the flow of blood having been stopped by the doctors, returned to the fighting line. Even bandaged men were wanted here," he said. "If we fall we shall go on firing from the ground. We will help you to hold on, and everything will be right."

THE BELLEGGED FORTRESS.

The report as to the special Council of War convened by the Tsar has been confirmed, writes a St. Petersburg correspondent, under date, June 24. The Tsar has decided to order Kuropatkin to send 45,000 troops to the relief of Port Arthur. This decision was taken against the advice of the majority of the Council, and of the representatives of General Sakharoff, Chief of War, and the Grand Duke Vladimir. The order has not yet been sent, and the officials in high positions are doing their best to persuade the Tsar to change his mind. The Councilors, on whose advice this momentous decision was based, are known to be unfriendly to General Kuropatkin. I have interviewed a military official in a high position on the decision of the Council. He says that nothing could be more fatal than to detach a force of this size from Kuropatkin's army. It is not large enough to assist Port Arthur effectually, and its departure will weaken Kuropatkin and alter his whole plan of campaign. My informant adds these significant words: "This decision is the death-blow to General Kuropatkin's policy of concentration. Port Arthur should stand or fall by its own forces. From the beginning of the war it has absorbed too much strength and thought. It is a leech sucking our life-blood."

ANOTHER REPORT.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the "Echo de Paris" says (according to Reuter) he learns from a trustworthy source that the Tsar did, indeed, ask General Kuropatkin whether he could send troops to relieve Port Arthur, and the General replied that it was impossible. The correspondent adds that active intrigues are being carried on against General Kuropatkin, General Rennenkampf's division, he says, is reported to be only the advance guard of an army which, after marching in the direction of Vladivostok, descended along the coast to penetrate into Korea and take General Kuroki in the rear.

GENERAL KUROPATKIN.

"Captain Kuropatkin was one of the hopes of our General Staff for his military skill, his extraordinary activity, and his unexampled daring and resolution." This obituary notice was published by the Moscow "Viedomosti" in September, 1877, when it was telegraphed that Alexei Kuropatkin had died fighting beside Skobelev in the attack on the Pelva redoubts on August 31. Kuropatkin, luckily, was not dead, though he had been knocked senseless by the explosion of a case of shells. The "hope of the General Staff" in 1877 has become the hope, and the last forlorn hope, of all Russia in 1904.

Yes, to this small, stout man, with twinkling, brown, Tartar eyes, all Russians are looking now to save them from the humiliation of defeat. His jerky walk must be jerkier than ever just now, his speech more voluble; he must chew and throw away unlighted even more than his customary allowance of fifty cigarettes a day. He is going through the crisis of his life.

If manly qualities could do it, he would pull through, for he is by common consent "a man among men." "Your modesty is only equalled by your bravery," wrote Skobelev in 1880 to Kuropatkin. Skobelev, however, would have qualified his praise if he had ever gone fishing with his comrade in-arms. Kuropatkin's one weakness is the belief that he is the best fisherman in the Tsar's empire, and his tall stories of gigantic fish caught in Finnish lakes are a standing joke in St. Petersburg.

"REQUEST" NOT "ORDER"

THE TSAR'S DECISION. On the highest authority I learn that the attempt of Alexieff and the naval party to induce the Tsar to order Kuropatkin to march to the relief of Port Arthur at all costs has definitely failed, says the St. Petersburg correspondent of the London "Daily News" writing on June 7.

A DANGEROUS DISEASE.

Every one who contracts cholera morbus is one of the most painful and dangerous diseases known to humanity. The fact that it is so swift and so often fatal in its results makes it more to be feared than almost any other malady. If often terminates in death before a physician can be summoned or medicine procured. Attacks of cholera morbus come unexpectedly and every family should be prepared. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy is a reliable and effective medicine, and if given in time will prevent serious consequences. This remedy never fails and is pleasant to take. Every household should have a bottle at hand. Get it to-day. It may save a life. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents; B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Rahman and Abdool Kareem, Calcutta.

What has happened is that the Tsar has definitely asserted his supreme authority. The special council of war held to consider the matter voted by a narrow majority that Kuropatkin should be ordered to advance south in force. The Tsar, exercising his Imperial prerogative, confined himself to requesting the Commander-in-Chief to essay the attempt if he thought it practicable. Kuropatkin replied that the thing at present was impossible. When this reply became known every effort was still made by the Alexieff party to induce the Tsar to substitute the word "order" for the word "request."

But the Tsar stood firm. He professed his confidence in Kuropatkin, and announced his intention of leaving him a free hand. A great personal friend of the Commander-in-Chief informs me that he is absolutely certain that Kuropatkin, if ordered to relieve Port Arthur, would have resigned his command. Kuropatkin will move when he thinks the moment to move has come, not before. He will take no orders on a point like this from St. Petersburg, however exalted their author.

It is believed here that the Commander-in-Chief has sent part of his forces east towards Vladivostok. Hands will be joined with General Linievitch, advancing west from Vladivostok, and the combined force, the advance guard of which is commanded by General Rennenkamp, will then move down Korea to intercept communication between Generals Kuroki and Oku. In German military quarters the reports of General Kuropatkin's advance southwards are most unfavourably commented upon. No other explanation for this unwise step is suggested than that orders from St. Petersburg have been received by the General which he is obliged to obey against his better judgment.

AGE OF THE EARTH.

Professor Rutherford's lecture, a week ago, wherein he propounded radium as a new source of energy which might account even for the vast age which geologists ascribe to the earth, has attracted much attention at home. The professor referred to the theories of Lord Kelvin on this subject, and the veteran physicist has been interviewed by a representative of the "Westminster Gazette," to see if he accepted the new theory. Lord Kelvin, who was reading Professor Rutherford's new book on "Radio Activity," proceeded to quote some suggestions which he has recently published, as follows:—

"But this leaves the mystery of radium untouched—Curie's discovery that it (perpetually) emits heat at a ratio of about 90 centigrade calories per gramme per hour. If emission of heat at this rate goes on for little more than a year, or say, 10,000 hours (thirteen and a half months), we get as much heat as would raise the temperature of 900,000 grammes of water by 1 degree centigrade. It seems to me utterly impossible that this can come from a store of energy lost out of the gramme of radium in 10,000 hours. It seems to me, therefore, absolutely certain that if emission of heat at the rate of 90 calories per gramme per hour found by Curie at ordinary temperature, or even at the lower rate of 38 found by Dewar and Curie from a specimen of radium at the temperature of liquid oxygen, can go on month after month, energy must somehow be supplied from without to give the heat which gets into the material of the calorimetric apparatus."

Lord Kelvin ventured to suggest—he would not put it forward as a fact—that some how ethereal waves might supply energy to the radium while it was giving out heat to the ponderable matter around it.

"The facts about radium," said Lord Kelvin in subsequent conversation, "are so wonderful and so different from anything known, or conceived, in science ten years ago that even wild temporary hypotheses are pardonable. The whole of these wonderful facts have followed systematically on the original discovery of radio activity by Henry Becquerel. They are a wonderful family, these Becquerels, and the public must not imagine that the discovery of astounding facts about radium have resulted from any particular flash of genius. Antoine Becquerel the great-grandfather, I remember as Director of the Physical Department of the School of Science at the Jardin des Plantes. I took an introduction to him when I went over to Paris on coming down from Cambridge in 1845. His son Edmund, his grandson Henry and Henry's son John have all done very much to clear the mystery of radio-activity. But this book of Professor Rutherford's is wonderful. It is full of indisputable and mysterious facts, and the praise you accord the author cannot be too exalted."

FIGHT WITH A TIGRESS.

Paris, June 5. Those present at the matinee of Bostock's Menagerie this afternoon witnessed an exciting spectacle not on the programme.

While a trainer named Miller was putting seven Bengal tigers through their performance a tigress named Grace sprang at him, knocked him down, and tore him with her teeth. Mr. Miller, who is a man of immense strength, managed to regain his feet, and, seizing the animal, flung her against the bars of the cage. Then, pale and bleeding, he continued his performance. The incident was so quickly over that there was no panic among the audience, who enthusiastically applauded the plucky trainer.

—More than 600 emigrants of a good type left Southampton on Saturday in the American liner Philadelphia for New York, the charge for the passage being £2.

—In the pockets of an old coat which he bought at a sale an elderly resident of Bogota, New Jersey, found £1,000, says the "New York Tribune," in U.S. Treasury notes.

—For the closing of its premises by order of the local officer of health at the time of the plague outbreak a Durban firm has, says the "Biofontein Post," been awarded £2,700 damages.

PAINS IN THE STOMACH, like toothache are not dangerous, but decidedly unpleasant. Persons who are subject to such attacks will be pleased to know that prompt relief may be had by taking a dose or two of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents; B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Rahman and Abdool Kareem, Calcutta.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

The circulation of the new Madras agricultural journal "Krishi" has reached 500.

The Penukoda branch of the Theosophical Society has collected subscriptions both in kind and coin with a view to feed a number of poor in memory of the late Mr. J. N. Tata.

A clerk of the Munsiff's Court at Penukoda is now under suspension on a charge of having returned some documents to a wrong party when a copy application was pending for the same. The matter is before the District Judge.

The next anniversary of the Madras Agricultural Exhibition will be held at Gooty. Sir Frederick Nicholson has consented to preside and has offered a donation of Rs. 100. Oil engines and some agricultural implements with varieties of cotton, chowm and sugar-canes are proposed to be exhibited on the occasion.

Sir James La Touche, Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces calls attention with pride to the Mirzapur and Moradabad Jails, once two of the most unhealthy Jails in the United Provinces, to show what sanitarian can do. They have recorded death-rates in 1903 of only 17.3 and 20.3 per 1,000 respectively.

A Trevandrum Correspondent telegraphs:—The constitutional defect in the local Legislative Council has been remedied by the nomination of Mr. Mahadevier as Under Secretary, Mr. Seshauer, High Court Vakil, as an additional member, Mr. Veeraraghavaiah, Law Professor, as Council Secretary vice Mr. Mahadevier. The selections meet with the public approval. The Council is now much strengthened.

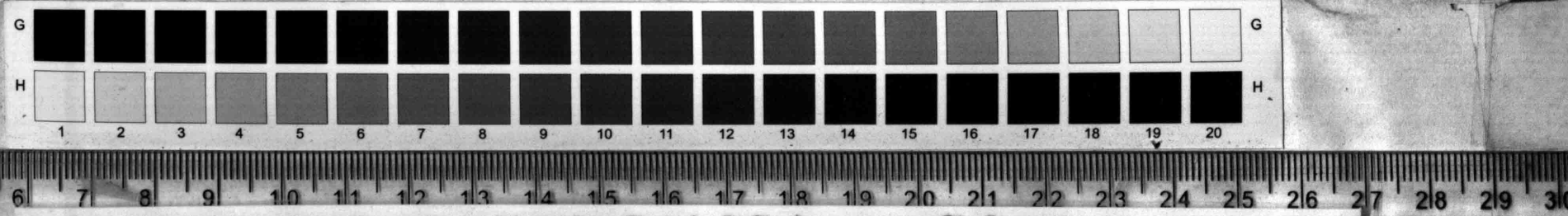
The heavy firing reported at Liao-yang from more than one source is difficult to explain, unless the Russians are engaged with the Hunhuses, who are known to have been collecting in that quarter. So far as we are aware, no Japanese army is anywhere near Liao-yang, and for General Kuroki to reach that point, he must have passed the Motien position, which he is not likely to carry without severe fighting. Nor would General Kuropatkin have gone south had the Japanese been near Liao-yang.

The following story is related of Outram said to have occurred in 1833 at a village called Sirpur. News was brought by the villagers that a tiger had been marked down in open country not far off. There were bushes, but the land was level, with no hill or ravine near. Outram started on foot, spear in hand, with a follower carrying his rifle and some six others with bows and arrows. The tiger broke ground on their approach and fled. Outram followed him up on foot for three miles and eventually speared him to death. His and his companions bag for 10 years, from 1825 to 1834, was 235 tigers killed and 22 wounded; 25 bears killed and 14 wounded; 12 buffaloes killed and 5 wounded, and 16 leopards killed.

At the Madras Police Court, Mauriappa Naicker charged Thiruvengadam Audali, a petition-writer, with criminal breach of trust in respect of a sum of Rs. 21. Briefly stated the facts of the case are as follows:—The complainant, in November last, gave the accused a pro-note with instructions to file a law-suit in the Small Cause Court to recover the sum specified therein. At the same time, he also gave accused twenty-four rupees to defray the necessary Court expenses. But instead of doing what his client told him, the accused kept the money to himself and took no action in the matter. The accused, in his defence, stated, that he entrusted the money and the pro-note to another petition-writer, and he, in his turn, failed to do as he should. His Worship, however, found the accused guilty, whom he characterised as one of those dangerous persons who fleeced suitors by pretending to render them services, receiving money and doing nothing in return and sentenced him to pay a fine of Rs. 60 in default to undergo two months' rigorous imprisonment. If the fine were paid, his Worship directed that a sum of Rs. 24 out of it be given to the complainant.

On the Original Side of the Bombay High Court Anne Kaeo Pereira, an East Indian, residing at Matarpakadi, Mount Road, instituted a suit against Braz Alex Gomes, a clerk in the Bombay Secretariat in which the plaintiff claimed Rs. 5,000 as damages for breach of promise of marriage. The plaintiff's case was that the defendant had promised to marry her about the 1st of March, 1903, and there were frequent interviews between them. Since the end of September, defendant had ceased to visit or correspond with her, and on being asked by a relative of plaintiff's his reason for breaking off the engagement, the defendant told him that he did not intend to marry her as she and her family suffered from consumption. The plaintiff denied the allegation and said that she wrote to the defendant, to fix a date for the performance of the marriage, but she received no reply. She said she had suffered much pain in body and mind and injury to her reputation by the defendant's breach of promise of marriage. The defendant denied that he ever promised to marry plaintiff. He admitted having had frequent interviews, and said that friendly correspondence did pass between them. No relative of hers had asked him anything about ceasing to visit or correspond with her and he did not reply, as stated in the plaint. He also denied that the plaintiff wrote asking him to fix the date of the marriage. He submitted that in any event, should the case be decided against him, the damages claimed were exorbitant and excessive. The case is proceeding.

CHOLERA INFANTUM.—This has long been regarded as one of the most dangerous and fatal diseases to which infants are subject. It can be cured, however, when properly treated. All that is necessary is to give Chamberlain's Colic Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy and castor oil as directed, with each bottle, and a cure is certain. Since this remedy has come into such general use, there are very few deaths from cholera infantum, and none whatever when it is given. For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents; B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Rahman and Abdool Kareem, Calcutta.



Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JUNE 30, 1904.

MR. FOSTER AND THE BARH WHIPPING CASE.

It was from memory that we wrote in our last issue the paragraph relating to the whipping case of Barh in which Mr. Foster took such a prominent part; so a few trifling mistakes naturally crept into our account. Now that we have got the records of the case before us, we are not only in a position to correct those mistakes, but also to draw respectfully the close attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to the fact that Mr. Foster having been convicted of gross illegalities in this connection by the highest tribunal in the land, and the Bengal Government having been specially requested by their Lordships to take notice of Mr. Foster's conduct, it was a grave mistake not only to keep him in the Magisterial line, but give him a lift, and put him in charge of an important district like Hazaribagh. The judgment of the High Court is reproduced elsewhere.

We must confess that, when we heard of the sympathetic nature of Mr. Foster, we were led to entertain the notion that perhaps he had fallen under the displeasure of the higher authorities because of his alleged pro-Indian tendencies. For, it is a notorious fact that Mr. Pennell was not only dismissed but also refused his compassionate allowance for the same reason. The records, however, reveal a tale of the most extraordinary kind. It shows that instead of harshness Mr. Foster was treated with special tenderness by the High Court and the Government in spite of the utterly unjustifiable character of his illegal conduct.

First of all, the case shows at a glance the grave nature of the evils arising out of the union of the judicial and executive functions in the same official. The Barh Magistrate, Mr. Foster, in securing speedy punishment for his victims, acted in various capacities. He was the prosecutor, judge, witness and medical officer whose certificate was necessary to carry out the sentence of whipping which he had passed upon one of the unfortunate defendants. The medical officer, stationed at Barh, had left the station for a day only, we believe. Mr. Foster, however, would not wait for his return and gave a certificate to the effect that the man was fit for whipping, and the order was at once executed.

It was found, both by the Sessions Judge and the High Court, that the proceedings were illegal throughout, and the man was wrongly convicted and outrageously punished. This was, however, a poor consolation to the accused, for there was absolutely no remedy for the injury inflicted upon him. In short, he was whipped and could not be unwhipped again: he had been disgraced for ever and there was nothing in the world that could wipe out the indelible stain which attaches to this barbarous mode of punishment.

The Sessions Judge of Patna had to deal with the case before he referred it to the High Court. He carefully went through the proceedings of the lower court, and was astounded at the manner the trial had been held. In his letter of reference to the High Court he thus describes some of the particulars of the case and the illegalities and irregularities that characterized the proceedings of the Magistrate:—

"There are three criminal motions against the order of the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Barh in one case. They may be conveniently dealt with in one judgment. It appears from the order, a copy of which was filed with each petition for revision, that the three accused were convicted of receiving or retaining stolen goods under section 411 of the Indian Penal Code, and were sentenced one man Hamid Hossein to fifteen stripes with a rattan, Abdul Rahaman with three months' rigorous imprisonment, and Villat Hossein to 3 months' simple imprisonment. All the sentences were non-appealable, and the sentence of whipping was carried out at once. The property, the subject of the charge, was said to be the Government property and consisted of a stamped petition of complaint, a Hindustani translation of this, and the commencement of the English translation of the same, and a Rasid Bahi. The first three articles were filed with the records, and only one of them appears to be Government property, i.e., the petition of complaint. Along with the copy of the order filed with each petition of motion there is a copy of the proceedings, such as are required by law to be kept as a record in summary cases. These proceedings are dated 27th June. There is then a further order dated 28th June which it is not easy to be described. In it the Sub-divisional Officer defends his action in this case and anticipates certain objection to it as he hears a motion is to be filed against all his proceedings in the case. Accordingly I sent for the original record in the case, and then I heard learned counsel on behalf of two of the petitioners and some learned pleaders for the third, and it does appear to me that the proceedings of the Sub-divisional Officer were irregular and illegal and should be set aside."

"It appears that the learned Sub-divisional Officer was sitting in Court at 3 p.m. on the 27th when the accused were caught at the Muktearkhana. For some reason or other which is not recorded, the Sub-divisional Officer went out himself and saw the accused and the Chaprasi apparently also, though this fact is not recorded; the Sub-divisional Officer ordered the arrest of those 3 men. The three papers filed with this case, viz., Farrek Hossein's petition of complaint and the other two papers were recovered from the accused in the Sub-divisional Officer's presence. They were then brought into Court and tried summarily. Two witnesses were examined by the Sub-divisional Officer; the statements of the accused were taken very briefly and then three witnesses were examined by the defendants or for the defendants, who really do not seem to have known what it was all about. The witnesses examined by the Sub-divisional Officer, Radhi Ram peon and Jagurnath Ojha make somewhat vague statements. The first named says 'saw Abdul Rahaman writing in the Muktearkhana, two other accused on either side; when I saw it (sic) was sarkari. I put my hand on the paper, Abdul Rahaman tried to tear the paper. The three men were sitting on the 'darry' in one corner. Villayet Hossein took up a book and threw it into a concealed spot when the Ma-

gistrate came.' Cross-examined.—Villayet Hossein had his head on his hand and was looking on."

"This evidence is most vague; evidently the Sub-divisional Magistrate recorded the statements so hastily that he did not stop to make it even sense. The other witness says 'Villayet Hossein was reading and Abdul Rahaman was writing, the accused Hamid Hossein was separated by a yard distance.' The evidence does not disclose any offence and does not support the conviction. There is no complaint in this case, and the Magistrate clearly took it upon his own knowledge or suspicion. As this was the Sub-divisional Magistrate should have acted in accordance with section 191, and if the accused objected to his trying the charge he should have transferred the case to another Magistrate. As he had not done so all his proceedings are illegal and should be set aside. The Sub-divisional Officer acted with great want of judgment in trying the case summarily and also inflicting whipping as a punishment in case of one of the accused. The proper course for the Sub-divisional Magistrate to adopt was to have drawn up a statement of what he saw when he went to the Muktearkhana, then to have examined the three accused, and then to inquire how the petition of complaint and the Rasid Bahi came into their possession. The petition of complaint, i.e., the alleged stolen property was lodged on the 26th June and must have been in some one's custody from that time until it reached one or other of the accused. The accused, one of whom is a Muktear and other a clerk of a Muktear, and also the old man Villayet Hossein, might have been enlarged on bail pending further inquiries. In such cases nothing is gained by such hasty and ill-advised measures as the Sub-divisional Magistrate adopted. This case will accordingly be reported to the High Court for revision under section 438 of the Cr. P. C. and meanwhile the Sub-divisional Officer will be called on to submit any explanation he may wish to offer."

Three men, and not one as we stated, fell victims to the over-zed of Mr. Foster and one of them was immediately whipped and the other two sentenced to imprisonment. And they were punished absolutely against the provisions of the law. What happened was this. Mr. Foster was an Indian Magistrate. As such he was vested with summary powers and had the privilege of passing non-appealable sentences, including the sentence of whipping. Besides, he could proceed against any man at his sweet will on mere suspicion. An Indian Magistrate is thus armed with power from the sole of his foot to the top of his head; and, it is scarcely exaggeration to say that he is more powerful in some respects than even the Czar of all the Russias.

There was no harm in this arrangement if Magistrates had always used these plenary powers with discretion and for the benefit of the people entrusted to their care. But they do not often do this. That they abuse these powers frequently is evident from the fact that Indian newspapers have to devote a considerable portion of their space to the discussion of magisterial vagaries and yet only such cases find their way to the press as are sensational in their character. Hundreds of them do not see the light of the day at all, as the parties concerned being poor men, have not the means of seeking the protection of the High Court or even the District Sessions Court. Many again would prefer to put up with the Zoolom of the Magistrate rather than run the risk of incurring the further displeasure by appealing against his decision.

But to return to the Barh case. The Magistrate, it would seem, brought into requisition all the powers he possessed for the purpose of accomplishing his object, which was to secure immediate punishment for the three unfortunate men who had offended him. He caused them to be arrested on the spot on mere suspicion. He tried them summarily though he was a material witness in the case. He gave the accused no opportunity for their defence; indeed, as the Sessions Judge points out, instead of trying them himself he should have asked the accused whether they wanted to be tried by some other Magistrate or not. He gave them no bail, though, considering the position of the accused and the trivial nature of the offence, he should have done so. And above all, he inflicted non-appealable sentences including a sentence of whipping which could not be revoked. We do not blame Mr. Foster for having taken all these measures. Very few in his position could resist the temptation of acting in the way he did. He could use the powers with impunity. Why should he not then use them? It is the system which is more at fault than the men who act under it.

In his explanation the Barh Magistrate admitted that the proceedings had been taken hastily and that they were irregular. In forwarding this explanation the District Magistrate sought to find an excuse for his subordinate by asserting that Mr. Foster was "honestly" mistaken and that he had been in bad health at the time. Their Lordships of the High Court also took the same view of the conduct of the Magistrate. There is no doubt that the Barh Magistrate committed the mistakes from an honest motive; but, if an ordinary man had acted in a similar manner, it would have gone very hard with him. Suppose an ordinary man had whipped a fellow-being under the mistaken notion that the latter had committed an offence. Would he have been excused if he had pleaded that he honestly believed that his victim was an offender and that he had not been in good health at the time when he acted in that extraordinary manner? It would thus appear that, in the name of honesty and bad health a Magistrate has the privilege of committing serious illegalities resulting in the loss of liberty and the ruin of reputation of others; but, a layman, transgressing the law in a similar way and urging the same plea, would not only not be excused but would be hauled up as a criminal and punished adequately.

The Hon'ble Justices Rampini and Pratt, after making every possible allowance for Mr. Foster, felt themselves called upon not only to condemn his action and pronounce the proceedings as entirely illegal, but also to direct that the record of the case be forwarded to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal for the information of the Government. But the Government apparently treated their remarks with contempt; for the only punishment meted out to Mr. Foster

was to promote him! And if the request of the High Court is dealt with in this fashion, surely the evil of Magisterial vagaries must go on flourishing. May we hope that these remarks of their Lordships as well as their remarks on Mr. Foster's conduct in the Hazaribagh case will meet the eyes of the present ruler of Bengal? As the protector of the oppressed, the Lieutenant-Governor, we trust, will save the people from the violent and illegal conduct of such Magistrates as Mr. Foster.

THE STORY OF A BENGAL PATRIOT AND MARTYR.

INDIA can be easily saved by constitutional agitation and without much sacrifice. We have only to study some of the stirring incidents in the history of the indigo disturbance in 1860, and draw our inspiration therefrom. Picture to yourself the position of the ryots and their leaders at the time. Driven from home, their dwelling houses trampled down under the feet of the elephants and razed to the ground; their wives and children like beggars roaming adrift without food and shelter; they themselves,—thousands of them,—consigned to jails and rotting there for months—the victims of planters who committed all these frightful oppressions to strike terror into their hearts. Mr. Commissioner Lushington of Nadia comes to these imprisoned ryots and proposes to them that they would get everything back from the planters if they would only sow indigo for one year more. Their reply was,—and it came from hundreds of throats,—that they would rather die a thousand deaths than touch indigo seed again. "These seeds shall never sow indigo again," said they in chorus. And thus they triumphed and secured their independence. They would not sacrifice their principle on any account, and thus they blessed their work.

The patriotism displayed by these indigo ryots of Bengal,—five millions of whom took a vow to effect that they would never again remain slaves to indigo planters—their gigantic sacrifices—indeed—have no parallel in the annals of the world. We give below the history of one such patriot, Saday Kesh, who defied death and torture for the sake of his cause—the deliverance of the ryots from indigo yoke. The story is taken from the nice book of the retired Deputy Collector, Roy Bahadur Ram Akhoy, entitled "Police and Protection," the author being a distinguished man himself and a brother of the illustrious savant, the late Prem Chand Tarkavagish. The account will show how the ryots of Bengal, so gentle and down-trodden, were converted into unparalleled heroes, by the sacrifices of such a man as Saday Kesh, and who did not deviate an inch from their path of duty though they were subjected to untold sufferings, and tempted in every possible way.

Jatadhur Kharanga was a "jamadar" in a certain indigo factory. He served with credit, in several factories, for nearly a quarter of a century. The European Managers of all the factories knew Jatadhur well and trusted him. He was, therefore, all along in the good books of his masters and superiors.

One morning at about 9 or 10 o'clock, some peons under another "jamadar" of the factory at—forcibly arrested a party of ryots on the road, and having shut them up in the lock-up attached to the factory, began to oppress and torment them.

Sanay Kesh, a young man, was one of the party. These unfortunate ryots, unable any longer to withstand the oppression and torture of the indigo planters, were going to deposit their rent at the Collectorate and to represent their grievances to the Magistrate of the district under the leadership of Saday, who was an educated man. The factory people getting scent of the matter had all of them waylaid and confined.

Now it so chanced that Jatadhur, for some reason or other, once entered into the lock-up; and having recognised Saday to be his nephew's brother-in-law, asked the latter to see that he was not ill-treated. The latter reported this, through their immediate superior, to the European Manager. This officer was a comparatively new man, and he was not all aware of the worth of Jatadhur and the good services he had till then rendered to his masters.

Next morning Saday was nowhere to be found in the lock-up. Only this much could be ascertained that late in the previous night he had been removed out of the prison room. In those days when a man was to be oppressed in more ways than one and a little too severely, the usual procedure of many indigo planters was to remove him from factory to factory and to thereby harass and worry him to death; and this was not unknown to Jatadhur. Moreover, it was ascertained that four peons of the factory were absent. Without, therefore, much trouble and thought Jatadhur naturally came to the conclusion that the prisoner had been removed elsewhere. Needless to say that all his efforts to trace out the whereabouts of Saday proved futile.

Soon after this Jatadhur came to know that the Manager had dismissed him as well as all the peons under him. He waited there several days in the fond hope of personally seeing the Manager, but the latter did not fulfil his pious wish. He thereupon went home, but alas! to hear a more painful, more heart-rending news! His young wife was missing from home! On enquiry he learnt that while his wife was coming out of the kitchen to hold her all of a sudden in the yard and cleared out with their captive. She cried out but once for help, but the ruffians instantly gagged her mouth and made good their escape with the helpless woman, made still more helpless by being gagged. Jatadhur being absent from home his relations had lodged a complaint with the local police, but the latter refused to afford redress.

On the night this woman was kidnapped, another outrage was also perpetrated. A daring dacoity was committed in the house of Uday Kesh, father of Saday, the young man who was missing. The dacoits, it was stated, destroyed articles for times more than what they actually looted. Having learnt all this the head of the well-to-do branch of the Kesh family Babu Hriday Ballav Kesh, pleader, was coming home. On his way home he was attacked by the factory people near the Narainpur "Khal." The pleader escaped death by firing several blank cartridges, though, receiving many blows.

When Jatadhur heard all, he mournfully remarked: "Well, now I understand all," and with deep-drawn sighs he observed: "These are all the doings of the factory people and there is not the least doubt about it. So, after all, the cup of my misery and sin is full; and I must now reap the harvest, I so wantonly sowed. What have I not done to please and propitiate my white lords! Alas, how many poor chaste women have, simply through my instrumentality been made the trifling sport of lust and thus indelible slur and ignominy cast on the good and respectable families they belonged to! And how many dark deeds have I done! I did not reckon them before. Hatudis, Jagat Singh and Budruddin, such a day—a day of sorrow, shame and repentance—would also come in your now happy life! The Europeans are not at all to blame. It is we, and we alone, who are doing real disservice to our own native land and thereby bringing more and more disgrace on ourselves; and why?—to please our European masters!" The parties whose names were uttered by Jatadhur were factory ruffians, and previously his colleagues.

Jatadhur then went away in quest of his missing wife. He gave many secret information to the police, and by the help of some peons he was in good terms with, he paid a stealthy visit into the prison room of the factory. In a drawer therein he found a small bundle of bits of hair tied round with silver threads and a coarse broad-bordered cloth having one of its corners eight pieces of silver wrist-rings tied into a knot. Jatadhur recognised these to be his wife's but he did not remove them. He left them lying precisely as they were in their places and went out of the dark dungeon as stealthily as he had entered it. On enquiry he also learnt that being starved and constantly beaten Saday ridden he had been asked to sign a paper. This he persistently refused to do. Thereupon his ears were cut off. On another occasion while he persisted in refusing to sign that paper Kalsey Khan, a peon under "jamadar" Budruddin, gave a slap and that caused his instantaneous death. Thus died the noble patriot. Jatadhur further learnt that the very same night the Manager had shot dead an old horse in the stable and had interred it along with the dead body of Saday, under a jack tree in the north-west corner of the factory compound.

With this much information in his possession, Jatadhur ran to the nearest police station, but the police turned a deaf ear to his representations. They said, it was not a joke to make a search in the Sahib's factory and his compound. But Jatadhur was not a man to be thwarted so easily. He by threats and by earnest appeals moved the Sub-Inspector of Police to hold an enquiry into the matter. They reached the factory in time, but hours elapsed ere the Sub-Inspector was favoured with an interview by the Manager. The Sub-Inspector informed the Sahib the object of his arrival there and expressed his desire to make a thorough search into the enclosed compound to the west of his bed-room. This fired up the white man, he ran into his room, returned with a gun and levelled it at Jatadhur. He accused Jatadhur of giving false and malicious information to the police, and threatened to shoot him down then and there. Jatadhur, however, stood firm and unmoved, and having removed the clothes from his breast boldly said,—"What more can you do, Sahib? What have you left undone to ruin me? Fire your gun, I say, shoot me down and remove my miseries. I charge you to do it in the name of your Prophet, Jesus Christ."

The Sahib was cowed down, he handed over the gun to a bearer and permitted the Daroga to search through the enclosed compound and other places he deemed necessary. The drawer in the dark room was found to contain nothing. The bundle of hair, the wrist-rings, and the silver hooks were not to be found there; but there was a soiled spot indicating that there had been a small knot of hair-locks and it smelt of coconut oil used by Hindu ladies. A silver-look was also found in a corner. The Police then went to dig up the suspected place under the jack tree; and while it was being dug up the Sahib stood by under the shade of a tree. He called the Daroga to him and whispered something to his ears. This action on the part of the Sahib led the Daroga to change his attitude at once. Now, after the earth of the spot had been removed a little, a leg and the abdomen of a horse came to view. The Daroga here ordered his men to stop digging any further and to fill up the ditch with earth. Jatadhur urged the Daroga to dig up a little deeper, but he turned a deaf ear to his prayer. "Nothing very good will accrue from the investigation," said he to Jatadhur, and bade him good-bye. The poor fellow with an aching heart and tears trickling down his cheeks went away. The Daroga, on the other hand, stayed at the factory for a while on the plea of taking a map of the dark dungeon.

One afternoon next month the Daroga of an adjoining thana was going to the house of Uday Kesh to hold an enquiry into the dacoity recently committed there. On repeated representations from Babu Hriday Ballav Kesh, pleader and the head of the other branch of the Kesh family, the District Magistrate had deputed this upright Police Inspector to hold an investigation into the matter. This gentleman was one of the cleverest police officers of the day and he did never shrink from doing his duty through fear or favour. As he was riding over the high bank of a large tank he found a small group of travellers with laden bullocks with them passing close by towards the east. One of the party, a man with a cloak and a pugree on turned left at the sight of the Daroga and went a little distance in the northern direction, stopped and sat down there, as if, to attend a nature's call. On a second thought, however, he came back and joined the party. As they drew near the Daroga, the man with the pugree "salaamed" him most respectfully, but didn't look up to his face. The Daroga enquired of him the name of the village he belonged to, and the man gave an evasive answer. After he had gone a few steps with the party he again left the road and turned towards the south bank of the tank. At this time, one of the travellers asked him where he was going to again leaving his baggage on the back of his bullock. Hearing this the Daroga turned his horse towards where the man had gone to and called him back. His queer ways and manners roused suspicion in the mind of the Daroga and he asked his syce and two chowkidars, who were coming behind him, to bring back the man. The traveller referred to

above now threw down the baggage from the back of his bullock and informed the Daroga that the man was not one of their party, nor did he belong to their village, but had joined them in the road; and, on seeing the Daroga, had placed the load he was carrying upon the back of a bullock.

The chowkidars in the meantime overtook the man and brought him before the Daroga. He still stood with his head hung down so as to avoid meeting the glance of the police officer, who observed that the cloak the man had on was not his. It was rather fit for a man bulkier and taller than him. To the officer's queries the man gave incoherent answers. On an inspection of his baggage, it was found to contain some more cloths and cloaks and one silver "mal" bent and twisted. On a further inspection of the place, where the man had sat down as though to attend nature's call, eight pieces of silver wrist-rings tied up in a piece of rag was found out. The Daroga asked him as to where he had got all those things, but he didn't vouchsafe any fair reply and consequently he was placed under the safe custody of the syce and the chowkidars to be taken along with them to Uday Kesh's house.

On their arrival at Uday's house the latter identified the cloak to be his son's, and showed that the initial letters of his son's name were imprinted on it; for, it was the custom in his household to mark every cloth or cloak with the initial letters of the name of the member to whom it belonged. The "mal" was identified to be his daughter-in-law's and the wrist-rings to be Jatadhur's wife.

The man with the pugree had to disclose all indirectly. He said that his name was Abhoya Charan, a mether by caste, and that those articles had been given to him by his uncle Radha Charan and his brother Bishnu Charan who were employees in the factory at—. Radha and Bishnu were then sent for, but only Radha came and corroborated the statement made by Abhoya. He pleaded his innocence and said that the Sahib they serve under was a very dangerous character and suggested the Daroga to make a sifting enquiry into the matter and to search carefully the spot under the jack tree referred to above.

The police officer arrived at the factory soon after to hold an investigation there, but found the Sahib away from it. Messengers were despatched to bring him back at the factory, and the Daroga in the meantime began to search and inspect every nook and corner of the factory with his chief officers. In the dark room Jatadhur pointed out the soiled spot where the bundle of his wife's hair-locks were, and the spot where the silver hook had been found. Bishnu mether examined, stated that he was taken into the enclosed compound by Nitai "khasama" and under his orders threw out some cloths, cloaks and rag from amidst the plantain trees, that he found the "mal, churis" and cloths there and sent them home through his brother Abhoya.

On the spot under the jack tree being dug up a corpse was found out, under the carcass of a horse, which was identified to be Saday Kesh's. No sooner Uday saw the half-decomposed body of his son than he fell upon the corpse, began to kiss it repeatedly and exclaimed thus: "So you have come to this, my dear boy! Decomposed flesh stuck to his lips and body." The Manager of the factory threatened the Daroga with prosecution on charges of unlawful assembly, mischief and defamation. But the police officer was quite a match for him. As the corpse was in a high state of decomposition the Daroga ordered Uday to dispose of it in any way he liked and sent up a full report to the District Magistrate. Many were the witnesses examined and depositions recorded, but no clue whatever could be found out as to the whereabouts of Jatadhur's young wife. The police "challaned" some of the employees of the factory but the Sahib planter escaped.

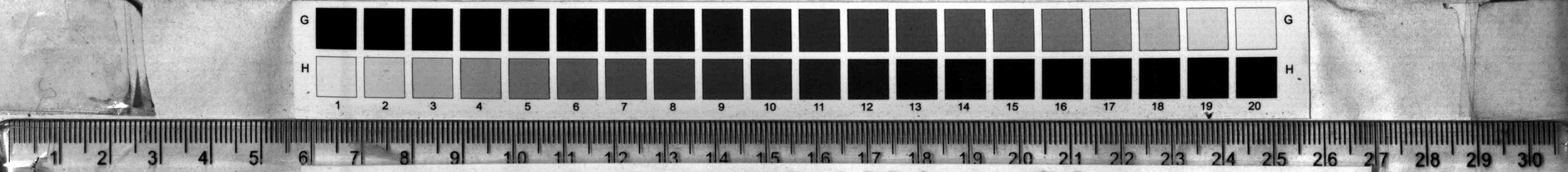
Sometime after this Jatadhur one night came near the house of the planter and there, committed suicide by hanging himself on a tree close to his house. Early in the morning the first thing that the Sahib saw was the hanging corpse of Jatadhur. If Saday had only signed a paper which would have harmed his co-villagers he could have escaped death by torture. It is this determination on the part of the leaders of the movement that compelled the indigo planters, the then practical rulers of Lower Bengal, to leave the Province, and saved the ryots from their thralldom.

"ARE WE GOING BACKWARDS?"—I. THAT is a question which the English people are asking of themselves. Why, we shall explain hereafter. But let us see whether we Indians, officials and non-officials, are going backwards or forwards?

When the Government, misled by the indigo planters of Bengal, invaded the village of Jangal, in the Pabna District, for the purpose of subduing the spirit of the so-called turbulent ryots in that village, the peasantry fought a pitched battle with the soldiers, not with guns but with fish-spears and bamboo clubs. It was in 1861. That spirit of resistance no longer exists: one constable is enough now to face a hundred thousand peasants.

The villagers mistook the Government soldiers for the "lathials" of planters. When Sir Mordaunt Wells, Chief Justice, Calcutta High Court, convicted the pious Christian missionary Rev. J. Long, of defamation, and punished him with both imprisonment and fine,—the fine, Rupees one thousand, was paid immediately by a Hindu citizen, who, with thousand others, was watching the case. He was the late Babu Kali Prosonna Sing. What Hindu would dare to do it now? There is none now venturesome enough to present such a front, the manliness of the higher classes having been completely broken, thanks to the emasculating system of rule and policy of repression that unfortunately obtains now.

When Sir Mordaunt Wells began openly to show his anti-Hindu feelings, the people of Bengal were shocked. A British Judge so low in morals! They had no such idea of British Judges. They had been led to believe that a British Judge is high above human passions. Well, the indignant people of Bengal wanted to give Sir Mordaunt a lesson. They convened a public meeting in Calcutta, and it proved the biggest of all the aristocratic meetings that had ever since been held in the city. In that meeting he was fiercely assailed by some of the biggest men of the city. And humiliated and frightened, Sir Mordaunt was "hissed out of India" by the natives of the soil.



(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, June 10.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS.

THE FRONTIER PROVINCE. Mr. Schwann asked the Secretary of State for India, what is the number and annual cost of the European officers now and usually employed in that portion of the new province beyond the Indian frontier recently described by His Excellency Lord Curzon as 'stretching from Gligit to Belushistan.'

Mr. Brodrick replied: Eighty-one military officers and seven political officers are employed in Chitral, Dir, and Swat; the Khyber, the Kurran; and Waziristan; these are portions of the North-West Frontier Province mentioned in Lord Curzon's statement to which the honourable member refers. The salaries of these officers are approximately Rs. 6,73,000. To these must be added three Police officers with the Samra hills, whose salaries aggregate about Rs. 21,000 per annum.

THE TILAK PERSECUTION. Mr. Schwann asked the Secretary of State for India, if he would state what the Government of Bombay referred Mr. Tilak's case to the police for investigation; whether the report of Mr. Brevin, the investigating officer, was forwarded to Mr. Tilak; would he explain why, after receiving that report, the Government appointed a special magistrate and a special prosecutor to deal with the case, instead of leaving it to be dealt with in the ordinary course of Law; and would he place upon the table the Government's orders upon the report, together with the report.

Mr. Brodrick replied: As I explained in replying to the honourable member on the 14th and 26th of April last, I have no information regarding this case beyond what is contained in the newspapers. But I will transmit the honourable member's question to the Government of Bombay for such observations as they have to make.

THE TIBET EXPEDITION. Mr. Schwann asked the Secretary of State for India whether the ultimatum to Tibet of June 2, which had been returned to the British Mission, was being despatched through Chinese agency; and whether, seeing that the Chinese agency was prescribed in the convention of 1890 as the proper channel for transmission of communications to the authorities of Tibet, he would state whether one principal object of the Mission was to secure observance of the provisions of that convention.

Mr. Brodrick replied: The action of the Tibetan Government has made direct communications between the Mission and the Chinese Amban at Lhasa exceedingly difficult. But the Tibetan General at Gyantse, who has himself refused to transmit letters, has undertaken to send a Chinese official to receive a letter from Colonel Youngusband to the Amban. The Chinese Government has been kept duly apprised of all that is material in the progress of events, and His Majesty's Minister will inform them of the decision now taken. The reply to the second part of the question is in the affirmative.

ALLEGED RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE IN TIBET. Mr. Schwann asked the Secretary of State for India, whether, looking to the declaration of Lord Lansdowne and the First Lord of the Treasury that they accept the assurances of Russia that there has been no Russian interference in Tibet, he would state whether the Government were in possession of any information, not contained in the Blue Book, implicating Dorjell as the authoritative representative of Russia in Tibet.

Mr. Lytton replied: The statements to which the honourable member refers represent the views of His Majesty's Government. It would be contrary to the public interest to add anything to them.

THE INDIAN COUNCILS BILL. Mr. Weir asked the Secretary of State for India, if he would state what additional expenditure will be incurred in salaries or otherwise under the Indian Councils Bill.

Mr. Secretary Brodrick said: The Indian Councils Bill does not increase the number of memberships of Council; it merely removes the special qualifications and conditions now connected with one of them. It is, however, intended, if this Bill is passed, to appoint the full authorised number of Members of Council, instead of leaving one post unfilled, as at present; and it is possible that some increase of the secretariat may in consequence be required; but as to this no details have as yet been settled. The pay of a Member of Council is £5,333 a year.

THE DHAR CONFISCATION. Mr. Weir asked the Secretary of State for India, whether he was aware that on the death of Bapu Raghunath, Dewan of Dhar, his property was divided amongst his sons, and that because the portion belonging to one of the sons, viz., Ramchandra Rao was confiscated in November 1857 on account of his alleged complicity in the Mutiny, Krishna Rao Raghunath and Shankar Rao Bhagwan, who are the descendants of Ramchandra Rao's brothers, have been denied access to the property belonging to their forefathers; and would he consider the expediency of ordering some enquiry with a view to the restoration of this property to these claimants.

Mr. Secretary Brodrick replied: The facts of the case were stated in a reply to a question of the honourable Member on the 12th May 1902, by the late Secretary of State. I agree with him in declining to interfere further with the discretion of the Native State in the matter.

THREE FORTHCOMING PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS.

This afternoon's Order Paper contains two questions to be put by Mr. Swift MacNeill. As, however, they are unstated questions the answers will not be known until to-morrow morning, when they will be issued with the Agenda paper for Monday. The questions are as follows:—

TIBET AND THE DUM-DUM BULLET. Mr. MacNeill to ask the Secretary of State for India, whether the troops, or any of them, on active service in the invasion of Tibet are provided with the dum-dum bullet, originally manufactured for the British Army in India, or any other bullet of an explosive character; and, if so, what explanation, if any, can be offered for the use of such bullets in the Tibetan Expedition, having regard to the undertaking against their use in the Boer War and the declaration signed by all the

We beg to ask, where is that spirit gone which led the citizens of Calcutta to condemn a Chief Justice of Bengal? Of course there was no danger under British rule to assail any public man and measure. Neither is there any danger at the present time to do it. But the spirit is gone. The citizens of Calcutta dare not now do many things which they dared forty-three years ago. They have been humbled, tamed and emasculated.

Though we were pained and surprised to see Lord Northbrook supporting the very convenient, but cruel and immoral arrangement of making India pay for the Tibet expedition, yet there is no doubt that he was one of the best of the Viceroy's that ever came out to India. When he left the country there was an attempt made to acknowledge his services by a public meeting. When the meeting assembled at the Town Hall, the then ruler of Bengal, Sir Richard Temple, presided.

But Lord Northbrook had made one great mistake, namely, he had deposed Mulhar Rao Guikwar, though innocent, for reasons of policy. Lord Northbrook had faith in British rule in India. He believed India could be governed without outraging moral laws. He, in short, promised to give Mulhar Rao a fair trial. At the last moment he had to give up his principles. Now, that one great blot in his noble administration pained the people of India very much.

Ten men, who subsequently acquired the name of "the immortal ten" wanted to spoil the value of this public meeting. The public meeting held to do honor to Lord Northbrook was one of the grandest. Sir Richard Temple himself was there to preside, and the elite of Calcutta were there. Babu Shambhu Chandra Mukherjee organized the conspiracy and Mr. Mullick agreed to be the spokesman. So Mr. Mullick in a speech at the meeting referred to the Baroda affair, and declared that Lord Northbrook did not deserve a public memorial. There was a cry of "kick them out," but they refused to be kicked out. Sir Richard found himself in a false position, but there was no help for it. The organizers of the public meeting had to admit that it was not a "public meeting," but a meeting of "the friends and admirers of Lord Northbrook." When this was admitted, the "immortal ten" left the meeting.

Where is that spirit now which led the "immortal ten" to pass a vote of censure upon a Viceroy in the presence of the ruler of the Province? So the higher classes and the peasants have not the spirit now that they possessed before.

But have the officials fared better? Are they the same strong administrators that they were before? Let us see. When Judge Stacey fell under the displeasure of the then ruler of Bengal, Sir Charles Elliott, for having stood by the side of the Deputy Magistrate Babu Atool Chandra, who had been censured, because his percentage of convictions was not as high as that of the Lieutenant-Governor desired it should be, the Chief Justice Sir C. Petheram took his subordinate "Judge Stacey" under his protection. The result was a pitched battle between the judicial head and the executive head of the country. The judicial head triumphed. How many Judges have the same spirit of independence—that ardent love for the judicial service,—now? Of course there is Sir Jenkins and our present Chief Justice. But there is no denying that the Judges, generally speaking, have agreed to submit to the Executive Government.

And the Viceroy, what is he now? He was, before the days of Lord G. Hamilton, the arbiter of the destinies of the Indians. But now even a strong ruler like Lord Curzon has agreed to be merely a clerk of the Secretary of State. It is now emasculation everywhere; and Heaven knows where we are drifting to.

We have already announced the fact that the appeal preferred by the Punjab Government against the decision of the lower court in the Amritsar Kotwal's case has ended in the discomfiture of the latter, the Lahore Chief Court having rejected the appeal. The result is surely one on which the vernacular press of the Punjab is to be congratulated, for the case was practically a fight between them and the executive authorities. We have already published the facts of the case, so we shall refer to some salient points to-day. Some rumours relating on the official conduct of Inspector Saldar Jung, who has been a very favourite with his superiors, prevailed in the town. The "Public Gazette" and some other papers brought the matter to the notice of the Government and for this the "Gazette" had to pay dearly. For, instead of enquiring into the truth or otherwise of the allegations, the authorities felt themselves as if personally aggrieved and asked Saldar Jung to prosecute half-a-dozen papers. While the case against the "Public Gazette" was going on, not only Saldar Jung was kept in full power and dignity at Amritsar but the Government placed the services of the Public Prosecutor at his disposal to conduct it. Thus an ordinary defamation case assumed the character of a State prosecution. But in spite of all these advantages the Kotwal succumbed to the scathing cross-examinations of Lala Lajpat Rai; and it was proved to the hilt that rumours did exist in Amritsar against the Kotwal and that the "Public Gazette" and his colleagues did what they thought they ought to do in the public interest. The trying Magistrate felt it bound for the sake of justice to decide in favour of the accused. Surely, the clear duty of the Punjab Government, after this, was to suspend the Kotwal and appoint a Commission to enquire into the matter. But, far from doing it, it availed of the privilege—a privilege not enjoyed by the Government in any civilized country—and filed an appeal against the order of acquittal passed by the lower court. Who can doubt after this that the case was not between Saldar Jung and the press but between the Executive authorities and the Punjab press? Surely, the attitude of the Punjab Government in connection with the case is far from in keeping with its dignity.

MR. REPORTER ELLIOTT finds himself in serious difficulty. He is accused of sending a bogus telegram which, if published in entirety, would have convulsed India. It is practically the effect that British forces in Tibet had met the Russian force face to face and were returning before them. That this telegram was sent is a fact, but whether

Mr. Elliott had anything to do with it or not is yet to be established. What we want to know is the motive of this insane procedure. Is it to hoax the "Englishman" and make it an object of laughter to the world? If that be so, the joke, sought to be practised, is not only clumsy, but a dangerous one. We know rival journals oftentimes try to practise this sort of practical joke upon one another. In days gone by, the two Bombay dailies, the "Times" and the "Gazette" were not on best of terms. Well, in one of these dailies appeared the account of this incident was vivid, life-like and correct in every particular. The correct name of the ship was given, as also those of the Captain and many passengers on board. Now, as this ship had only sailed a few weeks before from the Bombay harbour, many people could see that the names given were correct—those of the ship, Captain and passengers. So the people naturally came to believe that the sea-serpent, so long considered as a myth, had at last been seen by many respectable men. Soon after it came to be known that in the ship alluded to above was the proprietor of the other Bombay daily who sought to kill time by a practical joke upon his opponent. Is the sender of the bogus telegram a rival Editor? Whoever sent the bogus telegram, was it his object to disturb the money market and take advantage of the fluctuation? His great mistake was, however, to select an Eurasian for his victim. If he had selected a native of the soil, he would have made himself more secure.

The typical murder case of Murshidabad shews, though faintly, with what ferocity is criminal justice administered in this country. Haribole, a man of the lowest caste, had a wife, who proved faithless to him, and a murder very naturally followed. For, though Haribole is a Chamar, he was yet born with Asiatic instincts, and cannot tolerate dishonor to his family. So there was murder, and Haribole was condemned to death by the Sessions Judge of Murshidabad, and which sentence was confirmed by the High Court. Now hanging is the highest punishment recognized by man. Did Haribole commit the highest crime? A man strangles a child for his ornaments, and that man gets the highest punishment, namely, death by hanging. Is the crime of Haribole as enormous as that of the man who strangles a child for her ornaments? Certainly not; and, therefore, he ought not to have been sent to the gallows. In Asia a man, who has knowledge of the infidelity of his wife is not, generally speaking, master of himself. It is only natural that brooding over his misfortunes, he would gradually reach the verge of insanity. In this case, however, not only was Haribole condemned to death, but two others with him. There was another accused who was sentenced to life-long imprisonment. So, for the murder of one, we see three men sentenced by the Sessions Judge to death, and another for life-long imprisonment. Is this not a little too bloody? Nowhere in the world is seen such ferocity, as we have the misfortune of witnessing in India, in the administration of criminal justice. Two of these three were however acquitted by the High Court, because, the Deputy Legal Remembrancer had shewn that there was not sufficient evidence against them. But if that be so, how could the Sessions Judge be so culpably careless of human life as to condemn human beings to death against whom there was no sufficient evidence? We, however, do not blame the Sessions Judge much. There are in India some "strong-minded" Judges had previously pointed out the way of taking more than one life for the murder of one, and the Judge of Murshidabad only followed that practice. And, as for his sentencing three men to death against whom there was no sufficient evidence, all that we can say is that he has, like the majority of his brethren, a passion for conviction, that is all. Here in this unfortunate country, the escape of an accused is oftentimes considered by the trying Judge as something like a personal affront. Three of the seven jurors in the Murshidabad case were of opinion that all the four accused were guilty, while in the opinion of the other four they all were not guilty. So three of the condemned three of the accused to death, though the Government prosecutor considered that there was no sufficient evidence against two of them. The jury for acquittal and the Judge for conviction is a circumstance which is very usual in India, but the jury for conviction and the Government prosecutor for acquittal is a circumstance which is exceedingly rare, indeed we remember never to have seen such a spectacle. So we have to cry bravo to these three jurors who were for conviction! We would like to know more of these strong-minded Murshidabad jurors. In awarding sentence in a murder case to the outraged husband his provocation, the greatest that a man can receive at the hands of another, should have been taken into account.

We think, rulers here have no idea of the amount of sufferings to which people are subjected during gubernatorial tours, specially in the rainy season. For, if they had known it, Sir Andrew Fraser would have been the last person to put just now, not only the leading men of the district towns but also the local authorities to so much trouble. We think, Sir Andrew has resorted to the existing practice, because, it was followed by all his predecessors. It is only once in five years, as a rule, that the Lieutenant-Governor can afford to honour a district with a visit. Naturally the inhabitants of the honoured district deem it a duty to make grand preparations for according a fitting reception to their august guest, and rendering his temporary stay in their midst as comfortable as possible. But this means not only the expenditure of a good deal of money, but also various kinds of trouble, some of which might be, however, avoided, if the tours were undertaken in the dry season.

OUR FARIDPUR correspondent writes us to say that the poor District Magistrate is at his wit's end how to secure a suitable carriage to convey His Honour and Lady Fraser from the steamer to the station. He has written to several Zemindars for the loan of a carriage. But the roads of Faridpur may be good for hackeries; in the rainy season, a brougham or any superior kind of conveyance, however, will probably refuse to move even if it is dragged by elephants. The Magistrate has thus not been able to secure the loan of a carriage from any of the Zemindars of Faridpur, residing in Calcutta or other big

towns. Neither is it possible to hire out one, for no firm will run the risk of getting his carriage and horses damaged at a place like Faridpur.

HERE is another difficulty. Many towns are decorated and illuminated and fire-works exhibited on these occasions. A shower of rain may, however, spoil all and create the greatest disappointment possible. The Lieutenant-Governor and his audience may also get a good drizzling while holding a durbar as we know such a thing happened before more than once.

THE elections have one advantage. They give some life to our people, though their number is infinitesimal. Under the law Dr. Ashutosh Mukherjee is bound to vacate his seat in the Supreme Council; and already we are told, half-a-dozen of our men are anxious to secure it. Some are already canvassing for votes; others mean to do it later on. It is, we think, therefore proper to fill up the vacancy as soon as possible. For, if the Government keeps the matter pending for many weeks, it will only mean needless trouble, not only to the candidates and their friends, but also to those who have votes. We trust the Government will issue necessary instructions as early as possible and remove this source of unrest. We think, the matter is in the hands of Mr. A. Fraser and the Hon'ble Home Member, or rather Mr. Risley.

THE American papers are accusing the English jingo press of having brought about the Russo-Japanese war by their inflammatory writings and malicious falsehoods. "The part played by the London papers," says the "New York Herald," "in bringing on the war between Russia and Japan is now a matter of history. That the war was pursued by those governments was calculated to bring on a war was repeatedly pointed out by the 'Herald' at the time. They set forth a ceaseless stream of editorials and alleged 'news' articles maligning the Tsar's government, misrepresenting its intentions at every step, inciting the Japanese to war and encouraging them to expect the sympathy and aid of England."

We are glad to see that at the Bengal Provincial Conference, Babu Hemendra Prasad Ghosh testified to the scarcity of water in Bengal. He is a pucca Muffasil man, and his evidence is therefore of great value. He was supported by speakers from other districts. We are convinced that this water question is very important for Bengal. Those who can afford it, do not venture to go into the Muffasil for fear of catching malaria. And why is Calcutta better from a sanitary point of view, than villages? It is because we have good drinking water here. But is there any doubt about the theory that the main cause of the unhealthiness of Bengal is due to its unwholesome drinking water? We therefore earnestly implore His Honor to take this water question into his serious consideration. Besides, we do not understand the significance of the contention that, though Bengal has no good drinking water, it has it in sufficient quantity. The big river Padma has enough of water to meet the requirements of 70 millions of Bengal. But how does it benefit the inhabitants? What we want is good water, which is available. And since we have it not, somebody ought to provide for it. Who is to do it? The Zemindars? But most of them are in an impecunious condition. And suppose those who have money refuse to be moved by His Honor's patriotic appeal, what then? The fact is, to leave this important matter to the caprices of Zemindars is to shirk the question altogether. Considering his position, the Lieutenant-Governor should not do it. It is not a political privilege that the people demand, but means to live and to live in health. Besides, the Government should not forget that it imposed a cess, and awarded its honor to provide the people with water with its proceeds. His Honor's predecessors were pleased to set apart a fund for providing the people with good drinking water. His Honor should add to it, and not divert it to other purposes.

In his address before the Illinois Manufacturers' Association the general manager of the Associated Press, Mr. Melville E. Stone, said:—

"The newspaper press of London incited the combatants to war. It never lost an opportunity to inflame the Russians and Japanese against each other, and finally in the most critical hour, when all Tokio was at fever heat, a false despatch, was sent to Japan to the effect that Viceroy Alexieff had been empowered to begin war without further instructions from his government. From that moment the peace party in Tokio was impotent and surrendered all hope of averting the conflict."

Upon the above, the "Herald" thus observes:—

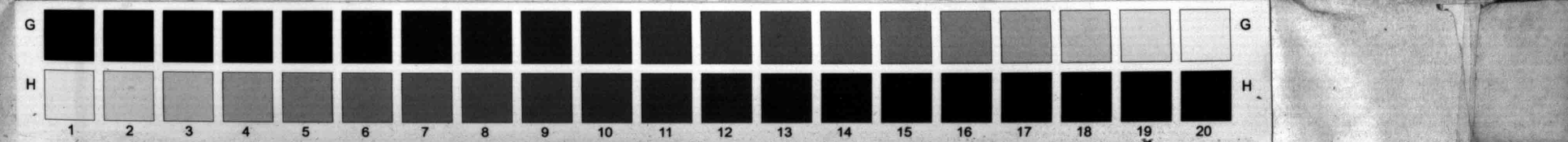
"In thus inflaming the hatred of one people against another and bringing on the terrible struggle now in progress the 'jingo' press of London was guilty of a crime against humanity."

Alas! if Jesus Christ were here now he would think that he had bled needlessly.

A case of rabies has occurred at Rowbury's Hotel, Murree, necessitating the departure of six gentlemen and one lady for Kasauli and the destruction of several dogs in the hotel. This is the second case among visitors' dogs in the station this hot weather. The first dog bit several others.

Government have approved of the selection of Mr. A. Tyagarajah for the Government Scholarship tenable in England by natives of India, which has been placed this year at the disposal of the University of Madras. Mr. Tyagarajah is a Brahmin, about 20 years of age. He was educated at the Presidency College, whence he passed both his B. A. and M. A. degree examinations.

Mr. P. Rajagopal Chariar who has been appointed first Registrar in the Madras Presidency under the Co-operative Credit Societies Act, is a Statutory Civilian who was recently Collector of Kurnool. His services a few years ago were lent to the Cochin State as Dewan, and while there he introduced several reforms in the administration. His chief work there, however, was the utilising of the State reserves for the construction of the Cochin-Shoranur Railway.



delegates of the European Powers except the delegates of Great Britain at the Prague Conference to abstain from the use of bullets which expand or flatten easily in the human body, such as bullets with a hard envelope which does not entirely cover the body or is pierced with incisions.

Who is GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA? Mr. MacNeill to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, who is now Governor-General of India, having regard to the statutory provisions by which it is enacted that a Governor-General of India vacates that office by absence from India.

SIR ANTHONY MACDONNELL AND INDIAN PAY. Mr. Charles Craig also has an unstarred Indian question. He has to ask the Secretary of State for India, what pay, if any, chargeable to the Revenues of India in respect of the year ending 31st March 1904 has been received by Sir Anthony Patrick McDonnell as salary, or pension, or both; and what services has this official during this period rendered to the Indian Government.

COAL MINES AND TEA AND INDIGO PLANTATIONS. On Tuesday next, Sir Muncheerjee Bhowanagree will, in the House of Commons move an Address for Return, according to the following table, in connection with Coal and other Mines, and Tea, Indigo, and other Plantations, each employing fifty labourers or more, in British India and Native States. The various headings in the Table are as follows:—

- 1. Number and description of Mines.
2. Number and description of Plantations.
3. Number of Labourers employed.
4. Number of persons in Labourer's families, denoting women and children.
5. Arrangements for Hospitals or Dispensaries.
6. Arrangements for Education of children.
7. Where situated.

SOME WORDS FOR THE WEEK. I hope that the Japanese will be victorious because I have never understood why Asia should be regarded as a prey for the possession of which European nations have a right to contend. It cannot be said that Asiatics are inferior intellectually to Europeans.

ARE INDIANS ALIVE TO THE SITUATION? Day by day, as I witness the growing sympathy which many Englishmen are exhibiting towards Russia—a sympathy growing out of a very palpable fear—I wonder whether Indians are alive to the needs of the situation.

Calcutta and Mofussil. A Popular Band.—The band attached to the 18th Bengal Infantry, which was so popular among the Indian gentry of Calcutta, has returned to Fort William from Mussoorie.

Passenger Traffic to Pattipookur.—Arrangements have been made, we hear, to open a branch from Dum-Dum Junction of the Bengal Central Railway to Pattipookur for public passenger traffic. The Branch and the Pattipookur Station have hitherto been used only for jute and goods traffic.

Waterways on the T. S. Ry.—The floods in Eastern Bengal in 1902 demonstrated the necessity for the provision of additional waterways on the Eastern Branch and the Sitamarhi Branch of the Tirhoot State Railway. The new bridges which provide for the extra waterway have now been completed, and have been sanctioned for opening to public use.

Issue of a Warrant.—On Tuesday before Mr. D. Weston, the Chief Presidency Magistrate, the Court Inspector Mr. Abdur Rahim, on behalf of Babu Tarini Prosad Jyotisi, living at 92 Corporation Street, applied for the issue of a warrant against his servant named Ananda Shao, on a charge of theft in respect of 37 G. C. notes for Rs. 10 each which had been kept in a tin box. The man after having committed the theft, absconded. The Court after hearing the facts, ordered the issue of a warrant for his arrest.

Rajgir Fair.—The Rajgir Mela says a Bankipur correspondent, is now over. There was a large gathering on Monday the 13th instant when eleven persons were reported to have been crushed to death in the "Brahma Kunda." A serious robbery was also committed in the midst of the Mela and a jamadar and four constables were assaulted and wounded. A carriage driver was robbed of Rs. 300 and murdered. No trace of the dacoits has yet been found. Fire broke out in the mela for several times.

A Serious Charge.—Says the "Behar Herald":—On the 16th instant one Balluck Das of Mahalla Bowli in Patna city lodged a complaint before the City Magistrate of Patna to the effect that Syed Iqbal Nawab and 7 or 8 men entered his "Sanghat" by breaking open the lock and took away the flag and the image of God Mahadeo which was inside that religious place. The allegations if true are very serious and we hope the City Magistrate will hold a sifting enquiry into the matter.

An Execution.—Early on Tuesday morning one Panchoo Das, a young man of Cossipore in Bhargore who had been convicted and sentenced to pay the extreme penalty of law for having murdered his cousin's girl wife and having attempted to take the life of his old maternal aunt with a sharp "dao" at the last Alipore Criminal Sessions under circumstances already reported, was hanged in the Alipore Central Jail compound in the presence of Mr. Marr, the District Magistrate, the Superintendent of the Jail and Dr. Daley in charge of the Alipore Police Case Hospital. The condemned man did not partake of any morsel of food for the last two days nor had he a wink of sleep but passed his days and nights crying loudly all the time in his cell. While he was conducted to the scaffold under fetters he came with firm steps uttering "huribole huribole" and all along exclaiming that he was innocent. At last the fatal hood was drawn over his face and head and he was hanged till he was dead.

charge of unvarnishedness and injustice is merely a familiar weapon brought out for use against any adversary. It suits the writer to exalt the Chinese at the expense of the Japanese. "Now, the Chinese," he says "are, in many respects, practically superior to their island kinsmen. No respectable merchant of the Middle Kingdom will repudiate a verbal agreement, whatever it may cost him to fulfil it." This praise strikes one as peculiar when among the most familiar lines in the English language are Bret Harte's—

"For ways that are dark And tricks that are vain, The heathen Chinese is peculiar." Let me say that for myself I am inclined to entirely agree with a well known and broad-minded American clergyman who declares that the "heathen Chinese" of Bret Harte is by no means typical of China. I believe that the Chinese possess many great and noble qualities and that one day the world will come to recognise them. But, just now the game is to depreciate Japan at the cost of its neighbours. Some sympathy, we are told, is due to one imperial race from another, "which was brought lately into sore straits by similar errors of judgment." The real issue involved in the struggle between Russia and Japan is, according to the writer of the pamphlet, summed up in the question: "Shall Asia be governed by white or by yellow races?" That, certainly, is not the real issue. Rather is it to be opined that the yellow race will desire the brown races to reach its level of self-government. Englishmen are asked by "Neutral" whether they can regard with equanimity the prospect of a Mongolian Empire, counting five hundred million subjects, armed and organised on the latest European models, established on the north-eastern frontiers of British India? Ever since the revolution of 1868, adds the writer, Japan's watchword has been "Asia for the Asiatics!" and we are apt to forget that England as well as Russia is a great Asiatic Power. India is very vulnerable on its eastern borders, which are protected by no impenetrable mountain barrier; and history has shown that the impact of Mongolian hordes is not to be resisted.

Finally, because in "East and West" for April last, Mr. Malabari speaks of the manning of Russia by Japan "with a pluck, ability, and determination which has made Japan the pride of Asia, if not of all coloured mankind," the author goes on to say: "These are the words of an enlightened Parsi, who edits India's leading monthly review, who thinks in English and is a friend of our domination from conviction. If such things are done in the green tree, what shall be done in the dry?"

When, I am constrained to ask, will Indians rise to the great duty laid upon them by the events of the present times?

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A Popular Band.—The band attached to the 18th Bengal Infantry, which was so popular among the Indian gentry of Calcutta, has returned to Fort William from Mussoorie.

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BIRTHDAY HONORS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Simla, June 26. The "Gazette of India Extraordinary" dated the 27th June, publishes the Indian Honor's list. The following are among others:—

MAHARANI. Dowager Rani, Yamuna of Dewas State, senior branch.

NAWAB BAHADUR. (As Personal Distinction). Mohamed Raza, Collector of Coimbatore. Sardar Bahram Khan Mazari of Dera Ghazi Khan.

Khan Bahadur Arab Hussain Khan, Chief of Mohmand in Peshawar district, North West Frontier Province.

DEWAN BAHADUR. Ramechandra Vitholia Damaskar, Dewan of Baroda.

KHAN BAHADUR. Mr. Kutubuddin, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Nandgaon State.

Haji Muhammad Muzammil Ullah, Khan of Bhikampur, Aligarh district. Khwaja Mahomed Yusuf of Dacca. Moulvie Sarfaraz Hosain Khan, Vice-Chairman of Patna Municipality in the Bengal Presidency.

RAI BAHADUR. Lala Lal Chand, Pleader, Lahore. Munshi Ganga Sahai, Deputy Collector, United Provinces.

Babu Karuna Nidhan Mukherji, Extra Deputy Conservator of Forests in the United Provinces. Zallim Singh, Postmaster of Ludhiana in the United Provinces.

Babu Syam Chandra Dhar, District and Sessions Judge in the Bengal Presidency. Babu Rakhaldas Chatterjee, Honorary Assistant Engineer, Public Works Department, Bengal Presidency.

Babu Indra Nath Chatterjee, Superintendent, Calcutta. Babu Aswini Kumar Mukherji, Assistant Engineer P.W.D.

Dr. Bhagat Ram Jamma, Sirdar Brahmdoo Singh, Resident, Esora, Nepal. Babu Brojo Nath Saha, Civil Hospital Assistant, Bengal.

RAO SAHIB. Sitaram Bhai, Betul District C. P. KAISER-I-HIND. (Medal Second Class.)

Mrs. R. S. Benson, wife of Honourable Justice Benson, Madras High Court. Babu Bhutan Mohan Moitra, Chairman, Rampur Boalia Municipality.

Mr. C. E. Brown, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Burma. Babu Gopal Chandra Chakravarti, Chairman, Suri Municipality.

Miss Agnes Henderson, M. D. in charge Muir Female Hospital, Nagpur. Mr. T. O. Hughes, Extra Assistant Superintendent, Police, Nushki.

Rai Sahib Murlidhar, Vice-President, Umballa Municipality. Mr. E. Parsons, Public Works Secretariat, Madras.

Reverend Doctor James Sommerville Fen, Church of Scotland, Rajputana. Rao Bahadur Vithal Narayan Pathak of Satara.

SHAMSULULAMA. Shamsululama upon Khwaja Altaf Hussain of Panipat.

RAI BAHADUR. Rai Bahadur upon Subedar Major Amar Singh, Burma Military Police.

RAO BAHADUR. Rao Bahadur upon Moro Chintman Joshi, lately Deputy Collector, Bombay, Pasupuleti Parankunan Naina of Tanjore Police, Thandalam Thattai Raghava Chariar, Assistant Engineer, Madras P. W. D., Thakur Mangal Singh of Pokaran, Rajputana.

KHAN SAHIB. Khan Sahib upon Dorabji Boottee of Poona Municipality, Wahid Ali of Jubulpur Police, Mufti Haidar Hussain, Pleader, Jaunpur, Saiyid Mehr Shah of Drug, Baluchistan, Subdar Major Mir Ahmad Shah of the Kurum Militia, Ghulam Jilani, Hospital Assistant, Seistan Consulate.

RAI SAHIB. Babu Bishan Chand, Sub-Engineer U. P. Irrigation Department, Surjan Singh, Hospital Assistant, Quetta.

RAO SAHIB. Rao Sahib upon Lalubhai Hathising, Bombay Police, Atmaram Harakhand of Sirur, Bombay, Parmanandas Jivandas, Vakil of Gogha, Ahmedabad, Muthala Nallasawmy Naidu, Forest Officer, Trinichopoly, Thema Gundalan Annasauri Mudaliar of Trinichopoly Municipality, Kishan Lal Kishan Rao Rawat of Dewas State, C.I., Shaivram Ramechandra Gupte of Bana Wara State, Rajputana.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, June 24. The St. Petersburg War Office has received telegrams to-day indicating that General Kuropatkin does not intend seriously to contest the Japanese advance on Kaiping, owing to the exposure of his flank to General Kuriki, preferring to concentrate at Haicheng. This appears to involve the evacuation of Newchwang and Yingkow.

London, June 25. Admiral Togo discovered a Russian fleet of six battleships, five cruisers and nine torpedo boat destroyers lying outside Port Arthur on Tuesday, evidently prepared to make a dash southward. The Japanese torpedo boat destroyers attacked them after nightfall causing the loss as already stated in our morning's telegram. It is reported that two of the Japanese destroyers were hit. The casualties were slight.

The Commander of the Takushan Army reports that a Russian squadron of cavalry was surprised and routed ten miles north-west of Santaokan on the Ashichiao road on 23rd instant and the heights of Santaokan were captured. The Russians left sixty dead on the field.

General Sakharoff reports a further retirement of the Japanese to the extreme right. The advance guards are now twenty miles south of Saimatae, which was occupied on the 7th instant after repeated hitches.

London, June 26. At a banquet at Kiel, Emperor William in his speech referred to King Edward's endeavours directed towards the preservation of peace, and invoked the aid of God in his and King Edward's efforts.

King Edward in his reply said he was deeply touched at the Kaiser's appreciative reference to his unremitting endeavours towards the maintenance of peace, and said he was happy in the certainty that the Kaiser had the same object in view, and might the two flags float side by side in remotest ages for the maintenance of the peace and welfare of all nations.

London, June 27. Reuter from the Russian Headquarters at Liaoyang wires that the united armies of Kuroki and Oku are now facing an immense army under Kuropatkin. At least three times the number of troops engaged in previous battles are now prepared to fight and are in proximity of the rainy season renders a great battle absolutely inevitable.

On the other hand, a telegram from Liaoyang received at St. Petersburg asserts that General Oku is withdrawing and apparently has abandoned his intended junction with Kuroki.

Reuter's Seoul correspondent says that three cases of cholera among the natives have occurred there, but hitherto no cases among the Japanese.

The detailed report from Admiral Togo shows that, after a steamer had cleared the mines, the Russian Fleet suddenly, when about seven miles from the Japanese fleet, they steamed back to the anchorage, but the low tide prevented them re-entering the harbour until Friday. During Thursday night the Japanese flotillas of destroyers and torpedo boats attacked the enemy eight times, two Japanese destroyers and three torpedo boats being damaged.

The news of the fresh disaster is not yet published at St. Petersburg. A telegram from St. Petersburg states that the only official news of the naval fight is a despatch from Admiral Witgift stating that the fleet had gone out and attacked the Japanese but the result is not known. The Japanese reports have caused deep dejection mingled with bewilderment having reported that the Russians were victorious.

Reuter's correspondent at Liaoyang says that though General Kuroki's and General Oku's forces have now joined and are co-operating the advance has been altogether suspended.

Reuter's correspondent, from General Kuroki's headquarters, says that the Russians are mounting heavy guns on the walls of Liaoyang and entrenching on the plain to the southward of the city.

The owners of the collier Allerton, seized by the Russians and taken to Vladivostok, have been informed that she is confiscated. The collier Aggi seized by the Japanese, has been released.

Count Tolstoi, in an extraordinary nine column letter in the "Times" vividly assails the Tsar and denounces the war as ascribable to the immoral ambitions of men sitting peacefully in their palaces. He appeals to the people to refuse to go to the front.

London, June 28. A long despatch from General Sakharoff points to a gradual Japanese movement along all the roads leading to Haicheng and Liaoyang. A despatch from Tokio states that, after severe fighting on the 27th instant, the Takushan army occupied Fenshikung pass and routed a considerable Russian force.

TELEGRAMS.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

side the port. The same night the majority of our destroyers and torpedo boats attacked the enemy's fleet outside the port. At least one battleship of the Peresviet type appeared to have sunk and one battleship of the Sevastopol type and one Cruiser of the Diana type were seen towed into the Port next morning, apparently seriously damaged. Our side wardroom and one destroyer Shirakumo were damaged killing three men and wounding one surgeon and two men. Torpedo boat Chidori received one shot at the aft of the engine room but there were no casualties. Torpedo boats Nos. 64 and 66 were slightly damaged. There was no other damage. A Commander of the Army who landed at Takushan reports that a detachment of our army at dawn of the 23rd surprised and routed one squadron of the Russian Cavalry, 10 miles north-west of Santaokan, on the Tashichiao road. We also occupied the heights north of Santaokan expelling the enemy. The enemy left 60 dead.

Bombay, June 27. The following telegram was received this morning from the Japanese Government:—General Oku reports that our casualties in the battle of Telissu were 217 killed, including 7 officers, and 946 wounded, 43 officers. The Commandant of the Japanese army reports:—Our detachment at dawn on the 26th June surprised one squadron of Russian Cavalry 10 miles northwest of Santaokan on Tashikeo-road. We also occupied the heights on the north of Santaokan, expelling the enemy. The enemy left sixty dead.

Admiral Togo reports on receipt of a report by wireless telegraph from a picketship stationed off Port Arthur at 11 a. m., on the 23rd instant to the effect that the enemy's fleet had emerged out of the Port, we advanced with all the whole fleet, except those vessels which were on special mission. The enemy consisted of six battleships, five cruisers and fourteen destroyers. It seemed that they made an attempt to move southward, but at nightfall they stayed outside the port. That night the majority of our destroyers and torpedo boats attacked the enemy's fleet outside the port. At least one battleship (Perestriek type) appeared to have sunk; one battleship (Sevastopol type), one cruiser (Diana type) were seen towed into the port next morning apparently seriously damaged. On our side destroyers Shirakumo and Wardroom were damaged; three men were killed and one surgeon and two men wounded; torpedo boat Chidori received one shot on the aft of the engine room, but no casualties; torpedo boats 64 and 66 were slightly damaged. There were no other damage. General Oku reports: Our casualties were killed 217, including seven officers; wounded 946, including 43 officers.

Bombay, June 28. The following telegram was received yesterday afternoon from the Japanese Government by the Japanese Consul in Bombay: Admiral Togo's report on the details of the naval battle on the 23rd instant is as follows:—"From early morning the Peresviet, Poltava, Sevastopol, Bayan, Pallada, Diana, Askold, and Novik were observed trying to emerge from the port, led by steamers clearing the mines. Thereupon our whole Squadron quickly advanced from various directions, and concentrated at a position pre-arranged to meet such an emergency. At 11 a. m. the Tsarevitch, Retvisan and Pobieda also appeared. At 3 p. m. our destroyer and torpedo-boat flotillas, while obstructing the mine-clearing operations fought and expelled seven Russian destroyers, whereof one caught fire and fled into the harbour. On the approach of the Novik our flotillas returned and joined our fleet. The enemy was seen gradually advancing south-east and then south. Our third detachment tried to entice the enemy southward, and at 6-15 p. m. the enemy came within sight of our first detachment that had been waiting their approach. Then we manoeuvred, constantly pressing the enemy's front. At 8 p. m. the enemy changed their course, apparently for Port Arthur, and at 9.30 our 14th torpedo boat flotilla made the first attack, followed by the 5th destroyer flotilla. Thereupon the enemy in a disorderly way hastened towards Port Arthur, but were unable to enter the harbour, and anchored outside until 10.30 p. m. Thereafter till dawn our flotillas made attacks eight times, repeatedly defying the searchlights and the firing from the enemy's fleet and forts. The Shirataka discharged two torpedoes at a battleship of the Peresviet type, which was observed to be enveloped in flame and sank. The effects on the other ships were not distinctly visible, but one battleship of the Sevastopol type and two first class cruisers of the Diana type were also seen next morning to have lost freedom of navigation. On the 24th instant till 4 p. m. the enemy were gradually entering the harbour, some of the vessels were being towed. The damage on our side was slight, as previously reported."

The Tibet Mission. Simla, June 27. The telegraph wire has been carried right through to Gyantse, where an office was opened to-day. The headquarters of the Tibet Campaign is now, therefore, in direct communication with India.

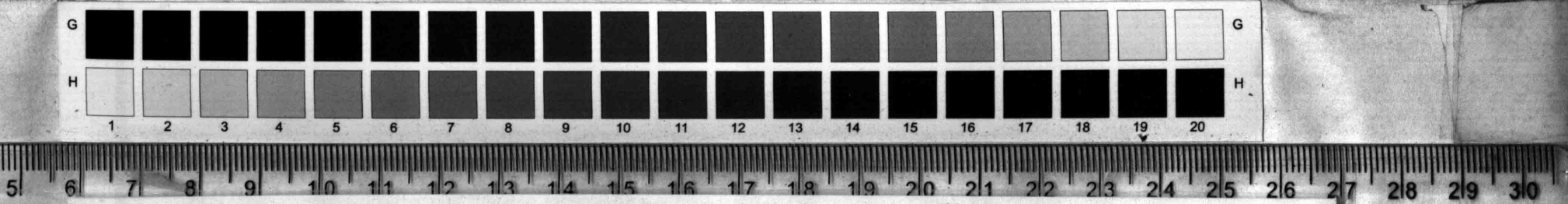
Simla, June 28. The following is issued officially:—General Macdonald arrived at Gyantse on the 26th instant and had a small skirmish at Niani on the 25th (one Indian soldier killed), but met with considerable opposition at the same village on the 26th. The village was held by 800 Tibetans said to have arrived from Lhasa four days previously. The fight lasted four hours the Gyantse garrison co-operating by occupying the hills above Niani and cutting off the enemy's retreat that way. The village was captured at 2 p. m. though several of the enemy were left hiding in buildings. Our casualties were: Major Lye, 23rd Pioneers, severely wounded in the hand and slightly on the head by a sword cut, four Indian ranks killed and six wounded. The enemy lost very heavily and fled to their homes. Several Lhasa made rifled arms were captured. General Macdonald visited the Gyantse post and found everything satisfactory.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

Bombay, June 26. The Consul for Japan at Bombay received the following telegram from his Government on Saturday Night.

Admiral Togo reports on receipt of a report from a picked ship off Port Arthur by wireless telegraph at 11 a. m. on the 23rd instant that the enemy's fleet had emerged from the port. We advanced with all fleet except the vessels on special mission. The enemy's fleet consisted of six battleships, five cruisers and fourteen destroyers, and seemed to attempt to move southward, but at nightfall they stayed out.



BENGAL PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE.

(From our Special Reporter.)

Burdwan, June 26.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Babu Tarapada Banerjee moved the first resolution. It ran as follows:— That this Conference desires to express its regret that the question of the separation of judicial from executive functions in the administration of criminal justice, regarding which Lord Curzon had expressed the hope that he would be able to deal with it, should not yet have been finally settled, and the Conference once again desires to express the earnest hope that the Government may be pleased to take up the question without further delay and bring about a reform, so urgently needed in the highest interests of justice.

In moving the resolution he said:—

"This is an old friend of ours, therefore, needs no word of introduction. They who attend the annual Congresses and Conferences or read Congress literature must be aware of the fact that a resolution about the separation of judicial from executive functions in the administration of criminal justice was first proposed and carried some 17 years back from now. The importance of the measure was admitted long ago before the first Congress met in the year 1886. In 1872, or some where about the year the Supreme Government asked Sir James Fitz-James Stephen, then Mr. Stephen, to collect official and non-official opinion about the advisability or otherwise of the separation of the two functions, and after taking the opinions of many high officials and some non-officials submitted an elaborate report strongly recommending the separation of the two functions; but, Sir, the recommendation was not accepted on the score of some additional expense. From 1872 it is 32 years now some 7 or 8 Governor-Generals have come and gone away. Instances of gross miscarriage of justice have been brought to the notice of our Rulers, from time to time, but our Rulers could not find the means and ways to effect the reform. You remember, Sir, how energetically our late lamented countryman and my townsman Mr. Manomohan Ghose worked to have the separation effected. It would be no exaggeration to say that he sacrificed his life for it. Sir Charles Elliott, ex-Governor of Bengal, published in the 'Fortnightly Review' an article, attacking Mr. Ghose's proposal. This preyed so much on his mind that he got a fit and passed away from our midst. The instances of miscarriage of justice have been so many that our Rulers cannot now say that the two functions should be exercised by the same officer. It is, therefore, not necessary for us to cite instances and to use arguments to support our position. Lord Curzon at one time told us that he would affect this reform. He promised us many things. A dozen of important and necessary reforms he wanted to introduce, but unfortunately he has done nothing. The people of this country are not willing to believe that this much-needed reform could not be brought about for want of money. Who does not know what fabulous amount of money was spent, I should say mis-spent, for the Delhi Durbar? If our Rulers could sanction 50 lakhs for the Simla Road, 50 lakhs for the Thibet Mission, and crores of rupees for extending Railways towards Thibet, why should not a few lakhs a year be set apart for bringing about the reform which is, as the Resolution says, urgently needed in the highest interest of Justice?"

Babu Bijay Krishna Bose (Alipore) seconded and Babu Sachindra Nath Mukerjee (Calcutta) supported the resolution and it was carried unanimously.

Babu Kanti Chandra Malik (Nadia) proposed the following resolution about the reform of the Police:—

"That this Conference desires to place on record its regret that notwithstanding the urgency of the matter and the repeated appeals made to the Government for the publication of the Report of the Police Commission, the Reports should not yet have been published. The Conference is of opinion that no useful purpose is served by withholding the Report from the Public (although extracts from it appeared in the 'Times' newspaper); and the Conference prays that the Report may be published without delay and that before its recommendations are finally accepted public criticism be invited thereon."

Kanti Babu in moving the resolution said that the police needed reform was admitted and the lines on which reform was necessary was also pretty well known. He said it was not correct to say that the subordinate police were not drawn from the classes which supplied the subordinate Judicial and executive Services. If the Government would do what it had done to improve the Sub-Judicial and Executive Services, the Police Service would improve and that was decent pay and good prospects.

Babu Sris Chandra Shrivasthikari (Calcutta) seconded and Babu Amarnath Datta (Burdwan) in supporting the resolution said:—

"Worse than famine or pestilence which is decimating our population there is yet another scourge under which we daily groan, viz., the oppression of the Police. The lives of the people are passed in daily contact with this malevolent power and loud is the complaint that rises from every Indian home against their evil practices. The people of India can criticize with perfect safety the measures of the local or Imperial Government but, prince or peasant, we dare not say a word against the misdeeds of the Police. The reason is that the law as it stands at present, invests the policeman with powers so very wide and comprehensive that if any one of these takes it into his head to insult or annoy you or to lower you in public estimation, he can do so with impunity. The proper function of the Police is not only to suppress and detect crime but also to prevent crime, but our common experience is that this worthy individual is always absent from the scene of crime but ever present after it. I need hardly say why? Instances of Police iniquity occur daily in this country and during my short experience as a lawyer in this district I have come across cases of police oppression and corruption which have made my blood boil within me and my hairs stand on end. I know of cases in which rich offenders have escaped unpunished and innocent persons have been convicted under wholly trumped up charges. I doubt not gentlemen that there are many amongst you whose personal experiences are the same as that of my own.

Our adversaries may say that these oppressors are your own countrymen. But that attempt to shift the responsibility would be futile for do we not know gentlemen that when the Government used to pay the subordinate judiciary as beggarly as they do the Police Service now they were as inefficient and corrupt as the Police is now.

The fault lies wholly with the Government and with Government alone. They must restrict the arbitrary powers of the Police except in emergent cases and they must pay them more adequately to attract a better class of men to the service and place them under officers who are acquainted with the language and habits of the people and who care more for justice and truth than the 'dali' presented by the subordinates.

Gentlemen we have been accustomed to raise our voice of protest against the hopeless inefficiency and corruption of the police and so loud was our complaint that the Government of Lord Curzon appointed a commission to enquire into the Police administration of the Country. Gentlemen, it will be late in the day now to complain of the person of the commission or the unsatisfactory manner in which the commission summoned and examined witnesses. But may we not justly complain against the withholding of the report of the commission from the public through more than a year has elapsed since the completion of labours of the commission.

I do not understand what administrative purpose is served by not publishing the report and thus preventing the public from expressing an opinion on a subject which affects the well-being of the millions of my countrymen.

The Government ought to take the people into its confidence in such matters or else in spite of the sincere desire of the Government to benefit us the result would be as disastrous as those of the other commissions of the Government of Lord Curzon.

The line of reform suggested by our congresses and conferences deserves the best consideration of the Government and we trust and hope that His Excellency the Viceroy will not commit himself to the exparte judgment."

The resolution was carried. Babu Nabin Chandra Banerjee (Birbhum) proposed the following resolution:—

"That this Conference prays for the restoration to the Mofussil Municipalities of a seat in the Local Council of which they have been deprived without any justification whatsoever. That this Conference would further respectfully appeal to the Government to fix as was done by the Resolution of Government dated the 25th March 1893 the order of rotation among the groups of Municipalities and District Board which are to exercise the privileges of recommending a member for nomination to the Local Council."

On Babu Mohini Mohan Mitra (Burdwan) seconded the resolution, it was carried unanimously.

Moulvi Abdul Kasem (Burdwan) proposed, Babu Prithvi Chandra Roy seconded and Babu Narendra Nath Bose supported the following resolution, and it was carried:—

IV. That the rules for the election of a non-official member to represent Bengal to the Supreme Legislative Council are unsatisfactory as affording no adequate means of returning a member representing the popular interest. In the opinion of the Conference the Mofussil Municipalities, the District Boards, the Corporation of Calcutta, and the Senate of the University should be required through their elected delegates, in meeting assembled, to nominate a member; the Trades Association and the Bengal Chamber of Commerce similarly electing their representative for the Supreme Council.

Babu Ambika Charan Mazumdar (Faridpur) in an eloquent speech showed the necessity of using country-made goods and exhorted upon the audience to take a vow not to use foreign goods as far as practicable, and moved the following resolution:—

V. That this Conference is of opinion that with a view to develop the native industries of the Province, indigenous articles should be availed of wherever practicable in preference to imported articles of a similar nature and this Conference recommends the formation of District associations with a view to promote the aforesaid object and to collect and publish all available information regarding local wants and local arts and industries.

Mr. J. Chandhuri, Bar-at-Law, (Pabna) spoke in Bengali in seconding the resolution and laid much stress on the introduction of mutual trade on co-operative principle. He was followed by Babu Langat Singh (Mozafferpore), and he delivered a lengthy speech in Hindi which was often cheered by the audience. He said that the Bengalis and Beharis are no doubt considered as so many fools, by the foreigners, because raw materials of our production are exported and manufactured abroad and again imported in this country to the great profit of the manufacturers, and it was the Indian rayats, the producers of those raw materials, who really starved.

Babu Chuni Lal Mukerjee (Krishnagar) and Babu Girija Bhushan Chatterjee (Jessore) also supported the resolution and it was carried unanimously.

The next subject which was brought for discussion was the Partition of Bengal. The resolution runs as follows:—

creation of many fat berths solely for the benefit of the Europeans when the poor Indians would have to be further taxed if a Lieutenant-Governorship be created for the Eastern districts. Babu Prasanna Kumar Bose (Mymensingh) also supported the resolution and it was carried unanimously.

Babu Surendranath Banerjee proposed the following resolution:—

VII. "That this Conference views with grave alarm the recent declaration of policy including the abolition of competitive examinations made by Lord Curzon which has subsequently been embodied in a Resolution of the Government of India regarding the wider employment of the natives of India in the public service. In the opinion of this Conference this declaration of policy is subversive of the Queen's Proclamation and of the immemorial traditions of the British Government in India and humiliating to our national self-respect; for it declares that we are disqualified by reason of our race for appointment in the Imperial Service which governs the country and that we are equally unfit for the higher appointments in the Minor Civil Services through want of adequate scientific training. This Conference desires to record its emphatic protest against this new and mischievous policy and calls upon the country by every constitutional means to obtain its removal."

Babu Bipin Chandra Pal seconded the resolution. He spoke in Bengali and said on the futility of a citation especially in England and quoted from a recent speech of Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, in support of his view. In respect, he said, to be cultured. He characterized Lord Curzon as a great friend of the Indians as much as His Lordship closed the entrance of competent natives into the public service by open competition and thereby acting as an enemy of the English rule in this country and exhorted upon the Indians to try and earn livelihood by other honest means than service.

The resolution was carried. The resolution on the Excise Bill was proposed by Babu Mohan Chandra Bose (Cossipore), seconded by Babu Chandra Bose (Bhagalpur) and supported by the Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose, and was passed.

The resolution runs as follows:—

VIII. "While thankfully appreciating the sympathetic attitude of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal towards the representations from public bodies with regard to the provisions of the Excise Bill now before the Bengal Council and thankfully acknowledging the recommendations of the Select Committee of the Government of Bengal, as regards the restrictions as to opening of liquor shops and the sale of liquor to children, this Conference is of opinion that the sale of liquor to be drunk on the premises should not be permitted and some measure of local option conferred in at least certain selected areas."

With this resolution the proceedings of this day came to a close. Mr. A. Choudhuri said that on account of a professional call he would be unable to preside over the proceedings of the next day and so he asked Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee to take the Chair. Mr. Choudhuri was thanked for the work he had done at his personal sacrifice and cheered by the audience.

To-day the Conference sits at 11-30 a.m. and at the close of the work the Municipal Conference will begin.

LAST DAYS PROCEEDINGS.

Burdwan, June 27.

The proceedings commenced at 12-15 p.m. Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee took the Chair. Babu Sris Chandra Sarvadhikari (Calcutta) proposed the resolution on septic tanks which runs as follows:—

IX. "That this Conference desires to express its warm appreciation of the statesman-like policy of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor in regard to the septic tanks which have been installed on both banks of the river. The Conference earnestly hopes that His Honor will protect the river from pollution both because such prevention is necessary for health of the people who draw their water-supply from the river and also because to the Hindus the river Bhagirathi is an object of devout worship."

It was seconded by Babu Dijendra Nath Bose (Calcutta) and supported by Babu Lalit Mohan Ghosal (Cossipore) and carried unanimously.

Babu Hemendra Prasad Ghosh (Jessore) in moving the resolution on water-supply referred to the words of Mr. Collins in the Council as well as to the recently circulated circular of the Government. He spoke of the diversion of the Road Cess and said that the Government should remove the wrong not partially as it has been doing, but fully and wholly. He, moreover, asked the Government to make contributions from the Provincial Fund to remove that crying want. The resolution is as follows:—

X. "That this Conference is grateful to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for his warm interest in the water-supply question as evidenced by his recent circular on the subject and hopes that during His Honor's tenure of office, the evils arising from a scarcity of water in the Mofussil will have been considerably allayed. The Conference, however, is of opinion that a grant of Rs. 50,000 from the Provincial funds for the water-supply of the whole Province is altogether inadequate and hopes that the grant would be considerably increased. The Conference would appeal to Zemindars and wealthy men in the Mofussil to co-operate with the Government in removing a crying want which has been the fruitful source of disease and death."

Babu Girija Bhushan Chatterjee (Jessore) seconded the resolution. Babu Tinkari Bose (Uluberia) in supporting the resolutions suggested that the sinking of wells in his subdivision were found useless and the excavation of tanks should be made instead. The resolution was carried.

Ray Nalinakhya Bose Bahadur proposed the following resolution:—

XI. "That this Conference views with alarm some of the provisions in the Bill which has recently been introduced into the Local Legislative Council with a view to amend the Local-Self Government Act. The Conference disapproves of the proposal to do away with the Sudder Local Boards and to vest the District Boards with further powers of taxation and is of opinion that the true remedy against the financial embarrassments of the District Boards is to be found in relief being afforded by grant from the Provincial funds which the

Conference regrets to notice has been discontinued this year notwithstanding the qualified pledge given by Sir John Woodburn that the yearly grant to the District Boards would be continued.

The Conference once again desires to renew the prayer that the Local Government will be pleased to authorize selected District Boards to elect their own Chairman from among the members of such Boards, further that following the constitution of the Municipalities the elected members of the District Board should form two-thirds of the entire body.

That in the opinion of this Conference the provision in the Famine Code which lays down that the Provincial funds shall be available for the relief of famine only when the funds of the District Board are exhausted imposes a serious burden upon the District Boards and interferes with adequate relief being afforded to the famine-stricken people and the Conference prays that the provision be rescinded."

The resolution was seconded by Moulvi Abdul Kasem (Burdwan) and supported by Babu Sital Chandra Ghosal (Uluberia). Sital Babu said that he had connection with the Local Self-Government since its introduction as a member, as a Vice-Chairman of the Uluberia Local Board and as a member of the District Board of Howrah he could not resist the impulse of adding his testimony to the most urgent need of such reforms so far as the constitution of the District Board was concerned and which the resolution so clearly suggested. He added that with the Magistrate-Chairman's control in the District Board with the preponderance of nominated members to support him, local self-government had become a misnomer and the District Board had become more a department of the State than a self-governing body. He suggested that the Chairman should be elected and the number of elected members should be raised from one-half to two-thirds.

The resolution was carried. Babu Tarapada Banerjee (Krishnagar) moved the resolution on Industrial and Scientific Education.

XII. "That this Conference hereby records its warm sympathy with the movement for industrial and scientific education which has recently been initiated. It cordially endorses the scheme and appeals to all sections of the community who are interested in the material and educational progress of the country to accord to it their hearty support as supplying a national organization for educational and industrial advancement."

The resolution was seconded by Babu Sriharsha Mukerjee (Burdwan) and supported by Babu Bipin Behari Das-Gupta (Barisal) and was passed.

In moving the resolution on Technical Education Babu Sarat Chandra Bose (Burdwan) said:—

"There are 232 Art Schools and 1,132 Art classes in England and Wales in which 111,000 students are educated. These are maintained by Government grant in aid which amounted last year to £78,721, as well as by contributions from County Councils which amounted to £1,057,399 in 1903. In other words England and Wales spent—to give equivalent in Indian money—to Rs. 1704,1800. We might therefore reasonably expect contributions from Government. We thank the Government heartily for the foundation of the scholarships which would if properly directed educate our youngmen in technical arts to make themselves useful for the country's needs.

The resolution which runs as follows was seconded by Babu Jogendra Nath Mukerjee (Purnea) and supported by Babu Tarak Nath Bose (Burdwan) and was carried unanimously:—

XIII. That this Conference is grateful to the Government for founding some scholarships to enable students to proceed to Europe for technical instruction and the Conference prays that the conditions under which the scholarships are to be awarded and the course that the scholars will have to follow be definitely laid down and the scholarships be awarded without further delay.

The resolution on Pasture Lands runs as follows:—

XIV. That having regard to the importance of providing pasture lands for the food of cattle this Conference appeals to the Zemindars to set apart such land for such a purpose wherever practicable.

In moving the resolution Babu Nabin Chandra Banerjee (Birbhum) said that the former industries of Birbhum, namely, in silk, iron, indigo and shellac had died out and the only industry that remained was cultivation, for which cattle should be preserved. He appealed to the Zemindars and other land holders to set apart a certain land in every village for pasture.

Babu Nafar Das Roy (Berhampur) seconded the resolution and it was carried.

XV. That this conference respectfully draws the attention of the Government of Bengal to the following matters in connection with the working of the Mofussil Civil Courts and prays that early steps may be taken to remove the grievances mentioned below and to effect the reforms herein suggested:—

- (1) That the number and pay of Civil Court Amlas be increased and better prospects held out to them.
(2) That a proper and effective system of supervision with a view to enforce regularity and impartiality in the transaction of ordinary Civil Court business be introduced.
(3) That the pay of Civil Court peons be increased so as to induce a better class of men to accept service—a reform which it is hoped will put a stop to the exactions now generally made by them from suitors.
(4) That proper accommodation be provided for witnesses and suitors within the Court compound.
(5) That a percentage of the court-fees be refunded in cases which are compromised, with-drawn, dismissed for default and decreed exparte or on confession.
On the absence of the mover the chairman put the following resolution to the meeting and it was carried unanimously:—
XVI. That this conference considers that the draft rules framed by the Governor-General in Council under the provisions of Sec. 20 of the Mining Act (Act VIII of 1901) be not enforced until such time as sufficient number of persons holding certificates of competency are available; that though the National Congress in their resolution No. VIII passed at its 17th Session in December 1901, appealed to Government for the establishment of a Mining Engineering College for the training of mining engineers the

conference regrets that no definite scheme has yet been formed by Government by either for establishing a mining college or adding a mining class to the Sibpore College of Engineering; that native mining Engineers capable of passing the requisite examinations are not available; that the employment of European Managers in mines conducted by the natives of the country is very costly and disadvantageous in many respects, and is beyond their power; and that if the rules are put into force in the present year 1904, it will have the effect of putting a complete stop to the mines owned by Indians which would be disastrous to the interests of the country.

(6) That this Conference is further of opinion that to the rules already made a rule should be added to the following effects namely that, if through the expansion of business, the number of men employed in a colliery exceeds 150, the holder of a second class certificate of service, who had hitherto managed it, if his management is found satisfactory should be entitled to get a first class certificate of service on application.

Babu Chuni Charan Bose (Bhagalpur) proposed and Babu Prasanna Kumar Bose (Malda) seconded the following resolution:—

XVII. That this Conference begs most respectfully to suggest to Government once again that with a view to the removal of houses of ill-fame from the vicinity of educational institutions in the Mofussil it is desirable that a provision similar to that embodied in Sec. 43 of the Calcutta Police Act (Act IV of 1866) should be introduced in the Bengal Police Act (Act V of 1861).

Babu Amarnath Dutta (Burdwan) proposed and Babu Kalidas Nandi (Burdwan) seconded the following resolution which was carried:—

XVIII. "That in view of the periodical loss of lives, cattle and crops caused by heavy inundations of the river Damodar on its right bank, this conference humbly prays that the Government may be pleased to construct embankments on the affected side of the river with sluices where necessary."

Then there was the usual thanks giving. The Chairman, the delegates, the President and members of the Reception committee and the Volunteers were thanked; and this brought the meeting to a close at about 4 p.m. The conference on the Municipal Offices were held next. Babu Prasanna Kumar Bose (Mymensingh) invited the delegates to Mymensingh where the Provincial Conference meets next year. In this Conference over 100 delegates attended representing most districts of Bengal, and in number and dignity was beyond expectation. It was a decided success.

NOTES FROM MHOW.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Camp Mhow, June 24.

ASSAULT ON AN ENGLISH WOMAN.

A sensational case has just been disposed of in which a butcher stood charged with having committed assault on a European woman in the barracks. The man was immediately put on his trial, convicted and sent to jail.

A FLIGHT OF LOCUSTS.

A large swarm of locusts passed over the city from west to east on the afternoon of the 20th and 21st inst. It was an unlucky presage to the poor cultivators.

THE THIBET AFFAIR.

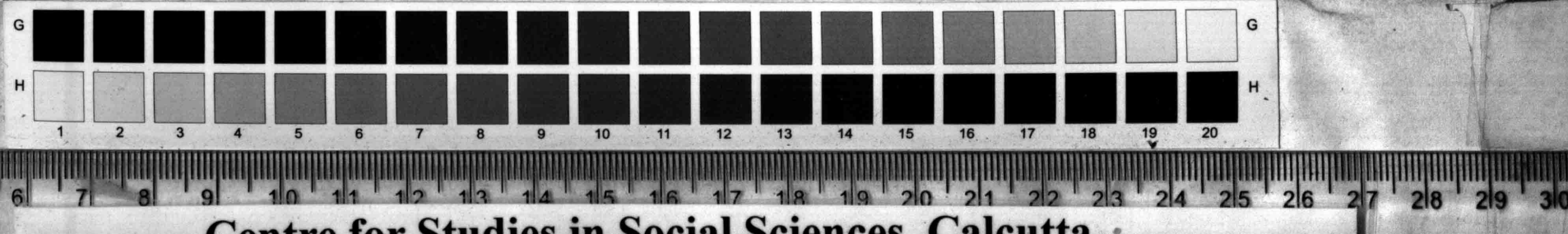
News from Tibet which reached Simla on the 26th inst. stated that three apparently responsible men from Lhasa had arrived at Gyantse but that their instructions were as to negotiations had not transpired. The Dalai Lama had also asked the Bantau Government to intercede in behalf of Tibet, with a view to some settlement. A present of rich silks from Lhasa had reached Colonel Younghusband. This particular form of gift represents the peaceful wishes of Tibet.

CHARGE AGAINST A STUDENT.

At the instance of a syndicate of the Madras University the Registrar prosecuted before the Head Assistant Magistrate, Palghat a Brahmin youth of that town, with having at the last December Matriculation Examination stolen a fellow candidate's answer papers and forged that boy's name and number on his own answer books. The motive for the offence was that the candidate whose answer papers accused stole was cleverer than he and was expected to pass. It so happened also that accused bore the same name as the other candidate with a difference in initial. This coincidence led the accused to appropriate his fellow candidate's answer book and replace the other man's by his own. The offence was detected while being committed, and the boy was permanently debarred from appearing for examination. As a result of the prosecution accused was convicted of cheating and false personation and forgery for cheating. He was sentenced to four months' imprisonment.

A HAIR-CUTTING CASE.

The above case, which created a good deal of local interest came on before Mr. Hannyngton, Head Assistant Magistrate, Ootacamund on Thursday last. It was an appeal against the judgment of the Stationary Sub-Magistrate of Coonoor, who sentenced eight employes of the Basel Mission in connection with alleged cruelty to a Badagar woman in March last. The complaint of the woman was that her hair had been cut by her father-in-law, the first accused, who was assisted in the act by the others. The case for the defence was that the woman consented to the act in accordance with Badagar custom because, unlike Caesar's wife, she was not above suspicion! She had proved an unfaithful spouse, had of her own accord thrown herself upon her father-in-law's mercy, and had asked that instead of being disgraced in the church, her hair might be cut as a sign of her wrong doings. In spite of the defence made, the Coonoor Magistrate sentenced the accused to varying terms of imprisonment and fine. The appeal against this finding was heard, as stated above by Mr. Hannyngton, Mr. S. C. Walker who appeared for the defendant showed how Elizabeth (the complainant), who he admitted, had a magnificent head of hair, consented to its being cut. The Magistrate, after hearing Mr. Walker, acquitted all the accused.



QUEER JOBS WHICH COME TO DIVERS.

The raising of the submarine Al has been considered by many to have been one of the most successful salvage works undertaken by divers, but it is by no means the most important or the strangest.

I have been down in almost all the oceans and seas on the globe, said a diver attached to a well-known firm the other day to a representative, and some of the jobs I have had would astonish most people, who know little or nothing of the work. It is now twenty-seven years ago since I made my first descent, when little more than a big lad. We were engaged in salvaging a ship which contained a lot of bullion off the coast of Ireland, and our second diver got badly injured by the tide against the ship. I was thought to be inexperienced to go down below, but as the illness of the diver was a serious matter, and as I was keen on the job, I was allowed to try.

Well, I can assure you it wasn't an altogether pleasant experience to feel oneself sinking to the bottom in about ten or twelve fathoms of water. But I wasn't one to give in, and so I set to work with the head diver, and was lucky enough to be the first to locate the bullion, which was half buried in sand in the treasure chamber. I had a nasty fright that first job, for the weather was warm, and whilst we were at work one day a big shadow seemed to be hovering above us, and on looking up my mate discovered a shark—a stray one, probably, out of the Mediterranean. He managed to make me understand, and we both retired for a time into the treasure chamber. Fortunately the rascal sheered off and we did not see him again.

I soon, continued the speaker, was put on the regular list of divers attached to the firm, and found it more interesting work than pumping air or attending to the lines. My next job was at a little place on the banks of the Seine, endeavouring to recover a lot of jewellery which was supposed to have been thrown into the river many years before. We didn't find the jewellery we were in search of—no doubt it had washed down many miles or even into the sea long before—but we found some gold ornaments, which a gentleman said were more than 800 years old, a beautiful mug of solid gold, a sort of crown, several daggers which had jewels in their handles, and also a couple of skeletons with heavy rusty chains round wrists and legs. I was told there was a story about them, which said that they were the bodies of a noble's daughter and her lover, who were thrown by her father into the river from the walls of an old castle which used to stand thereabouts. Anyway, the country folk were so alarmed at the odd bones that they would scarcely go to bed till they had been buried.

My next job was salvaging the wreck of a yacht lost in the Mediterranean. We were employed by the mother of the owner, who was an only son, and as soon as the news of disaster came to England we were dispatched with our gear (except boats) overland. The job must have cost £600 or £700 first and last. We found the body without much difficulty—the yacht lay in about eight fathoms in one of the little bays along the Italian Riviera—and in the young fellow's arms, in the cabin, was clasped the body of a beautiful young woman he had carried away from Paris. This fact, I may say, was never allowed to get into the papers, both I and my mate being well paid to hold our tongues at the time.

I had a job at the Tay Bridge, continued the speaker, and never want another like it. Of all the horrible sights, some of those poor, dead folk beat all. At last, after more than a week of it, the whole thing got so on my nerves—the water was dreadfully cold—that I had to give it up for several shifts. I can tell you that, though I'm not in the least a nervous sort of chap, I couldn't sleep at nights for several weeks. We were well paid; but nothing could pay for what we went through. And when we went ashore we were often beset by relatives of the victims, simply hungering for any information. One poor lady—I am never likely to forget her face—used to spend the whole day on the bank in all the terrible weather of January, February, and March whilst I was engaged on the job. She lost her husband in the disaster, and I heard tell she afterwards lost her reason, poor thing.

I was once employed to go down a well in the southern counties, as it was supposed that the will of an old gentleman had been thrown there by the next of kin. I have seldom, I think, been down in colder water, and there was a regular collection of articles at the bottom.

For one thing there were several tubs of spirits sunk by smugglers many years before, any amount of old chain, and a silver cup of the reign of George III., and sure enough the missing will in an air-tight tin case, which I believe was formerly used for keeping important papers in aboard ship. The result of my find was that the property went to a niece of the old gentleman's instead of to the next of kin. The night before I went down I received a letter saying that, if I discovered anything and would either leave it where it was or bring it to a certain place in London, I should be handsomely rewarded. The letter was not signed, but I have little doubt that it was sent by the party who had most to lose by the discovery of the will.

One of my most exciting jobs was with a privately-equipped expedition which went to Central America for the purpose of attempting to discover a couple of treasure ships which had been sunk about 150 years before near the coast of Panama. The story of those ships as told me by one of the syndicate of gentlemen who found the money for the venture would make exciting reading if put into a book. We found two ships within a mile or two of the place the ones we

were in search of had been sunk according to our chart, but they were so broken up that any treasure there was in them had been washed out; and although we found a good many loose Spanish doubloons and some gold church ornaments worth, so I believe, about £1,000, there was no profit for the syndicate when all the expenses had been paid.

One of the most troublesome jobs I was ever engaged on was doing the repairs to a sunken vessel in Australia. But we saved her, and I earned £12 a week whilst out there. Then I have done many little jobs on my own account such as going down at a well-known south-coast watering-place after a gold presentation watch, which the owner's little child had dropped into about seven fathoms of water off the pier. The watch was worth about twenty-five pounds, I suppose, but the gentleman so valued it that he spent with what he gave me) nearly forty pounds in recovering it.

Then, whilst I was working in the United States, I was once engaged to find the weapon with which a well-known man had shot a young girl whom he had abducted and taken to a place on the Hudson. I found it after a week's search, which cost the relatives upwards of 2,000 dollars, in addition to the cost of the handsome gold watch they gave me.

One of my most interesting experiences, said the speaker, in conclusion, as he commenced to get ready to go down below once more, was on my Australian trip. When the work was done on the steamer I was offered a job to go to a pearl bank and dive for oysters. I was six months at the place on and off, for we could not work sometimes for days together owing to bad weather, and I can truly say that I learned more of the bottom of the sea and the things that swim there and crawl about than during three or four years of other work.

MARRIAGE IN JAPAN?

A recent issue of a Japanese statistical pamphlet in Japanese and French reveals some curious facts of a social character.

According to this report there were 297,428 marriages in Japan in the year 1889. The age of marriage seems to be nearer that commonly prevailing in Europe and America than most persons suppose.

Of men only five married under the age of 13, and only 108 under the age of 16. Nearly 5,400 married between the ages of 16 and 18. The number of marriages increased rapidly up to the age of 24, when it was rather more than 26,000. After that age fewer and fewer men married, and less than a thousand married between the ages of 48 and 49, though a few men married in extreme old age.

In the case of girls there were only 58 marriages under the age of fourteen and the age at which the greatest number of marriages was reported was between 20 and 21. Only about 900 women were reported as marrying between 40 and 41, but perhaps Japanese women are prone, like their Western sisters, to cease having birthdays after they pass 30. There were a few marriages of very old women, up to and beyond the age of 80.

The civil state of the women marrying is significant. More than 247,000 of the whole number are reported as maidens and nearly 8,600 as widows, while nearly 33,500 were divorced women.

Astonishing are the divorce statistics of Japan. In this report it is shown that with fewer than 300,000 marriages reported in the year, there were more than 66,000 divorces. The proportion of divorces to marriages is about one to four.

The fact is that Japanese civilisation is most conspicuously weak in the matter of the status of women. Divorce is easy.

In fact the seven causes laid down by Confucius are allowed. One of these permits a man to divorce his wife for talking, too much.

Among the lower classes divorce is extremely frequent. It is less so among the upper classes, mainly because concubinage is common. The divorced wife patiently endures her lot, and leaves the house of her lord with a blessing for him upon her lips.

It is rare thing for a woman in Japan to seek divorce, though husbands frequently give sufficient cause. The fact that the case of the children would fall upon the wife should she obtain a divorce is a sufficient deterrent to the mothers who are poor, and the condition of extreme subjection suffered by nearly all Japanese women probably deters wealthy wives from seeking divorce.

A GREAT PANDITA.

A Madura correspondent writes:—Extraordinary promise of versification in Sanskrit was exhibited at the Hall of Theosophy, Madura, last Sunday, by Miss Kani Ratnam Gnana Sundari of Kumbakonam. She kept a rather large and highly cultured audience spell-bound for full 3 hours by her exquisite compositions in Sanskrit verse sung by her. She has composed several long poems, two of them, she recited most beautifully—viz., the Ramayana and the Halasya Mahatmyam; she explained in simple but elegant Tamil, the meanings of the verses and the concepts which she has enshrined in them. Though born of what is called the dancing woman caste, she leads a single life of chastity. She seems to be a pious woman. Her tutor Pandit Kipusami Sastryar has come down with her. It seems that she has won fame already in the Mysore and Pudukottai Samasthanams where learned Pandits have appreciated her great merits and given certificates enlisting her as an avatar of Saraswati herself, the goddess of learning. She has been given a gold medal by the Trichy centre in recognition of her merits. She has come to Madura to dedicate her work of the Halasya Mahatmyam—in the style of Chumboo to the feet of the goddess Sri Meenakshi.

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR AT JALPAIGURI.

HIS HONOR'S REPLY.

To an address presented by the Reception Committee at Jalpaiguri on the 23rd inst. His Honor made the following reply:—

Gentlemen,—I am very much obliged to you for the cordial welcome which you have given to me to the headquarters of this district. For the kindly wishes which you express for my personal welfare, and for the expression of your loyalty to the Government, I am very glad indeed that I should have the opportunity of hearing your views on certain matters which interest you; and I can assure you that they will receive careful consideration.

In the 4th paragraph of your address you allude to certain inconveniences connected with the administration of civil justice. It is impossible for me at once to give you a definite answer regarding the arrangements that may be made respecting the work of the District and Sessions Judge which is to be done at Jalpaiguri. All that I can say is that I fully sympathise with your desire to secure the convenience of parties and others interested in judicial work, and shall do what I can reasonably do to secure that convenience. I shall have to consult the Judges at Rangpur and Dinajpur, and if necessary, the High Court, on the suggestions which you have made, and especially with regard to alleged delays in disposing of cases. "Prima facie," however, I am bound to say that the figures in criminal and civil work at Jalpaiguri for the last two years, which I have considered, do not seem to justify the appointment of an Additional District and Sessions Judge there. The figures are—

Table with 2 columns: Year (1901, 1902) and Cases (Criminal appeals, Civil suits, Additional District Judge, Civil appeals).

I have seen the house formerly occupied by the Telegraph Department and consider that it is wholly unsuitable to be utilised by the Sub-Judge for a Court house. I have, however, in consultation with the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner arranged to-day to set aside a room in the District office for the Sub-Judge, so as to meet the convenience of the Bar and others interested in litigation.

In regard to the 5th paragraph of your address you ask for the introduction of the elective system in the Municipality of Jalpaiguri. I have considered this request carefully and have consulted your Commissioner Mr. Martindale on the subject. He regrets not to be able to speak in language of unqualified praise of your Municipal administration, which he considers has been lacking especially in energy; but on the whole he recommends that your prayer should be granted. I have no doubt that, considering the amount of energy which you display in matters of private business and otherwise, it is not unreasonable to expect that you will show more energy in Municipal matters when you are induced to take real interest therein; and I believe that it is very likely that the introduction of the elective principle is just what is wanting to increase your interest in Municipal matters. I am glad, therefore, to accede to your request. Orders will be issued immediately for the transfer of the name of this Municipality from schedule No. 1 to schedule No. 2; and this will enable you to elect two-thirds of the Commissioners under section 14 of the Act. I hope, at my next visit to Jalpaiguri, to see clear evidence that I have acted wisely in making this concession.

In the 6th paragraph of your address you remind me of a promise of the late Sir John Woodburn, to give you assistance in the construction of a new building for the local hospital. Sir John Woodburn's promise was that he would give a contribution equal to any amount locally subscribed for the construction of the new building. The building is to cost Rs. 30,765. You have collected Rs. 15,800 and you ask me to make a grant of the balance, namely Rs. 15,000. I congratulate you on having raised so large a sum for this purpose. When Sir John Woodburn made the promise, you had only collected a little over Rs. 3000. I am willing to keep the promise which was then made. The Board of Revenue agreed to help me. They will give Rs. 5,000 from the grant for the management and improvement of Government estates; and I shall give Rs. 10,000 from provincial revenues direct, so that the balance of Rs. 15,000 will be completely made up.

In the 7th paragraph of your address you deal with certain alleged grievances of the Jotedars of the Government Khas Mahals in the west Duars. You ask me to consider the matter and remove the grievances. I am much obliged to you for stating the case for my consideration. I have spoken to the Commissioner about it, and have also consulted the Hon'ble Mr. Savage, member of the Board of Revenue. The result of this consultation, however, is so far merely that, that I am unable to give you a definite reply, but am convinced that the matter is one requiring careful enquiry and consideration. I am therefore able to agree to your first request, namely that this matter shall receive my consideration; but I regret to have to defer giving my decision until I can do so with some confidence. I shall cause enquiry to be made immediately, and shall dispose of the matter with as little delay as possible.

I have now dealt with all the subjects mentioned in your address for which again I thank you. I am very anxious to make myself acquainted with the people and their concerns in all parts of the Province; and I am therefore very glad to have had this opportunity of meeting and discussing your affairs with you and to have seen something of the town and of the leading residents of the district.

THE FACTORY of Chamberlain's Pain Balm in the relief of rheumatism is being demonstrated daily. If troubled with the painful disease procure a bottle at once. One application relieves the pain. Sold by Smith Stanistreet and Co., Wholesale Agents; B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Rahman and Abdool Kaseem, Calcutta.

POLYNEMUS TETRADACTYLUS.

(Special for the Patrika)

One of the most sporting fishes all along the South-West Coast of India is Polynemus tetradactylus, commonly known on the West Coast as Bamin and on the East Coast as Robaul. It is a cousin to your own well known Pilgrim fish, so called from its going up the Ganges to Benares, as also from its long fibres which are said to resemble the unshaven hairs that fall down a penitent's face. Your Pilgrim fish is also known as the Mango fish, because it is in the mango season that it is found in abundance in the Ganges. P. tetradactylus, like all the other members of the same family has a number of filaments growing from its jaw. It owes its particular name to the fact that it has four filaments. There is another species which has seven filaments and hence goes by the dignified name of Heptadactylus. Experienced anglers and pisciculturists will not need a full description of our sporting finny friend, but for the sake of the lay reader it may be generally stated that it is silvery green on the head and back, becoming silvery white on the sides and abdomen; dorsal and caudal grayish with minute black points, and nearly black at their margins. Pectoral, ventral and anal fins orange in outer halves, pectoral filaments white. There is a dark mark on the upper portion of the opercle, while the cheek and suborbital region are golden. Irish specimens with a golden green tinge on its upper face. The eyes are oval in shape with admissible lids covering nearly half their width, the body is long, rather compressed and tapering towards both extremities. The mouth is oblique, deeply cleft and not protrusible, while the teeth are exceedingly numerous and very fine covering the whole of the exposed and inferior edges of the maxillaries, making them appear rough like a file.

Polynemus tetradactylus grows to six feet and upwards in length; it gives good sport and also makes excellent eating; in fact, it is one of the best fishes for estuary angling all up and down the West Coast. It is found in large numbers underneath the bridges which span the Malabar rivers, along the Coast road. These are its favourite haunts where it lies low watching for small fish, which form its prey. The moment when it springs forward to capture its food, is invariably denoted by a sudden splash in the water. This Indian sturgeon is a very lively and spirited fellow. Often, I have seen it leap out of the water to a height several feet, evidently in the exuberance of its spirits, for I could never find any other apparent reason for this lively proceeding. Native fishermen rarely use a net to take this fish, but anglers will find the young of the grey mullet about the best bait. I have known it used with remarkable success for taking the fish at the mouths of some of the Malabar rivers. Whether taken with a line or in a net, the sturgeon makes capital sport, causing the angler considerable excitement in its desperate attempts to escape.

Native anglers get any amount of sport out of this fish. Up the Kallai river, I have often seen it angled for with hook and line. The hook is either baited with a bit of tender coconuts kernel or is wrapped round with a piece of white cloth. In any case the white substance proves an irresistible temptation and very quickly, Polynemus Tetradactylus is making frantic efforts to regain his liberty. He is a strong little creature and a stout line has to be used to prevent him from getting away.

The rarer method of taking him in a net is also full of interest. The net is made of stout strings of hemp or flax and it is put down by means of sticks at the ends. The fish gets entangled in the meshes as it swims past, and falls a prey. It goes without saying that this description of net does not answer for casting over a shoal but is intended only for passing individuals. However, during the sturgeon season heavy baskets can be taken in this way. This is the season when the Robaul is to be found on this coast in abundance.

Calicut. P.

HEROIC PIT-BOY.

Ponies who lived and worked underground from year's end to year's end, and were not too well treated by their young masters, were the subject of an eloquent address by Mr. W. J. Wills yesterday at Mrs. Manuele's house in Queen's-gate.

The pit-boys of Yorkshire were occasionally in the habit of correcting their ponies with pick-axes and other convenient instruments, with the result that the unfortunate animals were mostly covered with sores. Now Our Dumb Friends' League has established one of its most energetic branches in Yorkshire, and last year more than 320 prizes were given to pit-boys for keeping their ponies in good order.

Lady Fitzwilliam, who presided at the meeting, announced that a silver watch and chain were to be presented by the league to Frederick Hible, a pit-boy who saved his pony at the risk of his own life.

FIRST OCEAN NEWSPAPER.

The newest daily newspaper was born many miles out in the Atlantic on Saturday night. It is already assured of the largest circulation between Fastnet Rock and Sandy Hook.

The "Cunard Daily Bulletin" was born in a little hut on the boat deck of the Campania, where Mr. Marconi and a knot of assistants waited for the first message received at sea for newspapers publication, a Renter bulletin.

The paper, which is of eight pages, illustrated and gossipy, was circulated privately only, and the first public issue takes place to-day. Long-distance Marconigrams to the extent of over a page were received from Poldhu, including the latest bulletins from Tibet and the Far East.

Mr. Marconi told the special correspondent of the "Daily Mail" on board the Campania that he is confident that, barring accidents, they will be able to maintain a continuous service of news all the way across the Atlantic.

SIGNED WITH HIS BLOOD.

At the bottom of a letter received by Alice Kauppell were spots of blood, taken, as was explained by the writer, from his finger.

The letter ran:— Dear Alice,—Once more I ask you to come back. I cannot live without you. I am quite mad now. For four years you said you loved me. Love is happiness, and brings fortune; revenge is sweet. Before I know you I was a respectable young man, but now I am a vagabond, so I have not much more to fall to be a murderer. I will die with you; my love is strong.

The writer, Charles Heimer, was charged at Southwark Police Court with sending a threatening letter, and was bound over.

THE ASSAM JUTE CROP.

PRELIMINARY FORECAST.

The following is Mr. Henniker's preliminary forecast of the Assam jute crop, dated June 20th:—

All the districts which grow jute in this province, four in number, send up the same report, viz., that heavy rain in April and May proved very detrimental to the jute crop. In the first place it interfered with sowing and cultivation. Later it retarded growth. In one subdivision of Sylhet (Sunamganj) floods submerged the area planted with jute. Damage also was caused by hailstorms. The unfavourable season is responsible for the greatly diminished area and output. No exact figures are available for any of the districts which grow jute, except Kamrup. The figures or area, both normal and seasonal, are estimates based on such information as is available. The normal area for Kamrup has been revised, as the area planted in that district has steadily increased for the last five years. The statement shows that in Sylhet the area planted is one-third less than last year. In Goalpara it is less by 5,000 acres, and the total is less than half the normal. In Kamrup the area, though increasing, is insignificant and it has had a set back this year. In the Garo Hills the report is the least unfavourable, the area planted (1,800 acres) is not far from normal, and the character of the crop is the best of the four districts. Taking area and expected output together, the gross produce is put at a figure ranging from 27 per cent to 32 per cent, or on the whole 29 per cent of the normal. The crop, therefore, is estimated in round figures at 260,000 maunds, or 52,000 bales. This is calculated as follows—a normal crop is 15 maunds per acre on 59,700 acres, or 895,500 maunds. The total gross produce is estimated at 29 per cent of normal.

AN INDIGNANT DESERTER.

SINGULAR ARREST IN BOMBAY.

A Great game of Bluff.

There is in the military guardroom at Colaba, undergoing incarceration, a military deserter in the person of Lance Corporal Weston, of the Royal Welsh Regiment now stationed in Chakkra. The story of his arrival in Bombay, a few days ago, and his subsequent arrest is as amusing as it is interesting. Weston on arrival here passed under the name of Richards, a civilian gentleman, and took up his lodging in a no less pretentious hotel than the Great Western Hotel. News of the desertion reached the District Staff Office in Bombay and the Provost Sergeant was told off to be on the look out for the man who was "wanted." This was done with the assistance of Sub-Inspector Power of the Bombay City Police and the result was that they traced their man to the Great Western Hotel. Weston on being accosted indignantly resented this insult to a civilian gentleman whose identity, according to his story, was strange to relate but better known to his friend who was residing in some hotel, and he referred the Provost Sergeant and police officer to Lieutenant H. D. B. Edwards who happened to belong to the same regiment, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. This officer, it appears, bore out the statement and was emphatic in his assurance that "Mr. Richards" was a civilian and a personal friend of his. This satisfied the Provost Sergeant, who withdrew, profuse in his apologies. Not satisfied with his good luck in escaping from the clutches of the law, "Mr. Richards," in his admirably acted-out burst of wrath, went down to the Brigade Office and interviewed the General Officer Commanding the District, and after explaining what had occurred at the hotel made the gratuitous suggestion that the Provost Sergeant should be kept in better order. The General apparently was convinced of the error in the identification and treated his visitor with much sympathy and consideration. "Mr. Richards" went out better after this, and made it his duty to go to the Brigade-Major at Colaba and express his views to him on the same subject. This was followed up with a call on Mr. R. P. Lambert, the Deputy Commissioner of Police who also listened sympathetically to the tale of injured innocence. Mr. Richards was very angry at the indignity to which he had been subjected and said he would write to the Secretary of State for India and ventilate his grievance. In the meantime the District Office wired to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers to send down a non-commissioned officer to help in the identification of the missing Lance Corporal and the man arrived in good time to proceed at night to the Great Western Hotel in company with the Provost Sergeant and Sub-Inspector Power and found Mr. Richards on the point of leaving the hotel after paying up his bill.

The non-commissioned officer at once identified him as Lance-Corporal Weston with the result that "Mr. Richards" was arrested as a deserter, and after going through the usual military formalities in connection with cases of military desertion, was sent off to the guardroom at Colaba.

Weston is a youngman with a fine presence. He is well educated, always well dressed and of refined manners. With the recommendations he was able to successfully play, at least for some time, his great game of bluff.

In connection with the above incident Lieutenant Edwards has been placed under arrest, and is confined in the Great Western Hotel.

Advertisement for TAMBUL BIHAR, featuring Rose Brand and Kiscry Lall Joyné. Includes text: 'NOW ASK FOR THAT UN VERSAL FAVOURITE ROSE BRAND TAMBUL BIHAR, BY KISCRY LALL JOYNE Fresh Boxes...Newly designed Per \$ \$ "Marir Valerie." Dos. Rs. 2 Postage As. 4. 3 Dos. Rs. 6 with Postage. 128, Old Chinabazar Street, Calcutta.'

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta. Includes a ruler and a color calibration chart.

BENGAL PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

Mr. A. Chaudhuri the President said:— Gentlemen,—I heartily thank you for the great honour you have done me. That I do not say anything more, is because I feel that I have not deserved it. A friendly critic has asked me to give you a new political programme, as I have no need to bear the burden of any political traditions. I am not quite sure that I understand him. What political programme can we have, and what political traditions do we possess? A subject-race has no politics. We have no doubt the right common to all human beings, to get together, to think, and act together. We may settle which way to go, and what to avoid. We may find out our needs, and formulate them,—but I say that we have no right to demand, or require, that they shall be met. We may frame Resolutions as to the course of our conduct, we cannot compel any. It is for the giver to give, or take away, as it may please him, and it is for us to submit to the inexorable. Do not for one moment delude yourself into the belief that we have any political traditions to preserve—surely there are none that suggest inspiring memories: Will you tell me what right we have to claim, that we have any political existence? I wish to be perfectly plain with you, and present the problems before us in the light they strike me and invite your consideration. I shall be absolutely sincere in what I say. It strikes me that we have had too much of the hide-and-seek game going on. We should at least be able to say what we feel. If we cannot do that, or if it be felt that it is inexpedient to do so, then for the sake of our cause, say nothing, and cease to claim or clamour for political privileges. You have tried the mendicant policy long enough, and the mendicant wall should not be difficult to unlearn. We who have met here to-day should certainly be able to decide what course we should follow. The great question before the world to-day, says Professor Bryce, is that of the supremacy of the White over the coloured races—Is such supremacy assured, or permanent? That the White races rule the world is a fact which must be faced. The present mood of thought in Europe compels them to speak of the Yellow man's success in the East as the Yellow peril, and even of the Black man's vote in South Africa as the Black peril. The white friends of yellow Japan are hardly able to contemplate its amazing victories with perfect equanimity. The glow of friendship is already showing signs of pallor. Although fellow-subjects in Cape Colony, the black is to white, a nightmare. Republican America even has not been able to solve the problem and we may well leave alone other forms of Government.

That the Government of India should proceed on the basis that it is the Government of a dominant race, is but natural. This obvious fact has led to an inevitable division—a sharp, well-defined and broad line of cleavage between the ruler and the ruled in this country. Note that which is writ large. This line shall not be transgressed.

The line however has become broader, and the two races are further apart now than they had ever been before. Why so, and what may be the remedy are questions which will make us travel outside the limited purpose for which we have met on this occasion. I shall only quote a passage from a recent work on India, which puts forward a view worthy of serious consideration. "My contention is that because our administration is based upon the domination of the English race, a principle which can be inspiring only to Englishmen, it has failed to rouse in the people of India warm devotion to our Empire; whereas it was our duty so to administer India, as to beget a loyalty for the central government ardent enough to induce the different sections of Indian Society to associate in support of a common idea. By recognizing the obligation to an allegiance higher than the claims of religion or kindred they would have grown familiar with a conception of public duty co-extensive with the continent of India; this conception of public duty, encouraged and strengthened by immemorial tradition, might have one day been found to have developed into a sentiment of Indian nationality."

This broad line of demarcation is another fact to be faced. We can no more hope to form an integer in the organism of the dominant race, than the dominant race to combine with us to form a homogenous ethnic entity. This division however need not be regretted. It serves to throw us upon our own resources. The Government is also anxious that we should be independent of its help in various matters, and willing to lend us a helping hand. If not to-day, to-morrow, we shall be forced to stand on our legs, or collapse.

Our first endeavour therefore should be to utilize our own resources. It is not difficult to understand why we have not been so far able to do so. We are a poor people. Statistics will not prove the contrary. The stubborn fact will remain, in spite of the arithmetic of Government regulations. There is no capital to speak of in this country. Gold bangles and silver anklets will not account for its absence. Go over the whole of Bengal to-day, you will hardly find a Zemindar who has any money to spare, and who is not anxiously looking forward to the Purnaha ceremony for money. You will find that he has hardly enough to pay for his current expenses, and the raiyat has never anything to keep. That there is a large absorption of gold and silver in our country is mere tradition. Although we are supposed to be loading our womenkind with what may be easily converted into current coin—enough coin is not current amongst us, to meet even our daily wants. There was a time in Bengal when the richest man in a village hardly spent more than Rs. 300 a year, but those were days, when Dawson did not cover our feet, Horrocks our limbs, or Cox our heads, and yet we lived happy lives, and the village manufactured all that the village wanted. We have drifted on to extravagant habits of life, and succumbed to the lust after wealth. We cannot now go back to the simplicity of those days. Europe will continue to lure us with cheap luxuries and we shall continue to respond to her low invitation. When shall we be man enough to say "No, we shall have nothing, not our own"—and then have our own.

Is it not true then that our salvation lies in the industrial development of the country? In order to achieve that end, we must acquire the requisite knowledge. Some years ago, I had occasion to deal with the question of University education in this country, and described our Colleges, as nurseries for clerks. They are much the same to-day, although it makes me happy to see that there is a turn in the tide. I do not for one moment believe that our Graduates are at all worse-equipped than the Graduates of other Universities. I then the Englishman's zeal for diffusion of English education has said with much truth that the Englishman's zeal for diffusion of learning has not proved sufficiently robust to digest the Calcutta B. A. He recognises that the Indian graduate has solid merits which it is ungenerous not to give him credit for, in spite of the crudeness of his manners, from the English point of view, and the licentiousness of his political oratory. The Calcutta B. A. as the product of rapid growth, and shares with everything that is forced to grow, certain weaknesses. We need not be overwhelmed by them, as they are sufficiently compensated by the qualities developed by a high standard of English education. But what I regret is that so many of us should fritter away our lives in clerkships. I know it has been more or less a matter of compulsion—what else were we to do? Service means for us an easy way of earning a living, but the door of service is gradually being closed. A recent Government resolution has provided that we have got more than our legitimate share of it. The Government must in equity see that we do not usurp more than we are entitled to. The Hindu must have more than his fair portion, and although there has been much solicitude shown for our Mahomedan brethren which, we do not for one moment grudge, sooner or later other equities will arise, and a further Government resolution will seek to secure statistical equilibrium and justify a diversion.

Have we not learnt enough English to know that service and servitude are very closely allied, but what have we done so far to support ourselves? Nothing to speak of. Just imagine that in all Bengal there are no more than half-a-dozen technical schools. Burdwan is to be congratulated that it possesses one, but what support does it receive. We need not too closely enquire into the matter. Has not Lord Curzon told us that the millions which he has meant for the Victoria Memorial are inadequate for technical institutions in this country—this coupled with the doubt, he entertains as to their utility. Technical institutions in this country must therefore depend upon local support. We have too long provided opportunities for others of manufacturing prosperity for themselves let us seriously take to serve and support self.

Why cannot each District in Bengal send one young man a year to some sympathetic country to learn an industrial art. It is absurd to say that we cannot contribute two thousand rupees a year from each District for this purpose. Local technical institutions can, for the present, only serve a very limited purpose. They are useful in their way and should be encouraged. To place them however on a solid basis, we must have qualified teachers.

I should, therefore, venture to suggest the formation of District Associations to take up this matter in hand amongst others that I shall presently place before you. In his connection I invite your attention to the Association for the Advancement of Scientific and Industrial Education which is about to be formed. It has received influential support and merits success. I will read to you a portion of a letter received last mail by one of the promoters from a distinguished French savant. He writes:—

"You were perfectly right to anticipate that I should take a great interest in your proposed Association. Japan has shown the way; if India wishes or will maintain her own genius, her dearest traditions and institutions, she will have to borrow from our Occident the technical and scientific training so long neglected or despised. The first place in the world to come, nay to-morrow, will belong to the body of men (I do not speak deliberately of nation and race) who shall incorporate in an harmonious combination the largest part of the past and vindicate the inheritance of mankind. We in Europe have grown on Semitic and Aryan civilization, from Assyria to Italy and Spain, millions and millions of men have worked for us. Should India now indicate her past San-krit scholars would not have lost their time and pains, if they have taught India her forgotten past and shown her the places she held a time."

Is it not your desire even to hold that place again? We in Bengal mainly depend upon agriculture and upon the well-being of the peasant our well-being depends. Is it not our bounden duty to see that the incidence of administration does not fall too heavily upon him. There has been a tendency lately to bring him more and more within the reach of the administrative machinery. Lord Curzon thinks the Government knows too little of him and personal rule has, according to him, become necessary in Bengal. If in a century and-a-half you have not come to know enough him you will never know. You may be able to find out what pots and pans he possesses, but you will not know anything more. The Bengal Tenancy Act was supposed to save him from the rapacious Zemindar, to whom him and his crime have from time to time been attributed, and who has been tolerated as a necessary evil—but what is the result? Rent litigation has since gone up by leaps and bounds and our resources are being dissipated in Court fees and Stamps. It is regretted even in high quarters that the ryot is not the plaintiff in the majority of these cases. I hope he will never be drawn into the web of litigation. You know that Bengal is not a bankrupt Province, mainly because we have the permanent settlement, but modern economists think it was a mistake and modern Governors think that encroachments upon it are legitimate. Do you know that the difficulties the Government had in realising rent from your district, to a large measure led to the permanent settlement. You in Bengal have been longest under English rule and your District, and two others, were the price paid to the Company by Mir Kasim to secure his Viceroyalty. The bankrupt condition of the old Raj, however, made rent difficult of realisation. While the revenue authorities could make the Rajah's life miserable, the Rajah could render his territory, a very unprofitable one to the British Government. The permanent settlement was one of the measures which saved Burdwan. Its introduction amongst other things converted a bankrupt Raj to one of the most prosperous in Bengal.

The economic condition of this country requires that we should jealously protect the permanent settlement. They say that it is against the rules of political economy, but fail to see that the same conditions do not exist as between subject races and their governors. Our economic faith has also received a rude shock, finding that our teacher is unable to make up his mind which way to vote, for Protection or Free-trade. Let not large questions of political economy trouble us. We want to preserve solvency even at the sacrifice of Science! The best Science is that of self-preservation.

In this connection I must draw your attention to the deplorable condition of our villages. The conditions of life have changed. The middle classes of our people have been forced to live in towns to earn a living—but what a living. Free village life has had to be given up for urban serfdom. The result is, that villages have become jungles, and village homes are in ruins, and tanks and paths overgrown with weeds—all this, in spite of District Boards with a much alive constituency when rival candidates seek their suffrage for the Local Council. I must not be understood to disparage the work done by the District Boards, with their amended resources and power, and a much amended Act, which is still in course of amendment. The income of your District Board is about Rs. 3 lacs a year excluding the Provincial contribution out of which about Rs. 3,000 go to the Technical School and about Rs. 5,000 to Middle Schools. Your expenses are so heavy that you have nothing left for Primary Schools. It may be wrong, but it strikes me that burials have been thrown upon you which ought legitimately to be borne by the Provincial Government. You do your best and it is satisfactory to note that the Government has been able to administer the large funds entrusted to you. We have the promise of the Governor that he will do all that is possible to increase the efficiency of these institutions. However, if you do devote some of your command to the improvement of our villages. Villages in themselves are the poverty of the people, and a grandeur does not prove the question. Closely allied to this is the question of Municipal administration. It has had vicissitudes and the spirit of reformation, in the radical sense, is rampant. There is much to hope—may be, much to fear. It is however encouraging to find the following passage in the latest Government resolution on Municipal work:—

"It is the fashion in some quarters to decry the work which is being done by these bodies, and to stigmatise it in sweeping terms as unuseful. It is inevitable that the instances of failure or mal-administration which from time to time are brought to light should attract public attention, while no notice is taken of the vastly larger number of cases in which good work is quietly and unostentatiously performed. Facts and figures however prove how real has been the progress along all the main lines of Municipal improvement, and give hope of continued development in the future."

There is one matter, however, to which I may be permitted to point your attention. Collections must be made and regularly collected upon, but the zeal and vigour of collectors may sometimes be abated without sacrificing efficiency. Considerate treatment of the poor is a virtue which may be cultivated without impairing the tax-collector's code of ethics.

A District Association may, to much purpose, keep watch over these matters and help in the administration of Local Boards and Municipalities. I do not intend in an introductory speech like this to deal with the various questions which will come up for discussion nor have I had time to do so. I may however be permitted to make a few observations on one or two matters which have lately engaged your attention. The desire shown by the Government of India to clip Bengal and shear it of a substantial portion, has established one fact beyond dispute, namely, that the Government is prepared, if according to its own light it is expedient, to override the wishes of the people. In its present temper, organised representation appears to be mischievous and its repression desirable. Circuitous routes are taken to arrive at a pre-determined point and when the circuit is discovered by us, we are found guilty of creating irritation. The charge is unjust, but we have sorely tried their patience and the warning not a moment too soon must be given that we must not irritate the Government any more. Let us give up what has been called political agitation. Why allow ourselves to be vilified as professional agitators. What good does it do us, or them. None. We are a quiet, law abiding people, peace-loving citizens. Why invite strife, why run when it is better to stand and much better to lie down. We have received great benefits from our Governors. They were willingly given, without solicitation or suggestion. England's weal is India's weal. The work of administration is going on smoothly and we are much better off in this country in various respects than several nations in Europe. Privileges will be granted and rightly given, everything in its time. The destiny of a nation cannot be hastened, nor can we hustle ourselves into a nationality. If Asia has been "in dotage buried"—it is God's will and not Europe's will. The power of growth, if it is in us, cannot die. Let us teach ourselves to utilise our resources, teach our hands to work, our eyes to see, our heads to guide and control. Heaven helps those that help themselves, is an old saying—none the less true, because it is old. Look at Japan. "Where is the European apostle or philosopher, or statesman or agitator who has re-made Japan."

Do not create animosities by contending for privileges of doubtful utility. Do not lose heart even if you find cherished traditions ignored. After all it remains with us to preserve them and shall always so remain. Let me repeat that our salvation depends upon our industrial and scientific advancement. Parochial and provincial politics need not divert much energy or attention.

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