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THE BISHOP.

On Sunday morning, our respected diocesan bade adieu to the cathedral congregation until his return from Penang, Singapore, and Madras. At the conclusion, the bishop intimated the period of his absence would be from three to six months, when he would return, providing it was the will of the "One greater than I am." His lordship embarked yesterday morning on the *Diana*, to join the *Asia* at Sangor.—*Englishman*, Aug. 26.

PILOT ESTABLISHMENT.

A meeting of the owners and commanders of vessels navigating the river Hooghly, was held at the Exchange; Mr. Cockerell in the chair.

The Chairman briefly noticed the purpose for which the meeting was convened. It was obvious, he said, that the meeting were aware of the very great delay, and consequent loss, occasioned by there not being a sufficient number of pilots to take vessels to sea or to bring them into port. Indeed, it was as well to mention, that within the last fortnight no less than fourteen or fifteen vessels had suffered from this inconvenience. To provide a remedy thereto it would be now proposed to memorialize government, representing the evils resulting from the present state of the pilot establishment, and praying that it might be made completely efficient. It was accordingly resolved,

"That the present state of the pilot establishment imperiously calls for the immediate interference of every one interested in the navigation of the river Hooghly—a navigation the most dangerous and intricate of any in the known world—it being notorious that many vessels are detained for want of pilots, both inward and outward-bound, some of them in very critical situations, to the great detriment and imminent risk of the lives and properties of the individuals concerned.

"That it having been ascertained that, within the last two years, the number of ships trading to this port has increased nearly one-half, and, in consequence of the China trade being now thrown open, it will in all probability be still considerably increased; and whereas formerly a great part of the shipping came no higher than Kedgerie or Diamond Harbour, and that now nearly the whole proceed direct to Calcutta, it is evident that a much greater number of pilots will be required, but that the number might be lessened by having a steamer stationed at such parts of the river where the greatest detention and risks are liable to occur."

A memorial founded on these regulations, will be transmitted to Government.

The *Courier* states:—"We are en-

abled to announce that Government have partially acceded to the wishes of the Chamber of Commerce in regard to strengthening the pilot service, by directing that all persons on the establishment, who are now employed on other duties, in steamers, &c., shall have the option of quitting those situations to resume their duties as pilots, or being considered supernumeraries; their places, in the latter case, to be filled up by an immediate promotion."

THE HINDU COLLEGE.

The managers of the Hindoo College have lately printed their rules for the government of that institution, and we understand the particular one in regard to religion, about which a good deal has already been said, still has a place among them. Lecturers are required carefully to avoid all or any reference whatever to religion in giving their lectures, and the teachers are particularly enjoined to abstain from any communications on that subject with the boys. It appears also, that the pupils are liable to expulsion or other punishment for the infringement of the prescribed rules when out of school.—*Englishman*.

We have obtained a sight of the rules for the Hindu College just printed. It is quite a curiosity in its way, if we can use such a term to the most discreditable production that perhaps ever issued from the Calcutta press. Vulgar language, bad grammar, innumerable contradictions, and obstinate dogged intolerance, form its leading features. We thought that the managers had learned a lesson four years ago which they could not soon forget: but we judged too favourably. During the four years, the prejudices which they feared to offend have almost disappeared; schools conducted on sound and honest principles have sprung up, and flourish; they are supported by native gentlemen; they are attended by Hindu boys in thousands. In the mean time, the vicious system of the Hindu College has become fully developed, and its hypocrisy known; the school is sinking in reputation; the attendance has fallen off; it is no longer the first school in Calcutta. Even the managing committee have felt this, and they have met it with their usual wisdom. When Dr. Adamson was appointed, they lost that golden opportunity of remedying the consequences of their own misconduct, by a stupid prejudice against priests: such is the name by which the gentlemen of the committee designate the clergy of Britain. By refusing its nomination, they have disgusted government, without whose countenance the institution would sink into a third-rate school: even now, we believe, it is left behind by Baboo

Gourmohun Addy's; they have lost the respect of the public, and, in a great measure, the confidence of native parents; and now, in this the eleventh hour, they proceed, by the publication of a set of rules as tyrannical as they are imbecile, to complete the work by insulting their own teachers, and disgusting their own pupils.

We, as Christians, rejoice at this. They are doing our work. No hands but those that raised the pile are worthy to pull it down. A system which countenances and supports falsehood, and is avowedly based on hypocrisy, prejudice, and superstition, can never come to good. No weight of talents can render it useful; and how much less their total absence!—*Corr. Philanthropist.*

PURCHASE OF CHILDREN.

There are certain vulgar Mahomedan and Hindu men and women, designated in Hindostanee '*Adnee Furrosh*,' who, knowing the practice of the keepers of the different seraglios in this city of palaces, of purchasing young female children for the purpose of prostituting their persons and living by it, and male children for the purpose of making them slaves, go about in all the creeks and corners of the town and in the Mofussil, and, taking advantage of the extreme poverty of those pitiable creatures who have just escaped the overflowing of Hidgelee, Cantai, and other inundated places, and are knocking about the streets destitute of food and clothing, coax them with a rupee or so, (which to those starving creatures is a handsome reward), and take away their children. These latter then are sold to the keepers of the different seraglios for five, six, or eight rupees, and thus is a slave trade regularly, though clandestinely, carried on under a government so well-known to be averse to such diabolical practices. Further; not only are the poor creatures in question deprived of their children in the manner described, but some honest Hindu families, at Serampore and other places, have their female children seduced and sold to the seraglio-keepers, both public and private, for the purpose of prostitution.—*Corr. Englishman.*

Some of these cases were brought before the police. Several boys and girls, the latter about sixteen, the former about eight years of age, were proved to have been purchased at from three to eight rupees each. One of the girls stated as follows:—"The only relation I have is a little brother at Moorigatcheh. I had nothing to eat or drink or clothe myself with, and so came begging to Calcutta. I first stayed in the suburbs with a poor woman, who died; I then stayed with Meeyajan's mother, at Tollygunge; I have been about two

months in the neighbourhood of Calcutta. I was twenty days with Meeyajan's mother, when she sold me for eight rupees to a woman, who also died, and then I was taken by Sulleem, whom I met in the street. I said I would go with him; he said he would marry me; I was an Hindoo, and am now a Moosulman; I have eaten their food."

CIVIL SERVICE.

We hear that information has been received, that the Court of Directors have granted the petition of the civil service to increase the retiring pensions to £1,500.—*Cal. Cour.*

According to the *Courier*, the retiring pension of the members of the civil service is to be £1,500. Supposing that this were increased to £2,000 or even £2,500 per annum, with lesser sums for shorter service, the salaries (which now provide for a payment of 50,000 rupees in twenty-five years) being reduced proportionately, is it not likely that in the long-run a very large sum would still be saved to the state? We venture to answer this question in the affirmative. Say the civil establishment in Bengal (the argument will apply equally to the other presidencies) amounts to 500 individuals; taking the average salary paid at present to each per month to be 2,000 rupees, the monthly disbursements to them will therefore be £100,000 sterling, and the whole salary paid to the service in the year will be £1,200,000 sterling. Then come the pensions to retired servants, who have served their twenty-five years. Taking the calculations and returns, as affecting people who have always inhabited Europe, and which, therefore, allow nothing for the impaired and debilitated state consequent upon a long residence in India, we find that the proportion of dead to living fifty years after the period of birth, is about thirteen-twentieths, or sixty-five in 100; and as from forty-seven to fifty is, we presume, the average age of civilians who retire, there would be at home at present about 175 gentlemen receiving from the Government £500 a-year, i. e. £87,500. We will say upon the whole, therefore, that the present annual cost of the Bengal civil service is £1,290,000. Now, supposing the salaries reduced by one-half, the amount paid annually to those in active service will be £600,000, the Government will, therefore, save annually £690,000. Assuming the number of pensioners to remain the same, and giving them £2,000 a-year pension, the sum paid to them would be £370,000, the annual saving to Government would be, therefore, £2,500,000. But it is obvious that we have made the calculation bear most strongly against the proposition laid down by us, and we have no