

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 11th August 1900.

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Magistrate. In this matter, Mr. Bonham-Carter ought to have profited by the lesson which was taught to Mr. Hamilton, Magistrate of Khulna. His second illegal act was the disregard of the High Court's ruling relating to the hearing of counter cases. It was not also right for him to pass such a severe sentence as seven days' rigorous imprisonment, when the maximum sentence provided by the law is only eight days' such imprisonment. The public should judge whether Mr. Bonham-Carter was right in disbelieving the evidence of respectable prosecution-witnesses and convicting the accused on the evidence of the police and two low-class Musalmans.

The Lieutenant-Governor should teach a lesson to Magistrates like Mr. Bonham-Carter. Without an expression of His Honour's displeasure these incorrigible officers cannot be made to mend their ways.

27. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 7th August fails to see the meaning of the unhappy remarks made by the ^{The judgment in the Ulubaria} Deputy Magistrate of Ulubaria in the concluding ^{case.} passage of his judgment in the case of the

Eurasians, that the punishment inflicted on the first two charges being adequate and severe, he did not think it necessary to inflict any punishment on the last charge. Does the remark mean that no worth is to be attached to the chastity and honour of the woman, whose modesty was attempted to be outraged, because she was only a washerwoman? Or, does it mean that the Magistrate considered the punishment adequate, because the accused were Eurasians? Admitting that the accused were drunk when they committed the offence, is not the punishment light, taking into account the gravity of the offence? If such light punishment is considered adequate in such a case no drunkard will hesitate to lay violent hands on the modesty of any respectable woman, knowing full well that the utmost punishment that may be inflicted upon him is a fine of one hundred rupees.

28. The same paper is glad to see that Government has thought fit ^{The appointment of a second Deputy Magistrate to an Officiating} to appoint another Deputy Magistrate, besides ^{Kumar Ramendra Krishna Deb, to an Officiating} District Magistracyship. It is hoped that Kumar Ramendra Krishna and Babu Kumud Nath will by their conduct justify their appointments and show that Deputy Magistrates are not unfit for promotion to District Magistracyships.

(d)—*Education.*

29. The *Sikshak Suhrid* [Dacca] of the 30th July regrets that while, ^{Mr. Pedler's non-inspection of} during his late visit to Dacca, Mr. Pedler inspected the private schools in Dacca. ^{the Government educational institutions,} he did not condescend to inspect any of the private colleges or schools. As the inspection of a school by the high officers of the Education Department serves to encourage students, such officers should not grudge the time that may be required for making such inspection, nor consider it beneath their dignity to inspect private institutions. One fails to see why Mr. Pedler disappointed the students of the private institutions in Dacca by not visiting them.

30. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 2nd August says that one Jagadis ^{A death in the Hindu Hostel} Chandra Rai, a student residing in the Eden ^{Hindu Hostel in Calcutta,} was attacked with fever on the 20th July last, and was placed from that date under the treatment of the Doctor of the Hostel. He died on the 27th July. On that day, a brother of the sick boy wished to call in Dr. Nil Ratan Sarkar, but could not do so, owing to a rule prohibiting the calling in of any doctor without the permission of the doctor attached to the Hostel. The same rule also stood in the way of Dr. R. L. Dutt's paying a visit to the patient in time.

The death of this student has created a panic among the inmates of the Hostel, and Government should at once cancel the rule referred to above. Students should be given full liberty to call in any doctor they please.

It is a matter of regret that during the eight days that Jagadis Chandra lay sick, the Superintendent of the Hostel did not once enter into his room. The present Superintendent is an old man and cannot discharge his duties properly. He ought to be removed without delay.

BANGABHUMI,
Aug. 7th, 1900.

BANGABHUMI.

SIKSHAK SUHRID,
July 30th, 1900.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 2nd, 1900.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 3rd, 1900.

31. A correspondent writes as follows in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd August:—

An inmate of the Eden Hindu Hostel has suddenly died of fever. It is said that the boy had heart-disease, although he was healthy and robust. This was exactly as it should be in these days of heart-disease. The boy was not under competent medical treatment. No information was sent to his friends and relatives, and the Superintendent did not take proper care of the patient. There is a *bustee* to the east of the Hostel, which is filthy in the extreme. Raw hides are noticed in this *bustee*, and the foul stench reaches even the rooms in the third storey. Almost every room in the eastern wing of the Hostel contains one or two patients. Why is not this state of things put an end to? The Superintendent is, so to say, beyond the reach of the Hostel inmates; he seldom meets the students. The students are in a manner left to themselves, and hence they are always found ailing.

The editor adds the following remarks:—

"We hear that Mr. James, a Professor of the Presidency College, paid three or four visits to the Hostel, and no doubt many complaints have been made to him. What is he doing? Why does not the Principal of the Presidency College pay a visit to the Hostel? What are the visitors doing? There is very great mismanagement in the Hostel. This is certainly to be regretted."

32. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 3rd August writes as follows:—

Selection of text-books by District Boards.

Everybody will admit that those who are entrusted with the duty of selecting text-books for the use of school boys should discharge that duty carefully and impartially; that they should not show undue favour to particular authors; and that they should see whether a book is really suited to the capacities of the boys of the class for which it is professedly written. It is to be regretted that in the selection of text-books for use in schools in this country these principles are very frequently lost sight of. The Central Text-Book Committee merely pass a number of books and indicate the class or classes in which these may be read. As regards the lowest classes of the Lower Primary Schools, it is the Educational Sub-Committee of the District Board who are charged with the duty of selecting the text books, and the selection is determined by a majority of votes.

Now, whether the object be to get returned to the Legislative Council, to be elected as a fellow of the University, or to be returned as a member of a District Board or as a Municipal Commissioner, the procedure to be followed for securing a majority of votes is everywhere the same. You must canvass for votes and procure letters of recommendation. The author of school-books must also do the same, and he who can do this well is the man whose book, whatever its merits or demerits, stands the best chance of being selected by the District Board.

The District Boards of the 24-Parganas and Nadia have lately selected *Nava Path*, Part I, by Kali Krishna Bhattacharyya, as a reader for the (B) standard of the Lower Primary Schools in those districts. What led the Boards to select this particular book while there were many other and better books fit for the (B) standard and approved by the Central Text-Book Committee passes our comprehension. But it is clear that they did not take the trouble to go through the book before prescribing it as a text-book for the standard in question.

According to the author himself, *Nava Path*, Part I, is intended for little boys and girls. But if the book was really intended for them, ought to have been half its present size, and contained at most 45 instead of the 90 pages of which it consists. It ought to have also contained illustrations and wood-cuts, which it does not. Its style is neither simple nor correct. There are really innumerable errors in the book. Most of the lessons are entirely unsuited to the capacities of children of seven or eight years of age. We shall give a few illustrations:—

The first lesson is on the rose and the manufacture of rose-water. Fit lesson, indeed, to teach the peasant boys of seven or eight years of age! "If tho