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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 10th November 1900.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 29th October has the following:—

European diplomacy in China.

The united forces of the European Powers have overrun China. Russia seeing that her long-cherished hope of establishing her supremacy in China is not likely to be fulfilled if she lets things drift in this way, has declared that she and her ally, France, are on friendly terms with China. The result of this declaration is that a fertile bit of the Chinese Empire has been ceded to her. The real object of this declaration of friendship is to gain a diplomatic victory. The truth is, Russia is neither a friend of China nor an enemy of the other Powers. England in the meantime saw that Russia was, after all, going to bring China within her grasp, and that she and her allies, Japan and America, were going to be duped by her. In order to make herself a little more strong, she has made an alliance with Germany, Austria and Italy, and has declared that the object of this new alliance is to preserve the integrity of China. The diplomatic meaning of all this is that the united forces of these Powers will prevent Russia and France from doing anything calculated to outwit them. The best part of the joke, however, is that both the parties profess friendliness towards China. It may strike one as strange that if this is really the motive of both the parties, why they are divided against each other.

2. The same paper has the following:—

The present condition of Persia.

There is no doubt that Persia is small in comparison with China. A handful of Christian Missionaries have brought about the ruin of a vast empire like China. Islam is now in a very critical condition. If from this time *alims* of Islam do not place themselves on their guard, there is no knowing how Islam will fare in future. They ought to receive military training and persuade others to receive it. They ought to persuade their co-religionists to learn Western arts and sciences, so that they may grow to be as powerful as the European nations. One day Europe will take up arms against us. Persia being the only Islamic kingdom where the Muhammadan law is strictly enforced, the Persian *alims* ought to protect Islam. If Persia is conquered by Europe, Islam will die.

3. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd November writes as follows with reference to the Tibetan embassy to Russia:—

The Tibetan embassy to Russia.

The Dalai Lama of Tibet has sent one of his high priests as Ambassador to St. Petersburg. It is also said that the Czar will send his Commander-in-Chief as Ambassador to Tibet, and that the Government of India will permit him to go to his destination through India. This is the first time that Tibet has thought of entering into a political relation with a European Power. About two years ago, Tibet entered into a treaty with Mongolia. Russia is now an ally of Mongolia, and it is by virtue of that treaty that Russia is trying to enter into intimate terms with Tibet. Five years ago, a Russian embassy was sent to Tibet with the ostensible object of making scientific researches. Who can say that scientific research was the only object of that embassy? Tibet is a vassal of China, and Russian influence is now supreme in the Chinese Empire. It is no wonder, therefore, that Russia should be so soon successful in establishing her influence in Tibet.

Let us now consider how the establishment of Russian influence in Tibet will affect India. Tibet is, so to say, the crown of India. There are several routes from India to Tibet, and many Tibetan traders come to Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim. Nepal owns the suzerainty of China. Bengali *sannyasis* are found in Tibet. India is, therefore, closely related to Tibet, and it will no doubt be affected by the establishment of Russian influence in the land of the Lamas. England tried to establish her influence in Tibet, but failed. But where England has failed, Russia has succeeded, and what Russia once swallows, she does not disgorge. When the Russian snake once catches the Tibetan frog, she is sure to swallow her. This is why the news of the Tibetan embassy to Russia has ruffled the serenity of even the *Times*.

4. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 2nd November has the following with reference to the Tibetan embassy to Russia:—

The Tibetan embassy to Russia.

The Grand Lama of Tibet has sent an embassy with rich presents to the Czar of Russia in violation of the time-honoured

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN,
Oct. 29th, 1900.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 2nd, 1900.

SAMAY,
Nov. 2nd, 1900.

Tibetan custom. It is not known with what mission this embassy has gone to Russia. Some say that it has been sent simply as a matter of courtesy, while others say that its object is to seek Russian protection against Chinese encroachment. The first suggestion may or may not be right, but the second is clearly of no value, as this Tibetan embassy to Russia has been closely followed by a Chinese embassy to that country. In our opinion this Tibetan embassy to Russia is a Russian set-off against the recent Anglo-German agreement regarding China, which has dealt a death-blow to Russian supremacy in that country. At all events the Tibetan embassy to Russia is sure to cause great anxiety to the British Government.

The *Times* has already sounded the tocsin of alarm and is advising Nepal to attack Tibet. The *Times's* advice is certainly malicious. It admits that the British Government has no power over Tibet, and yet it advises that Government to interfere in Tibetan affairs. It is hoped that Lord Curzon will not listen to the effusions of the London journal.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 3rd, 1900.

5. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd November has a cartoon on the Czar's peace manifesto, entitled "The unselfishness of the Czar of Russia." The Czar, in his military uniform, with the sword in one hand and the sceptre in the other, bestrides a globe. The letter-press runs as follows:—

THE CZAR'S PROCLAMATION.

Let there be peace in the world. Let no Power quarrel for extension of dominion. The universe is vast. Let me have only Europe, Asia, Africa, and that little bit of land called America. Let the rest be divided among the other Powers and let them sing the following hymn:—

Wealth and youth, father, son and wife;
All pass away like flood-water; all is *Maya*, mere illusion.
Wear a *tulsi* rosary round your neck,
And sing the gospel with Jordan water.
This world is all hollow and evanescent,
Harinam, and *atap* rice—these alone are real.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

PRATINIDHI,
Oct. 30th, 1900.

6. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 30th October says that though information of a theft committed in village Chunta, in the Tippera district, in the house of Babu Arnada Charan Gupta, Deputy Magistrate of Mymensingh, was sent to the Brahmanbaria police on the morning after the theft, no police officer came to investigate the case till two days afterwards. The attention of the District Superintendent of Police is drawn to the dilatory conduct of the Sub-Inspector of the Brahmanbaria police-station in this case.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Oct. 30th, 1900.

7. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 30th October says that before the Durga Puja a dacoity was committed in the house of the late Jagabandhu Nandi, of Saraitikar, near Burdwan town in the Burdwan district, the dacoits being probably up-country men, as they were heard to speak in Hindi. Though Saraitikar is within earshot of the police outpost, the dacoits decamped with booty of considerable value without the least interference from the police. The case still remains untraced.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Oct. 31st, 1900.

8. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 31st October says that information having been sent to the Sujaganj thana, in the Murshidabad district, on the 28th October last that a dead body was lying on the road near Munsir Bagan, two constables came and took the body away, but shortly afterwards, accompanied by a head constable, they carried the body to Berhampore, and wanted to leave it near the house of Babu Kunja Bihari Ghosh because the body was that of his *mali*. It was the protest of a number of neighbours which prevented the police from disposing of the dead body in

this manner instead of cremating it, or sending it up for *post-mortem* examination. The District Superintendent of Police should enquire into the conduct of the police.

9. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 1st November says that some time

JYOTI,
Nov. 1st, 1900.

The Chittagong police in two cases.

ago one Purna Chandra, a resident of Saroatali, in the Chittagong district, complained to the Magistrate that his father Gobardhan had suddenly disappeared—probably the victim of some foul play—and asked the Magistrate to investigate the case. The Magistrate spoke about the matter to the District Superintendent of Police, and that officer deputed Pratab Babu, Inspector, to make an investigation. Pratab Babu's investigation, however, producing no result, Purna Chandra petitioned the Magistrate to depute an able officer to make an investigation, and mentioned the name of the detective officer, Emdad Miya, as the officer likely to be best able to unravel the mystery. But the petitioner's suggestion was not accepted, and Pratab Babu was once again deputed to make an investigation. But this time, too, he was not more successful than on the previous occasion. He made the investigation for about a month and-a-half, and yet he never once thought of examining a certain widow with whom Gobardhan was alleged to have had an illicit connection, and who was alleged to have become pregnant and to have been the cause of Gobardhan's mysterious disappearance. It is said to be Pratab Babu's fault that evidence in the case has now become difficult to be collected.

One often hears of the inefficiency of subordinate police officers. But the indifference shown in this case by such superior officers as the District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police has astonished the public. The Magistrate is certainly responsible for the life of Gobardhan, however humble a subject of Her Majesty he may have been, and it is strange that he took no prompt action when the news of Gobardhan's disappearance and probable death was brought to him.

In another case, the District Magistrate and the District Superintendent have shown equal apathy. For some time certain people had been committing various oppressions on the station-master of the Kumira railway station. Lately some of these men were caught and brought before the police, and they confessed that they had committed oppressions on the station-master at the instigation of Babu Krishna Chandra Shaha, Sub-Inspector of Police, who was on bad terms with the station-master. The District Superintendent punished the Sub-Inspector only departmentally, and did not haul him up before a court of justice. It was certainly the Magistrate's duty to enquire why this man was let off in this manner.

10. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 1st November writes that a Sub-

BASUMATI,
Nov. 1st, 1900.

An ill-treated Sub-Inspector of Police.

Inspector of Police in the Patna district has submitted a memorial to the Commissioner, complaining of the conduct of the District Superintendent of Police. Mr. Murray, the District Superintendent of Police, one day paid a visit to the Durgabati police-station when the memorialist was in charge of it. The Police Superintendent found no water in the bath-room, and the quantity of fresh milk which was kept ready for him did not satisfy him. This enraged him so much that he not only called the poor Sub-Inspector names, but was also going to thrash him, when he took to his heels. In his explanation the Sub-Inspector says that it was not his duty to supply water in the bath-room, that being the duty of the *dak bungalow mehter*. As for the milk, it was all that he was able to procure not without a good deal of trouble. We have very little hope of the Sub-Inspector's memorial bearing any fruit. It is strange that ten years' experience has not taught him the futility of memorialising against an official superior. One should not live in Rome and quarrel with the Pope.

11. The *Sanjay* [Faridpur] of the 2nd November has the following:—

SANJAY,
Nov. 2nd, 1900.

"A hymn to the Police."

O police! O thou, who, as the world's guardian of the peace, art entrusted with unlimited powers and hast in thy keeping the wealth, the life, the youth, and the honour of all people! O thou great power, thou impartial leveller of the differences between high and low, rude and gentle, affectionate and indifferent, rich and poor, handsome and ugly, straightforward and crooked! O thou who art blinded by

avarice and selfishness and art devoid of all that is pure and good, I humbly and repeatedly bow to thee; have mercy on me.

Thou art the lord of all, thou art terrible, and loathsome, and compassionate, gentle and wicked; thou art indeed above the limitations of the attributes of *sāttwa* (goodness), *rajas* (passion), and *tamas* (intellectual darkness). Thou art the creator as well as the destroyer of the world. No one can fathom the depths of thy heart. When, in the shape of the *daroga* Babu, thou takest off the veil from thy eyes (becomest unscrupulous), and, in hat and coat, goest out, like a Knight-errant, seated on the back of thy horse, followed by thy myrmidons with red head-dresses and armed with long sticks, and, then, when among the ignorant and illiterate, thou, in order to show the greatness of thy power, rantest and blusterest with fiendish ferocity and dancest frantically, the whole creation with all its beasts and birds—with all things animate and inanimate—is rendered, as it were, lifeless, and motionless, I pray to thee, I offer thee bright and round pieces of silver and other things. Take pity on me. Do not come to my house with thy followers to play thy pranks. Let me not be acquainted with that terrific appearance of thine which beats the appearance of the fiend in loathsome ugliness, or with thy heart which pity cannot move. Let me always be at a distance from thy inhuman shape, which was never seen or heard of before, which no one can describe, which it is impossible to see or touch or think of.

There is nothing which thou canst not do; thou canst even go beyond the limits of this earth. Thou art swifter than the wind, greedier than fire; a greater sleeper than Kumbhakarna. There is nothing in the world with which thou canst compare. Thou art minuter than atom; thou towerest higher than the highest peak of the Himalayas. At thy will thou canst look as high as a mountain, as small as a flea.

Thou appearest in so many forms that one would think that the vast world contains nothing except thyself. Thou art the lord of all thou surveyest. Thou art here, there, and everywhere—on land, in water, and in the sky; in trees and plants and leaves.

Thou art, indeed, something incomparable, indescribable. Thou art the scalene triangle of Euclid, or an indeterminate equation. Inflated with pride as thou art, may my respect for thee never grow less. For otherwise I shall be ruined with my family.

Not to speak of an insignificant person like me, even learned Mahamahopadhyayas and professors of grammar and rhetoric fail to describe thy lineage. Thy learning, thy knowledge, thy wisdom, are as deep and tempestuous as the sea. Even European savants of deep insight fail to fathom their unfathomable depths.

All officials, from the Lieutenant-Governor down to the office clerk, appreciate thy virtues. If thou art dissatisfied, British rule in India totters to its foundations. If one displeases thee, one is doomed to starvation. I shall prosper if I keep thee gratified. So mayest thou never be displeased with me.

It is said that thou art a saviour of sinners.—If a Deputy Magistrate, hardened in sin, throws himself on thy mercy, he can easily cross the Byturni and is saved. If I ever commit a crime, save me, protect me.

The Vedas and the Tantras, the Puranas and the Upanishads, the Sankhya, the Patanjali, and the Nyāya, all have failed to describe thee in full—to describe thee as thou art. Thou art not found described even in the Bible and the Koran. Thou art above all scriptures. I bow to thee again and again.

12. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd November has the following:—

The Bengal Police.

We are always ready to blame the Bengal Police. The police takes bribes, the police oppresses and harasses people, the police is a body of liars and cheats, the police is Satan incarnate—such is the public impression, and it is this impression which the native journalists are always found, for various reasons, to strengthen and confirm. Nobody believes that any one willingly, or through malice, vilifies the police. As a matter of fact, the police has, in many cases, in different matters and under varying circumstances, to bear the burden of censure. The police is not faultless, nor is it the case that there are only saints in the police service. The truth is, there are sinners and fiends just as there are righteous.

HITAVADI
Nov. 2nd, 1900.

and good men in the police. But it is owing to Government's faulty arrangements and unsatisfactory procedure that the people look upon the police with fear and consternation.

We shall, at the outset, give a list of the duties which a Sub-Inspector or daroga in charge of a thana is required to perform. On the occurrence of a theft or dacoity within his jurisdiction, the first thing for the Sub-Inspector to do is to report it to higher police authority and next to enter in his diary any enquiry or investigation he may have made into the case, make three copies of such entry, and decide which of the forms should apply to the accused, and then send him up for trial. The Police officer should then do his utmost to get the accused convicted and punished by the trying Magistrate, for acquittal of the accused would mean the Sub-Inspector's ruin. He must, if the case fails, submit a score of explanations, put up with censure and harassment, and most probably pay a fine or suffer degradation. If any person known to have been punished at any time as a thief or dacoit lives within his jurisdiction, the Sub-Inspector must keep a sharp eye on him and must collect information every day about the places he resorts to, his doings, his means of earning a livelihood, the people who help or befriend him, and all such matters. If all of a sudden any superior officer should question him about any such person, the Sub-Inspector must be ready with all the information required. If any Hindu or Musalman preacher appears within the local limits of his thana and holds meetings and gives addresses on religious subjects, he must keep himself informed of the matter, and ascertain where such preacher resides, what he says, how he conducts himself towards the people, who the people are who regard him with excessive veneration, how many are those who flock to hear him and how eager they are to hear him, and many other similar matters. The visit of any sannyasi preacher of the *Gorakshini sabhas*, any speaker on political subjects, or any Wahabi Musalman to any place within his jurisdiction means infinite trouble and endless worry for the Sub-Inspector. He must dispose of the daily office work, catch thieves, conduct cases, register the attendance of village chaukidars, go out on his rounds, and dog the steps of the political preacher, the agent of the *Gorakshini sabha*, and the Wahabi Maulvi. He must enter in his register the name of the zamindar, or the wealthy or influential man who harbours, encourages or assists such preacher, agent, or Maulvi. The Sub-Inspector is required to prepare the prices-current of food-grains and keep himself informed of the state and prospects of the crops within his jurisdiction. All information regarding drought, excessive rainfall, flood, and fire he must collect and forward to the Subdivisional Officer as well as to his departmental superiors. It is his duty to correctly prepare birth and death statistics, and on the outbreak of an epidemic to promptly report to all higher authorities the number of deaths caused by it, the measures adopted to check it, and the conduct and attitude of the zamindars and other influential men in regard to it. As for plague or famine, such occurrences impose excessive labour upon and cause the severest strain to police officers. At the present moment their troubles have been aggravated by the throwing of the census work on their shoulders. Such is the proper and legitimate work of the Police Department, failure to do which results in loss of appointment, and may lead even to imprisonment. There is, besides this, non-departmental or miscellaneous work. When superior officers from the Divisional Commissioner down to the Inspector of Police are out on tours of inspection, the Sub-Inspector must procure for them all necessaries, from fodder for horse to eggs for the *Sahab's* tea, and even meat and other articles of food. He must be present in time, *salaam* according to regulation and ceaselessly carry out orders.

In the police service light offences are frequently visited with disproportionately heavy punishments—with loss of appointment, and even imprisonment. All enquiries into cases of theft, dacoity, and similar offences must be finished within the period fixed for the purpose, and if the offender cannot be caught and sent up for trial within that period, the police officer is sure to be censured, and may be fined. A Sub-Inspector has to do every day an amount of writing which a *pukka* clerk would find it hard to dispose of even by regularly working for four hours a day, and has, besides, to go through a quantity of other work which it is doubtful whether even four men can overtake

with ease. The result is, the work turned out proves bad and unsubstantial from beginning to end—all the sixteen *cowris* are false. There is bribery in and there is bribery out; truth appears as falsehood. What never occurred is shown as one that did occur. The honest man is proved to be a thief, and a thief comes out as an honest man.

Nobody, not pinched with extreme hunger, accepts service in the Police Department. To be able to retain that service, a police officer must be capable of doing, and, as a matter of fact, does, everything. The Inspector-General of the Bengal Police is a civilian who, when he first joins his post, does not, and cannot, understand anything. He only issues new orders, and thereby harasses, his subordinates. But as soon as he begins to understand the work of the department and acquires ability to exercise his judgment, promotion comes to him, and his successor, a new man, begins to learn the work. These constant changes injure the department, the subordinate officers being those who suffer the greatest injustice. The officers of the Calcutta Police are not so overworked. In Calcutta the Sub-Inspectors have to do comparatively light work. There is a separate Detective Department, and work is conducted on excellent principles. In fact, the police officers of Calcutta are not so unfavourably spoken of. Many of them are placed in a position of independence. That is why we are compelled to say that it is Government's error of judgment and unwise arrangements which have made the Police Department the Satan's den it is. Government does everything with the aid of the police, and that is why the police has come to possess unusual and boundless powers. But as Government is unwilling to incur any considerable expenditure, and gets its work done by half-educated men at a small cost, most undesirable consequences follow. And if the people of the country say this in plain language, they are put to endless trouble.

13. The editor of the *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 3rd November says that he paid a visit to the allopathic depository at 29 Beadon Street, Calcutta, at 9 P.M. on the 31st October last, and saw cocaine on sale in a screened room.

Sale of cocaine in Calcutta.

14. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th November has the following:—

The Calcutta Police.

It is said that there has been a recrudescence of theft in Calcutta. A theft here and a theft there need not cause anxiety; but there is a novelty in this recrudescence of theft. Harmless passers-by are often decoyed into bye-lanes and robbed. Well-dressed thieves frequently enter into houses without exciting any suspicion, and leave with something or other adroitly stolen. But this is the first time that we hear of daring thefts being frequently committed on public roads in Calcutta. There have very lately been some thefts of a daring character in College Street and Cornwallis Street, in which the thieves forcibly took off from the doors of houses the rings to which padlocks are fastened. There is a constable in every beat, and Police Inspectors go out on their rounds at night. Yet there have been daring thefts in frequented and well-lighted thoroughfares like College Street and Cornwallis Street. The thefts in the shop of S. K. Lahiri, of College Street, and in the shops of Govinda Babu and Babu Haridas Chatterjee, of Cornwallis Street, were of an extremely daring character. It seems that those who are committing these thefts do not care a straw for our guardians of the peace, who while away their time in the tobacco and betel shops. To tell the truth, these constables are worthless. They are only good for show. They have no arms with them, and they are not expected to cope with daring thieves or robbers. These police scare-crows, as a rule, make themselves scarce during a riot or other disturbance, and appear on the scene, and rant and bluster only when all disturbance has ceased. In short, it would be perverting the truth to say that these police constables help in any way in maintaining the public peace. All that they care for is to seek opportunities for feathering their own nests. To tell the truth, there are few crimes which are not committed in Calcutta in broad daylight. Gambling is very frequent in the Calcutta streets. Many innocent people from the mufassal are cheated by *badmashes*, who deceive them into buying brass as gold. The constables, however, are indifferent, and never bestir themselves in putting down these crimes. Their sole duty seems to be to take offenders into custody after they have been arrested and handed over to them. If the police take it into their

NAVA YUG,
Nov. 3rd, 1900.

PRATIVASI,
Nov. 5th, 1900.

head to trace stolen property, the owner of the property is made to pay them something in the shape of carriage hire. If the property stolen be valuable, the owner willingly pays this money, but owners of stolen articles of small value can ill-afford to pay it.

Brothels are now being opened even in respectable quarters, and at night peace is often disturbed by drunkards. Constables are never seen to prevent these disturbances. Nay, these constables are generally seen in the company of prostitutes, who solicit on the public streets. Instead of putting down immoral solicitation, they openly encourage it.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

15. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 1st November requests the Chief Commissioner of Assam to send for and look into the papers of the Lepage case, which was tried by Mr. L. O. Clarke, Assistant Commissioner of Jorehat. A mere perusal of the judgment passed in the case is enough to show the Assistant Commissioner's bias in favour of the accused. He never uses the word "Babu" before the name of the native complainant, whereas whenever he has occasion to speak of the accused, he speaks of him as H. M. Lepage, Esq.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 1st, 1900.

16. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 1st November says that Mr. Lucas, Sub-divisional Officer of Cox's Bazar, in the Chittagong district, is still as full of a sense of his own power and prestige as he ever was. Soon after his arrival in the subdivision, he beat a nephew of Akbar Ali Khan, a zamindar, without any provocation. He had to repent of his conduct afterwards. This is not the only instance of Mr. Lucas's highhanded conduct. Although it is not right to be always finding fault with high officials, the writer had on more occasions than one pointed out the faults of Mr. Lucas in the hope that he would mend his ways. But he has been disappointed. Mr. Lucas has not yet seen fit to restrain himself, and has disgusted everybody by his arbitrariness. It is to be hoped that the Magistrate and the Commissioner will instruct Mr. Lucas to mend his ways. And if Mr. Lucas does not mend himself, the writer will be obliged to disclose many scandalous things regarding him.

JYOTI,
Nov. 1st, 1900.

17. With reference to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* wish to see Babu Gopal Chandra Mukharji, a senior Deputy Magistrate, now in Khulna, transferred to some better place, the *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 1st November says that Babu Gopal Chandra's transfer may please the editor of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, but it will grieve the people of Khulna, because it is doubtful if a kind and just Magistrate like Gopal Babu ever came to that district. It is to be hoped that the *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* wish will not be fulfilled and that Gopal Babu will be kept at Khulna some time longer.

KHULNA,
Nov. 1st, 1900.

18. The *Sanjay* [Faridpur] of the 2nd November does not approve of the appointment of Babu Kumud Nath Mukharji to a District Magistrateship. Kumud Babu did not give a good account of himself at Rangpur. Mr. B. C. Mitra, Officiating District Judge of Faridpur, had a good deal to say about him when he was the Subdivisional Officer of Madaripur. The Government has not been well advised in appointing such an inexperienced Deputy Magistrate to such a high post.

SANJAY,
Nov. 2nd, 1900.

19. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th November says that no one ought to be sorry at the decision of the Allahabad High Court in the Cawnpur riot case. There is still some hope of saving the lives of those the death sentence on whom has been confirmed. A petition should be submitted to the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, and also to Lord Curzon, praying for mercy. They will no doubt perceive the injustice of hanging so many people on the strength of the evidence given by six police constables, who may, for all that we know, have been tutored by the police.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Nov. 5th, 1900.

20. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th November is glad that Mr. Abdur Rahim has been appointed Officiating Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta. In some quarter objection was raised to the appointment on

BHARAT MITRA,
Nov. 5th, 1900.

the ground that Mr. Abdur Rahim has no experience of Police Court business. But the diligence with which Mr. Abdur Rahim has been discharging his duties since he assumed charge of the appointment, shows that he is quite competent for the post. Besides, there is no denying that Mr. Abdur Rahim is a man of independent views—a qualification which is indispensably necessary in the holder of a post of trust and responsibility like the Presidency Magistrate. It is this qualification which has made Mr. Pearson so successful a Magistrate in the Calcutta Police Court. It is to be hoped that after the retirement of Nawab Syed Amir Hossein Mr. Abdur Rahim will be confirmed in that post.

(d) — Education.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
Oct. 30th, 1900.

21. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 30th October draws the attention of the Assam Government to the inconvenience which is caused to the students of the Berry White Medical School in Dibrugarh in consequence of the teaching in that institution being conducted in English. In Bengal both the medical schools teach in the vernacular of the province.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Oct. 31st, 1900.

22. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 31st October writes as follows:—
Mr. Pedler as Director of Public Instruction.

We are pained to hear the Education Department badly spoken of, and it has grieved us not a little to read a long and well-reasoned article regarding it in the *Indian Daily News* of the 23rd October last. For the purposes of the Middle English and Middle Vernacular examinations, Mr. Pedler, the present Director of Public Instruction, has divided the province into three circles, and has prescribed a separate set of text-books for each circle. This has been extremely injudicious. Certain notifications regarding promotions of teachers, lately published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, struck the public with greater wonder. The *Indian Daily News* has earned the thanks of the public by sharply criticising Mr. Pedler's partiality, want of consideration and unfair treatment of his subordinates. The editor has, in fact, stated in so many words that Mr. Pedler is quite unfit to be the head of the Education Department, and that his administration of that Department has been a "monumental failure."

The muddle Mr. Pedler made in the matter of the affiliation of the Midnapore Hindu School also testifies to his inefficiency as Director of Public Instruction.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 1st, 1900.

23. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 1st November complains that one centre of the Lower Primary Scholarship examination in the Hooghly district has been transferred from the Kaikala to the Haripal School. The examination was being held in the Kaikala School for the last ten or fifteen years, and it is not known why this change has been made. The Assistant Secretary of the Kaikala School used to entertain the candidates and their *Guru mahasays* free of cost.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 2nd, 1900.

24. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd November writes as follows with reference to the new rules regarding hostels and mess-houses for students:—
Hostels and mess-houses for students.

This attempt to keep the students within the bounds of discipline is certainly praiseworthy, but is the rigour of discipline alone sufficient for the purpose of imparting good education? Hard-and-fast rules of discipline are not wanting in the Eden Hindu Hostel, but naughty boys do not find it difficult to break these rules and set evil examples to boys who are naturally good and obedient. The inmates of the hostel indulge in football and cricket to an inordinate extent, and waste the hard-earned money of their fathers or guardians on these games. Luxury proves too tempting to them, and in the heat of their youth they violate all moral laws and take to dishonest and deceitful ways, in order to gratify their desires.

Our boys want such education as will enable them to live in Bengal happily and comfortably as Bengalis—to be economical, persevering, hard-working, active, truthful, honest, forbearing, just, and sympathetic—to be able to improve their society, religion, and sanitation—to be capable of maintaining large families and giving shelter to those that seek it. Our society cannot, and does not, provide such a system of education, and the leaders of our society are

indifferent. This is why we have to apply to Government for the reform of the present educational system.

The new rules regarding hostels and mess-houses for students will not be productive of any immediate good, but will prove a source of trouble and inconvenience to many poor students. There are many students too poor to pay the charges of a hostel or a regular mess-house. Many of them live in the cheap mess-houses for clerks and other office employes. Many, again, live in a *gadi* or an *arhat*, i.e., in the office of native traders, and provide themselves, somehow or other, with one meal a day in a native hotel. There are not a few students who are obliged to earn what they can by private tuition, in order to support not only themselves, but also their old mothers at home. It is impossible for such students to live in a regular mess-house for students. The new rules will also make it expensive for students to live in licensed mess-houses. It may be said that poor students should not live in Calcutta, where living is so expensive. But it should not be forgotten that Calcutta is the one place which affords ample facilities to poor students for earning a scanty livelihood.

25. The *Bangabandhu* [Chandernagore] of the 3rd November suggests the adoption of native methods of physical exercise instead of the European methods practised in the schools of Bengal. To teach schoolboys the use of the *lathi* as a weapon will be not only providing a good physical exercise for them, but also teaching them a valuable lesson, specially in these days when the people are allowed the use of no fire arms and dacoities have become so common in the country. Skill in the use of the *lathi* will not make the people disloyal or induce them to use it against Europeans or Eurasians, except when the latter commit oppressions.

BANGABANDHU,
Nov. 3rd, 1900.

Physical exercise in the schools
in Bengal.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

26. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 31st October says that two goats belonging to a woman of Saidabad, in the Murshidabad district, were taken to the Sujaganj pound on the 29th October last. When the woman came to take them back the pound-keeper demanded eight annas as his due, and refused to let off the animals unless he was paid at least six annas. The woman refused to pay more than three annas, the legal fine and diet charge for two goats, and saw the Vice-Chairman of the Municipality, and complained to him against the pound-keeper's conduct. The Vice-Chairman sent a parwana, requiring the pound-keeper to release the woman's goats on receipt of the legal fine and fee. The pound-keeper paid no heed to the parwana, and exacted six annas from the woman, but granted no printed receipt in the prescribed form. This pound keeper always commits such extortion and never gives printed receipts. Mere threats will not set him right. He ought to be brought to justice.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Oct. 31st, 1900.

27. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 1st November complains of overcrowding in the hackney carriages plying between Beadon Square and Baranagore. This overcrowding should draw the attention of the authorities.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 1st, 1900.

28. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 1st November is astonished and sorry to read the Government of Bengal's unjust strictures against Babu Nilambar Mukharji, Vice-Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality. Government said that it did not speak well for the Vice-Chairman's ability that the Accounts Department of the Municipality, the supervision of which is the only work with which the Vice-Chairman is now entrusted, was in a chaotic condition. Government may consider Nilambar Babu a worthless officer, but the late Commissioners knew how many lakhs of the rate-payers' money Nilambar Babu was the means of saving by detecting the frauds practised by contractors. It is highly satisfactory, however, to know that Mr. Greer, Chairman of the Municipality, has courageously protested against the Government's charge against Nilambar Babu, and testified to his ability. One feels curious to know who is the Secretary at whose advice Government censured an experienced and

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 1st, 1900.

The Vice-Chairman of the Cal-
cutta Municipality censured.

respected officer like Nilambar Babu. Had any contractor anything to do with the passing of the censure?

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Nov. 2nd, 1900.

29. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakār* [Calcutta] of the 2nd November says that Babu Nilambar Mukharji, Vice-Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality, does not deserve the censure which has been passed upon him by the Government of Bengal. He is an efficient and hardworking officer, and the faults in the administration of the Municipality for which he has been taken to task are due solely to the inefficiency and want of a sense of responsibility of the subordinate officers. The subordinate staff must be completely overhauled, if the Vice-Chairman is to show good work.

The Government has also expressed dissatisfaction with the working of the Conservancy Department. The former Commissioners were censured by the Government for not being able to carry out necessary improvements in the conservancy of the town. Since their time the number of mehters, sweepers, and conservancy carts has been very much increased. But still the conservancy of the town is in a worse condition than it was under them. Who is responsible for this state of things? Whose duty is it to supervise the subordinate staff? It is hoped the Government's strictures will make Municipal officers more mindful of their duties. A stricter administration of all the departments can make Calcutta a veritable paradise.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Nov. 4th, 1900.

30. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 4th November hopes that the Magistrate of Dacca will not disregard public opinion in the matter of the District Board's proposal to purchase Raja Rajendra Narayan Rai's house in Rai Saheb's Bazar in Dacca for locating the Board's offices. People will make insinuations against the Board if that house is purchased.

It would be better to construct a building for the District Board on any portion of the extensive lands which lie about that house and which are now covered with bad, insanitary buildings, or to construct one on the land to the west of the Dacca College, if that land is not going to be used for the construction of an Engineering College.

BANGABHUMI,
Nov. 6th, 1900.

31. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 6th November complains that the municipal roads at Dhakuria are all in a very bad condition. They are not lighted, and the municipal carts do not make their appearance to take away the accumulated filth on the roadside.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
Nov. 6th, 1900.

32. Referring to the Chemical Examiner's report that the water of the Dharma Sagar tank in Comilla is extremely bad for drinking purposes, the *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 6th November says that it will be a discredit to the Comilla Municipality if the water of its reserve tanks come to be so badly spoken of. Comilla enjoys good health simply on account of its good drinking water, and it will be a matter of regret if Comilla loses its health in consequence of the Municipality's neglect in guarding those tanks against pollution. Men and women have often been noticed to bathe and wash domestic utensils in the reserve tanks at night.

(f) - Questions affecting the land.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Nov. 1st, 1900.

33. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st November says that the ghatwali settlement operations in the Bankura district are nearly completed, and the ghatwals have been exempted from service, and will be allowed a mukarari right in the lands they occupy on payment of a fixed rent. So far, so good. But how long will these ghatwals remain in possession of their lands in the face of the usurious money-lenders? Now that the ghatwals have received some tangible right in the lands which they have been occupying for generations, it will not be very long before they are dispossessed of them. All ghatwali pattas and kabuliyats have not yet been registered, but already a large number of mortgages on the ghatwali lands are in the hands of the money-lenders. The mukarari pattas which are being granted to the ghatwals will, without doubt, effect a nominal improvement of their condition, but they will, in reality

be the most effective means of their being speedily dispossessed of their lands. If the ghatwals are to be saved, an agricultural bank should be opened for their benefit. Government has been very kind to them, and should take steps to keep them in the enjoyment of the lands it has been gracious enough to settle on them.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

34. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 24th October says that the Boharkathir *khal* in the Gaurnadi police-station;

KASIPUR NIVASI,
Oct. 24th, 1900.

Silting up of some canals in the Backergunge district.

the Nalchirar *khal* in Basudebpara; the Charanilanger *khal* from Rahamatpur in the Kotwali police-station; the *khal* in Kalasgram; the Katakhal *khal* in Lakhutia; the Bharani *khal* in Nathullabad and Chahutpur; the Kaljirar *khal* in Karapur, and a number of other *khal*s in the Backergunge district are fast silting up. The old *khal* in Bheduria, too, is completely silted up. The silting up of these canals, which serve both as drainage and irrigation channels, is telling upon the health of the people as well as upon the fertility of the soil. The District Board of Backergunge should remember that canals are as important in that district as roads.

35. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 31st October says that the condition of the Bhagirathi river is becoming more and more deplorable every year.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Oct. 31st, 1900.

The Bhagirathi near Berhampore.

This year its water has already gone down to such a low level that a week more and the Katwa line steamers will have to stop service; and the Engineering Department is already making arrangements for the sticking of pins. The steamer service between Azimganj and Gorabazar, too, will have to be discontinued after a fortnight or so. The only means of relieving the people of this district of the difficulties of communication, &c., to which they have been put by the silting up of the river are either dredging its mouth, and thereby keeping it navigable all the year round, or constructing a railway line through the district. But the former is the more advisable course to adopt, because it will not only facilitate communication and trade and improve the health of the villages on the river's banks by supplying them with good drinking water, but ensure a good revenue to the Government in the shape of tolls, which have now considerably fallen off. In reply to a question on the subject in the Bengal Council by Babu Baikuntha Nath Sen, the Government promised to attend to the matter. But nothing more has been heard of. The people of Murshidabad should submit a memorial on the subject to the Lieutenant-Governor.

36. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 2nd November has heard various complaints against Sarada Babu, station

RANGPUR VARTAVAHA,
Nov. 2nd, 1900.

The railway station master of Rangpur.

master of the Rangpur station. The case instituted by a fisherman against Madhu Babu, railway head constable, is believed to have been instituted at his instigation. Some time ago there was a quarrel between Sarada Babu's and Madhu Babu's sons, and hence Sarada Babu's malice against Madhu Babu. A few years ago there was a case against Sarada Babu himself, which was amicably settled. This station master should be warned to be more careful in his conduct.

37. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd November complains that high-

HITAVADI,
Nov. 2nd, 1900.

Railway grievances not redressed.

handedness is increasing among the employes of the East Indian Railway. Colonel Gardiner used to listen to complaints against railway employes, but the present worthless Agent never makes an enquiry into any complaint. He depends absolutely upon the reports of his subordinates. To complain against a Railway employe is, therefore, as useless as crying in the wilderness. Eurasian Railway employes ill-treating native passengers are never punished by the East Indian Railway authorities. Only the other day one Mawson, a Eurasian employe of this railway, was punished in the Howrah Court. According to the rules of the East Indian Railway, Mawson should have been dismissed. But the Agent has not dismissed him, either because he is not aware of the existence of any such rule, or because he does not care to enforce it. If the native railway passengers have to go to law for the redress of every grievance

against the Railway employes, it will be almost impossible for them to travel by rail.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 2nd, 1900.

38. A correspondent of the same paper complains against the guard in charge of the Goalundo "mixed" train, by which he was travelling on the 5th September last. There were seven other passengers in the compartment occupied by the correspondent. Between the Halsa and the Poradah stations the guard demanded fare for their luggage. At the Poradah station their luggage was weighed, and Rs. 3-8 was charged for two maunds and four seers. They were, however, told that they could take the luggage on payment of only one rupee. The correspondent and his companions agreed to pay the full fare, but wanted to have their luggages weighed separately. This request was refused. There was a dispute for some time, but at the interference of another guard, named Babu Trailakyanath Chakravarti, they were at last let off.

39. A correspondent complains in the *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 6th November of the want of waiting accommodation at the Pashkura station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, and also of the conduct of the station menials. The booking arrangements at the station are also unsatisfactory. Tickets are issued only a short while before train time. This causes rush and overcrowding.

Another correspondent complains in the same paper that third-class passengers at the Howrah station have often to miss the train, even if they come three or four minutes before the train starts. No one is allowed to go to the platform through the third-class passage after the first bell, as the Plague Inspector leaves the platform about that time.

(h)—General.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 1st, 1900.

40. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 1st November writes as follows:—

The Director-General of Agriculture.

There is an agricultural department of the Government, the object of which is to promote Indian agriculture. But how far has this department promoted agriculture is not known. The frequent outbreaks of famine do not certainly prove that agriculture is being promoted in this country. The post of Director-General of Agriculture is vacant, and it has been proposed to appoint a scientific expert to the post. He will carry on agricultural experiments and introduce agricultural reforms. It is most likely that his work of agricultural experiment will not be finished before his time is up. The appointment of a scientific expert to the Directorship of Agriculture will benefit none but the European merchants. They will have new agricultural products scientifically analysed by this scientific expert, and will try to create markets for them.

As our contemporary of the *Prativasi* has rightly observed, the Indian agriculturist does not want theory for the promotion of agriculture. Let agricultural banks be established, let the breed of agricultural cattle be improved, let the agriculturists have improved ploughs, and, above all, let the accumulated agricultural experience recorded in the dusty, musty volumes of the department be utilised. It will then be time for making fresh experiments.

BASUMATI.

41. The same paper writes as follows with reference to the prosecution of one Siddheswar Pain for the non-registration of a publication, named *Sraddhatattwa*:—

Prosecution for the non-registration of books.

This book was published some ten years ago, and great indeed must be the activity of those Government employes who have discovered the fact of its non-registration after the lapse of so many years. The law regarding the registration of books should be amended, so that a printer may not be punished ten or twenty years after the publication of a book.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 1st, 1900.

42. With reference to the new shooting rules framed for European soldiers, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 1st November writes as follows:—

The new shooting rules.

It is fortunate for India that Lord Curzon has come out as its Viceroy. The firmness and sense of justice exhibited by His Lordship in the Rangoon outrage case fully convinced us that during his rule steps would certainly be taken to put a check upon the oppressions and outrages

which are committed in this country by European soldiers. We are now gratified to see our hope fulfilled. If the Military authorities faithfully carry out the orders now issued, oppression by European soldiers will become, at least, scarce, if it is not completely checked.

43. The *Hitaradi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd November has the following with reference to the recent Government circular regarding the granting of shooting passes to European soldiers:—

HITAVADI,
Nov. 2nd, 1900.

The recent Government circular regarding the granting of shooting passes to European soldiers has given rise to a mixed feeling of pleasure and pain in our mind. We are glad because the Government is trying its best to prevent the murder of natives by European soldiers and put down their tyranny and high handedness. The new rules, however, do not completely remove our anxiety. Lord Curzon has again and again been annoyed by native deaths from the guns of European soldiers, but he has not been able to fully understand the extent of Anglo-Indian race-partiality. He seems to be of opinion that the natives are in the habit of exaggerating and the Europeans in the habit of understating European oppression in the country. He has, therefore, struck the mean between the two extremes, and issued the new shooting circular accordingly. It will not, however, take Lord Curzon long to ascertain the true state of things if he personally enquires into it.

We must, however, be grateful to Lord Curzon for the new rules regarding the granting of shooting passes to European soldiers. He has done great good to the public, as the new rules are sure to put down the highhandedness of European soldiers to a large extent. European oppression will not, however, be completely put down so long as Anglo-Indians do not learn to look upon native lives as valuable—as valuable indeed as European lives. There is no want of laws and regulations in the country. What is wanted is their proper enforcement. Hanging is the punishment for murder, but how many Europeans have been hanged for murdering natives?

44. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 2nd November says that if the rigorous rules which have been newly framed by the Government of India for regulating the grant of shooting passes to European soldiers are observed to the letter, oppression by such soldiers will cease.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Nov. 2nd, 1900.

45. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th November writes, with reference to the circular regarding the granting of shooting passes to European soldiers, that it will reflect great credit on the name of Lord Curzon. If soldiers are made to strictly conform to the rules laid down in the circular, there will be no more complaints against European soldiers out hunting.

BHARAT MITRA,
Nov. 5th, 1900.

46. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th November complains that the Accountant-General's office was closed only one day during the Kali and the Jagaddhatri pujas. Why were not gazetted holidays observed in this Government office? It is hoped that Lord Curzon will make an enquiry into the complaint.

PRATIVASI,
Nov. 5th, 1900.

47. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 6th November writes, with reference to the circular regarding the granting of shooting passes to European soldiers, that it will enhance the security of native life. There will not, however, be complete security so long as the distinction made between native and European does not wholly disappear.

BANGABHUMI,
Nov. 6th, 1900.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

48. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 2nd November says that Lord Curzon's noble act in releasing the members of the Manipur royal family from imprisonment will spread his fame far and wide. The family has sufficiently atoned for its indiscreet acts, and the kindhearted Viceroy, seeing no further necessity for the imprisonment of its surviving members, has been gracious enough to release them. It is to be hoped that His Excellency will also order Jila Singh's release and make some provision for all these released men and women.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Nov. 2nd, 1900.

HINDI BANGAVASI
Nov. 5th, 1900.

49. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th November is sorry that the deposed Raja of Kalahandi, in his petition to Lord Curzon, has prayed that if his prayer is not granted, His Excellency will be pleased to order him to be hanged. This expression of the petitioner shows that poverty has made him so desperate that even his life has become a burden to him. It is to be hoped that Lord Curzon will show mercy to the deposed Maharaja, who is living with his family the life of a beggar.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Oct. 31st, 1900.

50. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 31st October draws the attention of the authorities to the distress which is prevailing in the Midnapore district, and says that it would have been well if Mr. Faulder, Divisional Commissioner, who is just now on a visit to the district, instead of exchanging mere formal visits with the zamindars and talukdars, had held conferences with them as to the best means of alleviating the distress, or called a public meeting to discuss the subject. The authorities and the zamindars and talukdars should not neglect to adopt precautionary measures. If they do so, it will be difficult to save the raiyats from a dire famine.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

JYOTI,
Nov. 1st, 1900.

51. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 1st November writes as follows:—
While praising the liberality of his own countrymen in the last Indian famine, Lord Curzon administered an uncalled-for and undeserved rebuke to the Indians for their want of generosity in succouring their fellow-countrymen. This rebuke does not redound to Lord Curzon's credit as a statesman. In trying to arrive at the conclusion that "native India has not yet reached as high a standard of practical philanthropy or charity as might have been expected," Lord Curzon showed a poor acquaintance with India's social economy. The Indians exercise their generosity in a way very different from Englishmen. Englishmen never open their purse-strings except when occasion requires them to do so. But Indians keep their purse-strings perpetually open, because charity is with them a religious duty—a religious merit which a man must possess for his soul's gratification. Both an Englishman and an Indian will come forward to help a man who is about to be ruined. Both will be charitable, because the occasion requires them to be such. But there is a wide difference between an Indian and an Englishman so far as the practice of charity in every-day life is concerned. An Englishman spends no end of money on food, luxuries, and amusements, but does not think of spending anything on charity every day. But an Indian spends something in charity every day, and on every festive occasion sets apart a portion of his money to be spent on charity. Hospitality is a quality unknown to Englishmen; but in India even a beggar considers himself failing in his religious duty if he does not share his scanty mouthful, obtained by begging, with the hungry man who comes to his door for food.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Nov. 2nd, 1900.

52. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 2nd November says that the Government of Bengal has rendered a much-needed service to the public by warning it against men who pose as medical practitioners on the strength of degrees purchased from America and other countries. The Government's warning to the public will benefit also the profession.

NAVA YUG,
Nov. 3rd, 1900.

53. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 3rd November publishes Mr. Slacke's letter on the subject of the American degrees which are offered for sale to the people of India, and warns the public.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 3rd, 1900.

54. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd November writes that the editor of an Indian newspaper received, some time ago, some buttons bearing the words "Wanted independence of Canada" stamped upon them. The editor commented upon this in the following way:—

Canada is an English dependency, but is virtually free. It has a Parliament of its own, and its people elect members for this Parliament. The

Governor-General and his Ministers rule the country with the help of this Parliament, the Ministers being chosen by the members from among themselves. England has no hand in the management of Canadian finances. The Canadians, however, are not satisfied even with this large measure of freedom. Canada was primarily a French dependency, and its French population, which is large, wants to have the country declared a Republic. These French Canadians hold meetings, and use various other means to preach liberty and freedom. Liberty mottoes are stamped or engraven on many articles of Canadian manufacture. We have received from some unknown quarter Canadian buttons with the following impression: "Wanted independence of Canada." Canada is virtually independent. Why, then, this preaching of independence? A Canadian Minister came to the Paris Exhibition, and made seditious speeches. The Governor-General of Canada requested him to retract what he had said. He refused to do this, and resigned. He was followed by another Minister. The Governor-General had at last to yield.

The writer in the *Bangavasi* is annoyed that such buttons should be received and commented upon in this way by an Indian newspaper.

55. Referring to the English translation of the book written by a

HINID BANGAVASI,
Nov. 5th, 1900.

A Russian book translated into English.

Russian General on India, the *Hin i Bangavasi*

[Calcutta] of the 5th November observes that it is a great pity that an Englishman like Sir George Birdwood should translate a book which contains many things calculated to spread disaffection in India. The writer of the book has pointed out the resemblance between some social customs of Russia and India. The writer has also mentioned some cases in which the European soldiers charged with having murdered natives were declared not guilty by European jurors. Such a book ought not to be allowed to come to India.

56. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th November has the following with reference to the proposed Holwell monument:--

PRATIVASI,
Nov. 5th, 1900.

The proposed Holwell monument.

It is said that a monument, to be called "The Holwell Monument," is going to be erected at the alleged site of the Black Hole. Monument indeed! Why this attempt to erect a Holwell monument so late in the day? The British Empire in India is the lasting monument of British rule. Will a Holwell monument enhance the glory of British achievements? Deplorable, indeed, is the relation between the rulers and the ruled in this country. It should, therefore, be the first care of all right-minded men not to kindle, but to extinguish, race animosity. Unfortunately, however, an attempt is going to be made to revive the memory of an almost forgotten massacre. Race animosity is the greatest enemy of peace and progress, and wise statesmen always try to put down race animosity. We cannot praise the wisdom or sagacity of those who are going to add fuel to the fire of race animosity, which was about to be extinguished.

URIYA PAPERS.

57. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 17th October is sorry to find that the debt of the India Government has increased by 46 crores of rupees in the past 16

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Oct. 17th, 1900.

years, and that this is exclusive of the debt contracted in its behalf in England. The writer argues that this is not a sound state of affairs, and that there is something radically wrong in the administration of that country.

58. The same paper is glad to learn that His Excellency the Viceroy is

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

Lord Curzon and the subordinate officers of Government.

making himself acquainted with the condition of the subordinate officials of the Postal Department, and intends to do the same in connection with other departments. The writer hopes that some of the just grievances of the subordinate officials may be removed by the kindness and firmness of His Excellency.

59. The same paper is sorry to find that there were floods in the

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

More floods in an Orissa river. Burabatang river even after the Dasahara, and these floods only added to the misery already inflicted on many by the previous floods.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Oct. 17th, 1900.

60. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 17th October regrets to learn that a registered letter sent from the Bamra post office to the Sonepur post office and addressed to the Raja of Sonepur was destroyed by some body, and urges that the Postal authorities ought to find out the real culprit and bring him to justice.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

61. The same paper suggests that the money-order commission for remitting any amount up to Rs. 5 should be reduced from two annas to one anna in the interests of a large number of poor men, who make small remittances every month, and is of opinion that the proposed change will not in any way affect the income of the Postal Department.

UTKALDIPKA,
Oct. 27th, 1900.

62. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 27th October is glad to learn that the Munsif of Aska, in Ganjam, has ordered Uriya as Court language. Uriya language, which will henceforth be recognised as the Court language of that part of the Madras Presidency.

UTKALDIPKA.

63. The Sankhemundi correspondent of the same paper urges the natives of Orissa to avail themselves of the opportunity of attending on His Excellency the Viceroy during his tour through Orissa by presenting a petition to bring the different parts of Orissa, namely Ganjam, Sambalpur, and Orissa proper, under one Provincial Government. This proposal has been before several Provincial Governments for a large number of years; and it is desirable that the Supreme Government should pronounce its opinion on the subject.

UTKALDIPKA.

64. The Kuapal correspondent of the same paper regrets that his proposal was misunderstood by the Translator, and that he meant that the Calcutta dak should pass through Dhanmandal railway station, in the Cuttack district, via Kuapal, Salepur to Kendrapara, in which case the residents of those places would receive their Calcutta letters, &c., a few hours before they are received under the existing arrangements.

UTKALDIPKA.

65. The Khondmahal correspondent of the same paper regrets to notice the departure of Mr. J. E. Friend-Pereira, the tahsildar of that place, who had endeared himself to the Khonds by his justice and liberality, and states that but for his watchfulness, a large number of Khonds would have died of starvation.

ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSHAK,
Nov. 1st, 1900.

66. The *Paridarshak* [Sylhet] of the 1st November is glad to hear that the Viceroy will appoint Mr. Cotton, Chief Commissioner of Assam, an Additional Member of His Excellency's Legislative Council when the Assam Labour Bill will come up for consideration. It is to be hoped that the advice of a popular, dutiful, and upright ruler like Mr. Cotton will enable the Council to judge rightly the complaints and grievances of both coolies and planters, and amend the present law in a manner which will remove, at least in some measure, the causes of quarrel and ill-feeling between the employers and the employed in the tea gardens.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 10th November, 1900.