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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 12th November 1904.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 31st October in

A war imminent between England and Russia.

a long article says that a war between England and Russia somewhere near Kandahar is not only inevitable, but in the opinion of experienced

politicians imminent. The Amir will be obliged to defend his own dominion. As for Persia, she could not afford to remain neutral, provided she remain prepared against such an occasion; otherwise the result of that war will be disastrous to her. The European nations keep their promises so long as their self interests are at stake. The Persian people should not be duped by the promises of these nations. They know full well the promises which Napoleon Bonaparte had made for allowing the French army to pass through Persia for invading India and also the promises which the English made to the Persians for not allowing the French to do so. Most probably Russia on the termination of her present war with Japan will turn towards Central Asia with a view to make up the loss she may sustain in the Far East. Persia should seize the opportunity to regain her lost possessions. Afghanistan in her self-defence may side either with Russia or England. But it will be more advantageous for her to side with England.

The Amir is already taking measures to strengthen his position and with that view has enlisted 5,000 Afridis into his army, which has caused anxiety to Englishmen and has occasioned the sending of a mission to Kabul headed by Mr. Dane, the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India.

2. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd November writes:—

Christianity and commerce as forerunners of conquest.

Hitherto it used to be a matter of reproach against the English that their plan of campaign in the extension of their empire involved three C's—Christianity, Commerce and Conquest. Missionaries were first sent to the land of the uncivilised heathens to preach to them the Gospel of the love of Jesus Christ. Once the missionaries obtained a footing, the next step in the plan of campaign, viz., the extension of commerce, could be managed by some means or other. These means were then put in operation. It was not unoften the case that in the meantime the uncivilised natives of the country in question, finding themselves unable to appreciate the generous motives of the new-comers, murdered some of the missionaries or opposed some of the traders. Then, of course, strictly under compulsion and only in order to preserve the national interests and prestige, the English were driven to war. Conquest now followed. And in this way the policy hitherto pursued was found to be justified by its results.

Hitherto, as shown above, three C's used to be the rule. Now, however, the first C—Christianity—is going to be dropped, leaving simply Commerce to begin with and Conquest to end with. The result of the Tibet Mission has been an extension of both commerce and political influence. As to the Commercial Mission to Persia, who can say whether its results will be an extension of commerce alone?

3. Referring to the *Times*' suggestion that the approval of the Chinese

The Tibet Mission.

Government to the document purporting to be the treaty with Tibet should be obtained as soon as possible even after some alterations if necessary, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th November asks:—

Why has this approval now become necessary, when China was not taken into account at the time the mission was sent? Mr. Cotton had said that a treaty with Tibet without China's approval would be a meaningless thing.

4. Regarding the Secretary of State's contradiction of the news wired

Treaty with Tibet.

by Reuter that the Chumbi Valley will be in the possession of the India Government for 75 years, during which the fine imposed on the Tibetans will be realized by annual instalments, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 6th November remarks that if the treaty itself be a fact, then that there is a condition like this is also a fact; but people doubt if there has been any treaty at all.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN.
Oct. 31st, 1904.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 3rd, 1904.

BHARAT MITRA,
Nov. 5th, 1904.

HITAVARTA,
Nov. 6th, 1904.

HITAVARTA.

5. The same paper having learnt that Captain O'Connor, the Secretary of the Tibet Mission, is to remain at Gyantse as chief controller of trade with Tibet, remarks that sages have rightly said, "the hill should be crossed gradually."

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

PRATIJA,
Nov. 2nd, 1904.

6. The *Pratiya* [Calcutta] of the 2nd November complains that on the plea of preserving the peace on the occasion of the gathering of pilgrims during the Durga Puja festival, armed sepoy from Alipur were this year stationed at the Kalighat temple in addition to the regular police. Some of these sepoys were seen to ascend the temple steps with their shoes on, while others were seen walking on the vestibule surrounding the temple, carrying their leather belts and their arms in leather cases on their persons.

JYOTI,
Nov. 3rd, 1904.

7. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 3rd November says that a large number of warrants have been issued against the inhabitants of the Silok village near Rangnia in the Chittagong district for having stolen away a native boy from the Chittagong Baptist Mission Church whom the missionaries had brought for conversion to Christianity. The relations of the boy who actually stole him away have absconded. The innocent people against whom the warrants have been issued have also fled. The police is repeatedly entering the village in numbers and committing all sorts of oppression. The villagers have been panic-stricken. In the opinion of the public the relations of the boy stolen have not done any serious offence in taking him away from the clutches of the missionaries. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the action of the police.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 5th, 1904.

8. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th November takes the occasion of the approach of winter to warn both the public and the police to prepare for the influx of Kabuli traders in increasing numbers. The public should resist the temptation of buying goods on credit, and remember that the Kabulis deceive them into paying twice the proper price for their goods. And the police should devise some means to keep an eye on the movements of the Kabuli bands in each particular village.

BANGAVASI.

9. The same paper warns the public and the police to be prepared for an increase of crime in those districts in Bengal which are threatened with failure of the crops. As a sign of what is coming, the case is mentioned of certain villages in the Hooghly district named Senet, Byata, Dadpur, Darpur, etc., under Polva thana, where repeated cases of theft by house-breaking have lately occurred. A local correspondent reports that the poorer villagers are now compelled to keep awake at night to guard their property. The time is approaching when the chaukidars and the police will need to exercise all the vigilance of which they are possessed.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BIRBHUM VARTA,
Oct. 31st, 1904.

10. The *Birbhum Varta* [Birbhum] of the 31st October draws attention to the inconvenience caused by Babu Manmatha Nath Sen, a local Deputy Magistrate, in prolonging the sittings of his Court even to a late hour of the night. This practice deprives many suitors of the services of good pleaders, who refuse to sacrifice their ease and comfort by taking briefs in cases which are sure to entail attendance at Court after the usual hours.

BHARAT MITRA,
Nov. 5th, 1904.

11. The *Lharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th November says :—
What an unfortunate province must the Punjab be that its ruler and its high judicial officers should be so fond of the barbarous system of punishing offenders with whipping. Of course, many a Magistrate in future will show more such cases for the very fear of losing their appointments.

12. Referring to the refusal of the Lieutenant-Governor to interfere with the Court's order passed on Sukhananda Singh and Mukhi Singh of Patna, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th November says:—

BHARAT MITRA,
Nov. 5th, 1904.

Never mind if His Honour did not see his way to interfere, but His Honour should have at least seen that the error of the Court in taking six weeks for six months was corrected.

13. Commenting on the case in which some villagers have been punished with imprisonment for assaulting two military officers of Poona who had gone on a shooting excursion and hit a boy, though accidentally, with a gun-shot, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 6th November asks:—Would the white soldiers have been punished if the boy had lost his life?

HITAVARTA,
Nov. 6th, 1904.

14. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th November notices a petition to the District Magistrate of Jessore made by one Islam Khan against the Subdivisional Officer of Narail. The facts as stated in this petition appear to be as follow:—The petitioner was plaintiff in a case before the Subdivisional Officer; the case was subsequently compromised out of Court; and on this the Subdivisional Officer demanded a contribution from him to the poor-box. On the petitioner refusing to pay he was kept in *hajat* for 18 hours. He came out and complained to the District Magistrate. On this, the Subdivisional Officer sent for the petitioner and threatened him into signing a paper withdrawing all the allegations he had made before the District Magistrate.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Nov. 9th, 1904.

(d)—Education.

15. *Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 22nd and 29th October questions the utility of the lectures that are being delivered at the Bankipur College Hall almost every week on the art of teaching, and deprecates the tendency of these days to attach more importance to athletic sports than to the moral and intellectual development of the young students.

AL PUNCH,
Oct. 22nd & 29th,
1904.

16. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 2nd November writes:—

PRATIJNA,
Nov. 2nd, 1904.

The establishment of a model college at Ranchi is a matter on which Government has set its heart. We have all along been afraid that when casting about for means to gratify their whims, the officials will turn upon the helpless mufassal zamindars. Our apprehension is evidently going to be realised in practice. It is a fact which Government cannot deny that, in order to raise funds, the help of the zamindars is the means usually resorted to by Government whenever it has any pet scheme on foot. In addition, while high officials are out on tour many of them enjoy their shooting parties and dinner parties and dances at the expense of the local zamindars. Then, again, zamindars have always been accustomed to purchase the good will of the official classes by liberally subscribing to the Dufferin Fund, the Victoria Memorial Fund and other funds. Here is a new Ranchi College Fund now coming into existence. Unlike the Victoria Memorial, the Ranchi College will be an institution which will produce a revenue of its own from the fees of the students. This consideration should have prevented the collection of subscriptions from the zamindars. Of course, if Government insists, our zamindars, whether from fear or from actual good will, are sure to contribute handsomely and without protest, even though they may have to borrow for the purpose.

17. Referring to the proceedings of the Ranchi College Executive Committee at their meeting held on the 10th October last, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd November writes:—

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 3rd, 1904.

The proposed Ranchi College. The assurance that the Presidency College will not be abolished removes a great load of fear from men's minds. Provided that the Presidency College is retained, we shall be glad rather than otherwise to see a dozen other model colleges established. But the Presidency College has not yet attained anything like perfection. For instance, its laboratories are still unprovided with the apparatus necessary to carry on original researches. Until these

and other defects in the existing college are remedied, we do not consider it quite justifiable to attempt to start an altogether new institution. Government has always pleaded want of funds as its justification for leaving this college as well as the mufassal colleges in their present backward condition. If these old colleges had first been all raised to the status of model colleges, and the establishment of a new model college had been next undertaken, then indeed there would be nothing except cause for rejoicing. As it is, this neglect of the old institutions and zeal for the setting up of a new one on the part of Government only inspires us with alarm.

We notice the names of some independent-minded gentlemen on the Executive Committee. Our request is that, if they have not already done so, they should now advise Government that its primary duty is towards the existing institutions rather than to one not yet in existence.

As regards the collection of the necessary subscriptions from the public, it has been arranged to entrust this duty in the mufassal to the Divisional Commissioners and the District Magistrates at divisional head-quarters. Every one, Sir Andrew Fraser himself among the number, can easily understand the reason which led to this arrangement being made. The Committee is perfectly well-convinced that without the use of *zuburdustee*, threats and inducements, the necessary funds cannot be raised. Of course, there is no doubt that by the help of such methods the necessary six lakhs will be screwed out of the people of Bengal. But the Committee should have considered whether or no it was proper on their part to resort to such a method. We cannot imagine how such a proposal could commend itself to a Committee which contained men like Babu Kali Churn Banerjee, Babu Bhupendranath Bose, Babu Nalin Bihari Sarkar, Mr. S. P. Sinha and Sir Gurudas Banerjee. Our firm belief is that this proposal was adopted against the opinion of the above-named gentlemen. If our impression is correct, then they ought either to get the Committee to change this resolution, or as a protest to resign their seats. If Divisional Commissioners and District Magistrates are to be set to collect subscriptions from the mufassal public, many cases of oppression are likely to arise. Bengal has already suffered from misfortune enough, and it is not fair that it should be made to put up with a fresh one. Let an unofficial Committee, like that appointed for Calcutta, entirely unconnected with Government, be appointed for each district, and let them do the work of raising money from the local public. The subscriptions should be strictly voluntary, and no threats or inducements should be used in any case.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 5th, 1904.

18. Referring to the Ranchi College scheme, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th November writes:—

The proposed Ranchi College.

The establishment of the proposed college may or may not do any good to the cause of education generally, but it is sure to threaten the existence of the Calcutta Presidency College. This is both our opinion and that of our countrymen at large. But considering the great interest which is being evinced by His Honour in the successful carrying out of the scheme, we entertain grave doubts if any objections we might raise will have any appreciable weight with the authorities. An Executive Committee has been formed to collect the necessary subscriptions, and His Honour is in consultation with the various Divisional Commissioners as to the means by which the money may be most easily collected. Lord Curzon has left a memorial of his rule in the shape of the Universities Act, and this Ranchi College will be a similar memorial of Sir Andrew Fraser's administration. This is what some people are making bold to say.

BHARAT MITRA,
Nov. 5th, 1904.

19. In reference to the proposed college at Ranchi, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th November says that the

The proposed Ranchi College.

Amrita Bazar Patrika has well said that with the Divisional Commissioner as Chairman and the District Collector as secretary of the District Committee, the Police Superintendent should have been appointed to collect the subscriptions raised. Funds for an ideal college should be realized in an equally ideal manner.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Nov. 7th, 1904.

20. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th November says:—

The proposed College at Ranchi.

There is a good deal of agitation regarding the scheme of Sir Andrew Fraser to establish a residential college at Ranchi. Some people are afraid that the opening of the

college at Ranchi would endanger the very existence of the Presidency College at Calcutta; but the Lieutenant-Governor seems bent upon carrying out his scheme at any cost. Some people dare remark that as Lord Curzon has created a name by passing the new Universities Act, so the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal means to celebrate his rule by the establishment of this new college.

21. Referring to the proposed Ranchi College, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th November writes as follows:—

HITAVADI,
Nov. 4th, 1904.

The proposed Ranchi College.

The Lieutenant-Governor has said that the Calcutta Presidency College will not be abolished unless it dies a natural death. We do not consider this pledge on the part of Sir Andrew Fraser to be a sufficient guarantee for the stability of the Calcutta institution. If the staff of the Ranchi College be more attractive than that of the Presidency College, or, in other words, if the authorities take greater care, as they will most probably do, of the former than of the latter institution, the latter will before long cease to exist. Again, any of Sir Andrew Fraser's successors in office may take a view of the matter altogether different from His Honour's view and abolish the Presidency College.

As regards the question of raising subscriptions for the establishment of the proposed college, Sir Andrew said, during the Conference in his Belvedere palace on the 17th September last, "It is a matter which depends on the feeling and support of the public." We took His Honour to mean that if the proposal to establish a college at Ranchi did not receive the moral support of the public and the pecuniary help of rich Bengalis, it would be dropped. Now, has the proposal received a hearty welcome from the public? We think not. As for the raising of subscriptions, if it is to depend on men's free will, why have Divisional Commissioners and District Magistrates been made the heads of the Subscription Committees appointed for the purpose? The word "request," when it emanates from officials, almost always means "order." His Honour might have as well entrusted District Superintendents of Police with the work of raising subscriptions. If His Honour desires to gauge the real feeling of the public about the proposed college, let him keep the district authorities perfectly aloof from the work of raising subscriptions and see what follows. His Honour probably thinks that without their "request" it would be extremely hard to realise six lakhs of rupees from the people of Bengal. If so, what was the necessity for indulging in such expressions as "the support of the public," "the free will of the public," etc?

22. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 4th

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Nov. 4th, 1904.

The Sub-Inspector of Schools,
Bogra.

November says that last year 175 boys were not allowed to appear in the Lower Primary Examination in the Bogra district, although School Sub-Inspector Mahammad Navibux had taken their fees. Again, at the time of the examination the Inspecting Pandit of the district realised illegal gratifications from many teachers. Complaints relating to these matters were made to the Chairman of the District Board and to the Divisional Inspector of Schools, but to no effect. Now that the work of holding the Lower and Upper Primary Examinations has been entrusted to Sub-Inspectors of Schools, Muhammad Navibux is triumphantly saying to teachers and students, "Now I shall show you the effect of making complaints." Last year the teachers who formerly used to receive 40 or 50 rupees as reward received only 8 or 10 rupees. Their pay also was reduced. What was the cause of all this? Of course, such large reductions could not be made simply because the District Board had incurred the cost of supplying the schools with cheap maps, black-boards and charts. All this shows that either the present Sub-Inspector should not be allowed to hold the ensuing examinations, or he should be transferred and some other officer appointed at Bogra. Again, Enayet Ali Sarkar, Inspecting Pandit, is in the habit of using such abusive expressions as "হারামজাদা," "চাষার বাচ্চা," "জেলার বাচ্চা," etc. The teacher of Chakbochai complained of this to the Sub-Inspector, but to no effect.

23. Referring to the order exempting Eurasian candidates seeking admission into the Sibpur Engineering College from payment of schooling fees at the request of the Imperial Anglo-Indian Association, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 6th November

HITAVARTA,
Nov. 6th, 1904.

Undue favour to Eurasians.

is not astonished at this special measure of Sir Andrew Fraser's, seeing that the Government of India itself is showing undue favour to the Eurasians in all matters.

HITAVARTA,
Nov. 6th, 1904.

24. The same paper has the following:—

An independent University.

It is generally believed that by the Universities Act Lord Curzon has cut at the root of higher education. In order that it may not disappear from the country, some of those interested in such education suggest the establishment of a separate University without looking to Government for support. The Government of India would not be able to raise any objection if the proposed University be recognized by any of the European Universities. The colleges affiliated to the new University would be exactly as the present colleges of Bengal, Bombay and Madras are. Some of those who have started this question have made up their minds to raise it before the National Congress at its next session. No doubt public instruction carried on with a due regard to time, place and its recipients will benefit the country. But if the Government really wishes to stop higher education in the country, can it be difficult for it to place obstacles in the way of the progress of the new University?

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

PRATIJNA,
Nov. 22nd, 1904.

25. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 2nd November publishes a defence

A defence.

of the Resident Surgeon of the Sambhunath Pandit Hospital, Bhowanipore, Calcutta, against whom several allegations were noticed in paragraph 27 of the Report on Native Papers in Bengal for the week ending the 15th October 1904. It is asserted that the hospital has distinctly improved under the management of the present Resident Surgeon, and that the Doctor attends to each patient personally as far as possible, not choosing, according to the practice, to reserve only the serious cases for his personal attention.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 4th, 1904.

26. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th November writes as follows:—

Dr. Hazra of the Sambhunath
Pandit Hospital at Bhowanipore.

The *Bengalee* newspaper has published the following contradiction over a pseudonym of what was written in a former issue of the *Hitavadi* (see Report on Native Papers for 15th October, 1904, paragraph 27) against Dr. Hazra of the Sambhunath Pandit Hospital at Bhowanipore, Calcutta:—

Argument against the "Hitavadi"—(a) Resident Surgeon has nothing to do with outpatients and is not supposed to treat outpatients. Hence the statement "intending patients have to come away unattended" has no meaning. The Hospital Assistant regularly attends them at the hour appointed by the Government. (b) Appointment and dismissal of nurses are not in the power of Dr. Hazra. The nurses are directly under the matron. Major Browne only has authority in these matters. (c) Medicines are never purchased from local dispensaries. They are supplied by Messrs. Smith Stanistreet, J. Waldie, Burgoyne & Co. (d) Mrs. Sing had to go for negligence of duty. Mrs. J. Manok resigned of her own accord and the matter was duly reported to the authorities. Nurse Kali Dasi never worked in Dr. Hazra's time. She was dismissed by Dr. Bird in Bhagabati Babu's time. Sarasi had to go simply because she was impertinent to the Matron. The Resident Surgeon according to the rules laid down by the Committee, is allowed three hours' leave to go out.

We shall show, one by one, the worthlessness of the arguments contained in the above:—

(a) It is one of the conditions of Dr. Hazra's service that he should not engage in outside practice, and in consideration of this he receives a monthly allowance of Rs. 50. Patients intending to stay in the hospital naturally desire to see the Resident Surgeon before taking their admission as such patients. They are therefore put to great difficulty if they find him absent. The following cases may be cited in support of this:—

(1) Babu Rangalal Chatterji, a Government servant, had been suffering from some eye disease. His relatives brought him to the hospital at 11 A.M., on two days successively, but could not find Dr. Hazra.

- (2) The father-in-law of Babu Kedar Nath Bhattacharyya, a teacher of the London Mission School, was brought to the hospital for treatment. He required treatment with the catheter. The case being serious, the Hospital Assistant did not dare to take it up, and Dr. Hazra was absent. The man died.

Dr. Hazra allows himself to engage in private practice. But as he sometimes helps his superior, Dr. Browne, with cases, he enjoys perfect immunity. We want to know in which of the following houses Dr. Hazra has not attended as a medical man :—

- (1) Babu Sarat Chandra Banerji's house, Kamrangatala, Bhawanipore.
- (2) Munshi Ali Hafiz's house, Kansaripara.
- (3) Babu Sarat Chandra Nandan's house, 49 Sambhunath Pandit's Lane.
- (4) Babu Devendra Nath Das's house, 36 Sambhunath Pandit's Lane.
- (5) " Nagendra Nath Das's house, Kansaripara.
- (6) " Hari Gopal Ghosh's house, Gopal Banerji's Lane.
- (7) " Purna Chandra Halder's house, Harish Mukherji's Street.
- (8) Sarat Babu's house, Jorabati, Kalighat.
- (9) Babu Rajendra Nath Chatterji's house, Sikdarpara.
- (10) " Aghor Nath Mukherji's house, Ram Kamal Mukherji's Lane, Kidderpore.
- (11) Babu Abinas Das's house, Sasthitala Road.
- (12) " Hari Charan Sadhukhan's house, Padma Pukur Square.
- (13) " Saday Gopal Datta's house, 9 Chaulpati, Bhawanipore.
- (14) Dr. M. N. Banerji's house, Calcutta (with Dr. Browne).

Dr. Hazra is not entitled to three hours' leave to go out every day, as his apologist would have us believe. He is entitled to three hours' leave every other day, and that also for domestic business and not for private practice.

(b) & (d) One of the dismissed nurses, Srimati Priscilla Mandal, writes to us to the effect that one day she saw nurse Sarasi garlanding Dr. Hazra in the eye ward. Priscilla told this to other nurses and thus incurred Dr. Hazra's displeasure. Afterwards she was dismissed on a slight pretext. Dr. Hazra's defender says that Kali Dasi "was dismissed by Dr. Bird in Bhagavati Babu's time." We knew this full well when we wrote our former article. What we meant to ask was : Why did Dr. Hazra try to reappoint her although he knew of the guilt for which she had been dismissed ?

Another dismissed nurse writes to us as follows :—Mrs. Swinton's husband has promised to write in three English newspapers regarding the stipulation that Mrs. Swinton would be made matron in Mrs. Walton's place. The management of the hospital is nowadays very bad. Devendra Babu sees nothing with his own eyes. Former doctors never allowed the wards to be overcrowded, but there is no such restriction nowadays. Patients are allowed to lie down on the floor, and it is doubtful whether they get their medicines regularly. Every ward is overcrowded. There are 100 or 120 patients while there are only 65 beds. The number of nurses has been reduced from 10 to 8. The number of coolies also is very limited. Only three of the present nurses are passed midwives, the remaining five do not know even how to read the index of a thermometer. None of the present nurses knows English. Formerly elderly nurses used to be appointed and they always worked well. But the present nurses are almost all young. How can good work be expected from them ? The other day, when the Matron's case was being enquired into, Kshetra Babu plainly said that nowadays patients do not get their medicines timely, and nurses often make a confusion of medicines and give one patient's medicine to another. Why has Devendra Babu dismissed Ratan, Priscilla and myself ? Devendra Babu drives away nurses whenever he likes. Do not Sarasi and Ratan come to see Devendra Babu in the hospital even now ? Many patients come to be operated on by the Civil Surgeon. But Devendra Babu himself operates on them against their will. The worth of the present nurses can be ascertained from the entries in the tickets of patients. The Civil Surgeon has more than once been found to cut jokes about the mistakes contained in records of fever made on the tickets. Does not Devendra Babu take nurse Rosie with him when he goes to Barabazar for

purchasing warm clothes for patients, and did he not do so one day recently? When the Civil Surgeon enquired into the Matron's case, did not Kshetra Babu tell him that Devendra Babu had asked him to find out a pretext for dismissing the Matron? As to how patients are treated by Devendra Babu, they themselves may be asked on the subject. The following patients were obliged to leave the hospital owing to Devendra Babu's oppressions:—Hari Charan Ghosh, Hossaini, Dukhu Garifulla, Bipin Bairagi, Kalipada Ganguli, Kamini Kumar Chakravarti, Sukharam Mistri, Ram Sing, Jadu Nath Das.

27. Referring to the Maniktala municipal election proceedings, the same The Maniktala municipal election. paper writes as follows:—

The Divisional Commissioner's *aid* has been maintained. The election of Babu Anath Nath Mallik as Chairman of the Maniktala Municipality has been annulled by the Lieutenant-Governor on the ground that Anath Babu is young and inexperienced. Perhaps His Honour's motive in doing so was not bad, but it did not surely redound to his glory to set aside the unanimous verdict of the Municipal Commissioners of Maniktala in favour of Anath Babu. What will the fate of Local-Self Government in Bengal be if the authorities interfere with it at every step? What could be the harm in giving Anath Babu a trial, the thing which he actually prayed for? Is there no Municipal Chairman in Bengal younger and more inexperienced than the Babu? The Lieutenant-Governor is requested to reconsider the matter.

BEHARAT MITRA,
Nov. 5th, 1904.

28. Referring to the rejection by the Lieutenant-Governor of the election of Babu Anath Nath Mullick to the Chairmanship of the Maniktala Municipality on the strength of the remark made by the Divisional Commissioner against his personal character, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th November observes that the Municipalities are coming at last to such a pass.

ARYAVARTA.

29. The *Aryavarta* [Ranchi] of the 5th November is glad that the general health of the Ranchi town is gradually improving owing to the careful administration of the local Municipality.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Nov. 7th, 1904.

30. Now that the footpaths on both sides of the Harrison Road are blocked by thousands of Kabulis and their goods, making them impassable for the passers-by, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th November remarks:—

Where are those Footpath Inspectors who only harassed the shop-keepers? They should come forward now to clear the obstruction which is causing so much inconvenience to the public.

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

MANBHUM,
Nov. 1st, 1904.

31. The *Manbhum* [Purulia] of the 1st November complains that the young apprentices employed by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway at Chinpina station are very uncivil. The name of one Gosta Bihari Sarkar is mentioned as a special offender in this respect.

The same paper also complains of the inadequacy of the arrangements made by the Bengal-Nagpur line for lighting their carriages at night.

JYOTI,
Nov. 3rd, 1904.

32. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 3rd November advocates the substitution of Indian for European engine-drivers on the Assam-Bengal Railway, on the ground that the latter are many of them addicted to excessive drinking; and that if Indians were employed, a better class of men would be obtained on the same pay. The peculiar fitness of Indians for work of this kind has been attested by the success of Chittagong Musalmans as engine-drivers on the steam-ship lines.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 3rd, 1904.

33. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd November draws attention to a case of steamer accident as follows:—

A case of steamer accident. It appears that the steamer *Migi* of the I. G. N. R. & Co.'s Kaliganj service was on her way from Serajganj to Goalundo on the 31st October last. At the time of leaving Serajganj,

she had on board more than the full complement of passengers she usually carried. To add to the overcrowding which already prevailed, at Vinanai station she took in quite a large quantity of jute bales. These bales occupied all the space on and below the lower deck, and compelled the passengers to remain huddled up on the upper deck of the vessel. An Inspector named Hudson, in the service of the Steamer Company, was present on board, and the *serang* complained to him that the quantity of goods and passengers being taken in might prove dangerous to the safety of the vessel. But his warning remained unheeded. Meanwhile when the steamer was in midstream between Vinanai and Aralia, some of the bales of jute accidentally caught fire. A terrible panic ensued, but fortunately the steamer managed to reach shore in time to avert any serious disaster. As it is, only one passenger (a young man named Paresnath Banerjee, who was travelling with a gentleman belonging to village Kola, Bikrampur, in Dacca) could not be accounted for.

Commenting on the facts of the above case, the paper observes that it illustrates how unmindful the steamer authorities are of the safety and convenience of their passengers. Is it not an offence under the law to crowd together a large number of men and goods into a small space? Is not again the carriage of inflammable goods on a steamer without taking precautions to protect them from fire, a legal offence? The Railway Companies as public carriers incur a responsibility the nature of which is known, and breaches of which are brought to the notice of the public through the newspapers and properly punished. The Steamer Companies have hitherto enjoyed an immunity from such exposures. They also require to be similarly exposed before these inconveniences and oppressions will cease.

(h)—General.

34. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 3rd November writes as follows:—

The Chittagong Forest Department.

Referring to the articles which we now and then publish in connection with the Chittagong Forest Department, a high official once said, "Well, Kali Babu, I am very sorry for your troubles. I have every sympathy for you. You did right in exposing the scandals of the Forest Department. I know that Department is totally rotten, etc." Some time ago two big trees were taken away by a Forest Officer from the Ichhamati Ghat station. The matter was investigated by the Divisional Officer, Mr. Heinig, but the result of the enquiry is not known. However that may be, the Forester of Silok has been dismissed. What has Mr. Heinig done with the report which was submitted by Kamini Babu, the Forester of Silok? Was it not alleged in the report that Babu Gopal Chandra Bhaumik had taken away many trees without paying the Government dues for them? If it had appeared to Mr. Heinig that Kamini Babu's report was false, was the latter asked to prove his statements? If not, was it not possible for some one to fabricate documents and suborn witnesses against him in his absence? That this was possible is shown by the fact that in the case against Babu Jnanendra Nath Das the Judge had said, "I may mention in conclusion that I did not expect so much forgery and perjury in a public prosecution. Complainant appears to be a tool in the hands of some designing men of the Forest Department." We do not know why Kamini Babu has been dismissed. But we know that after he was transferred to Ringkhang, a sloop belonging to Gopal Babu was laden with timber and other articles for being taken away, and that the police, suspecting some foul play, searched the sloop and found two chains in it. Immediately after this Kamini Babu was suspended and his dismissal recommended to Mr. Heinig. It is therefore suspected that the sloop affair had something to do with Kamini Babu's dismissal. As for the sloop itself, Mr. Bhaumick said he had purchased three trees, one for Rs. 50 and the other two for Rs. 5 and Rs. 3, for building the sloop. But a European ship-builder said, "Babu Gopal Chandra has been making a brig or sea-going boat which in its present incomplete condition is worth Rs. 3,500; the timber used in it being alone worth Rs. 2,000, and when completed will be worth Rs. 4,000." Gopal Babu said that he had taken Mr. Heinig's permission for building the sloop. But Mr. Heinig said, "I can't say if the complainant is making a big boat. It was quite unnecessary for him to take my permission

Jyoti,
Nov. 3rd, 1904.

for it." Is not all this suspicious? Gopal Babu receives a salary of Rs. 50 per month. How was it possible for him to build, by honest means, a sloop worth Rs. 4,000 within one year of his appointment at Chittagong? The matter should be enquired into by an impartial officer.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 3rd, 1904.

35. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd November writes:—

If it be the duty of the Press to inform Government of the opinion which the public forms of its measures, then it is our duty to let Sir Andrew Fraser know that by decreeing the abolition of competitive examinations, Government has incurred great odium among all sections of the native community, including the native officials, the zamindars and the middle class generally.

The motive which is believed to underlie this measure is a desire on the part of Government to enforce a spirit of servility among the people. It is a blow aimed at the independence of the middle classes, who by their education were becoming a power in the land, and who were gradually inoculating even the lower classes with the great idea of nationality. But our impression is that, in this affair, the blame rests not so much with Sir Andrew Fraser, who is merely an agent, as with Lord Curzon, who is the principal. Lord Curzon is an astute politician. He has already inflicted many grievous wrongs on the people of India. He has already inflicted many grievous wrongs on the people of India. Hence it is that in this case also he is credited with an unworthy desire to keep the middle classes down, to arrest the course of their growing independence and influence, and to retain a permanent hold over the zamindar and official classes. When such is the general impression among the native public, it certainly behoves Government to make a public declaration of the reasons which led it to introduce this change.

Hitherto none except those who had received high education could easily manage to secure posts in the judicial or executive branches of the Provincial Civil Service. In the judicial branch, the High Court has ruled that none but B.Ls. will be eligible as candidates. It has made this rule and adhered to it in practice; and the effect has been that the work of the civil judiciary earns praise everywhere in the land.

In the executive branch of the service also, the introduction of the competitive system has promoted honesty and efficiency where formerly under the old nomination system corruption and inefficiency was the general rule. With the abolition of the competitive system the door is again thrown open to the introduction of the old abuses. Government in the notification which abolished the competitive examination announced that under the new system none but University graduates would be eligible for nomination. The change even with this guarantee was not considered satisfactory by the native public, for it would still permit an ordinary pass B.A. to secure an appointment over the head of the M.A. who was the first scholar of his year.

Two recent appointments, however, show that even this small restriction will not be observed in practice. Such a breach of faith is specially regrettable in a man of Sir A. Fraser's religious disposition. The appointments we refer to are those of Babu Susil Kumar Ghose and Mr. Ikbāl Husain as Sub-Deputy Magistrates. Babu Susil Kumar is a son of the Hon'ble Mr. Tarini Kumar Ghose, Inspector-General of Registration in Bengal, and Mr. Ikbāl Husain a son of Nawab Syed Ameer Husain. As to the educational qualifications of these two nominees, the former passed the Entrance Examination, and appeared at the F.A., but got plucked. Since then he had been serving as a clerk in the office of the Commissioner of Excise on Rs. 40 a month. As to Mr. Ikbāl Husain, he read up to the B.A., but he is not a graduate. Are not these two appointments therefore cases of distinct breach of faith on the part of Sir A. Fraser? If a Musalman had to be appointed, were not there Musalman B.A's. and M. A's. available? Was it in accordance either with justice or equity to violate a promise made only so recently as three or four months ago?

The effect of this indiscriminate choice of candidates as Deputies and Sub-Deputies will be to impair the honesty and sense of duty of the service. Does Government desire that such a result should come about? We are aware that under the competitive system, Europeans and natives such as wish to gain their ends by flattery have no chance; but, all the same, we request Government

to consider coolly whether in manning its judiciary it ought to prefer the men who will make the most efficient officers or the men who are devoid of all independence, and who will merely carry out the behests of their superiors like so many automata.

36. Referring to the appointments of Babu Chandra Nath De, M.A., B.L., and Messrs. Christian and McLeod Smith, three new Deputy Magistrates, as announced in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 2nd November last, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th November takes exception to the selection of the two latter on the ground that they are not graduates. If they had been, then surely their degrees would have appeared after their names in the *Gazette*. And yet in the notification abolishing the open competitive examination, the assurance was distinctly given that the new selections were to be confined to graduates only. Under what rule, then, are these two appointments now made? Has His Honour forgotten his promises so soon? If the officials are to break their promises in this fashion, how can they expect to retain the confidence of the people? The great obstacle of competitive examinations has first been removed; and now even the restrictions on the nomination system are being set at naught. When the rulers of the country are imbued with such a strong desire to provide for Europeans, it is not unnatural for the people to apprehend worse evils in the future.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Nov. 5th, 1904.

37. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 6th November has the following:—
The Lieutenant-Governor has recently appointed four gentlemen as Deputy Magistrates without a competitive test. Of these, one is a Hindu, two are Muhammadans and one is a Christian. If these appointments had been given with a due regard to the population of Bengal professing the three religions, the Hindus would have been entitled to more appointments than one. The rule followed by the Lieutenant-Governor in this selection is therefore not clear. We cannot blame the Lieutenant-Governor for making these appointments without first ascertaining how far favouritism and back-door influence had to do in the matter, but it is impossible to think that there were no more Hindu candidates fit for the posts. Be that as it may, undue favour shewn by the Government officials to any single race is certainly mischievous. We would therefore request Sir Andrew Fraser to be a little more careful in future.

HITAVARTA,
Nov. 6th, 1904.

38. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd November appeals to the leaders of the Bengali community to bestir themselves in time and set on foot a fresh and vigorous agitation against the proposed dismemberment of Bengal. The proposed partition of Bengal.
The urgency of such action is emphasised by the fact that a rumour is gaining currency in connection with the recent Conference of Divisional Commissioners at Darjeeling to the effect that this measure was approved of by the various Commissioners present, and that details about the partition scheme were discussed and arranged at that Conference. The national life which is still in its infancy is being threatened with extinction, and yet the people here are so apathetic and fond of their own ease that they make no effort to avert their impending doom. Lord Curzon in the course of one of his speeches on this question said that much of the agitation which was in progress against the proposed partition was due simply to the novelty of the proposal; that it was only natural that the proposal would be strenuously resisted at first; but that the people would soon become reconciled to the change and that they would then see the beneficial nature of the proposed new arrangements. The apathy and inaction which the leaders of the country are displaying at this moment evidently confirm and justify Lord Curzon's estimate and show that the feelings of the Bengalis on this question are skin-deep and do not proceed from the heart. For heart-felt sufferings cannot be forgotten so easily.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 3rd, 1904.

The mere sending of telegrams to the newspapers and of petitions to Government is by no means the full measure of the duty of the country's leaders at this crisis. It should be remembered that agitation on this question confined even within these limits has not been entirely without effect. But already a paralysis seems to have come on their movements. Many successive acts of the Government have been directed against the growing feeling of national unity in this country. But this appears to be the crowning and the

most far-reaching measure of the series. And yet the Bengalis will not put forth strength to make a united stand for the maintenance of their existence as a nation.

The time for agitation in India has passed by. What should be done now therefore is to get suitable men and carry the agitation to England. About a lakh of rupees would be needed for this purpose. To those who doubt the probable results of such a campaign, it may be pointed out that the united protests of a people, supported by reason and sustained with perseverance, has never failed to carry conviction among the English public. Without a trial of all the devices of political agitation, some of the leaders of public opinion in Bengal have jumped to the easy conclusion that all public agitation is useless. Now is the time for the British Indian Association, the Landholders' Association, the Indian Association and the other similar bodies to bestir themselves and show that they are alive. Let them enter the arena in this, the crisis of their country's fate. Let them devote themselves heart and soul to a campaign of agitation against the proposed partition and thereby demonstrate to the people at large the efficacy of political agitation generally.

HITAVARTA,
Nov. 6th, 1904.

39. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 6th November learns that most of those who are on the side of the Government have expressed their views in favour of the Government scheme. As Lord Curzon, the father of the scheme, is himself coming to India, one can easily imagine what the result will be.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Nov. 9th, 1904.

40. Referring to the revival of interest in the public Press in the question of the partition of Bengal, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th November observes that it is very probable that Lord Curzon has taken advantage

The proposed partition of Bengal.
of his sojourn in England to settle this question in advance in consultation with the India Office authorities. But it is understood that the proposals as now formulated do not include the separation of some of the Orissa and Chota Nagpur districts, as originally suggested in Mr. Risley's letter. It is unnecessary to inquire how far this concession in favour of the Chota Nagpur districts is due to the known personal predilection of Sir A. Fraser for that part of his territories. Apart from this question of the personal share which individual officials may have taken in giving the proposals their present shape, the fact remains and has been proved on previous occasions that these proposals, even as originally made, were bound to affect prejudicially the interests and influence of the Bengalis as a nation. But apparently the latest proposals involve the separation of a larger number of Bengali-speaking districts than was originally contemplated. Here is what the *Pioneer* says on this point:—

"The formation of a North-Eastern Province with a Lieutenant-Governor in charge seems practically certain, in spite of all the opposition that has been aroused. The scheme, as originally launched, has undergone many modifications, the separation of Orissa and Chota Nagpur from Bengal having, for instance, been abandoned. But if a consistent policy is to be pursued, there must be more cutting away of territory elsewhere, otherwise the Lieutenant-Governor of the Lower Provinces—to give him his old-fashioned title—will not be relieved of the burden which is supposed to press so heavily upon him."

It is the last sentence in the above extract which is really alarming. The separation of Orissa and Chota Nagpur having been abandoned, there remains Bihar and Bengal. But the separation of Bihar is evidently not in contemplation, for in that case, provision would not have been made for a circuit-house at Patna for the Lieutenant-Governor's residence. There remains, then, only Bengal proper, and it is easy to conclude that it is the separation of some more Eastern Bengal districts that is proposed by Lord Curzon. However amazing such a suggestion may appear, the separation of all districts east of the Padma (with the sole exception of Darjeeling) appears to have been resolved on. If the authorities have really come to this decision (and most likely they have), then it is impossible to express in words what terrible harm this decision will do to the Bengalis as a community. The *Pioneer* has advised the people to open a fresh and renewed agitation on the question. But will agitation be of any avail? When completely ignoring a powerful and widespread agitation such as that which was carried on when the proposals were originally made, Lord Curzon is still seeking the sanction of the Home authorities to his scheme; when even Sir Andrew Fraser is understood to have supported the proposed

partition (at least the public have not heard of any protest made by him); then it may well be asked what chance is there of any good coming from an agitation by a helpless people like the Bengalis? When the Viceroy, the Provincial Ruler, and the majority of the officials are against the view of the public on this question, what can the latter do except leaving everything to its fate?

It appears that defiance of public opinion has come to be the peculiar feature of Lord Curzon's administrative policy. He is a man possessing great influence, he enjoys the confidence of the ruling authorities in England (including His Majesty the King himself), he is strong in the support of the *Times* newspaper. Possessed as he is of a combination of three such pieces of good luck, how can his despotism be checked? Whatever Lord Curzon does is regarded as the right and proper thing to do by his official superiors in England. When such is the view taken of his acts in England, it is quite useless for Indians to expect their complaints against him to be attended to. Lord Curzon by his boastful ways and by his adoption of a policy of despotism is creating alarm in the minds of the Indian people. This can surely never redound to the glory of British rule. Is not this adoption of a policy of brute force in this century of widespread civilisation casting an indelible disgrace on the fair fame of the British nation? It would be well if Lord Curzon's superiors considered this aspect of the question.

41. Referring to a rumour which is said to be current that it is proposed to split up Midnapore into two districts, the headquarters of the two new districts being at Midnapore and Contai respectively, the *Nihar* [Contai] of the

NIHAR,
Nov. 8th, 1904.

The rumoured partition of the Midnapore district.

8th November points out that the people at large have almost nothing to gain and much to lose by the projected change. The town of Contai will gain in health and importance, but in proportion as it will gain Midnapore will lose; so that the net gain to the district generally will be nothing. Again, it is true that the new Courts at Contai will prove a great convenience to suitors who reside in the surrounding thanas. But while to many it may prove a convenience, to others it may prove a temptation also. For litigation is becoming a habit with many people in this country; and the inaccessibility of Midnapore now acts as a deterrent in many cases when the proximity of Contai would act as an inducement. Lastly, the agricultural classes in this part of the country now enjoy a state of rude plenty. The growth of a new town in their midst will deprive them of this state of ease, for luxury will spread and their wants will increase, while the price of the necessaries of life will also rise, owing to the fact that the village produce will find a new class of purchasers in the townspeople. Trade may increase, but the profits of it will go mainly to foreigners. An extra number of civilians might be employed, but that also means little to the natives. The pleaders of Contai might indeed profit by the change, but that merely indicates a change of hands and no actual increase of the wealth of the country. While the advantages thus all appear either doubtful or confined to particular localities and persons, there is one way in which the general public would distinctly lose by the suggested change. For people who being inhabitants of one and the same district, now look upon themselves as one, who sympathise with each other, and who by working side by side in public life add strength to their cause, will find themselves separated, and reduced to two small sections, possessing little influence. In every sphere of public work, the strength of the support which Midnapore will get will be reduced to half of what it now obtains. The suggested change means therefore a distinct loss to the cause of public unity in this country, and is therefore open to objection on the ground that it will retard the internal improvement of the people.

42. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th November publishes a letter from one Khoda Bux Sarkar of village Baruipara, post office Sariakandi, district Bogra, complaining of the way in which the road-cess is assessed in his village.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 5th, 1904.

A complaint in regard to road-cess assessment.

It appears that *joldars* and *corfas* (under-tenants) have all been assessed to the tax. No exception has been made even in the case of those cultivators who cannot support themselves from their own holding and eke out their income by cultivating other people's holding as *korfa*. The correspondent himself is a petty *joldar*, whose holding is neither a *taluk* nor *mokrari*; and to men of his

means, the addition even of a small tax means want of the actual necessities of life.

BHARAT MITRA,
Nov. 5th, 1904.

43. Referring to Press comments upon the Lieutenant-Governor's Conference with Divisional Commissioners at Darjeeling, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th November says that if anyone has got any inkling of the object of that Conference he dare not give it out. It is for this reason that one has to suggest all sorts of fears and then keep silent.

HITAVARTA,
Nov. 6th, 1904.

44. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 6th November says the people are finding fault with the Lieutenant-Governor for keeping the people in the dark regarding the purpose for which His Honour has called a Conference of the Divisional Commissioners at Darjeeling. A ruler should not decide on measures affecting the people in this secret fashion.

HITAVARTA.

45. In reviewing the last annual report on the working of the Post Office in India, the same paper is glad to learn that the Post Office has suffered no loss by the reduction in the rates of commission for money-orders, and invites the attention of the Director-General to the necessity of raising the maximum weight from 3 to 5 tolas of the privileged newspapers and also to the prayer of the people for introducing half-a-pice post-cards. The paper trusts that these measures will not result in any reduction in the present income of the Post Office, whereas the benefit to the public would be great.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Nov. 9th, 1904.

46. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th November draws attention to the anomaly whereby officers in the Opium Department have a prospect of rising to higher salaries than the Deputy Magistrates, although the intellectual attainments of the latter class of officers are immeasurably superior to those of the former. The paper also refers to the extensive predominance of the European element in the department. Evidently the department is meant by the rulers to be a close preserve for the support of their half-educated and unintelligent countrymen. The pay offered is sufficient to get a good class of native officers if recruited by a system of competitive examinations. At present the officers selected have to undergo a very easy preliminary examination which includes the elements of surveying. The examination should be made stiffer and some knowledge of accounts and chemistry in the candidates should be insisted on. This policy of permitting a set of ignorant men to fatten at the expense of the Indian tax-payer is a scandal and should not be permitted to go on further if the credit of Government is to be preserved.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Nov. 7th, 1904.

47. Referring to the Kashmir visit of His Excellency Lord Amthill, previously arranged for Lord Curzon, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th November remarks that the secret object of the Kashmir tour is not made known to the public. It may be only in response to the visit His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir paid to His Excellency the Viceroy at Calcutta last year. Whatever may be the fact, our inmost desire is that the Kashmir State should be allowed to remain as it is, and the good feeling of the British Government towards the Maharaja should remain unaltered.

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

BIRBHUM-VARTA,
Oct. 31st, 1904.

48. The *Birbhum Varta* [Birbhum] of the 31st October reports that, owing to the almost total failure of rain in the latter part of the season, the local paddy crops, which were in a thriving condition owing to the favourable rainfall in the earlier months of the year, have suffered serious damage, about ten annas having been completely destroyed.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 5th, 1904.

49. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th November draws attention to the apprehended failure of the paddy crop in many districts in Bengal this season, owing to the almost total failure of rain in the months of *Aswin* and

Kartik. The few showers which fell did no good to the standing crops. From Hooghly, Burdwan, Birbhum, Murshidabad, Midnapore, comes the same story of distress. In the opinion of some local correspondents, relief works will require to be opened in these districts very soon. The price of paddy is daily increasing. It is the duty of the more well-to-do among the villagers to be careful from now to see that none of their poorer brethren actually die of hunger. The local Government officers also should bestir themselves while there is yet time.

50. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 8th November writes:—

The crops in Contai

The present prospects of the crops are hopeful.

NIHAR,
Nov. 8th, 1904.

The corn on the high lands is ripe, consequently it is now urgently necessary that the water on the fields should be drained away. But as the Orissa Coast Canal is now full almost to the brim, the water on the fields does not find an outlet. Unless, however, some arrangement in this direction is soon made, the straw will be destroyed and the paddy crop also will be threatened. Speedy redress by the authorities concerned is urgently required.

VI.—MI CELLANEUS.

51. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 1st November has the following:—

The question of India's poverty.

TRIPURA
HITAISHI,
Nov. 1st, 1904.

A Government has its main sources of strength first in the loyalty of its subjects, second in its preparedness from a military point of view, and third in its financial resources. And a real empire-builder is he who realises that all these three sources are equally important, and that it is only a combination of these three that can make a Government strong and successful. Applying these tests in the case of India, we find that the Government here directs its attention principally to the necessity of increasing its military forces, in apparent disregard of the other two sources of strength mentioned above. Government thinks it has done its duty in this matter if only it succeeds in adding to the British garrisons in India.

But what has the Government of India done towards improving the financial resources of the country? Considering the extreme poverty of the Indians, as evidenced by the prevalence of famines, can anybody expect that in the case of a great war with a foreign Power, India will be able to pay the cost of it out of her own pockets?

The masses in this country have arrived at the last stage of destitution. Indeed, the sight of these hungry people, their wretched homes, their naked feet, and their worn and insufficient clothing at times makes it difficult to restrain tears.

A life passed in actual want of the first necessities of existence and the struggle with a succession of misfortunes leave a man very little opportunity to cultivate any feeling of true loyalty.

This is a fact which our rulers seem to forget. It is not from any positive feeling of loyalty, but from a sense of fatalism and a naturally inoffensive bent of mind that the people of this country patiently bear all trials, even starvation and death. Contrast the attitude of the Indian cultivator with that of the European peasant, who is engaged in an incessant struggle with his Government for an improvement in his condition. And how many and how difficult are the forms which this struggle assumes—strikes, riots, revolts and what not?

It comes to this, therefore, that people who are being daily ground under the heels of poverty cannot be expected to cultivate any feeling of true loyalty. It is not the fault of the man, but of his lot that it is so. If therefore our Government really wishes to strengthen the loyalty of the masses, it must seek first to improve their present hard lot. With the gradual improvement of their material condition, their sense of loyalty also will develop and increase.

52. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th November says that Mr. Sandow, the well-known athlete of England, intends remaining in India for a long period.

Mr. Sandow in India.

BHARAT MITRA,
Nov. 5th, 1904.

He is sure to make money here, for where else would he get such an extravagant and foolish country like India?

BHARAT MITRA.

53. In comparing the Durga Puja festival of this year at Calcutta with those of the previous years, the same paper observes a great falling off and regrets that the rich people of Calcutta, instead of feeding the poor as they used to do before, should have entertained European gentlemen with sumptuous dinners.

HITAVARTA.
Nov. 6th, 1904.

54. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 6th November says that, seeing some of the recent doings of the Government officials, some people suspect that the sympathy of the Government for the Art Exhibition in connection with the National Congress is not a genuine one, and that its object is not to allow the Exhibition to remain a part and parcel of the National Congress. The way in which some simple men are already trying to sever their connection with the Congress in order to attract the Government's sympathy towards the Exhibition leads one to fear that the object of the Government is about to be accomplished. The Congress would be very much weakened if it is deprived of the help of the wealthy supporters of the Exhibition. In this way when the Congress disappears, it will not be difficult for the Government to do away with the Exhibition too. We find it impossible to set aside as misapprehensions the views of those who advance the above arguments.

The letter of the Bombay Government has made this at least clear that Government wants to separate the two institutions, and it therefore behoves the friends of the Congress to carefully think over the matter before deciding whether to accept Government aid or not.

HITAVARTA.

55. Regarding the proposal of opening a Press room in Government House, the same paper says that it would certainly be a matter of great pleasure if Government secrets could be prevented from being divulged by the measure.

URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Oct. 29th, 1904.

56. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 29th October states that great public anxiety due to the sudden cessation of rain was removed by a few showers of rain that fell in the Cuttack district during the Durga Puja holidays.

UTKALDIPIKA.

57. The same paper is glad to learn that branches of the Utkal Union Conference have been established at Bentkar, Korai and Kothmul in the Cuttack district and that meetings were held in the Darpan estate with a view to open more local branches.

UTKALDIPIKA.

58. The same paper regrets to find that Indian homes are now flooded with articles imported from foreign countries, and that products of Indian manufacture and industry are becoming rarer day by day. This explains the economic condition of India, which is far from satisfactory.

UTKALDIPIKA.

59. The same paper states that the Durga Puja festival was celebrated in the Cuttack district in the usual way without any hitch or disturbance and that the timely fall of rain contributed to the general happiness of the votaries of the goddess, who were praying for it.

UTKALDIPIKA.

60. Referring to the working of the Puri Lodging-house Act in Orissa, the same paper points out that the closing balances in favour of the Lodging-house Fund should be utilised in such a way as to secure the comfort and convenience of travellers and pilgrims in whose interests the rate under the Act has been imposed.

UTKALDIPIKA

61. The same paper regrets to find that the ill-health of the District Judge of Cuttack prevents him from hearing motions or appeals from persons sentenced to undergo imprisonment by the Lower Courts and that, as a consequence, many are detained in custody, who might otherwise have been released on bail.

62. The Darpan correspondent of the same paper reports that the recent rains, though opportune, could save only a part of the paddy crop raised in low grounds, and that the standing crops on high grounds are sorely in need of rain. Many people have been compelled to apply for canal water, while crops on some high grounds have already been damaged. The demand for rain is general everywhere.

The Jajpur and Puri correspondents of the same paper make similar statements with regard to the paddy crops in those parts of the Orissa Province.

63. The same paper is glad to learn that the Middle English School in the Harachandi Sahi of the Puri town is being managed by some members of the Puri temple service who, as a general rule, are averse to modern English education. It is therefore gratifying to learn that Babu Rajkisore Das, the Manager of the Puri temple, presided over the annual meeting of the school held in connection with the distribution of prizes to the deserving students of the institution and encouraged the teachers and students, including the children of the temple, in every way.

64. The Puri correspondent of the same paper states that though the number of pilgrims visiting Puri during the Puja holidays was very large, the rites and ceremonies in connection with the Puri temple were observed with regularity and efficiency without any inconvenience to the Pandas or their constituents. The Manager pays personal attention to the *Sahan méls* ceremony of god Jagannath.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Transl tor.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 12th November 1904.



CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 46 of 1904.]

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 12th November 1904.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

8202. Referring to Russia's latest explanation of the North Sea outrage,

A damaging explanation.

the *Bengalee* observes that it is inconceivable how any nation possessed of a spark of dignity or self-respect could put forward the plea that they fired on their own torpedo boats mistaking them for those of the enemy! The journal wonders if it did not strike the leaders of public opinion in St. Petersburg that such a statement was tantamount to an admission that the Russian Admiral was utterly unfit for the responsible charge that had been entrusted to him, and that nothing short of recalling him would guarantee the security of neutral shipping and the peace of Europe. Indeed, if this explanation had been forthcoming earlier, Russia would have found it difficult to resist the British demand for the punishment of those who were responsible for the outrage; nor would the matter have been referred to an International Court of Enquiry.

BENGALÉE,
2nd Nov. 1904.8203. The *Bengalee* writes that the exodus of the Baltic Fleet from Vigo

The North Sea outrage.

"owing to an unexplained hitch," marks the second time that British diplomacy has been worsted by Russian firmness in the course of the negotiations succeeding the North Sea outrage. At first, England demanded the punishment of those who were responsible for the outrage, but finding Russia determined to entertain no such proposal, she accepted the latter's suggestion for an International Enquiry. Here, again, when everything was pointing to a peaceful settlement of the question, the Russian fleet quits Vigo in spite of the assurance given to England that a portion would be left for the purposes of the enquiry! Thus the British Government have had to surrender most of their principal demands one after another. The real fact is that neither British statesmen nor the great body of electors wish to precipitate their country in a war, the ultimate issue of which no one can foresee. The Government therefore is to be congratulated on the way it is dealing with a burning national question.

BENGALÉE,
3rd Nov. 1904.8204. The *Bengalee* observes that in view of the uncompromising attitude

China and the Treaty of Tibet.

of China the validity of the Treaty of Tibet, has been considerably minimised and the question arises: Supposing the Dalai Lama is reinstated and the *status quo* thereby restored what will the Government of India then do? Will they send another "mission"? Truly the whole affair is a dismal failure and the encomiums bestowed on Colonel Younghusband by the romancers at home would be too extravagant even for a Bismarck and a Beaconsfield rolled into one!

The journal does not grudge the gallant troops who composed the "mission"—they were mostly Indian—the medal which the King-Emperor has according to custom ordered to be struck, but it insists that the said medal will not be commemorative of a great victory or a great diplomatic achievement.

BENGALÉE,
4th Nov. 1904.8205. It would appear, writes the *Bengalee*, that the Tibetan Treaty has

The Tibet Treaty.

been raised to the dignity of an international question and that there is not a single Power, America and Japan not excepted, that does not look upon this latest act of British self-aggrandisement with unfriendliness. The Power have made formal representations to China in view of the exclusive mining and other rights England demands in Tibet, and insist on similar privileges being granted to them in other parts of Chinese territory, which undoubtedly is a perfectly just demand. Thus China is on the horns of a dilemma, and if she acts in a way that would lead Great Britain to ignore her suzerainty and to look to the Tibetans themselves for the fulfilment of the treaty, there is, nothing to prevent her from retaliating by giving even greater privileges to Russia or Germany in Tibet itself! This she is entirely at liberty to do by virtue of her position as the suzerain Power, and then the masterful treaty will be the source of all international trouble and dispute.

BENGALÉE,
5th Nov. 1904.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd Nov. 1904.

8206. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is glad that the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor has been formally drawn to the incidents connected with the sudden death of Rani Hemangini, of Sovabazar, which took place on the 7th October, and hopes that His Honour will take serious notice of the conduct of those responsible for the delay in disposing of the lady's corps. The Police Surgeon, deferred the *post mortem* examination till Sunday, the 9th, when a fee of Rs. 200 had been paid! But as the body could not be cremated until the Coroner had viewed it on Monday, the 10th, it was allowed to rot for three days, to the great inconvenience and danger of the people of the locality.

BENGALNE,
6th Nov. 1904.

8207. The *Bengalee* writes that Mr. B. Ramanujayya, late a first-class Inspector of Police in the Madras Presidency, has addressed a petition to His Excellency the Viceroy, pointing out the injustice of his summary dismissal 15 months after he had been invalided by the District Medical Officer and while he was actually in receipt of an anticipatory pension. The petition, further represents that the allegations which led to his dismissal were made behind his back and that he was given no opportunity whatsoever of refuting them or of confronting the persons who made them. In these circumstances the *Bengalee* hopes that Lord Ampthill will not fail to do justice to the appellant if the facts are really what they are stated to be.

BENGALNE,
9th Nov. 1904.

8208. The *Bengalee* writes that notwithstanding the stringent orders issued by the Commissioner of Police, there was no perceptible decline in gambling during the last *Dewali* festival although Constables were stationed at every likely haunt of gamblers in Burrabazar. It hints that the police themselves were responsible for the failure of the preventive measures adopted.

BENGALNE
10th Nov. 1904.

8209. The *Bengalee* refers to the report of a vernacular contemporary regarding Kabuli oppression in Midnapore, and fears that special measures will have to be taken to rid the rural population of the Kabuli tyrant, who appears to be again making his presence felt in Bengal.

BENGALNE,
12th Nov. 1904.

8210. The *Bengalee* complains that the women of ill-fame who occupy No. 62, Sankaritolla Lane, are a source of serious annoyance to the respectable residents of the locality, and appeals to Mr. Bignell, the Commissioner of Police, who has done much to suppress the social evil, to give this matter his early attention.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd Nov. 1904.

8211. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the charges against Babu Fakir Chunder Chatterjee are so numerous and so grave that it is not possible for Government to overlook them. In one case it is alleged that he caused a poor boatman, apparently perfectly innocent, to be so severely beaten by one of his constables that fell senseless. Yet, this officer was not put on his trial when a formal complaint was lodged before Maulvi A. Muhammad, Deputy Magistrate, who, curiously enough, entirely disbelieved the story of the aggrieved party. The other charges against the Subdivisional Officer are equally grave, and if there is any truth in them, the *Patrika* considers that he should at once be divested of his magisterial powers. The journal trusts that a Member of Council will interpellate the Government on the subject.

The conduct of Babu Fakir Chunder Chatterjee, Subdivisional Officer, Narail.

8212. The *Bengalee* adds the following cases instituted by one Sanyasi Parai to the many criminal cases in which the Subdivisional Officer of Narail has figured as the defendant.

BENGALER,
6th Nov. 1904.

It appears that owing to a pure accident for which both parties were equally to blame, the Subdivisional Officer's boat was damaged by that of one of the Narail zamindars. This so infuriated the former that he ordered the *manji* of the zamindar's boat to be beaten while the zamindar himself was treated in a positively insulting manner. But this is not all. His conduct in sending the complainant and defendant in a certain criminal case to *hajet* for declining to pay a rupee each to the poor-box of the Court is equally despotic, and is rendered still more remarkable by the fact that when Eslam Khan, the complainant petitioned the Magistrate, he had him forcibly brought to his house and compelled him to sign a declaration disowning the petition!

Such an officer, the *Bengalee* insists, should on no account be given a responsible charge, and the Government owe a duty to the public and to themselves to remove him without delay and adequately punish him for his vagaries.

8213. The Dinajpur murder case, writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, is another instance of how Judges in India do not scruple to consign innocent people to the gallows.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
7th Nov. 1904.

The Dinajpur murder case. In this case one Bibiran Rendi was charged with causing the death of her husband by administering poison, and the story of the prosecution was that the accused had an intrigue with another man, and in order to get rid of her husband poisoned him. It was, however, urged by the defence that the woman accidentally poisoned her husband, and from the evidence before them the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court were forced to take this view and acquit the accused. Surely, argues the *Patrika*, there can be absolutely no pleasure in condemning one of our fellow-creatures to death; on the contrary, it is a supreme sense of duty which leads a Judge to pass capital sentence upon an accused person. Why then did the District Judge of Dinajpur put a wrong and unwarranted construction on the confession made by Bibiran Rendi and sentence her to death when the confession was, in the opinion of the High Court, not an admission of guilt but an admission that she had accidentally poisoned her husband?

8214. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that Mr. Roe, who has been District and Sessions Judge of Midnapore for only a few months, has made quite a name for himself there owing to the severe sentences he inflicts. In a recent murder case, this "strong" Judge sentenced seven persons to death. It is generally his practice, in every murder case, to sentence two or three men to the gallows! Who then can deny that Mr. Roe is one of the strongest judicial officers in Bengal?

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th Nov. 1904.

(d)—Education.

8215. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is glad to obtain Mr. Earle's assurance that local Committees appointed for raising subscriptions are, to be divested of their official character, and is surprised at His Honour's announcement that the original proposition emanated from eight non-official members of the Committee.

AMRITA BAZA
PATRIKA,
10th Nov. 1904.

Referring to His Honour's expression of thanks to the Executive Committee for having taken a different view from the Native Press of the Ranchi College scheme, the *Patrika* writes that the opinion of a Committee that could being itself to suggest that Commissioners and Magistrates be entrusted with the work of realising subscriptions from the public—it is a wonder that District Superintendents of Police were not asked to assist—is not worth much.

BENGALÉE,
11th Nov. 1904.

8216. The *Bengalée* takes a widely different view from the *Patrika* regarding the unworthy conduct of the eight non-official members who suggested that Commissioners and Magistrates should act as Chairmen and Secretaries respectively of Divisional Committees, and is of opinion that their proposal is capable of bearing a totally different interpretation from that which the public have put on it. They knew perfectly well, says the journal, that nothing short of official pressure could bring wealthy men to subscribe to the proposed fund, and they therefore considered that the most delicate way of impressing His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor with the absolute futility of counting upon any voluntary support would be to suggest that the highest officials in the land should have the Collecting Committees under their direct management. Why then should these immortal eight be gibbeted for having given utterance to the bare truth? Their suggestion meant more than met the eye, and successfully brought home to Sir Andrew Fraser the intense unpopularity of his scheme.

BENGALÉE,
4th Nov. 1904.

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

8217. The *Bengalée* writes that "Max" in *Capital* correctly observed that Sir Andrew Fraser refused to confirm the election of Babu Anath Nath Mullick as Chairman of the Manicktolla Municipality simply to uphold the prestige of a high Government official. For a similiar reason, continues the journal, the Rani of Bhawal was unceremoniously deprived of the management of her own estate, and it was probably also with a view to uphold the prestige of still another Government official that Major Sinha was driven from the service! The *Bengalée* reminds His Honour that a few more cases of the kind noticed above will suffice to make him extremely unpopular and sadly impair his influence over the millions committed to his charge.

INDIAN NATION,
7th Nov. 1904.

8218. Babu Anath Nath Mullick was, the *India Nation* thinks, ill-advised in refusing to resign his Chairmanship of the Manicktolla Municipality, as he is not only a young man, but quite inexperienced and therefore unsuited for the duties of a Municipal Chairman. In his eagerness to insist on an abstract right, he has shown a lack of practical sense. It is true that the authorities have done what is substantially right in refusing to confirm the election, but nevertheless they have grossly violated the accepted principles of Local Self-Government. In the interests of their reputation, concludes the *Nation*, it would have been wiser if they had confirmed the election, watched the conduct of the Chairman, and interfered when he was found to be a failure.

BENGALÉE,
11th Nov. 1904.

8219. Referring to the special meeting which was recently held with a view to electing a Chairman in the place of Babu Anath Nath, whose election has been vetoed by the Government, the *Bengalée* writes that active canvassing by influential persons is going on in order to thrust an official Chairman on the Municipality. The journal strongly deprecates such a procedure in the interests of Local Self-Government and considers that the coast should be left clear for a non-official Chairman.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
4th Nov. 1904.

8220. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Arrah correspondent complains that *Milki Mohulla* and *Tari Mohulla* situated in the heart of the town, are veritable plague-spots. They abound in narrow lanes, *kutchas* drains, and stagnant pools. There is, besides, no proper drainage whatsoever, and the Conservancy Department is hopelessly inadequate. This unsatisfactory state of affairs cannot but endanger the public health, and the writer again appeals to the municipal authorities to remove the grievances of the rate-payers.

BENGALÉE,
9th Nov. 1904.

8221. When the project of building a new *gowkhana* was put forward, writes the *Bengalée*, the rate-payers were assured that the cleanliness of the town would be promoted, as the new building was to occupy a central position which would enable the conservancy carts to visit the different localities with greater frequency. Instead of this being the case, there has been a great falling off

in the Conservancy Department who, in their inordinate haste to finish their respective sections, leave their work only half done. This, concludes the *Bengalee*, is borne out by the fact that the last trips are completed by 9 A.M.!

8222. The *Bengalee's* Rajshahi correspondent writes that a certain retired Deputy Magistrate is anxious to stand as a candidate for election to the Council by the Municipalities in the Rajshahi Division, and warns the rate-payers not to give him their votes, as he is an ardent worshipper at the official shrine and will unhesitatingly support any measure the Government propose. This, says the writer, is not the sort of man to represent the interests of the people when the partition question is hanging over their heads like the sword of Damocles. What is wanted is a man who can think and act for himself and who is not tramelled by official traditions, and on this account the *Bengalee* agrees that it would be a positive danger to elect this candidate.

The election of a member for the Rajshahi Division.

BENGALÉE,
11th Nov. 1904.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

8223. Deoghur, writes the *Bengalee*, is perhaps the most important town in the Sonthal Parganas owing to its being a sanitarium and a place of pilgrimage, but the East Indian Railway authorities do not appear to have recognised this yet, as the present railway arrangements are most unsatisfactory and inconvenient. There are, only two down trains that stop at Baidyanath Junction, one at 9-40 A.M. and the other at night, and in order that a passenger might catch the former, he must leave Deoghur as early as 7-30 A.M. This is obviously an undesirable arrangement and it has been persistently pointed out that if the Bombay Mail, which passes Baidyanath Junction at noon, were to stop there for a few minutes, it would be a welcome relief to the growing number of passengers from Deoghur. In this connection the journal points out that the test applied by the railway authorities, viz., that of examining the sale of tickets at Baidyanath to ascertain whether the alteration would actually benefit the public is an absolutely defective one, since 95 per cent. of the population of Deoghur are temporary residents and provide themselves with return tickets at the starting-point. Further, it must not be forgotten, that there is now no valid reason for persistently ignoring the prayer of the inhabitants of Deoghur, as the English mails are conveyed by a special train and a loss of a few minutes could easily be made up in a distance of two hundred miles.

BENGALÉE,
2nd Nov. 1904.

8224. In view of the serious complaints received from unimpeachable sources, the *Bengalee* again urges upon the East Indian Railway authorities the desirability of cancelling the rule which deprives Indian gentlemen of free access to the Howrah station platform, the journal, although admits that platform passes are available on application, yet such a plan is almost certain to entail delays and the passes may be granted long after they are actually needed. While the *Bengalee* admits that some restrictions are necessary in order to rid the platform of pick-pockets, etc., it protests that the present system has resulted in the complete exclusion of the Indian public from the railway platform, and suggests that in future the question should be left entirely to the discretion of the ticket-collectors to reject those whom they consider suspicious and admit those whom they do not.

BENGALÉE,
11th Nov. 1904.

8225. The *Bengalee* hears that forty-four thousand rupees will be expended on construction works in or near the Simultala railway station, and hopes that a portion of this sum will be devoted to improving the sanitation of the station and its surroundings and to overhauling the Company's tank where the water is by no means as clean as it should be. The health of Simultala, has not been good, and a mild form of malaria has been more or less prevalent during the past year. Efforts are therefore being made to improve the public health, and the *Bengalee* hopes that the railway authorities

BENGALÉE,
11th Nov. 1904.

will materially help the residents who have already opened a charitable dispensary at their own cost.

(h)—General.

BENGALÉE,
4th Nov. 1904.

8226. The *Bengalée* notices that only one of the three gentlemen who have been appointed to the Provincial Service in the last issue of the *Calcutta Gazette*, possesses University qualifications, and is thus forced to ask if the appointment of the other two is consonant with the solemn pledge given by the Lieutenant-Governor that none but graduates would be selected. The journal hopes that this irregularity will be speedily explained by Government.

BENGALÉE,
11th Nov. 1904.

8227. Referring to the "inspired" article in the *Pioneer* regarding the partition question, the *Bengalée* agrees in the view expressed by the writer, viz., that since the scheme originally launched has undergone many modifications, the separation of Orissa and Chota Nagpur from Bengal, for instance, having been abandoned, there must be more cutting away of territory elsewhere if the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is to be relieved of the burden which is supposed to press so heavily upon him. According to the *Pioneer*, the original scheme which was so successfully attacked and broken down by Bengali public opinion has been abandoned and a new one has been devised regarding which the public has been discreetly kept in the dark. This, the *Bengalée* protests, is not treating the people justly, for if it was necessary to have an expression of public opinion on the old scheme, it is none the less necessary to the new one. In conclusion, the journal writes that the authoritative announcement made by the *Pioneer* that Lord Curzon means to stick to his guns and carry through his project for the formation of a North-Eastern Province, is calculated to create a panic among the people.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
7th Nov. 1904.

8228. Judging from the facts contained in the letter of its Hooghly correspondent, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that Mr. Carey is again on the war-path. It appears that a young man of social standing came to see this official by appointment and sent in his card through one of his *amlas* while he remained seated in his carriage outside. The *amla* sent up the card to Mr. Carey through a *chaprasi* and sat down on a chair awaiting the *chaprasi's* return. The Magistrate came down and the *amla* rose and informed him that his master was waiting outside, whereupon Mr. Carey wrote declining to see him and went away upstairs. At this juncture, the gentlemen alighted from his carriage with a view to explaining the matter to the Magistrate, but was prevented by the *chaprasis* from entering the house, and Mr. Carey, hearing the sound of voices, came down with a whip in his hand and ordered his *chaprasis* to turn the gentleman out by force! Is this the sort of treatment, asks the *Patrika*, that a respectable gentleman should receive at the hands of a high Government official?

But Mr. Carey is in no way abashed at his disgraceful conduct. On the contrary, he has suspended the peon who permitted the *amla* to sit down, and has hung up a notice in his house prescribing where his visitors should wait until they are sent for. The journal hopes that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor will take serious notice of this officer's lamentable want of courtesy and subject him to still greater official surveillance, as he appears to be breaking bounds again.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th Nov. 1904.

8229. In a subsequent issue the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes another account which contradicts the facts stated above, and conditionally on its being the correct version of the affair, the journal withdraws its adverse criticism on Mr. Carey's conduct. The *Patrika*, however, observes that it is assured that this gentleman is alleged to have spoken of the occurrence in the terms of the first account to several persons.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

8230. The *Indian Mirror* is glad that the question of bribery and corruption in some branches of the public service has

INDIAN MIRROR,
12th Nov. 1904.

Bribery and corruption in the public service. been brought on the tapis by certain contemporaries, but it points out that unless systematic efforts are made by the public themselves to detect and bring all such malpractices to light, the agitation will not produce the desired result. The journal considers that the entire Press and all public bodies should combine to eradicate this growing evil, which concerns all section of the community uniformly. Who does not know that to-day merit is not the only passport to the public service and that appointments are often sold in our very offices? The abolition of these petty tyrannies which characterise the administration of some backward Native States should constitute one of the chief aims of the Government and the offenders should be mercilessly pilloried. But the public must assist the Government, and in order that they may be able to do so effectively, they should be exempted from the operation of the law. The question is one which is of vital public interest, and the *Mirror* accordingly exhorts the representatives of the Indian and Anglo-Indian communities to act in concert to bring about the purity of the public service, which is an essential factor of good and efficient administration.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 12th November 1904.

F. C. DALY,
Asst. to the Insp.-Genl. of Police, L. P.

