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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 15th December 1900.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 3rd December has the following:—

The present Shah of Persia.

The reign of the present ruler of Persia, though it has extended over four and-a-half years only, has been marked by the inauguration of so many works of public utility that it is very probable that if he is allowed to rule for the whole term of his life, he will give Persia a new life of prosperity. The Persians, who are now very anxious to see their country and nation attain a prosperous condition, have got a good leader in the person of their present ruler. His Majesty is making a tour all over Europe in order to make himself acquainted with the system of teaching arts and sciences, which prevails in Europe. He is anxious to introduce that system in Persia. It is to be hoped that his efforts in this direction will be successful. Almost every nation and every country is found to have turned over a new leaf simply through the exertions of one individual. The United States have prospered through the efforts of the great patriot, Washington. It is Peter the Great to whom the Russian Empire owes its present greatness, while it is to Bismarck that Germany owes its present prosperity, and everybody knows that to Napoleon belongs the credit of opening to Europe the gate which led to the conquest of the world. Nadir Shah strengthened the foundations of the Persian kingdom, and upon those foundations the present Shah, it is hoped, will build an empire.

ROZNA-ME-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN,
Dec. 3rd, 1900.

2. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd December gives a summary of

The atrocities perpetrated by European troops in Pekin.

the description of the atrocities committed by European troops in Pekin, which has been published in the *New York Outlook* newspaper. As a result of

the brutal oppression of which the Russian soldiers were guilty, a large number of Chinese women have committed suicide by throwing themselves into a well. The atrocities committed by enlightened European nations in China have outdone the cruel oppression which is always laid at the door of barbarous races. Many Englishmen are proudly referring to the fact that the English name has not been, as yet, mixed up with this tale of infamy. But even Englishmen have had something to do with the enactment of these barbarities. The English soldiers in Pekin have robbed the graves of past Manchu Emperors of the marble tablets on which are inscribed the accounts of the dead, in order that the relics may enhance the beauty of the British Museum. Lord Kitchener had, before this, startled the whole civilised world by his desecration of the Mahdi's tomb. England no longer possesses a poet like Byron, or Englishmen could not, after thus desecrating and dishonouring the graves of ancestors, the eternal fountain, that is, of filial devotion, show their faces before civilised nations; for the fire of righteous indignation kindled by his muse would have surely consumed every English heart. Even the faces of Gauls and Visi Goths, blackened as they seemed by deeds of infamous cruelty, would have blushed in shame before they committed such atrocities. But now Englishmen are looking on unmoved and unconcerned, while this vandalism is being enacted by the European troops in China.

PRATIVASI,
Dec. 3rd, 1900.

3. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 6th December is glad to learn that a

A Bengali appointed as a French Consul.

Bengali gentleman, Babu Surendranath Datta, has been appointed French Consul in the Persian Gulf.

The Consul is to promote the commercial interest of France in the southern parts of Persia. No Bengali was ever before appointed as a Consul by the French Government. The Bengalis, though British subjects, have never been considered fit to be appointed Consuls by the British Government. The Russian Government is sending Consuls to many parts of Southern Persia. Why does not the English Government also appoint some Indians as Consuls and send them to Persia?

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 6th, 1900.

4. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th December has the following:—

The future partition of Asia.

Though it is principally hunger which is impelling the European nations to exploit the world and parcel out Asia among themselves, they also find it necessary to meet the exigencies of luxury, and it is this fact which is producing disastrous consequences. England is glittering with gold, France is intoxicated with

HITAVADI,
Dec. 7th, 1900.

luxury, and Germany is slowly accumulating wealth. Why should, then, the ever-poor Russia sit idly? It is true that De Wett, her great statesman and economist, has made liberal arrangements for enabling her people to earn a livelihood, and that, thanks to his exertions, arid wastes have been converted into smiling corn-fields and the sterile rock covered with food-giving vegetation, but the mere satisfaction of hunger is not all that the heart craves for. That is why Tartary, the Caucasus, Bokhara, Samarcand, Siberia, Manchuria, Corea, Azerbaijan, Mazanderan, and other States in Asia have, one after another, lost their independence in the irresistible tide of Russian advance. Still Russia's thirst is not satisfied. But Asiatics do not die; they die not even when they appear dead, and so thirsty Russia finds that she must spare a few drops from her cup to keep them alive, and that, in consequence, she cannot now do without the whole of Persia. Russia sees that on the eastern frontier of her territories she must have the Gulf of Pechili, Corea, and Port Arthur, in order that she may have means of ingress and egress and establish new markets for her products. She, therefore, wants a slice of Asia, which should wear the form of a crescent with its two horns planted on the seacoast.

England has strong objections to the course which Russia proposes to take in the partition of Asia. She (England) holds the first position among all commercial Powers, and controls the sea and the seacoast. If Russia can come into the possession of the Persian Gulf and the seaboard in North China, England will find the continuity of her maritime possessions destroyed—a result which would be politically extremely injurious. She understands this very well, and is therefore trying her utmost to oppose the expansion of Russian territory in China. That is why she is anxious to secure the alliance of Germany and the support of Japan. But Russia is not wanting in astuteness, and expects to gain her object by causing Germany's defection by her professions of friendship for France and by holding out hopes to America and treating Japan to words of comfort and reassurance. Germany, in the meantime, is trying to put in a claim and secure a foothold, while Japan, which considers herself the foremost Power in Asia, refuses to forego her legitimate rights.

This is the secret of the projected partition of Asia. With the development of this project will come about either an expansion or a contraction of humanity. As a result, moribund Asia will either be restored to life, or the European Powers will gain their object, and Asia will cease to breathe.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

HINDU RANJIKA,
Dec. 5th, 1900.

5. The *Hindu Ranjika* [Rajshahi] of the 5th December says that herds of wild boars are doing much damage to the crops in the villages to the west of Nator, in the Rajshahi district. Men are also said to be frequently mauled by these animals. Raiyats can be protected from their ravages by permitting *shikaris* to keep guns without license, and rewarding them for killing these wild beasts. The Government may, also, kindly permit the raiyats themselves to keep fire-arms without licenses.

BASUMATI,
Dec. 6th, 1900.

6. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 6th December has the following:—
A daring dacoity was committed in Behala, in the 24-Parganas district, about the time of the Durga Puja. Two months have not elapsed, and a dacoity has taken place in Naskarpur, near Behala, in the house of Ghanteswar Yugi. The neighbours having assembled in large numbers, the dacoits had to go away unsuccessful. What does the police do? We shall not be astonished after this to hear of dacoits committing dacoity after sending information of their intention to the house-owners, as they used to do of old. We fail to understand how the Government can remain inactive after seeing the unprotected condition of the country. If there had been no Arms Act, we might have expected to see some of the dacoits in Naskarpur shot down. If even one of them had been arrested, there would have been no difficulty in finding out the rest.

7. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th December has the following:—HITAVADI,
Dec. 7th, 1900.Highhandedness of a Police
Sub-Inspector of Bankura.

Babu Batuk Nath Chatterji, a resident of Bankura town, finding a piece of red cloth among the bricks in a kiln which he had purchased, sent information to the police. Sub-Inspector Shaikh Saifulla Miya, of the Bankura town police, came to investigate the case, and found some pieces of cloth and other articles beneath the bricks, and considered these to be stolen articles. About a month later, on the 11th November last, the Sub-Inspector, with about a dozen Musalman constables, came to Batuk Babu's house, and without giving any notice entered into his *zanana*, though none of the adult male members of his family were at home, and without asking any neighbour to accompany him there. The women of the house got frightened, and as Batuk Babu's son was going to reassure them, the constables, by order of the Sub-Inspector, pushed him away with force and then detained him. The police then searched the house and went away. Subsequently, when the Sub-Inspector learnt that Batuk Babu was about to bring a charge against him, he threatened to include his name and his son's name in the list of C class *badmashes*.

Batuk Babu lodged a complaint with the District Magistrate, to the above effect, on the 19th November last. But the Magistrate summarily dismissed his case, and without calling any evidence.

It would be a serious matter if the police were allowed to dishonour a gentleman in this way with impunity and enter people's *zananas* without notice. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the conduct of this Sub-Inspector, who was known as a highhanded officer at Onda. Batuk Babu, too, should not drop the case, but should move the Civil Court and the higher Criminal Courts for a redress of the wrong which has been inflicted on him.

8. A correspondent of the same paper says that every evening leopards make their appearance in the village of Majida, within the jurisdiction of the Purbasthali thana, in the Burdwan district. A leopard took away a girl of six or seven months from the house of Dharma Das Das.

HITAVADI.

Leopards in a village in the
Burdwan district.9. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 7th December writes that on the night of the 4th December last a daring dacoity was committed in the house of Ghanteswar Yugi, in the village of Naskarpur, in Behala, in the 24-Parganas district, only a mile and-a-half from Belvedere. The dacoits had visited the house sometime ago, but on that occasion the neighbours having assembled at the cries of the inmates of the house, they went away unsuccessful and threatening that they would come again. This they did on the night of the 4th December, and assaulted a girl with a *lathi*, fractured the skulls of a woman and two men, and decamped safely with considerable booty. Three dacoities have taken place in the village in the course of some two or three months. The people, being panic-stricken, are either leaving the village or removing their valuables. In the above case the dacoits were all up-country men, probably coolies of the Kidderpore Docks.MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 7th, 1900.

Dacoities in a village near Belvedere.

10. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 8th December says that the restrictions placed by Government on the sale of cocaine have not been very efficacious, for the men, who were once punished for selling the drug without a license, are again doing the same. Krishnalal Saha, Physician and Surgeon of Pathuriaghata, Calcutta, and another man in Beadon Street, who were once convicted for making an unlicensed sale of cocaine, continue selling it without a license.NAYA YUG,
Dec. 8th, 1900.Unlicensed sale of cocaine in
Calcutta.11. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 11th December says that the District Magistrate of Tippera is trying his best to put down dacoities and *badmashi* in the district. But the *badmashes* are not yet put down, for there are many villages where people are afraid to give evidence against them from the fear that if these *badmashes* are let off, they will not fail to commit oppression on them. In every village there are, also, persons who take the side of the *badmashes*. It is a common belief that the number of *badmashes* is small in thoseTRIPURA HITAIISHI,
Dec. 11th, 1900.*Badmashi* in the Tippera district.

villages from which complaints of cognizable offences are not numerous. But the fact is just the opposite. As complaints to the police do not produce any effect, people do not always bring small thefts to its notice. There are also many police officers who do not entertain complaints about small thefts. The police is all-powerful. Who can dare to stand against them?

PRABHAT,
Dec. 12th, 1900.

12. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 12th December gives a list of eight cases of outrage against female modesty, and observes as follows:—

It is scarcely necessary to multiply instances. These eight cases occurred during the short space of the last three weeks only, and we have come to know of them because in all of them proceedings were instituted against the offenders. Who can say how many cases have been suppressed for fear of social disgrace, in how many want of money has prevented the injured parties from bringing complaints, in how many the police has refused to make entries in their diaries, and in how many the collusion of zamindars with the *badmashes* has deterred those who have been wronged from seeking justice? That a very large number of cases occur which never come to the knowledge of the public is undeniable. In this day of anarchy and danger, to whom, if not to their rulers, shall the people look up for protection? The Indian will not grumble if his money, nay, if all his earthly property, is stolen. But he prizes the chastity of his wife, sister, mother, and daughter above all earthly possessions. And whom but the Government shall he hold responsible for a state of things which makes it so difficult to protect that chastity against the attacks of *badmashes*? We, for ourselves, know that the Government is not indifferent to the situation. But ignorant people will judge of it, not by its intentions, but by the results of its actions. They are very much grieved that they have to suffer such oppressions under British rule.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BIKASH,
Dec. 4th, 1900.

13. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 4th December says that complaints are being heard against Babu Jyotish Chandra Acharyya, Deputy Magistrate of Barisal. We fail to see why Jyotish Babu is earning unpopularity when a little control over his temper and courteous dealing with the public would remove all cause of complaints on their part.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Dec. 5th, 1900.

14. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 5th December says that Savitri, wife of Radha Krishna Mandal of Saidabad, in the Murshidabad district, a girl of only thirteen, did not like to live with her husband and used to escape without Radha Krishna's knowledge to her father's house. Her repeated escape in this manner enraged Radha Krishna, and the last time he brought her back from her father's, he put her under irons. Her father, being informed of this, sent information to the police, and Radha Krishna was arrested and sent up. On the day of trial, the complainant asked for permission to compound the case, but the Magistrate refused permission and sentenced Radha Krishna to imprisonment for six months.

If the Magistrate, instead of being guided by the impulse of the moment, had thought over the case coolly, he would have seen that the sentence of imprisonment passed on her husband must ruin Savitri for ever. Her husband was harsh towards her simply with the object of correcting her perversity and making her a good wife. But he will never again, after the punishment he has been subjected to on her account, consent to receive her into his home as his wife.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,

15. The same paper has the following:—
Mr Jarbo, Deputy Magistrate of Midnapore. The way in which Mr. Jarbo, Deputy Magistrate of Midnapore, is administering justice can no longer be made light of. In the name of dispensing justice, he is committing not only injustice, but also oppression, and his ways have astonished the people. It is a matter of regret that the Lieutenant-Governor's attention has not yet been drawn to such a judicial officer.

Lately Mr. Jarbo was trying a case in which a gentleman of Midnapore had charged a washerman with the misappropriation of some pieces of cloth.

At the hearing of the case, the washerman and his wife were present, and it transpired, in the course of the evidence, that the woman used to bring clothes to and from the complainant's house. Mr. Jarbo, thereupon, acquitted the washerman of all offence and fixed the charge upon his wife. The woman, on being asked to plead, said that she had not misappropriated the clothes, but that they were destroyed, and she was prepared to compensate the complainant for their loss. The tone in which the woman spoke did not, probably, prove agreeable to Mr. Jarbo, and he immediately sentenced her to three months' rigorous imprisonment. Her husband pleaded in vain that it was he, and not his wife, who was to blame, and that punishment ought to be inflicted upon him. Mr. Jarbo was not to be moved.

Judicial officers like Mr. Jarbo tarnish the name of British justice.

16. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 5th December says that the waiting-room, which was built for witnesses in Barisal, is going to be utilised as an office for the section-writers in the Barisal Judge's Court. But as this will cause much inconvenience to witnesses, it is hoped that the District Judge will soon provide a waiting-room for them.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
Dec. 5th, 1900.

17. A correspondent of the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 5th December writes that one additional Munsif used to come every year to Ghatal to clear the files of the Ghatal Munsifi. But the practice has been discontinued for the last two years to the great inconvenience of the parties to suits. The files being now very heavy, orders have been passed for the transfer of a portion of the work to Midnapore. This will cause much inconvenience to parties and their witnesses. In many cases parties will be unable to produce their witnesses, and in others they will have to withdraw or compromise their suits for fear of unnecessary expense and trouble. The District Judge of Midnapore is requested to send an additional Munsif to Ghatal instead of transferring suits to Midnapore.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Dec. 5th, 1900.

18. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 6th December has the following:—

The Settlement Office at Chittagong. We have heard it said that there is some mystery about the theft of settlement forms in Chittagong. But no one attempts to clear up that mystery. The local authorities seem to be determined to hide the faults, however serious, of their highhanded subordinates and put no check upon the oppressions which are committed by them. It is even said that people who come to pay the cost of the survey often get pulled by the ear, and have to quietly put up with the insult. The forms which are said to be stolen are said not to have been written out at all. There is yet a large mass of papers to be written out, although many of the officers got their relatives and men employed at their own cost to write out the forms. The form-stealing case which is going on is leading to many disclosures. It is also said that many people have not received their dues at the settlement office. The Collector should enquire.

JYOTI,
Dec. 6th, 1900.

19. The same paper says that in the year 1889, or in some previous year, the Chittagong Court of Wards purchased, on behalf of the estate of Salamat Ali Khan, the property known as *taraf Aziz Nasarat*, and spent a large sum of money in litigation to set aside the *patni* right of Abdul Ali Chaudhuri, but made no attempt to set aside the *talukdari*, *etmamdari* and *dar-rayati* rights which existed under the *patnidar*. No income is, therefore, derived from the property. The purchase is said to have been made at Rs. 16,000, and Rs. 25,000 more have been spent in litigation, payment of revenue and a survey. But no settlement has yet been made with the *rai-yats*.

JYOTI.

When the Court of Wards took the estate, it possessed a cash balance of upwards of a lakh of rupees. The money has gone on diminishing, and has now come down to the low figure of Rs. 50,000.

20. The same paper blames the practice of keeping the khas tahsildars in Chittagong in one place permanently or for long periods. The evil effects of this practice have been seen for a long time. Babu Kali Pada Chakravarti, khas tahsildar of Patiya, has been in that place since 1891. Some

JYOTI.

muharrirs under him have also been in Patiya for a long period. In the month of March last, a charge of rape was brought by a Jumia girl against one of these muharrirs, Sarat Chandra Chakravarti. But the muharrir reported to the khas tahsildar to the effect that the relatives of the girl and those who were helping her had been cultivating land which was held *khas* by the Government. Babu Sarat Chandra Chakravarti was acquitted of the charge, and the Jumias who had been reported against were punished, although they produced evidence to show that the land they cultivated was held by them under settlements made with *pattadars* or in permanently-settled mahals. The Magistrate ought to have investigated the two cases personally, and it was extremely wrong of him to have the case against the Jumias investigated not by a Deputy Collector, but by the khas tahsildar himself.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 7th, 1900.

21. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th December says that the order passed by Mr. Gabriel, Joint-Magistrate of Beguserai, prohibiting the public to use, except during certain prescribed hours, the two *pucka* roads passing through the court compound, has caused them the greatest inconvenience. Before his arrival in the subdivision, the roads were open to public use, and the fact that they were made *pucka* shows that they are public roads.

Mr. Gabriel's order disallowing the use of the well in the compound of the subdivisional office by the local pleaders, mukhtars, and others is also severely complained of.

The Subdivisional Officer is on familiar and friendly terms with the European indigo-planters residing within his jurisdiction; and owing to this familiarity and friendship he occasionally finds it necessary to leave the path of strict justice. In the two cases of Mr. Sims, an indigo-planter, against Jahurilal, a wealthy resident of Monghyr, both of which were won by the latter, the frequent and needless adjournments and postponements put Jahurilal to so much expense that it is doubtful whether a poorer man could have brought the cases to a successful termination. In the case of Mr. Lawrence against one Prasiddha Singha, the defendant's mukhtar was subjected to great harassment by Mr. Gabriel for a slight technical irregularity in the deposit of summons fees.

In the course of the trial of Lekhraj Singh and others, Mr. Gabriel said he was not aware that any European planter was in the habit of coercing his raiyats to pay enhanced rents. This shows how little he knows of the ways of the planters. In the case of Mr. Sims against Jahurilal, referred to above Mr. Gabriel refused, for a long time, to take evidence of the actual possession of the disputed land, though such evidence was material to the case. Quite recently he gave out that on a particular day he would hold his court at Balia, but when the parties and their pleaders and witnesses came to the place, they were surprised to find that the Magistrate had decided upon holding court at Hanumannagar, which is eight to ten miles distant from Balia. This put them to great loss and hardship. Mr. Gabriel often passes his orders in vague and ambiguous language, and the parties concerned find great difficulty in putting a correct interpretation upon his words.

It behoves the Lieutenant-Governor to transfer Mr. Gabriel from Beguserai without delay, and to deprive him of the powers with which, as a Subdivisional Officer, he is vested.

HITAVADI,

22. The same paper says that, according to a correspondent, the tahsildars and muharrirs employed under the Chittagong Court of Wards, small though their salaries are, are heavily fined for failing to show satisfactory results in the collection of rent. In the month of September last, for instance, about Rs. 100 were realized as such fines.

The editor observes that it is difficult to believe the above. But if it be true, the Manager of the Court of Wards should see that the poor tahsildars and muharrirs are not harassed in this manner in future.

PRABHAT,
Dec. 12th, 1900.

23. Referring to the case of Goma, a khansama in the Maryville Tea Estate in Assam, who has been transported for life for murdering his wife, the *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 12th December, fails to understand why the prosecution did not cite as a

witness the doctor who treated the accused when he was suffering from self-inflicted wounds. Many secrets might have been disclosed by him. It is also inexplicable, after the jury's admission that the accused's statement about his wife's adulterous relations with Mr. Greig was true, why this gentleman was not charged with, and tried for, adultery. It is hoped that the authorities will bring a charge of adultery against this European.

(c)—Jails.

24. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th December has heard that Krishnaji Abaji, editor of the *Kalidas* newspaper, is receiving harsh treatment at the hands of the jail authorities, and that his meals are not prepared by a Brahman. The higher authorities ought to direct their attention to the matter.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Dec. 10th, 1900.

(d)—Education.

25. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 5th December says that there is a great and noteworthy difference between the treatment accorded to its native students by the authorities of the Medical College when the institution was first established in Calcutta and the treatment which such students now receive at the hands of Dr. Bomford, its present Principal. It was with the greatest difficulty, and only by means of offers of scholarships and other inducements, that Government could get a few native pupils to attend the Medical classes which had then been newly opened, and the event was considered important and auspicious enough to be signalled by the firing of a salute from the ramparts of Fort William. But what is strange is that at the present time an attempt is being made to expel native students from the College by the introduction of more and more stringent rules and regulations. One of these new rules, which has been now in force for some time past, is that a boy who fails to pass the examination held at the end of his third year, shall be expelled from the College. The boy who should be so unfortunate as to be dealt with in this way would find that he had spent five years of his life for nothing, and that he was too old to enter upon a new and different course of studies, or choose a new occupation for himself. Dr. Bomford must be aware that the only profitable course that is open to such a boy is to set himself up as a village doctor and thereby increase the number of quacks in the country. Thus the effect of the rule will be to aggravate the evil for the prevention of which it was framed. Another rule introduced by Dr. Bomford is that the students shall be henceforward required to earn a higher percentage of marks in the test examinations, in order that they may be permitted to present themselves at the approaching examinations of the University. The boys consider the enforcement of the order in regard to the ensuing examinations as very hard, inasmuch as they had received no previous intimation to the effect that such a rule was going to be introduced. What adds to their difficulty is the fact that there are no prescribed text-books on any subject, the lecture notes given by the Professors being required to be learnt by heart, that the date on which the test-examination is to be held is not fixed or announced except only a few days before it is held, and that, being required as they are to attend the College either on duty or in the lecture-room for a considerable number of hours every day, the students find little time to prepare themselves at so short a notice for so stiff an examination.

PRABHAT,
Dec. 5th, 1900.

The native students have also other grievances to complain of. One of these is the invidious distinction that is made in the College between the Eurasian and the Native students. There is a worldwide difference between the treatment accorded to the former and that which is extended to the latter. The Eurasian students suffer no inconvenience or harassment. They are supplied with food and clothing and quarters at the public expense, and they get appointments after passing the examinations. They are called "Military students" and are accorded a respectful treatment in the College. The examinations they are required to pass are not stiff. While for the purpose of obtaining class promotion they have to earn only 10 per cent. of

the total number of marks, in order to obtain a diploma, they are not required to pass the stiff examinations of the University. While the course for native students extends over five years, the course for Eurasian boys covers a period of only four years. Now, why this scandalous race distinction in the Medical College in favour of Eurasian students? And yet while Eurasian boys are treated with so much favour, indirect attempts are being made to expel all native students from the institution. Is not this extremely reprehensible?

26. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 6th December has the following:—

BASUMATI,
Dec. 6th, 1900.

The Eden Hindu Hostel.

Complaints are being heard against the management of the Calcutta Eden Hindu Hostel. The accountant of the hostel has fallen ill, and is, therefore, unable to perform his duties. If he takes leave, a better man may take his place; but he will not take leave. Many reasons are assigned for his unwillingness to take leave. He never comes into the rooms of the students to hear if they have any complaints to make. He has his room whitewashed every year, but he never enquires whether the rooms of the students require repairs. The food given to students is of a very bad quality. Sometimes the students get no fish curry. Can any one say why the students were made to pay an additional charge for six days on the occasion of the Puja vacation?

It is the practice to take Rs. 2 from every student on account of establishment during the Puja vacation; but it is not clear why this is done when cooks and other menials are not kept during that time. We hear that all the money realised from the students during a year is not expended, and there is a surplus left every year. But is this surplus spent in promoting the comforts of the students? Is anybody called to account for any waste of the hostel money? Is there any auditor appointed by the Government to check the accounts of the hostel?

BASUMATI.

27. The same paper fails to see what led the Government to be so bold as to frame rules for the regulation of private

The regulation of students' hostels.

hostels, when its own model hostel, with everything necessary for good and strict management fully provided, is so badly managed, and the students living in it are characterised by lawlessness. How is Government to set up houses for other people when it fails to set right its own house?

HITAVADI,
Dec. 7th, 1900.

28. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th December says that in the last

The last B. L. examination.

B. L. examination eight marks were assigned to questions which had not been set from the text-books. It was very hard for the candidates to answer questions which might tax, to the utmost, the intellects of the Judges of the High Court. It was not also right to set questions from the Law Reports.

HITAVADI

29. The same paper says that in the last Lower Primary examination

The last Lower Primary examination.

the question papers in arithmetic did not all agree with each other. In the second line of the eighth question, for instance, there were the figures '534' in some of the papers and the figures '634' in the others. In the ninth question there was '165' in some papers and '156' in the rest.

SARASWAT PATRA,
Dec. 8th, 1900.

30. The *Saraswat Patra* [Dacca] of the 8th December heartily thanks the

The regulation of students' hostels.

Government for framing the wise and beneficial rules for the regulation of students' hostels, and considers it unnecessary now to consider what the results will be in practice.

PRATIVASI,
Dec. 10th, 1900.

31. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th December has the following:—

Pandit Hara Prasad Sastri's promotion to the Sanskrit College.

People might object to the appointment of Pandit Hara Prasad Sastri to the Principalship of the Sanskrit College if that College were an institution still conducted on the old system. But as that is not the case, nothing can be said against the Pandit's appointment. The Mahamahopadhyaya is perfectly well versed in the branches of learning which are now studied in that institution. He is a learned man and comes of a family of Sanskrit professors. His forefathers, for eight generations, were professors of *Nyaya*. The late Rajendra Vidyaratna, the Sabha Pandit of the Raja of Naldanga, and the late Manikya Tarkabhusan, the rival of the celebrated Pandit Jagannath Tarkapanchanan and the compiler of the *Vivada Bhanganava*, a book compiled by Sir William Jones's order, were his ancestors. His

maternal grandfather, too, was a celebrated Professor of Logic and a professor in the Sanskrit College. He is himself a distinguished graduate of the Calcutta University. In Sanskrit, he is a pupil of the Mahamahopadhyaya Mahes Chandra Nyayaratna; in antiquarian research, a pupil of the late Dr. Rajendra Lala Mitra; and in Bengali, a disciple of the late Bankim Chandra Chatterji. He has acquired a reputation as an antiquarian, and by his work in this department has enhanced the glory of his country. Now that he has been appointed Principal of the Sanskrit College, he should do his best to remove the defects that have crept into the institution in the course of time, and make adequate arrangements for a thorough study of Sanskrit therein.

32. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 11th December has the following:—

Pandit Hara Prasad Sastri.

Mahamahopadhyaya Pandit Hara Prasad Sastri has got the Principalship of the Calcutta Sanskrit College, that is, he has been appointed to the post by the Lieutenant-Governor. This news has made us happy. The Sastri Mahasay is an active and energetic lion among men. Indeed, he is the man whose lap is the resting-place of the ever-fickle goddess of prosperity. Who, if not he, should get a high post? His fame is worldwide. A big learned body like the Calcutta Asiatic Society he has kept under control as if it were a myrabolam held in the hand. Big English scholars are like cats by his side. Bengali as he is, he can yet play with poisonous snakes. His promotion is inevitable, and they are fools who want to be thorns in the path of the advancement of such a world-conquering Pandit! May Mahamahopadhyaya Sastri Mahasay live for ever! May he be ever happy!

BANGABHUMI,
Dec. 11th, 1900.

33. The *Signboard* [Calcutta] of the 11th December says that the new rules

The new rules relating to Text-book Committees.

relating to Text-book Committees are expected to produce good results. The rule authorising the appointment, as official members, of officers not

SIGNBOARD,
Dec. 11th, 1900.

belonging to the Education Department will give great satisfaction. There can, of course, be no objection to the selection, as text-books, of books written by the members or their friends, but if equally-good books, written by outsiders, can be made available for use, they should be given preference. As the members are all busy men, having very little leisure to devote to a careful examination of text-books, Government has done well by leaving the duty of final selection to the head of the Education Department. It is to be hoped that the new Committee will enter upon their work with a due sense of the responsibility which Government has imposed on them.

34. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 13th December is glad to see

The Principalship of the Sanskrit College, Calcutta.

Mahamahopadhyaya Hara Prasad Sastri appointed as Principal of the Calcutta Sanskrit College. He is very learned, and is born of an *Adhayapak*

BASUMATI,
Dec. 13th, 1900.

family. By his learning and experience he is the fit person to be appointed to the Principalship. The Government has, therefore, done well in conferring a fit honour on a really worthy man.

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

35. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 4th Decem-

Cholera in some villages in the Mymensingh district.

ber writes that there has been an outbreak of cholera in villages within the jurisdiction of the Gafargaon police-station, in the Mymensingh district. In

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 4th, 1900.

Jaydharkhali village alone, many persons have died of the disease. The outbreak is due to the drinking of water from the Sutna and Khiru rivers into which dead bodies of people dying of cholera are thrown.

36. A correspondent of the same paper draws attention to the scarcity of

Some municipal matters.

good water in the village of Narayandahar, in the Mymensingh district. The water-scarcity may be

CHARU MIHIR.

removed by the re-excavation of the Dhalai river in the places where its bed has been heaved up by the earthquake. Inland trade will also benefit by such re-excavation. The Mymensingh-Durgapur Road ought to be metalled, as much damage is caused to it every year in the rainy season and great inconvenience is caused to wayfarers. The bridges over the Syamganj-Jhaspur Road should also be made *pukka*.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 4th, 1900.

37. A correspondent of the same paper writes that the earthquake has made the condition of the river Balua, which flows through Kalipur, in the Mymensingh district, deplorable. The river remains stagnant, except in the rainy season. The water of the river is good. But the low class people of the adjoining village fish in the river and make its water unfit for drinking purposes. They do not heed protests. Under the circumstances the village panchayat should be ordered to forbid those people from fouling the water in this way.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Dec. 5th, 1900.

38. In noticing the Government Resolution on the administration of District Boards during the year 1899-1900, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 5th December regrets the tendency visible in all District Boards to curtail educational expenditure and increase the expenditure on roads and dispensaries. It is the first duty of these Boards to provide useful education for the masses and a good water-supply. The question of water-supply is a momentous one, and should engage the earliest attention of Government. Dispensaries will be of far less use to the villagers than a supply of good water.

RANGPUR
DIKPRAKASH,
Dec. 6th, 1900.

39. A correspondent of the *Rangpur Dikprakash* [Rangpur] of the 6th December complains of the deplorable condition of the Sadar road in the village of Mogal Hât, in the Rangpur district. All means of communication with the Kurigaon subdivision are stopped from the beginning of the rainy season till November. The road to Imamganj Hât also becomes impassable during the rainy season. Water-scarcity in the village of Mogal Hât is also very great, the two or three tanks in it drying up by the end of March. The water-scarcity can be removed by the re-excavation of the Burir dighi tank. The work will not require much money.

KHULNA,
Dec. 6th, 1900.

40. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 6th December considers it objectionable that the District Board should decide upon letting out the tank at Mulghar without consulting the Union Committee of that place, in whose charge the tank is. This is an insult to the Union Committee, against whom no complaints were ever heard. Where is the necessity of keeping up the Union Committee if the District Board cannot trust it with the charge of a tank? There will probably be a disturbance if the Board leases out the tank.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 7th, 1900.

41. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th December draws attention to the bad water-supply and the bad condition of the roads of the village of Sontal, in the Bagerhat subdivision of the Khulna district. The water of the river Bhairab, which is only a mile and-a-half from the village, is too brackish to be used for drinking or other domestic purposes. The excessive rainfall of the present year, followed by the rotting of duck-weeds, has made the water of the only tank in the village unfit for use. The stench proceeding from the rotten weeds has become a source of danger to the health of the entire neighbourhood. The Magistrate is requested to have a tank excavated in the village at the District Board's expense.

HITAVADI,

42. Another correspondent of the same paper says that cholera has been raging in the village of Banser Bada in the Pabna district for about a month and-a-half, and has claimed no less than fifty victims. Large numbers of cattle, too, are dying in some neighbouring villages.

RANGPUR
VARTAVAHA,
Dec. 7th, 1900.

43. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 7th December says that the obnoxious smell issuing from the stables in Rangpur town tells on the public health. The smell from the sweepings deposited near the Central Board well is also sickening. The municipality was asked to light the burning ghât between the Nababganj and Mahiganj roads, but this has not been done as yet; whilst money is wasted in lighting such places as Tax dighi. The practice of steeping jute in the river ought to be stopped.

44. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 8th December says that Dr. Cook,

The Conservancy Department of the Calcutta Municipality.

Health Officer of the Calcutta Municipality, is indifferent to those matters which require his immediate attention. The health of the town

NAVATUG,
Dec. 8th, 1900.

depends greatly on the good working of the Conservancy department. But the working of this department is conducted most negligently. The privies of the houses in Simla and its neighbourhood are served every other day. The *mehters* do not perform their work properly, unless they are paid some gratification by the house-owner every month. Complaints at the local conservancy office are not heeded. Complaints to Dr. Cook himself produce no effect. The Chairman's attention is drawn to this state of things.

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

45. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th December

A canal wanted in the Midnapore district.

says that since the Bengali year 1292, the Silabati river, in the Ghatail subdivision of the Midnapore district, has been breaching its eastern embank-

HITAVADI,
Dec. 7th, 1900.

ment every year, flooding villages, demolishing houses, and killing men and cattle. The people of the villages protected by this embankment have therefore to live in constant fear. Government can save them by cutting a canal from the breach in the embankment at Raghunathpur in the Chetua pargana to Chandreswar on the western bank of the Rupnarayan, so as to make the flood water of the Silabati run into the Rupnarayan instead of spreading itself over the villages on its bank. An investigation was once held by Government for this purpose, and an estimate of the cost was also prepared, but nothing more has been heard of. The Lieutenant-Governor should take pity on the villagers who suffer by the floods of the Silabati and have a canal excavated.

46. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 12th December draws attention to

Railway matters.

the inconvenience which railway passengers feel in consequence of there being no water-suppliers at

PRABHAT,
Dec. 12th, 1900.

the Howrah station, and also because water is not promptly supplied even at the stations on the East Indian line, in which there are water-suppliers. The water which is supplied is often very bad, and vessels used for its supply are very dirty. Two water-suppliers should be kept at the Howrah station, all station-masters should be required to see that the water-suppliers under them do their work properly, and a sufficient number of filters should be provided at all stations in which there are no good tanks or wells. The water which is supplied should also be tested from time to time by travelling inspectors.

(h)—*General.*

47. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 4th December has the following:—

Appointment of members to the Comilla Dispensary Committee.

The Comilla Municipality elected fifteen members for the Comilla Dispensary Committee, some of whom were Municipal Commissioners, and the

PRATINIDHI,
Dec. 4th, 1900.

rest outsiders. The names of eight of the elected members have been omitted in the *Calcutta Gazette*, and the names of three gentlemen not elected by the municipality have been added to the list. We wish to know why have the names of eight of the members elected by the municipality been omitted? And was the municipality asked to re-elect others in the place of those who were rejected by the Government? We are anxious to know what right the Commissioner of the Division has to set aside a resolution of the municipality without sufficient grounds? Was the Chairman of the municipality consulted before the names of the gentlemen elected by it were cancelled? Anyone having the least self-respect ought to protest against the action of the Commissioner. It does not add to one's income or glory to be appointed a member of the Dispensary Committee. The independence and honour of the municipality is compromised if people, who act disinterestedly on its behalf, are slighted and insulted, and if all that a municipality does is set at naught.

BASUMATI,
Dec. 6th, 1900.

48. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 6th December says that complaints are being heard against the registry office at the Dum-Dum Cantonment. Persons coming to register their bonds are unnecessarily harassed by some outsiders.

BASUMATI.

49. The same paper considers it objectionable that the Calcutta post office should employ boys of tender years to carry letter bags from one post office to another. The other day a little boy was carrying letter bags from the Barrabazar post office to Shambazar. He had a quarrel with two school boys, and there was a fight. The school boys were arraigned before the Police Magistrate on a charge of assaulting a public servant and destroying letters, and were fined. Does it make any saving of money to employ boys instead of men?

BASUMATI.

50. The same paper says that it is the public belief that the rural sub-Registrarship is a monopoly of the Muhammadans, and the belief cannot be said to be unfounded, seeing that the majority of rural sub-registrars are Musalmans. Why are not these posts given to graduates, after a competitive examination? Candidates for the Civil Service, Provincial Civil Service, and Police Sub-Inspectorship have to pass competitive examinations. The responsibilities of a rural sub-registrar are not light. The fees which a rural sub-registrar gets every month exceed what a B.A. or M.A. generally earns now-a-days. In these hard days such posts ought not to be given away only on recommendation. There can be no reason for complaint if the sons and relations of big men can beat others in a competitive examination.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 7th, 1900.

51. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th December has the following:—
The disclosures made by the *Bengalee* in connection with the working of the Calcutta income-tax office have given rise to a strong agitation. We have more than once pointed out that great oppression is committed by the officers of the department on the men who are too poor to give bribes, whilst no oppression is committed on rich men. To prove this, however, is not easy. But to prove it indirectly is not difficult. Let Government enquire into the grounds on which corrections have been made in the assessment books, and there will remain no doubt in its mind about the corruption of the officers. Here are given three instances in which the original assessments have been reduced, and Government should enquire into the grounds of reduction:—

Name of party.	First assessment.			Final assessment.			Reduction.		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Tamsukh Das Sew Buksh, merchant, 38, Armenian Street ...	312	8	0	195	1	0	117	8	0
Joge, umbrella-seller, 38, Armenian Street ...	156	4	0	130	3	4	26	0	0
Ananda Kanumal, 38, Armenian Street ...	260	5	4	182	4	8	78	2	0

We have nothing to say if the reductions in these three cases were made after a proper hearing of objections. But if no grounds for the reductions exist, and if the corrections were made secretly, a strong suspicion must attach to the conduct of the officers.

NAVA YUG,
Dec. 8th, 1900.

52. Referring to the appointment of Mr. Biharilal Chandra as Registrar of Assurances in Calcutta on the retirement of Babu Pratap Chandra Ghosh, the *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 8th December says that the Government ought to have appointed an old, experienced man to the post. The pay attached to it might have secured the services of an able and experienced officer of the Provincial Judicial Service. But it is madness on our part to expect Government either to consult public opinion or act with a strict sense of justice in a matter like this. It is no use crying in the wilderness.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 8th, 1900.

53. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 8th December says that there is still plague in Gaya, but the unbounded kindness of Mr. Oldham as a plague officer. Mr. Oldham, the Magistrate of the district, has kept up the spirits of the people of that place. He visits the plague-stricken in

their houses, and gives them consolation. The wife of one of his chaprasis got the disease, and Mr. Oldham not only went to the chaprasi's house to see how the woman was doing, but proposed to call in the Civil Surgeon.

54. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th December says that, intoxicated with his own eloquence, Lord Curzon allows himself to say too much, and one is led to think that his mission in life is to preach a religion of love and goodwill. But, as a matter of fact, His Excellency does not permit his desire to please the subject-people, strong and intense as it is, to get the better of what he considers to be business. Nor does he forget the difference between self and not self. In dispensing charity he treats us to sweet words, while the *laddu* (sweetmeat) is reserved for himself. If the Bengali wants to be a clerk, he must pass the B. A. examination, but for Eurasians there must be other arrangements. If the latter wish to go to heaven, they will be spared the trouble of ascending the stairs, the enchanted car (*pusparath*) which can take them there in the twinkling of an eye being placed at their disposal for the purpose. In the selection of text-books for the vernacular schools the public must guide themselves by the views of the Government, but the European schools may, in this matter, act as they please. Impartial treatment indeed! A secret circular is said to have been sent to all heads of offices prohibiting the promotion of natives to high posts. Are the daughters of King Lear, one after another, taking their birth to wield our destiny?

PRATIVASI,
Dec. 10th, 1900.

55. The same paper regrets that though the Shambazar post office in Calcutta has been in existence for seven or eight years, it is still maintained tentatively, and deliveries are not made from it. This has, in a great measure, deprived the people of the locality of the benefits of the hourly delivery system. Considering that such public institutions as the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad, the *Prabhat* office, the Sikdarbagan Bandhav Library and the Cornwallis Union are situated within its jurisdiction, the postal authorities should, without delay, order deliveries to be made by it.

PRATIVASI.

56. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 10th December is sorry to notice that complaints against the manner in which the income-tax is realized have become general. An income-tax scandal has occurred in Calcutta. The case was brought to the notice of the proper authorities, but it seems it has been hushed up. Two other cases of a similar nature have come before the Commissioner of Burdwan. These cases, too, are not likely to lead to better results. The Government ought to direct its attention to the matter.

BHARAT MITRA,
Dec. 10th, 1900.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

57. Referring to the North-Western Provinces Tenancy Bill, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 5th December writes as follows:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Dec. 5th, 1900.

The North-Western Provinces
Tenancy Bill.

If the Bill is passed into law, there will remain no difference between a *paikast* and a *khodkast* raiyat, the right of the zamindar in the land will become weaker, and the tie between raiyats and zamindars will be slackened. From the time of the passing of Act X of 1859, Government has directed its attention to the minutest details of the land question and set its heart upon improving the condition of the raiyats. It has decided the question—Who is the real owner of land,—the raiyat or the zamindar?—in favour of the former. And there are now many officials to whom the permanent settlement of 1793 appears to have been a most indiscreet measure. It ought, however, to be considered whether in the existing circumstances of India a weakening of the zamindar's right in the land is calculated to do good to the country at large.

On a consideration of the present condition of Indian raiyats, we are convinced that a law like the one proposed will be of no good to them. In Bengal, for instance, ill-feeling and litigation between zamindars and raiyats have very much increased since the passing of the Bengal Tenancy Act. This is borne out by the law reports. And increase of litigation between raiyats and zamindars means mischief to the country and more harm to the raiyat than

to the zamindar. Government is passing laws to benefit raiyats, but in the existing social and economic condition of the country, those laws are producing very different results from those desired by the Government.

The real cause of the degraded condition of the raiyats is their social and intellectual inferiority. No laws passed by the Government will succeed in improving their condition, so long as they do not cultivate their minds and are unable to judge for themselves what is for their good and what not. On the contrary, laws passed by the Government without regard to the circumstances and surroundings of the raiyats will do them more harm than good by creating ill-feeling and inciting litigation between them and their landlords. It will be impossible for them to recover from the evil effects of such legislation. It is true the raiyats are now entirely at the mercy of the zamindars. But it is impossible to change this state of things by legislation so long as they do not attain to a higher moral, social, and intellectual status, and so long as Government does not abstain from grinding them down by means of heavy taxes.

HITAVADI,
De . 7th, 1900.

58. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th December writes as follows with reference to the observations made by the British Indian Association in its note on the draft Bill to restrict civil appeals:—

By means of the facts and figures adduced in the note, the Association wants to prove that the Bengalis are not a litigious people, that the number of law suits in Bengal is not, after all, excessive, and that injustice will result from a restriction of the right of making a second appeal inasmuch as it will lead people to overstate the value of claims, and thereby appeal summarily to the High Court. This will make Government a gainer by increasing the income from stamp fees, but the increased cost will press heavily on suitors. Moreover, the fact that the Munsifs are, as a class, young and inexperienced men, whose decisions are often wrong, would, if the right of appeal were restricted, make it impossible for litigants to obtain justice, and would thus produce discontent in the country. The note prepared by the Association is an able and well-reasoned document, and Government would find it hard to answer its arguments. Many educated people in this country believe that it is the prevalence of litigation among the Indians which makes vakils and barristers, as a class, wealthy and influential, that the Congress derives its power, and political agitation its force, from the power and position of vakils and barristers, and that if the number of law suits can be reduced, the legal practitioners in the country will have their income reduced, and that their impoverishment will mean a diminution of the power and prestige of the Congress and of the force of political agitation. We cannot, of course, believe that it is for the purpose of attaining this low and sordid object that Government has prepared the new draft Bill, though it must be confessed that the sneering sarcasms of the *Pioneer* and the *Englishman* lead us to suspect that there may be, after all, some motive, good or bad, in the matter. But then, as regards official acts, it is always the subject's duty to ascribe good motives.

Admitting the truth of the statements made by the British Indian Association, there is one matter which deserves careful consideration. Under Musalman rule, there was very little litigation in this country. Few sought justice at the hands of the *kazi*, and the villagers accepted the decisions pronounced by their zamindars and panchayats. Nor was there much necessity in those days for instituting law suits. What is now accomplished by reason of the existence of loop-holes in the law was then secured by means of *lathis*. Even the prosecution of blood feuds did not, as now, require much expenditure of money, the only preparations necessary for the purpose being a collection of stout *lathis* and the making of an opportunity for their use. Some of those who lived in the metropolis purchased the goodwill of the officials with bribes, and with the help of the sepoys of the *Nizamut* accomplished their own ends. But native society as a whole, from the street beggar to the millionaire, remained unaffected by such proceedings. Speaking from the standpoint of Hindu society, the arrangements which prevailed at the time did not weaken or impoverish it.

But thanks to the law courts which have been established under British rule and the court-fees and false evidence used therein, Ram's money is being made over to Syam and Syam's property vested in Piru Miya. The men who, under Musalman rule, wielded their *lathis*, broke the heads of innocent

people at a hint from the zamindar, in order to earn their livelihood, and robbed women of their chastity, find, at the present time, fit representatives in those who have exchanged the *lathi* for the deadly weapon of false evidence. The *lathi* killed only the man on whom it fell, and unless the blow was followed by a wholesale plunder of property, his children remained uninjured ; but such is the power of false evidence that, though it does not kill a man outright, it reduces him and his wife and children to beggary, and causes them to be consumed in the slow fire of poverty and disgrace.

To hide oppression and harassment, murder, and assault from the sight of the rulers, the offender found it necessary in the past to bribe the fouzdar, the daroga, and other police authorities. But at the present time, in addition to the bribe which must be given, an offender must be ready to get up false evidence, discover legal flaws, and pay heaps of money to bullying barristers, in order to escape conviction and punishment. Formerly, for good or for evil, a case was decided once for all, but now, if a person is once caught in the snare of litigation, he is reduced to beggary, and has also to suffer agonising suspense, pending the result of appeal, appeal against appeal, and all subsequent appeals. The public dissatisfaction which is produced by cases of oppression of individuals does not last long and is removed as soon as cases of justice done to particular men come to the public notice. But a law whose defects injuriously affect every member of society and a judicial procedure in consequence of whose defects society becomes slowly impoverished, are certainly such as should be abolished by the sovereign, though they may meet with the approbation of civilised nations. For it is not easy to remove the popular discontent and ill-will that is bred by bad laws.

Considering the wide prevalence of false evidence in this country at the present time, it has become almost impossible to do real justice in law suits. The country now resounds with the praise of the man who, though a demon in human shape, is possessed of wealth and intelligence. The zamindar's son is saved from the gallows, though he is guilty of murder, and a wealthy man, even though he should treacherously deprive his relations of their possessions, finds no difficulty in securing titles of distinction at the hands of Government. Those that have eyes to see can see every day that, thanks to the British law and law courts, there are many villians in Bengal, who are posing as saints, many cheats who are becoming Rajas, many oppressive people who are freely harassing society. Here is a zamindar who having set fire to a raiyat's hut and in one night removed all traces of his homestead is now robbing him of everything he has in this world, and there is nobody who can venture to utter a word of protest. Who is there to undertake the trouble of going to a court and there proving the truth of his statements? Thanks to the depositions of the witnesses, the pressure of cross-examination, the strange interpretations which the vague and ambiguous sections of the law of evidence lend themselves to and the intelligence of the Judge, the result of a trial is often the reverse of what is expected by the public. People do not readily care to run so much risk. That is why the wicked are found so powerful.

Such is the state of things. While the power of society has decreased and is being misused, the ruling power labours under a mistake and under a delusion. Under these circumstances, it cannot be proper to pass any law without very careful consideration.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

59. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th December has the following:—

Lord Curzon's advice to native chiefs.

It is a matter of satisfaction that Lord Curzon in his Kathiawar speech has advised the native chiefs to give up European habits and customs, to rule according to Indian notions, and to take steps to promote the welfare of their States. Perhaps His Excellency does not know that the native chiefs have to act under the guidance of British Political Agents. Unless the Residency office is reformed by Lord Curzon, the chiefs can do nothing to improve their system of administration, as they can do nothing without the sanction of that office. British Indian subjects can bring all complaints to the notice of the higher authorities, but with the Native States the case is different. The native chiefs have not the

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Dec. 10th, 1900.

power to bring any complaint to the notice of the paramount power without the consent of the Political Officer. In the matter of compliance with the directions given them by the Political Officers, the native chiefs are treated by them with a rigour which is much greater than that with which British Indian subjects are treated by European officials in this country. If Lord Curzon really intends to do good to the native chiefs, he ought to deliver them from their present condition of absolute dependence on the Residency. The people of the Native States are like so many puppets in the hands of the Residents, and no one ventures to speak a single word against the latter for fear that a charge of treason may be brought against him.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Dec. 5th, 1900.

60. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 5th December has the following:—
Lord Curzon on the relation between a ruler and his subjects. Shrewd and intelligent though the English are, they have appointed many works of Burke as text-books in our colleges. And from these our students learn such things as the following:—

- (a) "In effect, to follow, not to force, the public inclination; to give a direction, a form, a technical dress, and a specific sanction to the general sense of community, is the true end of Legislature."
- (b) "When Government and the people differ, Government is generally in the wrong."
- (c) "It would be dreadful, indeed, if there was any power in the nation capable of resisting its unanimous desire, or even the desire of any very great and decided majority of the people."

The sum and substance of these passages from Burke is that the highest duty of a sovereign is to please his subjects. But this doctrine is not new to the Indians. They find Ram talking in the following strain in Bhavabhuti's drama, the *Uttar Ram Charit*:—

"I shall not be pained if, in order to please my subjects, I have to sacrifice affection, kindness, friendship, and even my dearly-beloved wife, Janaki."

So, the Indians have received the same teaching from Burke and from their own poet about the duties of kings to their subjects. Thus taught, their hearts have been filled with new hopes, and yearned after new rights and privileges, and they have, therefore, vexed their English rulers with incessant demands for the same. But they have been soon disabused, and they have learnt that the world of books is a very different thing from the real world of action. They have learnt that English politics, as given in books, is very different from English politics as it is found to be in practice. A mistake has been removed and a new lesson learnt. Many, however, have still hoped that India will know better days, if it be fortunate enough to be placed under a Viceroy possessing the liberal views of Burke. Their hope has at last been fulfilled. Lord Curzon, the present Viceroy of India, is as good a speaker as Burke was, and his enunciation of the policy to be adopted in the government of this country reminds us of Burke's doctrine of government. We quote a passage from His Excellency's speech in Bombay, in which he spoke out of the fulness of his heart:—

"I see no reason why in India, as elsewhere, the official hierarchy should not benefit by public opinion; official wisdom is not so transcendent as to be superior to this form of stimulus and guidance. The opinion of the educated classes is one that it is not statesmanlike to ignore or to despise. Government can profit by external advice, instead of relying solely on the arcana of official wisdom; it can look sympathetically into grievances instead of arbitrarily snuffing them out. On the other hand, public opinion can repay the compliment and materially strengthen the Government. It is by native confidence in British justice that the loyalty of the Indian people is assured. Any man, who, either by force or by fraud, shakes that confidence, is dealing a blow at the British dominion in India."

How lucidly and beautifully has Lord Curzon put the doctrine, that to rule according to the just wishes of the people is the first duty of a ruler.

Those who have faith in spiritualism will probably be tempted to think that the soul of Burke entered into Lord Curzon when he made this memorable speech—a speech which could never be expected from the mouth of an Indian Viceroy. We do not expect that other officials will obey Lord Curzon's doctrine, or that India will ever be governed in accordance with it. It is enough that we have heard from His Lordship's mouth what the relation is which should subsist between the ruler and the ruled. In these days it is idle to hope for more.

61. The *Dasumati* [Calcutta] of the 6th December has the following:—

BASUMATI,
Dec. 6th, 1900.

Lord Curzon's speeches and acts. Lord Curzon is, without doubt, an orator of extraordinary powers. We speech-loving Bengalis are charmed with his orations. We would have been much more charmed if his speeches had the power to appease our hunger. Sometime ago he issued a circular to the effect that only graduates would be admitted to the Clerkship examination. That circular is, of course, meant for natives—Eurasians and Europeans are not subject to this rule; they need not pass the B. A. examination to be admitted to the Clerkship examination. Lord Curzon alone can say why they are so exempted. What will people think when they find his actions betraying the race-feeling which he disclaims in his speeches? The difference between the professions and actions of a common man is not noticed by anybody. But if a man like Lord Curzon does not act up to his words, how can the people rely on him? The people have had enough of speeches, and are sick of them. A little reflection will convince Lord Curzon that now is the time to do something for their temporal welfare. If for his doing this, the Finance Minister resigns his post, or Lord Curzon has to give an explanation to the Secretary of State, there is no help for it. He is the wielder of our destinies, and we, therefore, lay our grievances before him. If all our grievances could be removed by only expressing oneself courteously, the ruling of a country would not be so difficult a task.

A cartoon.

62. The same paper gives a cartoon about the Belvedere Darbar, the letter-press running

BASUMATI,

as follows:—

Reporter to Editor: This year's new title is Kaiser-i-Hind—K. I. H.

Printer's Devil: Well, sir, would it not be well to prefix a G or an S, according as the medal awarded is one of gold or silver?

63. The following appears in English in an extraordinary issue of the

JYOTI,
Dec. 7th, 1900.

The Lieutenant-Governor's evening party at Sadar Ghât, Chittagong.

Jyoti [Chittagong], dated the 7th December:—

“Last night Europeans and principal native gentries had the honour of invitation at the evening party. The ghât was thoroughly packed up with spectators, and there was blazing light and display of fire-works in honour of Sir John Woodburn. The amusement was not unmingled. As generally happens where two classes meet, superiority and insults were also at this gathering. 9-30 P.M. was the time appointed for the party to meet. Gentries were ready at the ghât to go to His Honour's S.S. *Guide*. A steam-launch was provided to take them to His Honour's. Most of the Europeans went on board the *Guide* from 8 P.M., save and except the well-known Mr. Stebbing of the Forest Department, Miss Good and other two or three ladies. The native gentlemen, including Kumar Ramani Mohan, Rai Abhaya Charan Mitra Bahadur, the Subordinate Judge, the Personal Assistant to the Divisional Commissioner, (late Hon'ble), Jatra Mohan Sen, the Government Pleader and well-known zamindars of the district, went on the launch first, conducted by one Mr. Carosine, a port official in charge of the launch. When it was about to leave the ghât for the S.S. *Guide*, Mr. Stebbing, with the ladies, appeared, and in a lordly tone ordered the Babus to “get out at once.” Some one protested at the unmannerly conduct of Mr. Stebbing, and the order was repeated several times, and after all the Babus had to leave the launch when they were about to be pushed outside by force. This was the kind of honour preliminary to the interview, and dealt within the eye-sight of His Honour, the Governor of the province. We expect fair justice in the case in the impartial hands of Sir John. Opportunity like this rarely occurs to any enquiry into the conduct of mufassal *hazurs*.”

HITAVADI,
Dec. 7th, 1900.

64. A correspondent, who signs himself as Rajkumar Mukherji, writing in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th December, draws the attention of the Mohanta of Tarakeshwar, in the Hooghly district, to the inconvenience and trouble caused to the pilgrims who visit the local shrine by overcrowding at the only door by which they must enter into it. All pilgrims, male and female, have to enter by this door, and separate hours of worship are not prescribed for men and women. The existing arrangement makes it possible for ruffians to outrage the modesty of female pilgrims. The mohanta should see that women are allowed to worship at different hours from those which may be fixed for worship by men. Another complaint made by the writer is the rudeness shown to pilgrims by the mohanta's *mahuts*. These *mahuts* bring his elephants near the pilgrims and exact money from them as presents to the animals. If any pilgrim refuses to pay, he is chased by the elephants and abused by their drivers.

HITAVADI.

65. The same paper says that it appears from Lord Curzon's public speeches that while His Excellency is willing to pay due regard to the happiness and prosperity of the Indians, to their wants and grievances, and to their feelings and opinions, he is not willing to gradually secure their co-operation in the work of administration by encouraging them, as they were encouraged by Lord Ripon, to administer their own affairs and teaching them to discharge public duties jointly and unitedly. It is exceedingly to be regretted that the direction of a part of the machinery of the Indian administration by the Indians themselves is considered by Lord Curzon as injurious to the interests of Englishmen. Everybody can see what difference there is between this desire of Lord Curzon's to keep the conquered people in a condition of permanent slavery and the noblemindedness which characterised Lord Ripon. Considering the fact that His Excellency has spoken of the Queen's Proclamation as an "impossible charter," it is perhaps needless to say how far the objects of the Congress are likely to be furthered during his administration. In Lord Ripon's time, and in the course of the discussion in the press over the Ilbert Bill, Sir Fitz James Stephen spoke of the Queen's Proclamation as a document promulgated by Her Majesty on her own authority and not with the sanction of Parliament, and Sir Fitz James was, therefore, of opinion that the officials were not bound, under the law, to give effect to the promises contained in the Proclamation. The contention of the great lawyer elicited a reply from Lord Ripon, who said that the Proclamation of 1858 had not been made by the Queen of England as an ordinary woman, but had been issued by her in her capacity of the Empress of the whole Indian Empire, and was, therefore, a document binding on all officials subordinate to her. It is a regret that these just words of Lord Ripon's have found no place in Lord Curzon's heart. We are, therefore, constrained to remark that though the present Viceroy is an abler and more brilliant ruler than Lord Ripon, still, as regards largeheartedness, he occupies a position far below that held by that Viceroy.

PRATIVASI,
Dec. 10th, 1900.

66. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 10th December contains a cartoon. A horse labelled with the word "India" is shown as being groomed by an Englishman in the likeness of Lord Curzon. The picture has for its letter-press the following words in English:—

"If you really wish me to look well, give me less of currying and more of your corn."

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Nov. 21st, 1900.

67. A correspondent of the *Sambhalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 21st November, by name Jagannath Misra, states, in contradiction of a previous report, contradiction of the report concerning the death of Babu Bhavaneswar Bahidar, noticed previously, that the published report was an exaggerated one and that Dasrathi Babu, a friend and neighbour of the deceased, helped the family of the deceased in the best manner possible under the circumstances, and that the family of the deceased left the place out of their own accord.

68. The Viceroy's cold-weather tour and the speeches delivered by His Excellency at different places in Western and Southern India are engaging the attention of all the native papers of Orissa. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st December states that the speeches of His Excellency are very instructive, and advises every reader to read them carefully. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 28th November approves of the views that His Excellency expressed regarding the denationalisation of some of the Indians. The *Samvadvaika* [Balasore] of the 29th November states that His Excellency, when he visits Puri, should be made acquainted with the facts that a permanent settlement of the revenue demand on land is very necessary for Orissa, that the several endowments under the control of the *Mohantas* of Puri should be utilised in the furtherance of those interests for which they were founded, and that the Uriya-speaking districts now governed by three distinct Administrations should be brought under one Provincial Government.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Dec. 1st, 1900.

69. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 28th November warns the people of Orissa against purchasing any articles from a certain number of Kabuli merchants, who have already entered Orissa, who advance articles on loan and who realise the price of the same with great rigour and oppression after a certain period.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Nov. 28th, 1900.

70. The *Samvadvaika* [Balasore] of the 29th November expresses regret at the transfer of Mr. Magistrate Smither of Balasore, who, though posted to that place for a short period, had endeared himself to the local public by his disinterested labours in behalf of those men and women who had lost everything by the floods of the Barabalong and other rivers.

SAMVADVAIKA,
Nov. 29th, 1900.

71. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st December is of opinion that the forecast of crops in Orissa is not very encouraging. In those parts of the province that are exposed to the floods of rivers, no paddy, in tolerable quantity, can be expected, while want of rain in November and December is not favourable to the growth of the *rabi* crop. The active export of rice from the Chandbali port, in district Balasore, keeps up the high price of that article of food in the bazar. The result is that the poor are in distress. The writer requests the local authorities to take note of this fact.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Dec. 1st, 1900.

72. The same paper has reason to believe that the Kendrapara road from Cuttack to Naliamuha is not safe, and that instances of theft and robbery, of which a concrete instance is given, are frequent. Suspicion rests on a class of *jogi*, said to reside in Bahukuda and Naliamuha, with whom the Police are familiar. The writer questions the wisdom of abolishing the Padmapur outpost, which was a useful check on such bad characters.

UTKALDIPIKA,

73. The same paper draws the attention of the public to the lecture delivered by Raja Peary Mohan Mukerjee, C.S.I., at a meeting of the British Indian Association in Calcutta on the contributory causes of famines in India, and agrees with the Raja that the real cause of the famines is the poverty of the Indians, due to an ever-increasing Government demand on land and a constant drawing off of India's resources to foreign lands without any adequate compensation in return.

UTKALDIPIKA.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 15th December, 1900.

