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## REPORT

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 26th January 1901.

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SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
26th Jan. 1901.

4. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the prevalence of thefts in Bankura town.

The investigation into the theft committed in the house of Sri Narayan Babu has not yet come to an end. There was a big theft in broad daylight in the house of a prostitute almost in front of the thana. Another theft was committed in the house of Haradhan Jogi of Kuch Kuchia, and yet another in the house of Babu Prasanna Chaudhuri of Jagadala.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITISHI,  
Jan. 16th, 1901.

5. The *Murshidabad Hitaisi* [Murshidabad] of the 16th January says that the other day a daring theft was committed in the house of Babu Satyendra Narayan Bagchi of Usman-khali in Khagra in the Murshidabad district. The offenders have not been as yet traced. Many complaints are heard against the Murshidabad police. A certain seller of brass plate is said to have been harassed by the police on the alleged ground of his having purchased some stolen articles. The police officer who took up the case demanded a large bribe for hushing up the matter, but was at last satisfied with a small sum. The name of the police officer is not given, but everything will be disclosed to the District Magistrate or to the District Superintendent of Police if they want to investigate the matter.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 17th, 1901.

6. Referring to the case in which one Ayub Ali of village Bangara in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment for abducting the wife of Kailash Chakravarti, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th January writes as follows:—

It has transpired from the evidence in this case, and we learn from a trustworthy source, that the residents of village Bangara live in constant dread of badmashes. No one dares to come forward as a witness against them. Some time ago Majjam Ali, brother of Ayub Ali, was sentenced to a year and-a-half's imprisonment for abducting the wife of Govinda Basak. The complainant and his witness Chaitanya Sutradhar in the above case have since been compelled by the badmashes to leave their village. The witnesses for the prosecution in Kailash Chakravarti's case are being intimidated, and one of them has been mercilessly beaten by the badmashes. We are also informed that it has become impossible for the people of the Kaivarta caste to live any longer in safety in Bangara on account of these badmashes. The latter also extort fish from the boatmen. Vigorous measures should be taken to put them down.

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 18th, 1901.

7. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th January says that though the attention of the authorities has been repeatedly drawn to the oppressions which are committed by Kabuli and Peshwari cloth-sellers and money-lenders in Calcutta and the mufassal, nothing has yet been done to check them. The *Bengalee* newspaper has mentioned some cases of oppression recently committed by these men at Baidyabati in the Hooghly district. Much good will be done by every District Magistrate issuing an order to the police to keep an eye on all Kabulis and Peshwaris making their appearance within its jurisdiction.

HITAVADI.

8. The same paper says that the other day Babu Govinda Chandra Basu was waiting at the Barrackpore station, on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, where Lieutenant Dashwood of the Royal Artillery was also present.

Govinda Babu is one of those who gave evidence in the Calcutta High Court against the European soldiers who were tried for murdering Doctor Sures Chandra Sarkar, and the Chief Justice who tried the case attached much weight to his evidence. It is probable that Govinda Babu was, for this reason, under the displeasure of the military authorities. Mr. Dashwood asked Govinda Babu why he was staring at him. Govinda Babu was astonished at this, and told Lieutenant Dashwood that there was nothing so attractive in his appearance that one could not abstain from staring at him. This made Mr. Dashwood lose his temper, and he did not fail to roughly handle Govinda Babu. If a man of Mr. Dashwood's position and education feels no hesitation in insulting a native gentleman, to whom shall the natives look up for better treatment? Lord Curzon is determined to put down oppressions by European soldiers. It is, therefore, hoped that His Excellency will not fail to make special enquiries into this case.



9. The *Bangavasi* of the 19th January writes as follows:—

BENGAVASI,  
Jan. 19th, 1901.

The true cause of the prevalence of crime in the country.

It is strange that crimes should be so rampant under a Government so powerful and so much feared as the English Government in India. This

prevalence of crimes is variously attributed to the negligence and inefficiency of the police; to the multiplicity of the duties of the officials, which leaves them little leisure to attend properly to the maintenance of peace; to the interference by the Appellate Courts with the decisions of the Courts of first instance which decide cases with the advantage of a knowledge of local circumstances; and to the senseless clamour of the native press, which is only too eager to carp at every action of the Magistrate.

While the prevalence of crime in the country is thus variously attributed to these and other causes, no one is found to lay his finger on the real cause of the mischief, or the real nature of the disease. By attending only to the symptoms of a disease, one may mitigate it, but can never cure it. The police, it is true, is to blame in some measure, and this is the fault of the officials. The present police is a political tool, a creature of politics. Its chief function at present is to search for sedition. Its main duty now is to watch whether any community is opposed to Government, whether any sect is agitating against Government, whether any party is acquiring strength. It is to this that the police now principally attends, and it therefore often oppresses the innocent instead of punishing the wicked. Even where it does deal with crimes, the police often help to bring about a failure of justice by making the innocent appear guilty. Relying upon the got-up evidence of the police some judicial officers convict innocent people. In many cases innocent people are sent up to the Sessions and are acquitted there. Many innocent persons unjustly convicted are acquitted by an appeal to higher Courts. In the evidence collected by the police untruth is found to be mixed with truth. This creates doubt in the mind of the Judge, and he, as required by the law, gives the accused the benefit of his doubt.

Many Courts of first instance are also to blame. They are unable to sift a matter to the bottom and to decide cases with a due regard to time, place and party. They often punish the innocent and let off the guilty.

But whether a Government punishes the innocent or acquits the guilty, the sin it incurs is equally heavy. Peace naturally prevails in a country in which the people live on friendly terms with the officials and look upon the latter as their friends, and in which the police is loved instead of being feared. The authorities should see that the officials keep themselves on friendly terms with the people, and that no law-abiding person is placed under the necessity of fearing the police. The native newspapers should be regarded as sincere friends, as self-constituted ministers. Many officials still regard these papers as their enemies. This sinful belief is the cause of much harm.

"What sort of a true friend is he who does not rebuke his master, and what sort of a master is he who does not listen to good advice?" says an ancient sage, embodying in his saying a living truth. The official who will neglect or act against the advice of the native press is sure to get into trouble. The Sovereign who quarrels with his ministers suffers. But "all prosperity attends the King and his ministers who are friendly to each other." Those, therefore, who look upon the native press with an unfriendly eye do harm to Government. Those Anglo-Indian editors who are unfriendly to the native press are regarded by experienced people as enemies of Government. These people do not listen to the evil advice of the *Pioneer* and similar counsellors.

It is a matter of rejoicing that Lord Curzon is friendly to the native press and listens to its advice. He sees that that press is doing great good to the country. We have not known any Viceroy after Lord Ripon to see this. We, therefore, hope that much good will be done to India by Lord Curzon, and that many of its grievances will be removed by him. But the disease is so deep-seated that it will not be easy to cure it. India is the land of Hindus. It is essentially a Hindu country. Thanks to British rule, India enjoys many advantages and much happiness. If the English Government respects the Hindu religion as King Ram respected it, India will be as peaceful and as free from crime as were the realms which owned the sway of that great and good Hindu Sovereign.



Both the rulers and the ruled should try to lead Hindu lives in this land of Hindus. One must do at Rome as the Romans do. If one is to live in water, one must live like fish; if one is to live in the air, one must live like birds; if one is to live in heaven, one must live like the gods; and if one is to live in Hindustan, one must live like Hindus. If, under the regulations of Government, the injunctions of the Hindu religion are obeyed by everybody, those who are worthy of honour will receive due honour, and those who are bound to obey will not turn refractory, and crime will become unknown in the land.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Jan. 15th 1901

10. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 15th January says that four important documents have been stolen from the records of the case No. 3 of 1900 (Badan Chandra Saha *versus* Radha Charan Saha) on the file of the Second Subordinate Judge of Mymensingh. Documents are from time to time stolen from the records of the law courts, but not in a single instance has anybody heard of the thief being brought to justice, nor is it known whether any steps have been taken to prevent such thefts. Vigorous measures should be taken to trace the offender in the case noticed.

BIKASH,  
Jan. 15th 1901.

11. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 15th January says that currency notes of the value of Rs. 3,000 having been stolen from the Jhalakati cutcherry of the Raja Bahadur, the treasurer, *poddar*, and Babu Upendra Nath Sen, Assistant to the Manager of the Raja, were sent up by the police for trial. All of them were released on bail. But the *poddar* was rearrested and sent to *hajat* by order of Babu Kali Kumar Rai, Deputy Magistrate of Barisal. This procedure of the Deputy Magistrate astonished everybody. Can any one say why the *poddar* was rearrested after having been released on bail? The matter did not end here. The treasurer, who was principally responsible for the stolen money, made an application to the Deputy Magistrate, Babu Kali Kumar Rai, laying the charge of theft at the door of Upendra Nath Sen. Kali Kumar Babu thereupon ordered a police enquiry. The police in the meantime being unable to find sufficient proof against the accused sent up by them, submitted a report in the B Form. Mr. Harris, Manager of the Raja, being dissatisfied with the police report, asked for a judicial enquiry, and the Deputy Magistrate granted his prayer. It is said that Kali Kumar Babu, after an interview with the District Magistrate, passed orders for the hearing of the treasurer's application after the judicial enquiry granted on Mr. Harris's prayer, though he had already ordered a police enquiry on the application. Such a farce of a trial is calculated to lower the prestige of a Court of Justice.

TRIPURA  
HITAISHI,  
Jan. 15th 1901.

12. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 15th January says that criminal work is not being satisfactorily done in Comilla, owing to a paucity of executive officers in the place. There are at present three Deputy Magistrates there, one of whom has to do treasury work and the other two all the criminal and other work between themselves. The cases on their files are so numerous that in their endeavour to clear them they cannot always pay much attention to the quality of their decisions. Another Deputy Magistrate is urgently needed in the station.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Jan. 16th 1901

13. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 16th January says that an application was made to the Calcutta High Court by Babu Bhagabati Charan Rai, zamindar of Kanchantala in the Murshidabad district for transferring his case from the file of Babu Chandra Nath Ghosh, Deputy Magistrate of Jangipur, as the zamindar does not expect a fair trial at his hands. But the Hon'ble Judges being satisfied with the explanation given by the Deputy Magistrate, have rejected the application. Another affidavit has since been filed in the High Court by another person for the transfer of his case from the file of the same Deputy Magistrate. Two or three affidavits have been filed against this officer in the course of a month or two. If the allegations made in these affidavits be true, Chandra Nath Babu ought to be at once transferred from Jangipur. He has become very unpopular there. Will there



be any harm in enquiring into the correctness of the allegations made in these affidavits?

14. The *Rangpur Dikprakash* [Rangpur] of the 17th January is glad to hear from the *Bangabhumi* that Babu Purna Chandra Mitra has been appointed Magistrate and Collector of Rangpur. He will be able to do more good as a Magistrate than as a Secretary to the Board of Revenue. People will like to see him confirmed in the post.

RANGPUR  
DIKPRAKASH,  
Jan. 17th, 1901.

15. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th January says that the minor son of a respectable officer in the Dacca Collectorate was sentenced to a whipping of seven stripes by the Joint-Magistrate of Dacca for plucking a few flowers from the Dacca Cemetery. Sentencing such a boy to whipping for plucking a few flowers was extremely barbarous. The common people of this country know not that it is an offence to pluck flowers in another's garden. It was therefore highly improper to haul up a school boy before a criminal court to answer a charge of theft of flowers. The Joint-Magistrate, being a European, certainly knows that school-boys committing offences of a far more serious nature in England are not considered punishable under the law. Why are the authorities so strict with native students? Boys are naturally somewhat unruly, and their unruliness ought not to make them liable to be whipped like thieves and *badmashes*.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 17th 1901.

16. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th January says that it is rumoured that Mr. Abdur Rahim, Barrister-at-law, will be appointed to succeed Nawab Syed Ameer Hossain in the Northern Division Magistrateship in Calcutta. Nothing can be said against Mr. Rahim's fitness for the post. He pleased everybody by his behaviour when officiating in it a short time ago. But many people would be glad to see an able and experienced Deputy Magistrate promoted to it.

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 18th, 1901.

17. The same paper says that Mr. Gabriel, Subdivisional Officer of Beguserai in the Monghyr district, has graver faults than what has been pointed out in this paper [Reports on Native Papers for 8th, 15th and 22nd December, paragraphs 18, 21 and 20 respectively].

HITAVADI.

The two following cases prove Mr. Gabriel's inefficiency as a judicial officer:—

(1) A man named Chul Mul had instituted proceedings under section 145 of the Code of Criminal Procedure against one Guhi in connection with a land dispute. The case was really between two strong parties—one Babu Kamaleswari Prasad, zamindar, and the other, the Manager of the Begumserai Indigo Factory. Mr. Gabriel took five months, from 20th July to 20th December, to decide the case; and even then arrived at no definite conclusion. This is his judgment in the case:—

“The evidence taken in this case, both oral and documentary, is very voluminous. I have gone through it as carefully as possible, but I am unable to satisfy myself as to which party is in possession. I, therefore, attach the subject of this dispute until a competent civil court has decided as to which party is in possession.

E. V. GABRIEL.

*The 20th December 1900.”*

The case did not put the Manager of the factory to much expense, but necessitated a heavy expense on the other side.

(2) On the 2nd January last, Mr. Gabriel took the deposition of a man named Lalit Kumar, who had lodged a complaint against Mr. Marsham, Manager of the Begumserai Indigo Factory, to the effect that he had been unlawfully detained by Mr. Marsham and placed in the custody of four *karkuns* for refusal to give evidence in favour of the factory in a certain civil suit. Mr. Gabriel issued no summons or warrant against the accused on that day. On the 4th January, the day to which the case had been postponed, the complainant came to Court with his witnesses, but on that day, too, no orders were passed, and the case was postponed to the 7th January. The whole of



that day, again, the complainant danced attendance at the Court with his witnesses, but failed to know of any day fixed or of any orders passed. On the 12th January, he heard that Mr. Gabriel had ordered only a summons to issue against Mr. Marsham. In the meantime, Mr. Marsham caused a warrant to issue against Lalit Kumar's son, an employé in the factory, for embezzlement. Lalit Kumar's case has been dismissed, but Mr. Marsham's case against his son is under trial.

Mr. Gabriel's high-handedness as a judicial officer is best illustrated by a case in which he inflicted a fine of Rs. 25 on each of three men for putting a bamboo covering, instead of a covering made of wood, over a well.

Mr. Gabriel treats the Munsifs with great insolence, probably under the impression that they are officers subordinate to him. Lately, the first Munsif of Beguserai had occasion to address the following letter to him as the Officer in charge of the Treasury:—

“To

The Sub-Treasury Officer, Beguserai.

*Dated 9th January 1901.*

5-Misc.

7

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to state that much inconvenience is felt by this office and the parties dealing with this Court for want of regular information as to the dates on which Treasury business is transacted. The consequence is that more than Rs. 500 generally remain as balance in the hands of the Cashier of this Court, which is against the Rules of the Hon'ble High Court, reproduced at page 139 of those Rules and Circular Orders. Chalangos issued to parties have to be cancelled and money received in Court. I therefore request that you will be so good as to inform this Court of the dates on which Treasury business is transacted and to send timely information thereof to me to facilitate the business of this Court in connection with the Treasury.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

BHAGAVATI CHARAN MITRA,

*Munsif, 1st Court.”*

To this Mr. Gabriel returned the following discourteous reply in memorandum form, which one can use only in addressing one's subordinates:—

“No. 495R.

From—E. V. GABRIEL, Esq., c.s., Subdivisional Officer, Beguserai,  
To—The Munsif, 1st Court, Beguserai.

His letter No. <sup>5-Misc.</sup><sub>7</sub>, dated 9th instant.

The dates can always be ascertained by enquiry at the Treasury at the beginning of each month. As a rule the Sub-Treasury is opened every Saturday during the sowing season. Any exceptions to the rule are pasted on the notice board at the Sub-Treasury.

E. V. GABRIEL.

*11th January 1900.”*

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Jan. 23rd 1901.

18. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 23rd January says that it was not right on the part of the Government to appoint Babu Umesh Chandra Sen, Deputy Collector of Midnapore, as the Land Acquisition Deputy Collector for the proposed extension of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway to Jheria. Many unpleasant things were said of Umesh Babu when he was acquiring land in Kharakpur for the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. Umesh Babu can appraise the value of no land without consulting the Government pleader, Babu Kartik Chandra Mitra.



## (d)—Education.

19. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 11th January says that Rai Sarat

*SANSODHINI*,  
Jan. 11th, 1901.

Rai Sarat Chandra Das Bahadur and the Chittagong Normal School.

Chandra Das Bahadur, C.I.E., has lately taken some land at the foot of the hill belonging to the Chittagong Normal School to make a new road to his own hill on the west of the school hill. Lately, one day, the Head Master of the school received information that some coolies were cutting land belonging to the school. He went to the spot and saw the Rai Bahadur standing there. He respectfully told him that he ought not to have taken the land before any communication on the subject had been received at the school from the Collector. This threw the Rai Bahadur into a rage. He insulted the Head Master and ordered him to leave the place. He is also said to have used towards the Head Master language which the writer feels ashamed to reproduce. The authorities of the Education Department should uphold their prestige.

The Rai Bahadur is taking advantage of Mr. Lea, the Collector, who is too good a man.

20. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 15th January has the following:—

*BANGABHUMI*,  
Jan. 15th, 1901.

The Lord Bishop on Bible-reading in schools and colleges.

We do not see how we can object to the Lord Bishop's proposal relating to Bible-reading in Government schools and colleges. As it is, school and college education is spoiling Hindu boys. Without knowing anything of the Christian religion, they learn Christian vices, eat forbidden food, talk in language unbecoming in a Hindu, and above all possess no faith in God or in a future world, and no love of virtue or fear of sin. It would be better for them to remain unlettered than to receive education which produces such results. We do not believe that the mere reading of the Bible will completely reform bad boys. Hindu boys reading in missionary schools and colleges are as bad as boys reading in Government institutions.

21. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 15th January has heard that the District

*BIKASH*,  
Jan. 15th 1901.

Proposed abolition of the Model Schools in Barisal.

Board of Backergunge has decided to abolish the three Model Schools in Barisal, as their results have not been so satisfactory as those of the aided and private institutions. We do not consider the Board's decision to be right, for it is highly imprudent to pull up a tree by the root, because it has not yielded good fruits. The Board should devise means for making these schools worthy of their name. Teachers on the poor salaries now paid in these schools cannot be expected to show much zeal or alacrity in their work. If the number of English teachers be increased and the graded system of pay is introduced, better work can be expected from the teachers. The charge of the school should be entrusted to an English teacher instead of to a pandit as at present. A Committee should also be appointed to exercise supervision over the working of these schools, as supervision will make the teachers do their work with more care and attention. Subscriptions should be raised from the people of the district, and more English teachers appointed on better pay than at present. The pay of the Bengali teachers may be reduced. The District Board is requested to consider these proposals.

22. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the

*SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA*,  
Jan. 16th 1901.

The new educational scheme.

16th January says that Government may, if it cares to do so, bring about a revolution in the education of Indian boys from the very commencement of the twentieth century. If the proposals made by the Government in this connection are carried out, the educational system of the twentieth century will be a vast improvement on that of the nineteenth. In the century which has just passed away, boys were made to go through heaps of books, but no attempt was made to develop their faculties and fit them for the study of nature. It is a serious loss to the world if the genius of a Newton is pinned to a clerk's desk and the powers of a Herbert Spencer are wasted in doing *dafti's* work. Mental faculties are not developed without proper education, and the world may make unexpected progress if the various faculties of children are carefully developed from infancy. Now, millions of superior intellects remain undeveloped for want of



education, opportunity and encouragement. So long the Government had contented itself with putting a few books in the hands of boys; now it is about to make an attempt to really educate them.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 17th, 1901.

23. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th January says that a proposal to abolish the posts of Inspecting Pandits is now under the consideration of the Government. But these posts should not be abolished, as the inspection of pathshalas cannot be satisfactorily done by Sub-Inspectors of Schools.

SANJIVANI.

24. The same paper says that the new Professor of Chemistry in the Presidency College, Calcutta, being a European, has been given a place in the Indian Educational Service, whilst the world-renowned Dr. P. C. Rai, who has far better qualifications than this new man, is still in the Provincial Service list. How long will such race distinction be made? Will it not be put down even during the rule of Lord Curzon?

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 18th, 1901.

25. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th January writes as follows:—  
A portion of the revenue which is raised by the British Government from the Indian people is spent in maintaining Christian priests of whom the Lord Bishop of Calcutta is one. The present Lord Bishop of Calcutta, Dr. Welldon, is a learned and intelligent man and a school-fellow of Lord Curzon's. According to him the godless education which is imparted in Indian schools and colleges serves to make most Indian boys atheists in belief. He, therefore, wishes to introduce Bible-teaching into all schools and colleges, and has advised Government to that effect. The advice has alarmed us.

The Lord Bishop would have had no cause for fearing that Indian boys would grow up atheistical in belief, if he had known what a difference exists between them and English boys. Indian boys, whether Hindu or Musalman, get a religious training in the very manners and customs they have to follow, and religion is thus mixed up with their very blood and marrow. For them it is impossible to grow up godless or irreligious merely because they do not receive an hour or two's religious instruction at school. Government will do more harm than good and lay itself open to the charge of indirectly tampering with the people's religion if it follows Dr. Welldon's advice. We hope it will not come forward to tarnish its good name, and violate the excellent policy of religious neutrality laid down in the Queen's Proclamation by accepting the Lord Bishop's seemingly sweet and tempting advice.

HITAVADI.

26. The same paper sees no reason why the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal should in his resolution on the report of the Education Department for 1899-1900 express regret at the apparent unpopularity of medical studies indicated by the fact of only one out of fifty-two students who obtained scholarships on the results of the last F. A. Examination having entered the Medical College. Should not the rigorous rules for native students framed by the Principal of the College and the treatment medical graduates who enter the service receive at the hands of the Government be thought enough to keep Indian students away from medical studies? Half-educated Eurasians, in no way superior to native students in social status, can enter the service only after three years' study and can in course of time easily obtain posts of Civil Surgeons. But native students must work hard at college for five years, and, however long their service, must never hope to become Civil Surgeons. This distinction is enough to keep promising native lads at a distance from the Medical College.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Jan. 18th, 1901.

27. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 18th January has the following:—  
We have learnt with alarm that the Government has decided to abolish the Collinga Branch of the Calcutta Madrassa. The fees in that school range from annas 4 to 8, and a large number of poor Musalman boys are educated there. We cannot understand why the Government is placing obstacles in the way of Musalman education. It may be argued that the Branch school was established for the education of poor Musalmans, and as a large number of rich Musalman boys



are now being educated there, the object of the institution is not being fulfilled, and its abolition will not affect poor Musalman boys, as they will be given half-freeships in the English Department of the Calcutta Madrassa. But such an arrangement will not work satisfactorily, as it will not be very easy for the Principal of the Madrassa, who is a European, to ascertain the real condition in life of the applicants for half-freeships. He will probably want recommendations from respectable Musalmans. But how will poor Musalman boys approach such men? If the Government's proposal is carried out, it should form a committee of respectable Musalmans from different parts of the city, acquainted with the condition of the Musalmans in general, in order to consider all applications for half-freeships. But before making any arrangements for the education of poor Musalman boys in the Calcutta Madrassa, Government should see if it cannot maintain the Branch School. If the school is going to be abolished from pecuniary considerations, money can be found for it by letting out the house which is now occupied by the Principal of the Madrassa. An income of Rs. 250 to Rs. 300 can be secured in this way, which may be spent for the maintenance of the Branch School. As no Principal of an educational institution is allowed free quarters, why should the Principal of the Madrassa alone enjoy the privilege? It is true that the number of boys in this school is at present very small. But its classes will again become full if it is removed to some more convenient place, that is to say, to the northern quarter of the city, where most poor Musalmans reside.

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

28. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 15th January says that Mr. Morshead, Magistrate of Tippera, found on inspection that the Laksham Union Committee had kept no accounts of its last year's receipts and disbursements, and asked Rajkumar Navadwip Chandra Bahadur, Vice-Chairman of the District Board, to make an enquiry into the matter. Kali Prasanna Datta, a clerk of the Sadar Local Board, at this time, took a few days' leave and went to Calcutta, whence he informed another clerk of the Board that he had misappropriated Rs. 4,000 belonging to the Sadar Local Board and the Artisan School. Kali Prasanna has defalcated not only the Local Board's money, but also a large amount of contribution money paid by the villagers for the construction of roads, &c. Syed Husam Haidar Chaudhuri, Chairman of the Sadar Local Board, and the Vice-Chairman, Babu Sris Chandra Bannerji, were Kali Prasanna's class friends, and, therefore, very intimate with him. This induced them to put much confidence in Kali Prasanna. Cheques were drawn in the name of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, and they simply wrote "received contents through Kali Prasanna Datta," but never enquired what Kali Prasanna did with the money drawn from the treasury. By a little watchfulness they could have detected the defalcations earlier. Mr. Morshead has given orders for Kali Prasanna's prosecution. There was something like a club for a long time at Laksham, and some gentlemen used to dine there occasionally. Some of the Deputy Magistrates of the station ate these feasts, which were got up at Kali Prasanna's initiative. It is very strange that the Deputy Magistrates never enquired how Kali Prasanna procured money for such feasts and never advised him not to give such feasts. Deputy Magistrates, to be above suspicion, should never come to such feasts.

TRIPURA  
HITAISHI,  
Jan. 15th, 1901.

29. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 16th January complains that the water of the pond on the southern side of the police lines in Barisal town has become stagnant and foul owing to the action of the jail authorities cutting off its connection with the river by placing two bunds at points which introduced river water into it. A large number of people drink the water of this pond.

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
Jan. 16th 1901.

30. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th January complains that the lanterns on the lamp posts in the Bankura town are not cleansed, and no arrangements exist for the flushing of the roadside drains, which are full of filthy water from privies. Some of the bye-lanes are never swept or cleansed.

BANKURA  
DARPAN,  
Jan. 16th, 1901.



## (f)—Questions affecting the land.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Jan. 16th, 1901.

31. A correspondent of the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 16th January says that nearly all the pasture lands in Kespur and other villages in the Midnapore district within the zamindari of the Raja of Midnapore have been leased out, there being now only 20 bighas of pasture lands, where formerly there were 1,000 bighas. The raiyats are in great distress, as it is very difficult for them to feed their cattle at home. Cattle are becoming lean and emaciated every day.

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

TRIPURA  
HITAISHI,  
Jan. 15th, 1901.

32. A correspondent of the *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 15th January says that the road from the bank of the Sasai river, *via* Birpara, to Satbarga, in the Tippera district, the repair of which has been taken in hand by the District Board, should be made a little higher and wider, as most parts of it remain under water during the rainy season, to the great inconvenience of wayfarers. The repairs which are made to the road should be inspected. The Board should warn the villagers against the practice of cutting the road in order to make passages for water into or from their fields and of grazing cattle on the road. The *bil* on the southern side of the village Birpara, which extends up to the corner of the Rai's house, should be made deeper and wider, as large boats cannot come to the village even during the rainy season.

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 18th, 1901.

33. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th January says that one Chhabil Chand, telegraph signaller, in the Mokameh station, on the East Indian Railway, applied for leave to have a last look at his mother, who was on her deathbed. But he was refused leave. A few days after he again applied for leave to perform the *sradh* ceremony of his deceased mother. This time, too, leave was refused him. Many employes in the Railway Department receive similar treatment at the hands of the authorities. The attention of Lord Curzon, who is known to be a friend of poor clerks, is drawn to Chabbil Chand's case.

HITAVADI.

34. A correspondent of the same paper says that the residents of Panjia, Huda, Magurkhali, Bagha, Krishnanagar, Dahar Buruli and Chuadanga, in the Jessore district, will be much benefited by the construction of a road from village Panjia to Buruli. Postal peons suffer much for want of a good road in going to deliver letters in these villages.

HITAVADI.

35. A correspondent of the same paper says that a portion of the road from the village Ramgopalpur to the Brahmaputra river in the Mymensingh district, was made *pukka* by the Government. But, as the District Board of Mymensingh had to spend a large sum in repairing the damages caused by the earthquake of 1897, the metalling of the remaining portion of this road was put off. But, as all the materials for repair are ready, it is hoped that the Board will resume the work without delay.

HITVADI.

36. One Babu Bama Charan Mukharji, writing in the same paper, complains that on the 3rd January last he went to the Rishra station, on the East Indian Railway, to catch the train for Serampore, and, as there was no time for purchasing a ticket, he asked the station master of Rishra to inform the guard of the fact of his travelling without a ticket. When he arrived at Serampore, the guard, however, instructed the ticket collector to realise from him the fare from Howrah to Serampore. The Traffic Superintendent was informed of this high-handedness, but has given no reply.

## (h).—General.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Jan. 16th, 1901.

37. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 16th January makes the following remarks on Mr. Nolan's circular:—  
We thank Mr. Nolan heartily for his high-mindedness in issuing the circular. He has truly said:—"Men may dread,



but can never love or regard those who are continually humiliating by the parade of superiority." Mr. Nolan is an upright and experienced Civilian, and has given many proofs of his sense of justice and of his courtesy towards natives. It would be a very good thing if the officers to whom the circular is addressed followed his advice. But how far his advice will be followed is doubtful, for these are very bad times for the Indians.

38. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 17th January says that Babu Heramba

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 17th, 1901.

Chandra Banerji has written a history of the Raj family of Andul, in the Howrah district, in which he says that Lord Clive, in order to reward Dewan Ram Charan Rai, the founder of the Andul Raj family, who helped him in establishing British rule in India after the battle of Plassey, gave his son Ram Lochan Rai command over 4,000 troops under the Nawab Nazim of Murshidabad. But those who some 150 years ago appointed a Bengali as Commander of 4,000 troops now consider the Bengalis unfit for military duty. Bengalis are not so much degenerated, mentally and physically, in the course of a century and-a-half as to be incapacitated for military duty. It is because the English rulers now regard the Bengalis with suspicion that the latter do not get military employment. What have the Bengalis done to deserve such treatment? Have they ever been guilty of any disloyal act?

39. A Brahmachari writes from Chittagong in the *Rangpur Dikprakash* [Rangpur] of the 17th January as follows:—

RANGPUR  
DIKPRAKASH,  
Jan. 17th, 1901.

The proposal to include the Chandranath Shrine in the Forest Department. The great shrine of Chandra Nath, situated in Sitakundu in the Chittagong district, has been in existence since the *Satya Yug*. The place received the right arm of the goddess Durga. The presiding Bhairab of the place is Chandra Nath and the presiding Devi, Bhawani. Here fire burns in water, and that is called the *Baraba Kunda*. The five *kros* of country included in the Chandra Nath Shrine is bounded on the north by the Labanaksha, on the south by the Barabakunda, on the east by the Mandakini Ganga, and on the west by the Vyasakunda. According to the Hindu Sastras, a man, who dies within these limits, attains *Nirvan*. The sacred books, *Barahi tantra*, *Yogini tantra*, *Bhairabi tantra*, *Vayu Puran*, first part, *Adi Brahma Puran* and *Siva Puran* supply information regarding this shrine. Never from time immemorial has any ruler meddled with this great shrine. But now the British Government contemplates making khas and bringing under the Forest Department this five *kros* (about ten miles) shrine, with the exception of only the temple and its surroundings. It is, however, the earnest prayer of the Hindu community that Government will not meddle with this great shrine. The snatching away of this holy place from the hands of the *mahanta* and the placing of it under the Government's own control will be an interference with the Hindu religion and will wound Hindu feeling. Its inclusion in the Forest Department will prevent *sadhus* and *sannyasis* from getting fire-wood, whenever they require it, for their *dhunis*, and will be the cause of the destruction of its holiness.

The editor hopes that Government will not encroach upon a Hindu shrine.

40. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 18th January is glad to see that the

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 18th, 1901.

Natives in the Board Secretaryship and Government Under-Secretaryship. Government of Bengal has at last determined to throw open six District Judgeships and four District Magistrateships to the members of the Provincial Civil Service. Government would not have so long suffered so much odium if it had acted according to the advice of the Public Service Commission earlier. On one point, however, the writer differs from the Government. The Lieutenant-Governor says that the posts of Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue and Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal will not be given to members of the Provincial Civil Service, unless specially qualified officers are found among them. One fails to see what this 'special qualification' means. Are the Deputy Magistrates who have grown grey in the service and earned praise everywhere in the discharge of their duties in any respect inferior in qualification or ability to boy Civilians not possessed of any experience of the country? Did the Deputy Magistrates who were occasionally appointed to the post of Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue prove themselves unfit for the post? It cannot also be believed that there are



no experienced Deputy Magistrates fit to fill the post of an Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 18th, 1901.

41. The same paper makes the following complaints against Mr. Jolly, District Engineer of Monghyr:—

Mr. Jolly, District Engineer of Monghyr.

(1) In consequence of Mr. Jolly's persecution a large number of Overseers, Sub-Overseers and other officers connected with the District Engineer's office have been compelled or are about to resign or retire from the service. Babu Uma Prasad Rai, Accountant; Babu Durga Nath Sarkar, Accountant; Babu Mahes Lal, Sub-Overseer, Jamui; Babu Bhola Nath De; Babu Binod Bihari Sanyal, Sub-Overseer, Monghyr; Babus Asutosh Bhattacharyya and Kali Prasanna Sen, and Munshi Maniruddin are some among these officers.

(2) It is nine or ten months since Munshi Maniruddin's application for pension was submitted to the District Engineer, but it has not yet been forwarded to Government.

(3) Although it is the special duty of a District Engineer to do all original works personally, Mr. Jolly is said to get all such works done by Overseers and Sub-Overseers. According to a correspondent, the plans of both the road cess office and distillery buildings were prepared by the Overseer, Babu Madhav Chandra Chakravarti, and the plan of the bridge at Farkia was made by the Overseer, Babu Apurva Krishna Sen.

(4) According to the same correspondent, all drawings and estimates which are prepared by Mr. Jolly himself invariably contain errors.

The slab stone wall of the Sekhpura dispensary was, by Mr. Jolly's order, constructed with clay mortar, and the wall, as it was bound to do, gave way during the last rainy season, and is being replaced by a brickwall.

Many alterations have had to be made in the plan of the Beguserai dispensary building in the course of its construction, and this has caused much loss and trouble to the contractor.

(5) Mr. Jolly refuses to advance money to contractors while works are under construction.

(6) Mr. Jolly, while treating the contractors as a class very badly, shows exceptional favour to some among them. Though the Commissioner forbade any contracts to be given to Ram Sahai Mistri, Mr. Jolly does give contracts to Bedu Mistri, Ram Sahai's creature and servant.

Mr. Jolly is also very partial to the new Company of *thikadars* formed at Monghyr. The contract for the Monghyr drainage works has been given to this Company at rates higher than the ordinary rates. The concrete rate, for instance, allowed to the Company is Rs. 16 instead of Rs. 14, the usual rate. The labour rate allowed to the Company for the dispensary building is higher than the usual rate, Rs. 12 instead of Rs. 10.

(7) Mr. Jolly has thrown the duties of Overseers and Sub-Overseers into disorder by transferring the charge of some roads from the Local Boards to the District Board. He has ordered Overseers and Sub-Overseers not to keep the monthly statements of work. Many secrets in regard to his own diary will be divulged later on.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Jan. 18th, 1901.

42. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 18th January is glad to see

Musalman in the Public Works Department.

Tafazzal Ahmad, a Musalman, pass the final examination of the Sibpur Engineering College, and requests the Government to give him an appointment in the Public Works Department. There is not a single Musalman officer in the Public Works Department, which is a monopoly of the Hindus.

NAVA YUG,  
Jan. 19th, 1901.

43. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 19th January says that 12 Civil

Recruitment of Indian Civil Engineers in England.

Engineers being required for Bengal, Bombay and the Punjab, notifications have been published in the Home papers inviting applications for these posts. The pay attached to the posts varies from Rs. 300 to Rs. 400. As the requisite qualification for these posts is possessed by the passed graduates of the Sibpur, Madras and Poona Engineering Colleges, it is difficult to see why the Secretary of State for India is depriving the natives of their due by recruiting these officers in England.



44. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 21st January says:—

PRATIVASI,  
Jan. 21st, 1901.

Sir John Woodburn and Mr. Oldham

Alas! how rare in India is the power to win the hearts of the people by sweet words and affable conduct and thereby to make them as submissive as the lamb. Mr. Oldham is an officer possessed of this power. He is a messenger of peace, a friend of the people, a helper of the sick and the refuge of those in danger. That is why the Lieutenant-Governor heard in Gaya the deafening and yet pleasing cry of *Oldham Sahebki Jay* drowning even the customary cry of *Chota Lat Sahebki Jay*. The Lieutenant-Governor was without doubt pleased with that cry, for that heaven-piercing cry was, in reality, a song in his own praise and in that of his admirable plague policy. The Indians are a grateful people. How deluded they are who seek to fetter by ties of brute force a people whose hearts can be conquered by kindness however small! Sir John Woodburn is a ruler who rules by the force of love. May his mild policy be followed in every province of India! If it is, the grievances of the Indians will be removed, and the foundations of British rule will become firm as adamant.

45. The same paper writes as follows:—

PRATIVASI.

The proposed appointment of Deputy Magistrates to higher posts.

The Bengal Government has announced its intention of appointing ten Deputy Magistrates to offices hitherto reserved for members of the Civil Service. The late Umès Chandra Batavyal and Nandakrishna Basu earned the praise of Government as well as of the public by their efficiency as District Magistrates. Babu Ambika Charan Sen is now discharging the duties of a District Judge in a very creditable manner, and no one can question the ability of Babu Suryyakumar Agasti and others. We are of opinion that there is no lack of able men among the Deputy Magistrates. If Government appoints able Deputy Magistrates to high posts, it is hoped that both itself and the people will equally benefit. Ability is developed by the inducement of rewards. Sir John Woodburn is impartial and an appreciator of merit, and there is no trace of antipathy to natives in his large heart. He has entitled himself to the thanks of the country and laid the Bengalis under an obligation by throwing open the higher posts to native officers and thereby affording them an opportunity of showing their ability.

The Bengal Government, however, says that to the two Secretariat posts now thrown open to the Deputy Magistrates, viz., the post of Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue and the post of an Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, the main and essential condition laid down by the Government of India applies with special force, i.e., proved and absolute fitness.

But the question is whether Bengalis are really unable to perform properly the duties of the Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue or of an Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal. We do not think that they are unable to do so. We are worshippers of merit and no blind advocates of race-partiality. We know that the development of faculties is the one great foundation of national advancement. If Bengalis now obtain a few high posts through the favour of Government, they will be temporary gainers, but permanent losers. We are not prepared to sacrifice the national interest on the altar of race interest. We are not therefore prepared like the Anglo-Indian editors to sacrifice all hopes of future advancement on the altar of race-partiality. We shall not be sorry if incompetent Bengalis are trampled upon by an abler race. But the Bengalis should be given a trial before they are so trampled upon. If they prove unfit in the trial, let them serve as clerks, Deputy Magistrates and Munsifs for ever, and we will never make on behalf of the country any prayer to Government for their promotion.

But where is the proof that Bengalis are unfit for these two high posts. The Bengal Government never denied that the late Babu Nandakrishna Basu performed the duties of the Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue with great credit to himself. Nor is it possible that Government has promoted Babu Purnachandra Mitra to a District Magistrateship by way of reward for any inefficiency displayed by him while acting as Junior Secretary to the Board. Bengalis have never yet had an occasion to prove their efficiency in the capacity of an Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal. But they have given







but repeated failure of crops for some years reduced him to the plight in which he died. In Bajarpur pargana, water is still standing more than three feet high.

It is a pity that the Government tahsildars should choose such a time as this for realising all arrears of rent for the past year and the seven and-a-half anna instalment for the present year. On failure to pay the demand, the tahsildars threaten to realise the dues by the attachment and sale of moveable property. Nothing can be a matter of greater regret if such oppression is committed on the poor starving raiyats by the tahsildars under Babu Nanda Lal Bagehi, the Subdivisional Officer, who is an able and sympathetic officer.

The khas mahal raiyats have been badly off for the last ten or twelve years, and it is a wonder that their condition has not attracted the notice of the authorities. The Lieutenant-Governor re-assured them, on the occasion of his late visit to Midnapore, with hopeful words, but nothing has yet been done to give them relief.

49. A correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th January complains of the failure of crops in Gopalnagar and other villages, within the jurisdiction of the Vishnupur police-station, in the Bankura district. Most of the lands could not be cultivated in time for want of rain. The raiyats cannot expect to get more than three *salis* of paddy from a bigha of land, which formerly yielded four *maps*. Scarcity of food and fodder is already felt in these villages.

BANKURA  
DARPAN,  
Jan. 16th 1901.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

50. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 18th January writes as follows:—

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR  
Jan. 18th 1901.

Musalman excited against Hindus.  
Dear Musalman brethen, how much longer will you remain in this sleep of ignorance? Do you ever reflect on the plight to which you are being reduced by this sleep of yours? Awake for once and open your eyes and see into what a deep well you are fallen. Do not your Hindu brethen regard you with displeasure? Alas! how long will you bear this disgrace and hear yourselves traduced and maligned in this way? Your eyes are nowadays slightly opened, and a few books are being published by you. It is a great pity that you should yet be unable to rescue yourself from this deep well of ignorance. What a nature this of yours? You are hearing so many abusive words uttered and bearing so many false accusations, and yet you look upon books written and journals conducted by your co-religionists with an eye of hatred, and are eagerly reading the libellous books and journals written and conducted by your Hindu brethren, which are, as it were, so many mines of slanderous terms and abusive epithets. You are turning up your noses and rolling your eyes to see your co-religionists slandered and vilified in this way, and yet you will not cease to read those books and journals and take to reading books and journals by your own co-religionists.

Take up the *Bamabodhini Patrika* for Bhadra and Aswin last and see how your religion and the entire Musalman community have been attacked in an article headed "The Arab widow" at page 157. Do you see? That is why we are pointing this out to you.

The writer of the article says: "For some days the Arab widow sits day and night by the grave of her dead husband and wets it with her tears." The writer evidently knows nothing about Arabia or he would not have made a statement of this kind. It is impossible that in that dreary waste of sand and stone, a widow who has just lost her husband should sit night and day by his grave, far from all human company. Everbody must see that this is a figment of the writer's brain. The writer does not also seem to be aware of the existence of the *parda* system among Musalmans. It is impossible that a *pardanishin* Musalman woman should remain night and day in a lonely place far from all her relatives. A Musalman widow is also forbidden to touch her dead husband till her *iddat* (a prescribed period) has expired. In fact, a Musalman widow must not stir out of her dead husband's house till that period has expired. Nor is a Musalman widow permitted to marry again whenever she pleases; she must allow an interval of four months and ten days (the



*iddat*) to elapse before she forms a second matrimonial connection. "When a second marriage is fixed upon," continues the writer, "she visits her husband's grave and prays by it." The writer will greatly oblige us by quoting his authority for this statement. The writer also says that on the eve of her taking a second husband, the Arab widow pours a skinful of water on her dead husband's grave to appease his possible anger at the contemplated match. A man once dead can know nothing of what is taking place in this mortal world. How can he then be pleased or displeased with anything that happens here? How again can one's anger be appeased by the pouring of a skinful of water on his grave?

Who, again, has heard of a grave being fanned? Where, again, in Islam, is it enjoined that a widow should not marry till the earth on her husband's grave is dry?

We are not aware of the writer's creed. But if he is a Hindu, what a glory has he earned by maligning a particular community in this way! Is it not the peculiar characteristic of the Hindu not to speak ill even of the meanest? Ill-feeling between Hindus and Musalmans is due to people of this type, and it is owing to this mutual ill-feeling that the Indian people are in such a miserable condition.

FRABHAT,  
Jad. 16th 1901.

51. The *Frabhat* [Calcutta] of the 16th January writes as follows:—

The Eurasian question. A Eurasian never loses an opportunity of passing himself off as a European. To him the term "native" is a term of abuse, and he is on no account willing to be known as a native of India. This false pride is at the root of the poverty and degraded social condition of the Eurasians, and is the chief obstacle in the way of their advancement.

Whatever the Eurasians may say and think about themselves, they are and they shall remain what they were in the past. Every community in India knows them to be natives of India, and will never agree to call them by any other name. To our mind, Eurasians will never make any progress as a people so long as they remain unwilling to call themselves natives of India.

Eurasians, as a rule, do not receive high education, but they want to live in the expensive European style. The consequence is that most of them are in a very wretched condition. Want of sympathy between them and the natives also prevents them from engaging in trade. So their only means of earning a livelihood is service. Here, also, they lack three things. They have neither education nor patrons nor the money required to make security deposits. Thanks to the Government, however, many of them can secure appointments and manage to live from hand to mouth. But how long can Eurasians remain in this precarious condition? How long can they live on the favour of Government? It is their wretched condition which has moved Government to show them some favour, but in doing this Government has become guilty of injustice to other communities. By appointing Eurasians in Government offices, the officials offer an insult to the education, intelligence and social position of Hindus and Musalmans.

But we are not going to blame the Government for the favour it shows to the ill-educated Eurasian community. Eurasians are subjects of the Government, and, helpless as they are, Government must needs support them, so long as they do not learn how to support themselves. It is, however, time for the leaders of that community to bethink themselves of the means of earning an independent livelihood. Otherwise, the time cannot be far distant when it will find itself in a serious difficulty.

For sometime the Eurasians have been agitating to gain admission into the army. They have submitted a memorial on the subject to Lord Curzon. His Excellency will do a service to India and gain an undying name for himself if he can see his way to creating a Eurasian regiment. It will be doing good to India in many ways to admit Eurasians into the army. Their admission into the army will open out a career to them, will remove the disappointment which is now created in the minds of Hindus and Musalmans in consequence of their not getting appointments in the Government service, will relieve Government of a burden, and will give Government a regiment at a small cost.



52. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 19th January is glad to hear that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal had the kindness to call personally at the house of a Musalman *hakim* of Bankipore, who cured several plague cases of a dangerous type. The *hakim*, in token of respect, presented his royal guest with a cigar, which was accepted with thanks. This was a singular act of condescension on the part of an officer of Sir John Woodburn's position towards a poor subject.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Jan. 19th, 1901.

53. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January says that Sir John Woodburn went to the Bengal Circus on the maidan in Calcutta, but does His Honour know who the women are who play in that place of amusement?

BANGABHUMI,  
Jan. 22nd, 1901.

Sir John Woodburn in the Bengal Circus. The officials do not visit native theatres, because the actresses who play there are public women. Lord Dufferin once intended to visit the Star Theatre, but had to give up his intention for this reason. If the officials have no objection to visit a circus in which public women are employed, what objection can they possibly have to visit native theatres? Sir John, before his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor, probably visited native theatres, and has, since ascending the *musnud*, witnessed their performances in the houses of the native nobility. But objections arise when the question is one of paying visits to the theatres. The tone of the native theatres would improve, if the officials paid visits to them.

54. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] on the 23rd January has the following within black borders with reference to Her Majesty's death:—

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,  
Jan. 23rd, 1901.

Brother Bengalis, brother Indians, this is a day of great grief and deep sorrow for you. Your affectionate mother Victoria is no more; plunging her sons, daughters, grandsons, grand-daughters, relatives and friends, and the subjects of her world-wide empire in the deep sea of sorrow, she has made her great departure. Under the dispensation of that stern ruler, Time, we have to-day lost her under the happy shadow of whose peaceful sceptre we lived free from care and anxiety. We shall no more see that calm and serene face, no more hear those sweet words. We have to-day lost our mother and become orphans. Which way soever in this vast world we turn our eyes, we hear cries of deep sorrow and most heart-rending wails. The world has to-day gone into mourning (*asauch*) for that great goddess Victoria.

Weep, people of Bengal; weep, people of India; weep from the bottom of your hearts. Such a day of sorrow, such a day of mourning never came and will not come again. To-day, we are all motherless. Come, brothers, let us do the duty which sons should do, let us perform the duty we owe our mother Victoria after her death—let us go into mourning (*asauch*) like so many motherless sons.

Englishmen, you are our superiors in colour, in qualifications, in every respect; in fact, you are our rulers. Yet you have to-day suffered the same misfortune as we have. Like us, you, too, are motherless to-day. Come, brothers, let us in this universal mourning, act like dutiful sons by going into mourning (*asauch*) for a month for the death of our mother.

55. Referring to Her Majesty's death, the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 23rd January has the following in black:—

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Jan. 23rd, 1901.

The Queen's death. A dire calamity has occurred. The Queen of Great Britain—the Empress of India—Our Queen-mother Victoria, is no longer in the world of the living!!! A telegram received at Midnapore at 11 A.M. this day has brought us this heart-rending news.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

56. Referring to the proposal of Government to reduce the number of Proposed reduction of civil appeals preferred before the High Courts in India, the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 2nd January, and the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 12th January strongly support the opinion of the British Indian Association, Calcutta, and observe that the people have unbounded confidence on their High Courts, which are generally presided over by learned and experienced Judges, whereas justice is administered in the lower courts by a certain number of young and inexperienced officers

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Jan. 2nd, 1901.



over whom the High Courts are a salutary check. The writers hope that Government will weigh the arguments of the above Association before proceeding any further in the matter.

SAMBALPUR  
HITAISHINI,  
Jan. 2nd, 1901.

57. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 2nd January is of opinion that the existence of a large number of small tanks within the jurisdiction of the Balasore Municipality is a source of danger to the public health, inasmuch as many of them are used both for drinking and culinary purposes by the residents of that municipality. The writer is of opinion that a certain number of these tanks should be closed, while the water in the others should be used under certain specified sanitary rules.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
Jan. 9th, 1901.

58. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 9th January is sorry to notice that the health of the Balasore district is not good, inasmuch as cholera and small-pox are raging in several parts of the district.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

59. The same paper, as also its contemporaries, the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 10th January and *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 12th January, state that there were a few showers of rain in the present month in all the districts of Orissa, whereby some crops have been benefited, while other crops have been more or less injured. The *Samvad Vahika* regrets that the rains will prevent the mango trees from putting forth blossoms and, as a consequence, the mango crop will be short.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
Jan. 10th, 1901.

60. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 10th January regrets to learn that Government is contemplating to raise the fees in all zilla schools by 30 to 50 per cent., and observes that, in consideration of the poverty of the Indians, the education of their children, which is already too costly, should not be made still more expensive. The writer is of opinion that a policy, which wants to throw obstacles in the path of acquiring knowledge, is not only injudicious, but short-sighted, and hopes that the authorities will give up the idea at once.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

61. The same paper has reason to believe that the Raja of Nilgiri has ingratiated himself into the good graces of the residents of the Soro and Balasore thanas of the Balasore district by giving them permission to take fire-wood from a portion of his reserve jungle, of which they were in great need.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Jan. 12th, 1901.

62. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 12th January, is surprised to learn that the Director of Public Instruction in Bombay has issued an order prohibiting the educational officers of that province from taking any part in the proceedings of the municipalities in that Presidency, and has asked some who had applied for election by the rate-payers in certain municipalities to explain their conduct, as if such conduct was reprehensible. The writer hopes that the sympathetic Governor of Bombay will cancel the injudicious order of the Director.

UTKALDIPIKA.

63. The same paper draws the attention of the district authorities in Orissa to the circular issued by the Commissioner of that division regarding the use of correct and legible Uriya in the Revenue Courts of that division, as the writer has been informed that proper attention has not yet been paid to the provisions of the circular.

UTKALDIPIKA.

64. The same paper exhorts the public of Orissa to subscribe handsomely to the fund started at Oxford with the object of creating an endowment in connection with that institution to perpetuate the memory of the late Professor Max-Muller, who was connected with it for a large number of years.

UTKALDIPIKA.

65. The same paper recommends the proposals, which a zamindar of Orissa has made in the columns of the *Calcutta Statesman*, with the object of realising rents from those raiyats who are accustomed to run into arrears. The proposals consist of the cancellation of the raiyat's *patta* under section 78 of Act X of 1859, of the application of the *Patti* rules of sale to



occupancy holdings, and of summary ejection in the case of non-occupancy holdings. The execution of a decree on the oral application of the decree-holder, the service of summons through the registration branch of the post office, and a few other proposals of the same nature are also supported.

66. Referring to the proceedings of the Famine Commission, the same paper points out that they are all very good, but what is most required is the ascertainment of the causes of famine which has been found to occur frequently in India. The writer regrets that Government has not ordered a thorough enquiry into the causes of the oft-repeated famine, specially as Lord Curzon is at the head of the Supreme Government. The writer hopes that the causes of Indian famine will be found out soon and removed, as prevention is always better than cure.

Government's instructions to the Famine Commission incomplete.

UTKALDIPKA  
Jan. 12th 1901.

The Cuttack Agricultural Exhibition.

67. Referring to the annual exhibition of flowers, fruits, agricultural products, &c., to be held at Cuttack on the 25th of the present month and the following days, the same paper points out that the Exhibition Committee should make it a point to encourage the *bona fide* cultivators, most of whom remain in the interior of the district, and this can be best done by granting them free accommodation in the town and by helping such of them with passage money as are too poor to afford the expenses of their journey to Cuttack. The writer observes that this can be best done by deducting certain charges under the head "*Nautches* and amusements."

UTKALDIPKA.

68. A correspondent of the same paper, by name Sanatan Patnaik, who is a temporary resident of the Cuttack town, complains that a bearing cover despatched to his address from Angul on 31st December 1900 reached him in Cuttack on 4th January 1901, and that two stamped covers similarly addressed did not reach him at all. The correspondent was on that account extremely inconvenienced and mortified, as the letter conveyed the news of the death of a near relation of his, whose funeral rites he could not observe in Cuttack in due time. The correspondent prays that the postal authorities will take this matter into their special consideration, as all Hindus are very sensitive on the question of funeral ceremonies.

A postal complaint.

UTKALDIPKA.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 26th January, 1901.



## REPORT (PART II)

ON

## NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 26th January 1901.

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HINDOO PATRIOT,  
19th Jan. 1901.

277. The following remarks are taken from the *Hindoo Patriot* of the 19th instant on Turkish diplomacy in China :—

Turkey and China.

Turkey and China have never had any diplomatic relation with one another, but His Majesty the Sultan of Turkey now proposes to send a special religious mission to China to preach to the Chinese Moslems, and at the same time to inculcate loyalty to the reigning Emperor. The project has obtained the approval of the Turkish Ministerial Council which recommends the despatch of two *ulemas*, four civil officials, and two interpreters "to dissuade the Chinese Muhammadans from participating in any anti-dynastic movement." The importance of the project will be evident when it is remembered that there are no less than fifty millions of Moslems in China, and that the mere knowledge of the Sultan's favourable inclination in the present crisis towards the existing dynasty "will materially strengthen the hands of the latter in claiming the support of the Muhammadan population of China."

POWER AND  
GUARDIAN,  
21st Jan. 1901.

278. The *Power and Guardian* of the 21st instant refers to the speech of Mr. Cronwright Schreiner at the Congress held in South Africa, the sentiments in which are unworthy of one belonging to a subject nation. Comparing it with what the Indian National Congress does annually, it remarks that England should ever be prepared to do India that amount of justice which her case and loyalty warrant.

Mr. Schreiner's speech at the Congress held in South Africa.

POWER AND  
GUARDIAN,  
21st Jan. 1901.

279. In a notice of Mr. Stead's "Questions and answers with reference to the Boer war," the answers to which are reproduced, the same organ, while expressing its opinion that Mr. Stead is a sincere patriot and statesman, cannot help deprecating "the unworthy and seditious term he often uses in vindication of his position."

280. The news that the Boers have been foiled in their efforts to influence by their presence a rising in Cape Colony, will, the same paper says, please the world, for the simple reason that it forebodes the completion of the bloody campaign at no distant date.

POWER AND  
GUARDIAN,  
21st Jan. 1901.

The Boer war.

POWER AND  
GUARDIAN,  
21st Jan. 1901.

281. Writing of the acceptance by China of the Joint Note of the Powers, and her consequent humiliation, the same journal reminds Japan that China's fate is a lesson to her; that a day might yet come when one of the strongest European Powers might be tempted to acquire her for the mere satisfaction of imperialistic ideas.

China and Japan.

POWER AND  
GUARDIAN,  
21st Jan. 1901.

282. The *Power and Guardian* of the 21st January has also a paragraph on the subject of the publications recently issued which have for their object the unmasking of Mr. Krüger. The writer, while admitting that the ex-President is "a demon in human form," sees nothing to justify what he calls the 'immortal' war "which has been raging for over a year; and which is likely to lead to the ultimate prostration of the warlike Boers."

Mr. Krüger exposed.

Mr. Krüger. The writer, while admitting that the ex-President is "a demon in human form," sees nothing to justify what he calls the 'immortal' war "which has been raging for over a year; and which is likely to lead to the ultimate prostration of the warlike Boers."

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

### (a)—Police.

BENGALUR,  
17th Jan. 1901.

283. From Gosain Durgapore, Nadia, a correspondent writes to the *Bengalee* of the 17th January, that a daring dacoity was committed in Dashamy Bazar, some 10 miles from Chooadanga station, when some 15 or 20 robbers broke into the shop of Babu Bidhu Bhusan Mukerji, Sub-Deputy Collector in the service of H. H. the Maharaja of Hill Tipperah, and decamped with a small amount of money. An enquiry is progressing.

A dacoity.

BENGALUR  
19th Jan. 1901

284. The *Bengalee* in its issue of the 19th instant, repeats the complaint of the *Bikash* of Barisal that the local Police are seeking the names and addresses of the gentlemen who were appointed delegates to the Sixteenth National Congress from Barisal, and points to the case of a Police officer in the North-Western Provinces who was punished recently by Sir Antony MacDonnell for having established

The Police and the Congress.



a system of espionage without authority. It wishes to know if the Barisal Police have been authorised to pursue the delegates by the Local Government.

285. The following paragraph appears in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 19th instant:—"A daring dacoity was committed in the house of a woman in the suburbs of Soorah.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
19th Jan. 1901.

A gang of about six armed men broke into the house at night and looted the woman's ornaments, besides Rs. 300 in cash, the savings of years, and decamped. A vigorous Police enquiry is proceeding."

286. The *Bengalee* has an article in its issue of the 20th instant on the arrest and detention in *hajat* of a respectable gentleman in the suburbs of Calcutta, whose opposition to the demolition of his wall, ordered under the new Building Regulations, led to an affray. The writer asks if Mr. James is not liable to a charge of wrongful confinement for keeping this gentleman in *hajat* when he was charged with offences that are bailable?

BENGALIEE,  
20th Jan. 1901.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

287. An Arrah correspondent writes to the *Behar Herald* of the 16th instant that though there are four first-class Deputy Magistrates, one Joint-Magistrate, one Assistant Magistrate, one second-class Deputy Magistrate, a Batwara Deputy Collector, and one Income-tax Deputy Collector, some of them hold their Courts till late hours in the evening to the great inconvenience of the public.

BEHAR HERALD,  
16th Jan. 1901.

288. The *Bengalee* brings to light certain cases to show that Mr. Gabriel, the Subdivisional Officer of Beguserai, delays in deciding criminal cases, and wonders how the Press complaints against him have escaped the lynx eyes of Lord Curzon.

BENGALIEE,  
17th Jan. 1901.

289. The Midnapore correspondent of the *Bengalee* writes in the 17th's issue of that paper, complaining that Mr. Samman punished one of the Bench clerks without any rhyme or reason, and that his clerks do not get their pay till the 9th of the month.

BENGALIEE,  
17th Jan. 1901.

290. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* special correspondent, writing in the issue of that paper of the 19th instant, complains that Mr. A. W. Dentith, the Joint-Magistrate of Dacca, dismisses complaints, right and left, under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code, without even an enquiry or investigation.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA  
19th Jan. 1901.

291. A correspondent writing from Monghyr to the *Bengalee* of the 20th instant suggests that the Courts in districts where the plague is raging should be closed for some time.

BENGALIEE,  
20th Jan. 1901.

292. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* own correspondent at Bankipore, in his letter to that paper of the 21st instant, accuses Mr. Montreau, "an ease-loving Deputy Magistrate," as he calls him, of always, when possible, trying his cases summarily.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
21st Jan. 1901.

293. The *Power and Guardian* of the 21st instant is gratified to notice the laudable efforts which the District and Sessions Judge of Gaya is making to bring about a healthy change in the system of work in all the Courts under him, with a view to suppressing bribery and corruption. Blackmailing by ministerial officers in Gaya is a notorious fact, and the Sessions Judge seems determined to purge the whole district of corruption.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,  
21st Jan. 1901.

294. "Rate-payers of the Northern Division," writing in the *Indian Mirror* of the 22nd January, is sure that if the Government grants Nawab Syed Amir Hossein an extension of service for a year, the public would consider it a great boon.

INDIAN MIRROR  
22nd Jan. 1901.



HINDOO PATRIOT,  
22nd Jan. 1901.

295. The *Hindoo Patriot* of the 22nd January, writing of Nawab Bahadur Syed Amir Hossein's impending retirement, hopes that as he is in the vigor of manhood and his judgment is still clear, the Lieutenant-Governor will grant him a further extension. All classes will feel grateful to His Honour if, in the public interest, he would specially request the Nawab Bahadur to continue in service for some time longer.

BENGALÉE,  
22nd Jan. 1901.

296. The question of a proper dress for the Vakils of the High Court will shortly, says a writer in the *Bengalée* of the 22nd instant, receive the consideration of the Chief Justice. The writer suggests that a gown and surplice similar to those worn by advocates, the gown to be of a different colour, would suit the vakils without infringing the right of the Inns of Court, and would also add to the dignity of the Court.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
22nd Jan. 1901.

297. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, in its issue of the 22nd January, draws the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor and the Hon'ble Mr. Baker to a case in which a gentleman in Monghyr was sentenced by Mr. Ainslie, Deputy Magistrate, under section 267, Indian Penal Code, to rigorous imprisonment for three months for removing his son from Monghyr to his native home.

"No wonder," says the *Patrika*, "that plague measures should stink in the nostrils of the people of this country after such a case of unparalleled severity. Fancy that a bereaved father was actually dragged before a criminal court and sent to jail with hard labour for three months, simply because he carried an alleged sick son home who died on the way! Even in Bombay and Poona, where the plague administration was carried on in the most inhuman manner possible, people were free to go anywhere they liked, though stricken down by the fell disease. Sir John Woodburn has earned the gratitude of the whole nation by his generous and beneficent plague policy. Only the other day, His Honour assured the people of Gaya and Patna that he would never allow them to be molested in the name of the plague. But, it seems, some of his subordinates are determined to go against his humane policy and render his administration unpopular. Indeed, they will not allow even bereaved parents to weep in silence over the loss of their dear ones. Perhaps Mr. Ainslie was quite within his rights in convicting and sentencing the man, though our correspondent says that it was not proved conclusively that the son had plague when he was removed; but he ought to have remembered that there was such a thing as humanity. What could be more monstrous than that a father should be treated as felon simply because he sought to save his son? And the unfortunate man suffering from the death of his son under extremely painful circumstances, was sent to jail, though a mere warning or a few rupees' fine would have served the ends of justice! How would Mr. Ainslie himself have felt if he were in the position of the bereaved father whom he has given three months with hard labour and his son were in the grip of a deadly disease in a strange place where plague had broken out? The case demands the immediate and serious attention of His Honour."

(d)—Education.

BENGALÉE,  
17th Jan. 1901.

298. The action of the Principal of the Poona College of Science in restricting the admissions to the College this year to 40, has created alarm and indignation, says the *Bengalée* of the 17th instant, and it hopes the matter will engage Lord Northcote's attention.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
17th Jan. 1901.

299. A Motihari correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 17th instant writes that, in view of the outbreak of plague in Bankipore, a memorial will be submitted to Government on the desirability of making Muzaffarpur a special centre this year for candidates for the Entrance Examination from the Champaran district.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
17th Jan. 1901.

300. The same correspondent writes that the proposal to establish a School for the teaching of Bengalee to children of both sexes has at last proved successful, and a small supervising committee has been formed with certain



Bengalee gentlemen of influence interested in the scheme as its members, and the Head Master, Zillah School, as its Secretary.

301. In the correspondence column of the *Indian Mirror* of the 19th instant appears a letter appealing to the Syndicate of the Calcutta University to open two separate (B. and A.) courses for the F. A. Examination, as in the B. A.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
19th Jan. 1901.

An appeal to the Calcutta University.

nation, as in the B. A.

302. The *Bengalee* of the 20th January 1901 suggests that, in view of the existence of plague in Monghyr, candidates for the Entrance Examination from that district should not be allowed to appear at the Bhagalpur centre, which is happily yet free from the disease, but be examined at Monghyr.

BENGALIAN,  
20th Jan. 1901.

'Monghyr in the Entrance Examination.

303. In the course of a two-columned leader, the same paper in its issue of the 22nd instant, expatiates on the necessity of Indians besirring themselves for the purpose of discovering the means by which they might best resuscitate their moribund commerce, by the attainment of which alone would they acquire political rights.

BENGALIAN,  
22nd Jan. 1901.

Indian education in its relation to Indian Commerce.

The education imparted at Indian educational institutions is essentially a non-commercial education, and it is not fair to complain that the young men do not take to commerce, and that they prefer to crowd the professions for which their education has equipped them. The European availing himself of the discoveries of Science has minimised the labour of man and cheapened the labour of production. The articles of commerce which Europe offers to the markets of the world, unlike those produced by India, are not the result of handicraft. The Indian manufacturer is, therefore, at a great disadvantage in competing with the European manufacturer, since the existing system of education does not teach him how to utilise machine labour for the production of articles of commerce. The result is that all the indigenous industries of India, once so famous all over the civilised world, are in a moribund condition. The universities of Germany were the first to see that unless young men were educated in the practical use of the laws discovered by Science, those laws would be but barren discoveries, serving no useful purpose. And so they began to have practical classes, where experts taught the young men of Germany how to put the laws of Science into practical use for the purpose of producing the articles required by commerce. England soon followed in the wake of Germany, and institutes for this purpose sprang up in Britain. In India, however, the old methods have continued, with the result that the employment of its young men is the most pressing of all the problems which demands immediate solution at the hands of Indian statesmen, and the vast natural resources of the country are left to lie alone, or are being exploited by foreign adventurers. "Therefore," concludes the writer, "there is every certainty that if a large body of enlightened merchant princes of Indian origin demanded the necessary rights and privileges, no Government, however strong, would dare to withstand its just demands. For so has it ever been among all the nations of the earth. And so shall it be with our own people in India. And the first step which we would suggest to the desired end would be by so modifying the educational system now obtaining among us, as would allow of the learning by our young men of the methods by which to utilise the lessons of Science learnt by them at school and college. We have awakened to the fact that labour by itself is highly respectable. And the half-a-century or more of European education that we have had, has taught us that it is earnestness of purpose and honesty and hard work which dignify man. So that the time is now ripe for the new departure which we have tried to indicate."

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

304. The *Hindoo Patriot* of the 17th instant understands that the whole assessment made under the South Barrackpore Municipality has been mismanaged by the appointment of a clerk as the assessor (paragraph 193). A similar complaint reaches that

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
17th Jan. 1901.

Irregularities in Municipalities.



paper from Budge-Budge where the grievance of the rate payers proves to be still more serious, and though it will not vouch for the irregularities complained of, it learns that assessments of holdings under the Budge-Budge Municipality have been rated higher than those for similar holdings in Calcutta, and that different members in a joint-family have been separately assessed. As in Barrackpore a petty clerk has also here been promoted to be the assessor. These cases are commended to the notice of Mr. Allen, who is requested to institute an enquiry into the complaints made and redress them.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
17th Jan. 1901.

305. The *Hindoo Patriot* of the 17th instant reproduces an extract from the report of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India on existing sanitary conditions of towns on the banks of the river Hooghly.

BENGALIAN,  
17th Jan. 1901.

306. A Santipur correspondent writes to the *Bengalee* that, if Government does not intervene to prevent it, there will be a water famine in the near future.

He also complains of the condition of the burning-ghât where there is no protection from the inclemency of the weather for those who attend cremations.

BENGALIAN,  
17th Jan. 1901.

307. The same paper hears that it is proposed to change the name of Hurrish Chunder Mookerjee Street, in Bhowanipur, into Curzon or York Street, and, for the information of the Commissioners who are moving in the matter, explains the circumstances under which the street received its name, to alter which now would be construed as a mark of disrespect to the memory of Hurrish Chunder Mookerjee, and would be strongly disapproved of by the Hindu community.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
19th Jan. 1901.

308. The *Indian Mirror* accords the strongest possible support to a petition submitted to the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation protesting against a proposal to change the name of Hurrish Chunder Mookerjee's Road in Bhowanipur. This new road was so named in compliance with a resolution passed by the Corporation itself, and the man whose name it bears is rightly regarded as the father of the Indian Press.

BENGALIAN,  
19th Jan. 1901.

309. The *Bengalee* again refers to the failure of the administration of the Dacca Municipality under its official Chairman (paragraph 194), and cites the case of Howrah, a similarly governed municipality, which official testimony has declared to be the worst in the province. The appointment of an official Chairman, therefore, is not the panacea of municipal evils. The truth is that the Magistrate of the District is so over-worked and has so many things to do, that he has not time to attend to municipal work and can only exercise a sort of general supervision. It is a mistake, therefore, to burden District Officers with the responsible duties of the Chairman of large Municipalities. It was indeed, one of the objects of the scheme of Local Self-Government, as devised by Lord Ripon, to afford necessary relief to over-worked District Officers.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
21st Jan. 1901.

310. The *Hindoo Patriot* is glad to hear that the proposal to change the name of the street at Bhowanipore which bears the name of Hurrish Chunder Mookerjee has been rejected by the General Committee of the Corporation.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
18th Jan. 1901.

311. The *Indian Mirror* cannot understand why Mr. Cotton, of all the Commissioners, should have resisted the motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Apear to express the Corporation's high sense of appreciation of Babu Nilambar Mukerji, the Vice-Chairman's work, and is surprised that the Vice-Chairman, in spite of his excellent services, has still been condemned in a Government Resolution. "That" says the writer, "is his reward, while Mr. Bright, the late Chairman, who was continually falling ill and doing little, has been decorated!"

BENGALIAN,  
18th Jan. 1901.

312. The *Bengalee* refers to the same subject, and thinks that the Vice-Chairman's services deserved special recognition. "If the Government," it says, "recognizes the services of its officers by conferring titles and honours and decorations upon them, was it too much for the Corporation to pass a special vote of thanks to its Vice-Chairman for devoted and brilliant service?"



313. The same paper again refers to the last Calcutta Municipal meeting, and in its leader devotes a column to the scheme for the reorganization of the Secretary's Department. It does not question the necessity for the reorganization, and thinks that Mr. Greer has not taken up the matter a day too soon. It is, however, distinctly in favour of Mr. Apcar's proposal for the appointment of a committee, and cites several instances to show that not a single department of the Corporation has been re-organised without a careful and exhaustive enquiry by a competent committee.

BENGALIAN,  
19th Jan. 1901.

The last meeting of the Corporation.

314. A correspondent writes as follows from Belghoria to the *Indian Mirror* of the 20th January:—The sanitary condition of the place is much to be deplored. The

INDIAN MIRROR,  
20th Jan. 1901.

Insanitary Belghoria.

*Mehter* service is not at all carried on regularly. Every house has, so to speak, a night-soil dépôt in it. The municipal men take very little notice of this sad state of things, although the health of the place is far from satisfactory now-a-days.

315. The *Bengalee* of the 20th instant, reproduces extracts from a recent

BENGALIAN,  
20th Jan. 1901.

The *Englishman* and the Calcutta Municipal Corporation.

leader in the *Englishman* to show that that paper is already beginning to get dissatisfied with the new Municipal Corporation and the new Municipal Act, and would seem to be in favour of further modifications of the Act and restrictions of the Commissioner's powers and of a further expansion of the authority of the executive. It concludes thus—

"The best thing is to abolish the Corporation altogether and do away with the semblance of Local Self-Government, and substitute in its place a purely official administration of the city. Things are rapidly coming to this consummation, and the sooner the mask is thrown off, the better for all parties."

316. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 21st instant, has a similar article on the *Englishman's* attitude towards the new Municipal Corporation, which it seeks to show has

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
21st Jan. 1901.

*Ibid.*

changed from one of warm support to that of wholesale dissatisfaction.

317. On the same subject, the *Hindoo Patriot* seriously considers whether, under the present circumstances, it is worth while to retain the existing machinery of the

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
21st Jan. 1901.

*Ibid.*

Corporation. It says—

"Why not do away with it altogether? We predicted at the time when the new Act was passed that, with the death of Local Self-Government, Municipal administration of Calcutta would be greatly deteriorated. The power of the Chairman would be immensely increased it is true, but he himself would be the first to acknowledge the debt which he owed to the old independent members of the Corporation. Under the altered conditions the present members cannot render the same kind of service as that which was received from the old Corporation. One should have expected that the European community would have been satisfied with the working of the present Corporation. But we notice in the columns of the *Englishman* growing dissatisfaction of the European community also with the present situation. We were reproached when we said that no class of residents in Calcutta would be benefited by the change then proposed. Our protest was not heeded. No one with a spark of self-respect would now stand for Municipal election. The reason is plain enough. They refuse to be mere puppets. We are sure the Chairman feels his work to be onerous and irksome. There is no one to guide him by his sound and independent advice, and to lighten his task. The situation is becoming more and more grave every day."

318. The *Hindoo Patriot* of the 21st January fully agrees with its contemporary of the *Bengalee* (paragraph 266) that the problem of supplying the public with good drinking-water and thereby averting a water famine is a

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
21st Jan 1901.

Supply of good drinking water in the interior.

serious one, which Sir John Woodburn and Lord Curzon would do well to solve.

319. A writer in the correspondence columns of the *Indian Mirror* of the 22nd instant, makes the same complaints noticed at paragraph 193 of the Report on newspapers on the administration of the South Barrackpore Municipality,

INDIAN MIRROR,  
22nd Jan. 1901.

South Barrackpore Municipality.



and hopes that Mr. Allen will interfere in the matter in the interests of the general body of rate-payers.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
22nd Jan. 1901.

The Calcutta Municipality.

320. In continuation of its remarks of the previous day, the *Hindoo Patriot* of the 22nd instant wishes the public to understand that it is not through any fault of the pilots that the Calcutta Municipal craft runs the risk of being wrecked on the rocks ahead. It says:—

"It is now clear to the man in the street that there are inherent defects in the Act itself; that the Calcutta Municipality is a huge machine which it is extremely difficult to work; that there are numerous items of detail that it is hardly in the power of any one man or body of men to carry in his or their head; that there are defects of organisation, inconvenient precedents and the usual red-tape sanctified by long tradition; that the dust of ages has to be swept off every single thing you handle; and that even an official, with his heart in the right place and possessing an active brain and anxious to do the right thing at the right time, is most seriously handicapped."

The present Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation who accepted the appointment at considerable personal inconvenience, has, since taking over charge, been working as hard and as devotedly in the interests of the town and the rate-payers as it is possible only for a man gifted with extraordinary powers of work and habits of industry to do. There are, of course, limitations to human capacity and human efforts. Yet signs of improvement in various directions are visible. The refuse platforms in Circular Road are now being treated in a rational way. The conservancy carts, instead of standing on and alongside of the platforms, now discharge their contents, which are whisked off by the Municipal Railway train before 10 A.M.

A sound policy of amalgamating, as far as possible, the Health and Engineer's Departments of the Corporation is now being considered, and something good and practical is expected. Then there are the Municipal accounts, the Secretary's office and the Warrant Department, which are being purged of their shortcomings.

The trial of Municipal cases is another great anomaly. But it is understood that there is a proposal to appoint a Magistrate under the Act for the trial of these cases. The writer concludes in these words: "Corruption and nepotism have been rampant in the Corporation for some time past, and he will be a great benefactor of the community who will make the place less and less a refuge for 'incapable' of all sorts and conditions, and a shooting ground of the rubbish of all offices of Calcutta."

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

BEHAR HERALD,  
16th Jan. 1901.

321. The *Behar Herald* of the 16th instant has an account of the duties of a Patwari and the evils of the existing Patwari system in Bihar, and remarks that, notwithstanding the strong representations on the subject, no action has yet been taken to remove the evils complained of.

AMRITA BASAR  
PATRIKA.

322. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has the following leader on the subject of the Famine Commission and land assessment:—

As we have already pointed out, (paragraph 200) the Famine Commission, now sitting at Nagpur, has not formulated any questions calculated to throw light on the important subject of land assessment and its pressure on the people in the various Provinces. The Malguzari Sabha of Nagpur has, however, rightly, as we think, taken advantage of the Government Resolution and submitted to the Commission a paper of notes, showing how the assessments of the new settlement have affected the landholding classes in the Central Provinces. The notes do not indulge in any arguments, but have carefully pieced together a set of valuable facts and figures, all taken, as we are assured, from official reports, which place in a clear light the real character of the new assessments and their economic effect on the people.

That the enhancements of the new settlement have, except in one or two districts, been heavy—in some tracts very heavy—is admitted. In fact the figures published by Government itself place this beyond doubt. These enhancements, which in most districts have been introduced all at once and not



progressively, are mainly defended on the ground that in spite of them the Government demands absorb only a small portion of the gross produce of land; and that their incidence on occupied area as compared with the incidence in other parts of the Empire is low.

In the Central Provinces persons having rights in land fall principally under two classes: the Malguzars (proprietors) and their tenants. As regards the latter, it serves no useful purpose to compare the rents as fixed at the settlement with rents in other Provinces, and to say of the former that they are light when placed side by side with the latter. For what is fair rent depends on a variety of local circumstances. No rent, however low as compared with other rents, can claim to be fair, which does not leave to the tenant a share of the produce which is sufficient to keep up the stock from which he furnishes the seed, pays the labour and buys and maintains the plough-cattle and instruments of husbandry, together with the profits of his stock from which he derives his means of livelihood. This is the smallest share which has to be left to the tenant, if he is to live on his land. The rent must come out of what remains, and can never be made to exceed the value of this residue without depauperising the tenant. A rent which has this undesirable effect, can never be called fair, however low it may be as compared with other rents.

Again, the residue available for rent in the case of different kinds of land is not a constant quantity, but varies with the quality of the land. In rich lands, the produce is so great, that a smaller portion of it is fully sufficient to replace to the cultivator his farming stock, together with its legitimate profits, leaving a comparatively larger portion from which to meet the rent-charge of the landlord. In poor lands, on the contrary, the produce is small and consequently a much larger portion of it is absorbed in replacing the stock together with its profits, even where the costs of cultivation are not greater, which they generally are in the case of poor lands. The balance available for rent is thus smaller. It follows that rent in the latter case, though smaller as compared with the rent in the former, cannot be called lighter. In fact, it may press more heavily and, though ostensibly light, may really be quite the contrary. Crop experiments giving the gross produce of various kinds of land are reported every year. To say nothing of the *ex-parte* character of these experiments, they, by themselves, cannot help us to determine whether, as tested by the above canons, the rents as paid in the Central Provinces are so low as to be unfair to the landlords and therefore to the Government, which bases its assessment on them.

What is needed is a carefully-conducted enquiry, in which the people concerned must be permitted to take part, directed to ascertain, (1) the quantity of land generally held by tenants in various assessment groups, (2) its gross produce taking bad with good years, (3) the cost of replenishing the farming stock, (4) the profits which the tenant must be able to keep to himself in order that he and his family may live, and (5) the balance left after meeting the above charges. It is this balance alone that can determine the real character of the rent that has to be paid and its pressure on the tenant. Until these factors are ascertained, it is a meaningless cry to appeal to the figures of rent and say that their incidence is low.

*A priori* the rents, as they are actually realized, represent what the land is capable of paying without encroaching upon the share that legitimately belongs to the cultivators. This at least must be true of tenants whose rents are capable of enhancement by the landlords. This was the case with the majority of tenants in the Central Provinces until recent years. It is not in the nature of things that, with a growing demand for land under the stress of an advancing population, the malguzars, having power to demand a full rent, should have abstained from doing so and allowed the tenants to pay year after year an unreasonably low rent. Thus everything is in favour of the view that the rents as actually paid represent what the tenants are capable of paying, and are therefore fair and not low rents.

In connection with this question of rent-assessment, it has been said that it is the heavily-assessed lands that are most immune from famines, those lightly assessed suffering the severest from their effects. The explanation of this apparent paradox is easily given. The words "heavy" and "light" are



comparative terms. An assessment apparently and comparatively heavy is not really so in the case of highly fertile lands, unless it is actually more than the value of the portion of the produce that is left after meeting the cost of cultivation and the profits of stock. On the contrary, an assessment apparently light may, by its tendency to encroach on the cultivator's legitimate share of profits, keep him in a state of chronic poverty, driving him to the Government relief-works on the first occurrence of an unfavourable season. These fallacious doctrines, by their tendency to obscure the real issue, are apt to mislead.

Coming now to the other class,—the Malguzars,—the proportion which the revenue assessment of Government may bear to the gross produce of the land has not much relevancy in considering how the assessment affects them; for the major portion of assessable assets consists of rents paid by tenants. The revenue is paid out of these rent realisations. The proprietors have, no doubt, their own cultivation, but this forms only a fractional portion of the assets upon which a settlement is based. Moreover they are at least entitled to get a tenant's profit from their home-farm. Thus, in order to determine whether an assessment presses unduly on a malguzar, we must confine ourselves to a determination of the question how much of the rental assets, including the rental of the *sir*, is absorbed by the various Government demands, and what is left to the malguzar after meeting all village charges. It is this balance that is the real index to the character of the assessment. If a new assessment is pitched so high as all at once seriously to reduce this balance, the effect on the economic condition of the malguzar is disastrous, and it is no consolation to him to be told that the proportion which the new charges bear to the gross produce of his village lands is low as compared with similar proportions elsewhere. When a heavy enhancement, introduced all at once, is added to short collections from tenants, year after year, under the stress of continued bad harvests, it does not take long to reduce a once well-to-do proprietor to a state bordering on insolvency. The figures given in the notes of the Malguzari Sabha are startling in their character, and we propose to give short summaries of them by and by. These will explain more clearly than anything else why the malguzars say that a great many of them, under the operations of the new settlement coming into force during a season of continued agricultural depression, have been ruined.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
19th Jan. 1901.

The abolition of the *begar* system  
in Assam

323. Noticing the abolition of the system of *begar* in the Cachar district, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, in its issue of the 19th instant, hopes that the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton will hold an enquiry into the complaints of the villagers and see his way to abolish the pernicious system from every district of Assam.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
19th Jan. 1901.

324. The *Hindoo Patriot* of the 19th January reminds the *Pioneer* that the question to be answered in regard to the frequency of famines is not whether there have been more disastrous famines under British rule than under the Muhammadan rulers, but how the people can be helped to resist the scourge. It finds that resistance is impossible, so long as the State insists upon taking away everything from the cultivator except the barest necessities of life. The permanent settlement in Bengal has, to a great extent, lessened the miseries of the people, and the occasional failures of the season do not affect the raiyat in Bengal in the way they affect the inhabitants of the raiyatwari tracts. A permanent settlement, therefore, as its contemporary the *Hindoo* points out, and in which opinion the *Patriot* agrees, is the remedy for the disease.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
19th Jan. 1901.

325. The following leader is taken from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* paper of the 19th instant:—  
The Famine Commission and Land Assessment. In our previous article we tried to establish two propositions:—

(1) That the rents paid by tenants in the Central Provinces, though low as compared with rents paid in some other parts of the Empire, cannot, in the present imperfect state of our knowledge as to the various data which determine the real character of the pressure of the rent-charge on the produce of the land, be characterised as unfairly low. There is, on the contrary, every reason to think that the existing rents are the proper rents, and that they cannot be raised so as to bring them on a level with rents paid elsewhere without ruining the tenants.



(2) That it is neither the average incidence of revenue assessment on the cultivated or occupied area, nor the proportion which the revenue-charge bears to the gross produce, that determines the pressure of the assessment on the malguzars. It is the balance of profits left to them, after meeting the various Government dues, that constitutes the real index by which to judge of the fairness or otherwise of a particular assessment.

Now the position of the malguzars has undergone a material change under the arrangements leading to, or connected with, the new settlement. To begin with, when the old settlement of Sir Richard Temple was introduced, the country was in a highly undeveloped state. There were large areas of cultivable virgin land, which constituted a most fruitful source of future profit to the malguzars. There was, further, the great potentiality of profit in the expected rise in the level of prices of agricultural produce resulting from the opening-up of the country by roads and railways.

With a full knowledge of these facts, with the deliberate intention of letting the people enjoy undisturbed the entire benefit of future improvement in the condition of the country, that great and far-seeing statesmen, Sir Richard Temple, caused the Government to give to the Province the boon of a long-term settlement. The extracts from official papers which the Malguzari Sabha gives, and from which we intend making selections, amply prove this. The abrogation of this policy and the introduction in its place of the rule of short-term settlements, coming down so low as ten years in some cases, after more than a quarter of a century of progressive rule during which most of the districts had been greatly developed, is rightly considered by the malguzars as a serious grievance, as a measure which robs them of a much-prized privilege, which they had been led to believe was always to be theirs. If a thirty-years' settlement was a right policy, when the country yet awaited its development, the malguzars contend that it could not cease to be so now, after the great rise in prices and extension of cultivation during the past thirty years and more, in the benefit of which the Government is able fully to participate by its new settlement. Why then have it for a short period, unless it be with the object of withdrawing from the people as much of the benefit accruing from the progress of the country as possible?

Along with this reduction in the period of settlement and the uncertainty and harassment inseparable from constant revision proceedings, it is said—

(1) That the percentage of assets taken as revenue has in several districts been increased;

(2) That *sir* lands, which were lightly valued for purposes of assessment at the old settlement, have been now valued just like ordinary tenant's lands, and thus the malguzars' profit are indirectly reduced; and

(3) That two new cesses, a famine cess and a Patwari cess, have, in the interval between the two settlements, been imposed and an old cess increased by one per cent., the net result being, that while the malguzars paid  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. as cesses under the old settlement they have now to pay  $12\frac{1}{2}$  per cent.

There is a further new charge introduced in the shape of a contribution towards the pay of the village watchman. The papers placed at our disposal do not show at what rate this is levied. But that it exists, is undoubted.

The increase in the percentage of assets taken as revenue is a most serious matter. The increase in one district (Bilashpur) is shown to be as much as 6 per cent., or, including cesses, 8 per cent. over the figures of the old settlement. We are unable to find any justification for this, seeing that even after maintaining the old percentage, the Government could have secured a very handsome increase of revenue. What adds to the hardship is that, while under the old settlement, the malguzars' profits increased year by year with the progress of cultivation and the rise in prices leading to rise in rents and the pressure of the Government demand was thereby reduced, there is no such prospect before them now. Cultivation has touched in the advanced tracts almost the safe limit to which it can be extended without encroaching on grazing lands. These tracts have also been connected with the principal trade-centres, and there is no likelihood of any permanent rise in prices on a considerable scale. Lastly, the new Tenancy Act has practically put it out of the power of the malguzars to



enhance rents at their pleasure. For all intents and purposes, rents during the currency of a settlement will be what the settlement officer will fix. Thus the percentage obtaining at the beginning will abide till the end of the period of the settlement. There can be no relaxation of the pressure, and there will be none.

In the Government Resolution on the Nagpur Settlement it was pointed out that the percentage taken as revenue was reduced at the new settlement. This is undoubtedly the case in this as in two or three other districts. The reason is that here the percentage, taken at the old settlement, was as high as 80. But what with the light assessment on *sir* land and on the sure prospect of future rise in profits, the pressure was not so severely felt as might at first sight be thought. Be that as it may, this high percentage was taken in the teeth of Government order fixing 60 per cent., if not 50 per cent., because it was said that the people were in the habit of paying it under their own rulers. But there is a most vital difference between the state of things under Bhosla rulers and the state of things now. Whereas, under the native rule, what was taken from the people was spent on the people and nothing was sent out of the country, quite the contrary is the case now. If the matter be properly worked up, it will be found that only a small fraction of what is realised as revenue is returned to the people. The bulk of it leaves the country for good. Moreover, many important indigenous industries, such as cloth-weaving and metal-manufacturing, were, in old days, in a most flourishing condition, and added largely to the wealth of the country. The latter industry has now almost disappeared, except as to brass utensils; and as regards the former, it is in a most depressed condition. A percentage, which could be paid with ease under these advantageous conditions existing, might, with their disappearance, prove crushing. It is, therefore, misleading merely to take into consideration the high amount of revenue formerly taken, and ignore the various mitigating circumstances of the period which rendered its incidence quite bearable. It is the high assessment of the present day, acting side by side with the never-ending drain out of the country and the ruin of all indigenous industries, that makes the question one of life and death with the vast masses of the people.

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

BEHAR HERALD,  
16th Jan. 1901.

326. A Darbhanga correspondent writes as follows in the *Behar Herald* of the 16th instant:—

Reconstruction of the Mohni bridge, Darbhanga.

“As the question of repairing the road from Mubbi to Burgaul is now engaging the attention of the District Board authorities, it may not be out of place to ask the authorities to reconstruct the bridge at Mohni. With so many culverts or openings to accelerate the passage of water from Burgaul and its adjacent villages during the rainy season, these villages are inundated on all sides, damaging the crops. For this reason these villages have a scanty supply of crops almost every year. By reconstructing the Mohni bridge a grievance of the people will be redressed.”

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
19th Jan. 1901.

327. A Chandpore correspondent, writing to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 19th instant, complains of mismanagement on the part of the authorities of the Assam-Bengal Railway at the Bhingra station, where pilgrims had to get down for the *meld*.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
9th Jan. 1901.

328. A correspondent writes to the *Indian Mirror* of the 9th instant that it would be a good thing if the Eastern Bengal State Railway authorities altered the departure of the 5-33 P.M. train to 5-40, which would enable office people to catch it in good time. He also recommends the renewal of the old time-table of the month of March 1900.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
20th Jan. 1901.

329. The Eastern Bengal State Railway authorities are requested by a correspondent in the *Indian Mirror* to depute an additional booking clerk to Belghoria, at least during the first three days of every month, to help the local man to sell fresh monthly suburban tickets to the 400 passengers who daily travel to Calcutta from that station. A waiting-room for females is also sadly needed in the Belghoria station-house.



330. The *Hindoo Patriot* reproduces, in its issue of the 20th January, the

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
20th Jan. 1901.

Delay in despatching and delivering telegrams.

*Pioneer's* comments on the delay that has been observable during the last two years in the despatch and delivery of telegraphic messages, which is accounted for by the staff being overworked all round, and remarks that, as all classes of society are affected, the complaint ought to be removed even at some sacrifice.

331. The *Bengalee* publishes extracts from a petition submitted by

BENGALIAN,  
22nd Jan. 1901.

Mr. Soler, late of the East Indian Railway.

Mr. Soler, late Clerk of Works, Umballa, to the Agent, East Indian Railway, on the subject of his dismissal without any charges being specifically framed against him, and without his written defence having been taken thereon, and hopes that Mr. Douglas, with his English man's love of fair-play, will order an exhaustive enquiry into the matter.

332. A Gauhati correspondent sends the same paper a copy of a curious circular said to have been issued by Dr. E. E. Francis, Medical Officer, Sections 2 and 3, Assam-Bengal

BENGALIAN,  
22nd Jan. 1901.

A curious circular.

Railway, reproduced below:—

"The medical officer wishes to draw the attention of all subordinates to their indents of medicines.

"About 400 different kinds of medicines are actually in stock in this Railway.

"This extravagance must cease, and indents in future be for reasonable quantities of drugs in general use only. The practice of similar Government dispensaries must be more closely adhered to.

"It is not contemplated that medicines should be provided to act as a spur to the flagging energies of native gentlemen. Medical subordinates will, in future, advise abstinence and cleanly life in these cases and prescribe no medicines."

The *Bengalee* hopes that this matter will engage the attention of the Railway authorities, both here and in England. It is a question affecting the life and health of a large number of employes who spend their energies in the service of the Railway.

333. Referring to the Lieutenant-Governor's visit to Amta on the 30th

BENGALIAN,  
22nd Jan. 1901.

The diversion of the river Damodar and its results.

instant, the object of which is to see the condition of the country round about Amta owing to a diversion in the course of the river Damodar, a writer, in the *Bengalee* of the 22nd instant, hopes that Sir John Woodburn will do something to relieve the sufferings of the thousands who inhabit this part of the country.

(h)—General.

234. The *Bengalee* makes an earnest appeal to the Hon'ble Mr. Baker to

BENGALIAN,  
18th Jan. 1901.

Chausa courtesy.

look after the Chausa officials and to teach them a little of that politeness and courtesy for which he is himself so distinguished. It is constantly receiving complaints on the subject (paragraph 98.)

335. The leader in the same paper has the following appeal to Sir John

BENGALIAN,  
18th Jan. 1901.

The Provincial Service.

Woodburn:—When the announcement was made that Mr. Abdur Rahim, Barister-at-Law, was to succeed Nawab Syed Ameer Hossein as Presidency Magistrate, we ventured to record a protest against the appointment (paragraph 218), not, indeed, on the ground that Mr. Rahim was not qualified, but that the appointment was one which should go to the Provincial Executive Service. We have a high opinion of Mr. Rahim's abilities and character, but we made the protest, not on personal, but on high public grounds. A great service, such as the Provincial Executive Service, with the important part which it plays in the administration of the country, must have sufficient attractions to draw to it men of real ability and ambition. They will not be satisfied with the ordinary appointments in the regular grades. There must be prize-posts carrying suitable emoluments and of sufficient dignity to appeal to their ambition. The Presidency Magistracy is one of these prize-posts held out to the members of the Provincial Service. It would be an administrative blunder to withdraw the post from the Service and confer it on a member of the Bar,



however able and qualified he may be. We regret to have to note that while public opinion is pressing with unusual persistency to improve the status of the Provincial Service, the Government should afford ground for the apprehension that it is not prepared to respond to it. During the time of Sir Charles Elliott a grave blunder was committed when one of the Judgeships of the Small Cause Court was withdrawn from the Provincial Judicial Service and conferred upon a member of the Bar. That was felt to be a grievance, and even now it can hardly be said to have been repaired, although four District Judgeships have been thrown open to members of the Subordinate Judicial Service. The truth is that a shock is instinctively felt when a great appointment, which had belonged to a particular Service, is withdrawn from it for no sufficient reasons, although in other directions the status of the Service is sought to be improved. Is there any reason why the Presidency Magistracy, which is to fall vacant on the retirement of Nawab Syed Ameer Hossein, should not be conferred upon a member of the Provincial Service? It cannot be that there is a dearth of able men in that Service. When that Service can supply District Magistrates and Secretaries to the Board of Revenue, it is absurd to hold that in its ranks men are not to be found equal to the responsibilities of the Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta. We could mention names, but we decline to do so. If there are competent men in the ranks of the Provincial Service to fill the office, we ask—Does it not involve grave injustice to them to go outside their ranks in search of a stranger? 'The claims of Government servants first, those of outsiders next'—must be the motto of the Government. Other things being equal, a Government servant must be preferred to an outsider for an office which has hitherto been held by a Government servant. These considerations are so obvious that we feel we have only to state them to challenge assent.

BENGALER,  
19th Jan. 1901.

BENGALER,  
19th Jan. 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
19th Jan. 1901.

POWER AND  
GUARDIAN,  
21st Jan. 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
21st Jan. 1901.

336. The *Bengalee* of the 19th instant joins the appeal of the *Indian Witness* that the Resolution of the Congress on the temperance question may be heard by the Government.

A temperance appeal.

337. The same journal learns that Mr. Peters, Assessor, Income-tax Department, is trying for an extension, and thinks he well deserves an extension, and hopes the authorities will grant it, considering the long and meritorious services he has rendered and the energy and strength that he still possesses. He is universally popular, and has been spoken of in the highest terms by successive Collectors. His retirement will be a distinct loss to the Department.

338. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 19th instant, in referring to the hardships entailed on the Bengalee clerks by the carrying out of the decentralisation scheme of Mr. Badshah, remarks that the report of Mr.

Atkinson, who was deputed by the Viceroy to enquire into the matters complained of by the aggrieved clerks, is now before the Government, and that the Comptroller-General and the Director-General of Post Offices are trying their best to prove the success of the scheme. It is expected and hoped that His Excellency the Viceroy and the Finance Member will take an independent and unprejudiced view of the situation, not only in the interests of the poor clerks, but those of the Government itself.

The *Patrika* is astounded to hear that the Comptroller of Post Offices is now contemplating to extend the decentralisation scheme to Burma. Judging from the fate of the Delhi and Nagpur men, a proposal to deport the clerks to Burma will simply drive them mad.

339. A recent Government circular, prohibiting the admittance of outsiders in Collectorate offices, finds favour with the *Power and Guardian*, in whose issue of the 21st instant it is pronounced 'a move in the right direction.'

340. The discontent and demoralisation among members of the Provincial Executive Service are made the subject of a lengthy leader in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 21st instant.

Discontent and demoralisation among members of the Provincial Executive Service.

The writer, in this article, considers the causes under two heads which operate to produce the prevailing discontent 'Appointments and Postings,' and promises to deal with injustice done in the matter of their promotions in a subsequent article.



## APPOINTMENTS.

When Lord Ripon's scheme for competitive examinations came into force, the principle adopted was that the bulk of the vacancies would be thrown open to competition, and only a few would be reserved for Sub-Deputy Collectors and others. Now, however, the number of posts filled by competition has almost fallen to zero, owing, it is said, to the existence of such few vacancies. This dearth of vacancies is the result of granting frequent extensions of service to officers in the upper grades—a practice which inflicts a double injustice. It reduces the chances of promotion to men in the service and lessens the number of vacancies to be thrown open to competition. Another grievance is the alleged filling up of vacancies by the selection of men who have passed low down in the list and the appointment of their seniors to Sub-Deputy Collectorships.

## POSTINGS.

The worst complaint under this head is that Deputy Magistrates, who are not among the favoured few, are indiscriminately transferred and retransferred. While most of them move in a wide and eccentric orbit, there are others ever rotating round the metropolis. They are the satellites of the Secretariat. While some men are serving all their lives in their native districts, others are denied that satisfaction, because the rules are against the practice. Then again the appointment of officers to the charge of subdivisions is no longer based on any principle. Most of the subdivisions have been given to European and Eurasian Deputy Magistrates, whose travelling allowances have also been increased.

341. The second article on this subject appears in the next day's issue, and is entirely devoted to the grievances under the heading of 'Promotion.'

Discontent and demoralization among members of the Provincial Executive Service.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
22nd Jan. 1901.

Formerly, it begins by saying, promotion was invariably given in all the grades according to seniority. This golden rule was departed from only in exceptional cases, and its justification would be fully known to the officer concerned as well as to the other members of the Service. But now promotions in the grades above the fourth are regulated not by seniority but by merit. As a matter of fact, these promotions are wholly dependent on the remarks recorded in secret and forwarded *confidentially* to Government with Administration Reports.

These remarks, it is said, have very little to do, except in rare cases, with real merit. They are largely coloured by the idiosyncracies and personal likes and dislikes of the officers recording them. It often happens that the remarks recorded by one officer vary widely from those recorded by another officer with respect to the same Deputy Magistrate. What is still worse, copies of these fateful remarks are never given to the officers concerned, even where an officer is fatally stabbed behind his back, and his prospects ruined in secret. He knows nothing about the matter, and while living in a fool's paradise, he finds one fine morning that he is transferred to a penal station, or superseded in his promotion by a man who is not fit to tie the latchet of his shoes.

Against this stabbing in the dark the Deputy Magistrate has absolutely no redress. If this procedure was adopted in the case of the lower grades, where newly-appointed officers require to be carefully watched, there would be something to be said in its favour; but when a man has risen from the eighth to the fourth grade, is it not in itself a guarantee that he is an officer of merit? To shelve him after his long period of approved service, when he is nearly grey with work and experience, simply because his District Officer, himself perhaps a boy and far inferior to him in every respect except in colour, has recorded an unfavourable opinion of him in secret, or his junior has secured a better opinion from another District Officer, is a piece of heartless injustice, which there is no language to characterise. Instances are known where such sudden blows proved fatal to the unhappy victims. Not even the worst criminal in the land is condemned unheard, or behind his back on *ex-parte* statements of this character. Surely old and loyal servants of Government ought to receive greater consideration at the hands of the Government than ordinary criminals.

This unfortunate practice is producing most disastrous results, and merit, conscience, and sense of self-respect are all being crushed out of the Service.



Those who have entered by the door of competition are not wanting in ability, intelligence or administrative capacity. But they find that "no conviction, no promotion" is the rule of the Service, and that unless they slavishly follow the caprices of the District Officers and float obedient to their will, against their own convictions, they have no chance of receiving good remarks or obtaining promotion. There is no limit to the degradation to which they sometimes sink to earn the good graces of their superior officers.

Stories are told of certain Deputy Magistrates who attended every morning the stable of the District Magistrate to look after the grooming of his horses, how another worthy took the measurement of the Magistrate's foot with his own silk handkerchief, and then got a pair of carpet shoes from Calcutta, which he sent to the Magistrate as "a present from my poor sister for your honour's golden foot;" and how a third officer, seeing the Magistrate riding past, brought out his handkerchief and dusted the "sacred shoes" of the rider.

Sir John Woodburn should personally look into the appointments, promotions and supersessions in this important branch of the public Service, instead of wholly leaving it to his Secretaries, who, having served all their life in the Province, would be above human if they did not try to further the interests of those for whom they have somehow or other conceived a liking. Never was the Provincial Executive Service filled with such discontent and indignation as at present, and as the real executive administration of the country is in its hands, the position is a most serious one, and deserves the close and serious attention of His Honour.

BENGALÉE,  
22nd Jan. 1901.

342. The *Bengalée* of the 22nd instant subjects to a scathing criticism the replies of the Governments of India and Bengal to the memorial of the Indian Association on the ques-

tion of the Minor Civil Services. The facts adduced by the Association, says the writer, except in one or two unimportant matters, are not challenged, but the Government assumes an unassailable position by sheltering itself behind its own *ipse dixit* without the smallest attempt to justify its proceedings. For instance, the Government says a certain measure of energy and physical capacity is needed for work in the Salt Department, which is not possessed by ordinary natives of Bengal. But in these days, thanks to the impetus given to physical education, there are many Bengalees who possess considerable energy and strength, and who are fully qualified for these posts. "Lay down your tests and invite all to submit to them, and if the Bengalees are found to be wanting, they will not complain. But why begin by assuming that the Bengalees are not qualified—why make race the test of qualification?"

Then, again, as to the exclusion of natives of India from employment in the Opium Department, the Government of India justify themselves by saying that enormous financial interests are at stake. "Are we then to understand," concludes the writer, "that our countrymen are not to be trusted where important financial interests are involved?" But have we not been told times without number that finance is the *forte* of the Indian? Our rulers have a convenient habit of changing their opinion when it suits their purpose. Then we are told that the experiment of 1886 has not been sufficiently successful to justify a further expansion. We should like to have details. If natives of India have failed, we should like to know the measure of their failure, their qualifications, and the conditions under which they were nominated. If bad men were appointed, they were bound to fail. That would be no reflection upon the capacity of our countrymen in general."

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

BENGALÉE,  
17th Jan. 1901.

343. The *Bengalée* relates that a respectable pleader, who already holds a license under the Arms Act, applied for the counter-

The Arms Act.

signature of the Commissioner of the Division to enable the license to be operative throughout the Division. His application was refused, but a similar application, made by a ministerial officer attached to the Deputy Commissioner's Office, was granted. Much of the heart-burning and the sense of wrong and much of the actual inconvenience felt would be removed if it was incumbent upon all Europeans and Indians to take out a license, and if the license was to be operative for the whole Province and to hold good during the good behaviour of the possessor.



344. The same paper in its issue of the 19th instant avails itself of the Despatch of Lord Lansdowne's Government, lately published in *Capital*, on the proposal which was made

BENGALIAN,  
19th Jan. 1901.

at the time with a view to regulate the employment of labour in the Indian mines, and in which it was said that the Government of that time was of the opinion that "early legislation" was not necessary, and that if any such legislation was attempted, the mining industry would receive a serious check. It asks if the conditions of the industry have undergone such a marvellous expansion or such a radical change as to require legislation to control it. It is afraid the Government has embarked upon a project of legislation which is not wanted by anybody except by crazy philanthropists, and which will be disastrous to an infant but rising industry.

345. The editorial in the 20th's issue of the same paper criticises at great length the recent proposal of the Government of India to restrict the right of civil appeals in India, and views with grave concern the reply on this subject submitted by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

BENGALIAN,  
20th Jan. 1901.

Civil Appeals Bill.

It finds the secret of the anxiety of the people of this country to run to the Superior Courts for the final arbitrament of their disputes in the fact that the people have less confidence in the decisions of the Lower Courts—presided, as they very often are, by young and inexperienced Judges in the case of the District Courts,—and that they have more confidence in the decisions of the High Courts. In this connection the writer asks if the recommendation of the Public Service Commission to appoint suitable barristers, advocates and vakils of High Courts as District Judges has ever been taken into serious consideration. The writer then proceeds to enquire into the causes which contribute to the growth of second appeals, and finds that "not the least among the many causes is the huge floating mass of codified law and procedure, neither based on any common law of the country nor on practices pre-existing. Then, again, in India we have to reckon with a different and varying system of land-tenures and with many social and economical conditions which do not obtain elsewhere. Nor must we forget that the conditions under which laws are made in this country are such that the codified laws come up for the first time for due consideration and careful interpretation before the High Court. We notice also that, referring to the proposal to make the observance of the provisions of section 551 of the Code of Civil Procedure obligatory on the several High Courts, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce gives the seal of its approval to it without adducing any reasons in support of its view. Those who have a personal experience of High Courts can, however, testify to the fact that the observance of the provisions of section 551, not only entails a huge waste of time, but in many instances involves the gradual denial of justice. Who, that has ever watched carefully the procedure which has obtained in Mr. Justice Rampini's Court in the Calcutta High Court during the last few weeks, can ever doubt the truth of the above remark? We do not know what the views of the other learned Judges of the Calcutta High Court may be, but we believe we voice the general opinion of the profession when we say that section 551 ought to be modified in quite another direction in order that it might serve a useful purpose. It is not for us to indicate in the present connection what that modification should be, but we have no doubt or hesitation in saying that the application of the section ought to remain discretionary with High Courts. The investigation before the High Court is seldom confined to the individual circumstances of particular cases. Not unoften the learned Judges take care to lay down careful and well-balanced interpretations of some abstract rule of law in its practical operation. The laws themselves are tested, their ambiguities removed, their conflict with other laws discussed and attempted to be reconciled, and their defects discovered. All these considerations tend to one view only—that the right of appeal should be jealously guarded, and that some degree of latitude should be given to suitors to appeal."

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

346. The *Hindoo Patriot* of the 17th instant says that the death of Diwan Kanti Chandra Mukerji will be deeply mourned by the Jaipur State and the Government of India.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
17th Jan. 1901.



INDIAN MIRROR,  
20th Jan. 1901.

347. The following paragraph is culled from the *Indian Mirror* of the 20th January:—

Native Chiefs and the Turf.

Gradually, Indian Chiefs and noblemen are dropping out of the huge gambling business—racing. The late Maharaja of Darbhanga sank a mint of money, and retired from the turf none too soon. The late impulsive and generous Maharaja of Patiala captured some valuable prizes, but in one way or other must have quite lost a huge fortune. The Patiala stable is now broken up. The Cooch Bihar horses have not figured this year in the Calcutta races. The Maharana of Dholepore is not *en evidence*. Finally, we notice with pleasure the announcement that the Jodhpore racing stable is to be entirely broken up at the close of the Calcutta meetings, and that the Maharaja of Jodhpore finally retires from the turf. This is as it should be.

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

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,  
12th Jan. 1901.

348. The following report is taken from the *Moslem Chronicle* of the 12th instant:—

Rainfall and harvesting.

There was some rain during the week in almost all districts of the Burdwan Division, Behar and Chota Nagpur, as well as in Nadia, Jessore, Darjeeling, Dacca, and Cuttack. The rain has been beneficial to the *rabi* crops in Bihar. More rain is, however, needed in Nadia and Cuttack. It is also badly wanted in Murshidabad, Pabna, and Malda. The harvesting of winter rice is being completed. *Rabi* crops are generally in good condition, except in Murshidabad. In Bihar, the poppy crop is doing well. The pressing of sugarcane is in progress. Cattle-disease is reported from five districts. Fodder is generally sufficient. The price of common rice has fallen in 11 districts, risen in 14, and is stationary in the rest.

INDIAN MIRROR  
17th Jan. 1901.

349. Plague, says the *Indian Mirror*, is now everywhere on the increase.

Plague mortality.

There is a slight recrudescence in Calcutta, and considerably more in Bombay. But the greatest increase is noticeable in the Patna district in Bihar. There were 400 more plague deaths during the last official week than during the previous one. Out of a total mortality for India of 2,839, as many as 1,787 were distributed over these Provinces. Over a thousand plague deaths occurred in the Patna district—a fearful record indeed! Seventy-six deaths were reported in Calcutta, 293 in Bombay city, and 282 in the rest of the Western Presidency. Last year, during the corresponding week, plague mortality was considerably less than one-half.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
17th Jan. 1901.

350. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has the following in its issue of the 17th instant:—

Weekly plague summary.

The plague mortality in Western Bengal continues steadily to increase. Last week over 1,700 deaths occurred there, 1,000 of which were in the Patna district. Saran had 357 deaths, Gya 230, Monghyr 181, Manbhum 4 and Bhagalpur 1, while Calcutta had 76 deaths. A slight recrudescence of the disease is reported in the Punjab also, where 23 deaths occurred last week. In the Bombay Presidency, too, some increase has taken place, the number of deaths last week being 575, compared with 432 in the preceding seven days; this, however, is a great improvement on the corresponding week last year, when the Bombay Presidency returned 964 deaths. Elsewhere throughout India little change has occurred, the Madras Presidency this week reporting 37 deaths, and the Mysore State 341 deaths. The total for the whole of India is thus 2,839 deaths in the seven days, against 2,473 in the preceding week and 1,279 in the corresponding period last year.

HINDOO  
PATRIOT,  
18th Jan. 1901.

351. The *Hindoo Patriot* of the 18th January remarks that the monthly

The Weather Review for the month of August 1900.

Weather Review for the month of August, published by the Meteorological Department of the Government of India, having reached it only yesterday, the public are entitled to know the reason of this unconscionable delay. The review published after such a delay loses its value. As a permanent record of the weather conditions of the country it may be of some interest, but for all practical purposes it is utterly worthless at this distance of time. After quoting from the report, it is forced to confess that it does not feel



edified by the record. "Meteorological seers may discover latent meanings in this description, but we cannot."

352. The *Indian Mirror* of the 19th instant has an article on the phenomenal weather at present prevailing in different parts of the world, and to which is due Calcutta's epidemic of small-pox, Bihar's plague, and Bombay's mortality.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
19th Jan. 1901.

353. The following is extracted from a letter to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 22nd January from its own correspondent at Monghyr:—

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
22nd Jan. 1901.

Plague at Monghyr.

"Plague is raging here as fearfully as ever. The District Magistrate and Collector is doing all that lies in his power to mitigate the sufferings of the citizens in their distress. His sympathy towards the people is worthy of applause and admiration. At this critical moment, he is manifesting great tact and judgment in enforcing plague regulations without causing unnecessary alarm and scare.

"This little town, which always presented a gay look to the public throughout the year, as being a place of historic importance, full of splendours and natural beauties, now looks like a desolate place deserted by all. The bankers, traders, shopkeepers and other professional communities have left the town by half and the rest are leaving it every day in numbers. No pen can describe the anxieties of those helpless creatures who have been ordained by fate to stick to the town and solely depend upon the mercy of the Omnipotent. Every day we see nothing but the horrid scene of men passing with *dhakna* (earthen pot) containing *dhuna* and other combustibles in one hand and a piece of red or white cloth for a coffin in the other. Nothing but fearful lamentations and heart-stirring cries are heard in every creek and corner of the town, throughout the day and night."

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

354. The *Moslem Chronicle* of the 12th January 1901, in reproducing a Bengal Government Resolution of the 8th October 1886, on the subject of the freer employment of Muhammadans in Government service, which has

MOSLEM  
CHRONICLE,  
12th Jan. 1901.

The employment of Muhammadans in public service.

been pigeon-holed and forgotten, appeals to the Viceroy to be pleased to consider the whole question of Muhammadan employment in the public service.

355. People in Gaya are disappointed, says a correspondent in the *Behar Herald* of the 16th instant, to find that the name of

BEHAR HERALD,  
16th Jan. 1901.

Babu Ashutosh Mukerji, Assistant Manager, Tikari Raj, Gaya.

Babu Ashutosh Mukerji, the Assistant Manager, Tikari Raj, Gaya, who is so devoted to his duties and who did so much to combat the plague at Gaya, did not find a place in the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. These services of Babu Ashutosh ought not to be allowed to go unrecognized, and the correspondent hopes Mr. Oldham will recognize them.

356. The same paper has a very favourable article on Mr. Oldham, the Magistrate of Gaya, whose acts of kindness, some of which are recorded, have endeared him to the people.

BEHAR HERALD,  
16th Jan. 1901.

Mr. Oldham, Magistrate of Gaya.

357. A correspondent in the same paper thinks that Mr. Nolan's circular would do a "power of good if it were circulated in England and put into the hands of civilians coming out to India."

BEHAR HERALD,  
16th Jan. 1901.

Mr. Nolan's circular.

358. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, in its issue of the 17th instant, repeats the incident of His Honour's visit of condolence to Babu Sati Prasad Sen, of Bankipore, when the latter lost his child from plague, and says that such conduct on the part of a Governor, far from lowering him in the estimation of the ruled, only endears him to them and inspires them with hope in times of distress. If the late Governor of Bombay had adopted a more sympathetic attitude towards the people when plague first appeared in that city, what a world of mischief might have been prevented! In this connection the writer cannot help mentioning the name of Mr. Oldham, Magistrate of Gaya, who is trying his utmost to help

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
17th Jan. 1901.

His Honour at Bankipore.



the people under his charge in their misery. Other district authorities will doubtless follow in the footsteps of their chief.

BENGALER,  
17th Jan. 1901.

359. The following appears in the *Bengalee* of the 17th instant:—

The lot of the Indian clerk.

Where can you find a more docile, hard-working, and, withal, temperate species of the drudge than the Bengalee clerk who knows no Sunday, no extra hours, no complaint, no murmur? Here a clerk, who gets Rs. 30 a month, deems himself a fortunate being. In London, the amount of work which is extorted from him here will fetch him at least five times that sum; and with his thrifty and temperate habits he is sure to lay by something for the future. But why do I speak of clerks alone? In the same manner the Indian is sure to do better in England than in his native land, in the grip of an irresistible bureaucracy—if only he has the pluck to make the attempt.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
17th Jan. 1901.

360. Commenting on the observations made by *Indian Engineering* on the proposal of the Secretary of State to import twelve

Importation of Civil Engineers from England.

Civil Engineers for service in Bombay, Bengal and the Punjab, which, it says, looks like a deliberate attempt to boycott indigenous talent or cast a slur on the training obtainable in Indian Colleges, the *Hindoo Patriot* of the 17th instant says that, as a deliberate attempt to boycott indigenous talent, the procedure now adopted is not of recent origin. "If we mistake not, it was not long ago that the Secretary of State reserved the majority of appointments in this very department for competition by European candidates. If qualification gives a title to Government appointment, in no line of service that qualification can be a monopoly of any particular class. There is no valid reason why such recruitments were thought necessary to be made in England, for the fact is very plain that the Secretary of State has simply chosen to take the men from his own country. Official favour is distributed not on any equitable principles, for instances are not rare where they are the most fancifully bestowed.

"We are tempted to ask in this connection what, in the face of such arbitrary policy, is to become of the students who receive technical education? With such discouragement shown to a practical training, technical education cannot expect greater rewards. Sufficient impetus in the shape of State patronage has not yet been given to make the scheme of technical educational a success, though much has been repeatedly urged to recommend it to public attention. Independently of what Government may do in the matter, the Indian public have surely their own responsibilities in the matter, but the public in all cases must in the first instance be led on by Government. If Government, therefore, fail to grant support to the scheme of technical education, nothing will be said of technical education again in future."

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
18th Jan. 1901.

361. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 18th January again refers to the Conference held at Nasick by the Judge of that

Suppression of litigation.

district, with a view to suppress litigation (paragraph 219), and remarks that all Judges in India should follow the precedent, and not only Judges, but Magistrates also.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
18th Jan. 1901.

362. Adverting to the statistics of Indians in British Colonies, supplied

Restrictions on British Indians in South Africa.

by its London correspondent, the *Indian Mirror* of the 18th instant says that it is only in South Africa that British Indians of even position, wealth and education are subjected to the severest restrictions.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
18th Jan. 1901.

363. In a lengthy leader in its issue of the 18th instant, reviewing a book published by Mr. Talcherkar of Bombay,

The People of India.

under the title of "The People of India: Their many merits testified by many who have known them," the *Hindoo Patriot* repeats a few remarks alleged to have been uttered by Englishmen at different times, in vilification of the character of the Indian people—the persistence in which strain of unfriendliness must sooner or later result in disastrous consequences,—and then turns with pleasure to the testimonies (several of which it reproduces) borne by Anglo-Indians and others who have had the opportunities of judging of the merits of the Indians men like Sir G. B. Clerk, Sir Charles Elliott, Lord Ripon, Mr. H. J. S. Cotton and the Abbé Dubois.