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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 26th May 1900.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The Armenian interpreter of Persia at Constantinople.

A correspondent of the *Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 14th May writes as follows in continuation of what he wrote in a previous issue (*vide* Report on Native Papers for the 19th May, 1900, paragraph 1):—

HABLUL MATEEN.
May 14th, 1900.

Perhaps your love for your fatherland (Persia), your patriotism and your religious fervour compel you to ask me about the Armenian interpreter. He having been implicated in the last Armenian insurrection, had incurred the displeasure of the Turkish Government. And now he is conducting himself in this way with the hope that the suspicion in which his loyalty is held may be removed from the minds of the Turkish officials. It is said that, of late, he has brought about the loss of some of Persia's rights. It is rumoured that he is a spy employed by Turkey to furnish her with secret news from the foreign embassies. He is not an educated man, although he can speak English and French. The interpreter, to tell the truth, is not on good terms with the Persian Ambassador. He divulges everything that takes place in the Persian Embassy, and in the presence of his co-religionists he cuts jokes at the expense of the *alims* attending the embassy. He extorts a large brokerage when any Persian noble comes to buy jewellery at Constantinople. But the scandalous conduct of the interpreter cannot be brought to the notice of the Persian Ambassador, because all people who he thinks will complain against him are not allowed by him to approach the Embassy.

2. The same paper says that Islam teaches the Musalmans to be united.

HABLUL MATEEN.

The degradation of the Persian Musalmans.

When the Musalmans in London were in danger, all Musalmans should have sympathised with them. Justice and kindness have entirely disappeared from among the Musalmans. The Musalmans have become so oppressive that they have left behind in this respect even the most tyrannical monarch of the Old Testament. Nearly two-thirds of the Musalman population of the world are so poor that they are dying of starvation, but no one feels for them.

3. The same paper is sorry that the Persian Government does not take

HABLUL MATEEN.

The Persian Government and Persians domiciled in foreign countries.

into its service those Persians who are domiciled in other countries, but are quite fit to serve their mother country. A large number of such Persians are to be found in India; but as some Persian officials prefer Europeans to Persians of the above type, the latter find in consequence no means of entering the service of the Persian Government, in which they can help their country. This serves to defeat the Shah's purpose in giving an impulse to education. It is the duty of the Consuls-General in foreign countries to keep the Persian Government informed of such affairs. Persia ought to take into consideration the case of such Persians.

4. The same paper publishes some telegrams from the merchants of

HABLUL MATEEN.

Highhanded Belgian Custom Officers in Persia.

Shiraz to the merchants of Ispahan, stating that the Belgian Custom Officers oppress the Persian merchants by levying an additional duty of 5 per cent. upon goods imported into Shiraz. The aggrieved merchants invite the merchants of Ispahan to co-operate with them in complaining to the Shah of the *zulm* of the Belgians. If the Belgians are allowed to commit such mischief for some time longer, Persian trade will have to encounter a great difficulty. The Government did not certainly allow the Belgian Custom Officers at Shiraz and elsewhere to levy 5 per cent. in addition to the usual rate of duty paid by the merchants. It is to be hoped that the Persian Government will soon redress the grievances of the merchants of Shiraz.

5. The same paper says that the present condition of the Musalmans

HABLUL MATEEN.

Persian degradation.

will not be ameliorated so long as the brotherhood, preached by the Koran, is established among them. For the sake of this brotherhood, the Musalmans ought to give up all sectarian prejudices which are at the root of all other evils. Unless they carry themselves up to this high level of equality, the noble and sublime teachings of the Koran and of Muhammad will not be applicable to them with profit.

HABUL MATEEN.
May 14th, 1900.

6. A correspondent of the same paper is sorry that a Persian official has ousted a man of Salmas from his paternal property. The man was for a long time at Crete. After his return he found, to his utter bewilderment, that he had been ousted from his property. This scandal is possible only in Persia where the law is powerless when it comes into contact with the power of the officials.

HABUL MATEEN.

7. The same paper takes the following extract from the *Tarbiat*, a Persian jurists and statesmen Persian newspaper:—

As a profound knowledge of the teachings of Muhammad and of the Koran is an essential qualification in a man who intends to become a Muhammadan jurist and legislator, so a vast amount of experience of all State affairs is the qualification, without which a man, however wise and farsighted he may be, cannot be called a statesman. Besides, neither the law-maker nor the statesman can succeed unless he is possessed of an extraordinary power of dealing with all questions without making any mistakes. This power, if possessed by a jurist, is called divine power, and if by a statesman, rare presence of mind. It is this power which made Bismarck, Gladstone, Gortchakoff prominent statesmen.

HABUL MATEEN.

8. The same paper takes the following extract from the *Nasari*, a Persian newspaper:—

The mineral wealth of Persia. From the minerological report presented by a Russian Engineer to the Government of Persia, it appears that Persia abounds in valuable mines. There is no other kingdom in the world so rich in valuable mines as Persia. Salt and saltpetre mines have been discovered at Astrabad:—

Sulphur	...	...	...	at Bunder Abbas.
Stones of beautiful colour	...	...	...	„ Astrabad.
Iron	...	...	...	„ Tabriz.
Copper	...	...	...	„ Ardebeil.
Sulphur and iron	...	...	...	„ Mazunderan.
Lead, copper and silver	...	...	...	„ Meshed.
Gold and silver	...	...	...	„ Nishapur.
Turquoise and white marble	...	...	...	„ Meshed.

HABUL MATEEN.

9. The same paper says that the Russo-Persian treaty is disadvantageous to the Persian people, as it interferes with the foreign trade of Persia. The Imperial Bank of Persia, through which all money transactions with the foreign countries used to be carried on, was a losing concern. Now, in order to avoid being ruined by that bank, the Persian merchants have established several other banks to facilitate Persia's money transactions with the foreigners.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

BANKURA DARPAN,
May 16th, 1900.

10. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th May says that the uncle of one Banamali Chattaraj of Mauladanga, in the Bankura district, who had been fraudulently recruited and sent to a tea-garden in Assam, has received the following letter from his nephew: "The men at the cooly depôt beat me mercilessly and compelled me to sign the agreement. I cannot bear such suffering any longer. If there be no hope of my being released from this place, I will commit suicide. I wait for your reply."

DAINIK CHANDRIKA,
May 23rd, 1900.

11. The *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 23rd May has the following:—
Prospects of promotion for Inspectors of Police. We often see that whenever the police is entrusted with any work, it does that work very clumsily. This would never have happened if educated men of respectable families had been admitted into the service more freely, and given better chances of earning promotion. But we regret to say that though the Government recognises the advisability of employing men of education and character more extensively in the police service, it has not yet done much in that direction. Mr. Menro, the late Inspector-General of Police,

tried "to introduce new blood into the police force" by appointing educated men to higher posts in the service, and he partially succeeded in his object. Mr. Monro's Sub-Inspectors were very favourably spoken of by the authorities. But we ask how many of them have been promoted to higher posts? Only sweet words never butter the bread. How can people remain content if, after having tried their best to please their official superiors by hard and efficient work, they are not rewarded by promotion? When they see that their just claims are being ignored, and men who are their juniors and less qualified are superseding them, how can they have any real zeal for their work? Those only who have a patron in some high official of Government have any chance of promotion. Some years ago the Police Committee made certain proposals about raising the position of the Police Inspectors, but those proposals were not approved by Sir Charles Elliott, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. The other day the Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerji requested the Government, in the Bengal Legislative Council, to take into its consideration the recommendations of the Police Committee. Mr. Bourdillon said:—

"It would be a great advantage to the country if anything could be done to raise their position and emoluments so as to attract the highest class of men to these responsible appointments."

This shows that, personally, Mr. Bourdillon is in favour of raising the position of the Police Inspectors. We hope that he will not fail to do something to better the prospects of those officers.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

12. Referring to the case in which a woman of Rajshahi was convicted and sentenced to three months' imprisonment on the charge of stealing two seers of paddy, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 21st May observes that even the European Magistrate, on appeal, thought that the poor hungry woman should not have been punished so severely, but the Native Deputy Magistrate, Maulvi Sayed Karim Hosain, felt no sympathy with her.

BHARAT MITRA,
May 21st, 1900.

(d)—*Education.*

13. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 17th May is glad to notice that a Musalman candidate from the Patna College has stood first in the F.A. Examination of the Calcutta University. The result of the Presidency College is not at all satisfactory, its place being eleventh in order of merit. The result achieved by the Metropolitan Institution is most satisfactory as regards the number of candidates passed.

BASUMATI,
May 17th, 1900.

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

14. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 15th May has the following:—
Mr. Trais, Public Works Department Supervisor, Mymensingh. Mr. Trais, originally a contractor, was appointed as a Public Works Department Supervisor in Mymensingh. We protested against his appointment, but to no purpose. The roof and the arches of the hall of the Judge's Court, which were lately constructed under Mr. Trais's supervision have cracked in many places. The roof of the house in which the District Judge lives and which was also constructed under the management of Mr. Trais, leaks during a shower. A brick-built house might have been constructed for the Government Zilla School, Mymensingh, with the Rs. 19,000 subscribed by the Government and the materials of the old building; but only a corrugated-iron shed was built by the Public Works Department. The roof of even this building leaks, and the floor shows many cracks. In spite of all these shortcomings on Mr. Trais's part, the District Magistrate is still inclined to keep him in the station. We hear that at the last meeting of the District Board it was settled that the Board should request the Government to lend them the services of Mr. Trais in the construction of a new hall in the Mymensingh Jail. It is very strange that the members of the Board should have agreed to this, fully aware as they are of the condition of the buildings constructed under the

CHARU MIHIR,
May 15th, 1900.

management of Mr. Trais. The Government will be able to form a good idea of Mr. Trais's architectural skill, when the District Engineer will submit his report on the condition in which he found the Government buildings, when he took charge of them from Mr. Trais. Under these circumstances, we believe that the Government will lose no time in transferring him to some other place. We do not know why Mr. Bonham-Carter, the District Magistrate of Mymensingh, is so much in favour of keeping Mr. Trais in the district. Perhaps, he being a new comer to the station, has not yet been able to know of the loss which the Government has incurred on account of Mr. Trais.

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

MEDINI BANDHAY
May 16th, 1900

15. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 16th May says that on the night of the 15th May last a collision took place midway between the Khargapur and Madapur stations, on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, between the mail train and some 99 empty wagons, which were proceeding at a rapid rate towards the Madapur station, driven by the strong gale which blew that night, and many persons were hurt, but there was no loss of life. When the news of the accident reached the Khargapur station, some coolies were sent to the place of accident to bring the luggages of the European passengers. But the native passengers suffered greatly that night. Though hurt, they were compelled to walk a long distance, with their luggages, in the midst of rain and storm. The railway officials who were present on the scene of occurrence, did not pay the least attention to the entreaties of the native passengers. It is said that the wagons, which were on a siding in the Khargapur station, were not sufficiently chained, and this is said to have been the cause of the disaster. An early enquiry into the matter is earnestly solicited.

BASUMATI,
May 17th, 1900

16. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 17th May says that the new arrangement according to which the Matla-Diamond Harbour and Budge-Budge trains, on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, will start from the Belliaghata station, is very good. But the passengers suffer some inconvenience at the Belliaghata station. In many instances, one train leaves the station just as another comes in, but only one door is kept open for the entrance and exit of passengers. This causes much confusion, and passengers, especially those who have females with them, suffer much inconvenience. There should be separate doors for the entrance and exit of passengers.

(h)—*General.*

NAVA YUG
May 17th, 1900

17. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 17th May writes as follows with reference to the Government order regarding the appointment of Eurasians to the Military Department :—

We do not know what has led Lord Curzon to adopt such a policy. From what he said in reply to the representations made by the Anglo-Indians, we thought that the Viceroy was on the side of education, and that only educated men had any chance of receiving favour at his hands. But we have been disillusioned. A few years ago, the number of educated men in Government offices was very few; but the establishment of the five Universities in India has removed that want. If the appointments are still made with an eye to the European dress of the candidate, we are bound to say that the number of uneducated men will again preponderate in the public service. We see that the qualifications and intelligence of Indian youths are being regarded as a crime by the authorities. The more they are qualifying themselves by education, the more they are making progress in original researches, the more is their advancement being blocked. How can we say that Dr. Jagadis Chandra Basu and Dr. Prafulla Chandra Ray, who showed so much skill in scientific researches, have been amply rewarded by Government? We, therefore, say that we must mourn our lot. There is no remedy.

18. The same paper says that the hourly delivery of letters in Calcutta has no doubt conferred a boon on the mercantile section of the town. Certain disadvantages are being felt in certain quarters owing to the negligence of the delivery peons. Letters of two or three deliveries are being delivered to the *Nava Yug* office at the same time.

NAVA YUG,
May 17th, 1900.

A complaint in connection with the hourly postal delivery in Calcutta.

19. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 18th May says that everybody knows that when sometime ago the members of the Imperial Anglo-Indian Association waited in deputation on the Viceroy on the subject of a more

SAMAY,
May 18th, 1900.

Special favour shown to European and Eurasian youths.

extensive employment of European and Eurasian boys in the public service, His Excellency treated them to some very unpalatable observations, leading the public to believe that Lord Curzon was not the man to show undue favour to anybody, and that he was for rewarding merit, and merit alone, without making any distinction of race or creed. We, however, suspected that there was some meaning in the rebuke which His Excellency administered to the deputation. Our suspicions are now confirmed. The Simla correspondent of the *Statesman* states that the Viceroy has directed that the names of the students of certain European and Eurasian schools in the country should be registered in the Military Department of the Government of India as candidates eligible for clerkships carrying salaries ranging between Rs 50 and Rs. 700 in that department. These students should be from 18 to 25 years old, should possess good moral character, and such literary qualifications as are required of candidates for the Entrance Examination of any Indian University, and must be recommended by the Principal of the College where they were brought up. So only a two years' agitation and the humiliation of hearing a few words of rebuke from the Viceroy have enabled the Eurasians of this country to obtain privileges more valuable even than those which have fallen to the lot of native graduates as the result of their incessant agitation for the last fifty years, and their appeal to the Queen's Proclamation and the justice and impartiality of the British Government. The Eurasian community are beside themselves with joy at the favour which the Viceroy has now shown them. His Excellency would have given proofs of his generosity, justice and impartiality if he had at the same time thrown open the doors of the Civil Departments of the public service to all educated natives, Hindu and Musalman, who are unable to earn a livelihood for want of employment. But his heart did not weep for them. Has it been proper for a liberal-minded and impartial Englishman to make such special arrangements for a particular section of the population? Henceforward when a native graduate, Hindu or Musalman, will apply for a clerkship in the Military Department, is he to be sent away with such remarks as "service is humiliation," "high education for the sake of service is misuse of high education"? This order of the Viceroy's has not, we confess, given us satisfaction.

20. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 21st May says that the Musalmans of the North-Western Provinces have strongly protested against the circular introducing the Nagri character in the courts of those Provinces. They say that this measure will prevent them from getting employment in Government offices. Almost all Musalman papers are telling the same story. The Hindus ought not to be jubilant over this new reform. They ought to wait and see what effect the change is going to produce.

BHARAT MITRA,
May 21st, 1900.

21. The same paper is glad that Lord Curzon has ordered that punkhas should be pulled by machinery in the barracks of Rangoon where European soldiers are quartered. Although the measure will no doubt entail a heavy drain upon the public exchequer, it will save the lives of the Indian punkha-pullers.

BHARAT MITRA.

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

22. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 21st May is glad to hear that a large fund is being raised in England to help the poor cultivators of India in buying agricultural implements. Lord Curzon intends to contribute some lakhs of rupees to that

BHARAT MITRA,
May 21st, 1900.

fund. There is no doubt that the Government is trying its best to put the cultivators of the famine-stricken districts in the way to cultivating their fields.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BANKURA DARPAN,
May 15th, 1900.

23. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 16th May says that the *Englishman* is casting a stain on the unsullied character of the Indians. After perusing its articles, "British prestige in India," "Lawlessness in India," "Unruly Bengal," and others, we are obliged to say that the learned editor of the paper is stultifying himself in the eyes of the public by publishing such articles. It is not fit for the learned and polished editor of the paper to write anything which will have the effect of creating a breach between the rulers and the ruled and inciting the rulers to trample upon a conquered nation.

BANGABANDHU,
May 19th, 1900.

24. The *Bangabandhu* [Chandernagore] of the 19th May contains Bengali metrical translations of two poems headed "Island," and "Adjustment of accounts," respectively, which were published in a recent number of the *Review of Reviews*.

"Island."

"ISLAND."

(1)

Britain! your beauty is bewitching,
You are great in glory and full of splendour;
You are a resplendent gem in the crown of the sea,
All are soon fascinated by your beauty.

(2)

The white sea is flowing
Cautiously to defend your liberty,
[And ships] of great power, the dread of your enemies,
Are careering round your coast.

(3)

The wind, which blows on your coast,
With a motion as soft as that of a flower,
Shakes your stone-paved soil
With a tempestuous and dreadful roar.

(4)

And your high, white, and fair hills
Check the strong current of the boundless sea,
And hold back the mighty waves,
And hug them fondly in their embrace.

(5)

Daughter of Liberty, the favourite of all,
And the light of Hope in the heart of the slave,
Oh! how your children are pillaging and plundering,
— how the ripe corn is waving in the fields.

(6)

Your broad and beautiful flag
Is floating bravely in the air;
And your sword, unbroken and uplifted,
Is always shedding lustre on land and water.

(7)

The glorious crown of science
Adorns the heads of your men of learning,
And the world starts and trembles
In fear of your pride.

(8)

The bright but graceful lustre of gold adorns you,
And the light of thought beautifies your body;
You are happy and powerful,
And there is none who can pay a price for your wealth.

(9)

And the other distant nations
Look at you in silence and in fear;
They wait to know what is their fate,
To see what law you prescribe for others.

(10)

But you with your wonted deceit,
Are proudly swallowing everything before you;
Your hankering after fame soars higher
Than Divine dispensation on earth.

(11)

Haughtily and with unholy hands
You have pulled down the holy temple of God,
And with a frown on your face
You have contemptuously thrown it at the foot of worldly prosperity.

(12)

But lo! the day of judgment
Has dawned, and your wealth and empire
Will be forcibly snatched from your hands
Before the day is far advanced.

(13)

And the thunder of your power will tremble in your hands
And will fall away all of a sudden,
And the whole world will awake
To see your glory pale.

(14)

And then all your dependencies
On the sea
Will regain their old independence,
And will no more fear you.

(15)

And then unto that great nation,
Unto that country where love with reverence dwells,
God will give the empire,
And the light of His grace and kindness.

"Adjustment of accounts."

ADJUSTMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

(1)

Let them say what they will, know it for certain,
That every sin must have its fearful consequences.
The consequences may come late,
But there is no doubt that they must come.

(2)

England! from your high forehead
The garland of superiority has fallen and is being trampled in the dust.
And in this mortal world, strong in the strength of righteousness,
A small Power is crushing thee, powerful as thou art.

(3)

Just as in ancient times, a handful of people,
Bravely and fearlessly raised the standard of liberty;
Sword in hand, they fought heroically
And drove away their enemies like a herd of goats.

(4)

Even so are the people of the Transvaal
Driving away your soldiers—
Your troops whom you have sent
To rob the Transvaal of her independence.

(5)

The thought of gain is always paramount in your heart,
And you have no thought to spare for God.
We are therefore glad to see your downfall.
You have been caught in your own snare

(6)

Even if you come out victorious in the end—
Which, however, will never be the case in this world, —
You will not receive the blessings of God,
And you will have to lose countless heroes.

(7)

Your victory will be in vain,
And your loss will never be recompensed.
You will never be able to wipe out your insult,
And the gold that you will rob will be turned into dust.

(8)

You have long since been incurring a debt,
And the burden of that debt has now grown heavy.
The day for the squaring of your account with Heaven has come ;
You must now adjust your accounts.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMBALPUR
HATAISHINI.
May 9th, 1900.

25. Referring to an Act, recently passed by the [Government of Bombay, disqualifying men passed in examination other than those of the Bombay University for service in that Presidency and to the actual dismissal from service of one Mr. Apte, a Calcutta B.A., who had long rendered satisfactory service to the same Government as Assistant to the Press Reporter of Bombay, under the provisions of the said Act, the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 9th May observes that though such an Act may be for the future benefit of the people of Bombay, yet it is a matter of great regret that meritorious Government servants like Mr. Apte should be so unjustly driven out from the service in this way.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

26. The same paper is sorry to notice that a European Engineer, one Mr. Sibold, who had killed by a mortal below one Gurudayal for omission on the latter's part to *salaam* him, has been subjected by the High Court to no other punishment than that of a thousand rupees fine and four months' simple imprisonment. Studiously refraining from making any comments on the decision of the High Court, the writer asks whether the same punishment would have sufficed for Gurudayal had he, in his turn, done the like to Mr. Sibold.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

27. Referring to the proposed introduction of a gold currency into India, the same paper observes that in a country like India where '*pahi*' and '*cowry*' currencies were and are in vogue, it appears impracticable and absurd to introduce gold money into every-day transactions, and that the scheme will cost the poor most dearly, and hopes that Government will reconsider its decision on the subject.

ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSAN,
May 16th, 1900.

28. The *Paridarsan* [Sylhet] of the 16th May says that Mr. Hart, the Subdivisional Officer of Maulvi Bazar, Sylhet, has reverted to his old practice of coming to Court in the afternoon and assuming a threatening attitude in Court.

PARIDARSAN.

29. The same paper says that some of the rules for awarding scholarships, published in the *Assam Gazette*, to the candidates for admission into the Berry White Medical School, shortly to be opened in Dibrugarh, are objectionable. It is said in the rules that those wishing to secure scholarships should appear at an examination, to be held in different parts of Assam, and that the scholarships will be awarded to the successful candidates in order of merit. As the standard of this examination will be similar to the standard of the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University, we do not see why those who have already passed the Entrance Examination should be made to appear again in this examination. The scholarships should be awarded, in order of merit, to the candidates who have passed the Entrance Examination. If the number of applicants, who have passed the Entrance Examination, be very few, then only should the sholarships be given according to the

results of a competitive examination to the other candidates. We draw the attention of the Chief Commissioner of Assam to this.

30. A correspondent of the same paper says that some fish were stolen from the pond of one Rupram Rudrapal, of mauza Dharmapur, pargana Chaichiri, within the jurisdiction of the Rajnagar police-station, in Assam.

The head-constable of Rajnagar police-station in Assam.

PARIDARSAN,
May 16th, 1900.

The thieves left behind some fishing tackles, and they could have been brought to justice with a little effort. But the head-constable, who came to enquire into the case, let off the persons alleged to have committed the crime without hearing the witnesses cited by the complainant in support of his case.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 26th May, 1900.

