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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 16th March 1901.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 3rd March says that when foreigners found the Persians in Persia and the Foreign Powers. such a weak condition, they began to encroach upon Persian territory. They deceived the Persians by calling them a civilized people and making treaties with Persia. The Persian thinks that these foreigners have nothing to do with his religion, but, as a matter of fact, they are slowly undermining it. Their real object is to spoil the religion, the nationality, the morality and the language of the Persians. All the friendly assistance which they are rendering us gratuitously is, in the long run, intended to benefit them at Persia's expense. The Persians do not understand that the object of these people is to conquer the whole world and to propagate over it their own religion. It is at their instigation that educated Persians are becoming atheists. They intend to conquer the whole of Africa and Asia, just as they conquered the whole of America and Australia. They are now masters of certain portions of Asia and Africa, and are thinking how they can grasp the whole of them. It is a wonder that the Musalman rulers seem still unable to take a lesson from what has happened in Java, Crete, China, and other countries, and are not forming a brotherhood among themselves, such as is prescribed by their religion. O! Musalmans, educated and wealthy, take pity on future generations of your people and the poorer classes in your community. Do not pass your time in luxury and weaken your subject people, who are like your life and soul. Treat them with impartiality. The Islamic Power has ceased to exist, and Islam is gradually becoming feeble and is declining. Think that your religion is your strength. Persia ought to strengthen its military position and take steps to spread education, science, art and commerce. Instead of purchasing articles of luxury, the Persians ought to purchase things which will improve their manufactures and commerce. Persia ought to know that religion brings all sorts of comforts. It is a regret that the existing Musalman kingdoms are all governed by despotic rulers. The Musalman rulers do not allow public opinion to interfere with their despotism. The Prophet strictly enjoined his followers to settle all disputes concerning the Musalman republic which flourished in his lifetime in Hedjaz according to the advice of the *Ahl-i-Shura*—i.e., Parliament. The responsible management of national affairs by the nation itself makes it impossible for any particular individual to earn for himself, credit or blame, and this is conducive to national unity. The word *Sultanat* means the management of the affairs of a nation to its satisfaction. If the *Shura* system is introduced in the Musalman States, all Musalmans, rich and poor, literate and illiterate, active and idle, will have a share in the administration of their public affairs.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABUL
MATEEN,
Mar. 3rd, 1901.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 5th March says that recently there was a dacoity in Kalna village, within the jurisdiction of the Jamalpur thana and only two miles distant from it. A few days before there was another dacoity in a neighbouring village, Jotkubi. Within a year or two, there have been many cases of dacoity within the jurisdiction of the Jamalpur thana. Government should enquire how many of these have been traced.
3. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 6th March says that a respectable Brahman, Abhaya Charan Chakravarti, has charged the Sub-Inspector, Babu Hara Mohan Basu, of the Brahmanbaria police-station, before the local Deputy Magistrate, with assault and use of abusive words on the occasion of his asking that officer to register the death of his son on the 26th February.
4. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says that cases of theft are frequent in the village of Chandipur, in the Nadia district. Recently a washerman was going from the station of Bherhamara on the Eastern Bengal State Railway to the village, a distance of one mile, when he was attacked by

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
Mar. 5th, 1901.

PRATINIDHI,
Mar. 6th, 1901.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 8th, 1901.

a thief with a knife and a *lathi*, and received many wounds. His cries brought men to his assistance; but the thief escaped. Information was duly lodged in the local police-station, but the Sub-Inspector said that he could do nothing. Thieves have been emboldened by laxity on the part of the police. Of the many theft cases that have occurred in the place none has been thoroughly investigated.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 9th, 1901.

5. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th March reports two cases of dacoity which were committed in the course of the night of the 17th February last in the village Kalna within the jurisdiction of the Jamalpur thana in the Burdwan district. The dacoits, about one hundred in number, and armed with swords and bamboo spears, first plundered the house of Prasanna Kumar Poddar and then that of Natabar Sinha. The frequent occurrence of dacoity has alarmed the inhabitants of this part of the district.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Mar. 6th, 1901.

6. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 6th March has the following:—

Separation of the executive and
judicial functions.

We have seen and heard much in this Noakhali murder case. We never dreamt that we should have to witness an exposure of Police misdoings by Mr. Pennell at Noakhali so soon after the Corbett-Narsingha affair at Chapra. When such a thing has happened, even after the resolution published by Lord Curzon on the Chapra case, can it be believed that the scene will not be re-enacted? On that occasion, the Viceroy did not fail to reflect even on the action of the Provincial Governor. The Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Woodburn, is a very mild man, and that is why such cases are being heard of under his administration. It is not a fact that a case like this has never occurred. The truth is that so much is never brought to light except by a Judge like Mr. Pennell. How many Judges are there like Mr. Pennell? But for the presence of a Magistrate like Mr. Ezechiel at Noakhali, Mr. Reily's investigation would have ended in a suppression of the murder. The Police sometimes favours people and sometimes harasses them. The party which gains its favour is sure to win. If the Magistrate be a just man, justice is done. A just Magistrate like Mr. Ezechiel dealt with the present case, and he therefore discovered the offenders by causing repeated investigations to be made. The mysteries brought to light in the course of Mr. Pennell's judgment would seem to show that, if Mr. Cargill had been the Magistrate at that time, the murder would have been suppressed on the close of Mr. Reily's investigation. The entire judgment is not yet out. Even what has already been published does not speak well for the executive administration. Mr. Pennell is possessed of moral courage, and that is why he has ventured to say so much. Who knows how many such scenes are enacted in different places? That a hue and cry is not raised in every case, is only because people do not come to learn everything. We must now consider Mr. Reily's trial. Mr. Pennell sent Mr. Reily to *hajat*. A motion was made in the High Court and the High Court granted bail in exercise of its special power without assigning any cause for the favour thus shown. If Mr. Reily had been a common man, this would not have been done. We hear of the use of influence and intimidation in the course of the present case. Mr. Pennell has divulged these secrets. Many are therefore calling him mad. One must be a mad man like him if one were to act justly and do the right thing. Mr. Pennell is called mad because he has pointed out the evil consequences of the union of the executive and judicial functions. It is for these reasons that, in his resolution on the Chapra case, the Viceroy spoke of the desirability of a separation of the two functions, and these facts support his view. Let us see what the Viceroy says now. The case cited by Mr. Pennell is not one solitary instance of the mischief. Many such cases take place. If the Viceroy makes a private enquiry he will come to know of many such cases. It has become difficult for Deputy Magistrates to let off the accused in cases sent up by the Police. They have, on many occasions, to act against the dictates of their own conscience. In a certain case the Magistrate directed the trying Deputy Magistrate to proceed in a particular manner. The Deputy Magistrate in question was a man possessed of education and moral courage. He, therefore, replied that as the Magistrate had the right to transfer

the case from his file, he could try it himself. But how many such Deputy Magistrates are there? If the Viceroy has a real wish to benefit the country, he should try to remedy this evil. If having seen all this, he can now separate the two functions he will leave an imperishable monument, a memorial, that is, which will be more glorious than the proposed Victoria Hall and will be permanently associated with his name.

7. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 6th March has the following :—

Mr. Pennell's Judgment.

PRABHAT,
Mar. 6th, 1901.

Some people and some newspapers are praising Mr. Pennell. There is undoubtedly sufficient ground for praise, because courage and impartiality like Mr. Pennell's are rarely met with. But the attacks which Mr. Pennell has levelled at everybody—from the Viceroy to the High Court Judges—may amuse us, but will do us more harm than good.

We have no wish to exculpate the Government or any high official by blaming Mr. Pennell. No one will deny that Mr. Pennell deserves our praise and gratitude. But we cannot be too sorry for his having misused a golden opportunity. If he had acted with a little patience and calmness, Government could have picked no hole in his coat. He would have deserved everybody's praise, if, instead of attacking any one, he had quietly placed the Chief Secretary's letters on the record, and, without abusing Mr. Reilly in his judgment, had ordered his arrest at the close of the trial, and released him on bail when an application for bail was made. But he failed to do this. He lost his temper and did everything in the wrong way.

Executive officers are certainly to blame if they attempt to bully judicial officers. But how can we praise a judicial officer, who, on the plea of writing a judgment, attacks the Government? Not only has Mr. Pennell introduced unnecessary and irrelevant topics in his judgment, but has gone out of his way to attack persons whom he had no business to attack. What harm had Lord Curzon done him that he attacked His Lordship in harsh language? Neither His Lordship nor the Chapra case had anything to do with the case then before him, yet he dragged down His Lordship. It is not likely that Lord Curzon will quietly put up with such treatment. His abuse of Sir John Woodburn and his reference to His Honour in the sentence—"The head of the Local Government is universally nick-named Soapy John"—were probably prompted by some ill-feeling which he had cause to entertain against him. He has not spared even the High Court Judges. Mr. Pennell is an intelligent man and a good writer, but his judgment shows that he has gone quite mad.

Some of the letters which Mr. Pennell has placed on the record have been published. They do not prove that Government was very much to blame or that it interfered in the least in the case. In fact, they do not appear to support Mr. Pennell's cause. The letter which Mr. Buckland wrote to him in connection with his imputation against Mr. Rampini cannot be interpreted as a threat.

8. Referring to the suspension of Mr. Pennell the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta]

Suspension of Mr. Pennell.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 7th, 1901.

of the 7th March says, that those who make a scandalous abuse of their powers, are not punished, while Mr. Pennell, who stood up against such abuse of power, has been punished. Government should not have hurried itself into an act of such indiscretion.

9. The same paper says that none but an Englishman can know the secrets of Englishmen. None but an Englishman dares divulge the secrets of the English official life.

Mr. Pennell.

SANJIVANI.

Another Englishman of Mr. Pennell's courage has not been met with in India. In his judgment in the Noakhali murder case he has disclosed many secrets concerning His Excellency the Viceroy, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Mr. Bolton, Mr. Bourdillon, Mr. Macpherson, Mr. Justice Rampini, Mr. Justice Stevens, and others down to the Police Sub-Inspector Osman Ali and the Head-clerk of the Noakhali Police.

Mr. Pennell's judgment has thrown all Bengal into a ferment. The High Court's and the Government's excitement has not been less. In spite of this it is hoped that the murder case and Mr. Reilly's case will be coolly and dispassionately tried by the High Court.

JYOTI,
Mar. 7th, 1901.

10. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 7th March says that a feeling of intense hatred has arisen in men's minds at the acquittal of Lalmiya, the man who committed adultery with the Brahman lady Sivatarra and insulted her husband's family god. Lalmiya, at the mere mention of whose name the hearts of men beat violently, has been acquitted! It is not known how the man, whose offence is as clear as day-light, has been declared innocent with the help of a net work of legal fallacies. The country has lost the firm faith, so long entertained by it, in the High Court. The foundations of faith in that Court have been shaken. Every one says that there is no justice now-a-days.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 8th, 1901.

11. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says that since hearing the news of his transfer, Mr. Gabriel, Subdivisional Officer of Beguserai, has quite lost his head and has been committing oppression right and left.

He suspended the Head-Warder of the Beguserai Jail and fined the other warders one rupee each for allowing a prisoner to go outside the jail precincts to get firewood. He made Abdul Hakim, a copyist, remain standing in his court for two hours and then suspended him for having left his work in order to attend to a call of nature. He has proposed to the Magistrate that the copyist Baldeo Rai should be dismissed for the fault of having left office on hearing the news of his father's serious illness. While holding his court in village Panchbir, Mr. Gabriel struck the copyists, Munasrim and Chet Narayan, by flinging books at them. At the village Tehari he abused Mutsaddi Singh, a police Sub-Inspector, by calling him "শাল বেটিচোর". While hearing a case at Bariarpur, he treated Babu Pasupati Chatterji, the leading pleader of Beguserai, in a most ignominious manner. For this, Pasupati Babu has applied for the Lieutenant-Governor's permission to prosecute Mr. Gabriel.

HITAVADI,

12. The same paper has learnt from a reliable source that Mr. Gabriel, Subdivisional Officer of Beguserai, has been appointed Secretary to the Political Agent in Ajmere. Has this post been given to Mr. Gabriel on account of the manner in which he conducted himself as Subdivisional Officer, or in order to protect him from newspaper attacks? With whatever object the authorities may have given Mr. Gabriel this post, they have not acted rightly.

HITAVADI.

13. The same paper has the following:—

Mr. Pennell's Judgment. Since the commencement of British rule in India, no one except Edmund Burke ever dared to expose the faults of the Executive Government in this country. What Burke did in Parliament, Mr. Pennell, a Judge under the Government of India, has done in India. No Judge ever before delivered such a spirited judgment, censuring the officials from the Viceroy down to the head of the District Police. The judgment shows how anxious Mr. Pennell is to secure a faultless executive and judicial administration.

It must, however, be admitted that Mr. Pennell has introduced many irrelevant topics in his judgment. True, he was much harassed by the Executive Government, and that he had no better means of giving publicity to his grievances than the one he has adopted, still everybody must say that he has committed some excess. His courage and independence have filled us with wonder.

HITAVADI.

14. The same paper has the following:—

Mr. Pennell. We are sorry and astonished to hear of Mr. Pennell's suspension. Though Mr. Pennell has done us good and his independence has filled us with wonder, we are not blind to his faults. We must say that he has failed to shew in his judgment the coolness and patience of a judge, by introducing in it much that was irrelevant to the points at issue. But we cannot blame him for this. An impartial judge like him is sure to suffer in a country where the officials from the highest to the lowest do their best to screen offenders and make innocent men appear guilty and where arbitrariness flourishes under an unholy combination of executive and judicial functions. No wonder that a judge like Mr. Pennell should lose his patience. He is made of flesh and blood like other men.

15. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March has the following:—PRATIVASI,
Mar. 11th, 1901.The High Court's treatment of
Mr. Pennell.

Mr. Chapman, late Registrar of the High Court, went to Mr. Pennell and told him that he had come, by the Chief Justice's order, to take away the records of the Noakhali case. Mr. Pennell asked Mr. Chapman to give him a statement in writing that he had been deputed by the Chief Justice. This, however, Mr. Chapman refused to do. His refusal appears to be extremely mysterious.

Mr. Pennell then went to the Chief Justice's house to make over the record. The Chief Justice told him to wait, but after some time sent him word that he would not see him, and that the record should be made over to the Registrar. Good, but why did not the Chief Justice say so at once? Why did he keep Mr. Pennell waiting? How would the public take such a reception of a Sessions Judge at the house of the Chief Justice of the High Court?

The next day, Messrs. Chapman and Sheepshanks saw Mr. Pennell and told him that it was the Chief Justice's order that he should make over the record to them. On Mr. Pennell asking to be shown the order, he was told that the order might be read over to him, but could not be placed in his hands. Can anybody explain why the order of the High Court was treated as a secret document and why Mr. Chapman accompanied the Registrar? Mr. Pennell refused to hand over the record to them, and they at once reported the matter to the High Court. On receipt of the report that august tribunal became agitated like a bee-hive attacked with a brick-bat. All the judges assembled in the Chief Justice's court and deliberations commenced as to the fit punishment to be inflicted on Mr. Pennell. Suspension was proposed. Four of the Judges dissented from the proposal, but it was carried by a majority of votes. A letter was at once sent to the Government. At 7-30 P.M. an officer saw Mr. Pennell with a letter from Mr. Buckland, informing Mr. Pennell that he was suspended from service and the fact of the suspension was gazetted that very night. All this was certainly very quick work. A Secretariat order is seldom carried out before it has taken up millions of yards of red tape and seen a hundred suns rise and set over it. But in this case, thanks to Mr. Pennell, that immemorial practice was departed from. The whole thing was despatched in the twinkling of an eye.

The public are at a loss to see the meaning of this haste. Would any part of the machinery of the administration have failed if Mr. Pennell had not been suspended in such hot haste? Is it true that four of the High Court Judges voted against Mr. Pennell's suspension? Who are these Judges? Did Messrs. Rampini, Prinsep and Stevens, whose feelings towards Mr. Pennell are well-known, vote for or against his suspension? What is the cause of his suspension—his insubordination, his leaving his station or both? Did his insubordination consist in his refusal to make over the record to Messrs. Chapman and Sheepshanks? Was his leaving his station without permission so serious an offence as to necessitate his suspension? Do not even Deputy Magistrates often take French leave with impunity?

Questioning, doubting and surmising of this kind every body in Bengal is now doing. We fail to see why the authorities are so acting as to make all this possible.

16. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 11th March says that the acquittalDACCА GAZETTE,
Mar. 11th, 1901.The acquittal of the accused in
the Noakhali Sivatarā case.

of the accused in the Noakhali Sivatarā case by the High Court has been far from gratifying to the public, and has, according to a correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, astonished and alarmed the Hindus of Noakhali. A Musalman desecrated and threw away a Hindu idol, defiled a *tulasi* plant, held sacred by the Hindus, with the blood of a fowl and, last of all, violated the chastity of a Brahman woman. Musalman witnesses bore testimony to all this, and an experienced English Judge on a careful consideration of the evidence convicted the accused. But the High Court refused to believe a jot of the evidence recorded! How then can Hindus consider the honour and chastity of their wives and daughters and the holiness of their idols safe under British rule? It is the sense of insecurity which has been created by the

High Court's order that has made the Hindus of Noakhali uneasy and not the acquittal of the particular accused.

BANGABHUMI,
Mar. 12th, 1901.

17. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 12th March, writes as follows:—

Mr. Pennell. There was little chance of the public ever knowing the facts, of which they have now been informed by Mr. Pennell. Thanks to Mr. Pennell, we have now come to know that even justice may be the subject of bargain and sale like any other commodity. Government, too, will be made wiser by Mr. Pennell's judgment. It must now see that if it has holes in its coat there are men in its own camp who will not be slow to point them out when an occasion arises.

It must be freely admitted on all hands that Mr. Pennell's judgment has done us great good. But it cannot be denied at the same time that his action has been impolitic. Granting that the public have benefited by his exposure of official highhandedness, we must say that state affairs should always be kept a secret and that to give publicity to them is to show disrespect to the State. If, instead of alluding to these matters in a public judgment, Mr. Pennell had brought them privately to the notice of the Lieutenant-Governor, he would have done his own duty, and at the same time benefited us. But he has not been able to maintain coolness and temper over this affair, and by what he has done in that improper frame of mind, the Government has been greatly lowered in the eye of the public. It is therefore no wonder that the Lieutenant-Governor should be displeased with him.

If Mr. Pennell had been able to act a little more coolly, he would have done us far more good. He will now probably be dismissed. If he had remained in the service he would have been able to save the people of this country from oppression at the hands of many hot-headed young civilians. But by losing his temper, he has lost that opportunity. It would be too much to expect that Magistrates and Judges should be so many gods. They too are liable to error and subject to passion like ordinary mortals, and there is nothing to wonder at in this. But we must account it a piece of extraordinary good fortune that there is a god like Mr. Pennell among them. We should have regarded ourselves still more fortunate, if Mr. Pennell had been able to convert these erring officials by his company.

We do not blame the Lieutenant-Governor and his Chief Secretary so much for their endeavour to screen their subordinates as for the encouragement they have given to oppression by promoting the guilty officials. The Judges of the High Court too have lost their prestige in this affair. In distress or danger, the whole country looks up to them for redress. They have not done well in exercising themselves so much about the affairs of an individual. Mr. Pennell has done nothing to merit the treatment which he has received at their hands.

We find other ominous signs in this affair. We see that the High Court is on the point of losing that independence for which it has always been famous and held in universal respect. It is clear that the High Court has not suspended Mr. Pennell for contumacy, but has suspended him, in obedience to a hint or order from Government, for having incurred the displeasure of Government. What are we to understand from this? The High Court which, to assert its own independence, has at times defied the authority of the Viceroy himself, is to-day a mere tool in the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor and his Chief Secretary!

Only one more scene in this drama remains to be enacted. The Viceroy has not yet expressed his views in the matter. His views may do away with the vagaries of the executive branch of the service, but no reform can be looked for in the High Court so long as Sir Francis Maclean does not change his present views.

As for you, generous Mr. Pennell, it is impossible for us to convey either in writing or by word of mouth the gratitude which we feel towards you for the matters of which you have informed us. We are indebted to you and you alone for a knowledge of the secret and disgraceful proceedings of the Government. We shall feel still more grateful to you when Government, to free itself from this disgrace, reforms the Executive Department.

We hope for much from Sir John Woodburn. His prestige will not suffer by his reinstating Mr. Pennell in his office. On the contrary we shall thank His Honour for giving us back so independent a Judge.

But above all the country looks up to Lord Curzon. Distinguished lawyers say that Mr. Pennell's suspension has been illegal. The Viceroy will lay the country under an eternal obligation if he can decide the matter in a way that will give satisfaction to all parties.

(d)—Education.

18. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 7th March writes as follows:—

Mr. Percival of the Chittagong Collegiate School.

Mr. Percival is a teacher in the Chittagong Collegiate School. On the 5th March, Babu Sarada Kumar Bhattacharyya, a student of the local college, was driving to the Sadar ghat in the town, and passed by Mr. Percival who was also driving. A little while after, when Sarada Kumar was walking on the Sadar ghat jetty, Mr. Percival approached him, whip in hand, and said with fiery eyes that he had been insulted by him. When he was thus threatening Sarada Kumar, a police constable came up and was at once asked by Mr. Percival to prosecute the boy. The constable obeyed. He was taken to the Sadar ghat beat, but the Sergeant, not being there at that time, he was let off, although not without being threatened by Mr. Percival with severe punishment. Sarada Kumar has placed the case before the local Deputy-Magistrate, Babu Ramesh Chandra Singha. There are other complaints against Mr. Percival. The Principal of the College knows all this, but it is rumoured that he cannot deal severely with Mr. Percival for fear of the Director of Public Instruction. We want to know what the Director will now do. Sarada Kumar is neither a pupil of Mr. Percival's nor his subordinate.

JYOTI,
Mar. 7th, 1901.

19. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says that the attention of the University authorities having been drawn last

Guards at the recent Entrance examination.

year to the fact that some persons unconnected with the Education Department, one among whom was a brother of Babu Bhabatosh Chatterji, second clerk in the Presidency College, were appointed guards at the Entrance examination, it was ordered that in future the practice of appointing outsiders as guards at that examination should be discontinued. But, in spite of this order, some persons, connected, according to a correspondent, with Bhabatosh Babu, but unconnected with the Education Department, were appointed guards in the Presidency College on the first day of the recent Entrance examination.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 8th, 1901.

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

20. The *Bikash* [Barisal] of the 5th March writes as follows:—

The Chairman of the Barisal Municipality.

The last five year's administration of the Barisal Municipality by its Chairman has done immense harm to the town, and hardly any conceivable good to it. The Sanitary Commissioner of Bengal has expressed himself to the same effect in his Inspection report, which is quoted. If the report does not prove the worthlessness of the Chairman, we do not know what can. The Sanitary Commissioner has found fault with the roads, ghats, bazars, drains, privies, drinking water—in short with everything in the municipality. It is a report which has really alarmed us.

After his last election as Chairman of the Municipality, he has done nothing for it worth mentioning except felling trees and constructing drains in the town. About the former, the Sanitary Commissioner has said nothing, and against the latter he has raised serious objections.

Although every municipal work is done under the direct supervision of the Chairman, the Commissioners are still responsible for it. It is not that the Commissioners have freed themselves from their responsibility by electing a Chairman. They are bound to satisfy the rate-payers about every work done by the Municipality, for not he but they are the direct representatives of the people. It is not the people but they who elect the Chairman. They should raise their voice against the Chairman when he tries to do anything injurious to the interest of the rate-payers.

BIKASH,
Mar. 5th, 1901.

Every Commissioner has been supplied with a copy of the Sanitary Commissioner's Report. We hope that the Commissioners will make a sturdy movement in the matter.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Mar. 6th, 1901.

21. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 6th March says that the European Government nominees in the local Municipality, and notably the European Civil Surgeon, are conspicuous by their absence from the Municipal meetings. The reason of this, perhaps, is that they do not like to work in concert with the native members. If they do not wish to work, they should resign, and Government should nominate people who will be willing to work. Some of the elected Commissioners, too, are unpunctual in their attendance.

HITAVADI.
Mar. 8th, 1901.

22. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says that sickness is very prevalent in some wards in Calcutta. In Mohan Lal Mitra's Street and the places near it in Ward No. I a large number of deaths is taking place every day, and, on enquiry, it has been found that the street and its vicinity are in a very filthy condition, and there is also a night-soil depôt near it. This locality is the hot-bed of disease in Ward No. I. But the Municipality takes no notice of its condition. Is this apathy due to the new Municipal Act?

HITAVADI,

23. The same paper writes as follows:—

Municipal oppression in Calcutta. The residents of Calcutta have already commenced to feel the effects of the new Municipal Act. We referred the other day to a case in which the Municipal employés had entered a *zanana* in order to realise rates. The matter has not yet come to an end. According to the *Bengalee*, some Municipal officers attached, for the purpose of realising arrears of rates, and took away sixteen pieces of brass *thâls*, a copper flower pot, one clock, and one *padmasan*, from the room in 87 Balaram De's Street, in which the family god is kept. New-paper agitation regarding the conduct of the Municipal servants elicited from Mr. Greer the reply that the Municipal employés had not touched any article used in the worship of the god. This reply was evidently based on the report of subordinate officers. But no one can deny that the things mentioned above are things which are used in Hindu worship. The Lieutenant-Governor ought to make a careful enquiry into the matter, because interference with the people's religion by insolent Municipal servants, acting under the authority of the new Municipal law, may lead to very serious consequences.

NAVAYUG,
Mar. 9th, 1901.

24. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 9th March says that now-a-days, when the mortality in Calcutta has increased, the contractor, who supplies wood at the Nimtala burning-ghât, charges one rupee in excess of the usual rate for every dead body. The Editor himself was, on one occasion, obliged to pay this unlawful excess charge.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

KHULNA,
Mar. 7th, 1901.

25. A correspondent of the *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 7th March writes as follows:—

Oppression by a zamindar.

The village Rangdia, in the Bagerhat Subdivision of the Khulna district, is chiefly inhabited by poor cultivators. Babu Annada Prasad Mukherji is the zamindar of the village. Last year, in the month of Magh, he went there and ordered that every raiyat would have to pay six-and-a-half annas per rupee of rent for his son's marriage. He realised four annas per rupee then and there, and left instructions to his men to realise the remaining two-and-a-half annas this year. In order to pay annas four per rupee of rent, many of the raiyats were obliged to sell their household utensils, agricultural implements, bullocks and paddy. The Deputy Magistrate of Bagerhat was applied to against this, but the zamindar's men denied everything.

We have been informed that the remaining two-and-a-half annas will be realised from the raiyats after the zamindar has paid his current revenue instalment. The failure of crops this year has made the raiyats' condition really critical. They are crying with their wives and children in a state

almost amounting to starvation. The main cause of this miserable condition of the poor raiyats is the cruel extortions of the zamindar, repeated four or five times within the last seven or eight years.

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

26. The *Hitaradi* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says that the condition of the Kulpi Road between Kalighat and Kulpi is very miserable. It hardly shows any sign of repairs. Formerly, when it was the route by which the officials went to Diamond Harbour or when there was a Magistrate's Court in Baruipur, its condition was much better. But now that the road is not so used, the Public Works Department has almost given up the idea of repairing it.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 8th, 1901.

(h)—*General.*

27. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 7th March says that the taking of the census in Chittagong town on a holiday has resulted in returning its population as at least one-third less than its usual number, because many of the men, who are not permanent residents of the town, go to their village homes on holidays.

JYOTI,
Mar. 7th, 1901.

28. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th March says that on the night of the 1st March many houses in Calcutta were not visited by census enumerators. This was the natural consequence of *begar*.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 7th, 1901.

29. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 9th March says that on the day fixed by the Government for taking a census of Calcutta, nobody came to the office of the *Bharat Mitra* to count the inmates. Hence it is clear that the present census will prove no better than a farce. Such must be the result in all cases in which the Government resorts to *begar*.

BHARAT MITRA.

30. The same paper complains that the Plague-Inspector of the Chausa station suspected a Marwari passenger occupying an intermediate class compartment, as having been attacked with plague. The Inspector, accordingly made all intermediate class passengers in the train go to the plague camp, where they were detained for ten days. The plague officers are gradually assuming the attitude of Indian *Nawabs* and their conduct deserves the serious notice of the higher authorities.

BHARAT MITRA,
Mar. 9th, 1901.

31. The *Navayug* (Calcutta) of the 9th March says that on the night of the 1st March many houses in Calcutta were not visited by the Census officers. Mr. Blackwood is responsible for this.

NAVAYUG
Mar. 9th, 1901.

32. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 10th March writes as follows:—
On the night of the 1st March when the Census enumeration was going on in Dacca town, thousands of persons, who were not residents of the town, were passing through the streets. As no enumerator asked them about their whereabouts, their names could not have found a place in the enumerators' books.

DACCA
PRAKASH,
Mar. 10th, 1901.

This mistake would have been avoided if Government had ordered every traveller to keep with himself a paper, containing his name, residence, &c., for delivery to any enumerator by whom it might be demanded on the night of the 1st March. By comparing such a paper with the preliminary enumeration-book, in which his name was first entered, a very correct census would have been arrived at.

Government makes a great mistake in destroying the original enumeration books. It can be clearly shown by an examination of the last Census Report that numerous errors creep into such reports on account of mistakes in collecting, summing up, printing, proof-examining, &c. An instance may be cited. From the Report for the year 1891, it is seen that the number of *kayastha* women within the jurisdiction of the Sivalaya thana in the Dacca district was only one-hundred and sixty. This was a great mistake, for the number could not be less than sixteen hundred. Although there were many dealers in conches in

the place at that time, yet they were not included in the report. Perhaps Mr. Risley will say much about these, such as that the number of *kayastha* women in the place has enormously increased, or that there has been a new settlement of conch-dealers in the place. The only means of correcting such mistakes has disappeared with the destruction of the original enumeration-books.

Again, a careful preservation of these original enumeration-books might be helpful in determining people's heirs, ages, domiciles, &c., and the cost of such preservation would be met from the fees which people should be made to pay for taking such information.

Government is requested to amend the Census Act, so as to provide for the preservation of the original enumeration-books and their use of them in the law courts.

PRATIVASI,
Mar. 11th, 1901.

33. According to the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March, the census figures are not likely to be very accurate. Statistics are seldom free from inaccuracies; and the census figures, considering the perfunctory way in which they were got up by *begar* men, are likely to be more inaccurate than statistics usually are. In Calcutta many houses received no visits from enumerators. If this was so in Calcutta, it may be easily imagined what happened in the mufassal.

The Census.

III.—LEGISLATION.

HITAVADI,
Mar. 8th, 1901.

34. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says that it is a great misfortune of the Bombay Presidency that Mr. Pirozshah Mehta has resigned his seat in the Supreme Legislative Council. He was the spokesman of educated India in that Council; nor would it be easy for the country to find another representative like him.

Difficulty has also arisen in Bengal in regard to the choice of its representative in the Supreme Council. There is a tie between the Maharaja of Darbhanga and Babu Surendra Nath Banerji, each having secured five votes, and the choice now rests with the Lieutenant-Governor. The only recommendation of the Maharaja is that he is the owner of vast wealth and he has no other qualification in virtue of which he can stand as Surendra Nath's rival. Again as the Maharaja has recently taken one more wife, he will not be able to spare much time for the service of his country. It would, therefore, have been well for him if he had withdrawn from the contest.

It is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will do justice in the matter.

HITAVADI,

35. The same paper says that of all the speeches which were made in the Supreme Legislative Council against the Religious Endowments Bill, the one which requires notice is the speech made by Mr. Bolton. The sum and substance of his argument was that as only the educated community were in favour of the reform asked for, and as the uneducated masses were apathetic in regard to it, Government should not interfere in the matter. But will Mr. Bolton name a country in which the masses ever asked for any reform? Where, moreover, it may be asked, was Government's policy of non-interference when the Consent Bill was passed?

The Religious Endowments Bill.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 9th, 1901.

36. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th March says that the rejection of the Hon'ble Ananda Charla's Religious Endowments Bill by the Supreme Legislative Council has pleased every Indian except the Honourable Member himself and his followers. The Bill has enabled the people of India, Hindu, Musalman, Jain and Sikh, to see Rai Ananda Charlu Bahadur and Rai Sri Ram Bahadur in their true character, and to realise how much harm the Babus can do their country in the name of doing good to it.

37. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th March writes as follows:—
The Cooly Bill has been passed and an increase of eight annas in the pay of coolies has received the sanction of the Legislature. But the demand of the planters could not be totally ignored, and Lord Curzon has made a compromise to the effect that the increase shall not take place for the

PRATIVASI,
Mar. 11th, 1901

Mr. Cotton in the Assam Labour and Emigration legislation.

next two years. In this instance, we have failed to realise the value of the praise which is bestowed by some newspapers upon Lord Curzon of being a man who does at any cost what he considers to be his duty.

In assigning the cause of the present depression in the tea trade, His Excellency said that the true cause of that depression was not, as is alleged, the currency reform, but an increase in the number of planters. If so, the remedy applied is not a right remedy. It is for his Lordship to say how the deferring of the increase clause of the Act will improve the prospects of the tea industry. The truth is that Government is quite unaccustomed to shake off its partiality for the white people and take up the cause of truth and justice and of the weak.

The passing of this measure has brought into bold relief the sincerity of a well-wisher of India. Mr. Cotton has been ever known to be a friend of India, and the people of India will ever gratefully remember his name as they will remember the names of men like Lord Ripon. His services to the country in connection with the present measure will evoke praise from millions of throats and inspire even the weak and worn-out cooly to lift his hands towards Heaven morning and evening to invoke blessings on his head. The self-sacrifice he has made is quite unexampled. Listen to what he himself said:—"I am adding to the obloquy I have already incurred: but I am convinced of the justice of the cause and of the righteousness of the claim I have put forward on behalf of labour."

38. Referring to the passing of the Assam Labour and Emigration Bill, the *Dainik Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 14th March says that considering the way in which Mr. Cotton brought to the notice of the Legislature the deplorable condition of tea-garden coolies, in connection with the proposal to increase their pay, one cannot help calling him a god in human shape.

DAINIK CHANDRIKA
Mar. 14th, 1901.

Mr. Cotton in the Assam Labour and Emigration Bill.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

39. The *Hindu Ranjika* [Rajshahi] of the 6th March contains two Bengali poems lamenting the death of the late Queen-Empress.

HINDU RANJIKA,
Mar. 6th, 1901.

40. The same paper contains the following further proposals for commemorating the late Queen-Victoria.

HINDU RANJIKA.

(1) The establishment of agricultural banks throughout India. Government may borrow money at 3 per cent. per annum, and lend the same to the cultivators and agriculturists at various rates according to the amounts lent. The Famine Fund and the District Board Funds may be amalgamated with the fund which will be formed for this purpose. The interest that will accrue will meet every expense. In this way poor cultivators may be saved from the clutches of the *mahajans* in the sacred name of Empress-Victoria.

(2) The establishment of poor-houses in India. Fifty lakhs of rupees should be spent every year in the name of the late benevolent mother. Every Hindu will subscribe to this fund the pittance which he regularly gives to beggars. Vagrancy and pauperism will be checked in this way.

(3) The result of these institutions, if regularly worked, will be that the recurrence of calamitous famines will be greatly checked, Indian art will revive and cultivators will give their whole power to agriculture.

(4) Fit and respectable natives should be entrusted with the superintendence of these institutions.

41. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 6th March, says:—

The Memorial scheme.

The national memorial which has been proposed by the Viceroy will be a new thing in India. We will express no opinion now as to whether such a large sum of money as has been proposed to be spent upon it ought to be so spent. It is easy to criticise, ridicule and object. We shall therefore express no opinion about the proposal without sufficient consideration. If any other good scheme has occurred to anybody, it ought to be brought forward. Much good cannot be done by merely finding fault with the one which has been proposed.

PRABHAT,
Mar. 6th, 1901.

SANJIVANI,
Mar. 7th, 1901.

42. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th March says that Mr. Alexander Scott has been employed in the work of repairing old pictures in Belvedere. But the employment of Babu Sasi Kumar Hesh, who has learned the art of painting in Italy, France, Germany and England on this work would have delighted every Indian. Mr. Alexander Scott may be a very worthy man; but His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor is requested to make an examination of the merit of Babu Sasi Kumar Hesh in this connection.

JYOTI,
Mar. 7th, 1901.

43. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 7th March, writes as follows:—
The Commissioner of the Chittagong Division will establish a Lady-Hospital as a local tribute to the memory of the late Empress. The officials

do as they please, whether good for natives or not, and whatever their intention. We do not know how far reasonable it is to do with money given by the natives—things which the natives themselves consider unnecessary. Europeans do not like native midwives though a European midwife costs Rs. 200 a month. A hospital, with a European midwife, will greatly benefit Europeans. It would have been all very well if the Commissioner had proposed to establish a hospital with European money. Natives who are hard up at present, will have to place large sums of money at his disposal. They are for various reasons under the influence of high officials. Under these circumstances, we consider it wrong of such officials to approach the natives, not to speak of Government servants, with subscription books. Such things spoil the spirit of native benevolence, hinder naturally inspired works of public utility, and enlarge the unholy sphere of illegal influence.

The construction of a female hospital may not be a sinful act, but it will be nothing but waste of money if the officials indulge their whims, and in so doing disregard the many pressing and serious wants of the country.

Never has native money been utilised by the local officials in any good work. It is, therefore, the ardent prayer of the poor inhabitants of Chittagong that on this grand occasion of the commemoration of the late Queen-Empress, something be done, which will fill the heart of every loyal subject with delight.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Mar. 8th, 1901.

44. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 8th March says that the Viceroy's scheme of a national memorial is based on sound sense. If a national memorial is to be preserved, it should be preserved in the form which has been sketched by His Excellency. The *Pioneer* and one or two other Anglo-Indian papers tried to throw cold water on the scheme, but they have been disappointed. The whole country now sees the propriety of the Viceroy's proposal and money is flowing in from all directions in heaps.

Lord Curzon's scheme is, indeed, a grand one. When carried out, it will stand out as a monument of the mighty phenomenon, which took place during Her late Majesty's long reign in the union of the East and the West. We have no history. We have nothing to mark us out as a nation. The proposed Victoria Hall will be a national memorial which will make us known to the world as a nation. To oppose its erection will be to injure ourselves. The memory of India's past, whether Hindu, Moghul or English, will be preserved in this Hall, and visitors coming to India will see in it the past glories of this country. Should not this be a source of joy and pride to the Indian people?

**EDUCATION
GAZETTE,**
Mar. 8th, 1901.

45. The *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 8th March says that among the memories of notable historical events that will be preserved in the proposed Victoria Hall, imaginary pictures representing the hunting expeditions of the non-Aryans of India, the coming of the Aryans into India, the sacrifices of the Vedic period, the hermitages of *rishis*, the conquest of Ceylon, the Court of king Rama Chandra, the great war of Kurukshetra, the meeting between the Greek Embassy and the *Sannyasi*, the Council of Asoka, the Buddhist *Vihars*, Vikramaditya's world-wide conquests, the Muhammadan invasion of India, the administration of justice in the time of Ghyasuddin, Tamerlane's great massacre at the *Kumva-me'a* in Hardwar, and similar other things should be included for the satisfaction of Hindus, Greeks and Pathans. It is necessary to preserve notices of events before Baber. The Indian painter, Ravi Varma, may supply such pictures, showing in them the peculiarities and characteristics of the

old times, after consulting with archæological experts. Babu Sasi Kumar Hesh might be asked to work on this line. If these oil-paintings are preserved in the proposed Hall, photographs thereof will find a place in many houses in India.

46. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 8th March says that although the proposal to commemorate the late Queen-Empress by means of a Victoria Hall has not met with universal acceptance, yet there can be little doubt about the largeness, originality and desirability of such an undertaking. Lord Curzon, who is the master of all India and has supreme control over the native Princes, can, in no time, fill a famine fund to overflowing and establish technical schools.

BANKURA
DARPAN,
Mar. 8th, 1901.

47. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th March says that the list of names which the Viceroy gave in his Asiatic Society speech as being a list of the names of the persons whose memories will be preserved in the proposed Victoria Hall was, by no means, a complete list. In the course of a speech it was not possible either to remember or to mention all the names worth preserving in the Hall.

BANGAVASI,
Mar. 9th, 1901.

Whilst the names of a number of statesmen and politicians were mentioned, those of a good many poets, philosophers and political writers were omitted. Will not the memory of the Bengali poets, Kasidas, Krittibas, Kabi Kankan, Ghanaram, Ram Prasad and Bharat Chandra, of the eminent Sanskrit professors Raghunandan, Raghunath Siromani, Smarta Raghunandan, Jagannath Tarkapanchanan, of the Hindu ascetics and philosophers Bishuddananda and Bhaskarananda and of a host of other eminent Indians be preserved in the Hall? It was certainly a mistake on the Viceroy's part not to have mentioned the names of the late High Court Judges, Dwaraka Nath Mitra and Sambhu Nath Pandit. Does the Viceroy's list also include the name of the Bengali hero Pratapaditya?

Lord Curzon's highmindedness is certainly praiseworthy. Umi Chand the mention of whose name rakes up the memory of Clive's forged letter and makes many big Englishmen hang down their heads in shame, will find a place in the proposed Hall! But, while Umi Chand's memory will be preserved, no mention is made of Sirajuddaula's name—Sirajuddaula never practised deception on any body and was himself deceived by Umi Chand. Colonel Malleon writes:—

"Whatever may have been his faults, Sirajuddaula had neither betrayed his master nor sold his country—nay more, no unbiased Englishman, sitting in judgment on the events which passed in the interval between the 9th February and the 23rd June, can deny that the name of Sirajuddaula stands higher in the scale of honour than does the name of Clive.—*Decisive Battles of India*.

Mr. Jaffir will find a place in the proposed Hall, but Sirajuddaula will not. Sirajuddaula was a statesman. His statesmanship is proved by the letters he wrote to the English, copies of which have been given in Babu Bihari Lal Sarkar's book "ইংরেজের জয়" (The English conquest). A perusal of this book and of Babu Akshay Kumar Maitreya's "সিরাজুদ্দৌল" (Sirajuddaula) creates the doubt whether Sirajuddaula was really guilty of the Blackhole massacre. The writer of *Mutaksharin*, it is true, has mentioned some faults of Sirajuddaula, but he nowhere says that Sirajuddaula was ever guilty of atrocities like ripping open the wombs of pregnant women or sinking passenger boats. It is rather anomalous that the memory of the man who deceived Siraj would be preserved, but not Siraj's memory. To our thinking, Lord Curzon would not incur blame by including Siraj's name in his list.

48. Referring to Lady Curzon's visit to the Kalighat temple, the same paper writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI.

Lady Curzon's visit to the Kalighat temple.

The first Governors-General under the East India Company used to send offerings to the goddess at Kalighat. Such offerings were sent for a long time, and it was the bounden duty of the rulers in those days to shew respect to Hindu gods and goddesses. In 1840, for instance, Lord Auckland paid visits to Brindaban and Mathura and made offerings of money to the gods and distributed much money among Brahmans and Vaishnavs. But Lady Curzon's visit to the Kalighat

temple was for these days an unusual one. As regards Lord Curzon, he made valuable presents to a Sikh temple, and a Mushalman mosque visited by him last year. Such sympathy with their religion completely wins the hearts of the Indians, and Lord Curzon must be aware of this.

BANGABHUMI,
Mar. 12th, 1901.

49. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 12th March gives the following account of its Editor's interview with Mr. Pennell:—

Hearing that Mr. Pennell, the famous Judge of Noakhali, was come to Calcutta, and was putting up in the Continental Hotel, we went to see him on Saturday, the 9th March. As soon as he received our card, he came out smiling and welcomed us in. On taking his seat in the room, the first thing he said, of himself, was that the day before, that is, on Friday last, he had been to the High Court to make over the records of the Noakhali murder case and that the Registrar, Mr. Sheepshanks, had, after a reference to the Judges of the Appellate Side, received the papers from him. We now asked him why he had been transferred from Burma. Mr. Pennell said in reply that as the climate of Burma did not agree with him, he had himself prayed for transfer and that there was no truth in Sir John Woodburn's statement that he had incurred odium there. Mr. Pennell here showed a certificate from the then Lieutenant-Governor of Burma, Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

Editor.—People say that you have been illegally suspended. What do you think yourself about the matter?

Mr. Pennell.—I will say nothing about the law. But everybody, I suppose, will admit that I have been unjustly treated.

Editor.—Why were you suspended?

Mr. Pennell.—Why, no specific offence has been laid to my charge. But, I fancy, this has been done with a view to save Reilly.

Editor.—Mr. Pennell, if you had written your judgment with a little more coolness you might have benefited us still more.

Mr. Pennell.—Babu, I did not easily lose my temper. You will be surprised to hear of the repeated oppressions to which I have been subjected.

Editor.—Do you think that you will be dismissed from the Civil Service?

Mr. Pennell.—I don't know exactly yet. But I am afraid that the Lieutenant-Governor will not venture to keep me any longer in the Civil Service.

Editor.—What is Lord Curzon's opinion about you?

Mr. Pennell.—Lord Curzon will certainly try to uphold the prestige of his executive service.

Editor.—Do you think that the members of the executive service are up in arms against you solely from a desire to carry their point?

Mr. Pennell.—Yes, that is one of the motives. But do you think that it would be expedient to state the other motives?

Here Mr. Pennell asked us to take tea. When tea came, we resumed our interrogation and said:—You have declared that you will practise as a Barrister, if you lose service. Where will you practise?

Mr. Pennell.—Will not Bengal be able to maintain me?

Editor.—Bengal owes you a debt, which she will never be able to repay with money.

Mr. Pennell.—I really cannot find words to express the delight, which your words give me. But why do you praise me so much? I have done nothing beyond doing my duty.

Editor.—Even this is a thing that our officials seldom do. Your fearless judgment will introduce a new era in judicial administration in Bengal.

Mr. Pennell.—Babu, I will always do my duty while life lasts.

Editor.—We pray to God that you may always feel thus.

Mr. Pennell.—That is what I too pray for.

Editor.—Mr. Pennell, you must give us a photograph of yours.

Mr. Pennell.—I regret I have none by me. Let the case be over and then do with me as you like. What will Government think if you now publish a photograph of me?

I now bade him good-bye. Mr. Pennell presented me with a fine card and asked me to see him another day at my leisure.

50. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 12th March says that over and above the construction of a Victoria Hall, money should be collected for commemorating the late Empress by the establishment of a free-boarding school in every district under the name of the Victoria Boarding School. This will perpetuate her sacred memory among the mass of people in this country. Considering the population of the country, the money devoted to its education is very small.

A commemoration proposal.

TRIPURA
HITAISHI,
Mar. 12th, 1901.

URIYA PAPERS.

51. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 27th February is strongly of opinion that the Viceroy should revise the order of the late Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces and make Uriya the Court language of the people of Sambalpur and its Feudatory States. The writer states that if administrative difficulties arise in the matter, Sambalpur with its Feudatory States may be transferred to Orissa Proper, of which it was a part and parcel in former days.

The Court language in Sambalpur.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Feb. 27th, 1901.

52. The *Samvadvaika* [Balasore] of the 28th February states that other Provincial Governments should follow the example of Bombay in strictly prohibiting the sale of *ganja* to children, as such prohibition may produce much good in the end.

Sale of *ganja* to children

SAMVADVAIKA,
Feb. 28th, 1901.

53. The same paper regrets that owing to the influx of a large number of pilgrims, bound for Puri, passengers in the various stations of the Calcutta-Puri line find it extremely inconvenient to pursue their journey. Many after purchasing tickets are compelled to stay in the station for hours together for want of accommodation in the passing train. The writer hopes that the Company will rise equal to the occasion and make special arrangements for the benefit of all classes of passengers on the present occasion.

Excessive pilgrim traffic on the Puri line.

SAMVADVAIKA,

54. The same paper is glad to find that the Government of India has asked the Military Department to purchase articles of local manufacture for its use, whenever such articles are found to be good and cheap. The writer observes that this is a move in the right direction, as it will give encouragement and life to many a dying industry in India.

Government's encouragement of Indian manufacture.

SAMVADVAIKA,

55. The *Utkal dipika* [Cuttack] of the 2nd March is sorry to learn that Mr. Harris, the Officiating Commissioner of the Orissa Division, is leaving the Division on transfer, as he had endeared himself to all classes of the people by his justice, mercy, discretion and polite manners. The writer states that he had made himself an object of esteem within the short period of one year, which is rarely the case with many English officers.

Mr. Harris.

UTKALDIPIKA.
Mar. 2nd, 1901.

56. Referring to an untimely flood in the river Mahanadi in this season of the year, the same paper states that the people of the Cuttack district look upon this as ominous and believe it to be a harbinger of future evils.

Untimely flood in the Mahanadi.

UTKALDIPIKA.

57. The same paper complains that the District Magistrate of Cuttack has compelled the establishment to do census work during the Dol Jatra holidays, and states that this might have been easily avoided without any prejudice to the census work.

Compulsory Census work during a holiday.

UTKALDIPIKA.

58. The same paper relying on the information given by its correspondent Babu Harihar Ghosh points out that the estate Deviprasad, tauzi No. 234—1 in pargana Kurlo, in district Puri, bears a sadar jama of Rs. 293-12 whereas the khatian supplied to the zamindar bears a mufassal jama of Rs. 239. Thus the zamindar had to pay a loss of Rs. 54-12 every year and not withstanding his representations nobody could give him any relief. The estate then ran into arrears and was put up for sale. It did not fetch even one rupee in the public sale. The Collector of Puri was, therefore, compelled to take other proceedings to realise the land revenue that had run into arrears. The writer observes that though the zamindar executed a *kabuliyat* to pay the above sadar jama, he

Settlement mistakes resulting in hardships to zamindars.

UTKALDIPIKA.

never thought that the Settlement Officers had committed such a palpable mistake. There may be other instances of hardship like the one that has come to the public notice. Considering the fact that the petty zamindars of Orissa are poor and ignorant, it is proper that the Commissioner and the Board of Revenue should look to this and authorise the Collector to correct mistakes of the Settlement Department and give other reliefs to the zamindars of which they may stand in need. A representation to this effect was submitted to His Honour at Balasore by the Balasore National Society during the last cold weather and it is a matter of regret, observes the writer, that no proper notice was taken of the matter.

UTKALDIPKA,
Mar. 2nd, 1901.

59. The same paper is astonished that the Government of Australia are going to exclude the Indians from that island and impose duties on Indian goods by legislation, whereas Australians are free to settle in India and export Australian goods to that country free of duty. The writer hopes that Lord Curzon will take serious notice of the iniquity of the arrangement.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,
Offg. Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 16th March, 1901.

REPORT (PART II)
ON
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE
Week ending Saturday, 16th March, 1901.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

859. The *Indian Mirror* says that, for the first time in the history of the British Indian Empire, the people of India have something like a personal reign. That India holds a high place in His Majesty's estimation has been evinced by the fact that she will be represented at the Imperial ceremony in Australasia, when His Royal Highness the Duke of York opens the first Parliament of Federated Australasia. But the Indians consider this to be a purely sentimental sufferance in the Imperial scheme, and crave for something more which would make them feel that they enjoy their share of the Empire's heritage. In the consolidation of the Empire, India should have a more genuine and juster apportionment.
- India and the consolidation of the Empire.
- INDIAN MIRROR, 8th March 1901.
860. The same paper says that, according to the *Times'* Pekin correspondent, England, Japan, Germany, Austria, Italy and the United States have protested against the Manchurian Convention, but it is expected that China will yield to Russia. This will create some serious misunderstanding between Russia and the other Powers. The Americans are quite tired of the business and are about to leave Pekin. Japan has notified to China that she will want an equivalent if Russia is granted territorial and commercial advantages.
- The trouble in China.
- INDIAN MIRROR, 8th March 1901.
861. *Power and Guardian* views the situation in South Africa as deplorable for the Boers, and recommends the speedy conclusion of the war.
- The Boer War.
- POWER AND GUARDIAN, 10th March 1901.
862. The settling of Boer prisoners in Kulu has occasioned the natives of that town great consternation, but *Power and Guardian* fails to discover the least cause for fear, and remarks that, on the settlement of affairs in South Africa, the imprisoned Boers will be liberated and subjected to British rule.
- Boer prisoners for India.
- POWER AND GUARDIAN, 10th March 1901.
863. The *Indian Mirror* says that the Kaiser's friendship for the English Royal Family and the British people does not seem to find favour with the Germans. The feeling on the subject ran so high that Count Von Buelow had to explain that the friendship was purely human and non-political. The Germans evidently do not love the English, whatever the predilections of their Emperor may be.
- German attitude towards the English.
- INDIAN MIRROR, 10th March 1901.
864. The *Bengalee* refers to the war fever that is raging in different parts of the world—in South Africa, Somaliland, and China, and to the precious lives that are being wasted to the detriment of universal progress. The sooner therefore peace reigns everywhere, the better for human progress.
- The war fever.
- BENGALÉE, 13th March 1901.
865. The *Indian Mirror* hears that as in India the Malays, or Muham-madans of Cape Town, have resisted the plague regulations prescribed by the South African authorities, desiring merely to be left alone. The *Mirror* fears that the plague in South Africa will prove even a greater curse than the war.
- The plague in Cape Town.
- INDIAN MIRROR, 14th March 1901.
866. The same paper sees signs of the hopelessness of the Boer cause and the end of the war near in sight.
- The Boer war.
- INDIAN MIRROR, 14th March 1901.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

867. A correspondent writes to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* to report a daring dacoity that was committed on the 27th February, by some 30 ruffians, who cruelly beat the inmates of a house and decamped with money and valuables amounting to Rs. 2,000. There are thousands of up country coolies employed in the local mills, and these acts of lawlessness are generally ascribed to them.
- Lawlessness at Budge-Budge.
- AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 9th March 1901.
868. The *Bengalee* learns that there is a band of *budmashes* at Burra Bazar, who make it their business to kidnap girls for purposes of prostitution. In making inquiries into the loss of a little girl the other day, the police discovered another girl,
- Budmashi* in Burra Bazar.
- BENGALÉE, 12th March 1901.

who had been kidnapped on the 23rd January last. Two persons are now awaiting trial for kidnapping. With this girl there were discovered two other Marwari girls who had been kidnapped. Why have not their case been taken up? The *budmashes* should be hunted down and punished.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
13th March 1901.

869. A correspondent writes to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* that the case in which a postman charged some Kabulis with the robbery of a mail bag has been greatly exaggerated by the *Bengalee*. No local excitement has been created over the case, and the decision of the trying Magistrate in dismissing the case is considered satisfactory.

INDIAN MIRROR,
14th March 1901.

870. The *Indian Mirror* remarks that crime of one kind or another in Burra Bazar, Calcutta, appears like its filth, to be ineradicable. It has been discovered by the merest accident that women and girls are being spirited away, both for the greed of their ornaments and for the purpose of prostitution. It is hoped that the clue obtained by the Calcutta Police will be diligently followed up.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BENGALIE,
8th March 1901.

871. A correspondent from Sambalpur (Central Provinces) writes to the *Bengalee* complaining of the abolition, since 1896, of Uriya as the Court language of Sambalpur, much to the inconvenience of the people, and prays for its re-introduction.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th March 1901.

872. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that Mr. Pearson's judgment in the case *Empress versus Mohendra Nath Mukerji* is an able one, and the accused has been acquitted by him. The case created a good deal of sensation, owing to the main issue being whether Babu Mohendranath Mukerji, Sub-divisional Officer of Basirhat, or the accused had been guilty of falsehood.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th March 1901.

873. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes a letter addressed to the Advocate of Lucknow by a retired Deputy Collector *in re* the Etah case, in which 16 out of the 17 accused have been sentenced to death, and the sentence has been confirmed by the Allahabad High Court. The *Patrika* says that if the crime was diabolical, the provocation was not less so, and the extreme sentence in such cases is out of all proportion to the offence. It suggests that a petition for mercy be submitted to the Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces.

(d)—Education.

INDIAN MIRROR,
8th March 1901.

874. The *Indian Mirror* says that the Viceroy is seriously devoting himself to the consideration of the question of technical education. Mr. Alfred Chatterton of the Madras Engineering College has, at His Excellency's invitation, come to Calcutta to discuss the matter with him, and Sir Edward Buck has been placed on special duty to visit different parts of India in connection with technical education.

BENGALIE,
9th March 1901.

The *Bengalee* hopes that His Excellency will place the matter on a satisfactory footing before the termination of his Viceroyalty.

BENGALIE,
9th March 1901.

875. The same paper complains that the paper on English Grammar and Composition at the Entrance examination was a little too stiff for the candidates, but it is glad to learn that instructions have been issued to make a liberal allotment of marks in this paper.

BEHAR NEWS,
9th March 1901.

876. The *Behar News* complains of the proximity of brothels to the Tejnarain College, Bhagalpur, which is found to be injurious to the morals of the students, and appeals to the leading men on the College Committee to form a deputation and approach the Magistrate and Commissioner with a view to removing the nuisance.

877. The *Bihar Herald* points to seven reasons why Educational institutions in India are a failure. The remedy lies in altering the course of studies and associating in it objects of a practical and technical character so as to develop India's resources, industries and commerce. A commercial institution, like Dr. Hawthorne's at Lanowlee in Bombay, is what is needed in this province.

BHAR HERALD,
9th March 1901.

878. A writer in the *Behar News* gives instances of two poor orphans, who passed the Upper Primary examination from the Barahpura Upper Primary School, and got each a scholarship. But as there is no middle vernacular school with Urdu text-books in the town, they could not prosecute their studies further and did not enjoy the benefit of the scholarship. It is incumbent therefore, upon the authorities to raise one of the upper primary schools at Barahpura, Mujahidpur, in Bhagalpur to the status of a middle vernacular school for the study of Urdu.

BEHAR NEWS,
9th March 1901.

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

879. With regard to the announcement that the points of dispute relating to the Suburban Drainage Contracts have been referred to the arbitration of Mr. Buckley, and that the issues have been framed by the Engineer of the Corporation, the *Bengalee* welcomes the arbitration of Mr. Buckley, but takes objection to the issues being framed by the Engineer and not by the Vice-Chairman. It says that if the Corporation is really anxious for a fair and impartial arbitration, it should ask the Vice-Chairman to frame the issues and depute him to explain to the Arbitrator all the facts in connection with the case; otherwise the arbitration will fail to give public satisfaction.

BENGALIEE,
8th March 1901.

880. It invites attention to a memorial addressed by the inhabitants of Agarpara to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor complaining of the nuisance caused by the trenching-ground, and prays that His Honour will order an investigation into the matter.

BENGALIEE,
9th March 1901.

881. The same journal discloses certain facts in connection with the Suburban drainage works, illustrative of the way in which the Municipal executive do their work. Mr. Baldwin Latham suggested to the Engineer of the Corporation that the construction of the drainage should start from the end and proceed upwards, and the Commissioners entrusted the Engineer with the proper execution of the work. The advice of Mr. Baldwin Latham was disregarded, and the work was begun from the top. It cost the municipality six lakhs of rupees and was finished two years ago, and will remain useless for some years till the middle-sewerage system and the outfall works are completed. The *Bengalee* says that while "the rates are being realised by recourse to all those coercive measures which the law has placed so freely at the disposal of the executive, the framers of the law should see that the rate-payers' money is not wasted upon works which bring them no return of any kind."

BENGALIEE,
9th March 1901.

882. *Power and Guardian* refers to the recent action of the Warrant Department of the Calcutta Municipality in realising arrear rates and taxes as nothing short of what dacoits adopt in their nefarious task.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
10th March 1901.

883. An L. M. S. writes to the *Bengalee* complaining of the dust in Calcutta, and the inadequate steps taken by the Municipality to allay it. He mentions that dust conveys all sorts of germs.

BENGALIEE,
13th March 1901.

884. A correspondent writes in the *Indian Mirror* of Mr. Turner's references to "poor blacks not being pampered at the expense of the poor whites" at the Municipal Budget debate, as follows:—

INDIAN MIRROR,
14th March 1901.

This gentleman went on swimmingly in this happy strain without being pulled up for such an indecorous expression as he used. We do not wonder at

the coffee-house manners, of which the foreigners now and again make an exhibition to the disgust of the Indians. Mr. Chamberlain is the father of this gigantic Imperialism; he is the *beau idéal* of a gentleman, a statesman and a politician, and the British people are tied on to his colossal garter; and we are not surprised at Mr. Turner and his compatriots being indecent and vulgar. Poor souls, they cannot help themselves."

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
9th March 1901.

885. The *Hindoo Patriot* discusses the question whether a landholder should for ever enjoy the fruits of improvement on his estate, or whether the State should claim an enhancement of revenue eventually on account of the increased value of the land. It gives the arguments that are put forward in support of both sides, and says that the point for consideration is that the interests of the State and of the proprietors of land are closely bound up together, and that if pledges were given *in perpetuity* to the land-owning classes, their rights would not be interfered with, capital would be largely employed in improving land, and the hardships that are now experienced by increased assessment would disappear.

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

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
9th March 1901.

Treatment of Indian passengers
on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

886. The *Moslem Chronicle* publishes a complaint against the conduct of the Railway authorities of Dhanmandal station on the East Coast Railway. On the night of the 19th February the passenger train for Calcutta got derailed at Dhanmandal station and passengers were transferred to another train. Among them were a respectable Muhammadan and a Hindu zamindar with his wife, holding second-class tickets, but they were not allowed to get into their proper compartments, but had to travel third-class all the way. They represented the matter at the Howrah station, but no notice was taken of their complaint, nor was any refund allowed.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
11th March 1901.

887. With regard to the question of the rapid transit of mails between Calcutta and Bombay, the *Hindoo Patriot* considers that the Chambers of Commerce of Bombay and Calcutta would do well to take combined action in the matter.

(h)—General.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th March 1901.

888. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* eulogises the services rendered by Nawab Amir Husain as Presidency Magistrate, and approves of the appointment of Mr. Abdul Rahim in his place. It says that Government would have carried the whole country with it if it had appointed Mr. Rahim to the Deputy Legal Remembrancership and had extended the Nawab's service or selected a Deputy Magistrate for the place.

BENGALIEE,
8th March 1901.

889. The *Bengalee* enquires into the charge made by Mr. Hill against Mr. Pennell of having indulged in indecency of language in his judgment, and comes to the conclusion that Mr. Pennell was right in what he did. It thus sums up the article: "Having regard to the importance of the issues raised, it would have been far more satisfactory if the High Court had gone more into detail in their order admitting Mr. Reily to bail. It would, as we have said before, have settled the law on this point, and would have established a valuable precedent for the guidance in future of both Bench and Bar in matters of bail. The order of the High Court, so far as it has gone, has left the law where it was before, so that it is practically useless as a guide for the future, and the only purpose that it has served has been to give birth to a host of doubts and vague surmises which are productive of more harm than good."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th March 1901.

890. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* gives an extract from Mr. Pennell's judgment and, while commenting upon it, says that in punishing Mr. Pennell, Government has undermined the value of "prestige," and that there has been some display of

temper on the part of both the Government and the High Court, inasmuch as the matter of his suspension was decided and published in haste without Mr. Pennell being given an opportunity to explain his conduct. It says that "Mr. Pennell has sacrificed himself to prove that it is Police rule that obtains here. And though he has got his punishment and may get more, yet he has, in one sense, gained his point."

891. The *Hindoo Patriot* discusses the Noakhali case and Mr. Pennell's suspension. It says that the interest of the public

The case of Mr. Pennell.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
8th March 1901.

is not in the main plot, but in the episodes which it involves and in which the highest officials are concerned. Mr. Pennell is at the present moment the most popular European officer in the province, and is looked upon as a martyr. The order of his suspension was passed without any proper enquiry being made and has intensified his popularity. The action of the Executive is liable to be misconstrued in this connection. The *Hindoo Patriot* wishes Mr. Pennell all success in his dangerous undertaking. "He has to fight against giants, and a giant's strength is necessary to overcome a giant." The suspension of Mr. Pennell, it says, removes the obligation on him to show cause why the committal of Mr. Reily should not be set aside or investigated by some other Judge. When the case is called on and no cause will be shown, the High Court will have therefore to make the rule absolute and discharge Mr. Reily.

892. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* gives instances in which fault was found with the conduct of some Civilians, but none of them were ever suspended. Mr. Pennell had this

Ibid.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th March 1901.

sense of security in his mind and trusted to the protection of the English people against the displeasure of his immediate superiors. In his case all formalities in the shape of an enquiry by commission were dispensed with, and Government displayed a scandalous haste in his suspension. While condemning strongly the disrespectful and rancorous utterances that have found place in his judgment, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* attributes these to mental aberration, the result of ill-treatment.

893. The *Reis and Rayyet* refers to Mr. Pennell's suspension under the head of the "Noakhali Blast." It finds Mr.

Ibid.

REIS AND RAYYET,
9th March 1901.

Pennell's judgment a merciless, rude and uncompromising criticism of the administration, in which the Judge has shown temper and used unparliamentary language. It learns that all the Judges of the High Court were not agreed as to the punishment inflicted on Mr. Pennell, and it further condemns the haste and temper shown in meting out that punishment. "Mr. Pennell's judgment makes him a hero. His suspension makes him greater."

"The blast blown by Mr. Pennell is, indeed, terrible! It uproots many things, causing much damage and to many. It destroys or disfigures all that it meets, and its direction is long. Lord Curzon is not above its flight. Sir John Woodburn has the greatest pressure. Mr. Justice Rampini is thrown into a mire. Justices Prinsep and Stevens suffer for their sons in the Bengal Police, which, by its conduct, occasioned the outburst.

It is, as we say in Bengali, the bite of death. Whether or not the bite is of false teeth, will appear by and bye."

894. In the first of a series of articles on Mr. Pennell's suspension, the *Bengalee* holds that on the alleged facts of the case,

Ibid.

BENGALÉE,
10th March 1901.

or at all events on so much of them as are at present before the public, a case for immediate suspension has not been made out against Mr. Pennell.

Proceeding to enquire into the legal aspect of the case, the *Bengalee* finds that in sending for the records before the allotted time the Chief Justice was not warranted by law, and "it must be held that Mr. Pennell's refusal to comply with an illegal order cannot be construed into 'gross misconduct and insubordination,' for it is an established principle of law that no man is bound to obey an order which he knows to be illegal."

BENGALÉE,
12th March 1901.

Then, as to the application of section 26 of the Criminal Procedure Code, under which Mr. Pennell was suspended, it is urged that "it was necessary

first to find Mr. Pennell guilty of *judicial* misconduct or misconduct in his capacity of Sessions Judge," and what he did, does not amount to the offence covered by that section.

As to the operation of section 31 of the Bengal Civil Courts' Act, the second section under which Mr. Pennell was punished—the same paper finds that it is clear that the misconduct to which that section refers also relates to misconduct in the capacity of a judicial officer. Therefore this section no more applies than the other.

BENGAL, 13th March 1901.

In its last article on the subject the *Bengalee* holds "it is clear that if the High Court advised the Local Government to suspend Mr. Pennell under section 31 of the Bengal Civil Courts' Act and under section 26 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, it was incumbent on the High Court to hold a judicial inquiry into Mr. Pennell's case; for the advice of the High Court to the Local Government, in order to be legal, was bound to be based on a judicial inquiry. We must confess, therefore, that we cannot help thinking that the meeting of the Judges *in camera* and the recommendation to Government for the suspension of Mr. Pennell, which was the result of that meeting, were *ultra vires*."

Then as to the condemnation of Mr. Pennell before his defence was taken, the writer observes:—

"The new departure, therefore, made by the High Court in Mr. Pennell's case, of condemning him unheard, has come as a painful surprise to the public. It cannot be said that the exigencies of the occasion demanded prompt action on the part of the High Court, and as time was of the utmost consequence in this case, that Court was justified, in view of the urgency of the case, in departing from its ordinary practice."

POWER AND GUARDIAN, 10th March 1901.

895. *Power and Guardian* devotes considerable space to the Noakhali case and the suspension of Mr. Pennell. It considers the latter a truly wonderful man, for whose merits as a British Judge and gentleman it has the highest esteem. It would like to see the judgment which is a fearless and impartial criticism of the administrative machinery, which has been condemned by Congress leaders, printed and circulated broadcast over the land.

INDIAN NATION, 11th March 1901.

896. The *Indian Nation* has a number of articles on Mr. Pennell's suspension, in which it questions the justice of the step taken by the Government. It further asks how long the suspension is to continue and what enquiries are pending in the case, and if there are none, what is to determine the suspension?

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 11th March 1901.

897. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that, if some harshness has been shown towards Mr. Pennell, the Government has made it up by its kindness to Mr. Reily. No sooner was Mr. Reily sent to *hajrat*, than the Magistrate of the district accompanied by his wife called upon Mr. Pennell to intercede on his behalf. The Government Pleader tried to move the Judge, at the instance of the Magistrate. The Chief Justice himself sent a telegram requesting Mr. Pennell to carefully consider the matter. Mr. Justice Amir Ali issued a rule, though the record was not before him, and adopted the unusual procedure of sending a telegram in his name for the release of Mr. Reily on bail.

HINDOO PATRIOT, 12th March 1901.

898. The Noakhali Bar Association at a meeting held on 9th March recorded the sense of their profound sorrow at the suspension of their illustrious and upright Judge, Mr. A. P. Pennell. The Government Pleader did not join in the meeting.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 12th March 1901.

899. The Mymensingh correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the public of that town, where Mr. Pennell is known and liked so well, is anxious to know why the Government have chosen to gazette Mr. Pennell's suspension when they have not given the same prominence to Mr. Reily's.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 12th March 1901.

900. In the course of an article on English love of fair play contributing towards maintaining England's greatness, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* refers to the case of Mr. Pennell who is not the outcast he is thought to be. He is daily receiving large

numbers of letters and telegrams of sympathy from his own countrymen all over India. The *Patrika* concludes as follows:—

"By the way, is the suspension of Mr. Pennell legal or illegal? We venture to hope that Lord Curzon will be pleased to take the opinion of the Advocate-General and take action accordingly. Reading the section, it seems to us that he has been illegally suspended."

901. The *Indian Empire* does not for a moment believe all the charges

INDIAN EMPIRE,
12th March 1901.

Mr. Pennell.

which Mr. Pennell has brought against the Government and the Judges, but nevertheless it does not "approve of any hasty and injudicious act on the part of the Judges or the Government to punish Mr. Pennell. Whatever might be his offence, Mr. Pennell has a right to be heard, and to condemn unheard an official in Mr. Pennell's position—as not even an explanation was called for from Mr. Pennell before his suspension—is surely not fair, and the Judges will have to thank themselves if they fail to rise in public estimation after a procedure of the kind.

"Let the attitude of the Government be consistent on this occasion with its usual dignity, and let it remember that its honoured head is in the position of somewhat like an accused person before the tribunal of public opinion. Let it at first clear its character and let it establish that our good Lieutenant-Governor had never harboured the unholy thought of interfering with Mr. Pennell in his judicial independence, and that the latter had simply laboured under a delusion. Then and then will be the time to complain, then and then will be the time to consider about the punishment of Mr. Pennell.

"It will be a misfortune to the country and to the Government as well, if the accusations of Mr. Pennell are overlooked, because they are garbed in strong language. Surely that could only be a pretext to burke an enquiry. The issue involved is so important that the High Court cannot pass it over in silence.

"The language used is no doubt in many places highly improper, and we for one cannot condemn it too strongly, but let that not be an excuse for overlooking it."

902. The *Indian Mirror* criticises Mr. Pennell's judgment and holds that,

INDIAN MIRROR,
13th March 1901.

Ibid.

whatever opinion may be passed upon it, this much is certain that Mr. Pennell was courting a fall for himself, while he was all along fired with the ambition, with every risk to himself personally, to purge the administration of abuses in all its departments. However opinion might be divided as to Mr. Pennell's discretion in the methods adopted by him to achieve his purpose, Indians at least are agreed in thinking that he is a hero and a martyr. Of course, there will not be a few Europeans, chiefly officials, who will say that Mr. Pennell has been playing to the gallery. But the action of the High Court has made him a still greater hero and martyr in the popular imagination. The *Mirror* would have wished that the High Court had been less hasty.

903. In its next issue it characterizes Mr. Pennell's suspension as a piece

INDIAN MIRROR,
14th March 1901.

Ibid.

of "almost unprecedented official high-handedness," and "grossly illegal." The suspended Judge's reason for desiring to make over the records of the case personally to the High Court was "no more blameable than his anxiety was natural." Under the orders of the Divisional Court the records were not returnable till the 9th. Mr. Pennell, however, called on the Chief Justice with them on the 3rd, but was not granted an interview.

"The conduct of the Chief Justice in this particular instance might have been quite consistent with his idea of the dignity of his position, of which he is such a stout champion, but we cannot help thinking that it is hardly likely to commend itself to the approval of the majority of men."

Overriding the order of the Divisional Bench the Chief Justice, who had no jurisdiction over it, and without vesting himself with such jurisdiction, ordered Messrs. Chapman and Sheepshanks to get the records from Mr. Pennell. That being so, "we have absolutely no hesitation in saying, that what the Chief Justice did was *ultra vires*, and that it was not Mr. Pennell, but the Chief Justice who was in the wrong. We are, therefore, strongly of opinion that Mr. Pennell, having personally handed over the record to the Registrar on the 5th instant,

that in four clear days before the expiring date of the rate, issued by the Criminal Bench, the conduct cannot be construed into 'embellishment or improvement' except, of course, by giving up the usual contemporary imagination."

General Summary
10th March 1897

104. The *Madras Chronicle* expresses its opposition to Mr. Abbot's proposed suggestion for—
Boling, Esq., Secretary, to the Secretary, Madras, (Madras) Division, Madras, and says that the new Magistrate is bound to be a success.

General Summary
10th March 1897

105. In publishing a letter which appeared in the *Explicator* in which a gentleman complained of his losses having been taken off his family, the *Magistrate* says that the charge of such an order never produces satisfactory results.

General Summary
10th March 1897

106. In connection with the value of the money, a correspondent writes to the *Madras Chronicle* within the money was not improved and was, employed otherwise as to their work and paid them from their own pockets.

General Summary
10th March 1897

107. The *Madras Chronicle* has received complaints from the Householders of Bangalore and St. Petersburg, against being shown in the Census returns as "Arya" and "Vedya". To compel the people to be thus attested is to proceed functions which are very much wanted.

General Summary
10th March 1897

108. The *Bengalee* appeals to the Lieutenant-Governor to make a personal examination into the question of the appointment of natives of Bengal in the Executive Service as it has learnt on enquiry that there are ten such officers employed in Calcutta. It says that there is a good deal of irregularity against the employment of Bengalis in the Department which appears in the press.

General Summary
10th March 1897

109. A correspondent writes to the *Bengalee* expressing regret regarding the only individual against whom legislation is practicable of the colonial system of treatment and not by the indigenous practitioners, who should get a license from the State Board of Health to be appointed by the Government.

General Summary
10th March 1897

110. The *Madras Chronicle* refers to a memorial which the members of Patna and Gaya are submitting to the Government, praying for the abolition of their grammar. It appears that these people are privileged, on paying a license fee of Rs. 15 a year, to practice in all Criminal Courts, Sessions and District Courts. No other persons are allowed to examine a witness of fact, and as they require to pay a separate license fee to practice in the District and Sessions Courts or other license Courts. But witnesses are required not only to pay a separate examination fee, but also a fee of Rs. 15 annually to stand and sit in Criminal Courts and only to sit in Civil Courts. They are further required to pay another license fee of Rs. 15 a year to practice in District Courts. The memorialists further argue that they have to qualify themselves in the same manner as the pleaders, yet are prohibited from practicing in all District Courts, without further examination with the magistrates and they are compelled to go through another exam if they want to practice in all District Courts. The *Chronicle* strongly supports the memorial but must like to treat the matter seriously in Bengal just now.

General Summary
10th March 1897

111. The *Madras Chronicle* says that the almost perfect state of the Indian Press Administration is due to the presence in the Department of a number of fine able men, the most average whom is Mr. Kitch. It states that with great pleasure the Government has Mr. Kitch has been placed in charge of the Department as Deputy Secretary for the Press.

General Summary
10th March 1897

112. The *Madras Chronicle* complains that a recent appointment by the Lieutenant-Governor of Disraeli has given great dissatisfaction to the Madras Press. It appears that it is a vacancy which occurred only three months since, and that a Madras Press is a vacancy and a

Hindu. The Hindu candidate was appointed, in spite of the recommendation of the District Registrar in favour of the Musalman candidate. This is most unfair, inasmuch as Chittagong is a Muhammadan district, and the Muhammadan candidate was the senior and most competent of the three. It prays that Government will reconsider the case.

913. The *Bengalee* appeals to the Chief Justice to take into consideration the claims of the Hon'ble Mr. B. L. Gupta to fill up the temporary vacancy which will be created when Mr. Justice Stevens goes on leave. The Hon'ble Mr. Gupta is the most senior among the District Judges and his fitness is unquestioned.

BENGALÉE,
10th March 1901.

914. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that the Secretary of State for India, who is paid by the Indians, and is morally responsible to them for his actions, has to pay court to the British manufacturers, and the Indian authorities are compelled, against their will, to help in the destruction of indigenous manufactures of the country. The importation of Indian goods to England and of machineries to India have been prohibited or prevented, and duties upon cotton industry, which fetched a handsome revenue, have been removed. The introduction of the Permanent Settlement of land everywhere, which the Government had contemplated, and which would have prevented the recurrence of famines, was given up because the interest of Manchester would have suffered.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th March 1901.

915. The *Hindoo Patriot* hopes that the memorial of the Uriya-speaking population of Sambalpur, in the Central Provinces, for the restoration of that language as the official vernacular of the district, will receive due attention from the Government of India.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
12th March 1901.

916. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes to say that the judgment of Mr. Hamilton, Joint-Magistrate of Chittagong, a copy of which it published, in which the Joint-Magistrate is alleged to have called a certain pleader a "stupid," &c. (paragraph 692), was a forgery, and the whole affair was got up apparently by some enemy of the pleader to ridicule him.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th March 1901.

917. The *Bengalee* expresses the surprise and pain of the whole country that such distinguished officers like Pabus Nabin Chandra Sen, Atul Chandra Chatterji and Maulvi Abdul Kader should have been left out in the cold by the present Government of Bengal, while others, who are unknown to fame, have been pitchforked into higher appointments.

BENGALÉE,
12th March 1901.

918. The Bankipore correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reports that the Civil and Garrison Police raided the premises of a liquor shop in Dinapur late one night and found some soldiers drinking there. This case proves conclusively the correctness of the complaint which gave the Munster Fusiliers such a bad name, that there has been for a long time an illicit sale of liquor to soldiers, and the hope is expressed that the license of the lessee of the Dinapur outstill, who is guilty of this breach of Excise rules, should be cancelled.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th March 1901.

919. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, in the course of an article on the Noakhali case, understands that Lord Curzon intends to effect the re-organisation of the police. If he can do it, not in a slipshod, but in a really effective manner, that will be a boon indeed. The question is mainly one of money. The police is bound to be the protector of the people, if it is manned by respectable and educated classes; but the latter, as a rule, cannot enter the department in large numbers, because the pay is so small. The other obstacle in the way of police reform is that Government has to provide for the sons of high officials who are quite unfit for any other work.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
13th March 1901.

920. A correspondent writes to the same journal that the semblance of local self-government in Jangipur has been got rid of at last. The Deputy Magistrate is now its Chairman, backed by the Inspector of Police, who is on the Committee. An old and independent Honorary Magistrate has been forced to resign the Bench, while the local dispensary, which

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
13th March 1901.

has hitherto been under an Assistant Surgeon, will now be placed in charge of a Civil Hospital Assistant.

III.—LEGISLATION.

INDIAN MIRROR,
8th March 1901.

921. The *Indian Mirror* approves of the suggestion of the *Hindoo Patriot* that both Babu Surendranath Banerji and the Maharaja of Darbhanga, between whom there is a tie, should be nominated, as there are two vacancies. But in the event of this proving to be inadvisable, the *Indian Mirror* supports the candidature of Babu Surendranath, as he is the nominee of the representatives of educated public opinion in Bengal, and all his votes come from the elected members of the Council.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
9th March 1901.

922. The *Hindoo Patriot* gives a detailed account of the debate in the Viceregal Legislative Council on the Assam Labour Bill. Referring to the Chief Commissioner's speech, it says that the Chief Commissioner of Assam is not a stranger to Calcutta, and his address did justice throughout to his well known sympathy for the people, and his eloquent exposition of the hard lot of the Indian coolie was deeply stirring.

BENGALIEE,
9th March 1901.

923. The *Bengalee* regrets that Bengal and Bombay should be unrepresented in the Viceregal Council on the question of the Assam Labour Bill.

BENGALIEE,
10th March 1901.

924. The same paper says that the attitude of Government with respect to the two Bills teaches an impressive lesson. The Municipal Bill was passed into law in spite of the strenuous opposition of the Indian community, and not the slightest concession was made to their unanimous prayer. But when the planters objected to the raising of the wages of coolies, Government hurriedly modified the Assam Emigration Bill and deferred justice being done to them for three years.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
10th March 1901.

925. *Power and Guardian* honestly believes that the tea industry has reached a crisis, and the proposed enhancement in the wage scale would have ruined it altogether. The compromise proposed is acceptable to the general public, and the respite granted to the planting community will, the *Guardian* trusts, contribute to the prosperity of the industry.

INDIAN MIRROR,
10th March 1901.

926. Commenting on the passing of the Assam Labour Bill and the debate in the Council, the *Indian Mirror* says:—
"We are utterly surprised at the weakness exhibited by Government, and we cannot hide from ourselves the conviction that in order to propitiate Anglo-Indian susceptibilities, Government will go even so far as to damage its "prestige," as to discard one of its most trusted and capable servants. The thing was evidently pre-arranged."

BENGALIEE,
10th March 1901.

927. The *Bengalee* characterises the decision arrived at by Government in connection with the question of the coolie wage in the Assam plantations as a "stultifying" one. While admitting the justness of the demand for the increase of wages, the Viceroy had no hesitation in accepting the proposal to defer the increment for two years. Government has often countenanced proceedings which are unjustifiable, for the sake of prestige; and yet where the prestige of local officers or even of the local Administration cannot be maintained without incurring the displeasure of a powerful section of the Anglo-Indian community, the Government does not hesitate to throw the local Administration overboard and to leave its prestige to take care of itself. Lord Curzon's Government has fatally undermined the prestige of the Chief Commissioner, and given yet another proof of the stubborn fact that the primary object of British rule in India is to benefit the European capitalist and merchant, even, if necessary, at the sacrifice of justice and humanity.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
11th March 1901.

928. The *Hindoo Patriot*, commenting on the postponement of the operation of the wage clause in the Assam Labour Bill, concludes as follows:—
"The representative of their Sovereign gives sympathetic attention to their appeal, but says, 'Wait for three years more; live on for three years more on

insufficient food and insufficient accommodation, and other insufficient necessities of life; you must not die for three years; you must not allow sickness and death to approach you for three years. Your prayer has been heard and registered, but for State reasons nothing can be done at present to disturb the tea industry, which is languishing for want of support, and you must go on suffering till the industry is on a better footing.' Will such words bring any comfort to the suffering labourers? In the course of three years thousands will disappear, the conditions of the labour market will change, tea industry may flourish or be depressed, and it is utterly uncertain how the wage clause will then affect the tea plantations and the labourers on them."

It proceeds to state that if the suggestion of Kunwar Sir Harnam Singh had been adopted, it would have given satisfaction to all concerned.

In its next issue the *Patriot* records its praise of the work attempted by Mr. Cotton who has laid the country under a lasting obligation to him. "Even a golden statue will scarcely repay the debt we owe him."

929. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* praises Mr. Cotton for so strenuously supporting the cause of the coolies of Assam, and says that his speech in the Viceregal Council is characterised by an intense desire to serve the weak against the strong, which is an abiding trait in Mr. Cotton, and for which he has had to sacrifice his own interests.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th March 1901.

The Assam Labour Bill.

930. The *Indian Nation* remarks that Mr. Cotton made a valiant stand for the coolie in a speech remarkable at once for dignity and cogency. He was not answered, but was overpowered by numbers. The new law is a compromise, which satisfies neither the planter nor the friend of the coolie.

INDIAN NATION,
11th March 1901.

Ibid.

931. The *Indian Empire* is not surprised that the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton's honest indignation was aroused when he found that "the Government had entered into an unholy alliance with the planters. . . . Who would hear him, when Lord Curzon himself was against him: his cry proved a cry in the wilderness. And the unfortunate coolie is thus left just where he was forty years ago."

INDIAN EMPIRE,
12th March 1901.

Ibid.

932. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* holds that Mr. Cotton had to yield to a conspiracy in the matter of the Assam coolies' wages. He had no idea that at a private meeting of planters and their representatives it was determined, with the connivance of his official colleagues, to spring a mine upon him in the Legislative Council. Sir John Woodburn, who once supported Mr. Cotton's views, veered round to the side of the planters. His Excellency the Viceroy also forsook him and now the amendment will not be introduced for two years, probably because by the end of that period there will be no Mr. Cotton to see that the law is made to do its work, or Lord Curzon to realize that the measure has really become a dead letter.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
13th March 1901.

Ibid.

933. The same paper, referring to Sir John Woodburn's change of attitude in connection with the Assam Labour Bill, says that it prefers a British official who is prepared to yield to pressure to one who sticks up for his opinion even if it be found incorrect. "What, however, is feared, is that the planters took advantage of the amiable, nay, the sweet traits of Sir John's character which have made him so universally beloved."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
14th March 1901.

Ibid.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

934. The *Moslem Chronicle* applauds Lord Curzon's action in Berar, and says that "it is scandalous that the Government should not only have so long sat tight over the Assigned Districts, but actually refused to adjust the income to the monstrous cost of administration. There is nothing we can conceive which can more effectually shake the confidence of the Feudatory States, as the overriding by the Suzerain of treaty understandings."

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
9th March 1901.

Lord Curzon's policy regarding Berar.

935. The *Hindoo Patriot* notices the death of the Prime Minister of Nipal, of whom it writes: "He was an able administrator and a loyal friend of the Government of India."

HINDOO PATRIOT,
11th March 1901.

Death of the Prime Minister of Nipal.

BENGAL, 12th March 1901.

936. The *Bengalee* would be glad to see other Native States follow Mysore's example, and associate the people with their rulers in the government and the conduct of their affairs. It thinks Hyderabad and Baroda favourable for the inauguration of the experiment—which would secure the permanent well-being of these States.

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

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 11th March 1901.

937. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says that another famine in Guzerat has been announced by the Viceroy, and that the people there are now living on grass. The *Patrika* says that the English people are as much tired of Indian famines as they are of the Boer war, and this announcement, instead of exciting pity in their mind, will create disgust. "The Indian famine, like the Boer war, does not mean any dangerous loss, but the contemplation of human beings under British rule dying of starvation is a spectacle which can never be in the least agreeable to an Englishman."

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

INDIAN MIRROR, 8th March 1901.

938. The *Indian Mirror* says that the dismissed staff of the Cooper's Hill College have, by dint of persistent agitation, been successful in getting pension. "If, profiting by their example, we learn to hammer away at anything we seek to obtain, we, too, shall sometime score as gloriously."

BENGAL, 8th March 1901.

939. The *Bengalee* and *Hindoo Patriot* publish a letter from Babu Russick Lal Roy who was granted an interview by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in connection with the curtailment of marriage expenses in Hindu society. His Honour expressed his sympathy with the movement and said that he had placed himself in communication with the Government of India on the subject, and that he would be glad to know the names of any gentleman of light and leading who would meet him in a friendly conference on the subject.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE, 9th March 1901.

940. The *Moslem Chronicle* says that Urdu translations of the Viceroy's speech ought to have gone along with the English and Bengali ones sent out with the appeals made by the Victoria Memorial Committee.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 9th March 1901.

941. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* deprecates the idea of a "National" Valhalla with Lord Dalhousie on one side and Rani Laksmi Bai of Jhansi on the other, and His Excellency's speech has confirmed the *Patrika* in its views more strongly than ever.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 9th March 1901.

942. A correspondent writes to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* approving of the idea of the proposed Hall with the annals of modern India engraved on its walls. He suggests that the local memorial, for which a Committee has been formed by the Lieutenant-Governor, should take the form of an Industrial institution.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 9th March 1901.

943. Anent the historical records that are proposed to be kept in the Victoria Hall, a correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* suggests that a copy of the treaties, real and sham, drawn up between Lord Clive and Umachand, should find a place among the documents which His Excellency proposed to keep in the Memorial Hall.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE, 9th March 1901.

944. The *Moslem Chronicle* defends Lord Curzon's attitude with regard to the proposed Victoria Memorial against the attacks that have been made in some quarters, and says that the Viceroy has thoroughly vindicated the claims of the suggestions he has put forth. It then suggests that relics of the following Muhammadans should find a place in the Hall:—Sultan Razia Alauddin, Feroz Shah Tughlak, Kutbuddin, Bukhtiyar Khilji, Chand Sultana, Manni Begum, Nawab Begum Amirun Nessa, Haji Mohsen, Nawab Sir Abdul Ghani and Maulvi Keramat Ali.

945. In the course of an article on India being burdened with unjust charges, which is receiving Mr. Caine's watchful attention, in the face of the opposition got up by Lord George Hamilton, *Power and Guardian* remarks that the success of Mr. Caine's efforts depends upon the hearty co-operation of the political parties in India. *POWER AND GUARDIAN*, 10th March 1901.
946. Apropos the "Victoria" Hall, the *Indian Mirror* says that the idea of the Imperial Institute in London met with no little opposition when it was first broached, but now its utility has come to be generally recognised. The Viceroy, according to the *Indian Mirror*, is eminently the fittest man to inaugurate such a scheme. It enquires whether the Government of India will subscribe anything towards the Memorial Fund. *INDIAN MIRROR*, 19th March 1901.
947. Referring to Lord Curzon's advice to the Assam planters, *Power and Guardian* states that with the past few years the use of tea has increased tenfold in India alone, and its universal use throughout the country does not seem to be far off. In view of this fact the planters of Assam need not be afraid of the withdrawal of foreign patronage from their industry. Lord Curzon could certainly help the planters by imposing prohibitive taxes on foreign liquors. *POWER AND GUARDIAN*, 10th March 1901.
948. In the course of a review of an article in the *Contemporary Review* on the "Influence of Europe in Asia," the *Indian Mirror* says "British influence has wrought such a transformation in India, in all the various departments of her national activities, as has never been seen in the history of nations." The China and South African emergencies have shown whether or not England can rely on India in her hour of need. *INDIAN MIRROR*, 10th March 1901.
949. In a strongly written article on the anomaly of India, the poorest country under a civilized rule, possessing the costliest administration in the world, the *Indian Nation* holds that "Victoria Hall" will be no new departure in this land of fatal anomalies, but only an addition to the load of pageantry that weighs down the broken back and tottering limbs of starving India. *INDIAN NATION*, 11th March 1901.
950. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* suggests that in order to give the "Victoria Memorial" Fund a national character, the Calcutta Central Committee should organize district and sub-district committees all over the country. The District Magistrates and Subdivisional Officers might be asked to send the names of local leaders and the Central Committee here might ask these men to form sub-committees for the purpose of realizing small subscriptions. *AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA*, 12th March 1901.
951. The *Indian Empire* regrets that the Indian National Congress has not given satisfaction to their representatives in England by the failure of the Lahore Congress to endorse Mr. Caine's Resolution to reduce the military charges in India. *INDIAN EMPIRE*, 12th March 1901.
952. The *Bengalee* is glad to see that memorial committees in the mufassal are contributing towards local memorials, and suggests that of all the forms the latter should take, there is none better than excavating tanks and jheels, to be known as Victoria tanks and jheels. The supply of pure drinking-water in the interior is a question of burning importance, and it behoves leaders of society and philanthropists to supply this great need. *BENGALEE*, 13th March 1901.
953. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* refers to the beheading of Charles I, the expulsion from Parliament of Sir Harry Vane by the Protector, as incidents showing the aberrations from which England suffered and recovered, and the deportation of William Duane from Calcutta in 1795 by Sir John Shore, the then Governor-General of India; and contrasting these events with the recent expulsion and suspension of the recalcitrant members of Parliament, with the deportation of the Natu brothers, the imprisonment of Tilak, and the editor of the *Pratada*, it remarks that we are now veering round to the good old days both here and in England. Messrs. Cotton and Pennell ought to have flourished 25 or 30 years ago. They do not suit the spirit that prevails just now in the British Empire. *AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA*, 14th March 1901.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 16th March 1901.

W. H. McG.,—Reg. No. 8783G—78—20-3-1901.

J. A. STEVENS,
Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.