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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 2nd August 1902.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

Al Punch [Patna City] of the 19th and 26th July is sorry to hear that Great Britain is inducing the Khedive to pick a quarrel with the Sultan of Turkey in connection with an island in the Ægean Sea which is claimed by both the Turkish and the Egyptian Government. Great Britain has on many occasions tried to make the Straits of Dardanelles unsafe for Turkey. With that object in view it took Cyprus and compelled the Sultan to withdraw his troops from Crete. Perhaps Great Britain intends to make the present state of affairs in the island in question an excuse for going a little nearer to the Turkish capital.

AL PUNCH,
July 19th, 1902.
July 26th 1902.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Dharma-o-Karma* [Calcutta] of the 20th July has the following:—

DHARMA-O-KARMA,
July 20th, 1902.

Pandit Sastri's "Exposition" of *Meghduta*. We are extremely sorry to see that Pandit Hara Prasad Sastri has, in language which is low and vulgar, fathered upon Kalidas many disgusting ideas and expressions which are not to be found in *Meghduta*. The Pandit's "Exposition" of that poem, it is rumoured, was placed in the hands of the students of the Presidency College. If the rumour be true, a deadly blow was inflicted on the cause of moral education so far as the students of that College were concerned. Not a few vernacular newspapers and the *Indian Nation* have strongly condemned the "Exposition," and some have even gone the length of proposing that the aid of the law should be invoked for the purpose of getting the book burnt by the hands of the common hangman. It will be an act of wisdom on the Pandit's part to consign the book to the flames himself, for really we do not like the idea of a book written by a Brahman being reserved for such treatment as is being demanded by so many of its reviewers. If the Pandit does not accept our advice, we too shall be compelled, in the interest of Bengali literature, to approach the authorities with the prayer that the provisions of the law relating to the destruction of objectionable books may be enforced in the present instance with the least possible delay.

3. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 23rd July writes as follows:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
July 23rd, 1902.

The Police Commission. The constitution of the Police Commission, and the work which it has been asked to do, show that the work of reforming the police has been, in a manner, entrusted to the District Magistrates and District Superintendents of Police. The number of native members is very few, whilst the Commission is chiefly composed of police officers and their patrons. The sort of work which the Commission will do may be easily inferred from this. What is the use of making a farce which can please none but children? The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has given his opinion about police reform that, if the salaries of police servants are raised, the service will be reformed. The Government of India says that natives will not be given "control" of "the district charges." We are at a loss to understand what is meant by "the district charges." The *Englishman* also has not been able to make out whether the District Magistrate or the District Superintendent of Police is referred to here. If natives be unfit for the work of a District Superintendent of Police, how do they discharge the duties of a District Magistrate or of a Sessions Judge? Has Government ever had to find fault with the work of a native District Magistrate? District Superintendents of Police are generally brought fresh from England, and educated men are seldom found in their ranks. Their ignorance of Indian manners, customs, &c., obliges them to seek the help of natives. They thus become puppets in the hands of their subordinates.

4. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 24th July says that nearly three months ago one Wajaddin was murdered for Rs. 30 only in the village Panchalais in the Chittagong district. The accused persons were recently acquitted by the Sessions Court. On the night of the acquittal another murder was committed

JYOTI,
July 24th, 1902.

Murder and dacoity in a village in the Chittagong district.

in the village Hamjarbag near Panchalais. The murdered man in this case was coming home with some pieces of hide on his cart. There is a gang of dacoits in the Panchalais village who plunder people even in broad daylight. The police is doing nothing to suppress them.

SANJIVANI,
July 24th, 1902.

5. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 24th July writes as follows:—

The appointment of the Police Commission.

The Resolution appointing the Police Commission has to a certain extent betrayed the secret of Lord Curzon's administrative policy. For a long time the people have been complaining to Government of the oppressions which are committed by the police. But not a single grievance of theirs seems to be included in the matters which have been referred to the Commission for enquiry and report. Government has taken no notice of the real grievances of the people, but has shown an eagerness to be informed of the Commission's opinion on matters on which an enquiry was not thought necessary. The people asked for bread, and the Government has given them a stone.

The present Viceroy is a clever man. His statesmanship has earned a reputation in certain matters, and the Commissions he has appointed bear testimony to his statesmanship. We have not yet clearly seen the necessity of the Universities Commission. Lord Curzon is accustomed to have his own way in everything. Was it not mere waste of money to appoint a Commission whose duty it was to be merely to say 'ditto' to his own foregone conclusions? But, then, it looks well, and is a great triumph on one's part if one can prove that one's conclusions are also the conclusions which have been arrived at by other people. Probably, it is for this purpose that the Universities Commission was appointed. His Excellency was very careful to appoint only such men as its members as he knew would support his own views. Otherwise, neither Mr. Belgrani nor Mr. Justice Banerji would have been appointed as its members. If the rumour, however, be correct that Mr. Justice Banerji has not been able to concur with the recommendations of his fellow-members on many points, then Lord Curzon has surely been disappointed. The opposition which Government expected from Babu Ashutosh Mukerji, and which led it not to appoint him to a membership, was not certainly expected from a man like Mr. Justice Banerji.

A similar policy has been followed in the selection of members for the Police Commission. The Commission contains two native members, both of whom were lately servants of the Government, and for both of whom it would be difficult, for various reasons, to give expression to the views of the educated Indians on the subject of police reform. But even if they are disposed, for the sake of their countrymen at large, to do something to secure a real reform, they will be unable to do so, because their hands have been tied by the terms of the reference. In fact, the object of the Police Commission appears to be to devise measures not for the prevention of police oppression, but for keeping the people in check.

The Resolution appointing the Commission reads as if the people of India have become immoral, lawless, and difficult to keep in check; as if men bent on wickedness are roaming in every village and putting the authorities to great trouble; as if Government has become unable, with existing means and appliances, to keep the wicked in check; and as if it has on that account become necessary for the Government to do its best to increase the powers of the police.

Let the Government do everything really necessary for keeping the peace in the country; but it should not, while professing to make more effective arrangements for the keeping of the peace, draw tighter the chain it has cast round the feet of the people. Unhappily, however, Lord Curzon's object in appointing the Commission seems to be to devise more effective measures not only for the suppression of crime, but also for bringing the whole subject people under more vigorous control. The Commission will devise measures not for making the police more moral and conscientious, but for increasing its powers.

If the Viceroy had a better knowledge of the Indian character, he would not have been haunted by the groundless fear that a time might come when it would be difficult to keep the people of India in check. It is true that in India there are present all these things—poverty, famine, disease, and misery—

which make the people in Europe lawless and unruly. But do not Englishmen, after so long a rule, know that Indians possess a nature wholly different from that of the people of Europe? In any other country than India starvation leads to riots. In India, starving men are content with cursing Heaven and their own lot.

There was no necessity of appointing the Police Commission for the purpose for which it has been appointed. This Commission will do more harm than good.

6. The *Pratihar* [Berhampore] of the 25th July says that Lord Curzon will win eternal fame if the Police Commission, appointed by him, can remove the fear which the police nowadays excite in men's minds.

The Police Commission.

PRITIKAR.
July 25th, 1902.

7. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th July says that police officers are sometimes obliged by circumstances to take bribes. If a police officer has to go to investigate cases five times a month in places where his horse will not carry him, his salary is eaten up by boat or palanquin hire. He has therefore to take bribes to meet his travelling expenses. The constable who escorts a prisoner from mufassal to head-quarters gets no travelling allowance. He has therefore to take gratification from the prisoner, and with that to defray the expenses of both himself and his charge. The great power of the police and such bad arrangements as these combine to foster the habit of taking illegal gratification among police servants. It is hoped that the Police Commission will consider this point.

A cause of corruption among police servants.

HITAVADI,
July 25th, 1902.

8. A correspondent of the same paper says that abduction of low-caste women is becoming a matter of daily occurrence in the Rangpur district. Vigorous measures are required to suppress this. Such is the inefficiency of police constables that an abducted woman is seldom found out before warrants have been issued four or five times for her apprehension. She easily succumbs to oppressions and inducements during her long stay with the culprits and, when at last she is arrested, she does her best to see that they escape unpunished instead of being punished. A few days ago the young wife of one Dhum Das, an inhabitant of village Naodanga, was enticed away by some *budmashes*. She is still missing. The constable who had the execution of the warrant against her searched one or two houses which her husband pointed out, and returned without doing any real work. Such enquiries, made listlessly, serve only to encourage the culprits. It is believed that better results can be obtained by apprehending the offenders immediately after taking evidence against them, and before trying to find out the abducted women.

HITAVADI.

9. The same paper writes:—Chhatu Sha is a very respectable and well-known resident of Deoghur. On the 10th July last he found three persons cutting grass in his garden, which they had entered by scaling the wall. As for some time past the men had been committing similar depredation, which instead of being confined to the cutting of grass, extended also to the pilfering of fruits, Chhatu Sha lost patience and rebuked the men, and attempted to make them over to the police. But the men proved too quick for him. They leaped over the garden wall, leaving their scythes, sickles, and sacks behind them, and came out on the street. Here they regained their courage, and one of the three, who was no other than the Daroga's *syce*, addressed Chhatu Sha, in these threatening words: "Don't you know who I am? Wait and I will tell the Daroga Babu and pierce your fat."

HITAVADI.

Chhatu Sha now saw that he had unwittingly run into great danger. But fortunately for him, Mr. Piffard's peshkar, Bamacharan Babu, was present on the spot, and saw and heard everything that passed.

A little later on, the Town head-constable came to Chhatu Sha and asked for the things that the men had left behind them in their haste. Chhatu Sha at first refused to part with them, saying that he intended to identify the men with the help of these things. But the head-constable pressing him strongly to return the things and Bamacharan Babu advising the same, he returned the things at last. The head-constable humbly entreated

Chhatu Sha not to go to law for the matter, and the latter was overjoyed to find the matter end so happily.

But at 3 o'clock the same head-constable presented himself before Chhatu Sha's shop with five other fierce-looking policemen. They entered the shop, dragged him out of it, and took him by the hand to the thana. The Daroga's furious, attitude defies description. Having treated Chhatu Sha to foul abuse and threatened to be avenged upon him for his rudeness to the *syce*, the Daroga sent him to the lock-up.

This created a great sensation throughout the town. Chhatu Sha's brother and other relatives, as well as some respectable residents of the town, came to the thana and prayed for his release on bail. The prayer was refused, and they got some hard words into the bargain.

They then went to the Police Inspector, who, to do him justice, asked the Daroga to grant bail. But the Daroga refused compliance with his request.

They then appealed to Mr. Piffard himself, who had no difficulty in seeing that there was a conspiracy against Chhatu Sha. He therefore sent a peremptory order to the Daroga to grant bail, who had now no choice but to do so.

The next day Chhatu Sha was placed on his trial before Babu Giris Chandra Nag, on a charge of stealing the sickles, scythes, and sacks of the *syces*. But the Deputy Magistrate acquitted him, relying on the evidence of Bamacharan Babu.

It was lucky for Chhatu Sha that he had a Magistrate like Giris Babu to try his case and a witness like Bamacharan Babu to speak on his behalf. Otherwise his fate would have been very hard indeed.

The Deputy Magistrate has the following remarks on the conduct of the Daroga in his judgment:—"The Police Sub-Inspector did not exercise a wise discretion in sending an A Form in this case, because his own *syce* was virtually one of the prosecutors."

The Sub-Inspector was once departmentally fined five rupees by the District Superintendent, and suffered a loss of pay of ten rupees for three months at the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner.

The just Sir John Woodburn is now the ruler of Bengal, and it is hoped that he will try to bring this model police officer to his senses.

10. *Al Punch* [Patna City] of the 19th and 26th July says that there are

The native members of the Police Commission.

only two native members among so many Europeans on the Police Commission, and they, with very little experience of the way in which the police conducts itself, will not be able to render any good service. These two members will only say ditto to all that will be said by their fellow-members.

11. *The Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 27th July states on the authority of a correspondent that on the 21st July last, when

Ramjiban Mal and Dina Mal were sleeping in their fishing boat in their village Mulgao within the Kapasia thana, some men of the Daroga of the * * * thana asked them for fish. Some fish were delivered, but when the fishers asked for payment the Daroga's men thundered out that the Daroga never paid for fish. But as ill-luck would have it, Ramjiban refused to give any fish without payment. This was too much for the Daroga's patience. He now came in person and threw Ramjiban into the water, belabouring him with the barrel of his gun. The poor man tried to get into another boat, but the Daroga sternly forbade the men in that boat to take him in. Fortunately, the man somehow swam to shore and is now in a hospital. If this be true, the Daroga should be condignly punished.

12. *The Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 28th July draws the attention of the police authorities to the wide prevalence of *kupan* gambling at Chandrakona.

Gambling at Chandrakona, Midnapore district.

(b — Working of the Courts.

13. *The Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 16th July says that Babu Harish Chandra, late Deputy Magistrate of Madaripur in the Faridpur district, earned a bad name during the short time he was in the place.

The late Deputy Magistrate of Madaripur in the Faridpur district

AL PUNCH,
July 19th, 1902,
July 26th, 1902.

DACCA PRAKASH,
July 27th, 1902.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
July 28th, 1902.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
July 16th, 1902.

He used to sell to a shop-keeper in the Madaripur bazar the goats, &c., which he received as presents in the course of his tours. But whether he credited the sale-proceeds to Government or appropriated them himself is not known. He opposed, under instructions from the Magistrate, the re-election of Babu Ambika Charan Majumdar to a membership of the Local Board by dissuading voters from voting for him.

14. A correspondent of the *Suhrid* [Noakhali] of the 21st July says that Maulavi Mansur Ali, the Kazi of the Hatia

SUHRID,
July 21st, 1902.

A Kazi in the Noakhali district. Muhammadan Marriage and Divorce Registry Office in the Noakhali district, realises a much larger fee than what is prescribed for each case of marriage or divorce registered in his office. Excessive fee was realised from the correspondent a few days ago, when he had to register his daughter's marriage. In another case, in which a marriage was contracted between one Rahim Baksh and one Fazarunnessa, the Kazi was persuaded to take the prescribed fee, but when the relatives of the bride went to bring the *kabinnama* from the office, the Kazi's second son, who is the clerk of the office, withheld it on some pretext. The local Sub-Registrar refuses to register *kabinnamas* for the Kazi's sake, so that people have to go to the latter and are oppressed by him. The Kazi grants divorces on frivolous grounds. In this way he manages to keep the number of marriages high within his jurisdiction to the great loss, in money and domestic happiness, of many people.

15. Referring to the case against Pachai and others in Rajshahi, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] writes as follows:—

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA,
July 23rd, 1902.

The Rajshahi *Muharram* case. Mr. Lee is being pushed to the wall in his quarrel with Mr. Roe, because the Lord fighteth with the latter. Not only the Bengal Government, but the High Court also has stood by Mr. Roe. Everything, however, depends on Pachai's case, and every right-thinking Indian should see that justice is done in it. But there is hardly any possibility of the ends of justice being met in the case if it is tried in Rajshahi, because the Deputy Magistrate who has been charged with its trial is Mr. Roe's subordinate, and is not therefore expected to do anything which might be prejudicial to his master's interests. Again, supposing the Deputy Magistrate to have a mind to do justice to Pachai, few people will dare give evidence in his favour when they fear that they may incur Mr. Roe's displeasure by so doing. All this shows that the case ought not to be tried in Rajshahi.

Our Rajshahi correspondent says that Pachai has come to Calcutta, to move the High Court to transfer his case to some other district. The same correspondent adds that the senior pleaders and mukhtars of Rajshahi have refused to have any connection with the case, while juniors want prohibitive fees. The members of the Rajshahi Bar cannot be blamed for this, for it will be difficult for them to live quietly in Rajshahi, if they support Pachai against the District Magistrate. A barrister like Mr. Jackson should be engaged to move the High Court for the transfer of the case. But Mr. Jackson does not take a motion case for less than Rs. 255. We hope that the Muhammadan community will help Pachai in this matter, because if Pachai is convicted, it will be difficult for Musalmans to hold religious processions in Rajshahi. Bearing in mind that the members of the Rajshahi Bar have refused to support Pachai's case, we may fairly expect that if a barrister like Mr. Jackson moves the High Court for its transfer, the Hon'ble Judges will grant the prayer.

Mr. Ryan is the chief witness for the prosecution in Pachai's case, because Pachai stands charged with having brought a false case against him. But we have been astonished to hear that he will not have to appear as a witness during the hearing of this case. He was transferred to Jalpaiguri, and there he quarrelled with a police constable. Now, he has been granted leave for two years, and it is said that he starts for home on the 9th August. It is clear from Mr. Roe's order to prosecute Pachai that he does not wish that Mr. Ryan should be called as a witness in the case. In that order he wrote that the Inspector, Sub-Inspector, head-constable, constable, all, in fact, who were in the *Muharram* procession, should be called as witnesses, and that Mr. Ryan might be called if necessary. In plain language this means—don't call

Mr. Ryan. And yet, the whole issue in the case depends on Mr. Ryan's evidence. We therefore hope that Government will ask Mr. Ryan not to start for home before the case is finished. If Mr. Ryan's evidence is not taken, the Rajshahi scandal will look far more glaring than it otherwise would.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
July 23rd, 1902.

16. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 23rd July says that a certain Deputy Magistrate of Berhampore unnecessarily makes great delay in giving copies of judgments sentencing accused persons to imprisonment. Convicted persons have sometimes to submit folios for these copies. Appeals are delayed by such delays in taking copies. And so long as appeals are not filed, the accused persons are not released on bail. It is hoped that the Deputy Babu will mend his ways before a publication of his name in this connection becomes necessary.

17. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 25th July says that complaints are frequently heard against the poddars of the Noakhali treasury. Most probably the Deputy Collector, Maulvi Saheb, who is in charge of the treasury, cannot exercise proper supervision over it on account of old age. An abler man should have charge of the treasury. The young energetic Deputy Collector Upendra Babu is quite fit for it.

SANSODHINI,
July 25th, 1902.

18. The same paper says that last year there was a proportionately smaller sale of court-fees in the Sitakundu Munsifi. This means that the number of law-suits there was also smaller last year. In the same Munsifi the cost of a small suit for establishment of title was first decreed as being Rs. 45, but was afterwards reduced to Rs. 35. All this happens on account of the Munsifi being situate in the sadar. To remedy this state of things, the villages situated on the banks of the Feni river should be transferred to the Feni subdivision, or the above Munsifi should be transferred to Sitakundu.

SANSODHINI,
July 25th, 1902.

19. Referring to the Malda lady doctor's case, a correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 25th July writes as follows:—

Thanks to the wise judgment of Mr. J. N. Gupta, the worthy and far-seeing Magistrate of Malda, the case has been so decided as not to compromise anybody. The Magistrate's decision has, in fact, satisfied everybody, except envious men, who always like to cavil at others, and those whose interests have been affected by it.

Strange rumours were afloat in connection with the case. It was said that men representing themselves as the complainant's pleaders went to the accused to ask for bribes. However that be, the punishment which has been inflicted on Madan Gopal has been a sufficient punishment for his crime. If the Magistrate had not decided the case himself, as he has wisely done, but had committed it to the Sessions, his action would probably have made Madan Gopal a street beggar and led to the disclosure of many scandals regarding the lady doctor and her principal witnesses. When the lady doctor was taken to the boat under a false representation, why did not the apprentice compounder come out although he was called? It was fortunate for the lady doctor that information regarding the situation in which she was reached the Deputy Magistrate first and not the police. Alas, who would have saved her, if the youthful Deputy had not received the information at such a late hour of the night! The poor lady would probably have died of fright, if the Deputy Magistrate, after rescuing her, had not removed her to a lonely place and soothed her by the application of cold water to her face. Who can say that the case would have been at all instituted, if these incidents had not happened? Praised be the Deputy Babu, who saved this helpless lady and and was the means of getting a wicked man punished.

HITAVADI,
July 25th, 1902.

20. Referring to the recent arrest to the Raja of Puri by the Magistrate of the place, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th July says that this incident has thrown Puri into commotion and great panic prevails there. The insult unnecessarily done to the man who is looked upon by Hindus as the moving Vishnu is no trifle. It is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal will look to the matter.

21. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th July writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI,
July 26th, 1902.

An order of the Magistrate of Backergunge.

According to a correspondent of a contemporary, the Magistrate of Backergunge has, after the *Barisal Hitaishi* defamation case, issued a circular prohibiting the supply of official papers from the local Government Press to the *Hitaishi* Press and the *Bikash* Machine Printing Works. But it is not clear what led the Magistrate to issue such a circular, as the correspondent does not say for what offences newspaper editors will be deprived of the privilege of getting official papers. Probably the information is not supplied in the circular itself. But it is right that all newspaper editors should be informed of the offences for which they may expect such a punishment. The Magistrate of Backergunge and the Lieutenant-Governor are requested to let the public know, by way of warning, the offence for which the *Bikash* and the *Barisal Hitaishi* have been deprived of an official favour so long enjoyed by them.

22. The same paper says that there is not the least doubt that the unhappy *Rath Jatra* incident at Puri will pain the entire Hindu community. The Raja of Puri is regarded by the Hindu community as a god. Any

BANGAVASI.

The arrest of the Raja of Puri by the Magistrate of the place.

insult offered to the Raja is therefore regarded as an insult offered to a god and wounds the religious susceptibilities of the Hindus. The Hindus have been all the more pained in the present case, as the insult was offered to the Raja without any, or, at least, without sufficient cause. What was the Raja's fault? What was the charge brought against him? The Magistrate had issued a summons requiring the Raja to appear before him on a certain date. On that date the Raja sent word to the Magistrate that he was unable to attend on account of illness. This was the fault for which the Magistrate issued a warrant for the Raja's arrest, and the police, entering the Raja's palace, broke open doors and arrested the Raja in the inner apartments of his palace. Was it right to arrest the Raja in this manner for an offence like the one stated above?

The Raja had not excited a rebellion against the British Government or committed a murder, that it became necessary for the Magistrate to have him arrested by any means. His only offence was that he was unable to obey a summons issued by the Magistrate only with the object of ascertaining if the statements made by the Raja in his telegrams to the Commissioner and the Lieutenant-Governor were correct.

The Lieutenant-Governor should make an enquiry into the following matters:—

- (1) Whether the Magistrate did not issue an order postponing the *pahundi* ceremony.
- (2) Whether the Raja had informed the Magistrate that a postponement of the ceremony would mean a suspension of the car festival for twelve years, during which period no *mahaprasad* (offering of boiled rice) could be offered to Jagannath.
- (3) Whether the Raja had not supplicated the Magistrate for an order to hold the ceremony on the appointed day.
- (4) Whether the Magistrate granted the Raja's prayer.
- (5) Whether the Hindus were not pained, nay maddened, at the news that the *Rath Jatra* and *mahaprasad* offering to Jagannath would remain suspended for twelve years.
- (6) Whether many *pandas* and pilgrims did not say that they would bring out Jagannath by breaking open doors in order to hold the *pahundi* ceremony.
- (7) Who was responsible for all that occurred?

If it be true that five lakhs of pilgrims were maddened, and that most of them were about to break open the door of Jagannath's temple, then His Honour should find out whose fault it was that such a state of things came about, and after ascertaining the gravity of his offence, should deal out condign punishment.

(c)—Jails.

NAVAYUG,
July 26th, 1902.

23. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 26th July says that the prisoners in Indian jails are given a suit of jail clothing for a prescribed period, and if they cannot make it last that much, they are condemned, by way of punishment, to wear clothing made of gunny for various terms. This is simply inhuman. If any forbidden article, say tobacco, cigars, &c., is found in the possession of a prisoner, he is ordered to be placed under handcuffs every night for a week or two. No attention is paid to the health of prisoners. Medicines are prescribed for sick prisoners in a most perfunctory way. Prisoners never find admission to hospital so long as they are fit for any work, and, when admitted, do not get the attention and diet which they require.

(d)—Education.

SANJIVANI,
July 24th, 1902.

24. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 24th July writes:—

The decrease in the number of primary schools and pupils in Bengal.

According to the *Pioneer*, the reason of the decrease in the number of primary schools and in the number of primary school pupils in Bengal during the last year is that raiyats do not like their children to receive an education which makes them foppish and unwilling to take up the occupation of their fathers. But that is not the true reason. The large decrease in the number of schools is due to the withdrawal or reduction of the Government's grant-in-aid in the case of a large number of middle and primary schools; and the decrease in the number of pupils is the result of the decrease in the number of schools. There will be no progress in lower education in Bengal unless the *gurus* are regularly paid monthly grants.

SANJIVANI.

25. The same paper says that the Normal Schools in Bengal, which at

The Normal Schools in Bengal.

one time served such a useful purpose by supplying pandits to middle schools and entrance schools, are now, owing to the withdrawal of the stipends which were paid to their students and the proposed change in their curriculum, on a fair way to lose their popularity and usefulness. The course followed in these schools has been reduced from three to two years, and drawing and the Kindergarten system of training have been included in it. It is difficult to see how only two years' training in drawing will enable the students of these schools to become teachers of the subject, and what proficiency they will acquire in the Kindergarten system, which will be taught second-hand by teachers who have picked up a smattering of it at Kurseong. The popularity of these institutions has also been affected by the fact that pandits trained in them do not now get posts carrying a salary of more than eight or ten rupees a month, whilst formerly they never accepted appointments to which a salary of less than fifteen rupees a month was attached.

SANJIVANI.

26. The same paper says that the Universities Commission has shown a

The rumoured recommendations of the Universities Commission.

gross ignorance of the condition of the country. Its advice, if accepted, will instead of reforming the system of high education, deal it a blow at its root. The *Bengalee* newspaper has published the recommendations of the Commission, and warned the public about the consequence which would follow from their acceptance. Unless the people enter a protest in time, Lord Curzon will surely revolutionise high education in the coming winter. The educated community of the country should not remain idle, but should without loss of time set up a very strong agitation.

PRATIVASI,
July 28th, 1902.

27. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 24th July says that Pandit Hara

Pandit Sastri's "Exposition" of *Meghaduta*.

Prasad Sastri's "Exposition of *Meghaduta*" has disappointed public expectation. People will be slow to believe that the book is written by a Principal of the Sanskrit College. It possesses no trace of the beauty and poetry which so eminently characterise the original, while it is disfigured by levity, obscenity, and other serious faults. His exposition is in a good many places open to grave objection.

28. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 28th July says that once a great official of England cried out "Who? Who?" on

PRATIVASI,
July 28th, 1902

The new Tagore Law Lecturer. hearing the names of a number of unknown, worthless men who were appointed members of the Cabinet. A similar thing has happened in Calcutta just now. Everybody is crying out "Who? Who?" on hearing the name of the gentleman who has been appointed by the Calcutta University as the Tagore Law Lecturer for the next year. The appointment has been conferred on Mr. Satya Ranjan Das, a son of the late Babu Durga Mohan Das, though the public know nothing of his qualifications for it. Mr. Das is said to be a Barrister-at-Law by education, and Agent of a tea garden by occupation. Those who frequent the High Court say that they cannot swear that they have ever seen Mr. Das in that Court. The University authorities alone can say if Mr. Das always remains occupied in his own chamber with his law studies. As a rule, the public do not find much worth in the men whose qualifications seem to charm the University.

29. The same paper has the following:—

The private Law Colleges in Bengal.

Do those, who have been alarmed at the rumoured recommendation of the Universities Commission to abolish the law classes attached to private Colleges, and are feeling the necessity of a strong agitation in the matter, and apprehend that a blow will be dealt at high education by such a measure, know how the tuition in these law classes is conducted? If they did, they would not raise this cry of anger, alarm and despair. The truth is that there is no tuition worth the name in these law classes. There has been a long-standing charge against the pupils of these classes that they come into the class-room just a quarter of an hour before the class is dismissed, and that one pupil answers to the names of a dozen absent friends at the time of the roll-call. Fit tuition, indeed, for a profession, the practice of which, according to public belief in this country, demands the abandonment of the path of truth, and the sacrifice of conscience and the sense of justice, if money is to be amassed and a reputation made! Even when eminent Barristers like Mr. Ingram and others were Professors in the law class which was attached to the Presidency College, they spent fifteen minutes out of the appointed hour in calling the roll, another fifteen minutes in taking rest after the labour of the roll-call, and a third quarter of an hour in appointing the following day's lesson and in discussing how many pages should be done to-day. It is still the practice of many law Professors simply to read page after page of a law book in the class room.

Every sensible man will admit that if there is to be any real teaching of law, it should be done in a manner very different from that in which it is now got through, and which serves only to encourage deceitful behaviour in the law students. In assigning a place to law in a scheme of education, John Morley has advised everybody to remember the following saying of Burke:—"The law is, in my opinion, one of the first and noblest of human sciences—a science which does more to quicken and invigorate the understanding than all the other kinds of learning put together." And need anybody be told how the understanding of those law students is quickened and invigorated who never avail themselves of the help of Professors, but prepare themselves for their examination by simply getting by heart the portions of their text-books which they consider important from a glance at the question-papers set in previous years? In truth, every one who is not blinded by self-interest will admit the urgent necessity of a reform in the system of law education.

30. Referring to the conduct of the students of the B. A. class of the

An unpleasant incident in the Presidency College.

Presidency College in wilfully absenting themselves in a body, on a recent date, from the lecture by Mr. Jackson, Professor of Physics, and the punishment which was inflicted on them by the Principal for the offence, the same paper says that the students acted indiscreetly in not representing their grievance to anybody else and in taking the remedy into their own hands; and the Principal acted wisely in not overlooking such conduct on their part, as to do so would have been to encourage them in their disrespect for their Professors. But the Principal should not, also, fail to see that Mr. Jackson treats his pupils with more sympathy than, according to a most reliable

PRATIVASI,

report which the writer has received, he does at present. It is one thing to enforce discipline and quite a different thing to treat one's pupils with unnecessary harshness, which is the product of an unsympathetic heart.

The aggrieved students might have told Mr. Jackson himself what their grievance was. Many Englishmen like such candour. Once the students of the Colleges made a complaint to the Principal against Mr. Booth. When Mr. Booth came to know of it, he said to the students:—"A set of cowards. Why did you not tell it to me?" The writer does not know what sort of a man Mr. Jackson is. But the students might at least have tried the course suggested here. It is the fault of the private Colleges to treat the Professors badly when complaints are made against them to the College authorities, and it is the fault of the Government Colleges that their authorities do not check the ill-treatment of their boys by the Professors.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
July 28th, 1902.

31. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 28th July learns from a correspondent (who writes from Amdia) that a boy named Mahendra Nath Jana appeared in the last Middle English Examination from the Baramohanpur Middle English School. The boy had every chance of passing, but, to the surprise of all, his name was not found in the list of successful candidates. The boy therefore again began to read in the school. But in June last, when the certificates of the successful candidates from the school were sent to it, there was found among them a certificate for Mahendranath, who is stated there as having passed in the first division. Now, who is responsible for the loss of time and of money in the shape of boarding expenses, which the poor boy has had to suffer? It is hoped that Babu Radhanath Roy, the able Inspector of Schools of the Burdwan Division, will attend to the matter.

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

HINDI BANGAVASI,
July 28th, 1902.

32. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 28th July is sorry that the Calcutta Municipality does not direct its attention to the dirty and filthy condition of Barabazar. When the Municipality was in the hands of native Commissioners, the complaints of the native rate-payers did not go unheeded. Since the Municipality has come into the hands of white men, scarcely any conservancy officer is seen in the native quarters. Except at the time of tax collection, the native quarters are seldom honoured by visits from municipal servants.

(f).—Questions affecting the land.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
July 23rd, 1902.

33. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 23rd July has a long article on the grievances of the Behampore khas mahal raiyats in which the writer says that he wishes to join his voice to that of Mr. Thorburn, the late Financial Commissioner of the Punjab, in contradicting Lord Curzon, who once said that the Indian khas mahal raiyats pass very happy lives. A comparison of the rate of rent paid by a zamindar's tenant with that paid by the Government's tenant will make the matter clear. Babu Mrityunjaya Bhattacharjya pays a rent of Rs. 105 to his zamindar for a large holding of about 150 bighas in Behampore, whilst Babu Kamakhya Prasad Gango-padhyaya pays nearly Rs. 135 for an adjoining khas mahal holding of only 70 or 75 bighas. Recently rents have been oppressively enhanced under a reassessment of the khas mahal lands. Government can make reassessment every two years. But can the zamindar do the same thing? The District Collector has recently issued a notice to the effect that whoever shall fail to produce his *patta*, which gives him the right to enjoy khas mahal land, within three weeks from the date of the issue of the notice, will be considered to have no right to the land. Many of the khas mahal holdings have passed through many hands in the course of more than one generation. It will therefore be difficult for the present occupiers of these holdings to show the original *pattas* conferring on them the right to hold them. Will they then be driven out of the holdings? Their rights may be better settled on a reference to the register of mutation of names in the Collectorate. The District Collector has

also issued a notice calling on all zamindars, who receive rents from the Government for certain lands held by the latter, to show why and by what right they receive these rents. Thus the higher authorities are seeing prosperity among the khas mahal raiyats, whilst the little lords of the district are increasing rents and serving notices. The Lieutenant-Governor will soon pay a visit to Berhampore, and it is hoped that His Honour will look to this matter.

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

34. A correspondent writes as follows to the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 23rd July:—

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA.
July 23rd, 1902.

Railway grievances.

The Tarakeshwar Railway line passes through the Kaikala village in the Hooghly district, separating the village habitations from its agricultural fields. The cultivators have, therefore, to cross the railroad with their carts, ploughs, and bullocks every morning and evening. But there is only one thoroughfare for the passage of carts, and that also is situate at one end of the village. Between gate No. 21 and the Bahir Khanda station, a distance of a mile and a half, there are two or three wooden stairs in an extremely dilapidated condition. The difficulty of ascending and descending these steps with loads, such as cultivators have almost always to carry, is easily conceivable. Two thoroughfares, one near Kamare Pukur and another in the southern part of the village, protected by turnpikes, would remove this and other hardships which the villagers suffer on account of the want of proper thoroughfares.

The Railway Company is now enclosing large strips of lands with wire fences on both sides of the railroad. The Company's servants say that these lands are the Company's. If these lands are really the Company's, why did it so long allow people to build houses and plant sacred *Ashwatthwa* trees on them? The villagers are, however, too poor to fight with the Company on this question. They, therefore, plaintively beseech the Company to spare the homesteads and the sacred trees on the lands which it intends to bring under its immediate possession.

35. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 24th July says that, owing to its meandering course and the largeness of the number of the tributaries which feed it with water from the mountains, the Halda river, which flows into

The Halda river in the Chittagong district.

JYOTI,
July 24th, 1902.

the Karnafuli river in the Chittagong district, overflows every year and drowns the country on both banks, doing immense harm to life and property. This evil can be averted only by straightening some of the bunds of the river and allowing it to fall into the Karnafuli in a less meandering stream. It is rumoured that the straightening of two such bunds was sanctioned by Mr. Anderson, the late Collector of the district. But it is not known why the work has not yet been taken up. The straightening of the bends will benefit not only the people, but also the Government, by placing large tracts of land at its disposal. The urgency of the situation will be understood by the District Collector if he kindly pays a visit to the villages on the two banks of the river between Narayanhat and its mouth, and which are flooded in the present rains.

36. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 25th July draws attention to the inconvenience which the

A road wanted in the Jessore district.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR.
July 25th, 1902.

residents of Sekhpura, Sagardanri, and the neighbouring villages in the Jessore district suffer for want of a road to Kesabpur, where the police-station and the Sub-registry office are. The District Board should construct a road, six miles long, from Sekhpura to Kesabpur.

37. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th July says that the result of the final enquiry into the real cause of the Rampur Hât railway accident is awaited with great interest.

The Rampur Hât accident.

HITAVADI,
July 25th, 1902.

The people of the place where the accident occurred have been alarmed at the silence of the Railway authorities in regard to such a catastrophe. The storm theory has failed to satisfy them. They believe that about 300 people were killed in the accident, although the Railway servants say that the number of the killed did not exceed thirty. The authorities should see how much truth lies at the bottom of these rumours.

NIHAR,
July 29th, 1902.

38. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 29th July complains of heavy floods. Many houses are submerged. The cultivators have no more seed-grain. There are wailings everywhere. Unless the lock-gate at Sarpai and Dandapurulia are soon opened, there will be a total failure of crops. Already many are suffering greatly from scarcity.

NIHAR,

39. The same paper says that the Magra field, which contains the only arable lands that the people of many surrounding villages have got, are flooded every year on account of its being very low. The result is that in no year can the whole of the field be cultivated. This year nearly a quarter of the field was sown, but heavy rain having flooded the field, the standing crop is rotting. Unless the lock-gate at Sarpai is opened in a day or two, no further cultivation will be possible. Already scarcity has begun to be felt in the neighbouring villages.

(h)—General.

CHARU M. HIR,
July 22nd, 1902.

40. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 22nd July says that if a money-order is made in the Dhala Post Office on Saturday, it is sent to the Mymensingh Post Office on the following day, but that being Sunday, it is actually accepted there on Monday. The money-order is thus delayed two days by passing through the Mymensingh office. The delays thus caused by the rule that money-orders made in the Dhala Post Office should pass through the Mymensingh office, causes great inconvenience and sometimes even loss to traders. The same inconvenience exists in Savings Bank transactions, insurances, &c.

From April last the same man is serving as runner and peon in connection with the Dhala Post Office. This is causing great inconvenience. On the 19th and 21st July last the man failed to catch the night and morning mail trains, respectively. He is fined for such faults, but nothing is done to prevent these delays by appointing another man to help him.

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

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
July, 22nd 1902.

41. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 22nd July says that enough rain has not fallen in the Burdwan district for cultivation. The crop prospect will be ruined if it does not rain again within a fortnight.

HITAVADI,
July 25th, 1902.

42. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th July writes as follows:—
The time when five lakhs of famine-stricken Indians are receiving relief from the Government, finds us in the midst of merry-making. The Viceroy will hold a Darbar in Delhi; there we shall open our purse-strings to pay subscriptions and remain looking up to Providence for our crops. This is our destiny. What will the people do if Heaven is against them and their Sovereign does not save them? Fate whispers in every ear, "Let them think out their own deliverance, or they will perish." Self-reliance is the only way left to these poor tax-ridden people. Our joy therefore knows no bounds whenever we find the people of any place in India devising means for their own welfare. When Providence is against us and the Sovereign indifferent as the result of our own *karma*, what can we do except relying on ourselves? The authorities are trying to establish Agricultural Banks in various places in the country with the object of delivering cultivators from the clutches of money-lenders. Agricultural Banks will without doubt do great good to the people, because famines in India are really money-famines. It is for the same reason that we think that the establishment of *dharmagolas*, &c., will be immensely beneficial to them by teaching them self-reliance.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

FARIDPUR
HITAISHINI,
July 16th, 1902.

43. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* [Faridpur] of the 16th July has the following:—
The precarious lives of the *kālā admīs* of India are quickly passing away under the *kils*, blows, shoe-thrusts, kicks, and gunshots of the white men in this country. The trials of the

accused white men in the Courts of white men result in the infliction of a fine of two, four, or five rupees. In going to do impartial justice, a few (two or four) foolish Judges are losing money and means of livelihood and are suffering mental agony. Poor as we are, we pray, through the medium of newspapers, that the death of a black at the hand of a white man may not constitute an offence. We ask that on the occasion of our Emperor's Coronation, a law be passed with a view of saving our white elder brothers from the trouble of having to stand a trial in the law Courts for taking away the life of a black step-brother. We have another prayer. The ships in the Indian waters, on land the railway and telegraph, the mines underground, next trees, &c., as also cloth, iron, salt, medicines, and articles of diet, in fact, all things have been brought under their own control by our white *dadas* (elder brothers). They have introduced slavery in the seat of learning, and are laying the axe at the root of all development of power by future generations. Like locusts, flocks of white *dadas* are winging their way to and descending upon water and land, forest and mine, garden and indigo and tea plantation, and destroying all grass, twigs and leaves. An increase of eight annas was granted to the coolies in the Assam tea gardens, because they were unable to procure full meals. That is probably why, harassed by hundreds of white *dadas* owning lakhs of rupees, the chief ruler of that province felt himself obliged to go away. We now pray that a law be passed at the commencement of the new reign on the occasion of the Coronation.

The weavers of Saidabad in Murshidabad used to earn by silk-spinning a monthly wage of Re. 1-8 which, however, being subject to a deduction of anna 1 pie 6 as *dusturi*, brought them only the trifling sum of Re. 1-6-6. In one night no less than fifty weavers cut off their own thumbs, while seven hundred more got themselves admitted into the Bairagi caste. Let a law be passed authorising a return to that old scale of wages to meet the case of Indian coolies and artizans employed by white men, and abolishing the existing scale of wages (Rs. 4-8 to Rs. 5-8).

In the interest of trade carried on by their white subjects, Government sends Indian *kālā admis* as coolies to South Africa and certain islands. These men suffer even greater hardships than those suffered by the Assam coolie. They do not get proper food, are not given medicines when sick, or medical certificates when in bad health. Even in wintry nights water is poured on the bodies of these unfortunate *kālā admi* coolies. No longer should these things reach the ears of the Indians, and let them remain "confidential." Savitri had, after a long and protracted search for which she had to go to Calcutta, rescued the Maharaja Nanda Kumar's Shobaram, but who is there to make so much as an enquiry about this matter across the sea?

A law is going to be enacted requiring even boys of fourteen years of age among the *kālā admi* coolies labouring in English colonies in South Africa to pay an annual tax of Rs. 45. In European settlements many Indians are being chased like dogs and jackals. Nowhere are they permitted to disembark from their ships. Oppressions even more severe than those the commission of which on white European brethren is followed even by war are committed on *kālā admis* in the Portuguese, French, and English colonies. But the news of such oppression is disbelieved as soon as it is brought to the notice of the officials. Let this scandal cease on the occasion of the ensuing Coronation. The whites are the Roman patricians. Let the Indians remain for ever engaged in the service of their white brothers like the plebeians or Aramæan slaves. What else shall we beg of the Emperor on the occasion of his Coronation? We, the sons of India, are like Dhruba, the son of England's co-wife. What more can we expect from Uttanpada (Dhruba's father who favoured the former's step-brothers).

There is yet another prayer. Of the ten assurances publicly given in India by the head of the Government at the beginning, not one has yet been given effect to. Not one of them was favourable to the rights and the interest of our white brothers; consequently great delay is being made to fulfil them. But that is of no consequence. If not one of the ten (promises) given by the Empress of India has been fulfilled in practice, if the ten commandments of Jesus Christ are not observed by the Europeans in India, is there anything to regret

in the circumstance that not one of the twelve assurances given by our Viceroy, Lord Curzon, has been or is likely to be made good?

He is extremely kind to the *kālā admi*s. That is why he has kept our lives floating on the water by facilitating our consumption of tea leaves at a cheap cost: otherwise in what deep water should we have sunk by this time.

He is extremely keen-sighted. Seeing India with gifted eyes, he has said in the course of one of his speeches that India is an agricultural country where failure of rainfall causes scarcity of food. That is why he is anxious to bring prosperity to the country by means of railway extension at a cost of crores of rupees. The Indian forests abound in sandal-wood, sal, teak and other valuable timber. There are gold, silver, diamond, and other mines in the country. It possesses coal, iron, stones, sulphur, mercury, salt, spices, silk, and wool. All this wealth of India belongs to His Excellency's own countrymen. What have the *kālā admi*s got to do with it? That is why he has cast a keen glance on the single question of the fertility of the soil. It would have been better, however, to exclude tea, indigo, quinine, and similar products from the list of India's natural resources.

There is scarcity of food in Gujrat and other provinces. The women have no cloth to wear. In Madras, Bombay, Gujrat, Rajputana, and many other Indian provinces enhanced assessment of revenue in khas territories have left nothing in the hands of tenants and ijdars. All this is "reserved." There is a surplus of seven crores in the budget. Many new big posts will be created in many departments for many big Englishmen. Many will receive increase of pay. Many Rajas and zamindars have been sent to England to witness the ensuing Coronation. A Victoria Memorial will be set up in Calcutta with English materials and by English artisans at a cost of two crores of rupees raised in this country. Thoughtful people should consider how much sympathy a well-wisher of India like the present Viceroy is entitled to receive at the time of the Coronation. There was judicial independence in the old Supreme Court, and even in the present High Court, down to the time of Sir Barnes Peacock. But under Lord Curzon, and thanks to the assistance given by the present Lieutenant-Governor and the control exercised by Sir Francis Maclean, justice is now following the footsteps of executive authority. For this, the Viceroy, the Lieutenant-Governor, and the Chief Justice will all certainly receive thanks on the occasion of the Coronation.

CHARU MIHIR,
July 22nd, 1902.

44. In view of the Lieutenant-Governor's intended visit to Mymensingh town, the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 22nd July brings the following matters to His Honour's

notice:—

(1) *Oppression of women in the Mymensingh district*—Although such oppression has decreased in consequence of the strong measures taken by the authorities for its suppression, yet it is still bad enough to require special attention.

(2) *Scarcity of drinking-water in the Mymensingh district*.—For five or six months in the year people suffer greatly from water-scarcity, and the drinking of unwholesome water causes malaria and other epidemics to break out with great violence.

(3) Railway extension from Tangail to Netrokana and Kishorganj and from Jamalpur to Nalitapur is very necessary.

(4) *The want of a students' boarding house in Mymensingh town*.—Such a boarding-house is necessary for bringing students, whose number is large in the town, under control and discipline.

HITAVADI,
July 25th, 1902.

45. Referring to the saddling of the Indian Treasury with the cost of the India Office Darbar and that of entertaining the Coronation guests from India, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 25th July writes as follows:—

The Secretary of State's argument that because the Darbar was held for the purpose of proclaiming the King of England the paramount lord of India, its cost should be borne by India, has failed to convince us.

The *Kesari* of Poona expresses great dissatisfaction at the conduct of the authorities in this matter and says.—"If the object of the Darbar was to proclaim the King of England the paramount lord of India, it could be gained in many other ways. But instead of doing that, a great injustice has been done

to the Indian Prince by making them appear in procession before foreign Princes and Princesses and nearly 300 English guests. We think there was no necessity of insulting India and the Indian Princes in this manner. But the authorities did not stop there. They showed extreme meanness by saddling India with the cost of their insult." Our contemporary goes on to say:—"Our rulers have on this occasion shown greater meanness than what they had shown before by saddling India with the cost of entertaining the Sultan of Turkey with songs, nautches, &c. We do not know whether it is for proving the subjection of India and their own selfishness that the authorities in London have decided that India shall bear not only the cost of the India Office Darbar, but also that of entertaining the Coronation guests from India. When the King-Emperor visited India as the Prince of Wales, the Indian Princes gave him presents of the value of seventy-five lakhs of rupees; and to-day the starving Indian has to bear the cost of entertaining these Princes as His Majesty's guests on the occasion of his Coronation! Are not the English bound to bear the cost of the coming Delhi Darbar on the same grounds on which the Secretary of State for India seeks to lay the cost of the India Office on the shoulders of the Indian people? But it is not possible, when the question is one of money for a selfish people to consider such things as right and wrong, truth and falsehood, kindness, generosity, &c.

46. Referring to the rumour that Lord Curzon will be offered a seat in the Cabinet, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th July writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI,
July 20th, 1902.

Lord Curzon and the new Cabinet.
We shall suffer a great loss if Lord Curzon leaves us now. His Excellency has made us many promises; and we are anxiously awaiting their fulfilment. Is it probable that he will leave this country without fulfilling his words? Even if he were willing to leave us, we should not be able to spare him. He cannot certainly leave us without fulfilling the hopes and expectations he has raised in our minds. All he has done so far is to appoint a number of Commissions. The Universities Commission has, indeed, finished its work; but its recommendations have not yet been communicated to the public. Some newspapers have, it is true, raised a cry over certain rumoured recommendations of the Commission; but we cannot believe them so long as we hear nothing from the Viceroy's own mouth, nor shall we say anything until we have seen the recommendations published in the official *Gazette*.

A Police Commission has also been appointed. Police reform will depend upon the conclusions it arrives at. Three hundred millions of Indians are anxiously waiting to know what it says. We cannot let Lord Curzon go away so long as the police is not reformed. There is nothing so important to us as police reform.

The *London Times*, however, has contradicted the rumour, saying that Lord Curzon will not come back to England without finishing the work he has commenced in India. And it is not probable that His Excellency will be able to finish his work in less than two or three years more. The most pressing need of the country is a reform of its police. Lord Curzon, whether you do anything else or not, you must reform the police. We will not let you go away. We will not let you leave this country before you have reformed the Police. You must do *this* if you do nothing else.

47. The *Dacca Prakasi* [Dacca] of the 27th July asks if, after what the liberality of the Nawab of Dacca has done for the improvement of that town, it is not the duty of Government to bear the cost of its drainage. The rate-payers of Dacca would have been very much gratified if the Lieutenant-Governor had seen his way to show them this favour, bearing in mind that Dacca is the capital of East Bengal. His Honour's reply on the subject of water-supply, throwing the responsibility of water-supply on zamindars, has disappointed the people. Government, which is the *ma bap* of the people, should not certainly refuse them water when they suffer the greatest agonies for want of it. There are few zamindars rich enough to supply their raiyats with the water they require.

DACCA PRAKASHI,
July 27th, 1902.

URIYA PAPERS.

ALL THE NATIVE
PAPERS.

48. All the native papers of Orissa state that there have been abundant showers of rain in all the Orissa districts.

ALL THE NATIVE
PAPERS.

49. All the native papers of Orissa evince great interest in the health of the Emperor, and they all thank Heaven for the restoration of His Majesty to health.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
July 9th, 1902.50. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balsore] of the 9th July states that a money-lender, by name Jagannath Biswal, of the Balasore town, died a widower, leaving minor children unable to take charge of his property.

The writer desires that the local authorities should take proper steps to save his property from spoliation.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

51. A correspondent of the same paper states that the roads in Balasore town are in a wretched condition, and that the municipal authorities are simply neglecting their duties.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
July 17th, 1902.52. The re-introduction of Uriya into the Courts of Sambalpur has become a subject of rejoicing for all the native papers of Orissa. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balsore] of the 17th July, and the *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balsore] of the 16th July, thank the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces and the Viceroy for their wise statesmanship.URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
July 16th, 1902.53. Referring to Lord Stanley's letter in the *Times* on Coopers Hill College, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 19th July points out that his remarks are just, for the College was founded and maintained at the expense of the Indians, though the latter were rigorously excluded from enjoying the full benefit of the institution. The writer contends that the Secretary of State for India should take note of the fact and do justice to India.UTKALDIPIKA,
July 19th, 1902.

54. Referring to the protective duty imposed on foreign sugar, the same paper explains that the indigenous sugar industry of India is in such a rudimentary stage that unless Government shows the way, the Indians will not be able to compete with the foreigners successfully.

UTKALDIPIKA.

55. Referring to the proceedings of the annual meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, held in Calcutta, the same paper observes that the speech of the President of the meeting, the Hon'ble Justice Sarada Charan Mitra, was careful and to the point. The Society should try its best to remedy the defects pointed out by the President, and the Calcutta public should aid the Society in the same.

ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSAK,
July 19th, 1902.56. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 19th July says that Bengal is celebrating the birthday of Sivaji, the celebrated leader of the Mahrattas, whose name once used to strike terror into the hearts of Bengalis! What a mighty change has been wrought by the English Government, English education, and the National Congress. The Congress has introduced unity among the peoples of the different provinces of India.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 2nd August, 1902.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 2nd August 1902.

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

1043. The *Moslem Chronicle* regards the absence of a Muhammadan member from the Police Commission as a flaw in the constitution of the Commission. It is deplorable, it says, that this should have happened.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
19th July 1902.

The Police Commission.

"Somehow or other," it adds, "Lord Curzon seems to think that as Great Britain means the country of the English and the Scots, India means the country of the English and Hindus. The poor Muhammadans are nowhere. His Lordship appears to be somewhat constitutionally afflicted with the failing of making himself unnecessarily and almost wantonly unpopular to the Indian Mussalmans. The Viceroy who thinks there is not one eligible Moslem in the whole of British India, not only pays a very left-handed compliment to the community that once ruled the land for centuries, but to the accumulated wisdom and fruit of British administration of that land since the long period that sovereignty changed hands."

1044. The *Hindoo Patriot* requests the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, to

HINDOO PATRIOT,
25th July 1902.

The Mounted Police Corps in Calcutta.

impress on the Mounted Police Corps the necessity of being polite to native gentlemen, and also complains of the cart traffic nuisance which the location of a metal warehouse on the Old Post Office Street has recently created. The road is often blocked by long lines of carts, and the approaches to the High Court are thus made to look hideous and disorderly.

(b).—Working of the Courts.

1045. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* comments as follows on the action of Mr. Justice Fox, of the Rangoon Criminal Sessions, who animadverted upon the perverse verdict of a jury empanelled in another case on

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
31st July 1902.

Mr. Justice Fox of the Rangoon High Court.

the preceding day:—

"Mr. Justice Fox has deservedly the reputation of being a first class Judge, but the action that he took in this case was extraordinary. It requires no ordinary assurance on the part of a British Judge to make a row when he thinks that an Indian Jury has failed to return a correct verdict. For, the failure of an Indian Jury is as much an exception as is the correct verdict of a European Jury when trying a countryman of theirs. Has Mr. Justice Fox forgotten that a Judge of the Allahabad High Court was once pleased to declare from the Bench that it had become impossible to make a European Jury convict a European? This was official opinion, and when the *Pioneer* said the same thing, it showed that non-official European opinion also agreed with the official. By-the-by, we have no information as to how the prisoner on the next day was dealt with by the jurors whom the Judge addressed. We can take it for granted that the Jury convicted the man. Anyhow, this row of the Judge over the alleged failure of an Indian Jury is a piece of impudent work, which beats hollow many things of the same nature that we have come across."

1046. Reverting to the case of the pleaders of Arrah who were convicted by the Joint-Magistrate of rioting, notwithstanding the evidence of respectable gentlemen that they

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
1st Aug. 1902.

The Joint-Magistrate of Arrah.

were not present at the occurrence, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says:—

"Now see how the same Joint-Magistrate sang a different tune when he had to dispose of a point raised in favour of the defendants. It was urged on their behalf that certain prosecution witnesses ought not to be trusted because they were partizan witnesses. And what does the Magistrate say in reply to this objection? He mournfully exclaims that if evidence were to be discredited on this ground, there could be no conviction!

"So, the matter stands thus. The conviction of the accused, according to the Joint-Magistrate, must be secured at any cost, and all evidence must be weighed and considered from that standpoint. The evidence of a number of respectable witnesses is to be rejected because the accused are respectable men, but that of interested parties is to be accepted because otherwise the accused cannot be convicted!"

ernment towards Local Self-Government in Calcutta was, it says, worse than what was ever anticipated. Similarly,

"The Government is fully aware of the great alarm that the report of the Education Commission has created in the minds of the Indian public, but this will not, in the slightest degree, make it abandon the course of action it has decided to adopt. We have no faith in the public discussion of a Government measure; yet that is the only weapon in our hands to protect our interests. As master of the situation, the Government can very well allow the public to see the report and say their say upon it. The very existence of the Indian nation depends upon the right solution of the education question, and the Government, for the sake of its own reputation, should not take any final step in this matter without consulting the people."

1052. In connection with the recommendations of the Universities

The Universities Commission.

Commission, the *Indian Nation* calls attention to the practice of the Government never to lay before

INDIAN NATION,
28th July 1902.

the public, for criticism, any new scheme or measure till it has received the sanction of the Secretary of State and has been embodied in a Bill. No practice, it maintains, could be more unreasonable or unfair. "In a country where there is no representative Government, have not the public a moral right to know of the existence of a proposed measure and to criticise it if need be, before its principle has been finally adopted and the prestige of the Government bound up with it? After a measure has received the sanction of the Secretary of State and has been reduced to the form of a Bill, what criticism is likely to be listened to except one in regard to the merest details. The publication of a measure at that stage may appear to official eyes as a very generous step—an invitation to criticism. To the public themselves who may have objections to questions of principle, it can only appear as an insulting sham. What imaginable objection could there have been from the point of view of reason and justice to publish the Report of the Universities Commission in India before it was forwarded to the Secretary of State?"

1053. In the absence of an official pronouncement, the *Indian Mirror* says

Ibid.

it is constrained to believe that what the *Bengalee* has of late written with regard to the recommen-

INDIAN MIRROR,
29th July 1902.

dations of the Universities Commission is well founded. It comments as follows on Lord Curzon's mission in India:—

"It is absurd now to affect to disbelieve that it is not Lord Curzon's mission to undo all that is popular and progressive in the land. It was he who mainly undid Local Self-Government in Calcutta. It is he who is going to undo higher education in India. We should be glad of an authentic denial of the statement that the Universities Commission's Report has been forwarded to the Secretary of State in Council for sanction of its recommendations, and that as soon as such sanction has been received—which is a *sine qua non*—a Bill will be introduced in the Imperial Legislative Council to be immediately passed into law. If this surmise be true, then Lord Curzon's Viceroyalty will be regarded by the present generation, and by posterity, as the worst, because the most reactionary of all British Viceroyalties. Is Lord Curzon greater than Bentinck or Macaulay that he should deliberately set about to undo all that the highest British craft and statesmanship in the past years had planned for promoting the unity, the loyalty, and the advancement in civilisation of the Indian people? And what does Lord Curzon's own statesmanship amount to? It is little better than professions which scarcely ever square with his acts. His speech at Simla about the educational question and his present attitude are certainly not in agreement. We are compelled to adopt this attitude and to use this language, because we have no other choice left to us."

1054. In the course of its criticism of the article by the *Times of India* on

Ibid.

the Universities Commission's recommendations, the *Bengalee* reverts again to the intentions of the

BENGALIER,
31st July 1902.

Government with regard to education, saying:—

"It is now proposed to undo it, to revolutionize our educational system and to plunge the country once again into the vortex of ignorance and darkness and all that ignorance implies. We desire to warn the Government most earnestly, as much in their own interest as in ours, against the revolutionizing of our educational system upon the lines proposed by the Commission."

BEHAR HERALD,
30th July 1902.

1055. As accounting for the decadence of primary education in Bengal, the *Behar Herald* says that, instead of desultory lessons, having little or no bearing on conduct,

Primary education.
what is needed is the skilful adaptation of lessons which would promote the material, social and moral elevation of the masses. A knowledge of natural phenomena should be imparted in rural schools, such, for instance, as of wind, rain, lightning, the formation of soil, the growth and structure of plants, &c.

It next points out that the status of primary teachers is scandalously low, and that it is time that a higher standard of general attainments should be demanded, even if the cost should correspondingly increase.

BENGALÉE,
31st July 1902.

1056. The following paragraph appears in the *Bengalée* :—

Ibid.

“According to an Anglo-Indian contemporary, primary education in Bengal threatens to prove a huge failure. Perhaps it is the wish that is father to the thought. Our contemporary's conclusion is based upon the fact that, during the past year, the number of primary schools declined by 2,000 and there was a corresponding decrease of 40,000 in the number of pupils. According to the Director of Public Instruction, this decline is due to agricultural depression, famine and plague. This explanation can hardly be considered entirely satisfactory, and the Director might have taken some trouble in discovering the exact cause or causes instead of shirking the inquiry, and indulging in vague generalisations, however much they may be complimentary to the fertility of his imagination. Our own impression is that the decrease has been due to purely local causes of various characters, which may disappear under more favourable conditions.”

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

BENGALÉE,
26th July 1902.

1057. Adverting to the *Englishman's* complaint of the imperfect sanitary arrangements in Calcutta, the *Bengalée* remarks:—

The Calcutta Municipality.

“But we thought that all this neglect would be a thing of the past, when the constitution had been more properly defined and rendered less fluid, and when the executive authority had been armed with vast and uncontrolled powers. But that was not to be. The weakness of the present system lies in the utter absence of popular sympathy and in the firm determination of the people to have no part or share in the municipal administration of the town. Their leaders have been humiliated. They were told that their predominance was not desired and their influence was a stumbling-block in the way of efficient municipal administration. They took the hint and they resigned. They have washed their hands of all municipal work; and the people do not feel the smallest interest in it. It is an elementary principle that no municipal administration can be successful without the sympathy and co-operation of the people concerned. This indispensable condition of success is wanting; and so will it be as long as the present constitution is permitted to last. The remedy lies in the restitution of Local Self-Government.”

INDIAN MIRROR,
30th July 1902.

1058. The *Indian Mirror* says that the allotment for the repair of the

The District Board, Nadia, and the Ranaghat-Krishnagar Railway.

Santipore, Krishnagar and the Santipore-Ranaghat roads, over 20 miles in length, is so ridiculously small, that it is apprehended that in the near future there will be no trace of metal on either of them, which will cause infinite inconvenience to the public. The cess-payers had hitherto been deriving substantial benefit from these roads, and it would be the height of injustice to neglect them because the Board has undertaken to meet the deficit of the Ranaghat-Krishnagar Railway to the extent of Rs. 28,000 a year, even though the line is admittedly of little use to the majority of the poor cess-payers owing to the absence of satisfactory arrangements for conveying goods and passenger traffic.

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

BENGALÉE,
26th July 1902.

1059. The *Bengalée* complains that the Bengal-Nagpur Railway seems slow in enforcing the orders of the Government of India in respect of insisting upon the courteous

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

treatment of Indian passengers by their subordinates, and cites the case of a retired Sub-Judge of Nadia who writes complaining of having been rudely treated by the Station-master of Kharagpur.

1060. The *Bengalee* publishes the reports of the agent appointed by the Indian Association to see what steps railway

Railway grievances.

administrations had taken to carry out the orders of the Government of India for the removal of the grievances of railway passengers. The reports bring to notice that the passage for females at the Howrah station is much too narrow; that the accommodation for intermediate class passengers should be more ample, and that latrine accommodation for males and females was not supplied in the intermediate and 3rd class carriages in the Kalka passenger train of the 17th and 18th.

1061. The *Hindoo Patriot* ventilates the grievances of the inhabitants of the villages of Radhanagar, Kotra, Sonpur, Sonakati, &c., on the left bank of the river Darkessar

A grievance

(a branch of the Damodar), who have hitherto freely plied their *dongas* to the opposite ghat known as Chamandar ghat for agricultural and other purposes. Lately, however, the zemindar's men have levied a tax for the use of the ghat, and if boat-owners cannot pay Rs. 30 as *salami* and Rs. 10 as rent, their boats are not allowed to be moored at the ghat, and they are prohibited from using it for ferry purposes.

1062. Reverting to the closing of the pathway leading to the Seoraphuli platform which has been in use hitherto, the *Bengalee* hopes Mr. Dring, to whom an appeal has been made by the daily passengers of Seoraphuli, will kindly restore to them the use of the pathway.

If, however, it is necessary to close it, it is suggested that an overbridge may be constructed at gate No. 7, which will not only benefit the railway passengers but also the general public, who, at all hours of the day and night, have to cross the railway line at gate No. 7.

Inconvenience to railway passengers at Seoraphuli, East Indian Railway.

BENGALIAN,
26th July 1902.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
31st July 1902.

BENGALIAN,
2nd Aug. 1902.

(h)—General.

1063. The *Hindoo Patriot* writes appreciatively of the scheme started by Rai Parbati Sankar Chaudhuri, of Teota, for establishing co-operative corn banks, which he has worked with success.

Dharma Golas.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
26th July 1902.

It summarises the following special advantages offered by these banks:—

1. A *Dharma Gola* can be established in each village from its own resources.

2. The contribution of each individual being only a small portion of the annual yield of paddy, is not likely to cause any hardship.

3. The cost of its up-keep will not be heavy, as the posts of the panchayets, other than the Golodar, will be honorary. Fit men for the management of the banks will be always available in the village.

4. There will be no scope for excessive borrowing from such banks, as there is in the case of money banks.

5. On the acceleration of a large stock of paddy in the *Dharma Gola*, old paddy will be exchanged for new paddy, thus securing a profit, and preventing sickness that is caused from the consumption of new rice.

6. The *Dharma Gola* being the public property of the village, and no one having any right to sell the stock, a reserve stock of grain will ever remain in the country.

7. The *Dharma Golas*, if established all over the country, will not only benefit the agricultural classes, but also the zamindars and the Government, as it will relieve them of the necessity of making contributions for assisting the people during famine and scarcity.

8. The initiative being taken by the villagers and the panchayets being appointed by them, they will take a special interest in these *Dharma Golas*, and will try by all means to maintain them on an efficient basis.

9. During scarcities of food a formidable difficulty presents itself in the transport of grain to villages which are without railway or steamer communication. The establishment of these banks will solve the difficulty.

In conclusion it commends Rai Parbati Sankar's example for the imitation of others and of the Government.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
30th July 1902.

1064. Referring to the rejection of the recommendation of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals for more dispensaries in Bengal, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes as follows:—

The want of more dispensaries in Bengal.

We very much wish that the Government of Bengal had shown the same sympathy for the suffering millions in the Bengal villages as it did in the case of Europeans, when voting 20 lakhs of rupees or more for the European General Hospital in Calcutta. The Europeans can afford to start a hospital of their own without Government aid, but the raiyats are too poor to do that. Then, again, it is they and not the Europeans who contribute to the public exchequer. Their claims are thus far superior to those of the Europeans. Will His Honour reconsider the suggestion of the Inspector-General, and leave a lasting monument for himself in the hearts of the people he has come to rule by giving effect to it before he leaves this country? The Lady Dufferin Fund may also be utilized for the malaria and cholera-stricken raiyats in Bengal.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
31st July 1902.

1065. Examining the policy of the Finance Minister, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* finds it to consist, first, in the duty of the Central Government to guard India against external and internal foes, meet the Public Debt, the Army Expenditure, the Marine Charges, the Home Charges, etc., etc. The cost of the domestic administration of India is, however, altogether a secondary affair in the presence of the above. Indeed, it says, people may perish for want of good drinking water, medical help and food; the industrial and agricultural manufactures of the country may languish or die; or the civil and criminal administration may be converted into a mere farce for want of funds and the country reduced to a state of anarchy; but these circumstances sink into utter insignificance before, say, the needs of the India Office. How ruinous must be this policy to the welfare of India may better be imagined than described.

The principles laid down by Indian Finance Ministers lead to the inevitable conclusion, continues the journal, that the revenues of India belong to a few Englishmen who spend eight months of the year on the hills; that the Government of India have no obligation to promote the welfare of the people; and that they exist only to pay the pensions and compensation allowances of the officials—to fortify the frontier and look to the comfort of Tommy Atkins. Fortunately for the poor and helpless people of India, the Government itself is better than the declarations of its officials.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
28th July 1902.

1066. Without disclosing names, the *Hindoo Patriot* writes that a Dowager Maharani of one of the foremost Hindu States has addressed the Press, as also the Political Agent and the Viceroy, a petition setting forth the grievances she has against the reigning Maharaja. The paper is fully persuaded that His Excellency the Viceroy will do justice to the lady's case.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
29th July 1902.

1067. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* advocates the appointment of an experienced officer to try the dispute which is going on between the Raja of Tippera and his brother. This officer should call upon the parties to appear before him in person with their representations. Such a course would give the journal greater satisfaction than that the settlement of the dispute should be decided upon the report of the junior officer appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor to enquire into it.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
28th July 1902.

1068. The following is taken from the *Hindoo Patriot*:—
The arrest of the Raja of Puri. "We are glad to hear that the attention of the Local Government has been called to the Magisterial doings at Puri and the Magistrate has been called upon to submit an explanation. Tremendous sensation has been caused all over the country

by the arrest of the sacred person of the Raja, and the papers ought to be made public without delay, together with the views and orders of the Government. We understand the Magistrate's explanation has been already submitted."

1069. The following appears in the *Indian Mirror* :—

INDIAN MIRROR,
26th July 1902.

The arrest of the Raja of Puri. "Because, beyond publishing a telegram from Puri about the alleged dishonourment of the Raja of Puri, we have preserved silence on the subject, it must not be supposed that we are less alive than any of our contemporaries to the gravity of the subject. The matter is still, in a manner, *sub judice*. We shall certainly speak out fearlessly when the time is ripe for doing so.

1070. The *Bengalee* publishes the details of the incident which led to the arrest of the Raja of Puri, and expatiates on the danger of vesting young magistrates such as Mr.

BENGALIAN,
26th July 1902.

Garrett with such power.

"We are tired," it adds, "of reporting such cases, yet we do not know how we can ignore them. The impression in the country is that it is lawlessness which prevails almost everywhere. The Government is wiser than we are, and therefore knows best what to do. But to us it seems that there is some danger, not to the Government, but, to society, if this sort of anarchy is allowed to prevail in the country much longer."

1071. With reference to this incident, *Power and Guardian* remarks that the Government cannot afford to close its eyes in view of the circumstances of the case. A sifting

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
27th July 1902.

and impartial enquiry is what the Hindu community expects.

1072. Under the heading "The reign of lawlessness," the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* devotes a leader to the subject of the arrest of the Raja of Puri, which it characterizes as

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
29th July 1902.

wholly illegal, and as the outcome of the recklessness to which executive officers have drifted by the exercise of irresponsible powers with impunity.

It learns that the Raja is taking legal steps against those concerned, and is confident that Lord Curzon and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, both of whom the Raja has had the honour of meeting, will see that justice is not denied him.

1073. The following comments are made by the *Indian Empire* on the arrest of the Raja of Puri under the orders of the Magistrate :—

INDIAN EMPIRE,
29th July 19 02.

Mr. Garrett, we find, is a junior officer having come out to this country only a little over six years ago. It is a wonder how could he have been entrusted with the charge of a district. Is there so much dearth of officers in Bengal that young and inexperienced men like Mr. Garrett should be let loose among the people, being invested with almost absolute powers? Much of the mischief done in India is done by young and inexperienced Magistrates, and still, we wonder, Government places them in charge of districts.

1074. With reference to the complaint made by the Raja of Puri before the Deputy Magistrate of Puri, the *Hindoo Patriot* writes :—

HINDOO PATRIOT,
30th July 1902.

Hindu India will await with anxiety the decision of the Government and the Court in the matter. We are not sure that it would not on the whole have been better to hold the criminal court complaint in abeyance, pending the decision of Sir John Woodburn's Government. The papers ought to be published without any delay, for public feeling is extremely strained. We understand on the occasion of the *Snanjatra* ceremony the Raja's bathing and going out in state had also been prevented, but the Raja did not complain.

1075. The *Hindoo Patriot* writes that the situation in Puri has been brought about by reason of that important district being left to the charge of a boy Magistrate of no more than

HINDOO PATRIOT,
31st July 1902.

half-a-dozen years' standing. It expresses surprise that such a thing could have happened within easy reach by wire of the Commissioner, the Lieutenant-Governor, and the Viceroy, and at the height of a festival to which millions of devotees were drawn, and to whom the affronted Raja was held as the most sacred of objects next to Jagganath himself. The *Patriot* leaves Mr. Garrett to be

dealt with by the Local Government and public opinion, and is grateful that a serious riot and public disturbance were averted on the occasion.

BEHAR HERALD,
26th July 1902.

1076. The *Behar Herald* writes that it is proposed on the 29th instant to celebrate in Bankipore the anniversary of the Bengali philanthropist, Pandit Iswara Chandra Vidyasagar. This step, says the *Herald*, is a happy sign of the times, following as it does in the wake of the Sivaji celebrations in Calcutta. It shows that Bengalis have at last commenced to appreciate the value of worshipping their heroes.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
26th July 1902.

1077. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* finding, as it alleges, that the Eurasian stands in the way of the Indian, recommends the deportation of the community to Australia and South Africa, for the purpose of forming self-governing colonies in those parts.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
28th July 1902.

1078. The *Hindoo Patriot* characterizes as absurd the alleged grievance of the Eurasian community which led it to consider the desirability of invoking legislation and executive interference in the matter of preventing natives changing their clothes and patronymics and being called Eurasians.

BENGALKEE,
28th July 1902.

1079. The *Bengalee* refers to the letter alleged to have been addressed by the Subdivisional Officer of Raniganj to the residents of that subdivision, asking for subscriptions towards the Victoria Memorial Fund, and says that it may not betray good taste or grammar, but it is certainly a shrewd business letter, which is sure to accomplish its purpose. This would be the case even if the Magistrate were to recall the letter, for the people would know that in spite of the Magistrate's protestations, he would in his heart of hearts be pleased were he to get contributions.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
30th July 1902.

1080. In an article headed "With the kind permission of His Excellency the Viceroy, who is opposed to sarcastic writing," the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes thus of the thoughts of the Indian peasants on the subject of the India Office reception:—

Said Kanye Mandal: "What is food when compared to fireworks, especially when displayed out of one's sight? To eat is to be an animal; sights are for divinities. And, then, to see sights directly is to see their defect, along with their beauties. But to see sights in England from here is to see the beauties only."

Badal was exceedingly sorry that the British people did not spend the revenues of India on fireworks in England. And they all agreed in this philosophic view.

"What a great honor to us Indians," said Fagu Sheikh.

There was Gopal, who did not know what champagne was like, which flowed like the Ganges.

Some wise man defined it as milk, milk of human kindness. "It is all figurative; don't you see that, you stupid?"

"And how many animals were slaughtered?" asked another.

The reply was that they must have killed thousands of pigs and cows. This delighted the Hindus and Mussalmans very much. For nothing pleases the Hindus so much as to hear of the slaughter of kine and the Mussalmans of pigs, specially when it is done at their cost.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 2nd August 1902.

H. B. ST. LEGER,
Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.