The Comrade.

A Weekly Journal. Edited by - Mohamed Ali.

Stand upright, speak thy thought, declare
The truth thou hast, that all may share;
Be bold, proclaim it everywhere;
They only live who dare!

—Morris.

Vol. 7. No. 21. Single Copy Annas 4. **Delhi: Saturday, May 23, 1914.** Annual Subscription Indian Rs. 12. Foreign £1

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MANAGER'S NOTICE.

Subscribers are requested to quote the Subscriber's Number in every communication to the Manager otherwise the office will not be responsible for any delay in replying to such communications.

The Week.

Ulster.

London, May 16.

One thousand Nationalist Volunteers were drilled last night at Carrick-on-Shannon. Two hundred of them carried rifles. The Police were not present. It is stated that large qnantities of rifles and ammunition for the Nationlists have been landed on the west coast of Ireland.

London, May 17.

The Limerick County Council have unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the Nationalist Volunteer movement. Speaking in support of the motion, Mr Lundon M. P. said that when Home Rule was on the Statute book, two hundred thousand Volunteers would parade in Dublin in order to prevent the withdrawal of a measure which had been dearly won.

Mr. Rudyard Kipling, speaking at an anti-Home Rule demonstration at Tunbridge Wells yesterday, warmly denounced the "crooked work" of the Cabinet which, he said, had corruptly bought the Nationalist vote. The price thereof was Home Rule which broke the faith of generations and sold a province of Britain to its enemies. The British electors had been muzzled, but the Army to its eternal glory had saved the Empire.

London, May 19.

Speaking in Queen's Hall, Sir Edward Carson declared that as far as he knew no offer or counter-offer of any kind regarding Ulster and Home Rule had been made except a hypocritical sham of offer made in the House of Commons.

London, May 19.

Speaking at Ipswich, Mr. Marston said that Government had been advised that it would be impossible to obtain a conviction of Sir Edward Carson as his offence was a hypothetical one.

London, May 20.

Mr. Herbert Holman, Insurance broker, the prospective Liberal candidate for Mid-Devon in a speech at Abbotskerswell disclosed the fact that the Government had seized two ships concerned in the Ulster gun-running. The charterer of one, said the speaker, was an Earl who would probably have to pay value to the owner.

The Nationalists claim to have discovered a great Unionist plan to bring Londonderry and other districts under Ulster's Provisional Government in the immedate future. Consequently the Nationalist Volunteers have offered to assist the police and military in resisting such an attempt and have asked Nationalist Members of the House of Commons to assure Mr. Asquith that thousands of drilled Volunteers will assist the forces of the Crown.

Turkey.

Constantinople, May 14.

The Turkish Parliament has re-assembled after twenty-one months' recess.

Constantinople, May 15.

In a speech opening Parliament the Sultan referred to the mortification caused throughout the country at the military disasters of the war the responsibility for which a high military tribunal would determine.

He regretted the Powers' decision to transfer to Greece the islands so necessary to the development of Anatolia and pointed to the continuance of the Government's efforts to obtain recognition of his sovereignty over the islands. The Sultan urged upon the country the necessity of making good the losses of the military resulting from the war and of creating a strong navy. He appealed to the spirit of self-sacrifice of the nation and emphasised the necessity of drafting a budget having that end in view.

Constantinople, May 19.

Halil Bey has been elected President of the Chamber. In a speech he enjoined the Deputies not to forget that they had brothers to save and territories to retrieve beyond their frontiers.

South African Indians.

London, May 15.

The All India Moslem League has made representations at the Foreign and Colonial Offices that the recommendations of the South African Commission regarding the recognition of marriages if carried out would seriously encroach the rights of Mussalmans and be a disastrous interference with the laws relating to their religion guaranteed by the proclamation of 1858. The Union Government, says the League, whilst entitled to declare monagamy the prevailing rule in South Africa, has no right to declare that the issue of a valid marriage in India conformable to the personal laws of the contracting parties should possess no rights in and

be excluded from entering the country of the father's domicile. It suggests that the recommendations shall he cerefully examined by competent Indian lawyers so that no unnecessary hardship shall result from their practical application.

The Oriental Languages School.

London, May 17.

The Oriental Studies Committee, of the India Office, the London Chamber of Commerce and Sir Montagu Turner's Committee have issued a joint appeal on behalf of the Oriental Languages School, pointing out that in addition to the grants of £4,000 and £1,250 per annum, promised by Government and the India Office respectively, and £2,000 per annum expected from the London County Council, a further sum of at least £6,700 a year is required. They ask for an endowment fund of not less than £100,000. The Committee mention that plans for buildings have been approved and that contracts will be settled directly the building strike, which to-day was entering on its seventeenth week, has been settled.

Albania.

London, May 16.

The Albanian Premier, M. Turkhan, is visiting Rome and is being received with great honour. He starts to-day for Vienna to confer with Count Berchtold, the Austro-Hungarian Minister for foreign affairs regarding the difficulties of the new State.

London, May 18.

The Albanian Government has made extensive concessions to the Epirotes regarding the formation of their own gendarmery, language, education and the appointment of Christian governors with locally elected administrative council —all under the guarantees of the Powers.

London, May 19.

Grave complications have arisen in Durazzo. Some two thousand Mussalmans and insurgent peasants have rsached Sika near Durazzo to demand exemption from military service and use of Albanian tongue in schools. They accuse Essad Pasha of breaking his promises. Meanwhile an Italian squadron has arrived hastily at Durrazzo. Essad Pasha and his wife have been arrested, it is not certain by whom, and taken aboard Austrian warship. Marquis Di San Giuliano, Italian Foreign Minister, is preparing to proceed to Durazzo. The whole situation for the moment is most obscure.

Buda Post, May 19.

Count Berchtold to-day informed the delegations that during the last few days the antagonism between the followers of Essad Pasha and his opponents had become more acute and had led to the formation of bands around Durazzo and the consequent anxiety their. Commanders of Austrian and Italian guardships there had agree to land seamen for the proctection of the Princely Court. Essad Pasha was now on board an Austrian guardship.

Vienno, May 20.

Prior to the capture of Essad Pasha the Dutch gendarmes bombarded his house. The "Neue Freie Presse" states that at the request of the Prince, Austro-Hungarian and Italian warships landed detachments which attacked Essad Pasha's house with machine guns. Essad Pasha asked for safe conduct on board the Italian ship, but this was refused.

Rome, May 20.

Signor Giolitti, ex-Premier, has left here for Durazzo.

The situation in Albania is clearing somewhat. The Prince suspecting that Essad Pasha who was largely increasing his bodyguard and following generally, was playing a double game sent gendarmes under officers with quickfirers to arrest him.

Essad Pasha was eventually handed over to the Austrian and Italian naval commanders who meanwhile, at the instance of the Prince, landed a considerable force which is now guarding the palace. Essad Pasha is supposed to have encouraged the march of armed peasants upon Durazzo, but this is not certain.

The Albanian Cabinet has resigned.

Essad Pasha has been transferred to the Italian steamer and deported to Italy. He has promised not to return to Albania without the Prince's permission.

Replying to a question in the delegation Count Berchtold recounted the recent incidents at Dnrazzo. He added that so for he was unable to judge of their significance, but such incidents were to be expected in a newly organised Balkan State and there was no reason to draw far-eaching and unfavourable conclusions from the events in Durazzo.

Our London Letter.

London, May 1.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

The political situation, if anything, has undergone a change for the better during the last few days. In fact the improvement became very marked on Wednesday during the concluding stage of the House of Commons debate on the Unionists, "censure" motion. The tone of the speeches of Sir Edward Carson, Mr. Balfour and Mr. Bonar Law was surprisingly conciliatory. Mr. Balfour contributed a new and valuable definition of Ulster—"the North-East Counties of Ireland;" Mr. Bonar Law offered to "stand aside" if there were a renewal of conversations—it sounded like abdication—and Sir Edward Carson expressed "hope and prayer" that a Parliament for the rest of Ireland would be "such success that it would be to the interests of Ulster to come in under it."

Mr. Asquith having castigated his critics on the personal issue involved, expressed sympathy with the spirit of Sir Edward Carson's speech, and declared that the door would be kept open till the last moment for a settlement by consent.

The "censure" motion was defeated by a majority of 80. The general impression in political circles, as a result of Wednesday's developments, is that there will be a prompt renewal of "conversations." In such a case, it is understood that Mr. Redmond will take part in them.

As to the position of the Cabinet towards peace, the statements made in the *Daily News* that Mr. Churchill's suggestion was thrown out on his own responsibility, and that the Government's original offer to Ulster still stood, have now been borne out by the Prime Minister's pronouncements. More was read into Mr. Churchill's words, not only by his political opponents, but by a good many of the Government's supporters, and especilly the Irish Nationalists, than the words strictly warranted. The Government, as the Prime Minister has repeated, have closed no door on peace.

Though sharp censure had marked both Mr. Churchill's and Mr. Asquith's speeches, yet everybody in the House, during the recent debate, felt that the most important part of what they said was the new "offer" which the First Lord made and upon which Mr. Asquith commented. Again, though the Opposition were pledged by their motion to demonstrate that the Government are guilty of plotting a massacre and attempting to conceal it by falsehood, nevertheless nobody, not even the speakers themselves, attached any importance to this self-imposed and vain task. Sir Edward Carson, who may be counted in this connection as the most important man on the Opposition side, ignored it completely; and, though Mr. Balfour and Mr. Bonar Law were more faithful, it was only to their comments upon Mr. Churchill's "offer" that anybody lent a listening ear.

It is a strange paradox that, when the conflict should be at its hottest and the words at their bitterest, both Front Benches should suddenly discover a change of temperature and a transformation and take to talking of peace. The plain man, who has no special information and is limited for the forming of a judgement to what is common property, must be content not to understand all the inwardness of this sudden change. He must be content with that and hope that this swift transition from conflict to conciliation, from threats of war to hopes of agreement, turns upon something solid. The phrase in Mr. Churhill's speech, which is the ostensible explanation of the movement towards optimism, is so vague that one may be pardoned the surprise that so much should have been read into it, and that it should have produced such considerable consequences. Mr. Churchill said that the political situation would be transformed if Sir Edward Carson would say:

> "Give me the amendments to this Home Rule Bill which I ask to safeguard the dignity and the interests of Protestant Ulster, and I, in turn, will use all my influence and goodwill to make Ireland an integral unit in the federal system."

Read quite strictly this phrase contains no offer and no undertaking at all on the part of the Government. That, however, is not the interpretation which Sir Edward Carson and his friends, without any repudiation from the Government, put upon it.

Sir Edward Carson sees in it an offer to drop the time limit until Ulster decides of her own free will to enter as an integral part of Ireland under some future federal system of Government for the United Kingdom. Mr. Balfour's own comment is that nothing except the absolute and unconditional exclusion of Ulster will meet the case. Between the spirit of his presentation and the spirit of Sir Edward Carson's there is the difference between the spirit of one who denies Irish nationality and the spirit of one who feels himself an Irishman. That, as the official Liberal organ says, is important, but after all the important thing is: Do their practical suggestions really differ? Is there much difference between exclusion unconditionally and exclusion until (*a*) a Federal system is established, and (*b*) Ulster feels inclined to join the rest of Ireland as an integral unit in such a federal system? A federal system will come ultimately, but it has little pertinence to the present situation; and division which lasts for an indefinite term may very easily become permanent. If it be said, "but we should have Sir Edward Carson co-operating to bring about federalism, and to induce Ulster to join the rest of Ireland," the answer is obvious. If Sir Edward Carson were now, instead of widening and deepening the

[We regret that in our last week's London Letter the name of Dr. Baqer Shah was wrongly printed as Bagee Shah, for which we offer our apologies.]

differences between Ulster and the rest of Ireland, to apply the same zeal, devotion and energy to bringing the two together, there would be no need to wait for a problematical federation and to sever North from South in order ultimately to unite them. This present Home Rule Bill as it stands and here and now would do all that was needed. For these reosons it is wiser not to rush into an optimism which may prove quite futile and to welcome Mr. Asquith's closing words. In reply to a suggestion by Mr. Bonar Law of the renewal of "conversations," he insisted that it is no use trying to settle this question behind the backs of the people of Ulster and without the consent of the members for the rest of Ireland. There must be the assent and the honest assent of those who are mainly interested. These are wise words. Admittedly there is as yet no public opinion about federation, and by general consent Ulster is hardly less averse than the rest of Ireland to exclusion. The danger to which Ireland is exposed, as the *Daily News* truly says, is that, to get party leaders out of an embarrassing predicament, a "settlement" may be thrust upon Ireland, which the Irish do not want. Mr. Asquith's words are to be taken as a guarantee against that disaster.

Gun-running in Ulster.

The tone of Unionist comments on the latest Ulster episode—the smuggling of arms into Belfast—would be appropriate to some schoolboy exploit. It is wholly inappropriate to one of the gravest events since the beginning of the present Home Rule conflict. What happened in Belfast Lough during Friday night of last week cannot fail to make the Government reconsider the policy it has hitherto pursued towards the Ulster movement, and it is as well to indicate precisely why. It is not because, the *Daily News* seriously argues, so many thousand rifles and so many thousands of cartridges have been added to the armament of the Ulster Volunteers. So far as the Ulster Volunteers are a military problem, they were not serious before Friday week, and they are very little more serious to-day. It is the circumstances under which the rifles were smuggled which make the event so grave.

Putting together the official and the unofficial accounts, it is evident that in two or three ports of Ulster the Volunteers, apparently led by two members of Parliament, blocked the roads and forbade the use of them to the King's subjects engaged in lawful business; seized the telephones and the telegraphs, which are the King's property; occupied the railway station; assaulted and imprisoned the coastguards, who are the King's servants; and caused the death of one coastguard. We must wait for further details before we decide the exact degree of criminality involved in this last act, which, of course, can as little be removed from the jurisdiction of the courts as it can be blotted from the minds of men by the verdict of a jury composed of the friends of the criminals and pronounced with indecent haste.

For the present, however, it is enough to recall that when an officer died of heart disease while running away from riotous Denshawa peasants, it was thought just to hang four Egyptian villagers, in an exceptionally brutal manner, and that when at Manchester a policeman was accidentally killed during an attempted rescue of prisoners it was thought just to hang three Irish Fenians. When men engage in lawless conduct, from which there flow consequences, which are natural even though not desired, the law of this country holds those men responsible both for the conduct and the consequences.

It is not a jest to make military occupation of the King's cities. It is not a jest to seize the King's highways. It is not a jest to assault and imprison the King's servants. It is not a jest to cause the death of one of the King's servants under circumstances which may possibly amount to manslaughter or murder. These are positive crimes, the seriousness of which it would be as difficult to exaggerate as it would be foolish to disregard. The organisation of the Volunteer movement in Ulster from the beginning involved very grave criminal acts. But hitherto all these crimes had these characteristics—they have been technical offences preparatory to active rebellion, but they have not involved in themselves the annihilation of the King's authority, attack upon the King's property, interference with the King's servants, or the death of the King's servants. In the crimes committed last Friday night each and every one of these offences was included. They were no more technical breaches of law; they were rebellion with all the circumstances of rebellion, not excluding death.

There need be no surprise that Mr, Asquith was summoned back to town to consider these momentous happenings. For more than two years the Government has suffered the Ulster movement to continue without intervention, although it was manifestly and avowedly a conspiracy against the authority of Parliament and the Crown. That policy of tolerance has very naturally from time to time excited criticism from those who doubted its wisdom. But it could be persisted in by the Government so long as the plea could be urged that active rebellion was still a thing of the future, and there had been no definite attacks on property, life and authority. Now that plea falls to the ground. On Friday night for many hours and over a large stretch of country a force of armed rebels swept away the authority of the Crown, terrorised the King's loyal subjects, seized the King's property, imprisoned the King's servants, and caused the death of one of the King's servants. Crimes such as these could be disregarded only at the price of surrendering all authority in Ulster, and admitting that there Parliament and the Crown are phantoms of which every lawless rogue may make mock. Of course, everybody recognises the insolent vanity, after such events, of the talk about a "plot" against the law-abiding men of Ulster, with which the Opposition have taken two days of Parliament's time. What every man who has any sense of the sanctity of law wants is an assurance that every person will be punished who took part in Friday's rebellion, and that the Government is determined to vindicate the authority of the Crown and of Parliament in Ulster as in the rest of the King's dominions.

Mr. Asquith announced last Monday in the House of Commons that the Government would deal without delay with "the grave and unprecedented outrage in Ulster." Subsequently he paid a visit to the King and returned to a prolonged meeting of the Cabinet, which had been summoned to deal with the situation. The nature of the measures to be taken can at present only be assumed, but it is certain that they will be commensurate with the seriousness of the occasion. The time has come in Mr. Churchill's phrase to put these grave matters to the proof. At all costs the authority of the law must be established, and it will be the duty of the Government to punish without delay those who have insulted the authority of the King, and to prosecute the ringleaders of the outrage, to send into Ulster such armed force as will be adequate to deal with the rebel movement, to seize all weapons and to forbid the armed drilling of those who are now openly at war with society. If the Government are wanting in courage now, then Government has ceased to exist, and the reign of anarchy is established. The right to arm against the State will not be limited to Ulster. It will be asserted by every body of men who think they have a grievance and who choose to repudiate the authority of Parliament by violent means. The issue at stake is nothing less than the existence of this country as a civilised society.

The events of last Friday have made it clear that the Government, if they were to blame at all last month, were to blame, not for excessive measures, but for insufficient measures of precaution. Had the naval arrangements which Mr. Churchill contemplated been carried out, there would have been no gun-running raid on Friday night. As for the attempt of the *Times* to represent that outrage as a sequel to the "plot," there is indisputable evidence to the contrary in the fact that the "Fanny" left Hamburg before the Curragh episode took place. It is clear that the attempt to spread sedition in the Army was going on concurrently with the scheme for supplying the rebels in Ulster with arms.

The whole scope of the conspiracy, in short, is now revealed and it is for the Government to deal with it with all the resources at their command. It is probable that Mr. Bonar Law still relies upon the Army proving disloyal. He will find himself mistaken; in any case the Government will not flinch from putting this to the proof. And if they have to deal with disloyalty in the Army as well as with treason in Parliament they will have abundant strength in the country for their need. Liberty is too old a growth in this land to be lightly uprooted, and the party that attempts to substitute the veto of the Army for the veto of the House of Lords is a party which is doomed for a generation. The Government have at no period had better reason to take a cheerful view of their position than they have to-day, or to regard the prospects of the Home Rule Bill with more confidence.

Mr. Churchill's reference to the Indian Army.

Mr. Churchill has done well to draw attention to the extraordinary dictum that has been so emphatically laid down by Mr. Bonar Law as to when an officer or even a private soldier should or should not obey the orders of his superiors. The Unionist Leader has made it perfectly clear that he would leave the question entirely to the conscientious discretion of the Army, and that he for one would not blame them for refusing to obey orders, when that involves the shooting of their fellow-citizens and fellow-countrymen even if the latter are prepared to go to the length of offering violent opposition to the administration of any particular measure, which has been sanctioned by the King and Parliament, and of breaking the peace of these realms. Supposing a situation may arise in India, which heaven forbid, that may necessitate the shooting of the Indian people or those who may have become revolutionary and dangerous to the stability of law and order, and the Indian officers or Indian soldiers for obvious conscientious reasons decline to obey the orders of their superiors to shoot their fellow-countrymen and fellow-citizens, the results of such an episode would be disastrous for the maintenance of British rule in India, but, all the same, such officers would have the hearty support of Mr. Bonar Law, who might possibly, at the very moment of such a calamity happening in the Eastern Dependency of the Crown, be himself the Prime Minister of England! How could he then or anybody else differentiate between the situation

in Ulster and that in India, as far as military discipline is concerned, is beyond understanding. It is indeed a great pity that leading statesmen in this country, on both sides it must be frankly admitted, are occasionally overcome with such heated and bitter party feelings that they become liable to overlook the significant fact that the British Empire consists of other countries and dominions beyond the shores of the United Kingdom as well. But this particularly sorrowful exhibition of lack of statesmanship on the part of the Unionist Leader cannot but be specially distressing and painful to all those who, irrespective of party, have the true interests of the Empire at heart.

MR. SARFARAZ HUASAIN IN LONDON.

Mr. Sarfaraz Husain, who has come over to England to assist Mr. Khwaja Kamaludin in his missionary work in this country, was amongst the worshippers at last Friday's Namaz at Lindsay Hall, held under the auspices of the Islamic Society. Some of your readers are no doubt aware that Mr. Sarfaraz Husain has already visited the Far East and the United States, entirely at his own personal expense, with the sole object of spreading Islam in those parts of the world. He has now come over to London to work "at the feet of my chief, Khwaja Kamaluddin"—as he put it himself—and his assistance will undoubtedly be of immense value to the Khwaja Sahib. The latter, in welcoming Mr. Sarfaraz Husain, briefly expressed his keen appreciation of and sincere admiration for Mr. Husain's true Moslem spirit and the devotion and energy with which he has been for the past several years advocating the sacred cause of Islam in foreign lands. Mr. Zafar Ali Khan, who is an old college-fellow of Mr. Husain in their Aligarh days, also cordially endorsed the sentiments that had been so eloquently expressed by Khwaja Kamaluddin towards that gentleman and wished him every success in his noble work in this country.

The fact that Mr. Sarfaraz Husain has personally declared at Lindsay Hall his intention of assisting and helping the Khwaja Sahib in his religious work in England is very significant and very strongly emphasises my remarks in your columns a few weeks ago that Khwaja Kamaluddin has been advocating the great cause of Islam in this country on absolutely non-sectarian lines. Those who have been meanly accusing him of sectarian instincts are either perfectly ignorant of the position or else are doing so with ulterior motives. Nothing could be further from the truth, and Mr. Sarfaraz Husain's generous acknowledgment of the Khwaja Sahib's "chief-ship" must for once and for all dispose of any doubts or fears in that direction. Khwaja Kamaluddin's work in England deserves the unanimous support of all true Moslems, irrespective of sect.

TEN YEARS OF THE ENTENTE CORDIALE.

The Press of this country has been lately full of the benefits that have been obtained by England and France as a direct result of the *Entente* between the two countries, the tenth anniversary of which has been just celebrated on both sides of the Channel with extraordinary enthusiasm. The King's recent State visit to Paris has been recognised in certain quarters as a fitting culmination of the decade of Anglo-French "understanding", which has just ended, and the brilliant success that has happily marked the royal sojourn in the French capital has obviously and naturally produced an excellent impression on His Majesty's loyal subjects in these islands. I am sure the Indian Moslem subjects of His Majesty are equally impressed with the successful issue of their sovereign's visit to France and share in common with their other fellow-subjects no little satisfaction and delight at the growth and development of the *entente cordiale* with the great neighbouring Republic.

They cannot, however, be reasonably expected to read through the pages of the past ten years' Anglo French history with anything like unmixed pleasure. They cannot, and will not lose sight of the fact that the *entente cordiale*, that came into existence between Great Britain and France ten years ago, was the evil precursor of the "grouping of the Powers" in Europe, which has been instrumental in shattering the independence and integrity of so many Moslem States in Asia, Europe and Africa. Egypt, Morocco, Persia, Tripoli and Turkey have each in turn suffered. In days gone by, Great Britain's "splendid isolation" was indeed a guarantee for the safety and well-being of smaller countries abroad. Disinterestedly and fearlessly, she could then champion the cause of the oppressed States. She was not in those days involved in any European agreements or "understandings," and could thus adopt independent action in the cause of humanity, nationality and freedom. Under those conditions, as is a matter of history, she could assert herself effectively. How different the position is to-day! Sir Edward Grey's association with the Foreign Office has produced nothing but ruination and disaster for the Moslem States abroad, some of which had for years been bound by traditional ties of the closest friendship with this country. The abominable partition of Persia at the very birth of her freedom, the wicked expoliation of European Turkey, the outrageous and unprovoked raid on Tripoli and the conquest of Morocco can all be traced directly or indirectly to the *entente cordiale*. Great Britain, now intimately concerned in European politics, has been forced to sacrifice her former freedom of action. As a member of the Triple Entente, she is unable to move in any way without "sounding" and indeed securing the consent of the other two Powers in the Entente Group. The Triple Ententee policy as a whole is being shaped in relation to that of the Triple Alliance. In short, Great Britain is not to-day enjoying that unique position in the Concert of Europe which was her unquestionable right in the past. Moreover, even in the Group of Powers with which she is associated, she is in reality playing a secondary or even a tertiary part. We have seen how humiliating and degrading a part she has taken in the Persian question, in which the depostie Government of the Tsar has openly and deliberately ignored her and has throughout had it all its own way, without even a feeble protest from Whitehall, in spite of solemn pledges and sacred promises. The German invasion scare has practically reduced British foreign diplomacy to the state of impotency. The whole country is so deeply overcome with the fright of a German invasion that it is prepared to sacrifice all her best traditions, her past glory and good name in the interests of brutal Russia and mercenary France. The obvious result is that to-day Great Britain is not a partner in the Triple Entente, but is in reality a slave to the whims and fancies of her two "friends" in the Entente Group of Powers.

In consequence, Russia and France are eating Persia and Morocco respectively, as they feel convinced that their other colleague in the *Entente* would not dare to interfere with their ghastly plunders of these two ancient Moslem States, or that if she would in any way attempt to stop their ravages in those innocent and powerless countries, the mere threat of dissolution of the *Entente*, with the German bogy always staring her in the face, would be more than sufficient to silence her. The Triple Alliance is similarly convinced of the inability of Great Britain to interfere or even protest against any action it may feel disposed to take. The Italian raid on Tripoli could never have occurred without such conviction as to the unavoidable and necessary attitude of England. Bosnia and Herzegovina likewise could never have been lost to Turkey, had Austria not been fully alive to the helplessness of the British position. The Triple Alliance knows that no Great Power could to-day declare war on the Continent without causing a European War, which in itself is a sufficient restriction of, or, indeed, a formidable reason against any such procedure. The awful consequences of the grouping of Powers in Europe have thus proved most fatal and destructive to the several Moslem States, which unfortunately may happen to be situated near any great European Power.

The Anglo-French *entente cordiale*, as I have said before, is mainly responsible for the gradual and successive loss of so many Moslem countries and it will remain in Moslem history as a landmark, not of progress, prosperity or freedom, but of ruination, disaster and damnation.

THE CORONATION OF THE SHAH.

The Persia Committee met at the House of Commons yesterday under the chairmanship of Lord Lamington. It was unanimously resolved that the Government should be asked, in view of the approaching coronation of the Shah, to urge upon the Russian Government the withdrawal from Northern Persia of the Russian expeditionary force.

THE AUTOCRAT OF CHINA: ABOLITION OF CABINET AND SENATE.

According to the Pekin correspondent of the *Times*, the Convention appointed to amend the provisional constitution has completed its task, and it is expected that the document will be promulgated shortly. Extensive powers are conferred on the President Yuan Shih-Kai, but that is hardly worth considering, since he has wielded dictatorial authority since the dissolution of Parliament. The amended constitution is of little importance, since it can be torn up or re-amended *ad infinitum* merely at the convenience of the Government. The essential feature of the political situation in China remains entirely unchanged—namly, that Yuan Shih-Kai is dictator.

The amendments, however, provide some formal changes not without interest. The Cabinet and Premier disappear and also, apparently, the Senate. Departmental Ministers hereafter will be responsible directly to the President, who will be served by a Secretary of State instead of by a Premier. An Advisory Council will be formed upon which the President will depend for sanction in dealing with Parliament. Some sort of an elective assembly is provided for, but as the constitution will be arranged by a body nominated by the Government its powers are notlikely to be extensive nor would its character be seriously representative of the people. The Advisory Council will, of course, be nominated as also the Convention which will draw up the permanent constitution.

Whether Yuan Shih-Kai is wise in practically excluding Young China from any voice in the affairs of State remains to be seen. The Constitution as amended bears not the slightest resemblance to the charter casually prepared at Nanking two years ago and will certainly embitter the feelings of the whole revolutionary party against the President and may before long lead to a further rebellion. Yuan-Shih-Kai can justify his arbitrary assumption of power only by the successful use of that power in the future.

23rd May.

TETE À TETE



Sometime ago we published certain startling facts and figures about the decline in the circulation of the *Comrade* since we migrated to Delhi, and it induced some of our readers to work as canvassers for us in order to make up the number we had on our books when we left Calcutta and even go beyond it. The result is that in two months and a half nearly 200 fresh subscribers have been enlisted, and even comparing it with the conditions existing two years ago it is not quite unsatisfactory. But what will our supporters say to the fact that the *net* result of their efforts and ours is *a decline of exactly 200 ?* The *Comrade* is not now a newspaper that owes the enlistment of fresh subscribers to curiosity. It is not yet three and a half years old, but even its infancy has been more crowded with incidents than the youth and old age of many of its contemporaries, and it is safe to say that hardly one of the 200 fresh subscribers now enlisted has made its intimate acquaintance only after enlistment. Why then the paradox of the enlistment of fresh supporters combined with a withdrawal of support by twice as many as have enlisted? Well, we regret once more to have to deplore publicly the ethics of those who continue to receive the paper but ignore its claims for a modest subscription. They either like the paper or they don't. If they don't like it, a post-card, frankly telling us that they don't like it, would be a business-like arrangement, and with our recent experience even this would be a great relief to us. But if they do like the paper what excuse have they for being defaulters when the time comes to pay their quarterly or annual subscription? What comfort can the earnest efforts of our supporters bring to us when their biggest haul in a day is eight or ten new subscribers and the same day the names of nine fifty defaulters have to be removed by us?

Our Supporters.

With the experience which we have related our readers can well imagine our feelings when we get a communication so flattering as this from a far-off but ardent supporter. He writes :—

Another Picture.

"Most of us find it pretty hard to get the *Comrade* once a week only and "have to wait anxiously for full seven days for the next issue. You "may have your own reasons for not making it a daily paper, but we "see none, perhaps because everyone can't be expected to have the "same patience and forbearance as Mr. Mohamed Ali has. As a "compromise, I beg to suggest the following alternative courses, "which I sincerely hope you will not have any objection to put "before your readers, and inviting their opinions on the suggestion. "If the majority is overwhelmingly on my side perhaps you may also "bend, though you have got an indomitable will of your own. The "alternative courses are :—1. A daily 2-or 4-page supplement may "be issued giving us the latest news, for which most of us, very "reluctantly have to subscribe to other papers. 2. The *Comrade* "may be made bi-weekly. (*a*) A Saturday Edition dealing mainly "with Indian and other topics of Mohamedan interest. (*b*) A Wed-"nesday Edition dealing solely with the affairs of other Mohamedan "countries besides India. It is unnecessary for me to say that "with the new awakening we have begun to take interest in places "and things which we never thought of in the 'Dark Ages,' and "once begun, it is improper, nay, sinful, to check our curiosity "to see what our co-religionists are doing elsewhere. In both cases, "the subscription should be raised to double its present amount and "none who has the slightest love for Islam will, I am sure, grudge "it." Look on that picture and on this! It reminds us of the poet's plight—

تصور عرش پر ہی اور سر ہی پای ساقی پر
غرض کچھ زور دھن مین اس گھڑی میخوار بیٹھی ہین

(The imagination has soared to the Seat of the Almighty, while the head is lying at the feet of the wine-giver. Verily the wine-bibbers are in a strange and powerful stupor just now).

Out of his affection and generosity our kind correspondent talks of bending our "indomitable will". Perhaps it is already bending, though not in the direction in which he would like to bend it. "Patience and forbearance" to which he refers equally generously have also their limits and evidently he little knows how near their limits ours have reached. The community represented in politics by the Moslem League would denounce its office-bearers the moment it found them submitting to the dictation of the rich instead of voicing the opinions of the masses ; but we shall be surprised if even a small fraction of the community has realized the fact that even to this day the All-India Moslem League cannot defray half its annual expense out of its income from the contribution of its "democratic" members and has to depend on the annual "subsidy" from the much abused "aristocracy". Do our readers desire the *Comrade* to publish *their* righteousness at the expense of those whom they are only too eager to denounce ? Well, it does not matter much what they desire, but it is just as well that they learnt to understand that defaulters connot be dictators. We have received generous assistance from the "aristocrat" as well as the "democrat", but always on the striet condition that with us there is no buying and selling of opinions, and it is bare justice to say that the "aristocrat" has tried much less to dictate our policy to us than the "democrat". Now, however, the latter has got used to a paper voicing his opinions without having to incur the cost of this political necessity, and just as the constancy of an Indian wife gives birth to a security in the husband which soon degenerates into indifference, our fidelity to the popular cause has bred in our people an inertia not unlike indifference. Even the most callous husband would be a very different man if the poor wife who had fallen from the days of caresses on the days of kicks showed signs of loving her neighbour as herself and her neighbour's husband as her own. The indifferent husband need not, however, undervalue the faithful wife, for even if in his eyes she has shed the attractions of an earlier day, other eyes may yet discover in her more than a slight remnant of charm. But the Indian wife prefers the kicks of her own husband to the caresses of another, and reluctant as we may be to confess it, we must say the analogy certainly extends as far as this. Nevertheless, hunger-strike, as Mr. G. K. Chesterton has truly said, is the old weapon of the discontented dame, and our readers perhaps do not know that we are about to commence a hunger-strike ourselves. Only ours may not be voluntary! These are facts. What our ardent supporter suggests about a daily or a bi-weekly with double the present subscription is a fancy. And the more ugly the facts the more they insist on ousting out pleasant fancies. We hear of a big journalistic enterprise about to be launched in the Punjab and wish it all success. But our own fate is not the best of omens for others.

The Hunger-Strike.

ای تازہ واردان بساط ہوای دل ✲ زنہار اگر تمہین ہوس نای و نوش ہی
دیکھو مجھی جو دیدہ عبرت نگاہ ہو ✲ میری سنو جو گوش نصیحت نیوش ہی

Like most Western institutions transplated in the East, journalism is in its infancy, and even if some Indian journalists would be a credit to their profession in any European country, they have not yet succeeded in educating the Indian public to comprehend fully the duties, the privileges and the limitations of journalism. It is true that the first duty of a newspaper is to publish news, and the consequences of a wide publication are so great that a journalist has to take far more care than an ordinary citizen to satisfy himself about the correctness of the news he publishes. But everything need not be published even if its correctness is beyond dispute. Every citizen must do that which is for the public benefit and must refrain from doing that which is against public interest. One of greatest moralists of the East, a man to whom Indian Mussalmans owe at least three-fourths of their moral maxims and a good deal of their observance went even so far as to prefer the "expedient lie" to "inexpedient truth." Of course Sa'di's expediency was only altruistic and not the low egotism of intriguers. This much will be admitted on all hands that even the most patriotic Ministers of modern States have on occasions declined to supply certain information to their Parliaments on the ground of its being against public interest. They recognise that their Parliament are not their slaves but their masters, and that they cannot honestly be used as the instruments of their masterful wills when they are themselves the creatures of their Parliaments. Nevertheless, they withhold important information from their Parliaments believing that "the safety of the State is the highest law." This lesson must be carefully taught to our infant democracy and both newspapers and newspaper readers must learn it. We have been tempted to explain what must be only too obvious to many of our readers because we are occasionally asked why we had not published a certain news before a certain time, and why we had not published another news at all. To all there questions we have only one answer: public interest is with us the only consideration. This is our answer to those of our friends also

Sectarian Controversies.

who ask us why we have been silent so long about sectarian differences among some Mussalmans concerning Aligarh affairs. It is our belief that the Trustees of Aligarh, both Shiahs and Sunnis, conscienciously desire to do full justice to the claims, of all Moslem sects : but that they are as determined as their great master Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, and his friends and collaborators, Khalifa Syed Mohamed Hasan and Khalifa Syed Mohamed Hosain to give no asylum in the nursery of Moslem manhood at Aligarh to the sectarian spirit that is now doomed throughout the world of Islam. The Trustees appointed a strong and fully representative Sub-Committee of their own some time ago to deal with complaints made in certain quarters, and we can regard it as nothing short of a misfortune that the Committee did not meet before a most deplorable incident, which was sure to provide fuel for the sectarian flame, happened at Aligarh. Thanks to the good sense and determination of all concerned, and of none more than Major Syed Hasan Bilgrami, Maulana Abbas Hosain, Professor of Arabic, Persian and Shiah Theology, and the Shiah students of the College themselves, that most regrettable controversy is now closed. But complaints of a more permanent character have still to be dealt with and we have every hope that the deliberations of the Trustees' Committee which meets on the 26th instant will result in recommendations to the Trustees which would prove acceptable to them and to all sections of Mussalmans. When the Trustees, who ought to know, and do know, the nature of the problem better than those who are in no way connected with the management of the College, and do not so well appreciate its character and aim, are alive to the situation, we think the Moslem public should reserve comment till the Trustees have formulated their own solution of the problem. There will then be time enough to criticise and the criticism is then likely to be both informed and useful. We hope these views will commend themselves to all sections of Mussalmans and that their good sense will be fully equal to the delicate nature of the work which the Trustees have in hand.

An Important Contradiction.

Our readers must be familiar with the name of Mr. Syed Hasan Abid Jafry. He is an Old Boy of Aligarh and did great credit to himself and to the training he had received at his Alma Mater when he and some of his friends then in England organised the first Indian Red Crescent Medical Mission for Turkey during the Balkan War. This was done, so far as we know, entirely at their own cost, and of this Mr. Hasan Abid Jafry had, we understand, borne at least a very great share. Even a more notable feature of this Mission was that it was composed entirely of Shiah gentlemen. To our mind the significance of this noble effort was so great that when we heard of it from Dr. Ansari we felt that Islam had not lost a hundred battles in the Balkans but had won the greatest victory of many centuries! Imagine, then, our great grief when we read in the *Zamindar* of the 12th instant that Mr. Hasan Abid Jafry had presided at a meeting of a society called "The Anjuman-i-Imamia," of Shahgunj, Agra, which passed certain resolutions concerning sectarian differences about Aligarh to which we have alluded which were decidedly of an unfortunate character. We are, however, happy to learn that it cost Mr. Hasan Abid Jafry no less grief to read the report of the meeting which the *Zamindar* published over the signature of a "Syed Riza Ahmad Rizawi" who calls himself the Secretary of the Anjuman. We are thankful to Mr. Syed Alay Nabi, himself a resident of Shahgunj, Agra, for forwarding to us a letter of Mr. Hasan Abid Jafry condicting some very important allegations and suggestions contained in Mr. Syed Riza Ahmad Rizawi's report of the meeting and explaining the true character and position of those who attended it. We publish it in our correspondence columns and are sure that it will be read with the great interest and appreciated by all those who desire to see the fast growing solidarity of Indian Mussalmans fully maintained.

"The City of Tombs" and New Delhi.

Even the *Statesman* will not we think doubt the fact that we do not wish to come in the way of the building of New Delhi. But we certainly wish to come in the way of those who wish to disturb her old saints in their resting places. The Hon. the Chief Commissioner appeared to us to be very sympathetic when the question of mausoleums, graves and graveyards situated inside and outside the present Delhi was being hotly discussed here last year, and we have no reason to believe that anything has occurred since then to make him any the less sympathetic. We, therefore, wish to draw his attention to the rumour current in Behar that the authorities here contemplate to demolish the grave of Sheikh Nuruddin Malik Baz Parran one of the ancestors of Haji Shah Badruddin Saheb of Phulwari Sharif, who is held in great esteem in Behar. The tomb is said to be situated on the left side of the road that runs from the Dargah of Nizam-ud-din Aulia to Shahjahanpur. The tombstone bears an inscription stating that the saint died on the 18th of the second Jamadi in the year 680 of the Hijra, that he was a great saint endowed with extraordinary powers and that the "Sultan of the Shaikhs" (Nizam-ud-din Aulia) himself used to visit his mausoleum to pay his respects and in his lifetime had also inquired about him. Evidently the Shaikh was a man of great piety and saintliness, and this is confirmed by a reference to his life as well as the reproduction of this inscription in the *Akhbar-ul-Akhiar fi Asrar-ul-Abrar* of the great Traditionist of Delhi, Shah Abdul Haq, whose mosque had been demolished by a mistake and, thanks to the sympathetic attitude of the Hon. the Chief Commissioner, has, we understand, now been restored. We We trust he will be pleased to order that this grave be left untouched Its demolition will certainly cause great grief and pain to Mussalmans generally, and to the Mussalmans of Behar particularly who visit the Khankah in Phulwari Sharif in large numbers and hold Shah Badruddin Saheb who presides over it and his saintly ancestor in great veneration.

The Man *on* and the Man *off* the Spot.

It is too late in the day to explain the doctrine of trusting the "man on the spot". It is the favourite theme of our bureaucrats and their advocates and partisans. It is insisted upon in season and out of season, and we may take it that nobody can possibly forget it for a moment. But when Lord Minto persisted with the reforms and accepted the resignation of Sir Bamfylde Fuller the "man on the spot" was evidently *not* "on the spot". Similarly, when Lord Hardinge at last recognised the gravity of the situation arising out of the Cawnpore Mosque affair and took a line of policy not favoured by the bureaucracy, His Excellency immediately ceased to be the "man on the spot." His Excellency Lord Carmichael has charge of far the most difficult Province in India, and we admire the combination of firmness and patience with which he is dealing with its affairs, though we cannot say we approve of everything that is being done in the name of his Government. His Excellency has before him the example of the leader of his old party, Mr. Asquith, who has had every justification for a policy of blood and thunder in Ulster except that of a statesman's sagacity. But while joining the Tories, his new friends, as we have no doubt he does, in condemning "the Plot" with a capital P, Sir John Rees thinks it equally necesssary to condemn the policy of Lord Carmichael with regard to repressing political crime in Bengal. Does it ever occur to this gentleman to compare his own conduct with that of, say, Sir Henry Cotton which he has always condemned? We always understood that he deprecated the critical attitude of Sir Henry when he sat on the same side of the House some years ago and he desired no interference whatever in the affairs of Indian administration by Members of Parliament. He was, forsooth, afraid of "losing India on the floor of the House of Commons". But once more he has become a turn-coat and desires the House of Commons to interfere in the administration of Bengal. Well, he did so recently and got his reward. The Under Secretary of State for India rebuked him soundly and characterised his suggestion of remissness on the part of the Government of Bengal as both "unfounded and mischivous" Poor Sir John ! He still thinks he rules the roost in India instead of being open to insult from a cabby if he pays the bare legal fare, as Mr. Harold Begbie wrote of the Anglo-Indian official in England after his retirement. But Sir John Rees must be told that happily or unhappily he is no longer the "man *on* the spot" but is very much *off* it.

A Novel Use of the Press Act.

After the judgment of the Hon. Sir Lawrence Jenkins in our Pamphlet Case in which he had said that "the provisions of section 4 are very comprehensive and its language as wide as human ingenuity could make it," and that "it is very difficult to see to what lenghts the operation of this section might not be plausibly extended by an ingenious mind", one expected anything to happen. But the ingenuity of the police in Bengal surpasses even the inventive genius of the Punjab authorites. For some reason or other the Bengal police has compelled the publisher of the *Habl-ul-Matin* of Calcutta to figure in the published proceedings of Calcutta Courts every now and then. The latest occasion was the 19th instant when he was called upon by the Cheif Presidency Magistrate to show cause why his declaration as publisher should not be cancelled. Now the law requiring the publisher of a newspaper to make a declaration is contained in the "Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867" and not in the "Press Act of 1910." It runs thus:—"The printer and the publisher of every such periodical "work shall appear before the Magistrate within whose local "jurisdiction such work shall be published and shall make and "subscribe in duplicate the following declaration : 'I, A. B., "declare that I am the printer [*or* publisher, *or* printer and publisher] "'of the periodical work entitled————and printed [*or* published] "'*or* printed and published, *as the case may be*] at————.' And "the last blank in this form of declaration shall be filled up "with a true and precise account of the premises where the "printing or publication is conducted." Other rules under the section require a similar fresh declaration to be made as often as the place of printing or publication is changed or the printer or publisher leaves British India and another resident within British

India is substituted. This is all that a printer or publisher has to comply with before he prints or publishes a newspaper. The next section lays down the law about the powers and the duties of the Magistrate before whom the declaration is made. It says: "Each of the two orginals of every declaration so made and subscrib-"ed as is aforesaid shall be authenticated by the signature and "official seal of the Magistrate before whom the said declaration "shall have been made." The authentication of the declaration by his signature and official seal, then, is the only duty or power of the Magistrate so far as it concerns the person who makes a declaration. Into his qualifications for the responsibilites of a printer or publisher he is niether required nor empowered by law to enter. Nevertheless, the Calcutta Police evidently takes serious objection to a misfortime of the publisher of the *Habl-ul-Matin* which he himself has accepted without a murmur. A telegram from Calcutta published in the papers tells us that "Mr. McClure "Special Branch, Criminal Intelligence Department, raised an "objection to the Maulvi being the publisher because he was "totally blind." Naturally the counsel for the publisher asked what legal bar there was to a blind man becoming a publisher, and the Chief Presidency Magistrate asked the Court Inspector under what section he could cancel the declaration. That gentleman had to confess that there was no statutory power vested in the Magistrate to cancel the declaration of a publisher when he lost his sight; but the telegram also tells us that he emphasised the point of Maulvi Jalaluddin's blindness and said that he could not be a publisher because, being totally blind, he "could be easily duped." And let it not be forgotten that even when compelled to confess that the Magistrate had no statutory power to cancel the poor afflicted publisher's declaration, he did not despair but sought asylum in the policeman's haven of refuge—the Press Act! Section 8 of Act I of 1910 enabled him to cancel a previous order! And here is section 8 of Act I of 1910. "Every publisher of a newspaper "who is required to make a declaration under section 5 of the Press "and Registration of Books Act, 1867, shall at the time of making "the same deposit with the Magistrate before whom the declaration "is made security to such an amount, not being less than five "hundred or more than two thousand rupees, as the Magistrate "may in each case think fit to require, in money or the equivalent "thereof in securities of the Government of India . . . . provided ". . . . that the Magistrate may, if he thinks fit for special "reasons to be recorded by him, dispense with the deposit of any "security and *may from time to time cancel or vary any order under "this sub-section.*" The italics are ours and indicate the only portion of the section which could by any stretch of imagiation have any reference to the case in question. But it is obvious that this portion of the section authorises the Magistrate to cancel or vary an order of his own dispensing with the deposit of an security or fixing the amount of the security to be deposited within the limits prescribed by this section. Such a use of his power was, indeed, made by the Magistrate last year when the original order requiring a deposit of Rs. 500 as security was varied and the maximum security of Rs. 2,000 was damanded. The publisher must have heaved a sigh of relief at this order, for after that the only order that the Magistrate could have passed would have either dispensed with the deposit of security or reduced its amount. But the poor man has had no such luck and the very section is now being referred to when the Calcutta C. I. D. want to deprive him of his means of livelihood because God has deprived him of his sight. If *asmani*, why not *sultani?* First the "Act of God," and then the "Restraint of Princes"! But may we not ask the Calcutta Police why it is more anxious than the poor blind publisher himself that he should not be duped? It retains the maximum security of Rs. 2,000, and after the first "offence" can confiscate it and demand another of Rs. 10,000, after which—the fate of the *Zamindar*! Is it not then the blind man's own look-out to protect himself from those who would dupe him? Since when has the Calcutta Police added to its other virtues the virtue of unadulterated altruism? In any case, is it only the blind that "could easily be duped"? After recent trials and retrials surely the Calcutta Police should know better!

The "Habl-ul-Matin."

The directors of the *Habl-ul-Matin*, the Persian Weekly of Calcutta, have launched a new venture in the shape of an English weekly edition of their paper. An Urdu daily edition was started some time ago, but it has now ceased to exist. We welcome the appearance of the English Weekly as a useful addition to the ranks of Moslem newspapers in this country. In size and general get-up it somewhat resembles the *Comrade* and its annual subscription is also Rs. 12. The content of the first two numbers range over a variety of topics, most of which deal with current affairs in the Moslem world. The editorials are well-written and show a clear grasp of the Moslem situation in India and abroad, and of the needs and duties of Mussalmans. A special feature of the paper is its "Foreign Letters" from its own correspondents in some of the Islamic countries. A news service of this kind is bound to prove interesting and useful if it is regular and well-sustained and if the news-agents of the paper are men having the necessary knowledge of public affairs and a due sense of responsibility. We trust the Mecca Letter in its issue of 2nd M y is not to be the model of its foreign correspondence. It makes vague hints at the revolutionary tendencies of the Arabs and speaks of the Sharif of Mecca as a medium of communication between the Porte and some Arabs Sheikhs for "political exigencies." But no light is thrown on the Arab movement for "freedom" and nothing is said as to what those "political exigencies" are and why and how they have arisen. Th Tabriz Letter is a much better sample. We wish our new contemporary a long and useful career. The need for growth in the number of Moslem journals in this country on sound and independent lines is very great indeed, and it is always a matter of real satisfaction when an earnest effort comes to be made to supply the need.

A "Captured" Gun.

The *Times* Tangier correspondent writes that "the bombardment of "Tetuan by mountain tribesmen with the gun "which they captured from the Spanish war-"ship 'General Concha,' when she was wrecked "off the Riff coast last year, continues. Several shells have "fallen inside the town and a Spanish soldier has been killed. "Panic is reported to exist among the Mahomedan population. "It is unlikely that much material damage will be done, but the "fact that the tribesmen have been able to bring a gun into "range of a town occupied by over 40,000 Spanish troops and de-"fended by artillery has done incalculable damage to Spanish pres-"tige, and has raised enthusiasm among the mountaineers." The gun has now been firing for some days, and the efforts of the Spanish artillery to silence it have so far proved unavailing. There is no amelioration in the general situation around Tetuan, fighting being of daily occurrence. Spanish troops, both regular and native, are suffering from numerons desertions, and native soldiers recently assassinated a lieutenant and two non-commissioned officers before deserting. This single captured gun at least indicates that the Moors are more than a match for the aggressors if they are well-equipped. The theory about superior morale and a physical stamina of the "civilised" soldier cannot, however be exploded by the havoc wrought by a single gun!

"Peaceful" Penetration.

French doings in Morocco have fallen into comparative obscurity on account of the much bigger events elsewhere, which have engaged for some-time past the attention of the world. Things are, however, happening in that ill fated land —awful, tragic things that have already wrought misery and desolation on an enormous scale and are tearing up the social peace and homes and institutions of a free and inoffensive people by the roots. The process of "penetration" is actively going on, though it is not exactly "peaceful." A "barbarous" race is being reclaimed to "civilisation" by fire and blood. The un-speakable meanness and hypocricy of the thing becomes all the more soul-gripping when one sees a fine and manly race being exterminated by the hundreds by machine-guns—in the name of "civilisation!" The blessings of French occupation are already pouring into the land in the shape of French wines. A host of prospectors and company-promotors are following in the wake of the army of conquest. The unequal struggle cannot last much longer. The resistence of the Moors will be finally crushed by the huge and scientific engines of destruction with which civilisation has equipped the aggressors. The fate of Algiers awaits Morocco, the fate of a people reduced to impotence and despair, corrupted by French vices and exploited by French banks, existing only as a milch-cow for the money-grabbers of Paris. It is a terrible fate. And yet it carries the diplomatic sanction of all Europe. The Moors that are fighting for their homes and liberties are "rebels," their leaders are "pretenders," their devotion and patriotism for their own ancient land is dark fanaticism. Their death struggle and their agony—will they have no place in history? Are the thousands that are flinging themselves into the jaws of death in defence of their freedom and faith—are these supreme acts of devotion as though they have never been? It may be so. But history has hitherto taught us that wrong is righted in the end and sufferings sow the seeds of a glorious regeneration for those that suffer.

The Government Grant-in-Aid and the "Nadwa."

A rumour seems to have gained currency in some quarters that Shams-ul-Ulama Maulana Shibli has been secretly trying to move the Department of Public Instruction in the United Provinces with a view to stop the Government grant-in-aid to the *Dar-ul-Ulúm* of the *Nadwa*. Maulana Shibli Sahib sends to us for publication the following letter, which he has received from the Director of Public Instruction, United Provinces, and which, we trust, will set all such rumours at rest :—"Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 22nd April "1914, I have the honour to say that you have never at any time "made the suggestion to me that the Government grant-in-aid "to the *Nadwat-ul-Ulama* towards the maintenance of the *Dar-ul Ulúm* should be withdrawn."

The Comrade.

The Moslem University and Democracy.

A DAILY growing body of Moslem opinion had been criticising the two great faults of the system of the management of the Aligarh College, the life tenure of its Trustees and their selection by co-option. After four years of sustained attack, a little breach was made in the walls of this system in 1907 when by the allotment of three seats to the Old Boys' Association an *outside constituency* was allowed to *elect* the Trustees and that *not for life* but *for a period of three years*. In 1909 the number was raised to five and the tenure extended to five years. At first the proportion of these Trustees elected for a time to the Trustees co-opted for life was 3 to 70, but subsequently became 5 to 120, though it may be stated that the maximum number of co-opted life Trustees was to be reached by annual additions only, and has not yet been reached. The work done by the representatives of the Old Boys may not have been immeasurably superior to that of co-opted life Trustees, but evidently it has pleased the latter, and with a single exception, they have themselves co-opted every Trustee elected by the Old Boys' Association before his term of office expired, and the solitary exception who was no less deserving of the honour than the others missed the seat through sheer bad luck by a vote or two.

The attack on the system of life tenure and co-option which had been commenced in *Al-Bashir* in 1903 and carried on in the *Observer* in 1904 was resumed in 1909 in the *Times of India* and would have been pushed on were it not for the fact that the energies of those who initiated the operations were absorbed by the proposal of the Moslem University which they revived on the accession of King George in May, 1910. With the unprecedented and even unexpected success of this revived movement which gave hope of an early establishment of the University, naturally the attack on the system of life tenure and co-option was directed against the desire of those who wished to perpetuate it in the Constitution of the University also. As the Aligarh College was to be absorbed in the University it would have been a work of supererogation to mend the Rules and Regulations of the Aligarh College.

But so well had the ground been prepared in the years between 1903 and 1911 that very early in the course of the discussion the Moslem University Constitution Committee resolved that there should be no life tenure and no co-option in future. The majority went so far as to demend that even the present life Trustees should cease to be Trustees of the Moslem University Court. After a determined and prolonged opposition Sahebzadah Aftab Ahmad Khan and those who share his views agreed upon the compromise that although all elections for the future should be for five years, the present life Trustees should vacate their seats in rotation after the first five years of office as members of the University Court, so that at the end of ten years there should not remain a single life Trustee.

This was a great victory for the reformers, and, in justice to the Trustees themselves, it must be admitted that it was achieved with the assistance of many life Trustees of Aligarh. As a matter of fact it could not well have been otherwise for nearly half the seats on the Constitution Committee were filled by the life Trustees.

According to the expectations of 1911 the Moslem University should now have been in full working order; but fate and the advisers of the Secretary of State willed it otherwise, and we are still ploughing the sands. Naturally, therefore, the question of the reform of the Aligarh College Constitution once more assumes great importance and urgency and we shall soon deal with the subject in all its bearings. But we may as well state here that although co-option in recent years has given us much better results than in the past, it cannot claim for those co-opted an indisputably representative character, and that although the Trustees are far more alive to their responsibilities to-day than they used to be in the *régime* of the late Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk, when a quorum of seven out of seventy was not always available even for the Annual Meeting of the Trustees, so long as life tenure lasts indolence and indifference are bound to characterise a number of life Trustees, and stagnation instead of progress in the affairs of Aligarh is certain to be the consequence. The awakened interest in the affairs of the Nadwa makes us hope that Mussalmans would also devote some attention to the defects of the Aligarh Constitution. If we receive an intimation that there is a fair demand for it, we may publish it as a supplement of the *Comrade* so that our readers may be able to study it and thereafter discuss it with knowledge.

When the Moslem University Foundation Committee met at Aligarh more than a year after the so-called final decisions of the Secretary of State, and it was clear that the establishment of the Moslem University would take time, it resolved upon the only course that wisdom dictated. While standing firm on the subject of affiliation and other questions on which the Secretary of State had differed from the veiws of the Moslem community, and resolving to appoint a deputation that could lay before the Government of India the views of the community and, after making every effort to secure the objects it had in view, lay the final reply of the Government to its representations before the Foundation Committee for its final decision, the Committee decided to take immediate steps with a view to bring the Moslem University to a completion and, in the interim, to apply the interest on the Capital Fund of the University to the improvement of the Aligarh College in order to raise it to the status of the University.

It must be remembered that although affiliation was an underlying principle of the proposed University, and funds were collected on the repeated promise of affiliation, not one pie of these funds was collected for assisting any institution outside Aligarh. The initial plan of the University consisted of a University College with a thousand students residing in six or seven hostels of about 150 students each, and the minimum endowment required for the annual recurring expenditure was calculated on a basis of Rs. 500 for each of these thousand undergraduates, besides Rs. 35,000 a year for the University School, and a few lakhs of non-recurring expenditure on unproductive buildings.

The requisite Capital Fund having been collected, two things were needed for the establishment of the University, a Charter and the necessary arrangements for housing and teaching the thousand undergraduates. The grant of the Charter did not rest with the Mussalmans but with the Secretary of State and his advisers; but the erection of hostels and lecture-rooms, libraries and laboratories, the admission of a thousand undergraduates and the appointment of the necessary number of Professors, Tutors and Wardens of hostels rested with the Mussalmans. Had the Charter been granted as early as we expected, the community would have taken up the above task soon after and the University would have been in full swing two or three years later. But when the grant of the Charter was delayed, there was no reason why the other requisites of the University should be similarly delayed. The order should have been inverted and the buildings should have been erected and the undergraduates and the teachers got together according to the plans already made.

This was exactly what the Foundation Committee decided last July, and had weakness, disunion and procrastination not come in the way, this decision would have been arrived at in September or October of 1912. But even if arrived at last July there is little to justify the delay of nearly a year in carrying it out. It is true that the Cawnpore tragedy, following the Aligarh meeting as it did within a week, kept the Mussalmans both anxious and busy for no less than three months, and its aftermath, the deputation to H. E. the Viceroy, at last came off only two months ago. But overworked and overstrained as the Hon. the Raja Saheb of Mahumdabad has been during these crises, we appeal to him to make the necessary arrangements for the University deputation and bring this important business also to an equally satisfactory conclusion. We have heard rumours that the authorities may not perhaps be willing to receive a deputation which is not composed of plenipotentiaries; but we find it difficult to credit this as a firm resolve of the Government of India. His Excellency the Viceroy and his Government will not surely deny the right of a community's representatives to lay its views on so important a subject before them and to ascertain the latest views of Government in order to recommend a final decision to the community. Even Lord Crewe has travelled a great distance since he refused to receive two delegates of the Moslem community. To leave matters in their present posture is, it must be admitted on all hands, the least satisfactory method of solving a difficult and an important problem.

With a view to make the Mussalmans accomplish in the interval before the grant of the Charter their part of the work the Moslem Association was decided upon. But when the question of its composition arose, the reactionaries favoured the claims of the Trustees of Aligarh, while the progressives fought hard for a constitution such as that of the future Court of the Moslem University. Finally a compromise was made whereby the Board of Trustees was made a constituency itself for the slection of 40 out of a total of 200 members of the Moslem University Association.

The Draft Constitution of the Moslem University had already provided for the election of 40 members of the Court by the Central Standing Committee of the All-India Mohamadan Educational Conference, and of another group of 40 by the Aligarh College Old Boys' Association from among its own members. It had also given the right of election of 20 persons from among themselves to a constituency to be created hereafter, namely "the Indian Moslem Graduates of any University who

shall have their names enrolled on the register of the University in accordance with the Bye-Laws." The Foundation Committee accepted this constituency and gave it the right of electing 20 members, while laying it down, in the absence of any Bye-Laws approved by the Constitution Committee, that Munshi Fazils and Maulvi Fazils should be counted as Graduates, and that at least 5 years' standing, and the payment of Rs. 10 as enrollment fee and Rs 5 per annum thereafter were necessary for voting and eligibility for election.

Besides this constituency with an educational qualification, two other constituencies with a monetary qulification had been approved by the Constitution Committee and now accepted by by the Foundation Committee. These were the Moslem Landowners and the Moslem Taxpayers. According to the Draft Canstitution the Landowners and the Jagirdars were required to contribute one pie in the rupee on the land revenue payable by them to the Government, provided that they did not contribute less than Rs. 25 a year, and the Taxpayers were required to contribute half per cent on their incomes, with the same minimum contribution. The minimum was rather large and needed modification, but the desire to set to work at once induced the Foundation Committee to modify these provisions considerably, and it was decided that *all* Landowners and *all* Taxpayers could become qualified as voters and as persons eligible for election if they paid, like the Graduates, an enrollment fee of Rs. 10 and an annual fee of Rs. 5 to keep their names on their respective registers. Each of these constituencies was given ten seats on the Association.

The Committee of the Islamia College of Lahore had been allotted five seats on the University Court in the Draft Constitution, and the same number was allotted to it in the Association. In the Draft Constitution the Court itself was to co-opt 15 Ulama and 60 other members. The Foundation Committee allotted only 10 seats to the Ulama, and of the remaning 65, gave 40 to the Aligarh Trustees, 10 to the Moslem Press and 15 to Provincial Committees of the University Fund.

Opinion may differ as to details, but it could not be gainsaid that the constitution of the Moslem University Association for the first time provided an opportunity for the Moslem public to declare effectively who should manage the affairs of a public institution. The democrats had won a great victory and the more ardent and less experienced among them felt that now at last a new heaven and a new earth were going to be created through their efforts. But what is the result? The sky overhead is as blue and the earth beneath our feet as drab as ever. Only the constituencies already in corporate existence, like the Trustees, the Old Boys and the Central Standing Committee of the Conferance, have elected their representatives, but the new constituencies, such as the Moslem Graduates, Landowners, Taxpayers and Press, which have had no less than 50 seats allotted between them, have hardly stirred. The Honorary Secretary of the Association, who is the Secretary of the Aligarh Trustees, has been appealing to them from time to time in the columns of the *Aligarh Institute Gazette* but we shall be much surprised if he has been able to enroll even half a dozen names in each of the various registers. This is indeed a deplorable result, and if we could accept it as a fair test of Moslem Indian democracy, we would be induced to renounce our democratic faith as a belief in principles that are impracticable.

We have, however, to remember that democracies are notoriously ignorant of their own rights and need a lot of educating in that direction. When we see the extraordinarily large polls at parliamentary elections in England we are apt to forget that inspite of well-established local Party organisations of long standing, many weeks, if not months, of arduons canvassing and thousands of pounds in advertising have gone to the making of such huge polls. The *Institute Gazette* unfortunately is not very widely read, and what is needed is that a few groups of energetic and capable individuals, each keenly intersted in his particular counstituency, should be induced to organise it by writing in papers with wide circulations and as much as possible by private correspondence. Within a few weeks we hope that fairly large constituencies would be organised, and we can leave it to those who seek election at least to double the nnmbers on the various registers within the last fortnight before the election. For instance, could not the Hon. Mr. Syed Riza Ali, Dr. Mahmud and Dr. Naziruddin Hasan take up the Graduates' Association and induce five hundred Moslem graduates to pay Rs. 15 each in order to secure the right to elect 20 members of the University Association? Similarly, could not the Hon. Raja Abu Jafar, the Hon. Capt. Malik Umar Hayat Khan Tiwana and the Hon. Shaikh Shahid Husain induce two or three hundred Landowners and Jagirdars, and the Hon. Mr. Abdur Rauf, Mr. Alay Nabi, Mr. Fazle Husain, and Mr. Ahsan ul-Haq induce the same number of Taxpayers to have themselves enrolled as voters for the twenty seats allotted to these bodies? Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Editor of *Al-Hilal*, has identified himself with the loud demand for the democratisation of the Nadwa Constitution. Here is a constitution as democratic as he could ever dream of ready to his hand. Could not he and Maulana Abdul Wadood of Bareilly, who fought last July for no less than 10 seats for the Press, orgainse the Press constituency? If not they, why not the Editors of *Paisa Akhbar* and *Watan*? We think this is not only possible but certain if only a few men were as good as their professions of zeal for democracy. We shall be glad to hear from those who are willing to take up this work, and we appeal to the Honorary Secretary of the Association to extend the time till the 25th of July and in the meantime publish every week the names of those enrolled in the various registers. It must be remembered that the Association will not only revise the Draft Costitution of the University but will administer till the University is established no less an annual income than a lakh of rupees and probably much more. It will be for the Association to decide whether this annual income is to be expended on erecting more lecture-rooms or new hostels, on appointing more European Professors or sending out the best young Moslem graduates to qualify themselves in Europe, America and Japan by further study and specialization for Professorships in the University. These are valuable privilages and if Moslem democracy cannot be induced to secure these for the mere asking, we must confess we shall regard all talk of حریت اور باب حل وعقد، جمہوریت، پبلک، قوم as so much bunkum. Is it not a sad commentary on our use of these words that, so far as we know, even if every graduate or editor who has hitherto enrolled himself only voted for himself tomorrow he would get elected with that single vote, and even then there will not be enough to fill all seats alloted to such advanced and democratic constituencies? We have seen friendships of a lifelime snap like a lady's chain in the hands of gaint over Municipal and District Board elections. Even if honest workers are not forthcoming for the Moslem University elections, let some of the leavings of Municipal and District Board elections apply for a much greater honour that goes abegging.

Sanitation in India.

The Government of India have just issued an important Resolution dealing with the progress of Indian Sanitation. The document covers a large ground. It sets forth the general policy and lays down broad lines of advance with reference to the peculiar aspects of the question of public health in this country. The creation of the Department of Education has proved to be a very useful step, inasmuch as the sanitary needs of the country have begun to recieve systematic attention. Prior to 1910 sanitation was more or less in a neglected state and official zeal showed itself in spasmodic measures which achieved no remarkable results owing to lack of method and adequate machinery for application. As the Resolution briefly notes, the first official attempt to introduce scientific sanitation in India was made in 1863 on the basis of a recommendation of a Royal Commission. Commissions of public health were created in the Presidencies of Madras, Bombay and Bengal with a view to the diminution of sickness in the army and the improvement of the health of the general population. They were, however, replaced by sanitary commissioners with their assistants. Lord Dufferin's Government issued a resolution in 1888 in consequence of which sanitary boards were formed in each province. But the results of these measures were comparatively insignificant, because the sanitary systems of Europe were sought to be applied to India without due regard to the conditions of life in tropical and temperate climates and because the people were for the most part ignorant of the principles of modern hygeine. The outbreak of plague first roused Government as well as the educated classes to the supreme necessity of sanitary reform in a thorough and scientific way. The early efforts of Government to check the virulence of the epidemic were unfortunately not attended with happy results. The measures that were enforced in places to fight the scourge were impromptu devices suggested by panic and took no account of the social habits and deep-seated prejudices of the people. The enforcement of doctrinaire measures of precaution was naturally resented and in some localities it led to angry and serious outbursts of popular passion. This scared Government to a considerable degree and it was naturally assumed that efforts for sanitary progress on a large scale would simply prove a waste of energy as long as the attitude of the people remained so intractable. The doctrine of caution began to be preached with a loud belief in its expediency. The failure of the early plague measures of Government proved a set-back in the sanitary progress of India, for certain incorrect official theories were evolved out of that unhappy experience. As a matter of fact, the failure was due not so much to the innate apathy of the masses and their hostility to change, as to the injudicious way in which drastic measures of evacuation and prevention were enforced. We do not deny that the general ignorance of the people is a great obstacle in the way of sanitary advance, but the difficulty can be overcome if care is taken to adapt measures to the existing social conditions.

With the creation of the Education Department, which is also in charge of sanitation, the real, systematic effort to introduce scientific sanitation in India may be said to have begun. In addition to sanitary conferences held by local Governments, three all-India sanitary conferences have been convened since 1910 at Bombay, Madras and Lucknow, respectively, over which the Hon. Sir Harcourt Butler presided as Member of the Governor-General's Council in charge of the department concerned. These conferences were attended by non-officials as well as officials, by laymen as well as professional sanitarians. The Indian Research Fund Association has also been founded "to further the prosecution of research, and the propagation of knowledge and experimental measures generally in connection with the causation, mode of spread and prevention of communicable diseases." The Government of India decided some time ago to make an annual recurring grant of 5 lakhs of rupees to this Fund. It is satisfactory to note that since the constitution of the new Department the claims of sanitation have been receiving an increasing measure of recognition at the hands of the Government, and grants from Imperial revenues have been made to local Governments and Administrations to the amount of Rs. 4,61,47,000 (£3,076,466), of which Rs. 55,23,000 (£368,200) are recurring and Rs. 4,06,24,000 (£2,708,266) non-recurring. In addition, grants amounting to Rs. 82·33 lakhs (£548,866) a year have been made to district boards in certain provinces, a substantial portion of which will, it is hoped, be expended on rural sanitation. "These grants" says the Resolution, "have rendered practicable the execution of schemes which a few years ago seemed beyond the limits of financial possibility; and there can be little doubt that the movement for sanitary reform is now well established and progessive throughout the country." We trust this will not prove a mere pious hope. Inspite of some adverse criticism, we may readily assume that the Imperial grants for sanitation have been liberal and adequate. But what about the results? The local Governments have huge balances of these sanitary grants still lying unspent. On the occasion of the last Budget Ststement in the Imperial Legislative Council, the Finance Member referred to these unspent balances with some concern and in view of this he had a plausible reason for making a paltry allottment for sanitation. If the spending powers of local Governments remain what they are, Imperial grants even on a liberal scale give little occasion for public enthusiasm. It may be agreed that local Governments have not yet been able to devise a thorough, practicable programme and machinery for the purpose. One may readily admit that the question is beset with difficulties, and much thought and labour will have to be spent in evolving suitable lines for the progress of sanitation in different provinces. And it is not very difficult to sympathise with the dictum of the Resolution that "in the land of the ox-cart one must not expect the pace of the motor-car." But even in the land of the ox-cart a period of four years can carry far, and it should not have been difficult for our efficient local Governments to find suitable ways for spending their balances if they had the necessary wills.

The problem of sanitation in India may be divided under three important heads. The first and most important is the organisation of scientific research into the etiology and bacteriology of tropical diseases and other peculiar conditions affecting public health in India; secondly, the elaboration of suitable measures of sanitay reform both for urban and rural areas, based on scientific investigation and research; lastly, the training and organisation of efficient sanitary staff to carry out these measures in the most economical manner and with due regard to the habits of the people and their social environment. The Resolution lays down some sound principles to which sanitary reform must conform in order to be successful. It must rest on a knowledge of the people, their surroundings and financial means; and it must secure their co-operation. It must recognise the diversity of local conditions in a country inhabited by diverse races and creeds and exhibiting every variety of climate, temperature, humidity and level of sub-soil water. Its introduction must be preceded by preliminary local surveys, inquiry, or experiment. These are sound propositions, and in a scientific and thorough organisation of effort for sanitary reform they must be rigidly adhered to.

It is satisfactory to note that the vital importance of research is fully recoguised by Governmnet. Efforts are being made to equip research laboratories in different places for the study of problems of public health. The King Institute, founded in 1902 at Guiny in Madras, was the first research intitute established in India. In 1905, Lord Curzon's Government summed up the position and the policy of the Government of India in regard to the establishment of laboratries. Since then steady progress has been made; a Central Research Institute has been established at Kasauli and other provincial laboratories and institutes for the diagnosis and special research connected with local conditions have been established or are under construction in different provinces. The Government of India hope that before long each province in India will have a laboratory fully equipped for research. The most notable event in regard to sanitary progress has been the foundation of the Indian Research Fund Ascociation in 1911. The control and management of the association are vested in a governing body of which the Education Member is the President. The governing body is assisted by a "scientific advisory board" which examines all proposals for work in connection with the scientific objects of the association and reports as to their importance and feasibility. The membership of the Association is open to non-officials. Every donor of Rs. 5,000 is entitled to become a permanent member, while every subscriber of Rs.100 per annum can be temporary member. The association has been able to do good work since its foundation. It is financing important investigations into problems connected with a variety of diseases, epidemics and other matters bearing on public health. Besides financing the investigations conducted by its own staff, the association gives grants-in-aid to outside research on approved lines. The association has also started a quarterly Journal—the *Indian Journal of Medical Research*—for the publication of medical research work done in India.

The sanctioned strength of superior sanitary organisation in India has been considerably raised. Besides a sanitary commissioner with the Government of India and the bacteriological department comprising thirteen laboratories, fifteen new appointments have recently been sanctioned for the prosecution of reseach work and direct investigation in the field, and large sanitary establishments have been sanctioned for each province. The progress of sanitation depends in reality on the industry and capacity of provincial sanitary staffs. If they have sufficient enthusiasm for their tasks, have insight into the conditions of Indian life and take into account the habits, customs and financial position of inhabitants in various localities, they may reap creditable results within a reasonable period and succeed in laying down the lines of sanitary advance in India on a broad and sure basis. Qualified Indians should as far as possible be appointed as deputy sanitary commissioners and health officers. A British diploma is required from candidates for the post of deputy sanitry commissioners and health officers of the first class, but arrangements for the training of the superior Sanitary staff should as soon as possible be made in India.

The Resolution concludes by laying strong emphasis on the importance of education in the growth of sanitary reform. It is absolutely true that the spread of sound education among the masses will facilitate the application of sanitary measures throughout the country. The claims of hygiene as part of their educational policy were recognised by the Government of India in their educational resolution of February 1913. The sanitary resolution emphasises the need of mass education. It now rests with the Department of Education to provide for the rapid and thorough application of sanitary measures and educational schemes with eqnal energy and liberality. There has hitherto been some disposition to discount the claims of either by alternately emphasising the needs of each. The twins of the Education Department shonld not, like step sisters, be played one against the other, but every effort should be made to endow both with equal generosity. We are satisfied that the Government of India view their responsibilities in these directions with increasing earnestness and there is no occasion to despair of rapid progress within the next few years.

♣

Verse.

A Vision.

From out the golden dawn of vanished years
She glides into my dreams, a form divine
Of light and love, to soothe the thoughts that pine
For what has been, to stem the tide of tears
That inward flows upon the heart and sears
Its inmost core. Her countenance benign,
Where chastened Pity's softest graces shine,
Reflects the hallowed light of other spheres.
Then to my yearning soul, with care outworn,
Comes, like a strain on ærial wings upborne,
This message from her soul—"Bid sorrow cease;
Love dies not; 'tis the immortal life above;
And chastened souls, that win eternal peace
Through earthly suffering, know that Heaven is Love"

NIZAMAT JAH.



The "Resolutions" of

TO THE E

SIR,—It should give kind as to publish the fo

I learnt it with great the Anjuman-i-Imamia, Lahore. These resolutio understanding at Aligarh Had it not been for the f and wide circulation, gav you, I should not have ev stupid that any sensible p sorry for the energy wast

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Thirdly—The resolu mentioned urchins who and Second Reader lesson

Fourthly.—I was pre secretary who had previ thus give an opportunity advice. When I arrived sixteen members preser Before this I had never w at their pressing request these vicious, hot-headed or to the Government.

I was not aware of th of those very resolutions return from Kheri. I frightfully disgusted with and their unconstitutiona the result, and want to to do with the framing, or communication of th refuse my name being as infamous proceeding as t and I detest the very ide

I always held the A it as a purely Muslim na Muslim alone! I am ca tional matters and that disgusting and sickening sects and their differenc most painful and horrible I can ever encourage Shi the Muslim policy of to- these two sects, I call cr

I regret I have taker but I hope you will ag about myself were necess

HASAN MANZIL,
SHAHGANJ:
Agra, 14th May, 1914.



The "Resolutions" of "Anjuman-i-Imamia," Agra.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "COMRADE."

SIR,—It should give me no end of relief if you would be so kind as to publish the following in your paper:—

I learnt it with great disgust that certain resolutions passed by the Anjuman-i-Imamia, Shahganj, Agra, appeared in the *Zamindar*, Lahore. These resolutions concerning the recent Shia-Sunni misunderstanding at Aligarh are most absurd and absolutely ridiculous. Had it not been for the fact that the *Zamindar*, with its popularity and wide circulation, gave a place to them in its columns, I assure you, I should not have even looked at them. They are so silly and stupid that any sensible person will simply blush at them and feel sorry for the energy wasted in framing them.

Unfortunately the *Zamindar*'s publication of these resolutions in its columns made them look rather important in the public eye and must have set many minds a thinking.

I am, however, taking the earliest opportunity of contradicting them and beg to explain through your columns the actual facts of the case:

Firstly.—The Anjuman-i-Imamia is mainly composed of young students *i. e.* most of its members are school lads.

Secondly—These resolutions were read before the members the majority of whom was composed of urchins from Maktabs. There were hardly four or five grown-up members present, one being a student of the 2nd year class, another member a clerk in a certain local office, and two others of no particular calling.

Thirdly—The resolutions were passed to the credit of the above mentioned urchins who are hardly well up in their First Reader and Second Reader lessons.

Fourthly.—I was present at this meeting at the request of the secretary who had previously asked me to visit the Anjuman and thus give an opportunity to the members to be benefitted by my advice. When I arrived at the Anjuman I found hardly fifteen or sixteen members present, includihg the school lads, of course. Before this I had never visited this Anjuman. I occupied the chair at their pressing request and asked them to refrain from sending these vicious, hot-headed and unreasonable resolutions to the Press or to the Government. I nullified the whole proceedings.

I was not aware of their doings till to-day when I caught sight of those very resolutions in the columns of the *Zamindar*, on my return from Kheri. I was shocked at their very sight and was frightfully disgusted with the unthinking members of the Anjuman and their unconstitutional proceedings. I am simply astonished at the result, and want to make it public that I have had nothing to do with the framing, publishing or sanctioning the publication or communication of these resolutions to anybody. I absolutely refuse my name being associated with the appreciation of such an infamous proceeding as this. I entirely disagree with the resolutions and I detest the very idea of their getting circulation in our midst.

I always held the Aligarh College in great esteem and regarded it as a purely Muslim national institution. I am a Muslim and a Muslim alone! I am capable of seeing only one shade in our national matters and that is of Islam. My eyes are closed to the disgusting and sickening sight of Shia-Sunni, Wahabi and Qadiani sects and their differences. To my mind divisions in Islam are most painful and horrible. It is most annoying to me to learn that I can ever encourage Shia-Sunni disputes. I am a staunch believer in the Muslim policy of to-day and those who make mischief between these two sects, I call criminal, or at least irresponsible, lunatics.

I regret I have taken so much space in your valued columns, but I hope you will agree with me that a few personal remarks about myself were necessary on this occasion.

HASAN MANZIL,
SHAHGANJ:
Agra, 14th May, 1914.

Yours faithfully,
SYED HASAN ABID JAFRY.

Legal Trifles.

THE tricks, the diverse shifts and make-believes of any trade are always looked upon with interest by those who think themselves unfortunate in not belonging to that trade. In the last issue of the *Comrade* I read with pleasure an article headed "the Lonely Homestead" and, though I was somewhat surprised at the simple optimism of a remark about the Pleaders, I tried to enjoy with the writer the shooting and the search, not to mention the sandwiches and the Badmashes. My pleasant reflections were, however, broken by a sudden remembrance of an experience that I had passed through not long before.

I remembered my anxiety and hesitation of some few moments of intensely hurried thought, whether I should cross-examine on a certain point in a case in which 3 accused persons were charged with receiving and retaining stolen property obtained by means of a dacoity. What the point was, I shall relate as we proceed further.

Once the Badmashes, the informers and the Swat Bonair Afridis were out of my mind, I realised fully the significance of the words, which in the abovementioned article, ran as follows:—"news had also been sent to the Joint Magistrate, who kindly rode over, a step that I calculated on to checkmate the usual assertions of Pleaders for the defence to the effect that the wicked Police themselves plant stolen property in order to secure the conviction of poor, honest people."

I am not going here to preach a homily, but just to note down a fact. I will only say that as the various professions have their work marked out in different spheres of life, criticism which takes measure of any other profession by its own rule of thumb goes amiss. Unless you put on a black gown on your mind, when judging the Pleaders, you are as likely to go astray as a Pleader would, who judges the Police without putting on his mind a red turban with a golden tassel.

I was engaged at the eleventh hour in the case—a misfortune peculiar to juniors—just managed to reach the Sessions Court-room as the examination-in-chief of the first and a very important witness had terminated. And then I was called upon to cross-examine!

I have not been in the profession for a long time, and a few months before the commencement of my independent work, I had devilled it under the Hon'ble Mr. Riza Ali who was and is still my ideal of a young advocate. Well, the only thing that I think I have succeeded in catching, to some very small extent, of my learned senior's qualities was a little *Sangfroid*. On the day in question, my senior's gift proved very useful to me. A little apology to the Court, a meaningless remark to the Prosecutor and the thing was done. The bearded *Peshkar* in his sonorous voice re-read the whole testimony of the witness, with a certain modulation of voice more akin to reading verse than prose.

There lay on the table, nearly 2 seers of silver ornaments, some golden ornaments, clothes, *pandans* and other parapharnalia of the alleged *loot*, while the registering of the exhibits showed signs that all the 26 letters of the alphabet had been exhausted. Over and above these, there were two frowning exhibits. One was a big old-fashioned revolver the mechanism of which I could not at all understand and which seemed to date back to the days of Warren Hastings, and the other a rusty long sword (reminding one of the Rohilla war), the scabbard of which the prosecution took pains to be identified by each-search witness. While the *Peshkar* was engaged in reading out the statement of the witness, I thought out my future plan of action. I was prepared to answer for the ornaments, but the arms were a riddle not to be solved in any way. After some anxious, very anxious moments of concentrated thought, I resolved not to question about the two weapons.

I honestly thought it was an idle excuse to place the responsibility of the revolver and the sword being found in the house on the sboulders of the Police. The revolver was alleged to have been extracted from a wall in the room and the sword was lying among some sticks, in a *kothi*, in which grain is stored.

Fortunately for my client and more for myself, that day only the identification witnesses of the ornaments were produced. Late in the evening one or two Police witnesses, also, deposed, but I was loth to ask them about the weapons as I was sincerely convinced in my mind that the arms belonged to the occupants of the house and were found in the place where the Police stated them to have been. However, when the Court rose for the day, I had an opportunity of a little conversation with my goal-bird—who, by the way was old hand at things—and his explanation and assurance changed my view of the case entirely. He told me, if I remember aright, that he had seen all sides of life, had been the leader in, what he called, the deeds of darings and that his hands were not pure; but despite this candour he absolutely denied all knowledge of the weapons.

I knew that ordinarily these men try to impose on their Pleader ; but it was one of those earnest moments when the very soul seems to speak, and if I was not fully convinced by his denial, at least a suspicion was roused about the sword and the revolver. Next day I was ready for my friends, the Police officers, and in the ensuing cross-examination expected a tough encounter. From the statement of the first Sub-Inspector, I gathered that he was very anxious about the case and wanted to "over prove." The next Sub-Inspector was a man of some 20 years' experience and he tried to be indefinite and took shelter behind a screen of vagueness. As a matter of the etiquette of our profession, the traditions of which we all hold dear, I was most civil to them and asked my questions in the plainest of language.

However, as the ice grew thinner under our feet, the replies became snappish and short. I drew them further on when, at last, the climax was reached. We exchanged glances and they were far from being amicable. Each reply now became qualified with an adverbial clause "as far as I remember." I knew that my friend had grown irritated and I was not slow to take advantage of it.

I followed with a rapid succession of questions beginning with "will you tell me, Sir, as far as you remember etc.," to which my friend replied in the same strain. At last, the Court interfered and an order for the total destruction of the adverbial clause was passed.

I succeeded in extracting by means of much round about questioning that there was darkness in the room where the weapons were found and that there was no aperture for light.

Then there came a young Assistant Superintendent of Police, who was among the search-party, but was at a distance of nearly a mile when the weapons were found in the house. He was sent for only after the discovery of the arms. He gave me the desired information without much difficulty. He told the Court that the room in which the revolver was found was fairly dark which, to my chagrin, was translated in Urdu as somewhat dark. But also for the honesty of the Police, the Sub-Inspector had deposed that his attention had been drawn to the resting place of the revolver by a slight roughness in the surface of the wall at a height of nearly 3 yards from the floor in a corner of the room away from the light and more specially by the difference in the colour of the mud in this place from the colour of the mud in the rest of the room. So in that fairly dark room, where the Assistant Superintendent of Police said he nearly tripped as his foot entered a hole in the ground, the lynx-eyed Sub-Inspector had distinguished the two colours of the mud !

As for the sword, which was found lying among some sticks, the very facility attending its discovery, was sufficient to arouse suspicion. In the end the assessors found that the weapons did not come from the house of my pretty gaol-bird and the Court was also of the same opinion. Far be it from me to suggest where they had come from and who had put them in that dark room equally useful for the expert photographer and for the Sub-Inspector, who is an expert in the colour of mud ! Mr. Norton may perhaps try.

B. A.



Ghasita: a Budmash.

II.—A marriage marred.

Ghasita did not waste time at Saiyan, but leaving the railway station set off for the town of Khairigarh, 12 miles distant, where he intended stopping a few days in order to pick up information about the dacoit gangs supposed to frequent the neighbourhood of Jagner and the jungly tract of country stretching into Dholpur State. His wish was to attach himself to a set of those desperate characters in order to study dacoity methods, of which he had no previous knowledge, his crimes hitherto falling under the definitions of burglary and theft. Besides it was improbable that the Agra Police would track him into that wild region, while even if they succeeded in doing so, there were difficulties in the form of extradition rules that would favour his safety from immediate arrest, if discovered. His stock of ready money was limited to eight annas, extorted from his hosts of the preceding night, but he relied on his ready skill as a housebreaker to replenish an exhausted exchequer: if he could gain large sums of money by the exercise of his profession of burglar in a city like Calcutta, he ought to find it easy to relieve bunnias and grain merchants of the rupees they stored in their houses in the same sort of hiding place—under the hearthstone or at the bottom of the huge earthen vats for holding grain—as their forefathers had done for generations past. Ghasita accordingly took up his quarters in the little serai—Khairigarh is not by any means an important place or one with many visitors from the outer world—after recording himself, (under an alias of course), as a *bha-bhunja*, or grain-parcher, proceeding on pilgrimage to the noted shrine of Gwal Baba at Jagner. That town lay nine miles to the west of Khairigarh and was the site of an old fort, held alternately by Moghul and Maratha garrisons during the period of declining Mahommedan sway over India. Fearing that a big burglary might excite suspicion against strangers in the town, he confined his financial undertakings to the committal of petty thefts, where the booty was just enough to meet current expenses, nor did he succeed in getting in touch with any dacoits. Plenty of stories about those gentry, the exploists of the various gangs, the names and personal characteristics of the leaders, were told as lodgers in the serai squatted around the common fire at night, yet nobody hinted at closer acquaintance with the persons under discussion. He had almost resolved to push on to Jagner and try for news in that place, when a small party, ostensibly snake-charmers and jugglers of a sort, entered the serai one evening, and before they had been there a couple of hours, the natural instinct whereby people of the same stamp get attracted to one another led to Ghasita and the wanderers becoming quite intimate. They belonged to a sect of the Kanjars—gipsies proclaimed under the Criminal Tribes Act, and addicted to highway robbery for their maintenance, rather than to what sums they earned by the exhibition of their tame snakes and the performance of crude feats of legerdemain. The Kanjars were bound for Jagner, hoping to find employment (as they euphemistically expressed it), among the travellers now *en route* for the shrine mentioned above, where an annul Fair is held towards the end of the month of Bhadon, corresponding in the Hindu calendar to the English September. Ghasita decided, after some conversation with his new friends, to join the gang and an early hour in the following morning found them tramping along the rough track that served as road from Khairigarh to Jagner. The Kanjars did not proceed further than a few miles, when their headman announced his plans for pitching camp on the slopes of the Noni hill, a long, low eminence, rising to about 600 feet above sea level, and the sides of which were covered by dense brushwood. From this coign of vantage watch could be easily kept on the two main lines of approach to Jagner, and in the nullahs and recesses of Noni the gang would be fairly secure from pursuit and capture. These fond expectations were not disappointed, for once the stream of pilgrim traffic began, not a day elapsed without booty—sometimes very small, sometimes reaching to three figures in value—obtained by the gipsies, who divided their forces and trusted to their known daring and fierceness to overcome such resistance as timid folk were likely to offer. This run of good fortune ultimately brought their campaign of pillage to an abrupt termination. Daily reports of crimes by foot-pads caused the Superintendent of Police to hasten to Jagner and try to catch the perpetrators of those offences, which necessitated the compilation of Special Reports, (in triplicate), which had to be submitted to the higher authorities, and which, from their sudden frequency, might cast doubts on the efficiency of himself and his subordiantes.

The Kanjars noticed an European on horseback, accompanied by two sowars, who—like the Knight in the Faery Queen—were "pricking o'er the plain" that skirted the hill on which they were encamped, and thought it necessary to send somebody to Jagner next day to ascertain who the intruder on their preserves might be, his object in visiting the neighbourhood, and the probable duration of his stay in that part of the world. Ghasita volunteered for this job on the Intelligence Branch, having for companion one of the smartest men among the Kanjar gang. It was not long—Jagner reached—before they learnt that the stranger was a Police Officer and their recent crimes the reason for his appearance on the scene. The spies strolled round the outside of the Police Station and calmly studied the Notices—printed in Nagri and Urdu—which were affixed to a large board for that purpose that can be observed at every Thana in the Provinces. Neither of the men were able to read Urdu correctly, but had a smattering of the Nagri characters, sufficient to gather the general import of the matter printed on those sheets of *badami* paper. Of course, full details—with dates etc. of the late robberies—occupied a prominent place, but another notice in larger type, and with the words "Reward Offerred" in capital letters as its heading, possessed more interest for Ghasita than the rest of the placards, since it gave full particulars of his escape from the Central Jail followed by a correct descriptive roll of the fugitive from justice. He furtively watched his Kanjar comrade and detected the latter carefully perusing the Notice, every now and then casting a secret glance at Ghasita as if to compare his features and personality with that of the person mentioned, for whose arrest a hundred rupees—and no questions asked—was offered by the District Magistrate of Agra. The position was rather too exciting to be pleasant, so Ghasita insisted on their speedy return to Noni hill, declaring that the gang must promptly decamp from that place or run the danger of a surprise visit from the Police, certain to display much energy now that a Sahib had come to urge them to greater activity than had marked their proceedings up to date. Aware

that the Kanjar carried a pistol, albeit of ancient pattern, also a short hunting knife, conceald beneath the dirty waistband he was wearing Ghasita hit on a plan for annexing those weapons and saying. farewell to his present asociates. Tired by the hurry in which they covered the distance from Jagner town to the base of the hill, the two men sat down beside a well for a short rest and the inevitable smoke. Not suspecting that his study of the Reward Notice had been seen by the Kachi, the Kanjar was quite off his guard, so Ghasita met with no opposition to the spring he made at the throat of the other man, whom he nearly throttled before binding him hand and foot in the folds of his own *dhoti* and placing a gag—contrived from a piece of wood and strip of turban—in the mouth of the gipsy to prevent an alarm being given to any members of the gang who might be lurking in the vicinity. Having secured his victim, Ghasita lost no time in retracing his steps to Jagner : a bold move, yet an excellent piece of strategy. The principal day of the Fair was at hand and there was not much fear of his being noticed amid the dense crowd of pilgrims, while the Kanjars—ignorant of his intentions and not fully convinced of his identity with the person for whom the Reward was offered—would dread venturing into the town, lest he might have given tidings about them and their crimes to the Police. Thus secured from molestation on the part of his late *pals*, Ghasita quietly went across the border into Dholpur, spent a couple of days in the capital of that State and then began working back towards Agra. He did not know the lie of the country, so he took the railway line as a guide and by thus acting had a great stroke of luck.

The country he now traversed was sparsely populated in the immediate vicinity of the railway; small ravines, their sides hidden by thick undergrowth, interrupted the usual monotonous level of an Indian plain, and it was only on nearing a roadside station that villages were seen and signs of human life became evident. Half way between one of these places and Saiyan—for two days hard walking had brought our traveller back to that point in his journeyings—a whitewashed building, situated on a knell about a hundred yards from the line, attracted the attention of Ghasita. It was clearly meant for European tenants and he had no desire to come under the notice of any inquisitive Sahib, so went out on the permanent way to try and see if any village was within easy distance, where he might procure food and make a brief halt. Instead of what he sought his quick eyes perceived a small vehicle coming along the rails in his direction, which a moment's reflection showed him to be one of the trollies used by railway officials when inspecting stretch of line under their charge. A Permanent-way Inspector almost invariably travels in that fashion and it was a member of that class who now approached as rapidly as the efforts of two perspiring collies, running barefooted along the hot metals could propel the trolly, heavy in weight yet capable of attaining a very decent rate of speed once fairly set going. Stepping back into the tall grass that fringed the line on either side and which afforded ample cover for a dozen men, Ghasita watched for the passage of the trolly and its occupants. Somewhat to his surprise, mingled with a little fear, it slackened speed on nearing his hiding place, but he soon found that he had no cause for alarm, since it came to a standstill where little path led up to the bungalow just mentioned and which proved to be a Rest House provided by the railway for its officers when out on duty. The European was dressed in khaki clothes of the usual type, conveniently loose to insure comfort at that season of the year; a big solah *topee* on his head, a pair of brown boots as foot-gear, and a soft shirt of Cawnpore manufacture to complete his outfit. Four collies, acting in turn as as human propellers, and a private servant, who filled the dual billets of bearer and cook, comprised the companions of the Sahib. It was between eleven and twelve o'clock and intensely hot, added to which circumstance it was past the usual breakfast hour, so the European stranger had grown impatient and lost no time in walking up the slope towards the Rest House, having ordered one coolie to run ahead and see about wood and water : another to look sharp and place himself at the punkah rope, the remaining two to assist his servant in carrying the Sahib's belongings, consisting of a tiffin basket, office box, roll of bedding, and big *soorahi* of the porous stone used at Chunar for the manufacture of goblets for water. His orders were given with much gesticulation in tones that evidently demanded prompt compliance, each sentence being duly emphasised by one of the expletives employed by the average Briton when excited and his temper ruffled. Ghasita noticed that a long leather case had been overlooked when the rest of the *asbab* was being removed from the trolly, and he had not loitered on railway platforms without picking up some knowledge on the subject of a Sahib's laggage, so he immediately guessed the forgotten package to be a gun-case. The bearer had hardly gone twenty paces when he appeared to recollect something and was telling a coolie to go back to the trolly, when the voice of his master "*Kadam uthao* ! Damn the *asbab* and look sharp with my breakfast and tub," made him alter his intentions and the whole of the little party hastened to reach the bungalow without bestowing further thought on the leather case and its contents. Scarcely crediting the arrival of such good luck, Ghasita was out of the tall grass and had seized the case before its owner could have entered the house and started undressing for his bath. In fact the convict had put several miles between himself and the trolly party before the loss was discovered and the unfortunate European given juster cause for anger and the the use of still stonger language. Instead of proceeding straight to Agra, as he had originally meant to do, Ghasita diverged to the south-east in order to cross into Dholpur, a strip of that State running in that direction. He then marched nearly parallel to the Chambal river through a tract broken up by ravines and devoid of any sort of vegetation, save where a clump of *babul* trees waved their thorny branches or a solitary *pipal* or *mahua* crowned an upland spur overlooking the surrounding waste. His idea was to reach Agra from the south, and to do this it was necessary to cross the Pinahat Tahsil and strike the road from Etawah to Agra somewhere near the town of Bah ; a place 33 miles distant from the city of Akbar and through which traffic from Gwaliar and Mainpuri was wont to pass in considerable amount. He examined his treasure-trove, the gun case, as soon as he deemed it safe to indulge in a halt, pretty sure that he had eluded all possible chance of being overtaken by any pursuers. The contents of the case turned out to be a Winchester carbine, with a magazine and a packet of cartridges : just the kind of weapon a man could rely on to protect himself or damage an opponent. How to carry the rifle puzzled him for a bit, as it could not of course be taken to pieces like a sporting gun. However this obstacle was conquered by gathering a bundle of *karbi* stalks and artfully concealing the firearm in the midst of this innocent outside wrapper. Nobody was likely to interefere with a poor man, apparently trudging homewards with a supply of fodder for his bullock or country *tat* ; in fact, it was improbable that he would encounter many wayfarers on the country tracks and small village paths along which he directed his steps. Besides he had a friend or two at Bah, who might be persuaded to let him have a small sum of money for current expenses, untill he had fully matured his plans for the future and recommenced levying toll from the general public. Even keener than his wish to replenish his pockets with the rupees of others, was longing for revenge on the constable of Rikabgunge station whose evidence had been so material in getting him sent to gaol. Pondering over various schemes to pay out that policeman, he arrived in due course at Bah, and remained there for close on a fortnight, before resuming his travels. The associates referred to were induced, partly from feelings of charity, partly from fear, to supply him with funds which he devoted to making a few needful purchases. Among other things he bought a yard or two of coarse sacking, from which to make a rude cover for this precious rifle ; having learnt how to use a needle, after a fashion, while in the Andamans. Provided with that weapon, the revolver and big knife stolen from the Kanjar, Ghasita felt prepared for any attempt to arrest him, nor imagined such would be made now that the first excitement caused by his escape from prison must have died out. Although efforts are made to prevent several members of the same family joining the Police in one District, it is fairly easy to evade the regulations on that point. Indians have so wide a circle of relatives, and these often living wide distances apart, that a recruit finds little trouble in concealing the connection between him and other relations he possesses in the Force. When a Superintendent has been a year or so in a District—especially if he is in the habit of talking freely with his subordinates, the Circle Inspectors, the Reader, and Station Officers—he is frequently surprised to unearth a family group of actual brothers, first and sceond cousins, and so forth, who have contrived to enlist under his command and form a tiny clique bound together by ties of blood for good or ill.

At Bah, there happened to be one of the armed Police on Treasury Guard at the Tahsili, whose brother was the person concerned in having Ghasita convicted ; a circumstance that clever villian resolved to take advantage of. Allowing his intention of running into Agra for a day or so to be known to the Guard, he soon found the constable in question coming to ask the favour of his conveying to the Rikabgunge man a letter asking the latter to obtain three days' leave and come to Bah for the discussion of some family business. That errand was undertaken by Ghasita, after a little feigned reluctance, and thus a means supplied for effecting a plan of revenge he was preparing. Not caring to risk his safety by going in person to Rikabgunge with the letter, he got a chaukidar to deliever that missive, and subsequent private inquiries informed him

that the leave had been sought for and granted. The object of his hatred would depart for Bah on a certain date,—Ghasita lost no time in returning to Duhuki, a samll village equi-distant from Agra and Bah, which all travellers were in the habit of using as convenient half-way resting place, for baiting ponies, cooking a meal, and enjoying a temporary halt on the journey between the two places named. Aware of the habits of his countrymen serving in the Police—or for that matter, in any Government Department—he knew that the constable would try and get gratis "lifts" on the road, either on ekkas or, failing that mode of conveyance, on a bullock cart. At all events he was certain to stop at Duhuki and then his enemy could settle on what course to adopt for satisfying his thirst for revenge. Everything happened as was foreseen by Ghasita. Towards the small hours, an ekka rattled up to the *parao* at Duhuki, its occupants an aged cloth merchant and a man whom Ghasita at once recognised as the hostile witness he was seeking for. The dealer in piece goods was too fatigued to proceed when the ekka driver announced his wish to make a start, so the constable said that he would walk on slowly and trusted the kapra-wallah would lose as little time as possible in following his example, so that the pair might travel to Bah in company. Ghasita meanwhile arrange his plan of operations, and directly he saw the policeman collecting his bundle of clothes and cooking utensils, which he handed over to the ekka driver to bring along with him, disappeared into the outer darkness. Trotting briskly along the road to Bah till he reached a spot suited for the crime he was about to commit, and too far from Duhuki to allow of the report of a gun being heard by people at that place, he took shelter behind a thick bush, removed the cover from his rifle. Loaded the Winchester, and may have muttered to himself the words lately used by a certain distinguished politician "Wait and see." Ignorant of any danger, the constable soon aftewards came leisurely tramping along the road, singing some rustic ballard learnt in infancy at his home, the sound of which warned the man in ambush that his hour for clearing off old scores had arrived. Ghasita,—whatever his vices were—had an audacity in his actions akin to true valour, he did not shoot down his prey without informing the victim to whom he would owe his doom. Stepping suddenly on to the road, a few paces in front of the astonished traveller, he uttered a sentence full of the vilest abuse, then pulling the trigger sent the Rikabgunge policeman to a land where no Penal Code exists, where justice is not administered in quite the same way as in Indian Courts of Law (at least one trusts such is the case) and even an Inspector-General of Police has to take his chance along with the lowest of his earthly myrmidons. Returning the weapon to its covering, Ghasita made a wide detour so as to avoid repassing Duhuki, and regained the highway at a point near Agra, having determined to hide in a purlieu of that city, till it would be safe to show himself abroad once more. He knew of a good place of refuge and hastened to reach it before the next day was well advanced and he might be subjected to troublesome inquiries *en route*. Fortune favoured the ruffian, and long before noon, he was seated in the house of a Sonar in Tajgunge, chuckling over the success of his scheme and absolutely careless at having the burden of a brutal murder on his mind. His next appearance in public was of a still more striking nature, but must be reserved for another of these stories of a Budmash.

A. N. G.

Sanitation in India.

The following resolution has been issued by the Government of India (Department of Education) :—

Historical Summary.

The modern history of scientific sanitation in India may be said to date from the end of the last century. Previously there had indeed been periods of useful spade work and spasms of general sanitary activity. A Royal Commission, appointed in 1859 and reporting in 1863, recommended the formation of commissions of public health in the presidencies of Madras, Bombay and Bengal, with a view to the diminution of sickness in the army, and the improvement of the health of the general population. These commissions were appointed but were soon replaced in each presidency by a sanitary commissioner with an assistant. Sanitary inspectors general, afterwards called sanitary commissioners, were appointed in other provinces; and the sanitary and vaccination staffs were gradually amalgamated. In 1888, Lord Dufferin's Government issued a resolution drawing the attention of local bodies and village unions to their duties in the matter of sanitation; and sanitary boards were formed in every province. But comparatively little success attended these efforts except in the larger towns. On the one side, sanitary measures and systems of western countries were applied to India without due regard to the fundamental differences of western and eastern civilisations and of the conditions of life in tropical and temperate climates: on the other side, the people were unprepared for reform or any kind of change.

2. The ravages and horrors of plague and the discoveries resulting from medical research made some real impression on the educated community in India; and a demand gradually arose for sanitary surroundings and preventive measures, such as had not been known before. Individuals left their insanitary quarters for cleaner and healthier localities and in increasing numbers men began to realise the dangers to which they were exposed from existing conditions, and to appreciate the economic value of health and the wastefulness of sickness and premature death. Dislike of action was, however, for long persistent even among the educated. So far as the uneducated masses were concerned their apathy, fatalism and resentment of interference constituted a formidable obstacle to all sanitary progress.

Recent Activity.

3. The Governments in India have moved more rapidly of late. In 1898, the Government of India issued an important statement of policy. In 1908, imperial grants amounting to Rs. 30,00,000 (£200,000) a year were made to local Governments. A new department of the Government of India was created in 1910 in order to relieve the Home Department of education, sanitation and some other branches of the administration. In addition to sanitary conferences held by local Governments, three all-India sanitary conferences have been convened at Bombay, Madras and Lucknow, respectively, over which the Hon'ble Sir Harcourt Butler presided as Member of the Governor-General's Council in charge of the department concerned. These conferences were attended by non-officials as well as officials, by laymen as well as professional sanitarians. Again, the Indian Research Fund Association has been founded to further the prosecution of research, and the propagation of knowledge and experimental measures generally in connection with the causation, mode of spread and prevention of communicable diseases. To this fund the Government of India make an annually recurring grant of 5 lakhs of rupees (£33,333). Moreover, since the constitution of the new department of the Government of India, imperial grants have been made to local Governments and Administrations to the amount of Rs. 4,61,47,000 (£3,076,466), of which Rs. 55,23,000 (£368,200) are recurring, and Rs. 4,06,24,000 (£2,708,266) non-recurring. In addition, grants amounting to Rs. 82·33 lakhs (£548,866) a year have been made to district boards in certain provinces, a substantial portion of which will, it is hoped, be expended on rural sanitation. These grants have rendered practicable the execution of schemes which a few years ago seemed beyond the limits of financial possibility; and there can be little doubt that the movement for sanitary reform is now well established and progressive throughout the country.

Cardinal Principles.

4. There has thus been progress although the rate has hitherto been slow. In the land of the ox-cart one must not expect the pace of the motor car. The truly remarkable improvements effected of late years in the health of the army in India, in the case of Indian no less than British troops, cannot be expected in connection with the civil population. In the case of the army, the problem is concerned mainly with well nourished adults, all of whom are selected lives, living in sanitary surroundings, under military discipline. Moreover, so soon as a soldier becomes unfit for active service, he leaves the army and forms part of the civil population. In the case of the civil population. In the case of the civil population, conditions of the problem are very different, and sanitary reform has still to grope its way through a labyrinth of difficulties. In order to be successful it must conform to three cardinal principles :—

(1) it must rest on a knowledge of the people, their conditions of life, their prejudices, social customs and habits, their surroundings and financial means; and it must secure the co-operation;

(2) it must recognise the diversity of local conditions in a country which includes numerous communities, castes and creeds and which exhibits almost every variety of climate, temperature, humidity and level of sub-soil water, from the deltas of Bengal with their steamy atmosphere and dense lush vegetation to the burnt brown hills of the north-west frontier;

(3) its introduction must be preceeded by preliminary local surveys, inquiry, or experiment.

Sanitary Organisation.

5. As a result of the Plague Commission's Report Lord Curzon's Government took up with vigour the reorganisation of the sanitary department. Research institutes were started and an appointment of Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India was created. The functions of this officer to advise the Government of India upon sanitary and bacteriological questions, to settle with local Governments the principles on which an advance should be

made and to organise and direct research throughout India. The arrangement was not completely successful. Among the disadvantages, the separation of research from clinical work deterred men from entering the department, and the office work in connection with research prevented the Sanitary Commissioner from undertaking wide and constant touring. The organisation was accordingly modified in 1912. The Sanitary Commissioner is now the independent adviser to the Government of India in all technical and sanitary matters, but all questions of personnel as well as the administration of the bacteriological department and research generally have been placed under the control of the Director-General, Indian Medical Service, with the Sanitary Commiosioner as his staff officer.

6. The sanctioned strength of the superior sanitary organisation in India now is :—

(a) A Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India.
(b) A bacteriologica. department comprising—
(i) thirteen laboratory appointments distributed as follows :—

Central Research Institute .	1 Director and 3 Assistants.
Bombay Bacteriological Laboratory . .	1 Director and 2 Assistants.
King Institute of Preventive Medicine, Madras .	1 Director and 1 Assistant.
Pasteur Institute, Kasauli .	1 Direetor and 1 Assistant.
Pasteur Institute, Coonoor .	1 Director and 1 Assistant.

(ii) fifteen new appointments recently sanctioned for the prosecution of research work and direct investigation in the field.
(c) The following establishments under local Governments :—

Province.	Sanitary Commissioners.	Deputy Sanitary Commissioners.	Health Officers (a)		Sanitary Engineers.	
			1st class.	2nd class	Sanitary Engineers.	Deputy or Assistant Sanitary Engineers.
Madras	1	3	12	19	1	6(b)
Bombay (c) ...	1	5	4	9	1	...
Bengal	1	5(d)	6	17	1	2
United Provinces ...	1	4	11	17	1	3
Punjab	1	2	2	5	1	1
Burma	1	2	4	16	1	2(e)
Bihar and Orissa ...	1	3	2	8	1	2(f)
Central Provinces ...	1	...	...	2	1	...
Assam	1(g)	1	...	...	1(e)	...
North-West Frontier Province ...	1(g)	1	1	1(h)	...	...
Delhi	1(i)	...	3(j)	...	1	...
Total ...	11	26	45	94	10	16

In their resolution, dated the 23rd May 1912, the Government of India provided for a large increase in the number of deputy sanitary commissioners and for the appointment of health officers (of the first-class for larger municipalities and of the second-class for the smaller towns) on the lines of detailed proposals received from local Governments. Twelve additional appointments of deputy sanitary commissioner, thirty-five appointments of health officer of the first-class and a large addition to the number of second-class health officers were sanctioned in 1912 and 1913, the entire cost of the additional deputy sanitary commissioners on the basis of the scale of pay fixed for Indians and half the cost of the health officers being met by imperial grants. The Government of India also advised local Governments to take powers, where these did not exist, to require a municipality to appoint a health officer and to veto the appointment of an unfit person. Such powers already exist in the Bombay presidency, and have recently been taken by legislation in Bengal. Simultaneously, the Government of India recommend the system in force in Madras whereby every municipality is required to employ one or more trained sanitary inspectors in proportion to population. Sanitary inspectors are now being employed in large numbers in towns. In addition, the civil surgeon in every district is the sanitary adviser of the local authorities and in most provinces controls the vaccination staff. The provision of an increased staff of sanitary engineers is engaging urgent attention.

(a) Appointments of health officer in presidency towns and Simla are not included.
(b) Five of these are temporary appointments.
(c) In addition to the officers shown in this statement, the Director, Vaccine Institute, Belgaum, is also a sanitary officer.
(d) There is also a temporary appointment.
(e) Temporary.
(f) One of these is temporary.
(g) The administrative Head of the medical department is also the Sanitary Commissioner.
(h) There are also four 3rd class health officers in the province.
(i) The Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India is also Sanitary Commissioner, Delhi.
(j) Two of these are temporary.

The Government of India attach great importance to the organisation of voluntary agencies and have recently made a grant of Rs. 20,000 (£1,333)—a sum equivalent to that given by the Bombay Government—to the Bombay sanitary association, which was founded in 1903, and now has corresponding brauches in several districts and native states.

7. The policy of the Government of India is to keep the control of research under itself, but to decentralise other branches of sanitation. The creation of an imperial department is no departure from that policy, and the large imperial grants already mentioned have been made without any interference with provincial Governments. While the generel direction of a policy of public health must remain with the central Government, all detailed control and executive action are, and will be, left with the local Governments. The Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India is a touring officer empowered to consult and confer informally with local Governments and their officers upon matters connected with sanitation. He is not permitted to encroach upon the authority of local Governments over the officers under their control.

8. The position of provincial sanitary commissioners towards the administrative heads of the medical department varies somewhat in different provinces. The Government of India do not wish to interfere with the arrangements which local Governments may consider best suited to local conditions, but they desire to insist on the importance of defining the functions of the two officers and securing to the sanitary commissioner the position of responsible technical adviser to the local Government in all matters affecting public health.

9. In every province, sanitary boards have been composed with varying powers, some being merely advisory, others having authority to sanction schemes and allot funds. These boards are composed of officers belonging to the medical, sanitary, engineering and other branches of the civil services with the addition of non-officials. The Government of India view with favour and confidence the devolution of financial authority and responsibility to these boards, and they commend to local Governments the appointment of a permanent salaried secretary to the board where this has not been done, They believe that such an appointment, wherever made, has resulted in an increase of efficiency.

Training of Staff.

10. Arrangements for training the superior sanitary staff are now engaging the attention of the Government of India. The chief difficulty at present is to provide courses in practical hygiene and in the study of the bacteriology and etiology of tropical disease. It is hoped in the nea future to make arrangements in India for the former and to utilise the schools of tropical medicine at Calcutta and elsewhere for the latter. Meanwhile, a British diploma in public health is required from candidates for the post of deputy sanitary commissioners and health officers of the first-class. The problems of public health in India are vitally complicated by the fact that biting insects are a prominent factor in the dissemination of disease, and it is obviously desirable to provide in India, as soon as possible, a complete course of training for sanitary officers.

Traning classes for sanitary inspectors are now held in all the more important provinces.

11. A substantial beginning has thus been made for the development of a department of public health and Indians have been freely enlisted for it. The post of deputy sanitary commissioners and health officer are now open to Indians. Nine deputy sanitary commissioners out of 26 and the majority of health officers are Indians. The new bacteriological departement consisting of 28 officers is also open to duly qualified Indians.

As health officers and sanitary engineers gradually relieve depnty sanitary commissioners of much of the drudgery inspection and routine work, it is hoped that the latter will be set free to deal with epidemics and communicable diseases from a higher plane, and to consider issues of public health wider than those which they are able to review to-day. It is, therefore, important to provide in advance free interchange between them, the laboratory workers and those carrying out practical research in the field.

Research.

12. Researches slowly lifting the veil which hides the secrets of disease and mortality and opening up fields of inquiry scarcely thought of a generation ago The discovery by Sir Ronald Ross of the part played by the mosquito in the communication of malaria and the appointment of the Plague Commission in 1898

are landmarks in the history of Indian Sanitation. In 1902, a research institute was founded at Guindy in Madras, named the King Institute after Lieutenant-Colonel King, C. I. E., I. M. S., in view of his devoted efforts in the cause of sanitation in that presidency. In 1905, Lord Curzon's Government summed up the position and the policy of the Government of India in regard to the establishment of laboratories for the study of problems of public health in India. The functions of the central laboratory were original research, the preparation of curative sera and the training of scientific workers. The functions of the provincial laboratories were diagnosis and special reseach connected with local conditions. This policy has been steadily developed. The Central Research Institute has been established at Kasauli. The plague Research Laboratory at Parel has been extended and re-equipped and is now the bacteriological laboratory for the Bombay presidency; and a proposal is under consideration to attach to it a school of tropical medicine. A research laboratory and school of tropical medicine are under construction at Calcutta. Pasteur institutes exist at Kasauli and Coonoor. A third is about to be established in Burma, and it is under discussion to establish others in Assam (where it will be combined with a research laboratory) and Bombay.

Besides the routine work connected with the bacteriological diagonsis of disease, anti-rabic treatment, the manufacture of various vaccines and sera and general research, these laboratories at different times have been the centres of many special investigations, notable amongst which are those on the plague and enteric fever. It is hoped before long each province in Iudia will have a laboratory fully equipped for research.

INDIAN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION.

13. The foundation of the Indian Research Fund Association in 1911 has marked an important era in sanitary progress. The control and management of the association are vested in a governing body, the president of which is the Member in charge of the Education Department of the Government of India. The governing body is assisted by a "scientific advisory board" of which not less than three members have seats on the governing body. They examine all proposals for work in connection with the scientific objects of the association and report as to their importance and feasibility. The members of this board are appointed for one year, but are eligible for re-election, and they have power to add to their number. The preseut members are the Director-General, Indian Medical Service, the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, the Director of the Central Research Institute at Kasauli, the Officer in charge of the Central Malarial Bureau and the Assistant Directer-General, Indian Medical Service (Sanitary): Sir Ronald Ross has been elected an honorary consultiug member. The membership of the Indian Research Fund Association is open to non-officials. Every Doner of Rs. 5,000 is entitled to become a permanent member, while every subscriber of Rs. 100 per annum can be a temporary member. Members of the association are entitled to attend and take part in the annual general meeting of the association and to receive copies of the reports and other publications issued from time to time by the associatiun. Although, so far, the fund has been financed solely by the Government of India, it is hoped that in time Indian philanthropist will contribute towards the expansion of the association by founding chairs of research, by financing experimental research measures and otherwise.

14. The association has been active and can already point to some achievement. Out of an income of Rs. 15 lakhs (£100,000) received since its incorporation and up to the end of 1913-14, and expenditure of over Rs. 14 lakhs (£93,333) has been sanctioned. In 1911 Major S. P. James, I. M. S., was deputed to study yellow fever in its endemic area and to draw up proposals for protecting India against the introduction of the disease. Those proposals are still under conspiration. In the meanwhiie, stegomyia surveys have been carried out in Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Karachi and Rangoon and other seaports. Anti-malaria schemes based on preliminary surveys have been carried out at a cost of Rs. 6,02,000 (£40,133). Investigations are at present in progress into the problem connected with the prevalence of cholera, kala-azar, dysentry, leprosy and goitre, as well as inquiries into the pharmacology of cinchona derivatives, the use of hydrocyanic acid gas as a pulicide and the fixation of chemical standards of purity for milk and milk products. Other investigations are under consideration regarding bacteriological standards of purity of water-supplies, the different anti-cholera vaccines and sera, the methods of water filtration and silt removal best suited to Indian conditions, and the etiology of diabetes and the fevers of short duration. These will be started as soon as more trained research workers are available. It is hoped also to carry out, during the next non-epidemic season, an experiment in plague prevention on a large scale on the lines indicated in paragraph 22.

15. Besides financing the investigations conducted by its own staff, the association gives grants-in-aid to outside research on approved lines. The co-operation of other workers has been sought, and every encouragement has been given to them. Grants for research have been made, for instance, to Professor MacMahon, Dr. Hossack and Mr. Howlett. The services of Indians have also been enlisted. Dr. Korke is engaged in an important investigation into kala-azar, while Mr. Awa'i, a medical entomologist, is employed under the association. The Government of India cordially approve the policy of encourageing private enterprise in the cause of research.

16. The association has also started a journal for the publication of medical research work done in India—the "Indian Journal of Medical Research"—published quarterly. The favourable reception which has been accorded to the first three numbers is evidence of the increased interest that is being taken in sanitary science in India to-day.

17. The investigations enumerated above represent the work directly under the supervision of the Government of India. The local Governments also are fully alive to the importance of research, and in seven provinces nine special officers are at present engaged in investigating the causes underlying the local prevalence of Malaria and devising suitable schemes, for the mitigation of that disease.—(*To be contiuued.*)

Toys for Men.

TO JUDGE from the toy-shops, the practice of giving children toys disguised as Easter eggs is on the increase. So various are the fancies displayed, that to the child who receives one the adventure of opening an Easter egg must be almost as great as to its elders the adventure of opening a breakfast egg. And it does not much matter which of the many kinds is chosen, because it is an affair of pure luck, not to be calculated beforehand from any probability or fact, whether a child will take to a toy or not. Children's tastes in toys seem to be ruled by nothing but caprice, and very often, while they make shift with what toys they have, their souls are possessed by a craving for something in which no one else can see any attraction. A child will pine for weeks for an hour-glass or a china bird, or something equally limited in scope and equally difficult to play with. It would be easy to put these queer cravings aside as one of the mysteries of childhood, if it were not that they attract with equal unreason and greater force full-grown and whiskered men. A common complaint at present-giving seasons is that men, even many-sided and light-hearted men, are such difficult beings to choose presents for. One reason is that, unlike children, men will not make shift to play with the things that are given them. It is not safe to assume that any toy you may choose will please a man. He must choose his own toys; and, however closely you may be in his confidence, the odds are heavy against his having admitted to you, even by oblique reference, what toy it is that he craves for. The secrecy of the affair is part of its attraction. Usually in the spring or summer a man of level head and sober views will be seized suddenly with an intense desire for something that he never desired before. The crisis is quite different from the yearly or half-yearly conviction that his wardrobe and his chest of drawers contain nothing but rubbish, the seasonable and reasonable impulse towards new socks, ties, shirts, and suits. The craving for toys is a much sharper and more sinister affair. It usually violates what the victim believed to be a law of his being. If he especially likes the feel of a cigar against his lips, he will be seized with a passion for a very long cigar-holder. If he is a cigarette-smoker, he will feel further exsistence impossible without some fantastically enormous pipe (men's toys are largely connected with smoking). A man who enjoys pen and paper will crave for a typewriter. Men have bought pedometers, sword-sticks, goloshes, monocles, vapour-lamps, chafing-dishes, anything and everything of which the buyer's friends would have said that it was the last thing he was ever likely to want.

In saying so they think that they have convicted him of folly. But the folly of it is an element that he enjoys even more than the secrecy. He recognizes in the unreasonable desire a vicious and delightful kick lashed out by some profound part of his nature at the work-a-day self of him. He will be as specious as the White Knight in explaining to himself, before the act of folly is committed, that the thing will be exceedingly useful, that it is just what he always wanted; he will earnestly assure his friends, when the deed is done, that he cannot imagine how he ever got on without it. All the time he knows in his heart, and rejoices to know, that his desire is for a toy; and a toy is not a thing that you need, but a thing that you want—an object not to use, but to play with. He knows, too, if he is honest with himself, that, once he has bought the thing, he will play with it not at all or for a very short time. The knowledge adds to the adventurous naughtiness of the escapade; but it does not bear encouraging

To enjoy the feeling to the full, a man must be able to know that he will not play with his toy when he has it, and yet be sincerely convinced that he will; and the smooth interaction of these two wheels of consciousness is not so rare as might be supposed. The more experienced in the game prolong the state by all the delays possible. In the anticipation of falling lies the joy of temptation; and the prudent man will put off as long as he can the delirious moment when he will walk into the shop and buy at last the thing he desires. But he does not put it off until the craving has passed. For one thing, that is moral cowardice. For another, it robs him of a future and perhaps far distant thrill of pleasure, on the day when he will happen again on his long-forgotten toy, and, while he growls about the accumulation of lumber, will glow with the remembered joy of his folly. It is good, he will tell himself then, to be young enough and gay enough at heart to want a toy and to get it; for when a man wants toys no more it is time that he were thinking of his tombstone.—The *Times*.



More Howlers.

A CORRESPONDENT has sent us a copy of school magazine containing some "howlers" which strike us as exceptionally amusing; they are obviously genuine blunders. The secret of the power to amuse in howlers is a certain degree of reality—they should, as reviewers say, be "convincing." Directly they stray into artificiality or elaboration they cease to engage our true sympathy, however brilliant they may be. They are not real. Of course, many excellent examples of howlers have been invented, but if they are of the sort to keep a niche in our memories, where they bear company with old friends and are sure of an affectionate chuckle of greeting whenever they come to the surface, they are all capable of being catalogued as possible mistakes. We must feel that, if they were not actually perpetrated by honest blunderers, they easily might have been. The artificial invention may be witty, but we do not see behind it the working of a distressed and confused mind which by some clearly recognizable process arrives at a conclusion or assertion bearing a likeness to the right answer and yet grotesquely wide of the mark. It is safe to say that "Spoonerisms" are inventions from beginning to end. Some of them are delightful inventions. But the more lambently they tickle the palate the less they relate themselves to honest human bungling. For instance, we all enjoy the episode of the confused man who spent a day searching for an inn called 'The Dull Man' at Greenwich when the true object of his search was 'The Green Man' at Dulwich. But we are captivated by the fancifulness, not overthrown by a sense of happy clumsiness. So it is with schoolboy howlers. We do not cherish most what bear the mark of schoolarship, elegance, or wit. Take the excellent mistranslation (which, however, requires the transposition of two words) of Cicero's denunciation of Catiline: *Abiit, excessit, evasit, erupit—abiit*, he went out to dinner; *excessit* he drank too much: *erupit*, he was violently sick; *evasit*, he laid it all on the lobster. That is not a howler. And we are suspicious of that delightful mistranslation of *splendide mendax*, "lying in state." But there is the reality of a true howler about the translation, which we find in the magazine before us, of *exempli gratia* as "samples free."

The mental operations of the schoolboy blunderer might be classified with almost a scientific exactness. We believe that there are four main sources of howlers. First there is the inability to visualize the difference between other ages and our own and other countries and our own. Perhaps this might just as well be called a want of imagination. The defect is not peculiar to schoolboys. It is only that in the minds of schoolboys we see it expressing itself in gross, elementary, or uncouth shapes. If the fundamental difference between Ulster and the rest of Ireland had been appreciated in time, we should not have had the Home Rule Bill in its present form. This is the howler of grown men. When a Board-school child was asked what Prince Harry did when he heard of the illness of his father Henry IV., he answered that he sent a postcard to say that he was coming at once. To that child the England of the fifteenth century was the England of the nineteenth century. Remnants of this defect cling to many people through life. They visit foreign lands and call the inhabitants of those countries foreigners. When the American general who received the submission of the people of Porto Rico in 1898 sent a despatch to Washington reporting the event, he described the welcome given to him by the Spanish population as extremely "patriotic."

The second source of howlers is unassimilated knowledge. Sometimes one can trace the results of cramming. Entirely different events become mixed up, as with the legendary boy who described the death of Jezebel: "And Jabhu said 'Throw her down,' and they threw her down. And he said 'Throw her down again,' and they threw he down again to seventy times seven. Last of all the woman died also And they picked up of the fragments that remained seven basket full." Such an invented howler takes various forms. A good example of the blunder of unassimilated knowledge is in the magazine before us. It is an extract from an essay on Clive:—

"Robert Clive when he was a boy was very mischifus, he used to clime up to the top of the church spire and look for birds' nests, so his father and mother thought was too mischiefous to be in the country, so they got a man to India. It is very curious that Robert Clive never set foot on a ship till he was forty-five years old, but still he became a very great sailor. Clive had some ships, their names were the Pellican and a few more. One time when their was a war going on with Spain Clive and a few other men were having a game of bowels and the Spainards were coming near Clive said 'et us finish our game of bowels first. ... Then Clive went on to Arcot and he had an army and had a battle there called the Battle of Plassey date 1459."

The same sort of blunder due to unassimilated knowledge was that of the boy who, when asked why John the Baptist was beheaded, said that it was because he insisted on asking Herodias's daughter to dance. Another instance was the answer of the American girl who said that Congress was divided into three classes, the civilized, the semi-civilized, and the savage. Mark Twain's comment on that answer (*in English as She is Taught*) was so far as we remember, "She knew too much." Accident, it may be remarked here, does indeed often come very near to wit, as in the translation of the boy who said that *puris omnia pura* meant "boys will be boys" It is a matter for judgment whether some mistranslations do not betray enough intention or malice for one to place them confidently outside the field of honest howlers. Take, for example, the translation of *Lebertas sub rego pio*, "Our pious king has got liberty under."

A third source of howlers is simple habit of making a shot. And a fourth source—an enormously large one—is the confusion of mind caused by kindred sounds. Howlers under this last head might be called phonetic mistakes. We mention the third and fourth sources together as they overlap considerably. In the school magazine we read: "El Dorado was King Saul's sheep man." This is no doubt a weak recollection of "Doeg, an Edomite, the chiefest of the herdmen that belonged to Saul." We could wish that the boy had said that El Dorado was an Italian who won the race from Marathon. Other answers in the magazine which come under either the third or fourth head are: "The Cabal was a Ministry to place wireless telegraphy" "'Farmer George' was Lloyd George" "Cromer is a seaside town in Surrey"; "A metaphor is a suppressed smile." But most of the examples in this magazine are pure phonetic blunders. Everyone knows this sort of mistake. We have all heard of the child to whom the words "Lord, who hatest nothing that Thou hast made.' became "Lord, who hatest nothing but the housemaid." Or of the child who, having heard in church the words, "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is," apprehended that besides the heaven, earth, and sea, which she knew, there had been created some mysterious creatures or things called "all the tinomies," which her imagination attempted in vain to depict. Perhaps this is to be remembered chiefly as a lesson on the virtue of clear pronunciation in clergymen. A list of well-known phonetic mistakes would be too long to produce here. A few samples will serve. The claimant in the Tichborne case made a fine phonetic howler when he was asked to translate *Laus Deo Semper*, and said that it meant "The laws of God for ever." One child used to ponder with wonder the strange question in Cowper's hymn: "Can a mother's tender care cease toward the child she-bear?" It was natural for the little boy to say that our Lord, when the penny was brought to Him, asked, "Whose subscription is this?" It was natural, too, for the undergraduate to translate the Greek words for (the nether millstone)"a colt the foal of an ass." It was natural, again, for one highschool girl to say that *Seneca* was the feminine of *senex* (or was the criticism embedded in this howler too penetrating to be accidental?), and for another to say that the genitive of *grus* (*grus, gruis*, a crane) was *gruntis*, and that it meant a pig! Natural, too, for the boy to say that Solomon and David were fond of animals, as they had so many porcupines!

In the magazine there are the following phonetic howlers: Solomon in all his glory was not a rabbit like one of these. "Petroleum is what you cover floors with." The only pouched animal in America is the apostle." "Hannibal was a well known music writer." "*Britt. Omn. Rex, Fid. Def., Ind. Imp.* Britain always rains, faithful definite, indicative imperfect." "S. P. Q. R. Answer if you please." "*Pendente Lile.* A chandelier." "*Examen apium.* A huge ape." "*Aegre sustinere.* To be struck with sickness." "*Care Nepos.* O high-priced nephew." "*Le vieil Allemand.* The vile German." "F. R. C. O. (1) Fellow of the Royal Canine Office. (2) Friends, Romans, Countrymen, and Officers." "R. I. P. Redmond's Imperial Parliament."

We wonder whether any master has ever tried to discriminate between howlers and give marks for them, or whether they are invariably heaped together as belonging to the unclassifiable outer world of what is simply wrong. The boy who saw in *pendente lite* a pendent light, and therefore a chandelier, seems to deserve more for his mistake than the boy who turned Doeg, the Edomite, into El Dorado.

—*The Spectator.*

Ritual Murders.

From time to time the murder of young children, belonging to the male sex as a rule, by Jews, in supposed accordance with certain religious rites observed by the Chosen people, appear in the Press to horrify the civilised reader and make one marvel that such depths of dark superstition can still linger in the enlightened age of the 20th century. Such tales of cruel fanaticism usually hail from continental countries like Russia and Germany, where anti-Semitic prejudices are especially strong, and where former Governments often found it politic to divert the populace from more important issues by conniving at persecution of the stranger within their gates : the defenceless Jew, who had monies to be robbed off and who was unlikely to be in the position to resist brutal treatment, either on the part of Government officials or the ignorant mob. The idea of child murder being practised by the descendants of Abraham and Moses existed in Great Britain till the 12th century, and the sad, if now proved to be apochryphal, tale of Hugh of Lincoln, raised a wave of popular indignation among the subjects of the third Henry, then occupying the Throne. From an ancient ballad descriptive of that tragedy one learns that Sir Hugh—as the poet calls him,— was beguiled by the daughter of a Jew to enter her house and was there put to death in the manner so realistically set forth in the following verses.—

" She's led him through ae dark door,
" And sae has she thro' nine ;
"She's laid him on a dressing-table,
" And stickit him through like a swine.
"And first came out the thick, thick blood,
And syne came out the thin ;
" And syne came out the bonny heart's blood :
There was nal mair within ".

Zola himself could not have painted the scene in fuller detail. That gentle Essayist, Charles Lamb, gave as a reason—among others—for his dislike of the Jews that between him and the objects of his aversion arose memories of Hugh of Lincoln. Regarded from a strictly logical standpoint, the notion that human sacrifices of any sort would prove more effectual in turning away divine wrath or in securing the wishes of the party performing the sacrifice, was natural enough : the greater the value of a voluntary offering, the more chance of its being successful in achieving the object aimed at. When Abraham, in obedience to an order conveyed to him in a dream, was ready to slay Isaac —"his son, his only son"—he afforded the first instance in Scripture of a Ritual murder of a purely religious type. That the putting to death of children was not unknown to the Israelites is evident when we find Moses, and later prophets, denouncing their countrymen for "sacrificing their sons and daughters to devils." It should be noticed that the Hebrew word *seirim*—used in the passages referred to—literally means "the hairy ones", and probably denoted a he-goat, worship of which animal must have been borrowed by the Israelites from Egypt, where the Creator was commonly adored in the form of the creature. In India, the beneficial effect of killing a human being has not died out, for it still is believed in among the more ignorant classes, hence the scares that occur when the foundation of bridge is about to be laid or any public work on a large scale is undertaken. Hundreds of villagers were firmly convinced that Government would never think of erecting the Elgin Bridge over the Gogra or—in present times—the big Sarah Bridge without first propitiating the hidden powers by the slaughter of a child, or children, of tender years. The two most civilised nations of antiquity, namely the Greeks and the Romans, do not appear to have held these views concerning the efficacy of child murder, although the case of Iphigenia, scarificed at Aulis by the leaders af the expedition against Troy, will at once be called to mind by lovers of classic lore. The wholesale massacre of slaves on the death of a rich Roman patrician under suspicious circumstances was dictated by other than religious motives ; the object being to terrify serfs from venturing on reprisals against their cruel masters.

Lately we read an article concerning the Spirit World of the future, the kind of environment we must enter upon after the last fluttering breath has left this "tenement of clay", which goes some way toward explaining the Suttee—*Sati*, a virtuous wife—custom once prevalent among the higher castes of Hinduism. Although oriental scholars have pointed out that no reference to that barbarous rite can be traced in the writings of the great lawgiver Manu, it owes its origin, we suspect, to the interpretation given by a later Brahmin school to sundry obscure sentences in the Vedas, Purans and Shastras. That it was attributable to a desire on the part of Hindu husbands to shield their widows from possible insult or outrage at the hands of the Mohamedan rulers may be dismissed as devoid of foundation. Only last week one saw an account of a Khoja in the Madras Presidency being sent up for trial for the murder—performed after the manner of a sacrifice—of a young lad, so the Jew does not possess the monopoly of so frightful a crime. In distant Norway, at a period when a Jew would have been as great a novelty in Scandanavia as a Kangaroo, Tennyson relates in a short poem how the priests of Odin sought to free the country from famine and strife by the shedding of human blood, and that such offering must be chosen with respect to the great value placed on it. Accordingly the king, sorely troubled, surrendered his son as a victim, but when the knife was about to descend on the helpless boy, his queen rushed forward and received the deadly stroke.

" The Priest was happy ;
" Oh, Father Odin,
" We give you a life.
" Which was his nearest ?
"Which was his dearest.?
"The Gods have answered ;
"We give them the wide."

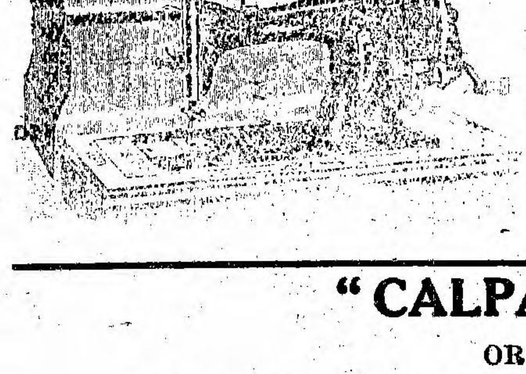
The strong protest that the charge of Ritual murder against a co-religionist in Kief has evoked from leading members of the Jewish faith will weigh heavier with the world at large than the accusations of the Russian officials, and the acquittal of the person charged with committing so dastardly a crime is tolerably sure proof of his innocence, since the temptation to gratify the popular hatred of the Jews must have been a strong factor to contend against. That scarifices of human life will occasionally take place is but too probable, since the sneer of Lucretuus has not lost its original force—*Quantum religio potuit suadere malorum*; superstition is still responsible for many evil actions, but with the growth of more humane sentiments and the spread of education, these must eventually vanish into the Limbo of things that have been. That none but the most bigotted individuals will picture the Jews as delighting in Ritual murders is as certain as that the present generation no longer credits the exploded theory of the sun revolving round the earth or believes in witchcraft.

A. N. G.

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The Proprietor of the "Akhbar-i-Islam," the leading daily of Bombay, in the issue of the 30th January 1913, writes: "The well-known native physician, Dr. Kalidas Motiram of Rajkot, has obtained numerous certificates for his medicines that have stood a successful test to diseases pertaining both to males and females on account of his long-standing experience in the line and has got them registered in Government amongst which, the Royal Yakuti Ananga Vilas, the best tonic, has been very attractive in as much as it makes fresh and youthful blood run in all parts of the body, gives stability to genuine manhood removing all diseases of the body. We had an occasion of giving a trial to a tin of the said pills from which we have been convinced of the fact that the praises regarding the pills made in the advertisement appearing in this paper under the signature of the said doctor are quite free from exaggeration and it is therefore that we specially recommend the use of the pills for persons having a lean body and suffering from debility."

THE ROYAL YAKUTI ANANGA VILAS.

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SUMMONS FOR DISPOSAL OF SUIT.

(Order V, rules 1 and 5, of Act V of 1908.)

Suit No. 48 of 1914.

IN THE COURT OF THE MUNSIF, FYZABAD.

B. Shamsunder Lall, son of Ram Charan of M. Kotha Parcha, City Fyzabad ... *Plaintiff,*

versus

Dabi Dyal, etc. ... *Defendants.*

To

1. Dabi Dayal son of Lachman Dass of City Behri.
2. Bota Mall son of Gopi Chand of City Bhilwal, District Saiwal.

Whereas the above named Plaintiff has instituted a suit against you for Rs. 507/12, you are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person, or by a pleader, duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit, or who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all such questions on the 5th day of June 1914, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, to answer the claim; and as the day fixed for your appearence is appointed for the final disposal of the suit, you must be prepared to produce on that day all the witnesses, upon whose evidence and all the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of you defence. Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in you absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 15th day of May 1914.

By order,

Raj Bahadur, Munsarim.

NOTE.—*If written statements are required, say.*—You are (or such a party is, as the case may be) require to put in a written statement by the 29th day of May 1914.

Printed and Published by FAROOQ ALI at THE COMRADE & THE HAMDARD PRESS, Kucha-i-Chelan, Delhi.