

(1) Number of pages 12
(2) Date of repair 26-11-86
(3) Initials of the Referencer lcw ✓

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	534.	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	18-4-1981.	197.

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as a nation has no existence. India is merely a geographical division, a large country, almost a continent, a little microcosm if you will, but she is politically nothing, and was not very long ago worse than nothing, as she was then the prey of all powerful nations alike. She is, at this moment, it is true, the brightest jewel in the British Crown. But we fear she is prized, more as a jewel, than as a people. The critic we know, will say where is the Indian people that we talk of? He will take us to task for talking of that as an existing entity which merely lives in our imagination and which we would gladly see spring into existence. But the nation is there notwithstanding, though still in its swaddling clothes, politically considered. That this proud realm which was once the seat of all civilization and knowledge, all the wealth, the arts, the science and philosophy of the olden time should, at present, be nothing more than the more domicile, for the time being, of a congeries of sects and castes, of colonists, clerks, interlopers and fortune-hunters really makes our heart bleed to think of. But the reason of it every body knows who knows the history of India. We now live, however, in days fruitful of great things,

We said a few words above about English Education. In bringing about the political regeneration we spoke of, we deem this education as no unimportant factor in more than one. Not only does the English language unlock to the natives of India a knowledge of Western philosophy and science enabling them to know something of the world as it is, but it also binds fair and true-minded inhabitants from one end of the Empire to the other. To place the Hindustani

now occupies English, but the latter subserves far more extensive purposes. The English is perhaps now what the Sanscrit might have been in the days of the Hindu Rajahs, the classical language of India, containing all that is pure, and lovely, and ennobling, and working as a most powerful civilizing agent. It is these convictions that have induced us to put forth this journal in English rather in some one of the prevalent vernaculars. In employing the English language, we feel we at the same time use the language of the court, and employ the only cultivated language in India that has now any pretensions to elegance, copiousness, or scientific accuracy. We address ourselves to all classes of the people in all parts of the country, our audience being almost the whole nation. But to achieve in any degree the purposes we have in view, it is necessary that representative men from all classes of the community write in these columns, and that they looked to it as their common organ. Our terms place the "People's Friend" within the reach of rich and poor, and we only hope, that rich and poor alike, not the latter only, will employ it for their daily wants.

A word as to our prospects. It is clear that a journal so handsomely priced must, to barely live at all, begin with a very con-

Let Europeans, Eurasians, and men of all classes and positions patronize us, and make use of our columns as their legitimate organ to set forth to the world whatever they may have to say in vindication of their rights, or for a mitigation of their wrongs. And let, finally, merchants and tradesmen of all classes and degrees, and all who have occasion to advertise, make a liberal use of our advertising columns, as our advertising rates will, we feel sure, be found exceedingly low, and our circulation, already, is so large that our paper cannot fail to prove a capital advertising medium for all.

As our readers may remember, we meant originally to bring out the paper in the form of a broad-sheet as large as the "Standard," but there is no Printing Establishment available in this city to bring out our paper in such a form, for a reasonable charge. We have been, therefore, much against our will, constrained to issue our paper in its present form, which, however, involves no diminution whatever of the quantity of matter promised, for if the larger size originally announced would give the reader 4 large pages, the one found necessary to adopt now gives them 8 pages of exactly half that size.

Considering, finally, all the aspects of the case, our low price, the means at the disposal of the proprietors, the form in which our paper is brought out, the nature of our programme, and the generally risky nature of newspaper enterprise, we cannot conceal from ourselves or from our readers the experimental nature of our present undertaking. Our proprietors are prepared to want us to say that they will readily guarantee the publication of the paper for a period of say six months, its further publication or permanence being entirely contingent on the result of the public support in the meanwhile. They will continue to publish the paper for a couple of years at least, if it at least pays its expenses, being willing to wait for their profits till that time. The very lowest monthly expenditure with which the office can be worked with any efficiency is Rs. 600 and we now begin with a deficit of Rs. 100 and odd at least. It rests therefore entirely with the public, whether our journal lived and flourished as one of the standing institutions of the country, or swelled the long list of the newspaper failures in the country.

**THE RESTORATION OF MYSORE
TO NATIVE RULE.**

This long talked of event, particulars which will be found in another part of the paper, having taken place, it may not be amiss to speak the plain, unvarnished truth about an occurrence which must form the topic of general discourse among the people of India. As well known to students

Indian History, the Hindu *raj* in Mysore came to grief with the appearance on the scene of that aspiring young warrior, Hyder, and the representatives of that dynasty languished some where obscurely, and were never thought of, till the capture of Seringapatam and the death of Tippoo led to the creation, by the East India Company, for political purposes, of the puppet Hindu king, the late Maharajah. The inclinations of the people of Mysore then, as now, were not given a moment's attention, but the population were handed over, as a lot of fixtures, to the in-coming tenant, to be dealt with as he thought proper. The late Maharajah was a minor at the time when the sudden termination of Tippoo's power and that monarch's death, coupled with the tortuous policy of the Company led to his unexpected enthronement, and he must have been educated also to some extent, or what passed for education must have been given him in his helpless minority.

minority, when he could not avoid playing the pupil. But, when with a rich treasury and almost irresponsible power, he became the real king of the country on the attainment of his majority, he misconducted himself, as every body knows, most shamefully, and not only squandered the revenues of the country and impoverished the exchequer, but did a variety of actions very common with oriental princes and great men, that excited universal obloquy and led to rebellion, loss of power, and enforced repentance in the hour of adversity. He did live a comparatively better life subsequently, for, as yet the uses of adversity proverbially sweet; But the people were on the whole well

off and have been ever since, despite the loss of their native sovereign. The Maharajah's all-powerful gold won at last the victory the metal is so fitted to achieve and parliament, the English Government then in power, and Her Majesty as a matter of course, found at high time to acknowledge their obligation to restore the prize that had remained so long in their possession to its rightful owner. But the old Maharajah could not enjoy the tardy fruits of his persevering diplomacy. He died, and his adopted heir the present Maharajah (whose adoption had been finally acknowledged, a little before, by the paramount power) was duly installed and proclaimed as the sovereign of Mysore. This took place in September 1868, but the territory could not be handed over to him till now, he being a minor. It was, accordingly, announced that it was the "intention of Her Majesty" that the young prince should have the advantage of an education suitable to his rank and position, and calculated to prepare

We are aware that such an education has been attempted to be given, but, if it is, royal families accustomed to do the real work of kings, such as the Royal family of England, for example, teaching the art of government, in its modern acceptation, is so hard, how could the young Maharajah of Mysore have, merely because he passed through the hands of Captain Wilson and Mr. Forter already acquired the required capacity to govern so large a province? It will be said, perhaps, that due checks have been provided against his going wrong, that there is a Resident, an experienced Dewan, and a small council, and laws and law-courts ready made, and Departmental and Departmental Heads to manage the sundry details of administration. All this is very true, but we have little faith in native princes, and zemindars, they have no idea of responsibility, though we read that "His Highness, the young Maharajah" will be true to himself, true to the power to whom he owes everything, and true to the people whose happiness is now to a great extent committed to his care, and dependent upon his conduct." We remember reading in the Bangalore papers frequent complaints to the effect that His Highness never once spoke a word of his own or was allowed to speak in the pro-

gresses he made through his dominions last year. We could well understand the reason at the time, for Rajahs and Maharajahs, are very fine Scholars indeed to talk about in reports, though knowing little or nothing in practice. At any rate, His Highness has not, to our knowledge, established his capacity to govern, and the experiment of handing over such a fine province to an at the best half educated young man of his tender years, and total inacquaintance with business, to play at ruling is a highly perilous thing indeed. But we are glad that a very able and upright Dewan has been given to the young Maharajah in the person of Mr. Runga Charlu, though as a Madrassee, he might stink in the nostrils of the Mysore faction. But those who know what a strictly honest official character he bore in his tour of service as a Deputy Collector, and in other appointments under the Madras Government cannot have any misgivings whatever about his strictly doing his duty. But able and unimpeachably honest as Runga Charloo and his two colleagues in council may be, we do not see why some more representative men from various parts of the province may not have been called upon to assist the Maharajah in the administration. While making an experiment at native rule, for that is what it amounts to, the experiment might have been carried on on a somewhat more liberal and larger scale. But our Government is perhaps afraid to go too far, afraid to allow the natives in whatever part of India more rope than they are now allowed.

GOVERNMENT AND THE MAHOMEDANS.

Under this heading, there recently appeared in the columns of our contemporary the *Madras Mail* certain correspondence which, as deserving some allusion in this journal, we have taken the liberty of reproducing in its proper place. In the first of the two letters reprinted, the writer, a Brahmin, takes the Government to task for alleged partiality towards the Mahomedans in giving some of them certain appointments, even though the recipients had not passed the prescribed examinations. He also alludes to some prejudice now said to exist in certain influential quarters against the employment of members of the sacred caste in high positions, or in larger numbers than is already the case. Now, we entirely demur to the Brahmin correspondent's view of the case in regard to the first point. The recent elevation of a few members of the Mahomedan community to certain high offices under the Government ought not to be construed into partiality towards them. The Government never meant in this matter to draw any invidious distinctions between class and class. All that they claim to do, and they have a right to claim so, is that they should make use of exceptional measures to promote the official advancement of certain sections of the community, that owing to some cause or other do not occupy such a position in the service of the country as they may fairly be entitled to, from their numbers or political importance. There can be no doubt that the Mahomedans of India are not, under the British Government, filling those official positions that they formerly held and that they in common with other classes may fairly be expected to fill. Though this is in a great measure owing to their own fault, their apathy, listlessness, and suicidal indifference to that educational preparation that the other classes are all so willingly undergoing, yet that is no reason why they should be left out in the cold, and allowed to reap the inevitable consequences of their folly. The Government are bound to treat such classes, as a kind parent would treat his prodigal child. We can, therefore, see no injustice whatever in the official elevation given in a few isolated cases to some Mahomedan gentlemen, who showed themselves deserving of

the same. In the next place, the Brahmin Correspondent alludes to a prejudice we have very often of late seen and heard expressed against Brahmins as Brahmins, and we must say that in this respect they are very unjustly dealt with. We do not know if in any set terms in official proceedings the Brahmins as a class have been denounced, and their further elevation or employment interdicted. But we have seen many indisputable indications of the unkindly feeling cherished against the Brahmins. That the Brahmins have got on so well hitherto, and that they are now so largely employed in the public service is due, we suspect, not so much to their ruling spirit, as we have heard it said, as to their generally unusual fitness and ability. They have shown a remarkable aptitude to learn the English language and pass the requisite examinations, and the great majority of them are naturally fitted to a life at the desk. Who can deny that Brahmins have produced many men of great intellectual calibre like Madava Row, Ramiengar and Runga Charloo? And so long as they turn out men of such stamp, can they not, we ask them, well afford to maintain a dignified silence and continue doing their duty sure of their reward at the proper time, without paying any heed whatever to the aspersions of ignorant envy, or the attacks of active malice?

THE ASSASSINATION OF THE CZAR.

Our readers will be surprised to learn that the Czar, whose reign a cruel assassination a few days ago brought to a termination, was one of the best sovereigns that Russia has had, if not the best from one point of view. Particulars of the many reforms he brought about after his accession to the throne may be learnt from an article from Fraser's Magazine reprinted in another part of the present issue. What we would especially notice here is the savage, relentless creed of those revolutionists, the Nihilists. That wherever there is rank despotism, there is very close to it a volcano, full of revolutionary elements, any moment ready to burst forth in uncontrollable violence is but too true. But that, notwithstanding that the late Czar was so good himself and had done so much to improve the condition of his subjects, some of the latter were forever plotting against his life and did after all kill him betrays an unreasonable animus and hardness of heart very painful to witness. These Nihilists appear to be atheists, and to hold it as a cardinal doctrine of their creed that as most of the evils brought upon the world and that we are now suffering from have been introduced at some time or other, it is a highly meritorious act to take the life of a king and thereby intimidate the whole breed of irresponsible sovereigns now living. This is a very severe type of virtue indeed. Assassination may, in some by-gone age, have been a legitimate weapon to employ, when there was no other way open to hold despotism in check. But now that we are living in better days, there could be no necessity for resorting to such sanguinary, unconstitutional means. No country can, on a sudden, hope to get all its political aspirations realized. If the whole people are ripe for the liberty sought, they will get it as a matter of course. But that is not the case always, and we suspect that Russian institutions at the present day satisfy the requirements of the masses of the people well enough.

MR. MARGOSCHIS.

We are very sorry that over-work and irritation of the brain brought on by it led to the strange hallucination in this gentleman's mind that somebody was conspiring against him, and would bring about his ruin—a diseased fancy that very unaccountably led to his pistoling two of his servants—

one mortally. Mr. Margoschis, we say, is one of the best known in the city, and has done a lot of literary work. He is the Editor of the Journal of Education, and to the School-book Society. We told, on good authority, that this was very retiring and hardly took any exercise, and his friends had long anxiously for his health. Mr. Margoschis after the unlucky event referred to, was sent to the General Hospital for observation, and from thence removed to the Lunatic Asylum. We are very sorry for him and we condole with his friends and relations on the misfortune that has happened.

THE SALT TAX.

It is very gratifying to us to learn from the European Mail that at a special meeting of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the following Resolution having reference to the Salt Tax in India was unanimously passed:—"That in the interests alike of the trade of this district and of the people of India themselves, this Chamber is of opinion that the Salt Tax, as pressing heavily on the poorer classes of India, should have the prompt attention of the Government, with a view to its repeal at the earliest possible moment."

When even autocratic Russia has thought fit to dispense with the oppressive Salt Tax, why should not our Liberal Government condescend to follow her brilliant example? While the abolition of the Salt Tax is regarded throughout the whole of Russia as a great boon, especially to the poorer classes, how much more should it be so to the poor classes of India to see that they can drink their Conjee with salt. We wish the Manchester Chamber every success in their philanthropic agitation.

THE DEWANSHIP OF MYSORE.

In the course of our leading article in Saturday's issue, entitled "The Government of Mysore," we mentioned, on what we conceived to be the best authority, that the nomination of Mr. Runga Charlu as Dewan had been placed before the Government of India, "endorsed by the strongly expressed approval of Mr. Bowring and Sir Richard Meade, who have stated in writing their belief that Mr. Runga Charlu is the fittest person for the office." It is, therefore, only just that we should publish, as we have been requested to do, the following

Mysore official by Mr. Bowring, bearing date respectively August 25, 1880, and December 30, 1880. In the earlier of these communications, the writer says: "When I nominated him (Mr. Runga Charlu), on the recommendation of the Madras Government, to assist Major Elliot, it was not my intention that he should assume a high administrative position, for I regarded his appointment as of a temporary character, while recent events would have disqualified me still more from selecting him as Dewan." The second letter contains the following passage: "As regards the introduction into Mysore of Mr. Runga Charlu, I am of course responsible for it, as you remark; but you know that I nominated him for a special purpose, and that it never entered into my head that he would assume the prominent position he now holds. Perhaps you will say that I ought to have foreseen this, but in reply I may urge that, had I remained Chief Commissioner, I would not have allowed him to exercise any undue sway in the country. I cannot regret having obtained his services to assist Major Elliot for his work in this capacity was very well done, but I do not hold myself responsible for his subsequent aggrandizement. Supposing an engineer constructed an irrigation channel, and that, owing to want of

attention on the part of his successor, the channel ate into its bank, and flooded the country would you hold the first man responsible? I think not, so I cannot take blame to myself for any unchecked action on Mr. R's part. If he be nominated Dewan it will not be in accordance with my suggestions."—*Daily Post, Bangalore.*

THE VERNACULAR PRESS ACT.

The Marquis of Hartington's despatch, under date the 25th January, to the Viceroy of India, in reference to the Vernacular Press Act, has been published. It sets forth that the Act of 1878 for the better control of publications in Oriental languages has now been three years in operation, so that sufficient time has probably been afforded to enable the Viceroy to form some opinion as to the effect of that measure. It is pointed out that considerable doubts have from the first been entertained as to the expediency of the law in question, and it does not appear to Lord Hartington that there is any great weight of evidence to show the necessity of the measure. While, on the one hand, the Act has provoked a strong feeling of discontent and resentment and is unquestionably open to the objection that it infringes the principle, which it is the object of the Government of India to uphold, of the equality before the law of all classes in India, there is, on the other hand but little reason to think that as regards language inimical to British rule, the character of the Vernacular Press has since the passing of the Act undergone any essential change. Under these circumstances, Lord Hartington says he has nothing before him to show that the original objections to the law of 1878 have been counterbalanced by increased security or other compensating advantages. The Act applies not only to publications which are of a nature calculated to excite dissension and endanger the public itself, but also to those affecting private persons and public servants; and in regard to the latter object, it is remarked that only evidence of wide-spread intimidation which the penal law could not put down, would justify such exceptional legislation. The despatch closes with an intimation that the subject of the continuance of the Act is left for the early and careful attention of his Excellency in Council.

THE RETENTION OF CANDAHAR.

Upon the most important question, in

chosen words, puts the case exactly as it stands.—The hope that the Government may be induced to reconsider their policy of evacuating Candahar has gained a little strength since our last, chiefly in consequence of the publication of the Russian correspondence found in Cabul, and almost every organ of Anglo-Indian opinion is again pointing out the folly of any further retrograde movement. It is generally felt that the only one argument for the withdrawal which will stand a moment's examination is that of the cost of the occupation. The answer given to this is that such a cost will be but a trifle compared with that which must be incurred in watching the whole frontier and guarding against internal risings when once the Russians have gained a commanding influence in Afghanistan, which our retirement from Candahar will leave open to them. It is an article of faith with Anglo-Indians that Merw, notwithstanding the Russian assurances to the contrary, is the objective point of General Scobeleff's expedition, and that the Czar's generals will soon be in a position whence they can throw a large force into Afghanistan in a shorter time than we could from Quetta. Such a state of affairs might be viewed with indifference while we held Candahar, in force, but

would be a source of never-ending anxiety and expense if once that point of vantage was given up, and would necessitate the doubling, if not the trebling, of the Punjab and Scinde garrisons. The fact that Major the Hon. George Napier, an officer well versed in Central Asian matters, is now in Calcutta consulting with the Viceroy is looked upon as another hopeful sign, and, on the whole, the public are inclined to take a more sanguine view of the Candahar question than was the case a fortnight ago.

INTRODUCTION OF TELEPHONES INTO INDIA.

The Mail learns that Mr. John Pender, M. P., Chairman of the Company which has been established for the introduction of telephones into this country, has received the sanction of the India Office, to state, 'that the Supreme Government will be authorised to grant the Company a license for the establishment of exchanges in the chief cities of the Indian Empire.'

THE HON'BLE LOUIS FORBES

The same paper says that the Viceroy has appointed Mr. Louis Forbes, M. C. S., the Judge of Bellary, late Acting Judge of the High Court, and now on furlough, an additional member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council. Mr. Forbes is No. 4 on the Madras Civil List, his seniors being the Hon'ble L. C. Innes, Judge of the High Court, the Hon'ble W. Huddleston, Senior Member of Council, and the Hon'ble L. R. Kindersley Judge of the High Court.

THE LABEL CASE AGAINST MR. KNIGHT.

In connection with this case, Sir George Yule, late British Resident at Hyderabad, wrote a letter to Mr. Knight, who is now being prosecuted at London for libel and the letter has been published in the *Calcutta Statesman*.

SIR GEORGE SAYS:—"It is I think, of very great importance that the suit which has been brought against you by the Amir of Hyderabad, should go to trial. It would be a public misfortune were it to be compromised; for in common with many others who know the facts, I have long been anxious to see the treatment which Salar Jung has of late years received at the hands of the Government of India (particularly in the appointment of Wikar-ool-Oomra as Co-Regent with him) brought to the notice of the Home Government in such a way as to compel it to make a full inquiry. I have often thought of addressing the Secretary of State myself on the subject, but have been deterred from doing so by several reasons, of which I need mention only two. The certainty that any inquiry, in the usual way by 'officials' of the Government of India, would be abortive, and could result only in making Salar Jung's position worse, if that is possible, than it now is. To be thorough and effectual, the inquiry must be entrusted with the Calcutta Foreign Office, and it is for this reason that I so earnestly hope that the libel suit against you may prove the occasion of showing in open court before her Majesty's Judges, the true character of the Amir's appointment, and the long course of oppression and insult to which Salar Jung has been subjected by the Government of India for years past. My second reason is that it would be hopeless to look for any assistance from Salar Jung himself. Without entering into the general question of the position of native Princes and their Ministers, it is not too much to say that Salar Jung, from hard experience, and especially from his treatment of late years, must have lost all faith even in his right to remonstrate against any proceedings of the Resident, and all hope of his representations being regarded as of any weight by the Government of India. His natural caution and modesty have, under the treatment he has received, become developed, I fear, into absolute faults; and anything like co-operation from him, in these circumstances, is not, I am persuaded, to be looked for."

MYSORE ADMINISTRATION.

We take the following from the administration report of Mysore for 1879-80:—
The Report of the Mysore Administration for the year 1879-80 deals with the last year but one of British administration of

the Province. Crippled as it the country have been by circumstances of the two years it is not possible to hand over as until the calamity of the took it, it was hoped to have a full exchequer and a team, but the superabundant harvests of those years of dire already gone far to restore where all was want. The large retrenchment had already, commencement of the year now ed on, prompted the reduction upon civil establishments, in nation wherever possible of high European officers, and the substitution of more economical Native agency men in the direction of the near reorganisation of the province a ded, and during the year the sanctioned scale of Civil Officers of the higher grades was entirely recast, the subordinate establishments being at the same time reorganised and very generally reduced.

The new scale substitutes a Secretary and Revenue Commissioner, who is a native officer, for the three Commissioners of Divisions formerly existing; and the judicial service has been completely separated from the list of revenue officers. Deputy Commissioners of Districts no longer exercise any civil powers. Each local jurisdiction which formerly constituted a Division is now under a District and Sessions Judge in judicial matters, the Districts having each a Subordinate Judge of the standing of an Assistant Commissioner. Below them again are the Magistrates, who however are no new creations having been gradually introduced since 1873, but it is a novel feature that they all exercise magisterial as well as civil powers. A Deputy Commissioner has the revenue and magisterial charge of each District. Before the scale of their pay has been materially reduced to suit the changing conditions of the Province. Instead of ranging from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,600, their pay is now between Rs. 700 and Rs. 1,200. The District Police are immediately under the Deputy Commissioners unaided as they were by Assistant Commissioners as they were by those duties; for the specially appointed for those duties; for the Deputy Commissioner is now relieved of civil work and has no longer the expenditure on that works of the District Funds, all works being executed by the Department of Public Works, so that his time is more at command for Police administration. Excluding then the Judicial Assistant Commissioners and the Town Magistrate of Mysore, there were 27 Assistant Commissioners, and now there are 19. None of these officers are now Europeans, but it has not yet been possible to eliminate all the Deputy Commissioners on the old scale, four of whom remained to the close of the year, three Europeans and one Native. To that extent the new organization, though but have been deterred from doing so by several reasons, of which I need mention only two. The certainty that any inquiry, in the usual way by 'officials' of the Government of India, would be abortive, and could result only in making Salar Jung's position worse, if that is possible, than it now is. To be thorough and effectual, the inquiry must be entrusted with the Calcutta Foreign Office, and it is for this reason that I so earnestly hope that the libel suit against you may prove the occasion of showing in open court before her Majesty's Judges, the true character of the Amir's appointment, and the long course of oppression and insult to which Salar Jung has been subjected by the Government of India for years past. My second reason is that it would be hopeless to look for any assistance from Salar Jung himself. Without entering into the general question of the position of native Princes and their Ministers, it is not too much to say that Salar Jung, from hard experience, and especially from his treatment of late years, must have lost all faith even in his right to remonstrate against any proceedings of the Resident, and all hope of his representations being regarded as of any weight by the Government of India. His natural caution and modesty have, under the treatment he has received, become developed, I fear, into absolute faults; and anything like co-operation from him, in these circumstances, is not, I am persuaded, to be looked for."

The same principle of reduction, and of substitution as far as possible of Native for European agency, has ruled the changes introduced in the Education, Forest and Public Works Departments, and so far as the reforms have been carried out, they are complete. The new approach of the Mysore shall again be administered by its own Rules, has, as might be expected, influenced the history of the year in more ways than by merely inducing a change in the personnel of the Executive, and for one the most strenuous endeavours were things by the Topographical survey to complete the detailed work on the Western Ghats, in view to the boundary between Mysore and South Canara. The natural difficulties of the ground, added to the unhealthiness of the localities in which much of the work had to be carried on, prevented the completion of the much desired work; but enough has been done to enable a boundary commission to take the field, and commence the actual settlement of the question.

Though the acreage out-turn of the Revenue survey was less than that of the preceding year, the work, which should be rather gauged by the number of fields that were measured, was really greater; but it was attained at an increased cost per acre; a result to be expected where the average of holdings dealt with were small in extent. Classification work was pushed on with greater rapidity and by an increased strength of establishment employed upon it.

The settlement of the land revenue was introduced into four taluks, and just half the number in the Province have now been

completed. With the work of measurement as much in advance of classification of the land as two and a half millions of acres, it is anticipated that in two years it will be practicable to commence reducing the survey establishments.

The Income Settlement Department having been reduced in strength, turned out a proportionally less amount of work than in the previous year, but the progress made was good and the work of the Department is rapidly approaching completion.

The introduction of several useful Acts was effected, some of them more especially designed for the safety and better Government of the country, such as the Prisons Act and Arms Act, others relating to the Revenue Fiscal arrangement, as for instance the Excise Act and the Opium Act, but perhaps the most important legislative enactment of the year was the Regulation issued by Notification of the Supreme Government which recast the constitution and powers of the Civil Courts in the Province.

Changes were also introduced into the Police Department. In a small Province like Mysore it is not easy to provide adequately, and at the same time economically, for the control of the Police. The province is not large enough to afford a highly paid Inspector-General and it is not sufficient to give supreme control to a junior officer. Hitherto therefore the Judicial Commissioner has been Inspector-General of Police but the arrangement by which one officer is at the same time head of the Judicial and Police organization was never looked on as satisfactory and has always been liable to be changed. Yet it was not easy to find another officer who could relieve him of the duty, and the difficulty has only been solved by the Chief Commissioner assuming the direct control himself. In other respects the constitution of the Police Force remained unchanged, except that, as already stated, the Assistant Commissioners specially employed as Police Officers in each District were discontinued.

The arrangement above alluded to is not intended to be permanent, and was indeed only part of more extensive changes which have been carried out as regards the lower ranks, since the close of the year. The management of the Police directly by the Chief Commissioner is defective in making insufficient provision for local inspection and minute direction, and it throws upon him an inconvenient amount of detailed and routine work which can only be partially avoided by extending the powers and responsibility of District Officers; it will still be necessary therefore to place the immediate control of the Police under a single officer, subordinate to the executive Local Government.

MYSORE REVENUE.

The total Revenue demand for the year 1879-80 was Rs. 99,29,515, which in addition to the balance of Rs. 38,97,131 outstanding on the 1st April 79 formed the amount of collection during the year. Of this Rs. 1,08,26,646 was realised. The fall in the demand was chiefly under Land Revenue explained by the fact that lands retained in the names of dead, deserted or impoverished ryots in the previous year were finally struck off the rent rolls in the year under report.

The budget estimate of receipts was for Rs. 1,07,65,900, the actuals came to Rs. 1,08,26,646. Land Revenue, which was budgeted for 74 lakhs, produced Rs. 76,73,792. Other heads of account did not come up to the budget estimate, though in several cases they showed an improvement upon the preceding year. The retrenchment of civil establishments, and of the Military force, carried out during the year, led to the preparation of a revised budget of expenditure. The original budget provided for Rs. 87,81,000 for Civil Charges, and Rs. 8,01,000 for the Local force. In the revised budget the Civil charges were reduced to Rs. 88,71,000 and Local force to Rs. 7,84,000. The actuals of the latter only reached Rs. 7,82,524 showing a still further saving, but the Civil charges nearly reached the figure of the original estimate. This excess was due to transfers from the Railway and Public Works Department, on account of Famine labor, amounting to Rs. 1,08,672, but for that the actual expenditure on Civil charges would have been within the estimate. The Public Works Department expenditure on the other hand reached only Rs. 10,70,460 against a budget grant of Rs.

12,25,000 so that on the whole the actual estimate of the year are Rs. 1,06,02,325, the budget estimate Rs. 1,07,87,000. Ordinary expenditure was therefore within the estimate and two lakhs and a half short of the collected income. The expenditure of Rs. 5,46,000 on the State Railway however brings up the total charges of the year to Rs. 1,11,9,000.

This shows a deficit of about three lakhs of rupees, which was met from the cash balances. The loan of Rs. 30,00,000 received in the previous year had sufficed to pay the deficit of that year and the excess charges under Public Debt augmented in consequence of payments under the head of Deposits of money belonging to the Mansion House Famine Relief Funds, and had raised the cash balances to Rs. 46,83,000 at the commencement of the year. In October and November the balances again ran so low, that although no loan was taken, the payment of the subsidy for these months was deferred and paid in January.

REVIEW.

The Revenue Code. Containing all the existing Revenue Regulations and Acts applicable to the Madras Presidency from 1802 to December 1880, with Introduction, Notes. Examination papers &c., by C. Annadurai Aiyar, Pleader District Court, Chingleput. (Intended for the use of officers, Pleaders, and Students.)—Madras: Printed at the Empress of India Press 1880.

We have received the above useful publication, from the compiler, for review, and we must say we have been very favorably impressed with the compilation, on a careful examination of its pages. The contents are well arranged, and the book is nicely printed. The price, moreover, is only Rs. 5 per copy, which must be welcome news to those who have been accustomed to the exorbitant prices of Messrs. Higginbotham & Co. There are a few examination papers with answers at the end of the volume, which is a convenient handy octavo, and the work begins with a carefully compiled Introduction giving the reader a general account of the Revenue System of the country, taken from the Revenue Refresher, the work of Mr. A. Narrain Row, a Deputy Collector on the Madras Establishment, which is on the whole a very pleasant book though marred by some mistakes here and there—mistakes which the compiler of the volume now noticed does not always avoid. For example, the well-known constitutional principle, acted upon in free states, that no tax should be levied without the consent of the people is stated to be a recognized principle in the Revenue Department here. But there is no Index, a serious defect, that we hope will be removed very shortly. The book, on the whole, may safely be purchased and used by all who have any occasion to study the Revenue Law of the Madras Presidency.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is very creditable to the Liberal Government that rules in England to accord such honorable terms of peace.

There is a very general feeling that the Boers, in taking up arms as a last resort, did right. To meet them halfway with liberal terms of peace such as they could accept honorably, consistently with their love of independence, is on the part of the powerful English Government a very frank and manly course to pursue. It does not betoken any cowardice whatever, and the Boers' example in taking up arms to assert their rights need not be contagious. The terms of peace are:—

The suzerainty of the Queen is acknowledged. Complete autonomy is granted to Transvaal. The British Government controls its foreign relations.

A British Resident will be allowed at the Capital.

A Royal Commission, composed of Sir Evelyn Wood, the Governor and the Chief Justice of Cape Colony, shall arrange native frontier questions, and also as to whether Transvaal is to lose any territory eastward. The Boers will disperse to their homes.

The British garrisons will remain in their present positions pending the definite settlement of affairs.

The British troops will make no further advance.

Advices from the Transvaal state that the Royal Commission of Enquiry will shortly proceed to Heidelberg.

The *Madras Mail* learns that "Mr. Justice Kernan has submitted to Government a concise minute upon the defects and shortcomings of the new Insolvency Law of India. In it he dwells particularly upon the facilities existing in this country for insolvents to secure their property before taking the benefit of the Act."

The same paper says that "unpassed men have for some time past been entertained at the Observatory on the ground that the nature of the work is very peculiar and requires specially trained men. This having been brought to the notice of Government, they have expressed their entire disapproval of it and while permitting these men to remain, as a long time has elapsed since their entertainment, they have directed that, for the future, none but passed candidates shall be employed at the Observatory except in one or two instances, where men specially trained are required."

So, unpassed men are to be hunted out of the clerical world. Are passed men such precious people always that they should be secured universally and unhacked, unpassed men shunted out of the way? Or are the Government under an obligation to provide in season and out of season berths to passed men, whether in a round hole or square hole, and whether they fit them or not?

We find it notified in the Fort St. George Gazette that petitions to Government, whether printed or written, should be submitted on foolscap paper, 13 inches long, and 8 inches wide, should be folded lengthwise, and not across, and enclosed in covers of sufficient size—enclosures to be attached to the petition by a cord.

Why do the Government continue multiplying such absurdly arbitrary rules? The people are too ignorant and powerless, already, to manage to get their grievances represented to Government by petition, and need it be said that rules of this nature only place more impediments in the way of their getting any justice whatever?

The Government of India, the *Mail* says, have expressed their willingness to advance the sum of three lakhs of rupees, without interest, to the ex-King of Oudh, to enable him to repair the premises occupied by the ladies of the Zenana, which are at present in a dilapidated condition. This amount will be placed in the hands of the Political Agent to the Governor General with the ex-King, and will be liquidated by the payment of monthly instalments of rupees ten thousand. One of the conditions on which the loan has been sanctioned is, that the working of the premises to be erected will be under European supervision, and approved of by the local Government.

How low indeed have the mighty fallen in India! The King of Oudh obliged to borrow and pay up monthly instalments ought to be indeed a very instructive spectacle.

Mr. Fawcett's popularity in Bengal has been for years so great that our patriotic gentlemen have been collecting funds by subscription to pay his election expenses. A balance of £350 remains unexpended of the funds contributed on the last occasion, which Mr. Fawcett's request, expressed in a letter to a gentleman now in London, has been invested, as on previous occasions, in the names of Professor Cowell, Sir Charles Dilke and another gentleman, to be ready for use at a future election.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

(REUTERS'S TELEGRAM.)

CALCUTTA, 26th March.

The Financial Statement was issued yesterday evening.

The figures are stated in pounds at one pound equal to 10 Rupees.

The accounts for 1879-80 show a revenue of £68,485,000 expenditure £69,668,000, deficit £1,183,000. Including Frontier and Punjab Northern Railways, £6,125,000 of war expenditure is brought to account, of which £2,350,000 is contributed by local Governments, leaving an Imperial surplus, exclusive of war, of £4,807,000.

The capital expenditure on productive public works is £3,364,000.

The war expenditure proper to the end of 1880-81, is estimated at £16,605,000.

Provision is made in 1881-82 for £2,210,000, war expenditure on the basis of the evacuation of Southern Afghanistan, being complete by the end of May. Of this

sum £270,000 is for compensation for loss of camels and horses, remaining unpaid from 1880-81.

The total net cost of the war is now estimated at £18,815,000, which equals at an exchange of 1s. 8d the rupee £15,680,000, sterling, exclusive of frontier railways which are estimated at 4,477,000, or at the above exchange £3,730,500 sterling net, and exclusive of the Punjab Northern Railway £1,919,000 or £340,000 sterling.

The English contribution is credited at once, namely, two millions in 1880-81, and three millions in 1881-82.

The military expenditure in the regular budget is based on treasury transactions not as before on audited expenditure.

Various reforms in the system of account are indicated.

Regular estimates for 1880-81, show a revenue of £79,768,000, including two millions of the English contribution, and expenditure £77,637,000. Deficit £2,131,000.

The expenditure includes four millions, which, under the former system of accounts, would have appeared in 1881-82.

Including the Frontier and Punjab Northern Railways £11,665,000, the net war expenditure is included in the regular estimate.

Excluding war expenditure the surplus of 1880-81 is £5,396,000.

The capital expenditure on productive public works is £2,816,000.

The budget estimates for 1881-82 show a revenue of £79,981,000, expenditure £79,126,000, surplus of £855,000.

The revenue includes three millions of the English contribution.

The expenditure includes £2,210,000 of war expenditure proper, and £790,000 of Frontier Railways. Total three millions.

Therefore the net result of the budget unaffected by the war expenditure includes £1,500,000 famine insurance, namely, £750,000 for productive works, and £750,000 for reduction of the sterling debt.

A commission on the reduction of the debt is to be appointed. The opium estimate is £3,500,000, net capital expenditure productive public works £2,608,000, namely, £108,000, unexpended balance of former years, and £2,500,000 fixed yearly grant.

An intention is announced under the usual reserve, to remit home £17,200,000 sterling and raise an Indian loan of three millions. The terms and date of loan are to be announced hereafter.

The statement dwells at length on the productive public works question, approves the policy of limiting Government expenditure to £2,500,000 annually, and hopes that private enterprise will construct railways.

Reference is made to a Company formed under the auspices of Messrs. Rothschild, to undertake the construction of the Calcutta Khodna Railway.

The statement concludes with the general observation, that when once relieved from the strain of war expenditure there need be no cause of anxiety as to current finance. The actual position is prosperous, but allusion is made to possibilities arising from increase of home liabilities, precarious opium revenue, and economic problem of the country, that will be met by the Government.

These are points to which the Government can now most usefully direct attention. The reduction of military expenditure and the encouragement of private enterprise by all legitimate means are also mentioned. Any fiscal reforms must be postponed till the Afghan complications are over.—*Mail*.

THE MYSORE STATE.

THE VICEROY'S PROCLAMATION

MYSORE, 25th March.

The installation of the Maharajah of Mysore took place this morning, at 7 o'clock. The Right Honorable the Governor, His Highness the Maharajah, and Mr. Gordon the Chief Commissioner, entered the Durbar room. All present rose. The Governor then said:—

"By the request of his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, I am commanded to express his great regret that he is unable to be present on this occasion. Our behalf by the British Government, has this day been transferred to Us by the Proclamation of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council dated this 25th day of March 1881. We do hereby notify and declare that we have this day assumed charge of the said Government, and we call upon all our subjects within the said Territories to be faithful and to bear true allegiance to Us, Our heirs and successors."

Davidson then read the following Proclamation:—

"We hereby accept as binding upon Us all grants and settlements heretofore made by the British Government within the said Territories in accordance with the respective terms thereof, except in so far as they may be rescinded or modified either by a competent Court of Law, or with the consent of the Governor-General in Council."

"We hereby confirm all existing Courts of Judicature within the said Territories in the respective jurisdictions now vested in them, and we further confirm in their respective appointments the Judges and all other Officers, Civil and Military, now holding office within the said Territories."

"For the conduct of the executive administration of the said Territories under Our commands and control, we have resolved to appoint a Dewan. And we, placing trust and confidence in the loyalty, ability and judgment of Cettipuniam Veeravalli Rangachari, c. i. e., do hereby appoint the said Cettipuniam Veeravalli Rangachari, c. i. e. to be Our Dewan for the conduct of the executive administration of the said Territories."

"His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council having complied with our request to lend Us the services of the present Judicial Commissioner, Mr. John Douglas Sandford, Bengal Civil Service, Barrister at-Law, and Master of Arts, to aid Us in the administration of justice in our Territories, we hereby confirm the said Mr. John Douglas Sandford in his appointment under the designation of Chief Judge of Mysore."

"We have further resolved that a Council shall be formed to be styled, 'The Council of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,' which shall consist of the Dewan for the time being as *ex-officio* President, and of two or more Members to be specially appointed by Us from time to time. It shall be the duty of the Members of the said Council to submit for our consideration their opinions on all questions relating to legislation and taxation, and on all other important measures connected with the good administration of our Territories and the well-being of our subjects. We are accordingly pleased to appoint—Cettipuniam Veeravalli Rangachari, c. i. e., Dewan, *Ex-Officio* President; Trichinopoly Rayalu Arokassawmy Thimbooo Chetty, Judge, *Ex-Officio* Member; Poorna Krishna Rao, and Attupakam Rana Sabhapathy Mandalai, to be members of the said Council, to hold office as such Councillors for the term of three years, or during our pleasure. Given under our hand and seal at Mysore, this 25th day of March 1881."

SRI CHAMARAJESWARA WODAYAR.

MYSORE HONORS.

His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General has conferred the following honors:

Upon Mr. P. Krishna Rao, Member of the Council of his Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, the title of *Rai Bahadur*, as a personal distinction.

Upon Mr. Mahamud Saliba, Municipal Commissioner, Bangalore, the title of Khan Bahadur, as a personal distinction.

TITLES CONFERRED.

Mysore, 25th March.

At the Durbar, the Governor conferred the titles of Rai Bahadur, on Messrs. Kristanarow and Sabapathy Mudalar, the new members of the Mysore Council. Mr. Thimbooo Chetty, third member was absent. Mahomed Saliah was made Khan Bahadur.

THE INSTALLATION BANQUET.

Mysore, 26th March.

There was a grand banquet at the palace this evening. The streets along the route were brilliantly illuminated with coloured lanterns.

After dinner the Governor made a long and able speech, emphatically endorsing all the sentiments he had expressed in Durbar. He particularly dwelt on the promises made by the Queen Empress in her Proclamation of 1858, and stated that as an old politician, he might presume to advise a young one. He strongly urged the Maharajah to be governed by the great principle of truth, to get truthful councillors, and adhere to their suggestions. He alluded to the great task before His Highness, but trusted to his known character to overcome difficulties.

tage of woe. The rain exhausted by a tremendous war, was morally a wreck. Russia at that epoch was filled with antiquated ideas and absurd traditions, strange and opposing prejudices, conflicting interests. She had millions of serfs, but no schools and no roads. Her treasury was empty, the Russian seas were covered with hostile cruisers, and Sebastopol was yet stained with torrents of Russian blood. I was then only a child, but I remember as vividly as if it were but yesterday the horror of great darkness of that terrible time. Everywhere one heard the words of agony and distress, young and old, rich and poor, the highly placed and the lowliest of the low, shared alike the universal sense of poignant shame. The gloom was unbroken, or relieved only by those displays of moral heroism in which Russia has never failed even in the darkest hour of her destinies. Whether we looked at home or abroad, everything was in ruins. Our military system had broken down, the administrative machinery of the State had almost collapsed. Emperor Nicholas, 'the Quixote of Autocracy,' could not survive the catastrophe which overwhelmed the regime to which he had devoted the arduous labours of thirty years; his hopes all blighted, his ideal for ever unrealised. Dying with a heart broken by the sight of the miseries of his people, the Emperor delivered over his realm to his son and successor with the command worthy of a Russian, to devote his life to the service of his country. I put together as well as I can the views which the majority of Russians take of the reforms of the present reign.

At first it was thought well to proceed slowly. By an Ukase, issued December, 1857, the Russian Government proposed that (1) the landlord should retain his rights over his whole estate; (2) that the peasants should keep their fenced-in holdings and enjoy the right of acquiring them as their absolute property; (3) that they should have the use of as much land as was necessary for sustenance under the local conditions, paying rent for the same, in money or labor, to the lord of the manor; (4) that the abolition of serfdom should take place very gradually, under conditions intended to prevent them deserting their holdings and migrating to other regions. Such was the starting point of the Government when it began to grapple with the question of serfdom. On February 19, March 3, 1861, the signature of Alexander II. gave liberty to twenty-three millions of serfs. It was a great day indeed in the annals of our history, one of the greatest. How vividly we remember all the outbursts of enthusiasm with which the appearance of the manifesto was welcomed. The hopes with which, five years before, the advent of our Emperor's reign was hailed, were realised. In the capital, in both capitals, and indeed everywhere throughout Russia, there was universal rejoicing. Brighter and brighter before our eyes glowed the visions of the future, and in the fervour of exultant faith, Russians rejoiced at what they felt was the true regeneration of their country, the regular and gradual realisation of their national aspirations. It is sometimes said by those who disparage everything Russian, merely because it is Russian, that the emancipation made no difference. Possibly, if these kind friends were reduced for a year to the state of the emancipated serf, the experience would be profitable. Before 1861 the serf belonged to his master. He could be punished, sold,

and labour exacted; the law interfered in these cases very seldom indeed. The serf could not even marry without his owner's permission. He could not make a will and bequeath his land to another. Briefly, the Land Act of our Emperor decreed to every peasant sixty of tenure at fixed rents, either in money or labor. It was also ordered that every peasant serf might be assisted by the state to purchase his farm. The extent of the farm allowed to each peasant was left to be decided by the Communal Council, but the average holding of our peasants is about ten acres. The extent of land allowed to each commune was decided, if possible by private agreement; but when owner and peasant failed, to agree in the course of a year the functionaries known as 'arbiters of peace' (a most excellent body of functionaries indeed) interfered, and settled both the quantity of land and the amount of rent. The arrangement by which the peasants were enabled to buy their holdings I will try to explain as briefly as possible. If the landlord received, say £10 per annum rent or dues from ten peasants of a Commune holding 200 acres, the peasant had the option of buying at about 16½ years' purchase, or say £167. The State lent them £134, to be repaid in forty-nine years at 6 per cent, or about eight pounds a year, while they had to pay £33 themselves as their share of the purchase-money. Practically, therefore, by paying down a little more than three years' rent they were enabled by the State to become owners of their holdings, paying off the rest of the purchase-money by instalments, equalling four-fifths of the former rent for forty-nine years. After that the pay-

ment ceases, and the land is their own. The question arises, of course, where did the peasants get their purchase-money, which they had to find. In many cases, they did not get it at all. When land was compulsorily redeemed without the consent of the peasants the landlord had to take the four-fifths advanced by Government as payment in full. This was done in over 60 cases out of 100. Even when peasants agreed to pay, they often evaded fulfilment of their engagements. The effect, therefore, of the agrarian law is in the majority of cases, that the peasant, by paying four-fifths his former rent to the State, instead of to his landlord, will in forty-nine years become absolute owner of his farm. But such a Land Act—I hear some people say—was confiscation. Such, however, was not the view in Russia. The feeling that serfdom had to be got rid of, even at some great sacrifice, was universal in my country. The landlords were aware that a momentary loss had to be made—just as in time of war you well understand the necessity of unexpected taxation and heavy sacrifices. The landowners lost—say four shillings in the pound or even more—in order that Russia might root her peasants in the soil. It was absolutely necessary, it was done, and nobody is now groaning about it. 'Communist,' 'Socialist,' &c., &c., are words with different interpretations. Russia is made up of Communes. Her land system in some parties is 'Socialistic.' But do not be easily shocked. Remember what the great Czar said: 'The right to the soil which Russia gives to all her children is more dangerous to us Westerners than all her armies.' We see and feel that the actual power of Russia is closely connected with the real welfare of every one of our countrymen. The political effects of emancipation have been very great. The serf, on becoming a free man, did not lose in a moment his servility, but he began to realise his independence. English observers found a change in the army which crossed the Danube in 1877, and the serf soldiers who defended Sebastopol; though on becoming soldiers they and their families ceased to be serfs. Our Emperor is abused by those who know nothing about him, because he does not destroy his Autocracy, and set up Parliamentary institutions in Russia. In all these reforms, especially in the greatest, that of the emancipation of the serfs, the Emperor and the Imperial family took a foremost part. The Grand Duke Constantine, the Emperor's second brother, was president of the Great Committee for the Emancipation of the Peasants; and twenty-five folio volumes of M. S.S. remain to attest the diligence with which it laboured, and the painstaking and unrelenting attention devoted by it to every branch of the subject. The great social revolution involved in the emancipation of the serfs compelled the immediate adoption of other reforms. The reforms in judicial administration which other nations have painfully elaborated step by step, we adopted almost *en masse*. Beginning at the foundation, a simple but efficient judicial system was established. The old corrupt judges who were paid next to nothing and prospered on a starvation salary, were superseded by justices of the peace who were paid decent incomes and were, therefore, under the alternative of elevation or corruption. Although paid sometimes ten or twelve times more than the old judges, they lived more simply, and dearest judges were found to mean cheaper justice. The Code was drawn up quickly and simplified. Trials were held in open court; the accused was confronted with his accuser. Witnesses gave publicly, by word of mouth, what formerly had to be laboriously written out. Trial by Jury was established. This institution, the palladium of British liberty, was thus transplanted to despotic Russia by a reformer, so numerous and so important, that it is often forgotten even by those who sympathise with the work of a reforming Emperor. Another feature of the new judicial system resembled your Habeas Corpus Act. It provided that no one should be arrested for offences against the law without being brought to trial within a short time. The Nihilist conspiracy has led to the suspension of some of these provisions as a matter of self-defence, but I have seen enough during this visit to the crimes of our secret assassins to move England to feel that it would not need one-half its men to demand the Lord Melikoff system—which our Emperor undertook was the purification of the administration. This work, I frankly admit, is far from being complete. The traditions of corruption linger in many places, especially where salaries are inadequate. But although I admit and deplore the existence of these shortcomings, I am happy to say things are decidedly getting better. No doubt the contractors, most of whom were Jews, robbed us shamefully during the war; no doubt we have had scandals both recent and deplorable, but Mr. Wallace is strictly accurate when he says, 'The Russian administration

is incomparably purer now than at any former period of its history.' Emperor Alexander devoted much attention to the promotion of education. The difficulties in the way of educating all the people are enormous, owing to the extent of territory over which our population is scattered. You cannot even in wealthy England build a school in every small village, and Russia is an empire of villages. Of our European population only one-twelfth of the whole live in towns. But our peasants are eager to learn, and their children are sent to school whenever they can. In ten years—from 1860 to 1870—the number of the recruits who could read multiplied fivefold. In very olden times it was not thought well to teach the serf to read, and you must compare us, not with what you are but with what we were. We lack teachers, we lack schools; we have only about 20,000 schools, with less than a million scholars, but as most of these schools have been opened in the present reign, that is not so bad after all. In higher education we have less reason to shrink from a comparison with the West. When Emperor Nicholas died we had six universities. We have now nine; the latest, that of Tomsk, in Siberia, having been founded to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of Emperor Alexander's accession to the throne. Nor is the increase in number the only change. The number of students has been multiplied nearly fourfold. The curriculum has been entirely changed; we have better professors, and the classical studies are enforced in all the gymnasia. The tendency of the reign of Emperor Alexander has been to offer to women, as to men, *la carrière ouverte aux talents*; and this tendency has been even more manifest in local elective assemblies than in the central government. The position of women has been generally improved under Alexander II. In connection with the intellectual progress of the reign there must be recognised the relaxation of the severity of the laws restraining the freedom of the press. The censorship still exists, but it is not so strict as it was. Sometimes, indeed, it appears to be exercised by officials remarkably lacking in intelligence at whose absurd blunders intelligent Russians blush, but on the whole the most ridiculous censor to-day is more liberal and intelligent than the censor of the last reign. Freedom of the press, however, is a reform still to be achieved, and even before that is granted in its entirety much might be done. Russia is a gigantic treasury of wealth, but we have as yet hardly begun to utilise the endowment of nature. When the Emperor came to the throne, there were only 600 miles of railway in the whole Empire. To-day there are nearly 1,500 miles of railway in Russia, almost all of which were made under the guarantee of the State. The network of rail connects the Baku with the Baltic, and knits together the extremities of our unwieldy Empire. In every direction there are signs of material progress. The yield of our iron and coal mines has been largely increased. The increase of coal is very remarkable. Free trade is not introduced into Russia, but neither is it in America, and seeing the efforts Germany is now making to return to Protection, one must admit that the question is not very simple. Russia has the other day abolished the oppressive salt-tax, which England has abolished at home in 1825, but which she has introduced into India, where it exists to this day. The abolition of the salt-tax is regarded throughout the whole of Russia as a great boon, especially to the poorer classes. The civil administration of Russia has been much improved, but the process is still incomplete, and before Count Loris Melikoff has finished his patriotic labors, we expect still further improvements. There is one respect in which, as in the case of liberty of the press, Russia has decidedly still much to do, and that is in ecclesiastical questions. But even here much has been done. Hereditary priesthood has been abolished. Any qualified person, who desires to become a priest, can do so on passing a satisfactory examination. Our Church has no doubt many abuses, many of its clergy are very ignorant and by no means perfect, but our Church and our clergy being at least in harmony with Russian aspirations, do not oppose themselves to national ideal. As for Siberia, it is now being recognized that our penal settlements are by no means so horrible as they used to be painted. Too many of our convicts escape, but, as Rev Mr. Landells admits, after a long tour through the country, he left Asia with the impression 'that if a prisoner chooses to behave decently well, he may be in Siberia more comfortable than in many, and as comfortable as in most of the prisons of the world'

In 1869 the Emperor opened the Finland Diet, using the following words, which perhaps will sound somewhat familiar in English ears, although some who do not understand our institutions, may think they come strangely from the mouth of an autocrat:—

I guard the inviolable principle of Constitutional Monarchy, ingrained in the character of the Finnish people, and stamped on its laws and customs. It is your duty, as representing the Grand Duchy of Finland, to prove by the dignity, moderation and order of your decisions that liberal institutions in the hands of a wise people, of a people ready to work in harmony with the Emperor, with a practical view towards the development of public welfare are not only not dangerous, but constitute a guarantee for order and prosperity.

"Occasions arise, as in Poland and Ireland and to a certain extent in Russia, through the efforts of the Nihilist conspiracy, when it seems as if Liberal institutions do not conduce to order and prosperity. But these appearances are but temporary and will pass away. I have now, very imperfectly, tried to explain why we Russians are unable to accept the foreign prejudices against our Emperor. He has done for his country more than any other Emperor since Peter the Great. A sovereign who emancipated the serfs, settled the peasants on the soil, and liberated the southern Slavs, has earned the gratitude, not only of the present, but also of the coming generations."

—Fraser's Magazine.

DISCOVERY OF A MOORISH POMPEII.

Great excitement has just been caused at Algiers among archaeologists and the learned generally by the discovery of an Oriental Pompeii, an ancient Moorish city with its mosques and monuments, buried for ages in the sand of the desert. The discovery is due to M. Tarry, Inspector of Finance, who immediately communicated the fact to the Algerian Government, begging for the necessary help in excavation and also for a concession of the desired space in which to carry on the work. The request, it is needless to say, has been accorded. 'The city disinterred' lies in the environs of Ouargla, in the Saharan desert. M. Tarry identifies it with the ancient city of Cedarat, spoken of by Larcen in his work on Biskra. Historians describe these wastes of sand as peopled centuries ago with flourishing cities, having gardens and artificial water-systems, all long since destroyed in tribal wars, or buried in the sand, and of which up to this time no visible trace has remained. M. Tarry describes the site as precisely resembling that of Pompeii, it is buried in the sand to the extent of from 6 to 10 metres. A mosque and nine houses have already been excavated and the discoverer speaks enthusiastically of the richly sculptured marble arches, columns, inscriptions, &c., abounding on every side. He intends, however, to reserve a full account of his excavations for the Science Congress to be held at Algiers this spring; and meantime the works are being strenuously pushed on. It is noteworthy that the Inspector General of Mines some time since drew attention to the fact of artesian "nappes" or basins existing here, and M. Tarry's first efforts have been to experiment in this direction. After many unsuccessful attempts he was at last rewarded by finding water and the commencement of an aqueduct. A fête was given to the workmen in celebration of this discovery. As the works of excavation are carried on at a distance of several miles from the oasis of Ouargla, this find has greatly facilitated matters, much labour and time having before been expended in the fetching of water.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

PRINTED at the Viyavaratharanginee Press, and published by the Proprietors at No. 26, Popham's Broadway, Madras.

No. 9.

From

The Peoples Friend Office
53 1/2, Postnam Bazaar
Madras 1881

CURRENT No. 76

D. Narasimha
Managing Proprietor
The Peoples Friend
Madras

To

The Chief Secretary
to the Government of Madras
Colacannud.

Sir,

I have the honor to send
separately a copy of the "Peoples
Friend", a journal started
from the 2nd instant, and to request
that you will be good enough
to obtain the orders of Government
to furnish us all such Government
papers and proceedings as are
supplied to the Press.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Yours most Obedtly

D. Narasimha

Managing Proprietor
The Peoples Friend

Order 16 April 1881
No 534

Letter 1881/1 Dept

The "People's Friend"
will be included in
the list of newspapers
to which grants for
reprints & publications
are supplied

From

D. Sarasiah

Managing Proprietor

The People's Friend

Produce

The Chief Secretary

to the Govt. of Madras

Coloanund

No 9

Dated 6 April

Received &

CURRENT No. 724

Subject

Requests to be
furnished with all
such Government Papers
and proceedings as
are supplied to the

Procl.

To the Managing Proprietor
People's Friend
Recd Sept 10
P.M. Sept 11