

Mr. Badrudin after a careful study of the evidence placed before him, wrote to the Government to say there was no case against Hasain Bin Abdulla and others, this is a fact that a number of gentlemen headed by the mighty ones met at the house of one of the legal luminaries here with a view to find out if any case could be bolstered up against them. At this meeting a number of the witnesses for the prosecution were called. And the "unconquerable" will one of these who is a Jamedar of the Irregular Troops interposed, I am credibly informed, insurmountable obstacles are in the way of the accomplishment of the object with which the politicals met. The noble resolve on the part of this witness to speak the truth and nothing but the truth elicited a threat from the legal luminary. And when told he was an officer of the Government and as such he was bound to carry out its instructions, he is said to have stood on his knees his hand resting on his sword and told the men assembled that his life as being that of a soldier's was the Government's but his honor was his own—and to have left the meeting. This failure to trump up a case resulted in a *Roobkar* from the Home Secretariat, closing proceedings in a manner calculated not to evoke much hostile criticism. In the *Roobkar* issued shortly after Hasain Bin Abdulla's submitting an explanation departmentally it was stated that the explanation being of an unsatisfactory character the Commission appointed to inquire into the case would set to work. And although not even a tittle of addition has been made to the explanation above referred to, yet we are told in another *Roobkar* that the explanation is still under the consideration of the Minister and the commission will postpone its sittings until further orders.

I have been put in possession of the real facts of this case. What decision the Government may come to, the inscrutability of its ways makes it impossible for any one to say. But this much can be said that no sane man can see any guilt in the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung with the facts before him. Two things are clear from the evidence before me. The one is that

no fraud was committed, and the other is that no motive for a fraud does exist. Alum Ali Khan is paid for the maintenance of his troops stationed in five districts, from the District and Central Treasuries. A certain sum paid to him from the District Treasuries and not deducted from that owing to him in the District Accounts, was overdeducted by the Central Accounts Branch. Thus though mistakes were committed yet the result turned out to be what it ought to be. This the gentleman who congratulated himself on having discovered frauds and hastened to turn his discovery to account was too blind to see. Now as to the so-called motive for a fraud: it is inferred by the Government from the fact of the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung's having sold his house "which was ultimately sold for Rs. 26,000 and which is really of that value to Alum Ali Khan for Rs. 45,000. The house according to the valuation of four professional men, is worth over Rs. 62,000 and that it was not "ultimately sold for Rs. 26,000" as stated by the Government plaint but for Rs. 45,000 is proved by a letter addressed to the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung by Alum Ali Khan. And no portion of the purchase money was allowed to be appropriated by any one by the Nawab. These facts speak for themselves.

Jaya Rao has been acquitted. The Judges of the High Court who heard his appeal against the decision of Afzul Husain have reversed the sentence of the Lower Court. And to Mr. Norton, of the Madras Bar, is due the credit of having secured this. I commend Mr. Norton's able defence to the notice of those here who looked unutterable thoughtfulness when my letters commenting upon Afzul Husain's judgment appeared. They will now see that I was not fighting with shadows, that I evolved nothing out of my inner consciousness, that I but noticed what must be palpable to every one who is not born blind.

My attention has just been drawn to "A Member's" letter about "the Hindu Social Club" here. The letter is at best a sorry attempt to prove that I have "compromised the position

of the Club." "I had not supplied myself with the full information before I wrote about the memorial, and what I stated was against actual facts," I am told, and am expected to believe this in spite of myself. I had spoken to the Raja Murli Monohur Bahadur on the subject of the scholarship question sometime before the "Club" members thought of drawing up a memorial about it, in the presence of one or two members of the Club. The Raja told us there was no need for memorializing and tried his best to convince us that the Government would throw the scholarships open to all irrespective of caste or creed. And the list of those allowed to sit for the competitive examination held long before the Club's memorial was ready showed what strong reasons the Raja had had for telling us that the Government would throw the scholarships open to all. I could not for the life of me understand "what more consistent way of defence" I could have found than stating the plain truth.

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HYDERABAD, 24th January, 1891.

As promised in a recent letter of mine I shall let you know how a gentleman who has the misfortune to be independent-spirited and to have the courage of his convictions, has been and is being persecuted here. The gentleman I refer to is no other than Mr. A. C. Rudra, Barrister-at-law. He set foot on this soil about two years ago—and he has been a marked man since. The success that greeted him on all sides at the outset and the petty persecution and social “boycotting” that followed it close on its heels, the treatment he has received from the Moglai officialdom ranging from utmost warmth to utmost frigidity, from petting to persecution: these show how very difficult it is for a self-respecting man to pull on well where factions reign supreme, that sycophancy and time-serving alone can constitute the secret of success in a place where men in power are such as are bent upon self-aggrandisement. Mr. Rudra was received with open arms by every one here at the beginning. How he was shaken by the hand by the official “silk gloves,” how Mehdi Hassan “chaperoned” him into the favour of the officialdom, how he in his enthusiastic admiration proposed Mr. Rudra to a membership of the Nizam Club and how the Joint-Secretary of the Club seconded the proposal—all Hyderabad knows. And how all this favour and friendship turned into antagonistic factors—is equally well known. About the same time that he got into the Nizam Club, Mr. Rudra accepted the correspondentship of the “Pioneer”—and then began his troubles. As the local representative of the “Pioneer” he was not going to act the apologist of the vagaries and the wrong-doing of the officials or their hangers on. In his telegrams to the “Pioneer” which appeared in its issues of November and December 1889, he evinced a spirit of independence and a determination to echo the people’s voice at any cost which well-high took away the beath of his official friends and admirers. They saw what stuff he was made of, but thought that time would change him and convert him into a blower of their trumpets. They thought wrong—Mr. Rudra’s independence



did not flag. He persisted in his cause with the result that his "friends" dropped off one after another. And by accepting a brief from the British officers concerned in the famous Sowar Case, he made himself "thoroughly" obnoxious to all in any way connected with the Government. Then came the declaration of "war." It was held, by the powers-that-be, a crime deserving of exemplary punishment for any official to be on any good understanding with Mr. Rudra. And it was in accordance with this unwritten order that such of the officials as responded to the invitations issued by Messrs. Rudra, Gribble and Syed Ali for a pic-nic at Golconda—one of the social events of last year—got what is officially known as the *khanji* wink and Messrs. Syed Ali and Gribble who were associated with "the offender" fared worse at the hands of the "Government." The "sinners" repented and were restored to favour, but Mr. Rudra stood recalcitrant—to suffer. Many methods have since been employed to cow him down and crush him. First in order came his "boycotting," from the Nizam's Club. The incidents connected with this are among the most remarkable in the annals of social life here. A challenge regarding his eligibility to membership of the Club made by a member on the 7th December 1889, and deemed "unfit for notice" at the time—was "entertained against Mr. Rudra on the 11th October, 1890, by the Secretary of the Club—the Nawab Fateh Nawaz Jung. A rule which "refers to certain nationalities and not to the individual religious beliefs of those falling under the nationalities" was misinterpreted so as to operate against him. And he was turned out of the Club. This was followed by attempts to make this place too hot for him. Finding it difficult to get a house to live in, because of the *khanji* wink, he took shelter under the roof of a friend. Even here he was not left in peace. A distinguished official of the State had sworn to see him out of the friend's house. And the following conversation between the official and the friend reveals what unscrupulous men we have holding sway here now and to what depths they can descend to infuse terror into those who dare to be independent.

*Official.*—"I say, my friend the Nawab—spoke to me about Rudra last night. He said he was stopping with you. Is it true?"

*Friend.*—"Yes. The poor fellow could not get a house. So I put him up with me, and mean to do so until he gets a house."

*Official.*—"You had better get rid of him as soon as you can. The *Sirkar* is very angry with you. The Nawab told me that either you must drop Rudra or I must drop you. If you keep him long with you, it will be a sad look-out for you."

*Friend.*—"But how can I ask him to leave before he gets a house?"

*Official.*—"How I can't say. But the Nawab told me that Rudra is a rebel (*Bagi*) and anybody that associates with him will be regarded as a rebel. That is the *Sirkar's* opinion, and we shall do well to respect it."

As the result of this conversation, Mr. Rudra found himself within twenty-four hours of its taking place, occupying a house, the possession of which was soon to be claimed by a certain "would-be" tenant. While "knocking about" in this manner, Mr. Rudra was hauled over the coals for his remarks about the administration of justice in the Hyderabad Court in connection with *Gribble versus Gallagher*. I have seen the correspondence that has passed between the High Court and Mr. Rudra on this matter, and I find reason to believe that Mr. Rudra's position is unassailable and so I hope the High Court will be prudent enough to accept the explanation tendered by Mr. Rudra and be done with the ugly affair. You have not heard as yet Mr. Editor—the last of the persecution. A high official of the State paid a visit recently to the head office of the "Indian Thunderer." What passed between him and the Editor-in-chief, no one knows, but there is good reason for believing that the official's visit has not been altogether unsuccessful. It is reported that Mr. Rudra and his Editor differed in opinion on a matter of

considerable importance to the State, and this difference has resulted in the non-appearance of Hyderabad telegrams in the columns of the paper. Here ends for the present the history of the persecution.

The above is not the only instance in which a man has suffered for his independence in Hyderabad. Dozens of such instances have come to my knowledge—and I may have occasion to refer to some at least of them in future letters.

I was in Court last Thursday to hear the City murder case and was glad to notice that the High Court had perceived the desirability of providing representatives of the Press with seats. Very little of evidence taking was done because of the absence of several witnesses. And the case was adjourned to 12 o'clock to-day. Now that Mr. Hafiz Ahmed Raza Khan has brought himself to consent to admit further evidence against all the accused, I hope that evidence will be put in to prove that the murdered woman was known as *Mumthiaz* as well as *Imthiaz*, and the Judge will be pressed to send for Abdul Wahid's answer papers in the Pleaders' examination in order that the prosecution might prove the letters found in Aboo Husan's house to be in Wahid's handwriting.

I have a few nuts for the apologists of the present Government to crack. Why and by whose authority was Syed Ahmed's pay stopped by the Accountant-General for a period of about two months after the decision of Jaya Rao's case? At whose intercession and according to whose orders was it paid to him? On what ground was it again stopped to be again paid in a lump sum? And why has it been notified to a poor clerk, by name Kareemuddeen, in the Accountant-General's Office, that in case he does not try and get himself transferred to some other Department he will be dismissed from the service?

*The Hyderabad Record* reports a curious case of miscarriage of justice in one of the City courts. A man stands accused of

having thrashed another to such an extent as to loosen two of his teeth, before a Magistrate. The Magistrate goes through the evidence put before him, convicts the accused and sentences him to a certain punishment. The accused appeals. The Appellate Court sends one of the teeth which has fallen off since the decision of the Lower Court to a *Hakim* for examination. The *Hakim* deposes to its not being a human tooth—with the result that the Court not only reverses the judgment of the lower Court but sentences the complainant to a year's imprisonment for perjury. This is *Hyderabad Justice*.

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HYDERABAD, 31st January, 1891.

The City murder case has come to a close. Mr. Hafiz Ahmed Raza Khan delivered judgment last Thursday, acquitting Abdul Wahid, Abdul Rahman and Ameeran on all the charges and sentencing Abool Husain to seven years' rigorous imprisonment not for murder or abetment of murder, but for doing away with the evidence of the commission of the crime. After all that I have stated in former letters as to the manner in which the trial has been conducted, I need hardly tell you that the judgment, bearing as it does a clear impress of miscarriage of justice, has caused no surprise here.

The last issue of a local paper makes mention of a rumour that has been going the round for sometime past, in connection with the murder case. Some one connected with the defence seems to have made up his mind to teach a lesson to people disposed to be as meddlesome as the Rev. Mr. Gilder, of the Chadarghat Methodist Episcopal Church, but for whom the murder might have gone the way of many cases of equal importance—and offered a Rohilla in the City a sum of Rs. 500 with a view to induce him to assassinate the Reverend gentleman. The Rohilla proved the wrong person to be trusted with an offer of this sort. Being a recipient of many kindnesses at the hands of some Punjab missionaries, he did not feel up to spilling the blood of a missionary—and so he straightway carried the news to Mr. Gilder. Mr. Gilder communicated with the Residency authorities and got a few policemen to keep guard round his house. This precaution withal, some ruffians, who are said to have closed with the offer, that the Rohilla had declined so gracefully, approached the house on a night and had to beat a hasty retreat because of the alarm raised by the police on guard. So runs the rumour. And it is, I am in a position to say, not without a foundation.

The dismissal of Chella Rama Row in connection with the second of the Treasury Frauds Cases is worth noticing as giving

one an idea as to the arbitrary way in which things are done here under the present *regime*. The Raja Srinivas Row had, while submitting the statement of claims of the Nawab Alam Ali Khan for Rs. 1,45,000 wrote to ask the Accountant-General if the statement was correct. And a reply was sent to this from the Accountant-General's Office. At the time that the discovery (!) was made of frauds by Mr. Manover Khan, it was found that one of the lines of this reply had been erased out and a new one substituted instead. An inquiry was set on foot as regards the "authorship" of this erasure and substitution. And one Balakishen came forward and said that he *thought* that the line substituted was in Chella Rama Rao's handwriting. This was enough to include Chella Rama Rao's name in the list of the accused in the second case. Justice Afzul Husain examined Rama Rao and finding no evidence to confirm Mr. Balakishen's "thought" acquitted him. The acquittal notwithstanding, Rama Rao has "deserved" dismissal from the service.

What has become of the case of the Taluqdar of Parbhani? When political opponents are concerned, justice is busy trumping up charges, cooking up evidence and 'punishing' offences in anticipation of conviction. At other times it "sleepeth." Here is a man—I mean the Taluqdar of Parbhani—who stands charged with many crimes (committed during the last four years) by men who are in a position to bring home to him all their charges. Yet the Government looks away from him until its attention is forced towards him, then suspends him and troubles itself about him no more. Why? Is it that, being a creature of the Nawab Bushceerud-Dowlah's, he deserves to be spared all the disgrace and annoyance of a trial that innocent men, that men known to be innocent, have been subjected to? Is it that the mighty Nawab who opposed the "Taluqdar's" appointment to the first Taluqdarship of Nalganda about four years ago, on unassailable grounds to be sure, has since come to think differently or finds reason to safeguard the interest of the man? We have heard of no charges being framed against him. No commission has been

appointed, no Judge nominated to try him. Why? Why have they not instituted even a sham judicial inquiry as they have done in several cases?

Jaya Rao is a most unfortunate man. In sooth the Gods are against him. He was clapt into jail without any reason. He abode for a while in the prison house for a crime that existed only in the fertile imagination of his political enemies. He appealed—and the Appellate Court acquitted him. But in spite of the acquittal he found himself detained in prison for two days. Who is responsible for this illegal confinement, many have asked, and have been furnished with an answer by the kindness of Mr. J. D. B. Gribble. The day after Jaya Rao's acquittal Mr. Gribble went over to the Chenchulgooda jail and demanded of the Superintendent his client's release. Being informed that no order of acquittal had been received he went over to the High Court and saw an order made out for Jaya Rao's release—and then paid a visit to the Secretary of the Commission with a view to find out if any order had been passed for Jaya Rao's detention in jail. Finding that no such order had been passed, Mr. Gribble told the Secretary: "In that case as soon as the order of acquittal reaches the jail, Jaya Rao can be set at liberty." "No," said the Secretary, "because at the same time I shall send a new order directing his further confinement." "If you do so" said Mr. Gribble, "without the express authority of the Commission you will do so on your own responsibility, and I warn you that I will advise Jaya Rao, to bring an action for illegal confinement against you." "Oh! I shall be protected" was the answer.

I find that "A member" of "the Hindu Social Club" is again to the front with "a defence." Verily he "protests too much." Though this might make wicked people look suspicious, yet his saying "a word or two" "now that his short and concise letter has been leaned upon as a tower (what is the height of it, I wonder) of strength" by me, is creditable. But my facts are facts—though I am profoundly sorry for "A member's" sake

that they are so. While I am glad to be reminded "that is not a bad inference to make" (though I am at a loss to know wherefrom) "that other people besides myself possess truth-discerning faculties,"—I must ask "A member" to let me know whether questioning the truth of one statement without rhyme or reason and insinuating motive in terms such as "the truth is, having chosen a way, he wants to maintain it"—is or is not calling "him or his argument names." I should like to know if "A member" holds a brief from the Club to defend the "position" thereof. If so, I, as a member in common with other members, should ask him to produce his credentials for posing as the aggrieved or rather "the compromised" in behalf of the Club.

I had an interview with Mr. Badrudin Tyabji of the Bombay Bar, now here, sometime ago. Being taken up with other matters, I could not refer to it before this. Mr. Badrudin had little to say about Hyderabad and its affairs not being able to devote, as he said, any attention to such 'studies.' But he was anxious to express himself freely and clearly as regards the Congress question. He said that though he did not look with favour upon such extravagant demands as those embodied in the "Madras scheme" yet he was as great a sympathiser of the national movement to-day as he had been when presiding at the Madras meeting of the Congress. If he did not take part in the proceedings for some years, it was because the "Anjumani Islami" of Bombay, of which he was President, was against his doing so. And as he knew that he could do a lot of good to the Bombay Moslem community by being in touch with it and that the Congress could get on without him while "the Islam" could not, he kept aloof though he was at heart a great sympathiser.

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HYDERABAD, 7th February, 1891..

Mr. Hanz Ahmed Raza Khan, has, I am informed, recommended the children of the murdered woman in the City murder case for *munsabs* to the Government. And the recommendation is likely to receive favourable consideration at the hands of the powers-that-be. I may here remark that an appeal to mercy stands a greater chance of being heard by them than an appeal to justice. 'How is this?' you may ask. The former tickles their vanity, makes them look noble and magnanimous; while the latter almost always contemplates the defeat of their cherished objects. The recommendation is no doubt meant to compensate the deceased's husband for the loss of his wife—for the miscarriage of justice which has left him powerless to avenge the brutal murder. For this the man ought certainly to feel thankful—for if people elsewhere are thankful for small mercies, we in Hyderabad have to feel thankful for still smaller ones.

Ekbal Ali, one of the Judges of the City High Court has resigned and will shortly proceed to take up a Sub-judgeship in the North-Western Provinces. People have been speculating as to who will succeed him on the bench—and some have gone even the length of pointing out the desirability of appointing a Hindu to the vacancy, Mr. Hukum Chand, for instance. But I have reasons to believe the vacancy will not be filled with a Hindu, nor will it be filled at all until "a favourite" turns up on the scene.

And still they come—instances of favouritisms extraordinary. A man in the Accountant-General's Office fails 'to object' to a payment falling short of the amount claimed by about two annas. And for this he is fined. Compare this with the action taken or rather the inaction shown in the case of a favourite who was connected with the issue of a cheque for Rs. 50 by way of pension to the daughter of a late relative of his. A person in charge of the mint for a long time, died leaving three sons and two daughters. And the "paternal" Government ordered, in con-

sideration of the deceased's services, that each of the sons should be given a *munsab* of Rs. 50 until he is 21 years old—for purposes of education. The eldest of these three brothers having since entitled himself by competitive examination to a Government scholarship, the favourite above referred to thought he could of his own accord transfer one of the *munsabs* to one of the daughters—and accordingly issued the cheque of Rs. 50. Somehow or other the Political and Financial Secretary's Office came to know of this and immediately apprised the man of his mistake and thus prevented the cheque being cashed. Why was not the man brought to book for illegally issuing the cheque?

They—I mean the rulers *de facto*—refused to furnish the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung with copies of papers relating to the two inquiries held in connection with the so-called second Treasury Frauds Case—one by the Revenue Secretary, and the other by the Accountant-General's Office. The Nawab insisted on copies being supplied to him, and a lengthy correspondence passed between him and his 'inquirers' with the result that the Minister ruled that as both these inquiries were of a confidential nature copies of papers relating to them could not be given. What do you think of this ruling, Mr. Editor? Have you ever heard of anything so extraordinary as this? A highly-placed individual finds himself all of a sudden charged with having committed "frauds." Two inquiries are held in connection with this. And when the accused applies for copies of papers concerning them he is told he cannot have them as the inquiries were confidential. Were these inquiries "confidential" in the sense that they but revealed the utter baselessness of the charges brought against the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung, the Rajah Srinivas Rao and others? Or were they "confidential" because they were meant only to find out how far the position of the accused was tenable?

The commission brought into existence to inquire into the second Treasury Frauds Case, was empowered only to report on

the case—and had no judicial status whatsoever. How came it then I ask that it ordered into jail many of the accused in the case?

According to an order of the Government a general parade of His Highness the Nizam's troops was to have been held at Golconda yesterday. Almost all the commanding officers with their respective regiments had assembled at the appointed place and had been in harness for several hours when a Government order reached them countermanding the original one.

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HYDERABAD, 14th February 1891.

Those that think that public opinion will carry any weight with the party in power on the matter of the appointment of a Hindu in place of Mr. Ekbal Ali on the High Court Bench, are very much mistaken. "The vacancy will not be filled with a Hindu, nor will it be filled at all until a favorite turns up on the scene," I said in my last letter. And we have a confirmation of it in the following terms in the *Deccan Standard*: "H. E. the Minister is, we are confident, fully alive to the advantages of securing a Hindu Judge for the High Court. But as far as we have been able to gather, it is possible that no one will be appointed to succeed Mr. Justice Ekbal Ali, as it is thought that the High Court is already strong enough." Of what earthly use is His Excellency's being "fully alive to the advantages of securing a Hindu Judge" if he is fully determined upon not securing the advantages—is more than any one can understand. Perhaps in the case of a person of His Excellency's exalted position—guarded too as it is by recent creations of *Mulks*, *Dowlas* and *Jungs*—we have to take good intentions for good deeds and be thankful. In that case the intentions need only to be advertised by the Government organ. How and when the discovery was made that "the High Court Bench is already strong enough" and what would become of the discovery when a favourite turns up—I wish to be informed.

"We have no naturalisation law in Hyderabad" we are told by an apologist of the present administration. In what sense then is it that sons and nephews of many of the aliens in the service who were not born here, are Hyderabadese?

I have more than once told in these columns the "tale" of the degradation and misery that the Raja Sahib of Anagondi has been subjected to by those in power now. That the Raja Sahib came to be all of a sudden burdened with a *peishkush* of about Rs. 10,000, that he appealed against the unjust and unprecedented imposition, that a Taluqdar and an Inspector-

General individually testified to the utter inability of the *samasthan* to pay a much less sum than that demanded, that this, strangely enough, resulted in the *peishkush* being raised to Rs. 18,000 H. S., that the Raja Sahib appealed against this to His Highness the Nizam repeatedly without avail—all this your readers know from my letters. In this letter I shall put before them a case which, though not as “bad” as that of the Raja of Anagondi, serves to show equally well what policy the present Government is guided by with respect to its dealings with the Hindus. Gurgunta is a small principality in His Highness the Nizam’s Dominions yielding an annual income of about Rs. 40,000; and it has been in the possession of the Hindu family that now stands dispossessed of it, for a longer period than Hyderabad itself has been in the hands of the Nizams. The last Raja died in January 1890, and the *samasthan* passed as inheritance to his two widows and daughter. These latter had been in the enjoyment of the revenues of the State hardly for a month, when a Taluqddhar appeared on the scene with a band of sepoys and policemen and took forcible possession of not only the *samasthan* but their private estates. The why and wherefore of this arbitrary proceeding it is hardly necessary we should speculate upon—they are transparent to all. The Ranis having failed to get justice from the Minister has, I am informed, placed her case in the hands of Mr. Nelson, Barrister-at-law, and instructed him to carry it up to His Highness the Nizam himself. What action His Highness will take in the matter—remains to be seen.

An item of interesting news comes to me from a trustworthy quarter. A young Hindu gentleman—one of the most intelligent men in His Highness’s Educational Department—whose services had received a recognition in the shape of a valuable gold watch presented to him in the name of the Government by the Nawab Vicar-ul-Umrah Bahadur, went to see the Nawab off at a certain railway station. The Nawab wished to know where the Hindu had been born; and on being told he was a *pucca* Hydrabadee

he turned to the Nawab Mushtak Hussain Vicar-ul-Mulk who was by his side and told him with a significant look: Look, he is a Hydrabadee." The snub conveyed by the Nawab Vicar-ul-Umra's remark can be appreciated only by those who have any knowledge of the Minister *de facto's* stock-in-trade—"There is no good in Hydrabadees,"—and who know how aliens from the North have been pitchforked by him into some of the highest positions in the land.

A local journalist has been going about, I am credibly informed, notifying "to all whom it may concern" that the Hyderabad letters in the *Hindu* will in future be shut out of his columns. Failing to perceive any additional importance that their reproduction in his columns has invested my letters with, I cannot thank the journalist for having hitherto republished the Hyderabad letters; nor am I inclined to regret the notification.

The results of the Matriculation examination of the University of Madras held in December last, received here at the close of last week, show how intelligent girls are as a rule. Out of the six or seven girls that appeared for the examination from the St. George's Grammar School, three are declared to have passed in the first class and one in the second; while out of 100 or more boys only 23 have come out successful—all except two being placed in the second class. In congratulating the father of one of these three young ladies, Captain Tom Bayley of His Highness the Nizam's Artillery, the Government organ suggests: "Three Nizam's scholarsnips have already been established, but this generosity in the cause of education, may well be augmented by appointing an additional one exclusively for girls." While welcoming the suggestion and glad too to be told, that the "Deccan Standard" is "satisfied that Miss Bayley's case will receive kindly consideration," I may be permitted to mention the case of a young lady who has as good claims on the Nizam's Government as Miss Bayley and as such deserved "kindly consideration" but failed to get it. The

young lady I refer to, is the first lady matriculate here. She was born in His Highness's territory and how successfully her father, who has been connected with the Educational Department for over 17 years, has worked in the cause of education, and how much of the spread of it is due to him all Hyderabad knows. Yet when the father applied to the Government for a scholarship to enable his daughter to study for a Medical Degree at one of the Medical Colleges in the Presidency towns, very little of "kindly consideration" was shown. Compare this Mr. Editor with the case of a young lady from the North. She came here, had the "consideration" for the asking with little or no trouble, went to Madras, read in the Medical College for about 2 years at the expense of the Nizam's Government—and then took service under the Mysore Government. Inscrutable really are the ways of officials here! If favoritism plays as prominent a part as consideration of merit elsewhere, it like Aron's rod, swallows up all other considerations here.

A fancy fair will be held shortly in the Chadarghat Public Gardens. It has been organized by Mrs. Tytler, a lady well-known in all circles here, with a view to provide a bed in the Ripon Hospital at Simla for European patients from the plains during the six hot months. This is not the first time that Mrs. Tytler devotes herself to a philanthropic object like this; she held a similar fair with the same object more than a year ago on the Residency grounds. The fact of a lady at her age coming forward to contribute to the comfort of suffering humanity ought to induce all who can look beyond self to "support" it *not* merely in words but *practically*.

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HYDERABAD, 21st February, 1891.

I must begin this letter with a paragraph about the parade at Golconda I referred to in my last but one letter—for thereby hangs a tale. The latest accession to the file of favourites and henchmen of the party in power seems to be the Nawab Major Afsur Jung. The Nawab is admitted on all hands to have a great deal of influence with His Highness the Nizam. Whether this influence is to be used in the interests of his newly-found masters, we shall not have to wait long, I am sure, to know. In the meanwhile it will be interesting to study the masters' ways to pleasure the Nawab Major. To make him feel elevated—as well, no doubt, as to spite Colonel Nevill who, since the evil day he saw reason not to return a visit paid him by a lady and a gentleman moving in the highest circles here has been anything but a *persona grata*—orders were issued sometime ago for a general parade of the Regular Troops and Golconda brigade at Golconda under his command. Two or three days before the day fixed for the parade Colonel Nevill who had been on a tour of inspection happened to come into the head-quarters, and learning of the orders wrote to the Government apprising it of his arrival and pointing out to it that being a superior officer he should have the chief command at the parade. This official communication elicited from the Private Secretary to H. E. the Minister a confidential letter, directing Colonel Nevill to keep at home on the parade day, to fall in the Minister's staff, to finish his touring, or to go to Hanumkonda with two other officers and choose a site for jail. The Colonel's feelings could easily be imagined. He reported the matter to the Resident, but failing to get him to interfere he had the whole case laid, I am informed, before His Highness with the result that His Highness—as usual with him whenever a case of injustice is brought to his notice—issued an order countermanding the orders for a parade and administered the Minister a “wiggling” richly deserved.

As far as Colonel Nevill is concerned, this is not the first time that he suffers an indignity at the hands of the politicals.



The well-known Kulsambi case which proved the ruin of the "Telegraph" revealed a desperate attempt to bring him to disgrace.

The Nawab Mushtak Hussain Vicar-ul-mulk is after all, not the mighty man I took him to be. He is not above the fate of meaner mortals—for he, too has his disappointments. The other day he wished to become a member of the Hyderabad Club—and soon found out that wishing was not having even with him in every case. His name was put up for election. Some of the highest European officials in the State went about canvassing votes for him. And all his friends, admirers and proteges especially of the Golconda Brigade mustered strong on the election day. Yet as the Fates would have it the ballot box was found to contain nine black balls. A wonder of wonders. That the most powerful official should thus be declared unworthy of a membership of the Club, that the most successful political should thus be black-balled! The very evening that the result was known the Nawab had a relapse, I hear, into a serious illness. If the black balling had anything to do with the illness, the cynicism he wears is really a mask and he must have a soft spot hidden away somewhere. And one of the European officials would seem to have gone into hysterics over the affair and suggested among other things the breaking up of the Club.

Two of the local papers are evidently vying with each other to attain the excellence (!) of the prints immortalised by Dickens in his Pickwick papers. One cannot be mentioned by them but one must be abused in the vilest terms or praised in the most ludicrously flattering language. In noticing the effusions of the local representative of the "Indian Daily News," one of these unenviably brilliant writers remarks that Indian Daily News' own correspondent "unlike the *Hindu* correspondent, seems to be a lover of truth and free from malice." The injustice and spite of the remark are so apprent to every impartial newspaper reader in Hyderabad, that I need not quote chapter and verse to refute it or work myself into a rage and call her

writer names as the "Deccan Standard" has done. But in the interests of fair journalism I would ask the writer or rather challenge him to point out to me one instance in which I have shown myself untruthful or malicious.

The judgment passed by Mr. Ahmed Raza Khan in the City Murder case was, according to the procedure in vogue, sent up to a divisional bench of the High Court composed of the Nawab Imad Jung, and Mr. Ali Raza Khan, M. A., for confirmation. And they have enhanced the sentence with reference to Aboul Husain in the first instance to imprisonment for life.

The Fancy Bazaar organized by Mrs. Tytler came off in the Chadarghat Public Gardens on Thursday last. In spite of the charms that presided over the several stalls, I am told the bazaar has been financially a failure. The Hydrabadee bigwigs were conspicuous by their absence—they evidently love wasting their money over nautches, sycophants and tale-bearers better than spending any portion of it towards accomplishing the very noble object with which the bazaar was held. Among the very kind ladies that helped Mrs. Tytler in forming the bazaar, those that did the best business, as far as I could see, were the two Misses Griffin who waylaid people most gracefully and button-holed them in spite of themselves at a rupee a head. I hear these young ladies realized something like Rs. 100. If others had been equally successful in the way of disposing of their "saleables" the bazaar would not have turned out a failure financially to be sure.

The Hindus of Secunderabad would seem to have taken a leaf from the book of their brethren here. The "Albert Reading Room" people convened one or two meetings to discuss the advisability of having a Hindu Judge in place of Mr. Ekbal Ali retired, and have finally resolved to memorialize the Government praying that it may take advantage of the vacancy created on the High Court Bench and appoint a competent Hindu Judge to interpret law in the light of the customs and manners of a vast

majority of His Highness's subjects. The resolution though destined to fall flat on the powers-that-be, is to be welcomed as indicative of the growth of public opinion which will have one day attained such strength as to force justice even from worse rulers than those in the ascendant to-day.

We are soon to have a fifth school inspectorate. 'Why?' it may well be asked seeing that we have already four Inspectors having, as compared with the work of the same officers in the British Provinces, little or no work to do. Why? Can there be better reason than that the Home Secretary does not think it safe to have Mr. Sturge, M. A., any longer in the Mining Department? It may not be out of place here to notice how His Highness's educational executive came to be officered by four men of such different qualifications as Messrs. Croley, Venugopal Pillai, Schaffter and Lakshman. All the executive work was done by four *Mohdameens* with salaries ranging from 125 to 175 H. S. Rupees until Mr. Croley sought, by force of fate, an entrance into the portals of the Nizam's service. No sooner Mr. Croley was sent out of the Chadarghat St. George's Grammar School than his worth became perceptible to the educational authorities, and a necessity for such a man as Inspector flashed across their minds—and he was appointed Inspector-General. He had been in the service for a short while when he discovered that the educational work of four divisions was more than he could do. So Mr. Venugopal, who had done some work in the cause of education in Secunderabad, was appointed an Inspector in charge of two divisions. Time jogged on thus until Mr. Schaffter being sent adrift by the Nawab Mehdi Ali had to be provided for. The third Inspectorship came thus into existence. Some time afterwards the senior Inspector found himself overworked and got the fourth Inspector appointed in the person of Mr. Lakshman, B. A. The history of these appointments is rather interesting—is it not Mr. Editor?

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HYDERABAD, 28th February 1891.

It is extremely amusing to note how suddenly "disease" makes its appearance in official circles and disappears from them. Only the other day we were most seriously given to understand that H. E. Sir Asmanjah Bahadur had suffered so much in health on account of his multifarious and onerous duties, that in accordance with the best medical advice available here, he had made up his mind to go and rest in Ajmere and other places for a short time. And now I hear His Excellency has changed his mind. Why, all these who wish to see the nobleman live long are naturally anxious to know. Is it because of some political necessity? If so in one premier nobleman at least we have one who has completely broken off from the lethargy of the past, a male "edition" of the adventurous Miss Valerie Van Tassel who would "soar" even at the risk of her life.

I should like to know which of those in power is responsible for the following promotions:—

(1.) Bashirudden, a relative of the Nawab Fateh Nawaz Jung's has been promoted from Police Superintendentship of the last grade with a salary of Rs. 200 to Police Superintendentship first grade on Rs. 300, in supercession of many old and deserving Superintendent of higher grades.

(2.) Mahbul Ali, Ekbal Ali's brother, entered the Police Department as a Court Nazir or Inspector on Rs. 125 a month. And although hardly a twelve month has elapsed since then, he finds himself acting as Police Superintendent, first grade.

(3.) Mahomed Raza while Nazir of Kuldabad on Rs. 30 conducted himself very suspiciously. A charge of embezzlement of Government money was brought against him, and he absconded. Though the charge is still pending, and he has not abandoned his secret haunt, he has had a "kick-up."

It is strongly rumoured that some officials are trying their best to get back Moulvi Ekbal Ali on a higher pay.

HYDERABAD, 7th March 1891.

I regret to have to begin this week's letter with the announcement of a death in high circles Miss Ida Fitzpatrick, the youngest daughter of Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, succumbed to an attack of typhoid fever last Tuesday morning. She had been ailing for over a fortnight, and all that medical skill and parental watchfulness could do had availed her nothing. Her death has cast a gloom over Hyderabad society, and her father who has lost two daughters since coming over here needs all the strength that religion and sympathy can impart to bear up against his bereavement.

How the vacancy created on the High Court Bench by the retirement of Mr. Ekbal Ali, came to be not filled up, or rather considered to be a supernumerary office, it is interesting to know. Soon after Ekbal Ali's retirement the rulers *de facto* held a consultation *in camera* with the Nawab Imad Jung Bahadur, Chief Justice, as to the appointment of a successor on the Bench. The Nawab Imad Jung suggested two names for the vacancy. One was a Mahomedan who is a District Judge, and the other a Hindu in the Small Causes Court. Being outside the pale of favourites, the Mahomedan could not be nominated to the post; and the Hindu, being a *Hindu*, could not receive favourable consideration at the hands of the rulers. So they hummed and hawed for a while, and then they separated and resolved to see what they could do for themselves. But the Nawab Imad Jung was not going to allow himself to be reduced to a nonentity even where matters regarding his department were concerned. He evidently took stock of the chances there were of a worthless man being forced on him, and preferring over-working himself and his colleagues to having the whole judicial work thrown into a mess by the introduction of a good-for-nothing "hand," met his colleagues in the High Court rooms and with their knowledge and consent reported to the Government that the High Court was already sufficiently strong and there was no necessity for another Judge. And the report had, *mirabile dictu* the desired effect.

The rumour, I referred to in my last letter, about Ekbal Ali is confirmed by a local contemporary who says, "Mr. Justice Ekbal Ali has after all withdrawn his resignation and will return here in a few days." He has "withdrawn his resignation" no doubt in the hope of getting higher pay than that he was in receipt of as a Judge of the High Court. And we find for the second time within the last few months that resignation in the vocabulary of the rulers is not indicative of one's desire to retire from the service, but an application for increase of pay. I do not at all grudge Mr. Ekbal Ali the addition he expects to his former salary,—for what is it when compared with the large sums that regularly go to secure unscrupulous support and petty flattery? But I should like to know why it is that powerful men have been at such great pains to get him back? It is that the Government—that is they—cannot get on without him?

What has become of the Salar Jung Debt Commission? a friend asked me the other day. As I could not answer the question myself, I must request the powers-that-be to answer it *pro bono publico*. The last I heard of the commission was from the Nawab Vicar-ul-mulk himself. He told me more than seven months ago that the report of the Commission had been nearly ready and it would be published soon. If the report was nearly ready so long ago, it could certainly not be said that it is not ready now. What has become of the report then? What conclusions has the Commission come to as to the delinquents who have been under suspension for many months now? No answer is forthcoming. It is whispered that the object of those who called the Commission into existence was merely to annoy and humble some men who could not be got to play into their hands. And the extraordinary long delay there has been in the publishing of the results of the Commission's inquiry lends significance to this whisper.

Now and then a paragraph goes the rounds which has a history worth telling. The imagination, called into play by sheer necessity, of those active and ingenious benefactors

of society—newspaper reporters—furnishes materials for such history to be sure. Recently a clever reporter on the staff of one of the local papers heard that the Rev. Mr. Gilder of the Chaddarghaut Methodist Episcopal Church was to leave for Bangalore to attend a missionary conference; and he saw a little afterwards the Rev. Mr. Stone, a former parson of the Church at Mr. Gilder's house. The hearing and seeing were suggestive of many truths in Mr. Reporter's eyes. He who could put two and two together very cleverly, put these two things together and drew from them the conclusion that Mr. Stone would act for Mr. Gilder during his absence. And it is needless to say that the reporter soon found out he had overreached himself. The person who manufactured the paragraph about the "Mrs. Littledale who accompanied her husband on his passage through the Pamir steppe being a high-class Mahrata lady, a daughter of Dr. Atmaram Pandurang of Bombay," would seem to belong to the same genus of imaginative newspapermen as this reporter. *The Mrs. Littledale who is a high-class Mahrata lady being a daughter of Dr. Atmaram Panduradg of Bombay, was here doing work as Superintendent or Principal of the Zenuna School at the time that Mr. Littledale is said to have passed through the Pamir plateau. How she could have been in Hyderabad and Pamir plateau at one and the same time is a mystery which the writer of the paragraph alone can unravel.*

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HYDERABAD, *16th March, 1891.*

Ekbal Ali has come back to the scene of his activities. Unlike the typical Mahomedan he is not a lover of idleness or delay. No sooner he knew that Hyderabad could not get on without him, that he bade goodbye to the British Service and started and slept not a wink until he was amidst his friends and well-wishers. He was in receipt of a monthly salary of 1500 H. S. Rs. when he threw up his judgeship; now he gets 2000 Rs. a month. As long as he was in the High Court, his patrons could not increase his pay without making him supersede Ali Raza Khan and others and thus making enemies of them. But now that he is free, they could create a law commission and put him at the head of it on 2000 Rs. a month—and plead State necessity. How political these men really are! But then they might profitably remember that that which at one moment succeeds, ends not only in failure but in ruin at another.

Sometime ago a correspondent drew public attention in the columns of a local paper to the way in which a distinguished Nawab amuses himself on festive occasions. The 'way' will amuse your readers immensely and at the same time give them an idea of the stamp of the men who are entrusted with the destinies of ten millions of people here. The Nawab referred to who has evidently a talent for the dramatique—the character of it I leave it to you to determine—acts a part on occasions of parties to his friend at his residence. He dresses himself like a woman—if the man-woman is an edifying sight how much more so must the Nawab-woman be!—and sits on a wooden platform before a pot of toddy and sells toddy at a gold mohur—and not two pies as stated by the correspondent in the local paper—a measure to friends and admirers. In this character the nobleman is perfection itself.

The Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung has filed his explanation in connection with the so-called Second Treasury Frauds case.



His last application to the Government for another week's delay in putting in his explanation, drew down on him the wrath of the mighty Vicarul mulk, who in acquiescing in the request wrote to say that if by a certain date the explanation be not forthcoming he would be asked to give over charge. I hope to be able to go through the explanation shortly, and to say something about it in my next letter.

An order published in a recent issue of the "Jareeda" notifies that in accordance with the decision of the learned Judges of the High Court, Mr. Rudra has been disbarred for his offensive remarks on Justice in the Moglai Courts in connection with Gribble *versus* Gallagher. It is noteworthy that the order should appear about the same time that Mr. Rudra by his cross-examination of Mr. Gallagher put the public in possession of many important State secrets, not the least of them being that which charges the officials with bribing unscrupulous newspapermen for being lauded up. A strange coincidence to be sure!

I shall show how the underlings of the powers that be use the power they are trusted with. On the 5th of Rabinassanee B. 88 F., a Deputy Inam Commissioner issued an order to his office clerks to the effect that "most of them" would have to undergo an examination in their respective work, and that for the purpose they should present themselves at his office on the following Saturday at 10 A. M. The day came and the Dupty "singled" out only four of the clerks—and these men obnoxious to him—for examination. These naturally enough, respectfully protested against the injustice. And for this "impertinence"—as it appears from an application signed by these four—the officer suspended them and remarked they were rebels (*bagi*) and so they should be turned out by force by the police. The upshot of the whole affair was that a number of charges, baseless so far as any written evidence went, was preferred against one of the clerks and he was dismissed. The injured man appealed to the Subadar, and the latter has adminis-

tered the Deputy Commissioner a richly-deserved wiggling and sent him back all the papers connected with the case in order that he may conduct the proceedings in a regular manner, and the clerk may have an opportunity of filing an explanation for his conduct.

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HYDERABAD, 21st. March 1891.

This morning's "Deccan Times" has a very sensible leader commenting upon the order recently passed by His Excellency the Minister revoking the licence granted to Mr. A. C. Rudra, Barrister-at-law, to practise in the Courts of His Highness the Nizam for "offensive remarks" made by him regarding the Judges of the High Court in connection with Gallagher *versus* Gribble. "The case of Mr. Rudra" is very clearly set forth, and the great injustice or rather the unheard-of severity of the order is dealt with in no spiteful or captious spirit. The remarks which have cost Mr. Rudra his *sunnath* allude to the Government of Hyderabad being a personal one, to Judges being more or less all partizans of the Government, and to justice being a toss-up in Hyderabad. That the Hyderabad Government is a personal one, even the most unscrupulous of official proteges and apologists cannot and dare not deny; and the partizanship, *i. e.* the thoroughly subservient character of the Judges, is put beyond a possibility of doubt by the fact that the High Court did not take any notice of the so-called offensive remarks until called upon more than once by the Government to do so. Who can gainsay then that justice is a toss-up here? A statement of these facts made when un-called for would certainly constitute an unpardonable offence. But in the circumstances in which it was made by Mr. Rudra, it was privileged. His client, Mr. Gribble, stood charged with unprofessional and dishonorable conduct; and to have refrained from mentioning well-known facts calculated to disprove the charge would have been dereliction of duty. That the Judges should have failed to take all this into account and "unanimously resolved" to strike Mr. Rudra's name off the rolls of the advocates of the High Court is passing strange—if it does not point to partizanship.

I have not done with Mr. Ekbal Ali yet. Some more light has been thrown upon his so-called recall from the North-Western Provinces—and I shall not like to hide it under a bushel. "If what I hear is true—and there is no earthly reason for doubting

it—His Excellency Sir Asmanja Bahadur has been most infamously victimised by the wire-pullers, his philosophers and friends, in the interests of Ekbal Ali. Soon after Ekbal Ali's departure, his friends went to His Excellency, I am informed, and asked him to write to Ekbal Ali a letter bearing testimony to the many valuable services he had rendered to the State—a letter which might be of use to him in the North-West. The Minister paid little attention to the request in the first instance but on its being made to him often he asked his Private Secretary to wire to Ekbal Ali expressing his great satisfaction with the work done by him while here. The telegram being drafted by one of Mr. Ali's faithful friends and allies took the form of an expression of deep regret on the part of His Excellency at Mr. Ali's determination to sever his connection with the service of this State. And no sooner this message reached Ekbal Ali, than he very graciously wired back to say that if His Excellency was so sorry he did not want to get away from the Hyderabad service—and immediately started for Hyderabad.

I have seen the explanation recently filed by the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung in connection with the second Treasury Frauds case. It is an elaborate and plainly-worded document; and the calm, dignified tone of it and the contempt it evinces for all the mean minds that concocted the case against him—points the Nawab out to be a man with whom the party in power cannot trifle with impunity. At the outset it was declared from the house-tops by Messrs Munover Khan and Co., that frauds had been committed to the extent of 7 lakhs and a half of H. S. Rupees. The figure subsequently went down to four lakhs; and it has since vanished, for the Government itself has admitted that no overpayment was made to Dilawar Nawaz Jung. 'If the fraud has proved to be a mare's nest, why are the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung and the Rajah Srinivas Rao still bothered with departmental enquiries and harassed and threatened in all manner of ways?' It may be asked. The why is a mystery—and it can be unravelled only by

those that enjoy the confidence of the powers-that-be. But I may mention that Mr. Munover Khan soon after his "discovery" of the frauds on the Treasury, wrote to the Political and Financial Secretary in letter, dated the 28th Azoor 1299 F. to the effect; "I submit these particulars to the Government so that I may be remunerated for this unexpected victory"—*victory over political opponents* to be sure!

That portion of the Nawab Hassan Bin Abdulla's explanation which deals with the letter from Munover Khan to the Political and Financial Secretary above referred to is noteworthy. The Nawab justly complains of the unheard-of proceedings initiated against him by one who was a Sheristadhar in the Treasury when he was Accountant-General—*i. e.*, Munover Khan. Referring to the motives brought home to Munover Khan by the letter No. 461, the Nawab says, 'with such motives he literally flooded the offices with *Roobkars* in every one of which the sum supposed to have been overpaid to Dilawar Nawaz Jung was magnified' (*vide* Munover Khan's *Roobkar's* Nos. 46, 47, 640, 1297). Then he points out how Munover Khan without even the vestige of any evidence charged him with offences of a grave character, how if men are allowed to heap indignities on officials in this fashion Government service will soon come to be looked upon as being a source of great danger and dishonor, and adds that whatever the result of the inquiry may be Munover Khan has had his "remuneration" since he has been allowed to sit in the chair before which only a few months previously he had to stand. How long the lucky man will *grace* the chair, remains to be seen.

Thanks to the zealous faith and proselyting influence of a high official, Hyderabad has recently had an interesting addition to the number of its Moslem inhabitants. A Shastri on the other side of sixty, all of a sudden, lost belief in Hinduism, in the verses he had flung at the head of Mohamedans and Christians for several decades and embraced the faith "of the faithful" and became Gulam Mohamed some time ago. Happy Hyderabad! It is fast approaching its millenium. The days

are not far off when political men can say with their hands on their hearts ; " We serve not only ourselves but our God."

Sadulla, the husband of the murdered woman in the City Murder Case, filed a suit before Mr. Bosanquet, J. P., sometime ago against Mr. Gallagher, Editor of the "Deccan Standard" for publishing a paragraph casting aspersions on his wife's character. Mr. Gallagher has since made a sort of apology through his columns ; and as his remarks regarding the deceased woman do not seem to have been dictated by malice and as he is prepared to make all honorable amends it is hoped that Sadulla will withdraw his plaint.

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HYDERABAD, 4th April 1891.

The "Hyderabad Record" gave his readers to understand a few days ago that the Nizam's Government had, at the request of several officials, handed over to their solicitors all the issues of the "Hindu" containing Hyderabad letter and that 29 passages therein had been taken exception to. What the "Record's" sources of information were, I cannot say. But I hope, in the interests of the people which I have at heart, that the information is reliable, that the Government will let the officials who consider themselves grossly libelled by me in my weekly letters take me up for libel. I am as anxious as any *bona fide* Hyderabadite that the truth should be known about the by-no-means creditable ways of those in power, and that the British Resident should justify his 'existence' here by efforts to save the land from utter ruin.

A most important judgment was passed by Mr. O. V. Bosanquet, on the 30th of March last. It was in *Gallagher versus Gribble and Shapurjee* which has attracted considerable attention, and has done the people an invaluable service by showing how a portion at least of public funds is spent by the men in power. The judgment quite sustains Dr. Bosanquet's reputation for honesty, straight-forwardness, and keen-sightedness, and speaks in no faltering tone of the doings of the unscrupulous officialdom—of doings of which any man with a modicum of regard for himself ought to be thoroughly ashamed. Referring to the passage in a certain issue of the "Deccan Times" that Mr. Gallagher took objection to as charging him with dishonesty indirectly, Mr. Bosanquet says :

"It has therefore to be considered whether, in view of certain transactions of the complainant, which have been made known to the public by the medium of the Law Courts and the newspapers, such an imputation can be said to have lowered his character. The first of these transactions relates to the Rs.2,400 alluded to above which, according to the complainant's own

statement, was paid to him personally by the Nizam's Government. This money, the complainant by his counsel Mr. Battenburgh, has once admitted, in open Court, to have been paid to him as bribe. In the present case however he has attempted to prove that he received it for work done. Interrogated as to the nature of the work, he stated that it was translation, but was only able to give one instance of such work, namely the translation for publication in his paper of the speech made by the present Minister on assuming office. It is clear therefore that there must have been some other reason for this payment to which, it may be noted, the complainant told the Court that he had only a moral claim. The reason does not seem far to seek. For, looking to the concealment in the way the money was paid, the Manager of the "Deccan Times" being made the ostensible proprietor, and subscription for copies of the paper (never supplied) the ostensible reason, and looking to the tone of Mr. Gallagher's letter to the Secretary to Government, dated the 11th June 1888, there can be little doubt that the payment was, as Mr. Battenburgh said, nothing but a bribe to secure to the Government the support of the outwardly impartial Editor of the "Deccan Times." Again Mr. Gallagher has admitted that he also receives a monthly payment from the Nizam's Government. He has indeed attempted to make out that the Government employed him in the capacity of legal adviser, but, having regard to his claims to be considered a member of the legal profession, such a supposition must, I think, be dismissed as impossible. The true explanation is rather that it is only a continuation of the policy inaugurated by the payment of the Rs.2,400."

Then the Judge notices the two letters written by Mr. Gallagher to Mr. Shapurjee while in charge of the "Deccan Times" about Abdul Hak's offer of ten thousand Rupees and his (Mr. G's) willingness to "play the candid friend" "when he would find sufficient cause for offence" against Hak—for comments on which in the "Hindu." I was threatened, you will remember



by Mr. Gallagher with prosecution *not* in the Madras Courts but in the Hyderabad Courts"—and winds up thus.

"So clear is the meaning of these letters, and so absolutely must they have proved to the public the utter absence of probity in the complainant, that I am unable to find that the imputation of dishonesty, conveyed in the second passage complained of, can have lowered his character in this respect either directly or indirectly. I therefore discharge the accused under Section 253."

Now I should like to know if it is not the duty of the genuine nobility of Hyderabad to press his Excellency Sir Asmanja Bahadur for an explanation of the discreditable conduct of his henchmen, to "proceed against" him before His Highness the Nizam for allowing his men to spend the money got out of the hard-worked *ryat* in the manner so well described by Mr. Bosanquet in his able judgment? Is not the British Resident, I ask, bound to take notice of the facts vouched for by one of the Judges of the Residency Courts, and stay the alien hands busy spoliating the *reis* and the *rayet* alike?

I am glad to inform you that very laudable efforts are being made to bring those concerned in the City Murder Case to justice. Sadulla, you will remember, filed a suit some time ago against Mr. Gallagher, Editor of the "Deccan Standard" for publishing a paragraph defaming his wife. On Mr. G.'s tendering him an apology for inserting the paragraph, he withdrew the charge against him and through his counsel Mr. Nelson sought permission of Mr. Bosanquet to bring a charge of murder against Abdul Wahid and others who had been discharged by Mr. Ahmed Raza Khan. Mr. Bosanquet heard the Counsel's argument for re-opening the case and wished to know if he had 'jurisdiction' in the matter. And consequently Mr. Nelson appeared before the Judge on the 31st ultimo and made an able speech with a view to prove that being British-born subject Abdul Wahid and his servants were amenable to British laws only and that according to the Criminal Procedure Code and

Foreign Jurisdiction Act he had power to try "the Criminals" though they had been tried and discharged by a Moglai Court. The speech seems to have had the desired effect, for Mr Bosanquet has applied to the Resident for permission to try the case.

Whatever might be said against the Nawab-Vicar-ul-Mulk, this much must be admitted that he is a very hard-working and energetic official. In spite of the illness that took him to Bombay, he did not let slip the opportunity that presented itself of interviewing Sir Mortimer Durand who is spoken of as Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick's successor here. What the nature of the interview was, it is not possible to say. But I hear that according to a telegram from Bombay the interview was "satisfactory."

Moulvie Ekbal Ali is again a judge of the High Court. What has become then of the decision come to by the Chief Justice and his colleagues soon after Mr. Ali's departure to the North-Western Provinces that the Court could get on very well without one more Judge?

One of the many that have got their grievances here, is Mrs. Tytler, well-known here and elsewhere for her philanthropy. She sent, I am told, some paintings and articles worth about 4,000 H. S. Rs. to His Highness the Nizam for his inspection some time ago. His Highness inspected them and kindly ordered that they should be kept in the palace and Mrs. Tytler paid for them. But the order received little attention from those about him. Mrs. Tytler waited for a good long time for the money due; and finding it to have been in vain she called at the *Sarfi-kass* office some days ago and was told that a certain person about the person of His Highness would not let "them" pay her. What the person has to do with the money due to Mrs. Tytler by His Highness—God only knows. Tired of waiting here for her dues, Mrs. Tytler left for Bombay this morning and it is I believe her intention, to lay her case before the Foreign Office in Calcutta.

HYDERABAD, 11th April 1891.

It would be difficult to find in the whole of India a family more illustrious than the Salar Jung family or one which has suffered so much as the Salar Jung family has at the hands of men who know not or rather will not know "Joseph." The fates as well the powers-that-be seem to have decided against it. The two sons of the great satesman who had for over a quarter of a century occupied a unique position in the Indian political world, died while hopes were yet being formed of them, within a few months of each other—and the name itself of the family might have been buried with them but for a babe that lives in degradation and discomfort to tell of former greatness and raise in the few Salar Jungites that are left faint hopes of future prosperity. The calamity is not calamitous enough in the eyes of some—and they must needs see that the friends of the family are powerless to do any good. The Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung Bahadur Hussan Bin Abdulla who has followed the fortunes of the family for well-nigh twenty-five years, and whose faithfulness to it and zeal in its behalf are facts that every one here can vouch for, can no longer lift so much as a finger of his to ward off any evil designed or intended against it. Under a very great pressure from the ruling authorities, the Nawab has had to resign his membership of the Salar Jung's estates management Committee. The want of foresight which allowed Busherud Dowlah's administration to have anything to do with the Salar Jung estates management Committee—is being made more and more clear day by day to be sure.

I get such few opportunities of singing the praises of those in power that when I get them I never like to let them slip through. Sometime ago a strong rumour was current in the city that a high official had taken a bribe of Rs. 60,000 from the *Begums* of the Salar Jung family. Being addressed on the subject by the official, the *Begums* have written to contradict the rumour. This is an immensely gratifying fact—and I wish to place it on record.

Wonders never cease in Hyderabad. About two months and a half after the passing of Judgment by Mr. Ahmed Raza Khan in the City murder case, and a month and 25 days after the decision of a Divisional Bench of the High Court on it, His Excellency Sir Asmanjah Bahadur has issued a resolution about it. The resolution is a lengthy one, and it pitches into Ahmed Raza Khan and the police and protests too much in the same breath—and betrays, fortunately or unfortunately, its forced tone. It winds up with the following orders:—

(1.) The order of the Divisional Bench sentencing Abdool Husain to imprisonment for life, is confirmed.

(2.) His Excellency desires to record his grave displeasure at the procedure adopted both by the city and suburban police and by Hafiz Syed Ahmed Raza Khan Sahib, which prevented all the facts of the case being brought to light and led to circumstances much to be regretted.

(3.) With regard to Abdul Rahman, H. E. the Minister, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 13 of the High Court Rules, directs that the Full Bench of the High Court should consider the points above raised and direct the Government Pleader to re-open the case against him.

(4.) The Kotwal should be directed to do his utmost to collect such further information as will complete the links in the chain of evidence. The High Court should then be moved to re-open the case against Abdul Wahid, admit the further evidence that may be forthcoming and decide on the merits of the case so as to give a clear decision as to his innocence or guilt. In the meanwhile Abdul Wahid should be re-arrested unless he can furnish bail to the extent of Rs. 10,000.

There is no doubt that this resolution is due to the wide-felt sympathy—secured for Sadulla by the circumstances amidst which and the manner in which “Mumtiaz” met her death—which found expression recently in a laudable attempt to get the case retried by a British Magistrate.

It is always painful to have to write an obituary—and much more so when it relates to one who has done some service in his time. Yet it is desirable that it ought to be “written”—for it often points a moral. The “Hyderabad Record” after struggling for life for a little over five years, breathed its last on Friday last. Its was a chequered existence—and its reverses, successes and the unhappy circumstances which led to its sudden demise are full of valuable counsel to all those who are already engaged in journalistic work or who may be engaged in it, hereafter here. Under the late Mr. Job Solomon it was a power in the land—how before it was many months old it came to be stopped by British officials, how persistently and courageously Mr. Solomon fought against tremendous odds and secured the right to publish the paper again, how the “Record”, until the moment of his death, was a terror to corrupt officials, how they winced under its attacks and kept their hands off partiality or injustice to a certain extent at least in sheer fright of its criticism, all Hyderabad knows. Mr. Solomon died, and with him died the independence and courage of the “Record.” Under a good guide it might have had a long and very useful career.

The management of the “Deccan Times” has again changed hands. Mr. Gribble’s connection with the paper as Managing Proprietor ceased this morning. Under Mr. Gribble the “Deccan Times” improved considerably in matter as well as manner, and its tone was uniformly courteous, and generally impartial and independent—though not much to the benefit, it must be confessed, of Hyderabad. But what it may be under his successor or successors the future alone can reveal to us.

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HYDERABAD, 19th April, 1891.

The resolution recently issued by H. E. the Minister about the City Murder Case, teaches many lessons. It shows what a persistent agitation in the cause of truth and justice could do even in Hyderabad as "well as how" much the weak-kneed officials are to be pitied who lend themselves to the perpetration of a wrong or perversion of justice. Mr. Syed Ahmed Raza Khan who interpreted law as he pleased and refused to admit important evidence in a remarkably authoritative manner, who was determined not to be taught his duty either by pleaders or newspaperwallahs and who was both lauded up and defended for his judgment by the "mouth piece of the Government"—what a sad plight he is in now! Sir Asmanja Bahadur says that 'if his judgment had been confirmed, it could, with truth, have been affirmed that justice itself had been slain;' and the Government organ, with a consistency (!) unheard-of in the annals of Indian journalism, finds it impossible to see how, with any credit to himself or usefulness to the State, Mr. Justice Hafiz Ahmed Raza Khan can continue to dispense justice from the High Court bench any longer. Mr. Raza Khan might well exclaim *Et tu Brute*—but then the man who trusts to politicals and hirelings for support and deflects from the path of right and duty has little reason to blame any one but himself.

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HYDERABAD, 25th April, 1891.

"Those that have eyes to see with and brains to understand, are fully convinced that the policy of the present administration, which is based on the wise and far-seeing principles of justice, economy and impartiality is bound to prevail in the end." So writes a correspondent from Hyderabad to one of your Calcutta contemporaries. And I hope you will allow me to say a few words about the "principles of justice, economy and impartiality" that, the above-quoted writer thinks, underlie Sir Asmanja's administration. If by principles I understand consistent rules of conduct, I find little evidence of justice, economy and impartiality guiding the present administration. Wherever convenient, whenever the interests of those in power did not suffer or there was little chance of their being thwarted in their plans for self-aggrandisement, justice was done, I admit, economy was enforced and impartiality shown. But when opponents were concerned, where were "justice, economy and impartiality"? The records of the recent doings of the present Government do not point to one single instance in which an official or an individual obnoxious to the powers-that-be had justice for the asking. Was it justice that prevailed with Sir Asmanja's "tried and trusted adviser, Vicar-ul-Mulk," when he got the *peishcush* on the principality of Anagondi raised from Rs.10,000 to Rs.18,000 in the face of the testimony of two of the Government deputed to the effect that the *samastan* was not in a condition to pay any *peishcush*? Was it justice which induced the unhappy state of things in Gurgunta? Was it justice that enabled an overpaid creditor to take forcible possession of a Raja's villages and direct the Raja to go to a Civil Court to establish his right to the villages and get them restored to him? Was it impartiality that demanded a bail of 2 lakhs of Rupees from the city Sowcar charged with forgery, and a bail of Rs. 10,000 from Abdul Wahid charged with murder—that tried Jaya Rao and others by a Magistrate and appointed a commission to inquire into the charges against the Nawab Hussan Bin Abdulla and the Raja Srinivas Rao, that enabled the Nawab

and the Raja to be at large while others concerned in the case with them were under-trial prisoners? And is it economy, I wish to know, that recalls a Judge who is of no use, retains a Private Secretary who does no work, a Director of Public Instruction who has little time to attend to his duties, that creates Assistant Secretaryships, Inspectorships and Commissions for the benefit of favourites as well as to keep some officials at arms' length, that allows a large portion of budget allotments for the Public Works Department to be spent year after year on repairs, that maintains schools without boys, and teachers without pupils, that rouses itself by fits and starts to prosecute Abdul Huk, and spends thousands over some lucky men to perfect the case against him, that pays journalists to laud the officials up and spies to gather information about political adversaries? Such questions can be multiplied *ad infinitum* and I would advise all who would sing the praises of the Moglai officials to make a list of all the questions that can be put to the Government under the head of 'justice,' 'economy,' 'impartiality' and peruse it whenever they feel inclined to rush into print to abuse honest men and ascribe motives to impartial writers.

A letter on Hyderabad affairs in another Calcutta paper has attracted a great deal of attention here. There are a few inaccuracies here and there in this letter. But these excepted, it portrays popular feeling and opinion on many important matters. It leads one to the conclusion that most of the departments in the State are most frightfully mismanaged, and that this is a fact few can deny. I met one of the highest officials of the State—one of the pillars of the present Government—at a railway station recently. Sliding into a talk about Hyderabad affairs, the official asked me what the public thought of the character of the work done by a certain department of the State. I told him what they thought—and took advantage of the opportunity to point out to him as plainly as I could what a waste of money there was in the public works, judicial, educational and other departments, and how far from efficient was the little work turned out by these. He listened to me



patiently—and all that he could say was that it was a thousand pities that such a state of things should be allowed to continue.

The resolution issued, under date the 8th April 1891, by the Government of His Highness the Nizam in the Home Department (Court of Wards) about the administration of the Sir Salar Jung estate for 1299 fasli—shows how even His Highness's order can sometimes be disregarded by his servants with impunity. Soon after the demise of the Nawab Muueer-ul-mulk, second son of the late Sir Salar Jung I., His Highness, in consideration of the invaluable services rendered by the first Salar, resolved to take a personal interest in the management of the estates of the family, appointed a committee composed of the Rajah Sheo Raj Bahadur, the Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung Bahadur, and Captain Beauclerk, to manage the estates and issued a number of instructions for its guidance. The instructions pointed out clearly how the estates should be administered, how the members of the family should be treated, that the object of the Committee should be to curtail expenditure and liquidate debts, and that Captain Beauclerk should be the guardian and care-taker of the late Sir Salar Jung II's infant son. And how these instructions have been carried out it is rather painful to inquire. Nothing was done during the year by way of liquidating long standing debts. Though, the Committee was strongly of opinion that it was absolutely necessary to raise a fresh loan of Rs. 5,75,000 for the purpose of the 'meeting the ordinary salaries of establishments up to the end of the year,' yet the first thing the Committee did after its appointment was to increase the cost of the establishments by about 1,500 a month, or Rs. 18,000 a year. The appointments were made without any budget estimate being prepared and in defiance of the Government orders on the subject of the employment of Europeans in public or private service; and when the budget estimate was made according to His Highness's order it was found to be full of errors and worse than useless. And as for the 'minor,' as I told you in my last letter but one, little attention was paid to his comforts and bringing up. Now the

question arises whether Captain Beaclerk who, as Secretary to the Committee, drawing a monthly salary of Rs. 1,200 from the revenues of the estates, is more responsible than these associated with him for the management of the estates, ought to continue to hold the position he has held for over a year with much profit to himself but little usefulness to the family. And I press this question most respectfully on the consideration of His Highness the Nizam.

A charge of theft of jewellery of the value of Rs. 7,50,000 brought by a Hyderabadee Nawab, against three of his relatives, before Mr. Hamilton, the second Presidency Magistrate in Bombay—forms the subject of talk here in many circles. The theft is said to have been committed 7 years ago ; and it remained little less than a mystery until Friday, the 17th Instant, on account of the phenomenal inactivity or incompetency of the City Police. On this date a pair of gold and silver armlets called *bajobandh* together with a pair of gold ornaments called *theva* offered to the complainant for sale by one Munnav Khan led to a number of revelations. The complainant immediately gave information to the Residency Police and had one Kassim arrested. Then with the aid of Kassim he 'traced' the theft to the accused living in Bombay. This is the story of the case and the trial of it will be watched with interest here.

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HYDERABAD, 20th May 1891.

His Highness the Nizam has not returned from the Districts as yet. No doubt he is pleased with everything that he sees, or rather is made to see there and entertains a high opinion of the administrative capacities of those who are busy 'pleasuring' him in all manner of ways. But he little knows—and none but those on the spot can say—what misery and woe underlie the pleasant aspect that everything is made to put on by the magic of power. Not to speak of the oppression that grinds the people from year's end to year's end, the miseries brought upon them by the presence of Royalty are many and heart-rending. Fancy the only tank in a village being guarded by sepoy's for the benefit of His Highness and his entourage and the villagers being compelled to go long distances to fetch water for their own use or die of thirst. Fancy a busy husbandman being taken away by force out of homes to slave in the royal camp almost for nothing or their being dispossessed of their cattle or their scanty provision in the name of the Nizam. And you have an idea as to what a royal visit means to the hungry ryot. His highness the Nizam's last excursion into the districts—about 2 years ago—resulted in the depopulation of 3 villages about Hanumkonda. And how many villages have suffered and are suffering now in a similar manner it is not possible to say just now. I do not wish to be misunderstood. My object in writing thus is not to raise a disloyal hue and cry against His Highness' going into any part of his wide Dominions, but to condemn the ways in which officials seek to secure his comforts.

The "Deccan Times" has recently had two very sensible articles—one on the City Robbery Case, now pending before a Bombay Magistrate, and the other on the subject of pensions to the Nizam's officials. The resolution issued by the Home Secretary for the appointment of a commission to inquire into the Robbery Case—a case which but for a chance might never have seen the light of day and which is not likely to be transferred to the Nizam's Government, seeing that the complainant has little

faith in the justice of the Moglai Courts and insists on the case being tried by the British Magistrate—is an interesting production, interesting as giving one an idea of the manipulation and tergiversation that some of His Highness' officials are adepts at. It blames all but the right persons for the 'offenders' not being 'spotted' through the instrumentality of the Nizam's servants, exculpates all the responsible men in a very ingenious manner and winds up with an order—quite unnecessary—for the appointment of a commission. The robbery, committed as it was in Salar Jung II's time, is put down to the credit of the days of the late Peishkar—the Raja Naraindar Peishkar Bahadur—and to the Peishkar is allotted the failure to take immediate steps to enquire into the matter. The dereliction of duty the then Judicial Secretary, the Nawab Fateh Nawaz Jung, was guilty of in not bringing the robbery to the notice of Sir Asman Jah on his assumption of office as Prime Minister, is passed over, and Sir Asman Jah's ignorance of the affair is made to explain his not doing anything to have the robbery traced to the culprits. All this is in unmistakable terms pointed out by the "Deccan Times." As regards pensions, the Nizam's Government's decision to abolish pensions to Military officers in its service furnishes the occasion for the "Deccan Times" article thereon. How the decision will affect the services, how it will induce men to be in harness in spite of the disabilities and impediments of age, how this will lead to young and sound men being out of all useful work, and how it will tend to make the work turned out inefficient; all this is clearly explained by the article. And it is to be hoped that the responsible men of the Government will read it 'to some purpose.'

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HYDERABAD, 6th June 1894.

The Hyderabad Law Commission and its doings have been attracting much attention here; and one name has figured most prominently in the columns of the local papers in connection with these; and that is Mahomed Ali. Whence he came, how he came, and where he has gone to—these questions have been repeatedly asked by the public ever since it was known that he had been offered the Secretaryship of the Commission by the Nizam's Government; and they are pertinent questions to be sure. Mahomed Ali has not always been known to the world as *Mahomed Ali*. Years ago when his reputation was not under a cloud and he had no reason to be afraid of hearing the name his parents had given him at his birth, he was a pleader practising in the Courts of Allyghur and was known as Zafar Yab Khan. In an unfortunate moment Mr. Zafar Yab Khan sinned against the laws of the land, and the guardians of the laws found it necessary to issue a warrant for his apprehension. With a view to elude this warrant Mr. Yab Khan came to Hyderabad, put off his name and put on *Mahomed Ali*, and sought the favour of several high officials who were his friends, and did not seek it in vain. The officials held out the right hand of fellowship to their fallen brother, pushed him on as "the Dekkhan Jurist"—and it would be difficult indeed to number and label the pretenses under which they made inroads into the Government treasury to enrich him. Thus befriended Mahomed Ali *alias* Zafar Yab Khan had a happy time of it for several years here until a few weeks since when by the kindness of a friend he came to know that he had been 'traced' and that an Inspector of Police had left Allyghur to apprehend him and had to make up his mind immediately to bid good-bye to the scene of his activities here. Such in brief is the history of Mahomed Ali, who is very closely related to satellite of the party in power—and one needs to be more than humanly credulous to believe that his official patrons knew not before this the nature of the unfortunate "mistake" which had made Allyghur too hot for him and sent him a candidate for favours at their hands.

The *Deccan Times* has in its issue of the 4th instant a very sensational leader under the heading "The Salar Jung family." The passage your contemporary quotes from a letter addressed by Lady Salar Jung II in Saban 1308 to the mother of Sir Salar Jung I and to the special Committee, appointed (to use the *Deccan Times*, words) "by His Highness to inquire into the disgraceful and pitiable state of things resulting from the appointment" of the Nawab Basheerud Dowlawa as medium of communication between His Highness and the committee of management of the Salar Jung estates—more than confirms all that I have hitherto stated about the way in which the family affairs are managed. The quotation runs thus:—"I was compelled to send my uncle Syed Abu Torab Sahib to Sidi Ambar Khansama to tell him that the *Sahib Zada* (meaning the infant son) wanted clothes very badly, and to ask him either to get new clothes for the child or to let me have some of the *sherwanees* of Salar Jung II that I might convert them into a few suits for the *Saibh Zada*. The Khansama paid not the slightest heed to my wishes. Not a single pair of shoes or socks has even been supplied for the use of my child. And whenever a demand for the supply of arrowroot and sugar was made the Khansama refused to comply with my request, and sent word to say that the Committee had not sanctioned such items of expenditure. If such is the way in which provision is made for the clothing and the nourishment of the infant son, you can imagine the amount of attention that is being paid to other matters connected with the palace. Everybody in the palace knows all about these things and the Minister and the Home Secretary have been informed of them." These words of Lady Salar Jung II prescribe more vividly than any words of mine can the miserable pass that the affairs of the Salar Jung family have come to, and point out with a force and an eloquence that cannot be lost on any one who has not grown altogether deaf to the whispers of his conscience the necessity for interference on the part of His Highness the Nizam who graciously undertook the guardianship of the

infant representative of the family on the death of the Nawab Munierul mulk Bahadur.

The rumour charging one of the high officials in His Highness' service with receiving a bribe of from 50 to 60 thousand rupees from the Begums of the Salar Jung family which I referred to in one of my letters some time ago—has been revived. The "Deccan Times" in its issue of the 2nd instant writes of this in the strain of one assured of the truth of it—and says that it refrains from passing any comments upon it as the matter is *sub-judice*. A more serious charge than this has never been made against one of the highest officials in the State—and it is incumbent upon the official concerned to disprove the charge in an open manner no less than upon those that have brought it forward to prove it. The stability, if not the usefulness of an administration, depends much upon the reputation, for purity that it has. And when the purity comes to be questioned and charges of corruption are brought against individual members of it openly and no attempt is made to disprove those charges it needs no lynx-eye to see that it is in a fair way to extinction.

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HYDERABAD, 20th June, 1891.

Since writing to you last, two events have occurred here—each important in its own way. The birth of a son and heir to the Nawab Sir Asman Jah Bahadur has considerably altered the prospects conjured up by the fertile imagination of near relatives who have long cast longing looks on the large estates he owns. And the death of Mr. Sierrieful Hassam, one of Judges of the City High Court, at Hudgi, has re-opened the question of the appointment of a Hindu to the High Court Bench. It seems to me extremely unlikely that this matter will receive due consideration at the hands of the authorities, that it stands a better chance of a happy solution now than it did when Mr. Ekbal Ali went away with the “determination” of never rejoining His Highness’s service. Then, the powers-that-be did not deny that it was anything but bare justice that the vast majority of the Hindus in these Dominions should be represented in the High Court, or that a capable representative could be found in the service. Yet not only were they unwilling to do justice to the Hindus, but they set up the plea that a sixth Judge was one too many for the High Court and ordered that the vacancy should not be filled up but to get back Ekbal Ali as the sixth Judge soon afterwards—and they do not seem to have given themselves time to think how foolish they looked when they stultified themselves in this fashion. What is there, I ask, to prevent them from acting similarly now—from abolishing the office for the time being on the score of its being a superfluity and reviving it when a favourite—and I am sure he will not be long in coming—turns up? Were I sure that they would act differently, that they would listen to reason and justice I should mention the names of Mr. Raghunath Pershad, B. A., Rai Murlidhar, Rai Hukumchand, M. A., as being those eligible for the office and ask the Government to appoint one of these thereto.

The circular issued by the Home Secretary to the Native papers in Hyderabad, which you copied from the *Deccan Times* some days back, defines very clearly the character of the



despotism that guides the destinies of over ten millions of His Highness's subjects. To expect any Editor to discharge the duty he owes to himself no less than to the public after binding himself not to publish anything that may "threaten an injury to a Government servant" or "tend to prejudice the mind of the people against His Highness the Nizam's Government or any of its officers" is to expect him to accomplish what is impossible; and to think that any man with a modicum of self-respect will subscribe to such a ridiculous "agreement" is to count too much upon the hectoring or terrorising policy the Home Secretary has hitherto pursued. If this circular has been called for—I mean if the officials cannot afford to stand a moment without the "thick coating" that mercenary writers can invest them with for a consideration, if their doings are such as cannot bear the light of day—what becomes of the tall talk that all that the people in power do is fair, that there are data for each document issued, and good reasons for each step taken. The Nawab Medhi Hassan evidently mistook his vocation and the master he would have to serve when he entered the service of His Highness the Nizam—a prince who has "so much" to do with an enlightened people like the English and a liberal Government like theirs. What an acquisition he might have been as a censor of the Press under the Czar of all the Russia. But then I forget that in Russia people do not rise by flattery and wield power without intelligence.

Here is a case of *zoolum*, or rather snobbishness resulting in *zoolum*, that recently came to my knowledge. A Police Ameen was some time ago sent by a superior officer from one Taluq to another to inspect some office work. Being a perfect stranger to the place the Ameen had to put up while there in a shed. One day while seated in this shed, which served the purpose of a dining-room, a bed room and an office room, looking over some papers, he "received" from a gentleman holding the rank of a Major what might be termed a surprise visit. Either because his back was turned towards him and he could not see him or because he had never been introduced to him who, for

ought he knew, might have been the Governor General of India or a European servant of a *Sahib* or a Nawab—the Ameen did not go down on his knees to the Major. And what do you think, Mr. Editor, the poor fellow has deserved for this? The Major could not brook this insolence and reported it to superior authorities with the result that the Ameen has been suspended for *three months*. Can snobbishness and authoritative stolidity go further?

Under instructions from the great Home Secretary contained in his letter No. 183, dated the 25th Shaval, the City Cotwal has issued an urgent circular (No. 4956) to the Editors of some of the vernacular papers characterising their failure to send their papers to the Home Secretary in spite of his being a subscriber thereto and calling upon them to send their papers regularly or to “show cause” for unwillingness to do so. This circular is noteworthy as being issued by the City Cotwal under instructions from the Home Secretary. What has the Cotwal to do with newspapers? And why, should he, of all, be made the medium of communication between Editors of Newspapers and the Home Secretary? These are questions that need to be answered by the authorities or those who have the “honor of being in their confidence.

I wrote to you some time ago how a prominent nobleman in the city amused himself at times—how he in the guise of a woman sold toddy at a gold mohur a *lothi* to his friends and admirers on festive occasions. I have since learnt that there is another amusement in which he indulges as much as in this. He is fond, I am informed, of a game called *Chausar* which is played by means of three dice and eight wooden pieces representing an equal number of men and women. There is nothing extraordinary or amusing in this I admit—but then his way of playing the game is so original. He hates having to deal with inanimate men and women—and so he moves about on his *Chausar* board eight women picked from the dancing girl class and eight men from among his companions—all in flesh and

blood. I can mention the names of the companions who move on the *Chausar* board with as much ease and grace as in public places—but I must not wound susceptibilities unnecessarily.

Betrothals in the highest circles of the Hyderabad nobility are very much talked of—and the talk finds expression in a paragraph in a recent issue of the *Mahboob-al-kyloof*, a local Urdu paper. And these promise to be very interesting as in the first place the “parties” are of very tender ages the most important of them being not over 2 years of age, and in the second place the means employed to bring about them are not common place. An influential man seems to have been engaged to act the part of the ordinary female *mushata* (go-between) to negotiate terms between the families concerned—and he is to be paid a big fee a portion of which, I am told, has already changed hands.

I wrote to you in my last about the rumour charging a high official with having received bribes to the extent of about Rs. 55,000 from the Begums of the Salar Jung family. This affair since assumed serious proportions—and a Commission has been appointed to inquire into the charge.

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HYDERABAD, 27th June, 1891

The Home Secretary's Gaggling Circular has borne fruit already. The *Shaukat-ul-Islam*, an Urdu paper published within the Moglai limits, has been suppressed for refusing to sign the agreement sent round and commenting thereon in strong, but by no means undeserved terms. This action on the part of the *Mushtak-Mehdi Hussan* Government, *their* organ attempts to justify in its issue of yesterday's date. And this is its "justification." To "our" notions the circular might be "bad law"—*that does not matter*—but the punishment inflicted on the Editor who refused to obey it is quite 'legal' for in the absence of any Press Act the sovereign authority which grants a license to start a paper can revoke it if it likes, and the refusal to obey an order must needs be punished. I wonder how the punishment is "legal." Did the circular—I mean "the bad law"—declare that refusal to sign the agreement which seeks to enslave the Press or rather public opinion, on the part of any Editor, would be followed by the suppression of his paper? is every means resorted to by an administration to provide against any ugly exposure, "legal"? The present Government has in season and out of season claimed to be the best Government Hyderabad has had, has ever professed to be actuated by nothing but considerations for the well-being of the people and has always declared itself to be ready to turn itself 'inside out' if necessary to prove its honesty of purpose. How the measure promulgated by the circular which no previous Government found it necessary to adopt, and the punishment inflicted on the independent man who refused to be "muzzled" thereby—are consistent with this claim, this profession and this declaration, I wish to know. If it is true that every line that appears in the local papers or in the mofussil ones on Hyderabad affairs is translated into Urdu by an establishment kept up for the purpose for the benefit of His Excellency the Minister, I wish he would see an explanation for this glaring inconsistency furnished to the public.

I hitherto gave the Nawab Mehdi Hussan credit for keensightedness, but I see now that I was mistaken. He seems to

be quite at a loss to understand the circumstances amidst which he is placed, to read the signs of the times in which he finds himself possessed of enormous power. Does he know that Hyderabad has not been at a stand-still for a quarter of a century, that days when any wickedness and injustice could be perpetrated safe from the eyes of the people or authority belong to ancient history, now that public opinion—it does not matter by whom guided—is gaining in volume and strength day by day, that agitation for justice which was an unknown factor formerly has given his Government endless trouble? If he does, it is impossible to comprehend how he could commit the blunder of issuing a circular with a view to gag the Moglai Press, and aggravate it by suppressing the paper the Editor of which had the honesty and moral courage to protest against it.

Again the claims of the vast majority of the Hindus of these Dominions to be represented on the City High Court Bench, have been disregarded. A Mahomedan, Mr. Yaseenkhan of the Berar Commission, has been, subject to the sanction of the Supreme Government, appointed to the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Sharief-ul-Hussan. In noticing this, the *Deccan Standard* complacently remarks that there “can be no feeling of favouritism” after the nomination of a stranger to the post. Considering the exceeding hurry in which the appointment has been made it is hard to see how there “can be no feeling of favouritism” abroad—to believe the appointment to be anything else than a *job*.

Though the men in power take pretty good that none but the favored few are admitted to their confidence, yet their secrets get out—some how—now and then, mostly in the shape of rumours, and reveal to us how they seek to strengthen themselves. And this is really fortunate. Some time ago the *Safiri Dekhan*, an Urdu daily published within the Residency limits, wrote a leader severely commenting on the action of the Government in the city “murder case. This annoyed the Minister” so much, a rumour says, that he wrote to the Resident requesting

him to suppress the *Safiri*. What effect this letter had upon the Resident, the rumour does not say ; but it is not likely that he would go out of his way to oblige even the Minister, for he must know how one of his predecessors suppressed an English Journal published within the Residency limits and how he was pitched into for this by the Supreme Government. Whether there is any truth in this rumour or not, this much is certain, that the articles above referred to caused much knocking of teeth in the official circles. Soon after the publication of it Moulvi Sad-ud-deen, the proprietor of the *Safiri Dekhan*, was summoned before a high official and asked to tender an apology for the statements made in the leader and publish a contradiction thereto. The Moulvi refused to do anything of the sort and wished that the high official would put in writing what he wanted him (the Moulvi) to do. Perhaps the upshot of this was the communication which rumour speaks of as having been addressed to the Resident by the Minister. Another and a still higher official also played a part. From the heights of Olympus—I mean Mahableshwar—the “Jehova, Jove or Lord” of Hyderabad thundered against the poor Moulvi-Sad-ud-deen. He wrote to him to say that he had forfeited his favour by publishing the article on the City Murder case, that after seeing it in his paper he could not but withdraw his patronage from him. Even if he were a private gentleman and not an official, the mighty official continued, he would have felt called upon to take the step he took—and wound up by saying “Yeh unda our pakizah zaban Abki Abkan mobarik rahai” that is “May such elegant and choice language (as that used in the leader) ever stand you in good stead.” I may state *en passant* that I have had the leader in question translated to me, and I find the language though strong quite called for by the occasion.

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GULBURGA, 5th July, 1891.

It is said that in a multitude of councillors there is wisdom. It is rather difficult to believe this, seeing that such an intelligent body of men as the Government of India find it easier to do a wrong thing than to do a right one, does at times exactly what it ought not to do—at all events what it is inadvisable to do. What we have heard of “Political Agents” does not reveal them to be the largest minded of rulers or the most forbearing of men. Mr. Chatterjee’s journalistic experiences at Mhow, and the exposure of Sir Lepel Griffin in the columns of the “Amrita Bazaar Patrika” have shown what autocrats these are in their respective ‘spheres’ and how desirable it is that their power should be curtailed and they should be restrained from presuming too much. Yet the Government of India would make them custodians of public opinion ‘in places administered by the Governor-General, but not forming part of British India’—would invest them with the power to withhold or withdraw permission to edit, print or publish a newspaper just as they like it, and to ‘expel forcibly’ any one who edits, prints or publishes a newspaper without their permission! Verily the fates favour the wrong men.

I called upon a British authority in one of the ‘places administered by the Governor-General, but not forming part of British India’ recently in connection with the permission applied for previously to start a newspaper therein; and it might interest your readers to know what transpired at the interview. Being ushered into the authority’s presence, I was asked what I wanted. I explained to him the object of my visit; and he said:

“I don’t think you will get the permission.”

“Why?” I asked. “can you assign reasons for thinking so?”

“Yes” said he. “We don’t want to have a paper of the sort here.”

"Is it so?" I asked.

"Yes—it is so" said he. "We don't want such a paper, and that is the reason why you will not get permission to start it. Is not the reason clear enough?"

And I had to admit that "the reason was clear enough" and bid him good morning and got out. What a powerful instrument for smothering the public voice, the recent order of the Government of India will furnish politicals such as this with, it is easy to understand.

Next Tuesday full two years will have elapsed since the death of Sir Salar Jung II. And this puts me in mind of all that the Salar Jung family has suffered since the death of the Nawab Munier-ul-mulk Bahadur and the pitiable condition it is in now. Of what avail was it that the highest personage in these Dominions constituted himself the guardian of the infant son of Sir Salar Jung II? Of what avail was it that he appointed a committee to manage the estates of the family and laid down rules for the guidance thereof? Sir Asman Jah, a nobleman not particularly well disposed towards the family, became the medium of communication between His Highness the Nizam and the committee of management of the estates. An official not overburdened with a sense of gratitude to the family for favours done by it in the past, turned up to be the master of the situation. And the result has proved to be disastrous to the interests of the family. Its right to the Meeralum Tank, one of its coveted possessions came to be questioned on the flimsiest grounds. A creature of the Government's, came to be appointed at the head of the committee of management. The only man on the Committee who could work on behalf of the family was 'worried' till he resigned his membership. Lady Salar Jung II was reduced to a nonentity within the palace walls—and her infant son, the 'rightful' owner of all the estates was left to take care of himself. Jealousy began to work mischief amongst the lady members of the family—and