

also been satisfied with the efforts of the Government of Bengal since he had the honor of being at its head, and assured them that Government's greatest desire was to devote itself to watching over their welfare. He has long wished to visit this large and important centre, Mymensingh; and it had been one of his first cares to select a special Magistrate and Collector for so heavy a charge. In Mr. Phillips the District possessed an officer of the highest ability and of indefatigable energy, and it was to be hoped that his health would permit of his remaining long enough to carry through the many important works of the District. As regards the address of the District Board, it was one of unusual importance, owing to the very wide view it took of the requirements of the district, and his Honor said he could not do more than touch on some of the points alluded to, and leave the others to be treated in the secretariat, for which he would, however, issue special orders. In referring to the Municipal Address, his Honor expressed his sympathy with the members of the Committee in their loss of so able a Chairman, but trusted his successor would prove himself to be equally capable. The address contained a request that the ferry revenues might be handed over for certain purposes, and he hoped before leaving the town to be able to make a personal inspection, and if the projects seemed in every way desirable the request should be granted. In reply to the address from the Mahomedan Association his Honor assured the members that he had always sympathised with their wants, and that Government were equally willing and anxious to give them their fair share in all appointments, but it was absolutely necessary that they would fit themselves for the posts. Though Government was bound to divide its patronage as fairly as possible, it was an equally sacred duty that only those qualified for appointments should hold them, and it was a regrettable fact that great difficulty was experienced in finding qualified Mahomedan candidates. The remarks about local schools seemed

reasonable, and the District Board would be asked to give the matter their consideration and what help and encouragements they could. The re-establishment of the Madrassa was a question that had not yet been brought to notice, and his Honor could not therefore give any sort of reply, except that it would be referred to Sir Alfred Croft for report; who, no doubt, would gladly embrace the opportunity of assisting the Mahomedans as far as he could; and as far as was fair he, no doubt, would help with a share of the Government funds. In reply to the gentlemen of Sherpur his Honor said he hoped on some future occasion to be able to visit them in their own homes, and see something of their villages, but though the Magistrate had kindly arranged that he should drive out and see one or two of the Sherpur gentlemen, the plan had unfortunately been abandoned owing to want of time. The request they made for a railway was already included in the scheme proposed by the District Board, which went a very great deal further, and was a very large request, indeed, even for an extensive district like this. It was very simple for a district to make such requests, but were each to do so the sum total would be something appalling. The project of the District Board would require at least some 50 lakhs, which was out of the question, but a survey of the Tangail line should be made. It had always to be remembered that in dealing with funds for railways the funds were Imperial and not Provincial, and that there was only a certain sum available each year. Of this Bengal, of course, got its share, and were it possible to do so a loan of the necessary eight lakhs or so would be lent for the construction of this line on the security of the District Board. The continuation of the line to Sherpur would be a very much more difficult concern, owing to its involving the construction of a great length of bridge, which would be quite beyond the means of the Provincial Government. The funds, therefore, would have to be asked for from the Imperial coffers, and not only would be a very clear case of necessity for the line have to be made out,

but also a very decided prospect of profit. Even so it was highly improbable that Government would grant the necessary sanction and funds, considering that such great projects as the Assam-Chittagong line, which for years had been a pet scheme, were as yet unfinished, and would require several crores for completion. Government only had a certain sum annually for such works, in which a great hole would be made were they to grant six lakhs here and eight lakhs there for small local requirements. His Honor then expressed his satisfaction at hearing of the construction and maintenance of roads, founding of scholarships, and other such good works, which were a distinct step in advance; and on behalf of the Government he thanked those gentlemen who were expending their time and energy on behalf of their countrymen. His Honor then said that after all these sentiments of approval he was bound to add a word of disagreement, and that was because he was sorry to find the address of the District Board penetrated by the idea so common in this country, that the people should look entirely to Government for support, or, as they put it in the address, State nursing, State aid, and State subsidies. It was absolutely necessary in these days of enlightenment and progress that they should learn to stand alone, and alone to work out their own requirements. The Government of India had already as much to do as it could manage and it was a well-known fact that its officials were overworked. The difficulty about the looseness of the nuptial tie among the lower classes of Mahomedans was a great misfortune, but it was not for law to step in where morality was concerned; for what was the good of law where the public conscience did not carry it out? A time no doubt would come when education and civilization would work the necessary remedy. As regards the request for a Mahomedan Marriage Registration Act, his Honor said he was by no means in favor of it, and would certainly never bring forward such a Bill until a great majority of the Mahomedans had requested him to do so, and at

present he believed there was a very decided feeling against it. In conclusion, his Honor explained at considerable length how wrong both in theory and practice was the State aid for which people were so ready to ask.

REPLY TO AN ADDRESS OF THE INDIGO PLANTERS OF BEHAR AND SONEPUR, NOV., 1891.

His Honor, replying, said to Mr. Hudson and the gentlemen representing the Indigo Planters' Association, that he had received with great satisfaction the address with which they had been good enough to welcome him on his arrival among them in Behar, and that he very cordially reciprocated these kind feelings, and hoped that his arrival among them would leave nothing but present recollections both in their minds and in his own. Coming among them as he did, almost a complete stranger to Behar, they would not, of course, expect him to say much about the details of their work. He came more with the object of learning the position of the Indigo industry than for the purpose of giving any opinion on the subject, and he trusted that he would have the opportunity of gaining much knowledge that would be useful to himself. What he knew at present about the industry was to a large extent due to a report drawn up by his predecessor Sir Stewart Bayley just before resigning office. This report had lately been published as a Parliamentary paper, and he would read to them a few passages in order to give publicity to those views: Sir Ashley Eden, addressing the Indigo Planters' Association, said:—"I take this opportunity of thanking your Association for the cordial co-operation which you have always given to me and the officers of Government, for the admirable influence which you have exercised throughout Behar and for the conciliatory and moderate spirit in which you have adjusted disputes between contending interests." He then read extracts from the Administration Report of the Patna

Division for the year 1883-84. The Commissioners wrote as follows:—"With regard to the Behar Indigo Planters' Association, I understand that it is doing much good work. The Secretary of the Association complains that some indigo planters benefit by the institution while declining to be bound by its rules or to contribute to its necessary expenses. He thinks that an expression of opinion on the part of the Government would be sufficient to induce these gentlemen to join the Association." Sir Charles was sorry to find that this anticipation of the Commissioner had not altogether been realized. Another report says:—"The Secretary of the Behar Indigo Planters' Association writes to the Collector of Mozufferpore that he believes the relations between planters, zemindars, and ryots are satisfactory, and that during the past year there has been hardly any necessity for the interference of the Association with the affairs of any factory." He adds: "The operations of the Cadastral Survey Department under Colonel Barrow, and of the record of rights under Mr. Collin were begun in November last, and there has been, I am happy to believe, no friction between the members of the Association and the officers mentioned, owing in a great measure to the tact and courtesy displayed by them in all matters which have been brought to their notice." Another report says:—"The Indigo Planters' Association furnishes the best possible instance of local self-government. It is completely voluntary. It is latent till occasion arises, and then it springs into action." And the last passage in that part of the report, that dealt with Behar and which sums up Sir S. C. Bayley's own views, were as follows:—"A reference to the general correspondence of this Government shows that whereas formerly the object of indigo was a burning one, which gave constant anxiety and required unremitted attention, it now really elicits allusions such as those quoted from the Administration Report—a change which indicates how much more smoothly the work is carried on at present." He needed hardly to say to the

gentlemen there present that he had read these reports with great satisfaction, and he trusted that the opinion formed by such experienced men were still justified, and that the working of their Association was still directed to smoothing away and removing all harshness and injustice, and that the members were doing all in their power to ensure the progress and success of this great industry.

One passage which he had just read spoke of the experimental cadastral survey carried on in the Mozufferpur district about four years ago. He would take this opportunity of referring especially to that, because, as they no doubt were aware, the cadastral survey was about to be commenced in the four districts of Northern Behar. He need hardly say that he had not entered on an undertaking of this kind without a due sense of the difficulties that might arise and the considerable labour that it would entail on himself and many of his officers. It was not a work one would undertake with a light heart. He knew that there had already been signs of an agitation commencing against it, but he was quite satisfied that the cadastral survey was wanted in this country, and that it would be highly beneficial. From what he had been able to learn from some of their number, he believed that all the most influential members would welcome the measure. It would give them an accurate knowledge of every one's rights with which they had to deal. They were all of them obliged to have constant dealings both with ryots and landholders, and it would be found to be most important to know the exact extent of those rights conferred upon them by the Tenancy Act. The third great class interested in the question was the Zemindars, and from them he knew that some agitation and opposition might be expected, but he hoped that these would melt away when they heard more of the facts. Every Zemindar was obliged to keep up a record of his ryots, their holdings, and their rents, but this record was generally most inaccurate, as for the most part they were obliged to rely on

the Patwari who was not described as a trustworthy person. Well, the survey would give them an accurate record of these facts, and would clear up all the disputes and uncertainties which caused so much annoyance and loss. He trusted it was hardly necessary for him to assure the Zemindars that Government would not have entered on this undertaking unless it had been convinced that it would be for the good and not the harm of the landlords. He was convinced that when the three parties most interested, the ryots, the zemindars, and planters, came to know what the Survey really meant, they would welcome it as a thing beneficial to themselves.

He had just issued a Resolution, which he hoped they would read carefully when it was published in the next *Government Gazette* and the newspapers, and he gladly took this opportunity of explaining its contents and arguments briefly to them. He trusted that all who read it and understood its full scope and intentions would lend him their hearty co-operation in the performance of this arduous task. The Indigo Planters' Association had been spoken of as a ~~part~~ of the Administrative Machine, assisting Government and being in return assisted by Government. As long as they carried out this silent compact which was made with them by Sir Ashley Eden, and carried on their operations with justice and equity, he could assure them that the Association would receive his hearty support. In conclusion, he begged to thank them cordially for the kind way in which they had received him, and he would look forward to the remainder of his tour as likely to be equally pleasant and profitable to him as it had hitherto been.

SPEECH ON THE DUFFERIN FUND.

The following Address was delivered at a meeting of the supporters of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund. H. E. the Viceroy in the Chair, Jan. 1892.

The best manner in which we can show our thanks to your Excellencies for the support and encouragement of this

Society, is by showing what has been done by it or for it during the past year, what progress we have made, and what we hope to make. We have now five female hospitals in Bengal, in Calcutta, in Bhagulpore, Durbhanga, Gya and Cuttack, and at all of these, with one exception, the number of patients who have received medical attendance was larger than in the preceding year. The one exception, I am sorry to say, is that of the Dufferin Hospital in Calcutta; there, though the in-patients increased from 118 to 173, the number of out-door patients fell from 21,000 to about 17,000. There were, we believe, two reasons for this; one was the death of Mrs. Foggo who had become well known, and had gained the confidence of the public, and it was not unnatural that it would take a little time for her successor to acquire a similar following, and that the numbers should fall off for a time. The other reason was that the Eden Hospital had opened a dispensary for women coming as out-door patients, and this had, of course, tended to compete with the Dufferin Hospital, but so far as this cause operates it is satisfactory to know that more medical care, not less, is being bestowed on women. We have good reason to hope that the results will tend to a larger attendance at both institutions next year. Besides these we have no less than four hospitals which are well on their way to existence. That at Bettiah of which Lady Elliott lately laid the foundation stone, we owe to the munificence of the Maharajah of Bettiah. The brother of the Maharajah of Durbhanga, Raja Rameswar Singh Bahadoor has undertaken to provide funds for starting a women's hospital at Raj Nagar, and though the project has not advanced during the year, I have no doubt that he will perform his promise at an early date. While I was in Behar I received a very generous donation from a mahomedan gentleman of the place of Rs 10,000 towards founding a hospital in Patna, and another Indian gentleman has privately undertaken to supply whatever funds are requisite to complete and start the building, so that I may congratulate Patna, the

second town in Bengal, on the prospect that this want will shortly be satisfied. Within the last few days I have heard of the Collection of Funds for a hospital at Dinajpur, and I hope that this institution will soon be started. This is certainly a good tale of progress for a single year as regards the creation of women's hospitals.

Next, as to the number of ladies of different degrees of skill and training, who are employed under the Dufferin Fund in the treatment of women, our report is as follows: We have one lady Doctor of the first class, who is in charge of the Dufferin Hospital, Calcutta; of the second grade, those who have taken the degree of Licentiates in medicine and surgery, we have five at Bhagalpur, Darbhanga, Gya, Cuttack and Chittagong; of the third grade, who correspond to hospital assistants, we have only three, at Murshidabad, Burdwan and Kamarhatti. In order to test how we stand in this respect, it is well to compare ourselves with our sister province of the North-West, the province in which this Society has received its widest expansion, in so much that of the half million patients of whom you have heard as recipients of medical relief during the past year, about half belong to the North-Western Provinces alone. Well, I find that in the North-West Provinces they have one lady doctor of the first grade—the same number as we have; they have six of the second grade against our five; it is only in the third grade that they are much ahead of us, having, I think, twelve or fifteen against our three. It is clearly necessary for us to do all we can to diminish this difference and to increase the number of our trained and skilled lady doctors. This is, as Mr. Beverley and Mr. Chentral Rao have already told you, the very root of the matter for the Dufferin Society, and if we overcome this difficulty, we may rely on overcoming every other obstacle that stands in our way; but it is a very real difficulty. We have two excellent institutions at which these ladies are trained. At the Medical College, there are 21 female students,

but Dr. Birch has not arranged his figures so as to show how many of these are likely to pass out in the next or the following year. Here the education is of the highest class, and every effort should be strained to keep up the numbers of these students. At the Campbell Medical School the education only fits the students for the third or hospital assistant grade; but this is the grade of which as I have shewn, it is most important to increase the numbers. Last year 10 or 11 young women passed out, and when I last visited the school, Dr. Coull-Mackenzie told me that all of these, except, I think, one, had obtained employment, and that one has, I believe, received an appointment since then. But in the year that is now passing out there is a lamentable falling off—the number is only four, so that we have a very small reserve on which to fall back for filling the new extensions we hope to make. I trust this decrease is only temporary and accidental, as the numbers in the two lower years are considerably larger, but I strongly feel that this is the direction in which personal effort is most needed. I would urge this on the influential gentlemen whom I see assembled here. Many of you have large numbers of dependents, often hereditary followers, and if you can impress on them how desirable a thing it is for their girls to take up this new opening in life and to embrace the study of medicine; how useful they will be to their country-women as well as how profitable the profession will be to themselves, you will do more for the spread and success of the Dufferin Society than were if you made the most munificent contributions in money. Mr. Chentral Rao spoke of stirring up the District Boards and Municipalities to help in this way. I am glad to say that they have shewn great readiness to do it. A very large number of the Boards and Municipalities have offered scholarships; but in too many cases no one has come forward to accept the offer. I am confident, however, that we need not despond and that is only a question of time before public opinion becomes permeated without object, and expresses itself distinctly on our side. I have kept

for the last part of my speech the important question of finance: and the remarks I have to make on this subject are not so much intended for the present audience, which has the printed report before it, but I make them in the hope that they will be fully reported in the newspapers both English and Vernacular, and will penetrate to the mofussil districts, as my main object is to shew in what way I wish the Provincial Branch to work, not for Calcutta alone, but for the mofussil. It is with pride and pleasure that I announce that Bengal has responded to the appeal which I ventured to make in this hall last year in a way which has surpassed my most sanguine anticipations. We have received this year Rs. 37,400 for the Building Fund of the Dufferin Hospital, and that project is now in a secure position, and its extensions are almost completed; and we have raised Rs. 32,919, or say, Rs. 33,000 for the General Fund. You will say it is most unreasonable if I am not altogether satisfied; and indeed I am fully satisfied with the amount collected, but not so much so with the composition of the item. • When we put aside sums that are ear-marked, like the Rs. 10,000 given by my Mahomedan friend at Patna for the women's hospital, or munificent gifts like the Rs. 10,000 of Mr. Walter Thomson of Behea and the Rs. 5,000 of the Raja of Khaira, which we cannot expect to be constantly repeated, there remains only Rs 8,000 contributed by the general public. Our expenditure, on the other hand, has been Rs. 14,000 this year, and this is the normal and recurrent outlay on the Dufferin Hospital and the Surnomoyi Hospital, which I do not see any means of largely reducing. One item, indeed, there is which might be reduced; and I make a special point of mentioning it, as I see the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation present. Last year it was remarked in more than one quarter that the Rs. 1,200 per annum subscribed by the Corporation to the Dufferin Hospital was, if not illiberal, at least not bounteous; but they have not thought fit to increase the figure. There, however, is a charge of Rs. 881 for municipal taxes on the

Hospital Building; and this is a charge from which I really think they might find it in their hearts to exempt so deserving a charity. I appeal to the Chairman and to any of the Municipal Commissioners who may be present to take this matter into consideration at an early meeting.

Now to resume. Our obligatory expenditure is, as I said, about Rs. 14,000 a year and I want to place that on a firm basis. We receive about Rs. 5,000 a year from our invested funds, and the balance, or Rs. 9,000, is an amount which I make no doubt will be contributed year after year by public charity. I should be very ungrateful for what has been done and very wanting in reasonable confidence for the future if I felt any want of security on this subject.

Even this very day I have received from two generous residents of Calcutta, Messrs. Heera Lal Johory and Gulal Chand a contribution of Rs. 1,500 towards the funds of our Society. But what I am extremely desirous to see are these sums distributed over a wider basis and contributed not in large gifts by a few wealthy persons, but in small amounts by a great number of the well-to-do middle class. This year for the first time, the Provincial Branch is able to announce that it has received a promise of annual subscriptions of Rs. 350 from 14 different people, and many of these subscriptions are in amounts of Rs. 10 and Rs. 12. This is what I want to secure, and what I asked for—not subscriptions of Rs. 50 and Rs. 100 but of Rs. 10 and Rs. 17 and Rs. 20 per annum. It is a great mistake, and a very common Anglo-Indian mistake, to think that a subscription, if given at all, must be a handsome one of Rs. 100 or Rs. 50; the result is that many abstain from giving, and those who give or obliged to give to a more restricted number of charities than they would. I trust that we may receive this year a large influx of small annual sums, the promise of which will afford security of a broad and permanent basis to this charity, and will justify us in carrying out the extensions we aim at.

This brings me to the last point in my speech which is this: say, that we get a permanent income from subscriptions of Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 25,000, what do we intend to do with it? Hitherto our energies have been absorbed in starting the Dufferin Hospital in Calcutta, but it is obvious that we must not be content to remain in this position. It is the mofussil from which, to a large extent, we receive subscriptions, and it is in the mofussil, which needs medical skill and attendance far more than Calcutta with its magnificent provision of hospitals and its abundance of doctors, that our funds should chiefly be spent. The scheme which I intend to propose to the Local Committee is that we should offer to pay half the salary of a medical lady, up to, say, Rs. 30, in every district, and should offer to pay half the cost of erecting a women's ward, up to, say, Rs. 1,000, attached to the hospital at the Head quarters of every district. When I said women's ward I used the wrong word. It is not a ward that I contemplate, but a row of separate rooms suited to the secluded habits of respectable women. We have made a great mistake hitherto in several cases in Bengal by creating wards for women on the same pattern as wards for men. No women but the very poorest will be content to lie in beds six or eight or ten together in a single ward. We must provide separate quarters for them in which they can retain their privacy, and can be visited and attended by their relatives, and I am glad the Maharajah of Bettiah's Hospital is being constructed on this plan. It need not be an expensive plan: indeed, it should be a less costly one than the construction of wards on the usual system. In this way I hope that in a few years, possibly even before I leave this country, I may see a trained lady doctor and a suitable women's Branch Hospital in every district of Bengal. This is the scheme of co-operation with the mofussil which I hope the Provincial Branch will be able to adopt, and this is the prospect of extension of the objects of the society which, I trust, we shall

be able to hold out to our friends and supporters in the country. When we have accomplished it we shall have given the truest and most practical expression of our thanks to your Excellency and Lady Lansdowne for the support and encouragement you have given to this most valuable charity. We shall then be able to look this charming portrait of the Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava in the face and say: "We have realized your beneficent aspirations, and the ball which you set rolling we have kept up and carried on to the goal which you aimed at."

REPLY TO ADDRESSES AT BHAGALPUR,
APRIL, 1892.

His Honor said he begged to thank the assembled gentlemen for the very kind and hearty manner in which, in the addresses just read, they had welcomed him on this his first arrival in the town of Bhagalpur, and he wished to assure them how sensible he was of the feelings of loyalty and kindness which had animated their addresses. He wished to take this opportunity of expressing how much he regretted the unforeseen accident of the previous night, by which they had been caused the inconvenience of such a prolonged detention at the railway station. Had there been any expectation of such a possibility, he would most certainly have telegraphed, asking that no one might await his arrival. In three out of four addresses reference had been made to the principal object of the present tour, which was, too, the principal thought in the minds of most people, and certainly of all those who were in any way connected with land—the prospect of scarcity and famine in this district. He was, therefore, very glad to be able to reassure his hearers that he did not consider the present state one necessitating alarm. He had visited a considerable portion of the affected parts of the district and a large number of the relief works, and had

not seen half-a-dozen persons, all told, who appeared to be suffering from hunger, or who were to any degree emaciated. The present stage appeared to be this, that there is food in the country, and not at excessively high prices, but the ordinary sources of agricultural employment for landless labourers have closed up, and they are no longer able to earn wages by working in the fields as the landlords and ryots alike are unable to pay wages. These classes have, therefore, to work on relief works in order to obtain money to buy food, and the present problem is how to provide a suitable and sufficient programme of such works. Most effectual measures had been taken by Mr. Wace, the Collector, to provide ample labour in all places where the people could possibly require it. Those works which had been started were being carried out in a most reasonable and sagacious manner, and His Honor wished to congratulate the district on their good fortune in having such a Collector at such a time—a man of such ability and sound judgment, as to know exactly how far to start these relief works or where to limit or close them, and yet avoid any possible harshness or severity. It was a most difficult thing to decide the exact time when works should be lessened or extended; and the district was, indeed, fortunate in having in Mr. Wace an officer of both ability, earnestness, and previous experience of famine work.

His Honor said it afforded him great pleasure to be able to announce that the Maharaja of Sonbursá, with his well-known generosity, had offered to Government Rs. 10,000 to be expended on relief works on a road or any other work of utility in the distressed tracts. Babu Janordhan Singh of Barail had offered Rs. 900 for gratuitous relief in Supul. Rani Sitabati offered Rs. 1,000 for the relief of widows and women who could not appear in public. He understood that the Raja of Barwari intended making an offer, of which no doubt he would soon make known the details. The Raja of Banett and Kumar Nityanand Singh had intimated their intention

of jointly undertaking some improvements on their estates, which would serve as relief works, and cost Rs. 7,200. Babu Ganpat Singh intended starting some similar work to the value of Rs. 2,000. The Maharaja of Durbhunga had before him as liberal a scheme of works as he carried out in 1889, but no order had yet been given. This His Honor considered a most laudable record of private liberality at a time when most needed, and he begged to congratulate the different donors on their public-spirited actions.

In the address from the Municipal Commissioners, the remark that a ruler benefited by a knowledge of those he ruled had afforded him pleasure, as it agreed so entirely with his own views, and he was glad to find the District Board has spoken in a very similar sense. His Honor said he did not wish any one to think that tours through different parts of the province were in any way prompted by the least distrust of local officers or fear of being misled by them, but there was such a great advantage in being able to enquire into and discuss local requirements on the spot itself, where far more information could be gained than from any number of written reports.

A reference had been made to the filtered water-supply which this town was fortunate enough to possess, and he congratulated it on being one of the few towns in Bengal which enjoyed such a benefit. He hoped, during his stay, to be able to look into the municipal accounts, to see how the funds were allotted and administered, as mention had been made of the maintenance of the water-works being a heavy charge on their resources. There was to be a new re-assessment of the town, by which it was to be hoped a substantial increase to their funds would be secured. Reference had been made to a promise made by a landholder of the Sonthal-Parganas to present a large sum for the further extension of the water-works, but His Honor said he feared he would be hardly justified in entering into that question, as he knew none

of the details and it was not one in which Government could very well interfere. If any gentleman found himself unable to carry out a promise which he had made, Government could hardly compel him to do so; if he had changed his mind in the matter, it was for the Commissioners to use what gentle persuasion they could to lead him back to a better way of thinking. Mention had been made of the long period during which the municipal franchise had been enjoyed in Bhagalpur, and it was satisfactory to find reason to believe that the power had been exercised judiciously and well. The fact of having to reply to addresses on a first arrival at a place, before there had been time or opportunity to become acquainted with it, was unfortunately unavoidable; but His Honor hoped to be able to see for himself how work had been carried on.

He noticed that in the address a hope had been expressed that Local Self-Government would receive still further expansion in his hands, but His Honor feared that what was really in their minds was to deprecate any restriction rather than to advocate the expansion of Local Self-Government, and that reference was made to the Municipal Amendment Bill which had received some adverse criticism from this point of view. He could, however, assure his hearers that nothing was further from the thoughts or wishes of Government, whose only desire was to take such measures and to make such corrections as would conduce to greater efficiency in the carrying on of the work. Wherever it had occurred to himself or his advisers that flaws existed, they proposed making small modifications in the Act to empower Government to step in, and make small changes without having to use the drastic measures which under the Act were in its power, and the employment of which would bring much discredit to any municipality. It was certainly a much severer measure to abolish a municipality than what was now proposed in the modification in the Bill before Government. He would, however, assure them that the proposed alterations had been circulated for general

opinions and remarks, and that all criticism would receive full attention.

The District Board had referred to the heavy drain, upon their funds in connection with the famine, and trusted that they would not be called upon to contribute to relief works a larger sum than that which they had set aside for the purpose. He found that they had provided about Rs. 35,000 for these works, being the whole of their balance, and also what would have otherwise been spent on original works. They had also in their budget provided about Rs. 80,000 road repairs, and much of this could be utilised if necessary. His Honor did not think it likely that this provision would be insufficient, but they appeared to have made a very full and excellent distribution. It certainly was not desirable that sums, which were absolutely essential to the good administration of the district, should be diverted to other purposes. The district was well equipped with unmetalled roads, some of them relics of 1874, and it would be a mistake were anything done that would lessen the benefits they conferred. As far as one could foresee, the present distress might continue, or possibly somewhat increase, during the next two months, but with July the rains should come, bringing with them labour in the fields and wages, and in August they might expect to reap their new crops. Should this be so, the present arrangements of the District Board seemed ample. The District Board had rather a tendency to speak of the funds as their own, as if they stood apart from and could even be in opposition to Government; but His Honor said he wished to remind them of the solidarity that should exist between themselves and the Government. He looked on the District Board as almost a Government Department. They were a body of public-spirited gentlemen who gave their voluntary assistance to Government and had public funds placed at their disposal; but the funds actually belonged to Government, and when they spoke of their proposed allotments, they were in much the same position as Govern-

ment when framing its budget. He could assure them that the Provincial Government had been cut down by the Provincial contract very severely, and that his position was that he had just enough funds for necessities but none for luxuries. The Government, like them, had been obliged to withdraw all superfluous grants from other objects to meet the expenses of the present distress, and to cut down many items. It would give him great satisfaction to assist the Board with Provincial funds, or to recoup them their famine expenditure if he could ; but in the present year at least, there was no chance of his having any funds for this purpose.

Referring to the Mahommedan address, His Honor said that he was glad to hear so much had been done for education, and that a Madrassa had been instituted in a manner suited to the requirements of the day in order that Mahommedan boys might not fall behind the rest, and be able to hold their own in competition. *Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, in the North-West Provinces*, had set them an example which but few could follow closely, but which many now-a-days were striving to follow to some extent ; and every effort made to establish and carry on a system of education for Mahommedans on Mahommedan principles was deserving of Government encouragement. The Mahommedan gentlemen of Bhagalpur were to be congratulated on what they were doing, and would receive such assistance as was fair and just. The request for aid from the Mohsin Fund seemed reasonable, and though the annual fixed sum for grants-in-aid of Buildings had for this year been all allotted, no doubt the Director of Public Instruction would be willing to consider fully their claim when distributing the grants for next year.

His Honor said he had kept till the last a reference to the remark made by the residents of Bhagalpur, when in their address they said : " We venture to express a hope that your Honor will not proceed with the proposed cadastral survey, involving an expenditure on the part of landlords and tenants

which they are alike unable to bear." Now, it was not very clear whether this remark was intended to refer exclusively to some possible extension of the cadastral survey to the District of Bhagalpur, or to the work which is actually going on of the survey in North Behar. There was no thought of extending the survey to Bhagalpur at present, but His Honor hoped that so soon as the cadastral survey of Behar had been brought to a successful conclusion, and when the people came to see and understand the enormous advantage that such a complete record of rights conferred upon them, so far from requesting that they might be delivered from it, they would in coming years include in their addresses to his successor a request that the cadastral survey of Bhagalpur might be begun at the earliest possible date. Assuming, however, that the passage related to Behar, and that they were speaking on behalf of their friends and relations in that part of the country, His Honor said he was glad to be able to take advantage of this opportunity to make a few remarks and explanations which he hoped would tend to allay their alarm and anxiety. The objection taken in the address rested on the ground of the expenditure the survey would involve in the present season of scarcity. It was to be hoped however, that the present distress are but a temporary evil. No one could predict the future; but, on the other hand, no one had any valid grounds for anticipating a failure in the coming monsoon; and should all go well, the present trouble would be as completely forgotten next year as the pressure of 1889 was forgotten in 1891. There was every reason to hope that a kind Providence would not afflict the district beyond what it could bear; and that, with the advent of good and seasonable rains, all fears of further scarcity would pass away. So much for the special objection as to the burden of expenditure being aggravated by the present scarcity; but there remained the general objection that the survey would undoubtedly cost money, and he sympathised with their general dislike to have expenditure thrown

upon them. In the address, however, mention had been made of the fact that the cost would fall on both landlords and tenants; but as regarded the latter His Honor did not think there was any need to feel much alarm. As matters stood at the present moment, any ryot who had to defend a rent suit was, sure, first of all, to go to the Collector's cutchery, and there to pay one rupee for a copy of an extract from the Patwari's Jamabandi, which was absolutely of no validity whatsoever, and would not be accepted as evidence in any court. When, however, the proposed survey had been completed, the average ryot would be charged a rupee or thereabouts for a trustworthy and valid statement showing the area, the rent and the number of his fields, and all the incidents of his tenure, and for all this he would pay exactly the same amount as he now had to pay for a document that was perfectly worthless. He was quite sure that any ryots who understood the facts would willingly offer ten times what the survey would cost him, for the sake of the security of the record. He had quite lately had an example of this brought to his notice, in the case of a gentleman in this district, Mr. Hirsch Christian, who holds a ryots tenure in the Baneli-Srinagar Estate, of which a survey and record of rights had lately been carried out by the Court of Wards. That gentleman had informed him that he set the highest value on the record he had secured and that he considered that the survey had been the greatest blessing which could have been conferred upon the estate.

The case of landholders no doubt was somewhat different, and those who owned large tracts of land would have large sums to pay. All that Government could and would do was to try their best to diminish, as far as possible, the disagreeable burden of payment, by spreading it out over a number of years, and to further offer them the assurance that this survey would be to their clear and certain advantage, which, when they had realized and come to understand in its true working,

would be accepted by them as even more than an equivalent for any expenditure it might have entailed. His Honor said that his hearers might possibly have noticed the speech he made at the last meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council in Calcutta last month, in connection with the Court of Ward's Bill. He had undertaken there to do all he could to secure for the landlords, in whose estates a cadastral survey had been carried out, a short and summary procedure for the recovery of arrears of rent. When there was no longer any dispute as to whether a man was a tenant or not, and as to what his rent was but only as to how much he had paid and how much was in arrears, he was sure that the summary powers for dealing with such cases which are provided for in the Tenancy Act might fairly be utilised; and he was in hopes that a shorter procedure, even, might be allowed, corresponding to the power of Government under the Certificate Act.

There was another suggestion for the relief of Zemindars under consideration, concerning which no definite promise could be made beyond the fact that he was favorably disposed towards the scheme of abolishing *patwaris* if it could be done with safety. The suggestion was that there should not be any Government servant retained as accountant in a village, but only the landlord's own accountant, provided security could be given that the accountant should be competent, and that the landlord would keep up the record of rights in a completely correct condition by entering mutations or other necessary alterations. As it was, his audience knew that at present all alterations in the register of the names and shares of the proprietors were supposed to be carried on by a self-acting system, and there was a penalty prescribed for any omission to register alterations. It was reasonable to think that a similar procedure could be devised for securing the correction of the *Khatians* and *Jamabandis*, and the maintenance of the record of rights from year to year; and if this were provided, it was quite possible that Government would agree to the abolition

of the *patwari*, who is undoubtedly an object of suspicion and dislike to the landlords, and an interminable element of discord.

Although no reference had been made to it in any of the addresses, there was, another point on which he would like to make a few remarks, as he had reason to believe it was one of the chief causes of alarm in connection with the proposed survey specially among the Zemindars, and that was the great expense likely to be incurred on account of the bribes taken and illegal demands that might be made by unscrupulous Amins. It was needless to say that one who had been so long in this country as he himself had been, and had seen so much of the manners and customs of the lower orders of such people, was not prepared to deny the possibility of such demands being made or was ready to undertake the defence of Amins; but though it were impossible to trust to the absolute integrity of these officials, it was both possible and sufficient to rely on the constant supervision and inspection of their work by superior officers with the aid of scientific mathematical instruments. The fears of the malpractices of these Amins were, in fact, due in great part to ignorance of the system to be pursued, and when once the survey was well started and its *modus operandi* understood, it would very easily be seen that such alarm was quite unnecessary. The measures which it was proposed to adopt were that as the Amin went on with his work, measuring and recording in his record, say, about thirty members a day, he should give to the holder of each field a "parcha" or slip showing exactly what had been recorded. This the ryot would take away with him and discuss at his leisure, and at once see whether there was any mistake in the record. During this work it would be quite unnecessary for the Zemindar to detail any person to keep a special watch over the Amins. Everything recorded would thus be brought to light, and its accuracy would be challenged and tested at once; so where would be the use of

an Amin making any false entry? When this work had been completed for a block of villages, the attestation-officer would come round, who would be either a covenanted officer, such as an Assistant or Joint-Magistrate or else a Deputy Collector. He would fix a certain day for the attestation of the khatian, and have up all the villagers before him, and read out the record which concerned each in turn, enquiring before all the assembled crowd if there was any mistake; and thus the examination would be easily completed. At this point only would it be necessary for the Zemindar to have some trustworthy agent present, able to offer any necessary explanations to the attesting officer, or to assist in settling errors and disputes, and to protect the Zemindar's interests. He hoped that those present, who were connected with Behar, would explain this method of procedure to their friends, and that they would see how impossible it would be for an Amin to make false entries undetected, and how useless for any one to offer him bribes and to submit to any illegal demands on his part.

He trusted what he had said to-day would be of some efficacy, both as removing the alarm felt by Zemindars about the results of the unknown operations of the survey, and also as disclosing to them what had to be set on the other side of the account, as advantages which would accrue to them in consequence of the survey. He would further observe that a conference had lately been held at Muzaffarpur, at which the Director of Surveys, Colonel Sandeman, and the Commissioner, Mr. Lyall, had met a large number of Zemindars and Indigo-planters; and though he had not received an official report of the proceedings, he had reason to believe that the explanations offered had been favorably received and had done much good. In any case he was sure that in Colonel Sandeman they would find an officer of great experience and skill, and one who was most anxious to make the survey go smoothly, and to meet all reasonable wishes of the parties concerned.

REPLY TO ADDRESSES FROM THE PEOPLE OF
GAYA, OCT., 1892.

His Honor, replying to both these addresses, said that he thanked the members of the Municipal Committee of Gaya, and of the District Board, and the gentlemen representing the residents of the town, very sincerely for the excellent sentiments which animated the addresses just read to him. He cordially reciprocated the feelings expressed in the municipal address, that visits like this must benefit both the people and the Government by making them better acquainted with each other and establishing loyal and friendly regard. From visits of this kind a great and decided advantage was to be gained, for they tended to increase his interest in their wants, and he felt growing in his mind the value of an acquaintance with those with whom he had never before been brought into close contact. He had heard with great pleasure the assurance that the municipality had cleared away the load of debt by which they had so long been hampered in their efforts in the cause of improvement; and now that they would have a surplus at their disposal, he trusted that the time had come when they would be able to take in hand many useful works, and that they would be in a position to carry out their intentions of supplying the town with wholesome fresh water. He was glad to find that they had determined to do so, because the question of supplying the inhabitants with pure water was of the highest importance, and he trusted that the scheme which was being drawn up by one of his ablest Engineers would be a good one, and at the same time not too expensive. He would try to assist them by granting them a loan to enable them to carry out the work, and the interest would in that case be much less than if they obtained the money from any other source. There was one point to which His Honor wished to draw special attention, and it was that when, during the Viceroyalty of Lord Ripon, municipalities were relieved of the charges for maintaining the police, it was distinctly laid

down, as part of the contract that the sums thus released should be devoted to the cause of education and to sanitary reforms for the public good. Now at Gaya this contract had been quite ignored, and the reason invariably set forth was the want of funds and indebtedness of the municipality. This excuse no longer existed, and His Honor trusted that in future they would see their way to spending more money on that most important object, and they would fulfil the direct contract which they had made. He would draw their special attention to the importance of primary education in the town. He had some figures here that would astonish them. The boys of a school-going age here amounted to six thousand, but the number of children at present in their schools was only one thousand boys and twenty girls. This fell very considerably below what he expected of them. If they wished to stand their ground in the race, they would do well to remember the great advance Bengal was making in its desire for education. It was not desirable that their girls and boys, their boys especially, should be allowed to grow up in darkness and ignorance. The sum that the municipality had expended on education was only two hundred and seventy-nine rupees, and this was even less than they had expended the year before. He sincerely trusted that the next time he received their municipal report they would have remedied this defect, and that he would find better provision had been made for primary education.

With regard to medical treatment Gaya stood very well, and especially so with regard to the treatment of female patients. They had done an excellent thing in creating a female ward, for the control of which the Dufferin Fund had placed at their disposal a lady doctor, who was, he trusted, acceptable to the ladies of their households, and under whose care he had no doubt it would become more and more useful. He was very glad to hear that funds had been collected for building a female hospital to enable ladies of good families

to enjoy the benefits of medical treatment in seclusion and privacy, without which their hereditary customs and prejudices would make them shrink from any such institution.

The Municipality in their address had lightly touched upon the main subject of the address of the Reconciliation Committee—he meant the melancholy and regrettable circumstance which the recent riot sprang up. He was extremely glad to find that it was not a premeditated affair, and that it did not occur with the knowledge of the leaders of society in their town, but that it was owing to the passions of the lower classes. They were fully aware—and he hardly needed to impress upon them—that a blow would have been struck to the prosperity of Gaya and the whole province, if that riot had been allowed to continue, and that possibly their streets would have been bathed in the blood of their fellow citizens. He was extremely glad to find that the riot was nipped in the bud by the wisdom and prudence of the leading men among them. This was just what one should expect from them, and it was the heart and soul of the great principle of Local Self-Government which Lord Ripon had done so much for, and which had taken such a firm root in the country. It had no more valuable and no more real development than that which was shown when the leading men of the place came to the front and took the position which their social standing, wealth, and their education justified them in taking, and put down any attempt, on the part of the lower classes to create a disturbance. He, as head of the province and as representative of the Government, congratulated them in having among them such men as rose up on this occasion and he offered his thanks to the gentlemen who distinguished themselves. There were many who, he understood, assisted the magistrate on this occasion, but he wished to give special attention to the names of Moulvi Syed Mahomed Abu Saleh, Mr. Abdul Halim and Mirza Dost Mahomed as representatives of the Mahomedan community. Among the Hindu gentlemen he

wished especially to thank on the part of Government the Raja of Maksudpor, Babu Ramandreh Narayan Singh, the Deputy Magistrate, Babu Ambica Prasad, Rai Rainarayan Singh, Baijnath Singh, Babu Chota Lal Sijwar, and Babu Haldeo Lal.

These gentlemen, he understood, had done no little service to the Government and the town. He thanked them on the part of Government, and he trusted that the people of Gaya would thank them on the part of the town for preserving them from that stain which would have been hard to wipe away and he also trusted that the feeling of reconciliation which they expressed before him was a true and a general one. He had received petitions from a small party of foolish and discontented people asserting that the reconciliation was unreal, but this he refused to believe. These petitions of a few malcontents did not carry any weight with him, and he did not intend to take any notice of them, but to treat them as they deserved to be treated. He accepted the tribute they intended to pay to Mr. Grierson, and he on behalf of the Government wished also to thank him for the wisdom and temperate manner in which he had quelled the discord. He had also heard that Messrs. Lang and Pritchard had given material assistance. As they were young officers, his hearers would closely watch their future career, and if they rose to positions of eminence, the gentlemen here assembled would be able to say that these young men had received their first lesson in Government among them in Gaya. With regard to the well which they wished to sink in recognition of Mr. Grierson's conduct on this occasion, and to call by his name, he was glad to grant them permission to do so, and sincerely trusted that the water of this well would be used to wash away all unkindly feelings among themselves.¹

REPLY TO ADDRESSES AT DINAJPORE, APRIL, 1892.

His Honor thanked those present sincerely for the very kind and hearty addresses with which they had been good

enough to greet him on this the occasion of his first visit to the town of Dinajpur, and he fully reciprocated the wishes expressed by them that the visit might leave nothing but pleasurable recollections. Certainly the general effect of bringing a ruler and those under his care into closer association tended towards better mutual understanding, and to a more hearty co-operation in matters which they equally had at heart; and he hoped that, although the present visit was to be of necessity but a short one it would none the less have this desirable effect. The chief question touched on in the address presented by the zemindars was that of the scarcity which unfortunately prevailed in some parts of the district, and His Honor said he was glad to be assured that the measures which had been taken to cope with it were considered to be both sufficient and effective. The district was very fortunate in having for its Magistrate, an officer who, though not recently appointed, had been in Dinajpur in former times, and was therefore acquainted with the locality and its requirements. It was a most difficult matter in times like the present to be able to calculate how far scarcity pressed upon the poorer people and taxed their resources. With his accurate knowledge of the district in other and more prosperous times, Mr. Tute was able to contrast the normal state of things with what he now saw, and was, therefore, able to form a correct judgment as to its present condition and requirements. In the Commissioner too, the district was fortunate in possessing an officer who had long served under the Government, and had for years been the Secretary in that department in which the management of famine operations lay, and who, therefore, was thoroughly conversant with the principles which underlie the famine Code and with the views and intentions of both the local Government and the Government of India. It was satisfactory to learn that what was being and would be done sufficed to meet any distress there was among those people who lived chiefly by labouring on the lands, but who, owing to

the failure of the rains and consequent scarcity, had not been able to get the labour that was usually in demand by zemindars and landholders generally, and who, in consequence, had been obliged to seek employment on such works as Government had opened in order to obtain the wherewithal to supply their daily food. The numbers shown in the returns as being on relief works was rather large, but Mr. Tute had explained that many of the works on which the people were employed were not relief works in the proper sense of the word, but were works which the District Board would, under any circumstances, have carried out, and had so arranged as to meet the present demand for work and to a certain extent to derive benefit to themselves by getting their works carried out at a comparatively cheap rate.

This led him to the remark in the address from the District Board about the difficulty that had been experienced in apportioning the sums that were available to the sums that were required for different works. They mentioned that the necessity for providing relief had proved a very severe strain on their resources, and might result in injury to their roads and other works. Possibly that might be true, but it had to be remembered that it was the first duty both of Government and of all District Boards who were the agents or hands of Government to consider which of their requirements were the most pressing, and to allot their funds accordingly. Nothing, his Honor said, had been borne more upon him than the great necessity of providing suitable buildings, more especially in Eastern Bengal, for Munsifs and other similar officers of Government, and he had fully intended this year to give one lakh over and above the usual building grant for the purpose. Scarcity, however, had come upon the land and had necessitated the diversion of this money to another still more pressing purpose. The District Board were very much in the same position, and had been obliged to divert a certain portion of their funds in order to benefit the class of people

requiring labour by providing work upon the roads. This merely meant the postponement of some original works. No doubt it was very disappointing, but it had perhaps one advantage in teaching them the virtue of patience under circumstances beyond their control, and they might very well say to themselves that though they had been unable to carry out their good intentions this year, they would at any rate do so next year.

Both the District Board and Municipal addresses had referred to the construction of a female hospital and to work being in a forward condition, and his Honor said he had just had great pleasure in seeing what had been done, and congratulated them heartily on what they had undertaken, planned, and commenced. He had often started on previous occasions his opinion that the plans on which female hospitals in many places had been constructed were not on a system quite appropriate to the requirements of the customs of this country. In Calcutta and many other places large female wards had been built on the very same principle as those provided for men, and this was contrary to the very essence of the treatment necessary in the case of women, for even though all males might be rigorously excluded from any portion of the buildings, it was repugnant to the feelings of women of the upper and middle classes to be in a large ward where there might be several others at the same time. The plan of the building which was being erected here was excellent and it was greatly to be hoped that the ladies of the place would soon learn to take advantage of the benefits it conferred, for they might be assured that they would have perfect privacy and that there would be nothing that could in any way shock their sense of modesty. Dinajpur was much to be congratulated on being the first large town in Bengal that had adopted this right principle of construction.

Next as regarded the question of education. The Municipal Commissioners had started in their address that the cos

of erecting a house for their model school, by which he understood that they meant a middle Vernacular School, had been so great that they had not been able to do much for primary education. This excuse would be accepted for the past year, but in future years it was to be hoped that the Commissioners would awake to the absolute importance of devoting funds to this most necessary work. Next to the two great requirements of good drinking water and efficient sanitation to ensure the health of the body, no duty was so incumbent on a Municipality as to provide sufficient opportunities for primary education. Here there were some 1,830 boys of a school-going age, and till very lately there was not one single primary school supported by the Municipality. This meant that their boys were being subjected to a very great drawback, and would be at a great disadvantage when in the great battle of life they had to compete with boys of other districts who had not been so unfortunately circumstanced. His Honor hoped the Commissioner would very soon see their way to altering this state of affairs. He was glad to see that one pathshala had recently been started but it would be necessary to start a good many more before they could consider the town to be in a satisfactory condition. Luckily primary education was very cheap, and sufficient provisions for their 1,830 boys could easily be supplied for less than one thousand rupees, so the cost of the measure was not really heavy for the resources of any Municipality who had the least pretensions to managing their finances well.

His Honor then came to the important question of the position of the Municipal Committee. In their address they had mentioned that the past year was the first in which they had enjoyed the full privileges of local self-government, so far as that existed in electing their own Chairman and Vice-Chairman. For the six previous years their Chairman and Vice-Chairman had been official, but during the past year both had been non-official. Their Chairman was a noble-

man of the town and a man of great liberality who had done a great deal by his contribution towards local drainage, and who as head of the local society was a most fitting person for the post. The Vice-Chairman was an able but perhaps somewhat too busy pleader of the town. Well, what had the results of these elections been? The Commissioners had in the address spoken with becoming modesty of their doings. They had said: "We regret to see that the Public Auditor has made an unfavourable report of this Municipality. We are sensible of the mistakes pointed out, and have applied for the services of an Auditor to put our accounts straight and to start afresh on a sound basis. We also intend to increase and reform our collecting staff, and have also taken measures to put our assessments on a proper footing under the guidance of our Magistrate." These sentiments were so excellent and so wise that it was difficult to say anything severe of the occurrence which had led to their necessity. He was most unwilling to use such an occasion as this—an occasion of friendly and cordial meeting, when the loyalty to Government which inspired them all found its expression in a cordial address to himself, which gave him sincere pleasure—for uttering any words of censure or reproof, and still more so when they had disarmed him by the cordial confession that they were alive to their own shortcomings. But, still, as a matter of history, for their own instruction as to the lesson to be learned from the past, as well as for the future guidance of other Municipalities in Bengal, it would not be wise to pass over too lightly the errors and failures of the past year's experiment. When local self-government was first instituted in the time of Lord Ripon, it was started with the full consciousness that mistakes would occur, for everyone in the world made mistakes, but it was also started in the belief that the experience which would be gained through these very mistakes would result in producing such experience and political training and knowledge of the art of Government

as would more than counterbalance any evil results." The Magistrate, Mr. Tute, had made a most careful inspection of the Municipality and its official records, and in his report had pointed out how the Municipal finance, sanitary conditions, and other matters had not merely fallen into arrears, but had actually gone back. He had pointed out how many sanitary improvements had been actually abolished and insanitation permitted to start afresh; how the Commissioners had decided that private tanks could not be cleaned out without a separate report for each and instructions as to the method of doing it from the Civil Medical Officer.

As these or similar tanks had existed and been cleaned for hundreds of years, surely such advice and instruction as how to do the work were unnecessary. The assessment of the town had been left in a most irregular condition, and the collections had fallen so much into arrear that at the end of the past year there was an uncollected balance of over Rs. 6,000. In the previous year when the Chairman had been a Government official, the total arrears had been some Rs. 1,100 only. Of course it was impossible to prevent having some arrears, owing to deaths, departures, and so forth, but the amount this year had been so large that it was satisfactory to find the Commissioners had recognised the error of their ways, and had resolved to take such steps that in future no such blame could be laid at their doors. Again, they had made an unfortunate mistake as regards the loan for the drainage of the town which had been provided, but which the Commissioners had resolved not to take up. They had recently changed their minds and applied for the loan, and His Honor had been compelled to reply that, as the whole sum provided in the budget for such loans had now been allotted, it was impossible to grant the request in the current year. This misfortune was due to their own procrastination, but it might have the advantage of saving them from the results of procrastination on future occasions. This spirit in which their

address had concluded was a very right and proper one, and it was very certain that with the assistance of Mr. Tute they would be able in future to avoid similar mistakes, and would experience but little difficulty in wiping off their arrears.

Reverting to the address of the District Board, His Honor mentioned the request that the Government would forego the interest due on the instalment of Rs. 40,000 for this year of the loan of two lakhs which had been taken up for permanent improvements. This instalment, they said, had been put aside and was not to be utilised for fear of necessity arising for meeting the expense of further relief works. His Honor said he had had no opportunity of consulting the Financial Department, but he was pretty certain that if they had drawn the advance from the Treasury, they could be allowed to refund it, and if it had not already been drawn there was no necessity for taking it this year, and in either case the charge for interest could be remitted. His Honor then concluded by again thanking those present for their friendly welcome, and assuring them how real a pleasure it had been to him to make their acquaintance.

REPLY TO ADDRESSES FROM INHABITANTS OF THE DISTRICT OF PURI.

"I have to thank you for the address of welcome you have just read, and for the kind manner in which you have greeted me on my arrival in this place. I must, however, confess to a feeling of regret that the terms in which I am about to reply are not of the kind one likes to employ on an occasion like the present, when the Municipal Commissioners are assembled to meet their Lieutenant-Governor; when they ordinarily have a report of good work and progress to present; and when it is the natural result of such a meeting that all should afterwards separate with an increased regard for each other. The present, however, is an occasion on which, while wishing to treat you with the utmost courtesy, I should be

failing in my duty, both to Government and to yourselves, were I not to explain in what way you have omitted to carry out your duties, and to point out to your shortcomings. I fully appreciate what you have said as regards the unusual difficulties with which you have to contend, and I admit that it must be often hard to carry out certain works in such a manner as not to offend the religious prejudices or principles of the people whom you represent. It would neither be right for you to offend those prejudices, nor for the Government even to ask you to do so, but there are many matters connected with good administration and sanitation, into which the question of religious prejudice does not in any way enter, and I would invite you to take much more active steps in these matters than you have hitherto been in the habit of doing. In the first place, you put forward the plea of poverty as an excuse for the present state of affairs, and say that, when the Lodging House Fund raises its contribution from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 6,000, supplemented by a possible grant of Rs. 2,000 from the District Board you hope to be able to carry out great improvements; but I wish to draw your particular attention to the amount of income which is already yours, and which you do not even take the trouble to collect. During the three-quarters which have elapsed of the year 1891, the demand on account of latrine-tax, house-tax and land-rent amounted to the sum of Rs. 28,000, but you only collected Rs. 14,500, or very little over half the amount due to you. Now what is the use of your talking of the works you are going to do with an increased grant of Rs. 4,000 from other sources when you do not take the trouble to collect Rs. 13,500 of the funds to which you are already entitled? These remarks refer to the income which you are entitled to collect. But that income ought to be increased. The present assessment of the town was settled in 1888, and in the year 1891 the time came round for a new assessment, when, very correctly, you divided up the town into different portions, and allotted one to every two

Commissioners, telling them to draw out lists of houses and to visit and assess them according to their true value. But having done this you did no more; the work was never carried out, and I am told that up to the present day not one single Commissioner has ever given in his record of re-assessment."

"Regarding the expenditure of the funds you have actually received, I do not feel called on to make very unfavorable remarks on the manner of its distribution. On education, however, I find you spend almost nothing; nothing is done for vaccination, and for registration but very little, your funds are limited, it is true, and I admit that the conservancy and cleaning of the roads necessitated by the great traffic caused by pilgrimages require an unusually large part of your available means; but it is necessary to point out to you how serious the results of these limitations are. You have hitherto only afforded a little aid to one Middle Vernacular School and one Girls' School, and you have recently promised the Magistrate to open some Primary Schools. What I would urge upon you is, that sufficient opportunities for primary education should be afforded for all boys of a school-going age, to enable them to receive sufficient education to hold their own in competition with the boys of other parts of Bengal. It seems to be a freely admitted fact among you all, that Orissa is very backward in the matter of education, and yet you have hitherto done almost nothing towards affording your boys improved facilities for acquiring education. Personally I should be very glad to find every office in Orissa filled with Urya officials, and I am sure that Mr. Toynbee, the Commissioner, agrees with me; but of course, Government are bound to accept the best candidate they can get. If a Bengali and an Urya candidate of nearly equal qualifications come forward, there is no doubt, but that the latter will be taken; but if the Bengali shows decided superiority, then, of course, Government is bound to accept him. I wish you, therefore,

to very seriously consider this question of providing larger means of education.'

"I have been speaking so far of the amount of money which you have spent; but now I would like just to look into the question whether it is well and judiciously spent. About 48 per cent. of your funds have been laid out on conservancy and road cleaning; but has all that might have been done with this money been actually done? Going through your town yesterday and to-day, I have found that most houses have cesspools which open on and discharge into the street. Such a filthy state of things I have seen in no other town in Bengal, and it is very certain there can be no possible offence to religious principles in altering this. The conservancy arrangements are at present of the poorest and most offensive type and the cesspools could be easily arranged to discharge their contents into reservoirs at the back of the houses instead of on to the street front. Most of your houses seem to be well and strongly built, standing on well-raised stone plinths, and you have therefore every element for a good drainage system, and yet the present state of things exists. The cost of these charges ought not to fall upon the Municipality, but they should be carried out at the expense of the owners of the houses. Then, again, the state of the public burial-ground for paupers has been described as horrible. Your Magistrate Mr. Allen, very rightly recommended you to build a burning place, and you erected a good *Chabutra* (platform) with surrounding walls for cremation; but as soon as the Magistrate went away on leave and turned his back, you turned yours also, and permitted the *Chabutra* to fall into disuse and disrepair. Now this sort of conduct is neither creditable to you nor to that system of local self-Government which has, perhaps, the reputation of being more flourishing and better appreciated in Bengal than in any other part of India. The next question is that of the four great sacred tanks in the town. Some of them are very fine, but at the same time the

water in them must be very unwholesome, and there can be very little doubt but that they are a great source of disease among the large number of pilgrims who come to them. It is very certain that something must be done to cleanse these large sacred tanks. The tank, which is the most sacred of all, called the Setgunga tank, is in the very midst of your houses, and as it is very deep and the water level is very low, it is therefore very foul, indeed; and yet the Municipal Commissioners do not seem even to have thought out any plan for cleaning it. Recently, during a visit to Gya, I came across just such another deep and foul tank surrounded by houses, but when it was pointed out to him, the Mohant at once promised to have it dewatered and cleaned out, and made no difficulty about the matter. Surely what was possible in Gya must be equally so here. It would be very gratifying, therefore, to hear that some wealthy Mohant or other gentleman had come forward and undertaken to do the work. If, however, this should not happen, the Municipality must do it themselves, and if they raise objections to the work, then Government must enforce it. It seems to me that the best and only method of cleansing and keeping the tank clean will be to put in some sort of pucca flooring, and to repair the masonry sides, so as to prevent any drainage entering the tank, and to have the water changed at least once a year."

"And, now, gentlemen, having drawn your attention to these matters, I must tell you that I have been very seriously considering what steps it will be necessary for the Government to take. The one course open under the present Municipal Act is to issue an order, under section 64, and if it is not obeyed, then under Sections 65 and 66 to suspend the Municipality; but this would have entailed great discredit on all concerned, and undoubtedly the vernacular papers would have taken up the subject and pointed at Puri the finger of scorn. But another course will very shortly be opened, for in an amended Municipal Bill, which is now being considered, there is a

proposal that Government should have power to put a Municipality into Schedule 2. There are already some municipalities under this schedule, but by some unfortunate oversight such a rule as is now being proposed was omitted in the original Act. I am anxious specially to draw your attention to this amending Bill, because I see that an agitation is being got up against it and people are saying that I am aiming a blow at Local Self-Government, and instituting a retrograde measure. This is a complete mistake, and the working of the Municipal law in Puri is a good example of the benefit which my proposed amendment will do. Instead of passing an order which will convey a direct and severe censure, a milder policy will be opened. When this amendment has been passed, Government will have the power to order any Municipality to be placed in the second schedule, and will then be able to order the Chairman to be a Government official, and to see that work is properly carried out. It would, however, be pleasanter and more satisfactory if you yourselves were to move in this direction, and ask your present Chairman to resign, and take care to appoint in his place an official who is trained in sanitary matters, and is strong enough not only to give the necessary orders, but to see also that they are efficiently carried out. Such an official will be found in your Civil Surgeon, who is naturally designated as the most suitable Chairman of such a municipality as this. I have no present intention of putting the power vested in Government under the old Act into operation by suspending the Municipality, but as soon as the new Act has been passed, I mean to appoint an official Chairman. If you choose to do so, you have the power to forestall my intention in the manner I have just suggested.

“Before closing this reply I wish to refer to another subject. There is sitting in Calcutta at the present time a voluntary Committee to take measures on behalf of the sanitation of Puri, and the town owes a great debt of gratitude to its members and especially to Babu Jadu Lal Mullick, and

Babu Raj Kumar Sarbadhikari, the Secretary, for all the trouble they have taken for the improvement of this place. I think, however, the Committee are somewhat mistaken in attributing to the water supply the cause of so much illness and suffering among the pilgrims. There is no dearth of wells containing good water in the town from which the residents obtain their supplies, and from which pilgrims also could get theirs, and if the residents do not suffer from the water, it cannot surely be said that the well water is the cause of disease among the pilgrims. There must, therefore, be some special cause affecting the pilgrims alone, as the Magistrate, Mr. Allen, has very justly remarked, and this cause no doubt is the insanitary habits of the pilgrims, and their custom of drinking the polluted-water of the sacred tanks in which diseased people bathe as freely as any other. No doubt, too, many of the pilgrims arrive from long distances, feeble and exhausted, and therefore more susceptible to disease. Mr. Allen has in a praiseworthy manner been devoting himself to the general welfare of these travellers before they reach Puri, and has been endeavouring to lessen the hardships of the road by establishing and improving chattries, by erecting hospitals, and appointing health-officers and special native doctors at the season the pilgrims are most numerous. The other probable cause of disease remains, and it is my intention to have a proper analysis made of the water in each of these large tanks, and also of the water from three or four of the most used wells. If the well water is found, as we believe, to be good, then the question must be considered as to whether there are sufficient wells, and if not, then more must be constructed. If the tank water is as bad as I conceive, every nerve must be strained to purify it, and keep it clean, and in these combined ways, by looking after the health of the pilgrims on the road to and from Puri, by protecting and increasing the supply of well-water, and by turning the tank from receptacles of liquid sewage to reservoirs of fair water.

some water, I trust we may succeed in lessening the terrible mortality among the unfortunate pilgrims, and effacing the stigma which now attaches to this place."

SPEECH IN THE VICEROY'S COUNCIL ON "THE COURT OF WARDS' AMENDMENT BILL.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal spoke as follows:—What had been said by the two Hon. Members who preceded him, Mr. Evans and Sir Phillip Hutchins, as to two of the main subjects under discussion, *viz.*, as to the power of the Court of Wards to intervene in the management of undivided shares in estates, and as to the general principle of allowing a proprietor to declare himself disqualified to manage his estate, had been so fully stated and so entirely accorded with his own views, that it was unnecessary for him to say anything more on those subjects. His Honor turned therefore to the third main subject of the day, the applicability of the certificate procedure to Wards' Estates, and would proceed with great pleasure to answer the challenge which had been thrown down by the Hon. Mr. Evans, who had practically asked from the head of the local Government a pledge that an executive order should issue preventing the use of the certificate procedure in a certain class of cases, and that the earliest possible opportunity should be taken to amend the Certificate Act in the same direction. His Honor answered that he gave that pledge with pleasure, and readily undertook to do what the High Court and the Hon. Member desired should be done. He fully agreed with what had been said by Mr. Evans as to the condition of things which generally was found to exist, when the Court of Wards first took over an estate of a deceased proprietor. They generally found that the estate was in a condition of great confusion, and the accounts and rent-roll were incorrect and untrustworthy. It was not a fair thing then for the ryot that the manager of an estate under the Court of Wards should have legal power given to him to

act upon the rent-roll and the lists of arrears and other papers, as if they were thoroughly proved and reliable, and to issue certificates and take out execution for rents due, and leave the onus of proof, that the rent was not due, upon the ryot. But while admitting that this was not the right position in which to place the ryot, he did not believe that the law had often or usually been worked so as to cause real injustice, and he was glad that the Hon. Mr. Evans had guarded himself from making a charge against the officers of Government, and had protected those officers from having a charge made against them which would have had no foundation. The Hon. Member very justly said that although the legal position of the ryot was an improper one, there was no doubt that the Managers of estates did their best to do justice, in spite of the temptation to show clean rent-sheets and a full collection of rents. The Rent Courts before which these requisitions came would, as a rule, be quite as careful to ensure that the decree was not made against the ryot upon insufficient grounds as a Civil Court would. His Honor thought his hon. friend had in some slight degree exaggerated the idea that the Managers of Wards' Estates were consumed with a desire to show their zeal and efficiency by a punctual collection of rents. It had been his duty to study and to review the annual report in which the Board of Revenue set forth the demands and collections in the Wards' Estates; and, as a matter of fact, that report showed that heavy arrears existed in many estates, and that it was a rare thing for the entire demand of the year to be collected within the year. If on any future occasion he should be inclined to attribute these arrears to laxity or neglect he would bear in mind his honorable friend's theory that the large balances are due, not to want of zeal, but to assiduous care to do justice, and he would abstain from censure accordingly. But leaving this point and returning to the main question, His Honor desired to state, in as clear language as was possible, what he intended to do to carry out the pledge

APPENDIX.

now given. He fully agreed that a summary procedure for unrecovery of rent was not a suitable process in any case where a dispute existed as to what the amount of the rent really was; and the order which he proposed to issue was that as soon as an Estate came under the Court of Wards, the first duty of the Court would be to carry out the provisions of Section 101 and the following Sections of the Bengal Tenancy Act, to make a settlement between landlord and tenant, including a field survey and the completion of the record of rights: and till the record of rights was made, and every dispute between landlord and ryot was definitely settled, he was of opinion that the certificate, or any form of summary procedure, was not justified. His Honor further undertook that he would take the earliest possible steps in conjunction with his legal advisers to carry out the amendment of the law so as to make the procedure under the Certificate Act agree with what he would prescribe by executive Resolution.

His Honor thought that the Hon. Member Mr. Evans had been very well advised in not pushing his objections to the certificate procedure to the extent of trying to bar the passing of this Bill or inserting provisions restricting the application of the Certificate Act in the case of the few estates which would be newly brought by this Bill under the Court of Wards. By the course he had taken he had ensured the extension of the revised procedure not only to the new estates, but to all those already under the Court or falling under the old law. But there was a still wider vista which might be opened out to them in connection with this matter. It was one which he thought was of considerable importance and he was glad of this opportunity of laying it before the Council. He came down to this Council having no doubt about the proposal which he was about to make: but, since he had been there, some slight doubt had crept into his mind, after what had fallen from the Legal Member. Sir Alexander Miller had expressed his opinion that a summary procedure might be

suitable for the recovery of the Government demand of revenue, but could in no way be suitable in the adjustment of a dispute between landlord and tenant. His Honor trusted when the Legal Member had an opportunity of seeing the great accuracy with which the record of rights under the Tenancy Act was made, and how distinctly every incident of the tenure was defined, and what care was taken to settle all disputes and record all the facts of the case, when the Hon. Member had satisfied himself on the subject, he would agree that a summary procedure might be allowed as safely for the recovery of rent as for the recovery of Government revenue. The Council were aware that the local Government were engaged not merely in the Cadastral Survey of these estates, as to which His Honor had pledged himself, but also in surveying a large portion of these provinces, and these operations had given rise to great anxiety on the part of many landholders and ryots. His Honor thought it would be some satisfaction to them, and some alleviation of their anxiety, if they could be assured that, as soon as these records of rights, which would be formed under the Bengal Tenancy Act, had been drawn up, some summary procedure, like that for the recovery of rents by Government, would be adopted and that landlords would practically obtain the same benefits in regard to the recovery of their rents as Government officers now had in regard to the recovery of rents in the estates which belonged to Government, and those which are under the management of the Court of Wards. There was a provision in the Tenancy Act under which rent suits below Rs. 50 may be tried summarily like Small Cause Court suits, but this provision had not been put in force hitherto, because rent suits generally have turned, not on the mere question whether the rent has been paid or not, but on the question how much the rent properly is, or whether rent is due at all. When once disputes of this sort had been cleared away, it seemed probable that the provision referred to might be utilised, or even that some simpler procedure might be invented.

HIS Honor promised that this subject should be taken in hand by the Bengal Government at the earliest opportunity, and he trusted that, with the sanction of the Government of India, he would be able to carry out measures or possibly to introduce a Bill of this kind which would extend the benefits to all classes and would do a great deal to remove the disputes and anxieties now arising between landlord and tenants, as well as to allay the opposition to the Cadastral Survey.

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