

LORD RIPON'S
RETIREMENT
FROM THE
VICEROYALTY

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THE PUBLIC MEETING
IN HONOUR OF
LORD RIPON
OR
HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE VICEROYALTY
AND
THE RECEPTION IN BOMBAY.

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A PUBLIC MEETING

OF THE
NATIVE INHABITANTS OF BOMBAY

HELD IN

THE TOWN HALL

On 29th NOVEMBER, 1884,

AND OF

THE PUBLIC RECEPTION GIVEN TO THE
MARQUIS OF RIPON ON HIS
ARRIVAL IN BOMBAY.

BOMBAY :

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to Sir Frederick the Nawab Sir Salim Jung
cc &c

With the compliments of the charging
master of the Marquis of Ripon
Reception & Memorial Fund

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LORD RIPON'S RETIREMENT FROM THE VICEROYALTY.

GREAT MEETING IN THE TOWN HALL.

It complies with a regulation made by the headling Parsoos, Hindus, and Mahomedan inhabitants of Bombay, a public Meeting of the Native Lohitians of Bombay was convened by the Sheriff, Mr. David Watson, in the Town Hall, on Saturday the 29th November 1884, for the purpose of adopting an Address to the Most Hon'ble the Marquis of Ripon, expressing the deep gratitude of the people of this City and of the whole Presidency of Bombay for the eminent services rendered by him to this country during the course of his career in high office of Viceroy and Governor-General of India, and to take measures to commemorate the esteem and admiration in which his Lordship is held by Her Majesty's Indian subjects.

The following are the names of the requisitionists representing all the various native communities of the city :—

[illegible][illegible]

Mr. DAVID WATSON, Sheriff, having read the notice convening the meeting, and having declared it a duly constituted invitation, he said he would not take up the time of the meeting with anything beyond the single remark that it afforded him much pleasure to see so large and influential an assemblage, as it was evidence of how strong and widespread among all classes of this great industrial community was the sentiment of loyalty to the British rule. Personally he confessed that he rather hesitated to the opinion that the Sheriff had perhaps better confine himself to calling only general meetings of all citizens which were not limited to any party, and meetings in which he, the Sheriff, could

of the meeting should be given to the chairman. The proposal was carried by acclamation.

At Mr. Pherozshah Mehta's suggestion, three cheers were given for Lord Ripon. Mr. Gopaljee Hormadji proposed another three for Lady Blyden. A round of cheers for the *Jamshedji Jejeebhoy* followed by raising cheers for the *Queen-Empress* terminated the proceedings.

(From the Bombay Gazette, Dec. 1.)

The meeting of natives which assembled in Bombay on Saturday to adopt an address to Lord Ripon abundantly confirmed the testimony which has been borne farther north and eastward to the merits of the retiring Viceroy. It was one of the largest gatherings that have been seen in Bombay for a long time past, and we cannot imagine how a more genuine manifestation of native opinion could possibly have been obtained. No one who saw it will for a moment suppose that it was a merely perfunctory demonstration of superficial enthusiasm. That is a view of the matter for which no encouragement whatever has been given in any of the great cities which have thus far done honour to Lord Ripon, and we suspect that it will not seriously be maintained even by those who are least in sympathy with the movement. Nor is it possible to speak of the address delivered at this meeting in any terms other than those of approval. There was much warmth in them, but there was also much discrimination and much good sense. The speakers not only said the right thing, and said it well, but they were very careful to refrain from saying the wrong thing, not to say a word was raised that could jar within the meeting itself or in other communities outside. Mr. Pherozshah Mehta's estimate of the groundwork, yet cautiously, progressive character of Lord Ripon's policy put it in a light in which neither European nor Natives need contemplate it with distrust. Rightly looked at it has been perhaps the least disturbing policy that has been adopted in India for some years past, and the policy most likely, moreover, to contribute to the permanence and vitality of the Imperial connection. Such, indeed, was the view which soon to have impressed itself upon Mr. Bradroden Tyabje, and there is something worthy of note in the observation of that gentleman that Lord Ripon had borne in mind that in pursuing a just policy towards this country he was at the same time strengthening and consolidating that connection. Nor did this observation stand alone as an indication that the promoters of the meeting were animated by one of the usual sentimentalism which is now and then imported to native recognition

of the services that Lord Ripon has rendered to the Empire. A plain protest against "impracticable sentiment" was delivered early in the meeting, and the speeches and the address which they supported showed that in Bombay, at all events, there was little need for disclaimers of that kind. Such a gathering as this prepares the way for the more selective recognition of Lord Ripon's services which will be made in Bombay three weeks hence, and goes far to guarantee that that recognition will be general, honest, and impressive.

Not only as representative of the people of Bombay, but of the great alluvial continent this comprised within the Western Presidency, the meeting on Saturday (23rd Nov. 1880) at the Town Hall was also remarkable as an impressive outburst of public enthusiasm in thanks giving, as one of the speakers appropriately termed it, for the spirit and measures of the departing Viceroy's administration. Had the walls of the hall been extended so as to reach double their present area, the crowds that sat down for part of Saturday's audience would still have been more than sufficient to fill the additional space. As it was, when every inch of platform and floor had been occupied, the masses packed the broad flight of stone steps leading up to the meeting room, backed up the wide roadway on both sides of the tramway lines, and then overflowed into the eastern end of the garden in the centre of Exhibition Drive.

As the approaches to the Town square, the Hall throughout the afternoon the multitude of natives presented a singularly animated spectacle. Especially striking was the view of the front-portion of the building, the staircase and garden, the colonnade downwards, with a mass of figures. Those who had marched down were still distinguishable by the grouped banners, the waving streamers and the bright scarlet uniforms of the witnesses, scattered elements of the procession. Beside the hall one looked over hundreds of turbaned heads towards the raised platform, where the men of light and helmet stood lightly upon the "check" just" with a lack of interest in the blue and gold of the great organs which constituted the material of the Duke of Edinburgh's visit. Undoubtedly the Parades were in the majority in the assembly, as they also furnished the greater number of the speakers; but whilst the disciples of Zoroaster came in hundreds, Dostoes and laymen, elders and students, the Hindu caste were represented by scores.

The Shroffs of Banarash and Bhalas, matter and although the Mussulmans were perhaps fewer in number, the more weighty members of their community were to be recognized in the winter of duty, and having read the regulation in accordance with which he had conceived the meeting, took his departure with a brief expression of confidence in the loyalty and good order of those he left behind. In the subsequent proceedings therefore no European was present. To nominate Sir Jamshedji Jejeebhoy as the president of the

meeting, a proposal made with animation, was the work of a few moments; and with his hand at the front of the platform, the Parson himself struck the keynote of the session in the spirit of deep emotion which characterized the delivery of his brief and stirring address. He showed that they were taking part in an historic movement, and stated as the special distinction of Lord Ripon that to a greater degree than could be said of any of his predecessors, his departure was anticipated in India with keen interest. Their plain duty, and told them in plain terms, was not to contrast these services with expressions of gratitude, but to perpetuate the name and administration of such a Viceroy by some permanent memorial. Towards this object, he was able to add, contributions had already been promised to the extent of Rs. 10,000. According to the arrangements we have thus far made, resolutions were to follow, three speakers being allotted to each of the first four, so that eighteen had lined the audience before the agenda became completed. It speedily became evident that the very success of the meeting in one respect worked unfortunately to a certain degree worse in another. At three o'clock standing room could not have been obtained with any expectation of comfort. The Right Hon. Sir James Fergusson, who had been long been possessed, but from without the crowd was still pressing through the open doorway. Behind the platform were a few hundred seats, but their holders became unable to resist the pressure on all sides, and the inner space next the speakers became gradually narrowed until it seemed that every inch of the floor was as good as taken away altogether. Not the slightest footstapling having been given in the probability of such a contingency, it was not until about half-past six that the first ranks to take up a position of greater security on the edge of the platform, the reporters being left to fight for breathing space, and to perch on their knees as best they could when lashed in by the crush. From on into the building occasional bursts of music came from the bands, generally at most inopportune moments. From a corner of the interior the noise of a piano were made to grate the impassioned periods of a speaker in the first resolution, and in the midst of the early emotional flow, a short stand still was necessary during a diversion caused by the sudden entrance of a number of Europeans. Their display of painted motes in a uniformly blue gown grazed from "India" was more Lord Ripon's to "Long Live Lord Ripon," and the latter having been recognized in terms by means of a stand place, ranging themselves beneath the gallery the banner-bearers evolved a loud burst of cheering as they waved their beaming in the air. Some being deterred by such interruptions, others meeting at their inability with the utmost good grace, the speakers one after another entered the character of the closing administration for which they had nothing but praise, and after trying to by the most rational best-prepared that the Viceroy's measures and policy came out like three red-hot gobs the better for each process. Some sentimentalism he left behind. In the subsequent proceedings therefore no European was present. To nominate Sir Jamshedji Jejeebhoy as the president of the

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tions as those of one of the contending speakers that their hero came "almost like a dervish free from every taint of selfishness" and "to rule over us almost in the spirit of an angel" standing nearly alone in extravagance, at which the assembly showed their impatience and disapproval.

In a speech consisting of several eloquent passages, the Hon. Rudradas Tyabjee led off the array and raised the first resolution, placing on record the deep sense of gratitude entertained by the natives of Western India for the eminent services rendered to India by the Marquis of Ripon. Mr. P. M. Mehta, seconded the motion in an address more carefully elaborated, but strikingly effective, his points speakers would have been easily lost. Perhaps his happiest illustration was the repetition of the conversation between Lord-General Briggs and Mountstuart Elphinstone, whose statue immediately faced Mr. Mehta. The reception of Mr. Dadabhai Naorojee who succeeded was rendered the more pronounced for contrast against the purpose of the demonstration. As he concluded, the chairman rose, and putting the resolution it was adapted with enthusiasm, as was the case with those following it. As the address had already been published the Rao Bahadur V. N. Mandlik, who moved its adoption, dispensed with reading it. His announcement of the presence of the mutual delegates of the contributions presented by the Kattiwar princes renewed the cheers, which had greeted the Rao Sahab on presenting himself. A spirited speech followed from the Hon. K. T. Telang, who for the second time at the meeting had Telang's famous declaration under contribution for a quotation. Mr. Javeril touched on a subject which by common consent seemed to have been left for its ablest exponent, and explained the significance of the last reforms of Lord Ripon's Government. In the next resolution the proposed memorial to the Viceroy was formally submitted

by Mr. Naorojee Furdojee who waived the claim to a lengthy hearing to which he was entitled, and in a few words explained that the proposal was to establish a technical college in Bombay in association with the name of Lord Ripon. His second, Mr. Trilokchand Mangaldas Nathoojee, did not follow Mr. Naorojee's example. The press of people had now reached the platform, and the heated atmosphere was almost insupportable. Near the chairman a few gentlemen flanking themselves vigorously provoked in others a feeling akin to that which affected the American students when addressed by the author of "The Rigour Papers," who earned their destination because he had brought his fan and they had been less thoughtful of their own comfort. The total absence of Europeans was commented on by Mr. Bengalis in making the appointment of a Committee, to be composed of Hindus, Mussulmans, Parsis, and native Christians—a fact, he observed, the more regrettable as Lord Ripon had been by no means wanting in love to the land of his birth. Mr. Narsaibay Dnyanoojee Jeejeebhoy fell a victim to the impetuous spirit aroused—of the prosecution of which he was certainly guilty—and was obliged to curtail his remarks. Nothing daunted, Mr. Naorojee Dadabhai declined to follow a similar public course. A friendly suggestion was made that the audience was not disposed to hear him. He at once emphatically repudiated the insinuation. "I say say they are disposed to hear me, they will follow me throughout." These sufficiently ear to appreciate the incident laughed heartily, their spirit became infectious, and Mr. Dadabhai's assertion proved to be justified, as he was listened to very indolently, and his generation cheered to the echo. With the passing of other resolutions of a more formal character, the demonstration was brought to a close, and with cheering for the Queen and Emperor, the Marquis of Ripon, and the speakers, the vast post-huge quietly dispersed. The meeting had lasted just over two hours.

The arrival was intended to be a private one at the Parel Station of the G. I. P. Railway, and the arrangements in connection with it were made from Government House. The up-platform of the station was gaily decorated with flags and bunting; and the orthodox sentinel broadcloth covered the floor. Mr. Barnett, the Agent, Mr. Coole, the General Traffic Manager, the Rev. Dr. Evans, Railway Chaplain, and the Hon. Rudradas Tyabjee were among those present at the station. Sir James Fergusson, accompanied by Captain Doon, Military Secretary, and Captain Boyle, aide-de-camp, came to the station shortly before the time when the special with the Viceroy party was expected to arrive. In the road near the station a guard-of-honour, consisting of 100 rank and file of the Railway Volunteers, was drawn up under the command of Captain Middleton. In the public road leading to the station, a large crowd of townspeople had assembled to get a glimpse of the Viceroy's party while on their way to Government House. The special

[From the BOMBAY GAZETTE.]

THE MARQUIS OF RIPON IN BOMBAY.

THE ARRIVAL AT PAREL.

THE Marquis and Marchioness of Ripon got a foremost of their reception in Bombay some miles away from the city. The special train was purposely slowed when passing Oorah, where more than 4,000 of the operatives of the New Dharanagar Mills were congregated. They lined the entire wayside which connects the islands of Bombay and Salsette, displaying numerous flags, banners, and devices, and headed by a band. The occupants of the train were saluted with a burst of cheering and as Lord Ripon's carriage passed, garlands and showers of flowers were showered upon it. His lordship looking outside the car to acknowledge the warmth of the greeting. The work-people had taken their stand on the wayside left and right of a portrait of Lord Ripon, executed by Mr. Fakirji Dhanrajji, beneath which his lordship was described in bold letters as "Conqueror of Indian hearts." Among the notices as the banners, which also conspicuously showed the name of the Dharanagar Mill, were "Welcome to Bombay," "Supporter of Indian Industries," "God bless Ripon," "Long live Ripon," "Forward Ripon," "God-speed ye," and "India wants more Ripons." The operatives returned to the wall after the train had passed, with shouts of "Lord Ripon-joy!"

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steamed into the station precisely at 2 p.m., Bombay time, when the saluting battery at Ajolli-bunder fired a salute of 31 guns in honour of Lord Ripon's arrival. His lordship, who appeared to be in the best of health, was the first to get out of the train, and heartily shook hands with Sir James Fergusson. He also shook hands with Captain Doon, Captain Boyle, the Rev. Dr. Evans, the Hon. Mr. Rudradas, Mr. Barnett, and Mr. Coole, who were introduced to his lordship by Sir James Fergusson. As the Marchioness got out of her carriage, some of those present were introduced to her ladyship, whose first words, spoken to one of them, were—"It is delightful up here." In addition to the Marquis and Marchioness of Ripon, the undersecretaries official came by the special train:—Mr. Finlason, Private Secretary; the Rev. Father Kerr, chaplain; Surgeon Major and Mrs. Anderson; Captain Rockford and Lieut. St. Quintin, aides-de-camp; also Colonel Wain, superintendent of the Railway Police, and Mr. Wright, Traffic Superintendent, who went in charge of the special that took Lord Dufferin to Calcutta. Three Government House carriages, each drawn by a pair of horses, had been brought to the station. In the first of these sat the Marquis and Marchioness of Ripon, with Captain Rockford and Captain Doon; and in the others were Sir James Fergusson, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Finlason, Surgeon Major Anderson, and Captain Boyle. As the carriages drove away, the Volunteers presented arms and gave three hearty cheers of welcome for Lord and Lady Ripon. These cheers were taken up by the multitudes collected in the roads, and for some minutes the words "Lord Ripon-joy!" resounded far and wide. A guard-of-honour consisting of 100 rank and file of the 20th Regiment was drawn up in the courtyard of Government House, Parel, and presented arms as the Viceroy's carriage drove up under the portway.

First Day, 18th December, 1884.

ACCORDING to an interpretation which has been put upon the programme, the Marquis and Marchioness of Ripon broke their journey at Parel on Wednesday afternoon; and the good folk of Bombay had, therefore, in deference to the desire of Sir James Fergusson, to restrain for some twenty hours, their feelings of devotion to the retiring Viceroy and their eagerness to demonstrate, in all the proceedings adopted

the desire of the people of this great city to connect with the people of other (cheers)—for I am glad to accept of the great importance of technical education everywhere and especially in India. (More cheering.) There is no country in the world, perhaps, in which it is so important that manufactures should spring up, and that industries should flourish, so that the pressure of population on the land may be relieved and new means of employment may be opened to the masses of the people. Therefore I trust, and I have every reason to believe, that this question of technical education will receive adequate attention from our educational authorities. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, there is one branch of education in respect of which I have been able to touch less than I should have liked, in which I feel a very deep interest, and that is female education. (Cheers.) The subject, we all know, is a difficult one. Many very agreeable to me to perceive that it is attracting a large amount of attention among intelligent men in this country, and to observe the efforts which are being made at Poona and elsewhere for the establishment of efficient female schools. The difficulties of the question make it necessary that the Government of India should proceed with caution in regard to it. It is for you, gentlemen, to come forward, for you to show the way to the Government, for you to prove what may be done for general acceptance, and then you will feel every Indian Government ready enough to help you. (Cheers.) May I be permitted to say that everything which concerns the position of women in India is of vital importance? (Renewed cheers.) The Government of the present are already in this matter. (Cheers.) Let me ask you earnestly to lay to heart that first of social problems. (More cheering.) Gentlemen, I shall have an opportunity to mention again the subject of self-government, and I will therefore content myself now with expressing the satisfaction which I feel at the successful progress of the movement already in this matter. (Cheers.) The elections for municipalities which have recently taken place in the Upper Provinces of India, in Bengal, in the Central Provinces, and in Gujarat, have all had as well, so far as I am able to learn, of a highly satisfactory character, and give promise of a gratifying result for the policy the Government with which I have been connected is pursuing in this matter. And I am quite sure that it is a few months when the measure, with the view of carrying out the Acts recently passed in this Presidency shall have been completed and brought into full execution, results at least equally satisfactory will attend their application in Bombay. Our object, gentlemen, briefly stated, in the policy we have pursued in this matter, has been to encourage self-activity among the people, to afford the means of training themselves for the management of their own local affairs, and to secure in that administration that best interest, supervision, and care which it is the object of Government to attain in the famous decentralization Resolution which will form one of the noblest monuments of his distinguished Viceroyalty. (Cheers.) And gentle-

men, when the work is completed here, when your local boards are established in the various districts of this great Presidency, let me beg you as my last request connected with this subject, in which I have felt so deep and keen an interest, to turn your attention to the question—what it may be in some corner of the road, but of the greatest magnitude for the benefit of the mass of the people—in the question of village sanitation. (Cheers.) I love that many inquiry to the work of Local Boards in Bombay. (Local cheering.) Gentlemen, I cannot think all the separate deputations, so numerous as they have been, have appeared before me to-day—I cannot think them separately, this would not permit it nor could my powers avail it; but I must express the great pleasure with which I have heard that some of these deputations have been really composed of actual cultivators of the soil. (Cheers.) I told you in 1880 the first object of my administration would be to promote the welfare of the masses of the people, and therefore it is pleasant indeed to see that those for whom I have laboured are here to tell me that my work has not been in vain. (Local cheers.) But I must say a word or two to you, gentlemen of Madras, for you have come far looked to do us the honour of presenting us with your address to-day. I heartily thank you. I shall not accept the text of your address, but you gave me last winter, and I receive this further proof of your regard and attachment with the utmost gratification. Gentlemen from Salem, rejoice to meet you under happier circumstances than those which existed when we met before. (Cheers.) But you must allow me to remind you that you do not owe your foremost thanks to me for the release of those in whom you were so much interested. I cordially approved and heartily rejoiced over the measures which the Madras Government took in that matter, and I was in communication with them about it; but it was the first act of the Madras Government, and to my right hon. friend, Mr. Grant Duff, your first thanks are due. (Cheers.) And now, gentlemen, I am not going to speak to the majority of this great assembly, I want to say a few words to a limited number; they are words that I am glad to say, for this is the first occasion upon which I have had the opportunity to vindicate one portion of my conduct which has been greatly assailed. I cannot but regret, the degradation from the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Society of Madras, that I am deeply grateful for your presence here to-day—(cheers)—because it shows that you at least have rightly understood the real feelings of the Government of India, and that, in spite of the efforts that have been made to injure that Government in the minds of the Anglo-Indian and Eurasian population, you have seen and have deeply comprehended the real feelings by which we have been animated. (Local and continued cheering.) It might perhaps have been needless that among one of the early measures of my administration was the issue of a Resolution for the promotion of education among Anglo-Indians and Eurasians. That Resolution was not received with perfect favour by a large portion of the native community. They criticised it somewhat sharply, but I perceived in it because I believed that by it we were doing an act of justice to one portion of the

community. Enlightened by the inquiries of that able man, Ambrosian Bay, whose services I sincerely have been lost to India, we put forth measures which I hope will bear increasing fruit to the benefit of the community to which I am alluding. Then, gentlemen, there was another Resolution which was regarded, I will not say, so far as that goes, slightly as it was calculated to interfere with the prospects of that community. I speak of what is known as the Roovers Resolution. Well, the time has come when I may tell the whole truth of that story, and I will do it now, because it will be told next Saturday in the Government Gazette. For long years under successive Governments and for different portions of the Secretary of State for India has been impressing upon the Government of India the erroneous fact that there did not appear to be a single pure native of India among those who obtained guaranteed appointments from the College at Roover. The Secretaries of State, one after another, said—and I quite agree with them—that that was a highly satisfactory condition of affairs, and they pressed upon that measures should be taken to remedy it by confining those guaranteed appointments not to statutory natives of India, but to race of pure Anglo-Indian blood alone. We were disinclined to take that step, because we were very reluctant to draw any distinction between those who under the law are called natives of India, but we felt that a system which so worked as to prevent the great mass of people from obtaining any benefit from it was a system which could not be defended. And at last we came to the conclusion that we would fill the holding of the Secretary of State, and in accordance with that we took other measures which we believed would be calculated to render it more easy for natives of India in the ordinary sense of the word to come in and have the advantages of education in that college. When that Resolution was published, we received many representations that it would work hardly to those whom it excluded from guaranteed appointments. We sent forward those representations, and we felt bound to tell the Secretary of State we thought there was much justice in them. But what we said, was the real difficulty of it was this: from a variety of circumstances the number of guaranteed appointments being composed for annually has greatly decreased, and it is not possible to open these appointments freely to the whole class of statutory natives of India without risking to exclude one portion of them or the other. Therefore, we said, the true remedy for this is to increase the number of appointments, and then you can remove free competition among those when the law calls natives of India. (Cheers.) Well, it took some time to press our views upon the authorities in London, but we have at length succeeded in doing so; and next Saturday's Gazette, while it will increase the total number of guaranteed appointments to be given away, will also more freely open them to all statutory natives of India. (Prolonged cheering.) I may be permitted to say one word with respect to the address from a very limited body, the address which was presented to

me by the native Christian community. I heartily thank them for it, and for their recognition of the special character of my administration. This brief sketch, gentlemen, of the work which we have been doing during the last half-year—half years does not cover the whole ground, but it is, I think, sufficient to show that during that not very prolonged space of time good and substantial work has been accomplished by the Government with which I have been associated. (Cheers.) But, gentlemen, you would be much mistaken if you were to attribute to me alone the work which has been done. Throughout the whole of my Viceroyalty I have received valuable support from my colleagues of the Executive Council. I have been aided in almost every way and most friendly co-operation with them, and on this, as upon other occasions, tender them my warmest thanks. It is not to them alone that my hearty thanks are due; and now as I stand upon the western shores of India, and shall quit this land for ever in a few hours, the time has come when I must express my grateful acknowledgments to those members of both branches of the services, and of all ranks, from whom I have received valuable assistance in so many ways. (Cheers.) And first and foremost here I must tender those thanks to you, Sir James Fergusson (turning to the Governor and his colleagues) for the noble assistance and support which you have given me. Even in the midst of all the gratifying circumstances of a day like this, few words have been more pleasant than those in which you have been pleased to recognise the friendly character of our relations. (Renewed cheers.) For that support in which your able colleagues have shared I shall feel ever grateful. I shall also readily with gratitude the aid which many men throughout the country who have at heart the interests of the natives of this land as truly as I have myself, have afforded to me from day to day. My work in India, as for my work in India, I trust is done. Their will be, continue, and to them, under the control and guidance of that eminent, enlightened, and just statesman by whom it has been so long guided, I leave the management of the administration, is for you to turn. Having spoken of those with whom I have served, I must say a word or two about those who have been the real difficulty of my work. I have had the honour to fill. The officers of this great city in this address, for which I am so deeply grateful, need in the midst of their warm and hearty language, some of these gentlemen might seem to imply that they thought that I, and I alone, had brought into practical application principles which had hitherto been only observed in theory and formal part of administrative declarations. But, gentlemen, the principles upon which I have acted, and which were laid down more than fifty years ago by authority of Parliament, have guided the policy and directed the action of the most eminent of my predecessors. The work of each Viceroyalty necessarily differs with the varying circumstances of the time. The tasks to which I have been addressed, great work which have come naturally before me in the course of public business, and I have dealt with them in the same spirit as that which directed the acts of Charles Metcalfe and William

followed from the armada of barge boats which had now come up. But the Clive was already under weigh, and the surrounding craft tamed their heads homeward with one accord. Darkness came on with such rapidity that in a moment all the outlines on the shore became of pitchy blackness. The lampoons on Colaba Point, the Memorial Church, the great square cotton presses bordering the Green, the University Hall and Tower, and the massy structures in the Fort stood out like silhouettes against the dawning glory of the western sky. Here and there masses of tiny twinkling lights were all that showed of the illumination throughout the island. The people lining the wharves and landers were completely hidden out as the vessel stood out of the harbour, and the Ezerahs were only dimly visible as in passing their faces from her deck showed records of cheering and the strains of "Home, Sweet Home." A counting steamer decked with flags and crowded with passengers steamed aloft by side with the Clive for a few miles and then the lights of the harbour, the barge floating lanterns from the Sunk Back, and the steadily burning lamp from the Kennedy Island shore remained to point out the position of the city of Bombay to those on board. At Lord Ripon's request, several native gentlemen were invited to Government House on Saturday, and were thanked by his lordship for their exertions during his sojourn in Bombay. The Hon'ble Sir James George Jeejeebhoy, Mr. Dalshibey Norwidge, Mr. Puroshab M. Mehta, the Hon'ble Mr. B. T. Rajbaj, had private interviews during the forenoon, while Mr. Dinshab M. Pata, the Hon'ble Rao Sahib V. N. Masulk, Mr. Verjeejeebhoy Mahadwar, Kama Bahadur M. C. Murzban, Mr. Sonaljee Franjee Patel, and Mr. Hortimessdas Narandas were together introduced to his lordship by the Governor. On Thursday morning Hal Jeebh, wife of Mr. Fakirjee Manjeebhay Patel, was among others received at Government House, when she presented to Lord Ripon a well executed portrait of his lordship. The Marquis, in return, presented to Hal Jeebh, a lithograph likeness of himself.

(From the Bombay Gazette, Dec. 18.)

It was the intention of the leading members of the different native communities in Bombay to testify their devotion to Lord Ripon by taking his horses from his carriage when he was on his way to embark, and drawing him themselves from the Queen's Statue to the Apollo-bustler. His Excellency the Governor feared that the excitement to which this proceeding might give rise would occasion confusion, and he recommended that the idea should be abandoned. The mill-owners and merchants who proposed to pay Lord Ripon this unusual tribute on his departure were unwilling to abandon their intention, and they telegraphed to his lordship to obtain his per-

mission. Lord Ripon has, however, replied that he is deeply sensible of their good-will, but that he is obliged to ask them to abstain from drawing his carriage as they proposed.

(From the Bombay Gazette, December 19.)

LORD RIPON'S speech to the innumerable deputations who were massed in the Town Hall yesterday was an elaborate and telling vindication of the policy, and the principles which underlay it, of the four years and a half of his Viceroyalty. The addresses which were presented were upwards of seventy, and the reading of them would have occupied fifty-five hours had they not been taken as read. This is to say, the process would have lasted from 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon till 2 to-morrow evening—a period longer, probably, than any of the recent sittings devoted by the House of Commons to the discussion of Irish affairs. To abridge the operation and give time for yet other addresses and demonstrations of esteem and sympathy elsewhere, it was wisely arranged by His Excellency the Governor—to whose skill and courtesy in the overcoming of difficulties the ex-Viceroy paid a compliment which was not only grateful, but well deserved—that while the address from the great meeting of all sections of the native community in the Town Hall and the address from Madras should be read, the accuracy of all other addresses should be simply presented to Lord Ripon, who would reply to them all in one speech. Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy read the long and well written address sent from the Town Hall meeting—which Sir James Fergusson pronounced to be one of the most remarkable meetings that ever took place in Bombay. The head of the Parsee community proved that he shared with some others of his community the not very common gift of clear and well-arranged diction, the address and the short and well put personal prologue which preceded it being delivered in a manner which left nothing to be desired, but that the acoustic qualities of the Town Hall were better. The addresses—which were for the most part very tastefully illuminated—were generally in silver or other caskets, some of which were very richly chased. The presentation of these—the mere placing them in succession in Lord Ripon's hands—occupied a considerable time. When all preliminaries had been got through, Lord Ripon rose, and

after an interval which was filled with applause, again and again renewed, he proceeded to deliver a speech which will hereafter be referred to as a singularly comprehensive vindication of his aims and methods.

In the course of his speech, Lord Ripon went very completely over the whole ground covered by the various measures of his administration. He referred first to the policy pursued, as he showed successfully, with regard to Afghanistan. When he came to India, war was in progress in the Afghan country, and he felt it to be his first duty to bring the contest to an honourable close. It was the desire of the Government at home that there should be across the frontier a friendly and independent Afghanistan. He claimed that that object had been to a large extent attained, and he pointed, as a convincing proof of the changed feeling of the Afghans towards the British Government, to the fact that a small body of British officers and British troops had made a peaceful and successful march through the outlying districts of Afghanistan amid the most turbulent tribes who acknowledge the sway of the Amir. It may be admitted that at no former period would it have been deemed prudent to trust a Boundary Commission with an insignificant escort in the Afghan wilds. His lordship added that Afghanistan had recovered independence in regard to her internal administration, and that the relations of the Government of India with that of Afghanistan were never more friendly and cordial than at present. As soon as the settlement of the Afghan difficulty brought complete tranquility within and without, his Government was able to devote attention to the needs of internal improvement which had been brought to his attention by the Bombay Corporation when he landed here. The first need was to adjust the state of the finances. In speaking on this topic his lordship generously declared that in the course of his labours to ascertain the state of things he found no proof whatever of the very grave charges which were brought at one time against Lord Lytton's Government, and especially against Sir John Strachey. But he attributed to the earnest efforts of Sir Evelyn Baring—the mention of whose name elicited loud cheers from the meeting—that the Government had been able to restore public confidence in the soundness of Indian finance, while at the same time making larger reductions in taxation than had been made at any period in Indian history. He very effectively referred to the manner in which he disregarded the harsh criticisms by which the abolition of the cotton duties had been subjected, as a proof that his Government

had never taken account of either popularity or clamour when carrying out measures which seemed to them wise and beneficial. Lord Ripon, as we have said, took a comprehensive survey of the work done during his Viceroyalty. We need not follow him here, for his speech will be read in another column. The enunciation of the great principles which he declared had throughout inspired his policy were very eloquent and impressive. This policy, he believed, would be that also of his earnest successor, as it had been that of Metcalfe, and Bentinck, and Canning, and Mayo, and Northbrook. The principles which underlay it were, he declared, nobler than those which Virgil in his great verses affirmed to be those of Rome in her greatness—to give the world the habit of peace, to spare the humble, and to confound the proud. The higher mission of England was to civilise the peoples committed by Providence to her care, and raise them to the scale of nations.

The other great ceremony of the day awakened the enthusiasm of a smaller circle, but of the cordiality of the demonstration of good-will that was given to Lord Ripon in the Convention Hall of the University there could be no doubt. Mr. Justice Wood's graceful record, of the leading incidents in Lord Ripon's public life, and his skillfully conceived survey of the guiding principles of his Indian policy, claims notice as an example of the conclusions to which a mind habitually given to an analytical and deliberate view of things can come, in regard to a chapter of history that it was not always dispassionately considered. It met with so sympathetic a response that it was not without reason that the six Viceroy interpreted his admission to the highest honour at the disposal of the University as a sign of approval of his general policy. He was, in any event, right in accepting the compliment as an endorsement in particular of his educational policy, of which he gave a brief, but adequate, and in some of its passages, a striking and eloquent, vindication. More than once during his recent progress Lord Ripon has expounded the principles upon which his Government have sought to deal with the question of higher education. His speech at Aligarh College affords a useful commentary upon some of the leading paragraphs in the recent Resolution of the Government. But Lord Ripon's tendency went somewhat further than he had done in his previous expositions of educational policy. He dealt with the question of education, not so much as one complete in itself, but as one which at every point touches some of the greater problems of public policy. "It seems to me," he said, "that it is little short of folly to throw open to increasing numbers the rich stores of

Western learning; that we should inspire them with European ideas, and bring them into closest contact with English thought; and that then we should pay no heed to the growth of those aspirations which we have ourselves created, and to the spread of those ambitions which we have ourselves called forth." There was, indeed, a political significance in the intellectual conditions which the educational movements of recent years have called into existence. Lord Ripon's statement of that special aspect of the question is as brief as it is lucid. "How to afford such satisfaction to the new aspirations and to the new ambitions as to render the men who are animated by them the hearty advocates and loyal supporters of the British Crown, was, he said, one of the most important questions with which Indian statesmanship could occupy itself. And he went on to say that in such considerations as those that those who could seek for it might find an explanation of much of the policy which he had pursued in this country. We believed that it will be extremely difficult for Lord Ripon's critics to offer an effective rejoinder to this essentially philosophical vindication of that portion of his work which has been most vigorously assailed. It at least throws down to them a challenge which not many of them can be disposed to take up. Will they be content with having led the youth of India into an intellectual exposure—and contentment with so unsatisfying a result as that would be plainly unreasonableness—or, again, will they advocate a retracing of the steps that have been taken for the higher education of the rising generation? We know they are not prepared for this—we suspect they are not even disposed for it. Will they not recognise the obvious inconsistency that there would be between a policy which on the one hand fostered the intellectual life of the country, while on the other it closed to natives of intellect the careers in which their abilities can be exercised to the greatest good of the Empire? Such is the reflection to which Lord Ripon invited his critics in the address which he delivered in the University Hall.

(From the Times of India, Dec. 19.)

This speech delivered by Lord Ripon at the Bombay Town Hall yesterday was one of the most impressive, if not one of the most important, he has ever delivered. And, indeed, the surroundings and associations of the last few days, especially perhaps of the last few hours, would have made any speaker eloquent. Ever

since last Monday morning, wherever Lord Ripon's train has stepped, the platforms have been crowded with deputations, bringing him from far and wide memorials of gratitude for his sympathy to Indian people. Yesterday itself he drove from Government House to the Town Hall through streets that were decorated and densely crowded in his honor, and though here, as in Calcutta, none of the European Houses bore signs of rejoicings, the contrast only threw the native enthusiasm into stronger relief. Lord Ripon will, we dare say, never forget two cheers that greeted him when coming from Elphinstone Circle, itself a sea of tarlatan, into the Town Hall, the whole of an immense audience rose to greet him with shouts and cheers. The audience contained deputations representing in all one hundred and fifty-eight bodies of memorialists, and coming from nearly all the parts of India through which he has not lately passed—Sind, Madras, Hyderabad, and Bangalore, and many other equally distant places, as well as from every city and town and district in the Bombay Presidency itself. Only the Bombay address and two or three of the more important addresses foreign to this Presidency were actually read in the hall. The rest were brought up one by one in an almost infinite variety of strange and valuable caskets and laid at Lord Ripon's feet, and before the proceedings were closed he promised that he in his turn would lay them at the feet of the Queen-Emress as a proof of the loyalty and devotion of her subjects, and he undertook to say that such a tribute would deeply touch the warm heart of his Royal Mistress. Lord Ripon's speech, though it was the fullest, frankest, and, if we may say so, the most heart-spoken of any of his utterances in public, was happily and even singularly free from controversial matter. Once only did he refer directly to those who had criticised his measures, and held that in spite of his high endeavours he had actually accomplished little. "To you, gentlemen, I appeal," cried he, turning to the audience, "and with your verdict I will rest content." Of course this passage was greeted with the most vociferous applause, and so was another passage, in the delivery of which he seemed almost equally affected. He thanked the Eurasian journalists from Madras from the bottom of his heart, and he thanked them all the more because they stood there lonely and solitary, amid a mass of native faces. With the speech itself we do not propose to deal here. But the movement that has filled our streets, and has brought tributaries together from the remote corners of the empire, is a strange and significant innovation. Nothing like it has

ever been seen before, and it must, we think, be acknowledged that for the first time in Indian history the people of India have learned how to demonstrate and agitate as a whole, and irrespective of caste or race. This gratitude they are anxious to exhibit in return for a Viceroy's sympathy and good-will is a lesson that other Indian statesmen, however much they differ from Lord Ripon in politics, may well say to heart. It has been accepted at its true value by the European population of Bombay, who without changing any of the opinions they before expressed, are endeavouring to follow their Governor in that tact and courtesy, which will, we have no doubt, do much to render Lord Ripon's last three days in India one of his pleasant memories by and by.

(From the Bombay Gazette, Dec. 20.)

THE foundation-stone of the new Municipal Buildings was laid on Friday by Lord Ripon under the happiest conditions. As a ceremony nothing could have been better ordered or more appropriate, and everything passed off with such regularity that for the moment everybody forgot that the stone which was being laid was the commencement of a building of which not even the plans have been determined upon. The occasion was one of signal importance as an incident in the history of Bombay; it derived an additional and a larger interest from the fact that the chief actor in it had done perhaps more than any statesman to foster the germs of that municipal life of which the new buildings will be a stately token. There is—or should be—a philosophy in all ceremonial; and when Lord Ripon was asked to lay the foundation-stone of a Municipal Hall for Bombay, the thought which prompted the request must have been that he who had done so much to found the political fabric, might well be invited to end his work in India by placing the first stone in a material edifice in which the municipal agencies of a great Indian city will, for generations to come, have their home and centre. No choice that the Corporation might make could have been so appropriate. Nor, on the other hand, could more appropriate use have been made of the opportunity than Lord Ripon made of Friday afternoon's ceremonial. The historical allusions with which he opened his address were more than timely; they were inevitable. It is one of the commonplace of history and of archaeology that wherever municipal institu-

tions have been distinguished for a high vitality—wherever municipal liberties have reached a full development—there the civic buildings have been stately and magnificent. There then is an excuse, if excuse were needed, for the lavishness with which the Corporation of Bombay have associated their project for putting a roof over their heads. But it was for purposes rather of illustration than of justification that Lord Ripon reminded his audience of what the free commonwealths of Italy and the Burgunders of the Low Countries had done in this direction. He lost no time in opening out a larger justification, of which his own policy in the matter of local self-government was the subject; and it must have been in no small degree interesting to his audience to learn how important a part Bombay had unconsciously played in the initiation of that policy. It was in our midst, he now tells us, that the work which made all the largest gains in any estimate of his Indian career was really conceived. On his arrival here in 1880, the excess with which the municipal government of the city had been conducted seemed to have made a distinct impression upon him. It prompted his inquiries into the subject, and it was here that the correction took root in his mind that the principle which had been applied with such good results in Bombay was capable of a much more extensive application.

Here we have an interesting and gratifying contribution to the history of local government in Bombay. With all the shortcomings with which we sometimes accuse ourselves we may take credit for having in this matter been as a city set upon a hill, and not encouraging example to the towns of India, and in some degree a contributor to their new liberties. But Lord Ripon's account of the matter has a wider significance than this. It provides, we suspect, a sufficient answer to those who have contended that he came here with certain out-of-date theories of his own, and that his method all along has been a mere working up to those theories. It seems to be much nearer the truth to conclude that Lord Ripon landed here with an open mind as a statesman having principles of his own, and a career behind him as well as before him, could well have brought, and that his policy was really formed upon a deliberate view of the proved necessities of the country. We can see none of the characteristics of a doctrinaire in a statesman who, on finding that Bombay stood alone amongst all the towns of the Presidency in enjoying the institutions of municipal self-government, concluded that the local government of the country was inadequate and inconsistent. The process, in

fact, by which Lord Ripon arrived at his conclusions appears to have been so purely deductive that those who charge him with having been too much attached to preconceived theories of his own are very much in danger of proving themselves to be theorists. And there were administrative reasons, no less than political, for taking the forward step which Lord Ripon so effectively vindicated yesterday. The time was approaching when the contracts between the Supreme and Provincial Governments which formed an essential part of Lord Mayo's decentralisation scheme had to be renewed; and it was necessary to decide whether or not a natural and consistent development should be given to the principle embodied in that widely approved scheme. It was, indeed, difficult to listen to much of Lord Ripon's exposition on Friday without wondering why it should have been necessary to deliver it, except for the purposes of history. It must also be recognised that all that he said in vindication of his policy of local self-government, and in disproof of the dangers that are here and there believed to be involved in it, has already been said. But a better answer even than the best apology that its author can offer may be looked for in due course.

"*Schöne Aussicht*," Lord Ripon said when dealing with the imaginary difficulties with which objectors have confronted this scheme. So, too, it is to the operations of the scheme that we must look for an adequate justification of all that is experimental in it. The scale upon which the experiment is being made is large enough. In the Bombay Presidency there are twenty-four municipalities constituted on the objective basis, where, when he landed in this city less than five years ago, there were none. He makes no extravagant claim upon the imagination when he asks us, with a confidence which is at least as much based upon judgment as upon hope, to look forward to a prosperous growth of the municipal life of the Empire.

After the conclusion of the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone Lord Ripon, accompanied by His Excellency the Governor, proceeded to St. Xavier's College, where he was received by a large concourse of people. In reply to an address which recapitulated the educational achievements of the institution since its establishment some twenty-five years ago, his lordship said that the future of India depended largely on the youths who were trained in that and similar institutions. He asked with pleasure the tribute paid in the address to the policy of Government in fostering educational efforts of all kinds, irrespective of caste or creed. As was truly stated in the address, the various Administrations in India

did this with a liberality and an absence of restrictive conditions which would compare favourably with the practice of most countries of Europe. He naturally felt a peculiar interest in the remarkable success of St. Xavier's College, and in the reflection that so many thousands had received the best instruction within its walls. He earnestly impressed upon his youthful auditors that education was a means and not an end, and that whether a cultivated mind proved a blessing or a curse would depend upon the use that was made of it. He exhorted them to keep the highest objects in life steadily in view, and he paid a warm tribute to the self-denial and devotion of the founders and instructing staff of the institution. He bade them a hearty goodbye with marvellous emotion. The enthusiasm of the college students and the boys of the school knew no bounds; and his lordship was literally smothered with piles of bouquets not to be numbered. The building was illuminated very beautifully, the towers and slender windows of the great quadrangle being picked out in colored lamps. The city was again lighted up in the evening, and the streets crowded by the citizens. The second day passed in Bombay by the retiring Viceroy was in many respects as remarkable as the first.

(From the Bombay Gazette, Dec. 22.)

THE popular enthusiasm which signalled the stay of Lord Ripon in Bombay, culminated on Saturday in the most remarkable demonstration ever seen in this city, or indeed in India, when his lordship proceeded in state from Government House, Parel, to the Apollo-bunder to take his departure in the Clive. The six miles of streets and roads were thronged by the whole valid population, reinforced by contingents from the country round, and even from the Deccan and Gujarat. The most perfect order prevailed, and was found compatible with a degree of interest and enthusiasm which was the more striking owing to the character for self-control, not to say apathy, which the Bombay public has hitherto largely shared with all other Orientals. Business was completely suspended, and for a second time during the week all the mill-hands took a complete holiday, and formed processions in honour of the departing Viceroy. The operatives of some of the mills carried

every man his banner, and there was an abundance of flags, and plenty of music. The streets were spontaneously decorated, and the general effect was relieving and gay, if occasionally a little tame. The numbers on foot have been estimated at little short of three lakhs, and an official who has full means of forming an accurate comparison says that even the great demonstration in honour of the arrival of the Prince of Wales was but a joke to that of Saturday. This was but the last and greatest of a series of demonstrations which were unprecedented in their universality and warmth. It was satisfactory to find that there was no pouring into anyhows. The European quarter of the Fort was decorated as well as the rest of the city, and large numbers of ladies and gentlemen came forth in the last afternoon to witness a remarkable and imposing manifestation of esteem and affection for the retiring Governor-General. So far as the desire to preserve order was concerned, the citizens of Bombay might be said to have been their own police during those last few days. Still the duty of guiding such vast masses of enthusiastic people necessarily imposed an enormous amount of hard work on the not very numerous police force of the city. The officers and men of the force showed excellent tact and good-humour. Lord Ripon on saying good-bye to the Commissioner, Sir Frank Suter, at the bunder, was most warm in his acknowledgments of the hard work done by the police, and of the good order maintained throughout his visit. His lordship's praise was well deserved, for certainly the Bombay police have never before been subjected to so continuous a strain, and they have borne it with great good-will. Though the whole population was in the streets, not a single accident took place. And the magistrates have had less rather than more of the usual questions of police cases. This absence of accident or offence is creditable to all concerned, and proves conclusively that there was no germ of disorder in all the various elements which went to make up the demonstrations of sympathy with Lord Ripon. And it was noticeable because throughout there was an evident desire to couple with the honor accorded to the ex-Viceroy an expression of loyalty and love for the Queen-Emperess.

While the presence of Lord Ripon gave an opportunity for the expression of the popular feeling, his lordship's well-considered and well-delivered addresses, and his personal influence, have undoubtedly contributed to the political education of all sections of the community. The large notices

which obtained in some quarters as to the real scope and character of the policy with which his name is identified, have undergone considerable modification. There is not now, it may be affirmed, a single individual in Bombay who believed that Lord Ripon's mission may be characterised in the application of the "big, big D" to the Earl Bilt. That measure has receded into a very secondary position in the retrospect of an administration which has come to be regarded as a new point of departure in the history of British rule in India. It is seen, not only plainly by everybody that the allegation that the late Viceroy had introduced revolutionary changes which were tending to inevitable anarchy is as wide of the truth, as are the contrary statements which have often appeared in the same columns, and even in the same periphrastic leaders asserting that, as a matter of fact, he has failed to accomplish a single change in any respect, and that the cause of local self-government, and that of the development of education, have not been advanced a single inch, everything in respect to both of those subjects remaining just where it was at the close of Lord Lytton's administration. It is admitted, indeed, that Lord Ripon repealed the Vernacular Press Act, but it is in the same breath maintained that it remains in it he merely registered the intention of the preceding Government, which recognised that the measure was a blunder, and had practically rescinded it by allowing it to become a dead letter. It is urged with amazing inconsistency that in getting rid of it Lord Ripon sacrificed an excellent measure, which was a proof of the high and prudent statesmanship of his predecessor, and was a necessary deterrent to seditious writers. These latter, the ingenious apologists for the Gagging Act argue, were never subdued by it, or even offended at it, seeing that they knew perfectly well that it was never intended to be used even by its own authors. Similarly, it is alleged against the late Viceroy that he withdrew from, or rather scuttled out of, Kandahar, an act which is described as a proof of his inability to appreciate a spirited frontier policy, the fact that Kandahar formed as part of Lord Beaconsfield's scientific frontier being ignored. Had Lord Ripon decided to retain the city, thus locking up ten thousand men in a remote garrison three hundred miles beyond the natural frontier, while ten thousand more were devoted to the duty of guarding the communications, his lordship's recklessness would have been, no doubt, estimated with the prudent self-control which characterised the frontier strategy of the previous Administration. The

fact that he gave up Kandahar is dwelt upon, but he gets no credit for the development of the British frontier which outflanks Kandahar, and reduces to nil the value of that strong place as a strategic point of offence against India. This method of criticism has been too much in favour hitherto in certain quarters; but after the clearer and surer view of the man and his policy which has been recently given in Bombay, we may expect that it will cease to be regarded as covering the whole ground. It does not sufficiently account for the phenomenon that while the Viceroy who has just left our shores was the best abused of all our Viceroys, he was the one amongst them all who contrived to win for himself and the Government of which he was the head, the confidence, and even the affection, of all India. Lord Ripon's speeches in this city have shown that his lordship is possessed of considerable oratorical skill and force. He always interested his auditors, and he never spoke without making clear much that had been misunderstood or misrepresented. He confirmed his friends in their friendship, and made many converts, without striving to do so; it may safely be said that he made not a solitary enemy, so kindly and considerate was he in his utterances and in his policies.

It is too much to suppose that doubts and misgivings have been all laid, and will trouble the mind no more. But there is now, and there will be hereafter, a juster idea of the real scope of the principles which he sought to make into rules of administration, and of the extent to which he wished to apply them. The fear that the two races have been placed in irreconcilable antagonism is seen to have been baseless; however lamentable the recriminations and the insults interchanged during an outbreak of ill-temper and passion in Bengal, the evil spirit has not tainted the great community which is the true centre of political thought and social progress in India. The view of things which recommends itself to the good sense of Bombay at the close of Lord Ripon's arduous term of office will, we may be permitted to hope, be accepted as right and sound in Calcutta when his successor's hour of departure strikes.

(From the Bombay Gazette, Dec. 23.)

A STRIKING incident connected with Saturday's oration to Lord Ripon deserves notice, as affording illustration of the Hindu idea of what Carlyle calls "hero-worship." Near the gate of the old Hindu temple of Mumbadevi were found standing two aged-looking and bearded Brahmans, with three others behind them, holding in their hands silver trays, and intent upon doing what they called "Ripon Pooja" to the departing Viceroy. As the carriage containing Lord Ripon and Sir James Fergusson drew near, one of the Brahmans standing behind shouted the words, "Mumbadevi Brahmans." They stopped the carriage, and offered on behalf of the Mumbadevi and Bhakshwar temples two silver trays containing garlands, flowers, sandal-wood, sugarcane, tuls, rice, turmeric, and coconuts coated with gold leaf, as "the sacred tribute of a sacred people," accompanying the offering by utterances in Sanskrit of benedictions usual among them on such occasions. It is, we are told, an old Hindu custom, handed down by tradition from time immemorial, to offer rice, coconuts, and flowers on the occasion of the separation of a dear relative or friend bound on a long journey. These things are symbolic of good wishes and prosperity on the journey. This is also, we are informed, the mode in which the highest religious reverence is paid to learned Brahmans, head-priests, preachers of religion and morality, pious Brahmans, and those worthy of the highest respect and gratitude. The conferring of such honours by Hindu priests from temples which have been the great strongholds of Hindu religion and belief derives significance not merely from the fact of their being the highest symbols of regard, but from the circumstance that it is the most striking instance of the kind witnessed in Bombay if not in India, of an Englishman being the recipient of such honours. It is proof, if any were needed, of how even the most conservative and tradition-bound Hindus were stirred from the depths of their hearts, and as such is worthy of note. One of the trays in Mr. Primrose's hands found the subject of curiosity at the Apollo-bunder.

