

INDIAN SPEECHES

OF

LORD CURZON

COMPILED BY

S. C. SINHA

Vol. I.

CONTAINING ALL THE SPEECHES DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY
DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF HIS VICEROYALTY INCLUDING
FOUR SPEECHES DELIVERED IN ENGLAND ON THE
EVE OF HIS COMING OUT TO INDIA.)

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once pulled the stroke oar. (Hear, hear.) From his lips we have all of us, on many occasions, imbibed the lessons of an Imperialism, exalted but not arrogant, fearless, but not rash—(cheers)—an Imperialism which is every day becoming less and less the creed of a party and more and more the faith of a nation. (Loud cheers.)

I have said that we are especially fortunate in our hosts and in our Chairman. But may I, for myself, also claim a particular good fortune in the person of one of my fellow-guests? When twenty years ago Welldon and I lived together in Paris, in the house of a French apothecary, to study the French language—(laughter)—when, at a later date, we crossed together the United States of America, and together viewed the glories of Niagara and the Yosemite Valley; when, on another occasion, in the company of a very dear friend, also present tonight, the headmaster of Haileybury, we rode together across the mountains and valleys of Greece, little did we think that the day would one day come when at the same time he and I should be going forth to the same great continent to take our share in that noble work which I firmly believe has been placed by the inscrutable decrees of Providence upon the shoulders of the British race. (Cheers.) I congratulate India upon having obtained such a successor to the See of Heber and of Cotton. (Cheers.) I congratulate myself that I shall have as my spiritual and episcopal master one of my oldest and dearest of friends. Lord Rosebery has spoken in gracious terms of the circumstances under which I have accepted this appointment. There

is a passage in the writings of Thomas Carlyle which, in this connection, has always haunted my mind. This is what that acute, but rugged, old philosopher said :

" I have sometimes thought what a thing it would be could the Queen in Council pick out some gallant-minded, stout cadet, and say to him, ' Young fellow, if there do lie in you potentialities of governing, of gradually guiding, leading, and coercing to a noble goal, how sad it is that they should be all lost. See, I have scores of Colonies. One of these you shall have as vice-king. Go you and buckle with it in the name of Heaven and let us see what you will build it to.' "

Well, though these words were spoken of the West Indian Colonies, I think that, *mutatis mutandis*, they are equally applicable to the East Indian Empire, and they indicate to me the spirit of courage, but yet of humility, of high aspiration, but still more of duty, in which any man should approach such a task. (Hear.) I have often seen during the past few weeks, my acceptance of this office attributed to a variety of causes—to personal ambition, to the disappointment of Parliamentary hopes, to failing health. (Laughter.) My own experience of public life, such as it has been, leads me to think that the simplest explanation of the phenomenon of human action, human beings being more or less always cast in the same mould, is apt to be the most correct, and the recondite is often the fallacious as well as the obscure. (Laughter.) Is it permissible, therefore, for me, to say in this company of old school-fellows and of personal friends that, whatever may have been the

views of those who thought me worthy of this office, I gladly accepted it, because I love India, its people, its history, its government, the absorbing mysteries of its civilisation and its life? I think it was first while I was at Eton that a sense of its over-whelming importance dawned upon my mind. There we were perpetually invited by a body of assiduous and capable mentors—I need hardly say I allude to the Eton masters—(laughter)—and we responded with greater or less reluctance to the appeal to contemplate the majesty, the law, and the living influence of the Empire of Rome. We had at Eton, and I hope it still flourishes, an institution called the Literary Society, of which, I believe, my friend Welldon was the first president, and in which I afterwards had the honour to follow in his footsteps. To this society, from time to time, came down eminent men to preach to us about the wider world outside. Among those distinguished persons who came in my day was Sir James FitzJames Stephen but just returned from India—the father of my dear friend Jim Stephen, the “J. K. S.” of the literary world, that brilliant but meteoric intellect that all too soon plunged into the abyss and was lost from view. (Hear, hear.) Sir James Stephen came down to Eton and told the boys that listened to him, of whom I was one, that there was in that ancient continent an empire more populous, more amazing and more beneficent than that of Rome; that the rulers of that great dominion were drawn from the men of our own people; that some of them might perhaps in the future be drawn from the ranks of the boys

who were listening to his words. Ever since that day and still more since my first visit to India in 1887, the fascination and, if I may say so, the sacredness of India has grown upon me until I have come to think that it is the highest honour that can be placed upon any subject of the Queen, that, in any capacity, high or low, he should devote such energies as he may possess, to its services. (Cheers.) But may I carry my suggestion one step further? May I not say that the growth of the ideal of duty has been the most salient feature in the history of our relations with India during the past hundred years and still more during the reign of the present Queen? (Cheers.) A century ago India, in the hands of the East India Company, was regarded as a mercantile investment, the business of whose promoters and agents was to return as large dividends as possible, and the larger, of course, the better, to the pockets of their shareholders at home. In the course of these proceedings many of those men amassed great wealth almost beyond the dreams of avarice—wealth, the display of which was apt to be vulgar and the source of which was often impure. Indian posts, low as well as high, were the spoils of political patronage at home, and were exclusively distributed according to the narrowest and most selfish exigencies of party polemics at home. We have only to look to the treatment of Warren Hastings to realise how little the welfare of India was thought of in comparison with the loss or gain to Whigs and Tories in London. I do not say that we have altogether extricated India from the perils and the contamination of the party

system. I do not say that our administration of that great empire is altogether free from blemish or taint. But I do say that it is informed with a spirit of duty, and that it is edified and elevated by that influence. I do say that we think much of the welfare of India and but little of its wealth ;—(hear, hear)—that we endeavour to administer the Government of that country in the interests of the governed ; that our mission there is one of obligation and not of profit ; and that we do our humble best to retain by justice that which we have won by the sword. (Cheers.) May we not, indeed, say that at the end of this nineteenth century the spectacle presented by our dominion in India is that of British power sustained by a Christian ideal ? (Cheers.) What, then, is the conception of his duty that an outgoing Viceroy should set before himself ? I have no new or startling definition to give, but the light in which it presents itself to my mind is this. It is his duty, first and foremost, to represent the authority of the Queen-Empress, whose name, revered more than the name of any other living sovereign by all races and classes, from Cape Comorin to the Himalayas, is in India both a bond of union and a symbol of power, and, associated with the personal attributes that cling about that name, the conviction that the justice of her Government is inflexible, that its honour is stainless, and that its mercy is in proportion to its strength. (Cheers.) Secondly, he should try to remember that all its people are not the sons of our own race, and that it is only by regard for their feelings, by respect for their prejudices—I will

even go so far as to say by deference to their scruples—that we can obtain the acquiescence as well as the submission of the governed. (Cheers.) Thirdly, it is to recognise that, though relatively far advanced in the scale of civilisation compared with the time of Lord Wellesley or even Lord Canning, India is still but ill-equipped with the material and industrial and educational resources which are so necessary to her career, and so to work that she may, by slow but sure degrees, expand to the full measure of her growth. And, lastly, it is to preserve intact and secure either from internal convulsion or external inroad, the boundaries of that great and Imperial dominion. (Loud cheers.) This, I would venture to suggest, is the conception which every outgoing Viceroy sets before himself. He is probably unwise if he attempts to fill in the details too closely in advance. The experience in which he must be sadly lacking at the start, but which will come to him in increasing volume day by day, will, with slow, and sometimes with painful touch, fill in the details as he proceeds. For, after all—and I speak to those if there are any here present who have travelled in the East, and have caught the fascination of its mysterious surrounding—the East is a University in which the scholar never takes his degrees. (Hear, hear.) It is the temple in which the suppliant adores but never catches sight of the object of his devotion ; it is a journey the goal of which is always in sight but is never attained. There we are always learners, always worshippers, always pilgrims. I rejoice to be allowed to take my place in that great

band of students and of wayfarers who have trodden that path for a hundred years. I know I have everything to learn, I have, perhaps, many things to unlearn. But if the test of the pupil be application, and if the test of the worshipper be faith, I hope I may pass through the ordeal unscathed. (Cheers.) At any rate, I have, among the long list of names inscribed on the back of this menu, the example of three immediate Eton predecessors to guide me—of Lord Dufferin—(cheers)—whose Indian Viceroyalty was but the culminating point in a career which for over thirty years has been the property less of himself than of his country—(cheers)—of Lord Lansdowne—(cheers)—who left India amid greater manifestations of popularity and of regard and esteem than any departing Viceroy since the Mutiny—(cheers)—and of my immediate predecessor, Lord Elgin—(cheers)—who has confronted a time of storm and stress with a fortitude and a composure which are worthy of the high name he bears, and of the race from which he is sprung. (Cheers.) I know that with these distinguished predecessors I cannot hope to compete. But there is one characteristic which I share in common with them, and which we possess from our common part in the Eton heritage, and that is the desire to be true to the honour and the credit of that ancient foundation. (Cheers.) I am not so foolish tonight as to utter any vain prophecies or to indulge in any illusive hopes. But I should be satisfied if I can carry out the work which they have begun, and if at the end of my time it can be said of me that I have not been unworthy of

the traditions of the greatest and the noblest of schools.
(Loud cheers).

SPEECH AT SOUTHPORT.

On November the 15th, 1898, Lord and Lady Curzon gave a reception in the Fine Art Galleries of Southport—the Constituency he had hitherto represented in Parliament—to which his late constituents poured in large crowds, irrespective of party, to give their congratulations and good wishes. From the Art Galleries, the assembly adjourned to the hall of the Winster gardens, where an address was presented, congratulating his Lordship upon his appointment as Viceroy and Governor-general of India and upon his elevation to the peerage. The address also took the opportunity of thanking him for the great ability he had ever displayed during the 12 years that he had represented the Constituency to Parliament, and of assuring him of their deep regret that the ties which had so long bound him to the Southport Division had now been severed. Lord Curzon was then presented with a beautiful and massive silver bowl, weighing over 220 ounces, and Mr. Scarisbrick presented the new Viceroy, on his own account, with a pair of gold spurs.

Lord Curzon, in returning thanks, assured his friends that the address would be one of the most cherished of his associations with that constituency. Other gifts had burst upon him with the delightful novelty of a complete surprise. The first was the beautiful monumental tankard. He could not promise to drain it. (Laughter.) To do so would be too severe a task upon his energies. Besides, on the other side of the world, he had to set an example (laughter); but he could promise to invite

his friends to drain it, and when they saw it upon his side-board, they would know its happy associations. Then there was Mr. Scarisbrick's present of gold spurs. When he saw Mr. Scarisbrick open the box, he was a little afraid because he thought that for the first time in his life he was to be tempted to feats of exertion on a field of action in which he could not say he had hitherto appeared. But he realized that the spurs were symbolical—they were to supply an incentive to high, dutiful and honourable action. (Cheers.) In that sense he accepted them. Continuing, his Lordship said: We have been reminded by Sir William Forwood that we are at the end of a period of 12 years during which I have been connected with this place. Those 12 years have been momentous years of my life; for, they bear witness to the commencement of my public career which I owe—and I never can forget the obligation—to the suffrages of this constituency. They have now witnessed its temporary suspension, at any rate in this country, in obedience to the call of duty elsewhere. During those 12 years I have three times had the honour of being returned as member for this Division,—each time by figures which were an improvement upon the preceding election; and I am so vain as to believe that had I put up here a fourth time (cheers) the same rule of progression (a voice—Come back) might not unreasonably have been expected. (Renewed cheers.) On each of those occasions I have been the nominee of the Conservative and Unionist party; and the whole of my public life, such as it is, has been associated with

that alliance. I have never wavered for a moment in my loyalty to the principles upon which that combination is based ; and I firmly believe that the maintenance of the union between Great Britain and Ireland is essential to the cohesion and the strength of the United Kingdom. (Cheers.) On the other hand, I have never found in modern Conservatism any lack of willingness to satisfy the aspirations of an enlightened and a progressive democracy ; whilst in its adherence to the fundamental principles of the Constitution, you have the surest guarantee against violent or revolutionary changes in our political system. I occupy a position in prospect that is divorced from all party politics. I go to discharge duties which are above and beyond party ; and on an occasion such as this, one requires the sympathy, the good wishes, and the prayers of all. The character of the Viceroyalty, as I have sketched it, has been fittingly exemplified in the proceedings of this afternoon, for which I have to thank not merely my friends, but my political opponents in this place. This is only a local illustration of what is one of the most striking phenomena of our public life. From no country in the world does a governor or proconsul go out to a dominion under his charge with a more generous convoy of good wishes. Unfortunately I have one more reflection to make, and it is this, that I cannot conceal my deep sorrow at leaving the House of Commons. I have been very fond of my life in that place. It is a life, even though one of stress and storm, to which men become intensely attached.

It has been thought that as I have been compelled to be a talking member of the House of Commons, I am going to develop into that most incongruous of all phenomena, a talking Viceroy. I may give you an assurance as to that. In the office to which I am now going, it will be my duty, no doubt, on several occasions to make formal, official, and ceremonial speeches; but no one more fully recognizes than I do that the first duty of a Viceroy of India is not speech but administration, and that the test of his Government is not eloquence, but efficiency. (Cheers.)

SPEECH AT DERBY.

Lord Curzon was presented in the Drill Hall, Derby, on November 25, 1898, with a congratulatory address on his appointment to the Viceroyalty of India, the testimonial being the outcome of a public subscription got up amongst the people of Derbyshire of which His Lordship is a native. In returning thanks,

Lord Curzon said he could not fail to be very profoundly touched and affected by the demonstration in the hall. There was something very peculiar and personal in the feelings shown towards a man in the critical emergencies of his life by those among whom he was born, and among whom, to a certain extent, he had lived. They were all of them in that room proud of being Derbyshire men and Derbyshire women—(cheers)—but he hoped he showed no conceit in saying that it was impossible to imagine anything more Derbyshire than the Curzon family. (Cheers.)

For 800 years that county had not shaken them off. (Laughter and cheers.) They might, he thought, almost claim to be regarded as ancient and historic monuments free from the succession duty of Sir William Harcourt—(laughter)—and entitled to the special protection and support of the State. He confessed that when he was appointed to the Viceroyalty he had little right to expect the generous wealth of indulgence with which his appointment was greeted. Owing to the fact that he had recently occupied a rather prominent position in political controversy ; that he had been a target into whom a good many arrows had been shot ; and that he had also himself, perhaps, fired a certain number of arrows into the targets of others, it would not have been surprising if his appointment had been very severely criticised in the Opposition Press. The fact that it was not so was not due, he was well aware, to any conviction that he was a fit man for the post, but was due to the feeling of the country that any man going forth to take up that burden was entitled to its unanimous suffrages and support. On the glaring and well-nigh solitary eminence upon which the Viceroy of India stood, it would be his duty for five years to represent his Sovereign and his country, to carry on the traditions of a long line of illustrious predecessors, and to convey to the minds of the countless millions subject to his rule a conviction that justice and beneficence were embodied in his example, and were reflected in his rule. (Cheers.) If he were asked what were the two qualities which appeared to him to be most essential for the

adequate discharge of those duties; he would reply, "Courage, and sympathy" (cheers)—courage to grapple with the many problems that arose in Indian government, problems that bewildered by their complexity even more than they overwhelmed by their dimensions—sympathy with the Moslem, the Sikh, the Parsee, the Hindoo—sympathy with every race and class and creed, from the native Prince who occupied a throne that was secured to him by his loyalty to the Sovereign power, to the humble peasant who drove his furrow through the soil in mute reliance on that remote, overmastering power, of the existence of which he was but dimly conscious, but which was to him a security of his industry, his property, and his life. (Cheers.) He had been speaking of the qualities required. He did not claim to possess them. He might be incapable of acquiring them, but surely it was better to have ideals, and to fail to reach them, than not to have any ideal at all. (Cheers.) In one respect he felt that, although his wife and he were going to be separated for many years from Derbyshire associations, and from all the connections, of the county, of home and friends, yet something of Derbyshire they would carry with them, or something of Derbyshire, at any rate, they would find when they landed at Calcutta. They would have read in the papers that Government House, Calcutta, was built by Lord Wellesley upon the model, or upon the ground plan, of the old home of his (Lord Curzon's) family at Kedleston. (Cheers.) It was strange by what small events and by what petty coincidences the current of life was shaped and turned ;

for it was certainly true that it was the fact of that remembrance that first turned his thoughts to the question of the Government of India. And when he left the doors of Government House in Calcutta on the first and only occasion on which he visited it, in 1887, it made him feel that some day, if fate were propitious, and he were held deserving of the task, he would like to exchange Kedleston in England for Kedleston in India. Now that that had come to him he felt it a great help to know that he carried with him to his new home in that country the good wishes and feelings of those who had known him in his old home here. It would be some time before his wife or he would be among them again ; but while away, no higher ambition, at any rate, should actuate himself than the desire that, if he could not do anything to add to the glory, at least he would do nothing to detract from the credit of his native county. (Prolonged cheering.)

LUNCHEON AT THE P. AND O. OFFICES.

On the 2nd December, 1898, Lord Curzon was entertained at luncheon by the Directors of the P. and O. Steamship Company at their offices in Leadenhall Street, London. Sir Thomas Sutherland, M. P., Chairman of the Company, presided. In reply to the toast of his health,

Lord Curzon said, he could assure them that it was with peculiar pleasure he had accepted the invitation of their Chairman. He regarded it as a high compliment

to be entertained by the Directors of that great Company, whose name and reputation were known wherever the English language was spoken. He could not help rejoicing that this was a luncheon, and not a dinner, for if there was one thing that could be predicated of a lunch in contradistinction to a dinner, it was that long speeches would not only be a private infliction, but would almost amount to a public scandal. (Laughter, and "hear, hear.") He congratulated himself and his hearers that this was positively the last occasion upon which he would make a public utterance before he left these shores. (A laugh.) He confessed to a belief that there was a certain tedium in the spectacle of a protracted departure. It was rather like the case of an invalid afflicted with some incurable disease, and of whom all hope had been given up, but who still lingered on as if loth to die. There was some analogy in the spectacle of a man continuing to make a number of speeches about an office and a duty he had not yet taken up. But he had to say, on the other hand, in self-defence, that he had been driven to this course of conduct by the insistent hospitality of his friends. He hoped also that, just as the stomach for fighting of the old Homeric warrior did not appear to have been at all impaired by the long speeches that he and his adversaries made on the field of combat before they set to, (a laugh)—so the compulsory loquacity into which he had himself been driven during the past few weeks would not altogether incapacitate him for action when the time for action came. (Hear, hear.) The P. and O. Company was a great factor

in the imperial connection between this country and India. (Cheers.) He did not here refer merely to the comfort of their ships and the application to them of all the latest resources of mechanical invention, or the thoroughly and almost exclusively British character of the establishment they maintained—although he might say in passing that he had never voyaged between this country and India in any other vessels, and did not mean to depart from that course—(hear, hear)—he referred rather to the efficiency of their organisation and the rapidity of their services, that were every year bringing India and England nearer together, and producing a solidarity between those parts of the empire which a few years ago would hardly have been dreamed of. He was talking, only on Thursday, to a gentleman who went out to India rather more than fifty years ago. That gentleman told him that their ship left London in November, and did not arrive in Madras until the middle of February. He would not subject himself to such an interval of repose; at the same time it was important in the public interest to know that one could leave these shores, as he would do in a fortnight, and in little more than a fortnight step on the quay of Bombay. This close and ever increasing connection between India and England had its disadvantages, as well as its advantages, but upon the whole the latter outweighed the former. Among the chief advantages he included the possibility of the improved development of India. There used to exist, a short time ago a school of opinion, and he dared say it existed still, who believed that, in

the last resort, India could only be defended by land communication, and by vast trunk railways. He had never been inclined to that view, having always held that, if the British soldier had to be sent to India, he must be sent by sea, and it was to the improvement of our steam services and the maintenance of our unquestionable supremacy in the Mediterranean, and the retention of the use of the Suez Canal, that we must look for the defence of India rather than to any speculative schemes such as he had sometimes seen sketched out in the Press. He believed that the P. and O. Company had done, and were still doing, a service which was deserving both of the confidence of the Government and the gratitude of the nation. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) The Chairman had incidentally referred to India, in the interests of business men, as a field for commercial enterprise. He could not help thinking, although desirous to avoid prophecy, that there would be great development in that respect. (Hear, hear.) No doubt any such advance had been retarded in recent years by the financial cyclone through which India had been passing, and the consequent dislocation of the whole mechanism of business. But if we could establish in India anything like stability of exchange—a great problem to which any outgoing Viceroy must turn his attention—he believed that confidence would revive, and that British capital would flow more freely to India. It might, perhaps, be regarded as a counsel of perfection to look at the case from any other point of view than that of expediency and self-interest; but in all matters

connected with India he believed the point of view of duty and of obligation was paramount (Hear, hear.) He had been positively amazed when he heard, as he had heard during the past year, appeals made to the Government and Parliament to lend the credit of this country, and to scatter the money of our taxpayers, in vast and speculative undertakings in foreign countries with effete Governments and tottering institutions, at the very moment when India, so rich in her capability, so undeveloped in many of her resources, as well as incomparably more imperious in her claims, was clamouring for more capital. He had read only a few days ago a remark, reported to have fallen from a critic of English life and customs, that there was no party in England who were not anxious to be out of India and to get rid of that encumbrance. (Cries of "Oh !"). He would not answer that remark from the point of view of moral obligation or of imperial responsibility ; but he would repeat his familiar thesis that India was the pivot of our empire. (Hear, hear.) He meant by that remark that if this empire lost any other part of its dominions we could survive, but if we lost India the sun of our empire would be set. But here, as business men, they might pardon and sympathise with him if he looked at the matter also from the sordid point of view of *£. s. d.* Let them look at the trade of India, and compare it with the trade of our colonies. He found that the total sea-borne trade of India for 1896-97, which was an unprosperous year, almost equalled that of the whole of our Australian colonies, and was much

greater than that of our South African and North American colonies combined ; indeed, it constituted nearly one-tenth of the trade of the whole British Empire, and was more than one-third of the trade of the whole empire, outside of the United Kingdom. (Hear, hear.) These were astounding figures, and if any deduction was to be drawn from them it was certainly not the conclusion that, even regarded from the point of view of self-interest, India was a matter in which we had little, or no concern. On the contrary, India was of vital interest, not merely to the imperialist whose eyes were dazzled by the pageantry of Oriental dominion, or to the philosopher who watched that most absorbing of all problems, the contact of Eastern and Western civilisation, or even to the moralist, but to the British workingman, who was presented with an enormous market, and the Indian workingman, who found this outlet for the produce of his native industry. (Cheers.) Let them notice the extraordinary recuperative power of Indian trade—the faculty which India seemed to share with the more familiar cases of France and Japan. They knew that India had quite recently been devastated by a serious famine ; yet in the six months after the famine—namely, from April to September, 1898, India had exported by sea more produce than in any previous six months—thirty-one percent larger than in 1897, and fourteen and fifteen percent more than in 1891 and 1894, which were the previous years of largest export. Sir George Chesney had in his book alluded sadly to the fact that six years ago there

were only 18,000 miles of railway completed in India, less than 500 miles opened in 1892, and only 136 miles sanctioned. There were now 20,841 miles opened, and 4,298 miles in course of construction. Long before he (Lord Curzon) left India, he hoped the total railway mileage there would exceed 25,000 miles. (Cheers, and "hear, hear.") They would join him in congratulating his illustrious predecessor, Lord Elgin, on the manner in which, despite arduous obstacles, he had successfully laboured in developing India. (Hear, hear.) There was certainly no cause for despair in contemplating the future of India's business or finance. During the time he was there he would earnestly devote his attention to the furtherance of these ends, and he rejoiced that he was to have the good fortune of serving in co-operation with such a Secretary of State as Lord George Hamilton. (Cheers.)

PART II.

SPEECHES IN REPLY TO ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

REPLY TO THE BOMBAY MUNICIPAL ADDRESS.

Lord and Lady Curzon arrived in Bombay at day-break on the 30th December, 1898, and landed punctually at seven o'clock. Large crowds assembled to welcome his Lordship and the Municipal Corporation of Bombay presented an address of welcome, in the course of which they referred to the intense gratification with which all classes of the people had hailed the announcement of His Lordship's fixed determination that in discharging the great trust reposed in him he would be "guided by regard for their feelings, respect for their prejudices and even deference to their scruples, and, above all, by a frank and generous recognition of a common bond of manhood, and an element of common humanity." The address went on to refer to the heavy affliction and dire distress through which the country at large and the Bombay Presidency in particular had just passed, and in conclusion, implored His Lordship to start them again on a renewed career of vigorous progress and improvement to which the Presidency had been for more than two years a stranger. Lord Curzon in reply spoke as follows :—

Mr. President and gentlemen of the Municipal Corporation of Bombay,—I have received with pleasure the address which you have just read to me, and I have been struck by the cordiality and eloquence of the terms in which it is expressed. No Viceroy can set foot upon these shores, which are to be his home and the scene

of his labours for five years, without a keen and almost overpowering sense of the magnitude of the vista that opens out before him, or without a corresponding sense of gratefulness for the first words of welcome that fall from the lips of those over whose fortunes he is about to preside. To me, Sir, it is something of an alleviation at a moment like this to feel that I do not come altogether as a stranger to your country, and that the intimate concern which I have long entertained in its people and in its problems, is one which is not based exclusively upon hearsay, or upon reading, but which rests upon some small personal acquaintance with India. This is the fifth time, Sir, that I have gazed from the sea upon the majestic panorama of your city of palaces and palms, and if my previous experience and visits here have been those of a private traveller, yet they have given me an interest which official experience can but enhance, in your city itself, so worthy a gateway to a land of enchantment, and in your occupations, so typical of the busy industry to which peoples of this country have turned under the security assured to them by British rule.

I have been glad to notice, Sir, in the address which you have just read to me that you speak of earnest and devoted loyalty which the whole Empire entertains for the Queen-Empress. The first sentiment in accepting this high office, when it was bestowed upon me, was one of pride that it had fallen to my lot to be one of the Governors-General, the fifteenth in number, but not, I would fain hope, the last of her long and illustrious reign.

(Applause.) Such a recollection awakens and fires a wonderful train of memory, for it brings before one a stately procession of great names which have passed into the valhalla of history, and it recalls a period at the commencement of which India was but a scattered dominion, while at its close it is a comparatively homogeneous empire. It also awakens in the breast of any incoming Viceroy an ardent sense of duty, for it inspires him with a desire to emulate those distinguished predecessors, and to act in a manner not unworthy of that august and benignant sovereign whom he is privileged to represent. I believe, Sir, that the loyalty of which you have spoken, to the person and throne of the Queen-Empress is as widespread, as it is more than any other factor the bond which holds together in harmonious union the diverse races and creeds of this country, and which secures to them the blessings of internal peace and tranquility ; and during my stay in India I shall spare no efforts, so far as in me lies, to fortify, to diffuse, and encourage that feeling. (Applause)

I have seen it somewhere stated that I am expected on this the first occasion that I speak upon Indian soil, to say something of the principles which are likely to be the basis of my administration. I hold myself dispensed from any such obligation for more reasons than one. In the first place, I have before leaving England given a halting expression of the spirit in which I approach this undertaking, and the fact that you have, in the address just read to me, quoted with approval some of the sentiments to which I have given utterance, leads me

to think that I need not repeat them now. In the second place, I think there would be something presumptuous in assuming that any one Viceroy enters upon his office with a conception of its duties more generous or more exacting than his predecessors have done before him. Each one, I think, as he has landed upon this quay, has felt that he has been summoned to no mean calling, and has mentally resolved that justice and magnanimity and prudence and sympathy shall be the key-notes of his administration. (App'ause.)

I remember a great countryman of mine, on being sent out to a mission, not indeed comparable with this, but one which brought him into contact with races and creeds different from his own, in a remote and difficult country, said he went out to hold the scales even. Such might be no contemptible motto for the Viceroy of India, for with what a mosaic of nationalities and interests he is confronted, with his own countrymen, few in number, and scattered far and wide, in a trying climate, in a foreign land, and with manifold races and religions so composite and yet so divergent of the indigenous population in its growing and ever multiplying millions! To hold the scales under such conditions is a task that calls indeed for supple fingers and yet for nerves of steel, but there is another reflection that leads me to place some restriction upon anything that I may say about the future.

No one can be more conscious than myself that the verdict to be passed upon my administration depends not upon glittering promises or fair prophecy now, but

upon actual performance later on. The time for pic-
 ing is not when a man putteth on his armour, but when
 he taketh it off. (Hear, hear.) I thank you for your
 kindly greetings because no man can be insensible to the
 encouragement of a generous welcome, but I shall be
 tenfold better pleased if, when I weigh anchor from these
 shores, and when all eyes are turned towards my succes-
 sor, any of you who are now present can come forward
 truthfully to testify that during my time I have done
 something, if it even be but little, for this land, which next
to my own country, is the nearest to my heart. Gentle-
 men, in your address you call my attention to the fact
 that during the past few years India has been subject
 to the triple scourge of war, pestilence, and famine. In
 connection with the ravages of the two latter in parti-
 cular our hearts in England have gone out to you in
 your trouble, and our purse strings have, as you know,
 been unloosened on your behalf.

The unceasing and devoted efforts of your rulers,
 of the present illustrious Viceroy, in this place, of your
 Governor, whose application to the onerous duties and
 work imposed upon him by the plague has excited
 widespread gratitude and admiration,—(cheers)—have,
 I believe, enabled India to cope with these trials in
 a manner more successful than on any previous occa-
 sion. (Cheers.) In this great city the patience of your
 people, the voluntary co-operation of your leading citi-
 zens, and the natural vitality of your resources, have
 greatly assisted in the work of recuperation, and I
 would fain believe that the corner has now been turned,

and that an era of reviving prosperity is already beginning to dawn. (Cheers.) To that movement it will be my agreeable duty to lend whatever impulse I can, and it is with feelings of sympathy that I regard, and shall take an early opportunity of inquiring, into the great undertaking to which, with so marked a combination of courage and wisdom, you are about to address yourselves in this city of Bombay.

In conclusion, it only remains for me to thank you for the gracious welcome that you have extended, along with myself, to Lady Curzon. She comes to this country with predispositions not less favourable, and with sympathies not less warm than mine, and with me she looks forward with earnest delight to a life of labour, but of happy labour, in your midst. (Loud cheers.) Allow me, Sir, to thank you in conclusion for the address and for the handsome and artistic casket in which it is enclosed.

REPLY TO AN ADDRESS FROM THE BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

In reply to an address of welcome from the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, the Viceroy-Elect said :—

With peculiar pleasure I have received at the hands of your Chairman, Mr. Macaulay, (in whom I recognise an old school-fellow and friend of my own) the address which you have just read, and the courteous and instructive contents which I desire to acknowledge. I

say, with peculiar pleasure, because in this great industrial and trading city, which, along with beauty all its own, reminds me of some of the great hives of manufactures and labour in my own country, it seems befitting that the views of the mercantile classes should be placed before me by the authorised exponents of those interests, and because experience elsewhere has already brought me into frequent and agreeable contact with the Chambers of Commerce. As Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office at Home, and head of the Commercial Department there, I have, during the past three years, been placed in constant communication with analogous organisations in England, and have learnt to what extent the views of the Government may be shaped, and their action assisted, by the advice and information which such bodies are in a position to afford. I doubt not that similar experience awaits me in India, and to any representations that you or Associations of a like character and influence may come from time to time to address to me, I can promise, in advance, a respectful and interested attention.

You have been good enough to congratulate me upon my appointment to the high office which I am about to assume. I accept your congratulations, and I may in return ask you to be the recipients, by proxy, of the thanks of Lady Curzon and myself for the magnificent welcome which we met with today at the hands of all sections of the population of this great city. The continuous lines of people in the streets, and the enthusiasm with which they greeted us, were incidents that will

live long in our memory, and that will never fail to revive delightful recollections of Bombay.

You bring before my notice a number of subjects in which you are keenly interested, but upon which, while you are, from the nature of your experience and your occupations, qualified to form and to express a definite opinion, I shall be doing no injustice to your imaginations if I say that you do not at this stage expect any similar declaration from myself. A Viceroy, setting foot in that capacity for the first time upon these shores, can hardly be expected, and would be singularly ill-advised, within four hours of his landing, to make a pronouncement upon such abstruse questions as currency reform, the attraction of British capital to India, the utilisation for commercial purposes, of cash balances, temporarily accumulated in the coffers of Government, and particular railways which ought not to be included in the programme of construction. Upon these matters I shall, of course, profit by the counsel of your Governor, and by the advice of the expert colleagues by whom I shall presently be surrounded; and, while studying them, I shall bear in mind the authoritative character of the representations which you have made.

It only remains for me to endorse the hopes with which you conclude your address, that a period of returning peace and prosperity, of which I think that there are already some signs, may await this recently affected country. A sensational administration is not the best prospect that an incoming Viceroy can desire, and, although the cup of Destiny is filled by other hands

than his, he may yet, with a clear conscience, promise during his term of office, the fullest devotion of which he may be capable to domestic interests and to the material and moral development of the vast population committed to his care.

THE ADDRESS FROM THE MYSORE FAMILY,

On the 11th January, 1899, the Viceroy in acknowledging an address from the princes of the Mysore House said :—

Gentlemen,—It gives me much pleasure to meet the members of so distinguished a family as that to which you belong, and to receive at your hands the cordial words of welcome which have just been read out to me. Previous Viceroys have been approached by you on the occasion both of their arrival in this country, and of their subsequent departure ; and it is only a few days ago that I was reading a report of the friendly interchange of courtesies that has recently passed between my predecessor and yourselves. I hope that the same happy relations may prevail between us, and that I may have further opportunities of improving the acquaintance, which I have already made, with the leading representatives of your ancient line. Of such experience as I have been enabled to gain by travel in foreign lands, a good deal has been acquired in Eastern countries, and among peoples who are co-religionists of your own. For that faith, and for those who practise it, I have always entertained the highest respect ; and my resi-

dence in India will doubtless strengthen those feelings ; at the same time that it will give me opportunities of testifying an equal interest in all classes and creeds in the Indian continent. I must, before I conclude, add a few words of acknowledgment on behalf of Lady Curzon to the ladies of your house for the gracefully-worded address in which they have expressed to her their good-wishes and aspirations. It is her desire to follow the noble example set by our Gracious Sovereign, whose heart has always gone forth to her subjects in this great dependency, and who has entered with equal sympathy into the joys and sorrows of the women of India. Gentlemen, I thank you again for the two addresses.

THE ADDRESS FROM THE CALCUTTA CORPORATION.

In reply to this address Lord Curzon spoke as follows :—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Municipal Corporation of Calcutta,—I have already had the pleasure of being introduced to you on the occasion of my arrival at the station at Howrah ; and your words of welcome now are but a more formal echo of the friendly reception which you accorded to me then. To a new-Viceroy the opening days of his life at Calcutta cannot fail to be fraught with a deep interest ; for, after his long journey from England, here at length he finds himself at the seat of Government and the capital of the Indian Empire, amid surroundings that have

been rendered historic by the labours and services of many generations of illustrious Englishmen. It is a spot which, long before his term of office has expired, will have become invested in his eyes with all the familiarity and with many of the attractions of home. Here, too, he is brought for the first time into contact with the trained counsellors, by whose assistance he is destined during that period to profit so largely, and with the leaders of a community whose assiduous enterprise has made this city an immense emporium of commerce and one of the leading ports of Asia. From all these points of view Calcutta must be to any Viceroy a place of exceptional and enduring interest. The opening remarks of your address might lead me to suppose that my resignation of political life in England upon acceptance of the post which I now have the honour to fill involved in your opinion some self-sacrifice. Such is far from being my own view of the case. There is no office in the Government of the Queen-Empress which in my judgment should more appeal—I will not say to the imagination, but to the sense of duty and the patriotism of any of her subjects than the charge of her great Indian Dependency. I will venture further to say there is no post in Her Majesty's gift which arouses in a higher degree her personal solicitude and concern. Great in my eyes as were the fascinations of Parliamentary life at home, it was therefore in no spirit of self-denial, but with an eager, though humble, anxiety to render some service to Her Majesty and to a country which should be as dear to all Englishmen as it is to the heart of their

Sovereign, that I surrendered my seat in the House of Commons in order to devote the best years of my life to the task which had for long been its favourite preoccupation. In your third paragraph you speak of the internal and external troubles with which my predecessor, Lord Elgin, was confronted, and which a consensus of opinion, both in India and abroad, concurs in recognising that he met with no common fortitude and sagacity. You then proceed to express a hope that my period of office may be devoid of similar complications, and may be marked by efforts directed to the well-being and prosperity of the people. Such is my own earnest aspiration and desire. But even a limited knowledge of India has confirmed the impression, which I might have derived from the experience of previous Viceroy, that prophecy in Asia, the home of surprises, is a rash and perilous thing; and that the most praiseworthy intentions are liable to be frustrated by the unforeseen, and not always controllable, compulsion of events. I therefore refrain either from promise or from prediction. But I record my ready agreement with your underlying proposition, which I take to be that what India requires is a period of tranquillity for the steady development of her resources, and for the examination, and if possible, the removal, of such obstacles as may be found to retard the smooth path of her progress. I have not yet had time to make myself acquainted with the full details of the Municipal problem to which you conclude by inviting my attention. At a later stage it will doubtless come before me; and I will give to it the thoughtful

consideration which its intrinsic importance demands. Gentlemen, in accepting your address, allow me to thank you for the encouragement which it conveys, and to express the hope that during my residence in Calcutta I may be so fortunate as to retain the confidence of the Municipal Commissioners of this great city.

REPLY TO THE ADDRESS FROM THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

On the 11th January, 1893, in reply to this address the Viceroy said :—

Gentlemen, the address which you have just presented to me, and which I gratefully acknowledge, adds a contribution of no small value to the generous volume of welcome which has been accorded to me upon my arrival to take up the post of Viceroy of India. It is, I think, the first address that has reached me from an exclusively Indian source ; and it furnishes me, therefore, with the opportunity of conveying my thanks not merely to yourselves, but to the many thousands of your countrymen who throughout India have combined to testify in so marked a manner the loyalty to the Queen-Empress by the reception which they have accorded to her representative. The Queen has herself enjoined me to profit by the first occasion of expressing her sentiments of warm interest in her Indian subjects ; and I shall not assume any undue prerogative if I say that the intensity of those feelings is only matched by the reciprocal attachment and veneration which they have aroused in the bosom of the Indian peoples towards

their Gracious Sovereign. I derive additional pleasure from the presentation of your address owing to the fact that, as long ago as 1891, when I was Under-Secretary of State for India in England, I was made acquainted with the influential and representative character of your Association, and with the excellent work which it has done. Your address contains a brief epitome of the recent vicissitudes through which the Indian Empire has passed. Those vicissitudes, comprising as they have done the almost simultaneous trials of frontier warfare, plague, and famine, have laid a heavy tax upon the resources of the country and the patience of its inhabitants. The teachings of previous experience and the results of long preparation enabled the Government of Lord Elgin to encounter the famine with greater success than on any previous occasion ; and the manner in which these periodical visitations, inseparable from the Indian climate, are now met constitutes in itself no mean justification of British rule. The plague has not been similarly stamped under foot ; but the methods adopted for its eradication have, I believe, been shaped into the requisite harmony of sanitary precaution with respect for natural susceptibilities. You call my attention to the interests of the landed proprietors and the preservation of the old and influential families of the Province of Bengal. My own inclinations, whether in England or in India, are conservative in respect of the land, because I hold that a territorial proprietary long associated with the soil, trained in its management, familiar with its traditions, and conscious of their res-

responsibilities, is an element of stability in a community. In this respect my views are but a reflex of that which has been the constant policy of the British Government in India, and notably in this Province of Bengal. The future of Self-government in Municipal institutions is, as you justly observe, a question which will claim my attention. It would be presumptuous in me as yet to make any opinion derived from Western experience the basis of an induction as to the principles or methods which may be feasible here. The measure of the growth of any civilised community is, however, its capacity to assume within safe and well-ascertained limits the responsibility for its own regulation ; and in India, as elsewhere, there is required for this problem of political and ethical evolution not merely the goodwill of the deponents of power, but the aptitude of the depositories for the exercise of the functions that may be committed to their care. In Eastern countries, which are lacking in the traditions of Self-government, the rate of progress is relatively slow ; but the future historian of India will record that, during the 40 years which have elapsed since the direct Government of India passed to the Crown, it has been steady and sure. Gentlemen, I am much obliged for your address, and I should like to add one word of personal thanks to Maharaja Bahadur Sir Narendra Krishna for the graceful additional phrases of welcome with which he preceded the printed address, and also for his kindness in remembering that today is my birthday, and in according me his own felicitations and those of your important Association.

THE ADDRESS FROM THE JAIN
COMMUNITY.

On the 11th January, 1899, the Viceroy's reply to this address was as follows :—

Gentlemen,—Among the various communities who have addressed me since my arrival in India, there is none whose words of welcome awaken a more responsive echo in my breast than the Jains. I am aware of the high ideals embodied in your religion, of the scrupulous conception of humanity which you entertain, of your great mercantile influence and activity, and of the ample charity that has characterised your public and private dispensations. Previous travels in India have also familiarised me with many of your temples, in whose architectural features I have observed a refinement that reminded me of the great days of Asiatic art. I rejoice to think that under the ægis of British Government you enjoy full toleration for the practice of your faith and the necessary security for the pursuance of your honorable avocations. The office to which I have been called will not be one of labour if I continue to receive the sympathy which has been so spontaneously accorded to me, upon my arrival, by all classes in this country. In the career of any Viceroy there will be inevitable fluctuations both in the tide of fortune and in the impulses and attitude of men. But I hope that, whatever form these may take, the feelings of genuine regard which I venture to think prevail between the peoples of India and myself at the opening of my term of office, may not be shaken or impaired.

REPLY TO AN ADDRESS FROM THE MAHOMEDAN LITERARY SOCIETY.

On the 13th January, 1899, His Excellency the Viceroy received an address of welcome from the Mahomedan Literary Society of Calcutta, to which His Excellency replied as follows :—

Gentlemen,—I have already received several addresses from important bodies and Associations since my arrival in Calcutta ; but I do not know that among them any has been couched in language more felicitous, or has breathed sentiments more manifestly sincere, than yours. Perhaps the fact that you are the Committee of what I observe is styled a Literary Society may account for your proficiency in the former respect. Your experience of the good-will and just administration of the British Government has, I hope, inspired the feelings of loyalty and devotion to which I allude. I am acquainted with the history of your Society, which indeed is only a little younger in years than myself, and with the admirable exertions of your late founder. A combination of the resources of Western knowledge and discovery with the teachings of Oriental learning is, as you say, the indispensable condition of an intellectual equipment which shall enable the cultured Mahomedan to hold his own in the competitive struggle of the modern world. Perhaps the Mahomedans of India have been for a while somewhat handicapped in the race by an inadequate supply of the facilities requisite for such a training ; although the great institution founded, after a life-work of honourable activity, by the late Sir Syed Ahmed and kindred efforts

organised or supported by yourselves, should enable you to recover ~~the lost leeway,~~ and to claim your share in the development of the inheritance of your forefathers. At the same time I am glad to hear you speak with legitimate pride of the wealth of Oriental literature as being included in your curriculum, because the acquisition of the resources of modern science, indispensable though it be, should blind no student to the substantial merits of the philosophy, the poetry, and ethics of bygone times. Imperfectly as these may conform to be standards of a more progressive age, they have yet contributed no inconsiderable quota to the moral elevation, as well as to the intellectual enjoyment, of mankind. To any Mahomedan Literary Society, therefore, and more specially to yourselves, whose prestige and influence are so high, I would say, "Pursue your modern studies, but do not altogether neglect your ancient prophets and guides, and remember that the fountains of an obsolete erudition have not infrequently distilled the precious drops of truth".

Gentlemen, no one with the smallest knowledge of India can be ignorant of the great part that has been played in its past by Mahomedan dynasties, Mahomedan literature, and Mahomedan customs. No one with the least appreciation of the present can ignore the powerful and stable element contributed to Indian society by the existing Mahomedan States and communities. I have, as you remark, been so fortunate as to visit on various occasions the courts of most of the principal Mussulman potentates of Asia, and I have, perhaps, thereby acquired

some slight insight into the working of your institutions, as well as into the practical application of your religion. I am also aware that Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, whose Representative in India I am privileged to be, is the Sovereign of a larger number of Mahomedans than any monarch in the world. All these considerations are an explanation of the peculiar interest which I feel in your community, and of the satisfaction which it gives me to receive your congratulations. I accept your statement that upon any occasion of appeal I may implicitly rely upon the faithful allegiance of the Mahomedans of India. But I rejoice to think that the happy harmony existing between the various races and religions of this country, which is the glorious outcome of Her Majesty's reign, and the loyalty which is common to them all, are likely, should any emergency ever arise, to enlist in her enthusiastic service not one section alone, but the whole of the peoples, and the votaries of every creed who own her sway. It will be with the utmost pleasure and with profound respect that I shall receive from you during my tenure of office any representations that you may care to address to me ; and I confidently rely upon such communications to assist me in the task of government, as well as to broaden both my acquaintance and my sympathies with the Mahomedans of the Eastern world.

REPLY TO AN ADDRESS FROM THE TALUKDARS OF OUDH.

On the 10th January, 1899, in reply to an address from the Talukdars of Oudh, Lord Curzon spoke as follows :—

"It was within my knowledge before I landed in India that among the agreeable duties awaiting a new Viceroy upon his first taking up the reins of office, is that of receiving a deputation from the Talukdars of Oudh. That body, conspicuous for its representative and influential character, is always among the first to welcome the Representative of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress, and your appearance here today is an indication that your attitude remains unaltered, and that, in commencing my administration, I shall receive at your hands the same support which you have consistently accorded to my predecessors. My studies of Indian history have rendered me fairly familiar with the history of your body, from the time when your relations with the British Government were re-adjusted by the skill and impartiality of Lord Lawrence, down to the legislation of more recent years. Throughout this period the Talukdars of Oudh have been animated by the same spirit of loyalty and of good sense, which I think it is no exaggeration to say has now assumed almost the fixity of a tradition. The work of internal administration is, as you justly remind me, one that applies as searching a test to the capacities of statesmanship as the more dramatic issues involved in external policy. There is no standingstill in the growth of nations; and the adaptation of the condition and environment of life to

the increasing stature of a people is a task that calls both for vigilance and foresight. I hope to devote much of my time and energies to this task, the importance of which is measurable by the enormous numbers of those whose welfare it affects in the crowded but often obscure by-ways of industry and toil. I am grateful to you for having included Lady Curzon in the welcome which you have extended to myself.

AN ADDRESS FROM THE BENGAL NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

On the 23rd January, 1899, in reply to an address of welcome presented by the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

Gentlemen,—I beg to thank you for your address. I will not repeat what I have said, in reply to somewhat similar addresses with which I have been honoured by other representative bodies since my arrival in India, concerning both the circumstances of the country and the requirements of the hour. That India has suffered severely from recent afflictions, and that the task of recuperation should be the first interest of Government, are propositions of universal acceptance to which I have previously signified my assent. The realisation of any such ambition, while subject to vicissitudes which none of us can control, will nevertheless be greatly assisted by the harmonious co-operation of all parties and classes ; and the theory of a common

interest in the National progress is one, which though it is in the nature of a truism, I commend to the attention of all sections of the population native and foreign, as capable of very practical application, both in the efforts of individuals and in the action of the larger units which compose our corporate existence.

In your address you call my notice to a number of subjects which excite your own interest, and which should appeal to mine. I am not disposed to cavil either at the contents or at the order of your enumeration. Relief from the financial uncertainty and fluctuations which have for so long hampered the Government and interfered with trade by a currency reform which shall give stability to our monetary system is in my opinion the first step, though I am far from saying that it is the sole step, towards economic and commercial revival in India. While this difficult problem is still under investigation by an expert Committee in London, it is useless, and would be premature for me to forecast the issue. Nevertheless the symptoms, both here and in England, appear to be not unfavourable to an ultimate realisation by the Indian Government of the objects with which the policy now in course of operation was initiated by them a few years ago.

Concerning Railways and Irrigation, I find that my Railway programme has to a large extent been fixed for me in advance by the sanction, which has already been given, to the contemplated expenditure of the next three years. Irrigation, which in my eyes is a problem of not inferior importance, will be one of the first sub-

jects to receive my patient study. A great deal is said in India—but, it appears to me, there has hitherto been much more said than done—about scientific and technical education—a topic to which you also allude. I have a word to say to you on that matter in a moment.

I have so far dealt with the subjects which you have yourselves selected for recommendation to me. Will you now allow me to reciprocate the compliment by making some counter observations to you? Acquainted as I am with the immense resources and teeming population of Bengal, and familiar as I have long been with the quick and receptive intelligence of its peoples, I felt confident on coming here that in this city and province I should find abundant evidence of the application of those advantages to industrial and mercantile exploitation on a large scale. I cannot say that the investigations which I have so far made have altogether confirmed those anticipations. If I take the number of joint stock companies registered in India, I do not find that there has been during the last decade the same development, either in number or in capital, in Bengal that there has been in Bombay, while in ratio to the total population, which is four times greater in Bengal, it has been considerably less. In joint stock enterprise in Bengal it appears further that native capital plays as yet only a very subordinate part.

If I look to cotton mills, I find similar results. Whereas in 1830 there were 5 mills in Bengal as compared with 44 in Bombay, in 1897 the number had risen to 10 only in Bengal, but to 114 in Bombay; and whereas

in Bombay a large majority are under native or Parsi management, in Bengal only four are managed by natives, and not one of the latter is a native of Bengal. Jute, it may be said, however, stands to Bengal in much the same relation as cotton stands to Bombay, and affords, therefore, a fairer field of observation. While I am glad to note that the number of jute mills of which enterprise Bengal enjoys a practical monopoly, is slowly but steadily increasing, I yet find that of the 33 mills in Bengal only one is at present under native management.

In Bengal and Bombay there is the same number of paper mills, but the capital, the number of employes, and the production of the Bengal mills are largely owing to Government patronage much greater than in Bombay. On the other hand while the mills in the Bombay Presidency are all owned and worked by natives, those in Bengal are all owned and worked by Europeans.

You speak in your address of the latent mineral resources of this country, and I assume, therefore, that you are alive to their great possibilities and to the call for their exploitation. I have accordingly examined the statistics of coal mines; and while I find that six-sevenths of the mines now worked in India are in this province, yet it appears that out of the 50 principal mines, 19 only, and those the smaller and less important, are owned and managed by natives.

Finally, I revert to the question of scientific and technical education, and to your recommendation that a sufficient number of technical institutions should be

established to meet the needs of the people. I concur with you as to the supreme importance of this aspect of education in India ; but I would point out that for its successful prosecution is required, not merely the consent of Government to found the desired institutions, but also the willingness of pupils to enter the courses when founded. I have alluded to the great development of mining in Bengal and the opportunities thereby afforded for technical acquirements are already great, and are constantly increasing. Nevertheless I regret to find that the mining scholarships in the Sibpur Engineering College are not popular and that only one student has elected to undergo a mining course since the scholarships were established ; although ample encouragement might be derived by other competitors from the fact that this solitary aspirant obtained employment on the East Indian Railway as soon as the period of his training had expired. An even richer field of employment has, I believe, been opened by the increasing application of electricity to so many of the purposes of industry and labour. And yet in spite of attempts to induce students who have taken the B. E. degree to undergo a special training in Electricity, only one pupil in the same college selected this course, and he did not continue his instruction. Mechanical proficiency of any kind is sure, in these days of applied science of its immediate rewards ; and I should like to see the youth of India not merely turning to the lore of books, but gratifying themselves, for the strenuous crafts and professions of industrial life.

Gentlemen, I have not made these observations to you in any spirit of criticism, much less of reproach. Such an attitude on my part would have been at once ungenerous and unbecoming. But the opportunities of speech that are presented to a Viceroy on occasions such as this, are but ill-utilised by him if, while they are taken advantage of by bodies or persons who are addressing him to state what are their aspirations or desires, he does not with equal frankness submit such reflections in reply as may be present in his own mind. I gave utterance to them on the present occasion, because I feel on the one hand that the future development of Bengal largely hinges upon the turn that is given to the professional studies of its rising population and because in your Chamber of Commerce which has so frequently and with so much advantage been consulted by the Government, I recognise an agency possessing the power, if it has also the will, to communicate the requisite impulse, and to assist the Government in its supreme task of developing at once the resources of the country and the welfare of its inhabitants.

REPLY TO AN ADDRESS FROM THE CALCUTTA TRADES ASSOCIATION.

On the 31st January, 1899, in reply to an address of welcome from the Calcutta Trades Association His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

I am glad to receive at your hands, Sir, at the termination of what I believe has been a successful year of

office, this address of welcome from the Calcutta Trades Association. Your society represents, as I am informed, with much ability and discretion, the manifold trading interests of this city; and, as such, it is brought into contact with, and must have an intimate knowledge of, many aspects of industry and business. I am certainly of opinion that English money should be attracted to India, and that Government should do what lies in its power to encourage that movement. The opposite theory which I have seen argued, *viz*, that the employment of British capital in India constitutes a drain upon the natural resources of the country, I regard as a mischievous delusion. Capital, both British and native, is in my opinion, required for the development of India. Native capital is somewhat shy, and requires to be coaxed. It is not as yet habituated, at least in Bengal, to large ventures, and is satisfied either with landed investment, or in smaller fields with the high rate of interest upon loans which is procurable here. British capital is, therefore, a *sine qua non* to the national advancement; and it is, I believe, sound economic policy, as well as good citizenship, to desire that India should become one of its chosen fields of investment, and that this great and expanding dominion should attract some portion of that wealth which appears to be equally at the disposal of the petty and ^{in ascending} venal republics of the Western hemisphere and the moribund ^{king} kingdoms of the East. You tell me that India possesses all the requisites of a self-supporting nation. I am afraid that, at present at any rate, this is the language of hopeful

anticipation rather than of demonstrable fact. I have spoken of the absence or of the timidity of capital. Do we produce silver? How much native iron ore is smelted in Indian furnaces? Do not the only rolling mills in India work up imported iron? I take note of your phrase, therefore, as an aspiration rather than as an assertion; but it may help to widen our outlook and to stimulate our energies for the future. You proceed to say that there is an impression that a disposition exists on the part of the Government to obtain their requirements from England without first ascertaining whether they can be supplied on equally advantageous terms on the spot. I am glad that this is only an impression; because an impression is something that is capable of effacement, unless it be well founded. I have looked into the matter, and I have not so far found sufficient justification for the belief. As long ago as 1883, the Government of India issued special orders to the Local Governments to purchase, whenever possible, in the local markets articles of *bonafide* local manufacture, and, unless price or quality compelled a different choice, invariably to give the preference to Indian over European manufacture, such preference to extend also to articles locally manufactured from raw material imported from Europe. A schedule was at that time drawn up of all the objects that might be so preferred, and on more than one occasion since, notably in June of last year in the case of articles of iron and steel manufactured in India from imported material, that list received a considerable

extension ; while certain firms of high standing, some of whom are, I believe, members of your Association, were selected as qualified to tender for the Government contracts in articles of steel and iron. I find, indeed, that of all the stores purchased by Government, a proportion of one-third, amounting to a total value of 154 lakhs, or over one million sterling, was in 1896-97 procured in India. These consisted of iron, copper, hardware and cutlery, explosives, cotton and silk fabrics, and many other sorts of goods. When the Viceroy drives in a Calcutta-made carriage, with Calcutta-made harness, and writes his notes for this speech on paper manufactured in a Bengal mill, it cannot be said that he exhibits any reprehensible indifference to the patronage of local industry or enterprise. When the British soldier goes into action, or performs his regimental routine in India, in clothing, and in foot gear that come from Indian factories, his energies are directed to the defence of an interest, the produce of which he carries upon his own person. So far, therefore, from holding that there is ground for lament, I think, on the contrary, that there is much cause for congratulation, and that India is daily asserting her reasonable pretensions in louder and more insistent tones. While I am here—and I think I may safely say for long afterwards—she will receive from me in the prosecution of these ever-growing claims, the whole of my sympathies, and as much as may be given to me of strength.—Gentlemen, may I thank you, in conclusion, for this singularly beautiful casket, as happy in its symbolism as it is

elegant in its execution? It is a specimen, I understand, of local design and manufacture; and it reflects, if I may say so, infinite credit upon a handicraft in which I have long been keenly interested, *viz.*, the native silver-work of Hindoostan.

REPLY TO THE ADDRESS OF THE CENTRAL NATIONAL MAHOMEDAN ASSOCIATION.

On the 31st January, 1899, replying to an address of welcome from the Central Mahomedan Association, the Viceroy said:—

Gentlemen,—Your words of welcome to me, upon my arrival in India, and entry upon the arduous duties of my office, are characterised by a sympathetic warmth to which my heart would be dull did it not respond. The first essential, in my opinion, to the orderly rule of a community of one race and religion, and still more of a community of many divergent races and religions, by a governing class of another origin and faith, is the recognition by both parties of that fellow-feeling which substitutes mutual respect for distrust, co-operation for antagonism, and kindness for social indifference. There are many departments of life, both public and private, in which this spirit may manifest itself with advantage, whether in the official association which the free spirit of British Government opens with so liberal a hand, irrespective of birth or creed, to those who are well qualified among its citizens, or in the more modest but not less obligatory ^{pleasantness in a situation} amenities of everyday subsistence. I apply these reflections, gentlemen, to a consideration

of the topics to which you have especially called my attention. The⁽¹⁾ education of Mahomedans and their employment in the higher as well as in the lower ranks of the State's service, and⁽³⁾ their adequate representation on public bodies on a scale proportionate to their numbers and capacity, have long been features of the declared public policy of the Government of India ; but the attainment of these ends will also be facilitated by the mutual recognition of the feeling which I have described. My inquiries have acquainted me with the fact that, ever since the days of Lord Mayo, there has been a continuous effort on the part of the State to extend the educational facilities offered to the Mahomedans of India, by encouragement to their language, by additions to the teaching faculty, and by financial aid ; the object being not to create for you exceptional advantages in the struggle of life—for this your own sense of proportion and fairness has never led you to claim—but to remove the drawbacks under which you formerly laboured, and to provide for you an open approach to a fair field. For I imagine that upon these principles we shall all be agreed, namely, that the patronage of the State must be regulated in the main by public competition, and by the reward of merit ; and that the true law of progress is not the depression of the educational standard to humour the limitations of the individual, but the elevation of the individual to the level of modern competition. In this effort, which has been met by a corresponding activity on the part of the Mahomedans of India, a considerable and gratifying

advance has already been made. The latest figures which I have been able to procure show me that, in 1892, when the percentage of the Mahomedan population to the entire population of India was 21, the percentage of the Mahomedan scholars in public educational institutions was 19—no great disparity; while in this Province of Bengal the percentage of Mahomedan population was 32, and that of Mahomedan scholars 25. I believe that these, on the whole, very creditable figures, are not as yet reproduced in the higher stages of education, in the professional, technical, and art colleges. But the impulse has been communicated, the movement has begun, and there is no crying 'halt,' in the modern march of enlightenment and emancipation. Subject to the principles which I have laid down, I believe that the share given by the State to Mahomedans in its public service, is both just and generous. For the posts which are decided by public competition, discrimination, or selection, is obviously impossible; but in the case of posts which are filled by Government by nomination or otherwise, the object is to secure that fair and proportionate representation which you legitimately claim. When the Public Service Commission reported some years ago, it was found that of 2,588 persons engaged in executive and judicial work, 1,866, or 72 per cent were Hindoos, and 514, or 19 per cent, Mahomedans: proportions that very nearly corresponded to the actual proportions of Hindoos and Mahomedans in the total population of India at that time, which were respectively 75 and 20

per cent. A revised calculation would probably show figures even more favourable to your community. Of the representation of Mahomedans on local bodies and District Boards I cannot speak from first-hand knowledge ; but local Governments are expected, in their appointment of nominated members to have regard to the due representation of classes and interests otherwise unrepresented ; and I believe that they acknowledge and act up to this obligation. In the Legislative Councils I find that there are two Mahomedans in the Councils severally of Bengal, Bombay, and the Punjab ; and one each in the Councils of Madras and the North-West Provinces. I have also the advantage of one Mahomedan colleague upon the Legislative Council of the Government of India. These figures are not fixed and there is no reason why they should not in your case, as in that of other constituent classes, correspond to the expanding capacity and power of the community. I may summarise what I have said by the remark that the symptoms of Mahomedan advance, educational and otherwise, seem to me to be encouraging ; and by reminding you that, while your efforts are watched with a friendly eye by Government, the future rests for the most part in your own hands. I have not alluded, gentlemen, to the question of wakf properties, because I understand that you propose shortly to address a memorial to me on that subject. As regards a Moslem University in India, if it is intended to carry to a further stage the work already undertaken by the Aligarh College, which has so abundantly justified its

existence by the production of a number of first-class men, it is a project to which all must wish well. I am pleased, gentlemen, to have had the privilege of meeting you today ; and I hope that the Deity whom we equally revere may look with blessing upon our respective labours.

REPLY TO THE ADDRESS OF THE ZEMINDARY PUNCHAYET.

On the 3rd February, 1899, a deputation of the Bengal Zemindary Punchayet waited on His Excellency the Viceroy with an address of welcome—headed by the Maharajah of Durbhanga. The Viceroy replied as follows :—

Gentlemen, many of the expressions in your address, which I gratefully accept, along with the beautiful silver casket in which you have placed it, recall, both in kindness of tone and in generosity of sentiment, similar passages which I have already acknowledged and commented upon in addresses from other bodies. You will not, I am sure, think me guilty of any insensibility to the flattering character of your welcome if, without reiterating the warmth of my own sympathies and the sincerity of my desire to act up to the high responsibilities imposed upon me, I pass atonce to an examination of the points which you bring more specifically under my notice.

I understand that you are dissatisfied with the system of education prevailing at both ends of the social scale with which your property and interests bring you

into connection. Of the education given to the ryots, you report that it is inadequate and unsuited to their actual avocations of life. These avocations I take to be in the main the pursuit of agriculture ; and I, therefore, assume that you desire a system which shall better qualify the rural classes for the industry which it will be their life's occupation to pursue. I believe that this also is the view of the Government of India. In recent years great efforts have been made to analyse and to supply the deficiencies in existing systems of elementary education ; and much progress has been made, for example, in the provision of more suitable text books, in what are called object-lessons, and in physical instruction. Upon this I have to make two observations : the first, that Government ought not to be left to grapple with this problem alone, but that the initiative and effort of private individuals and bodies should be freely placed at their disposal ; the second, that in teaching agriculture we must not lose sight of the still greater importance of training the faculty to understand what agriculture is. The basis of any practical education must be the acquisition of such knowledge as will enable a man to use his senses, to exercise his reason, and to have some intelligent understanding of that which he is required to perform.

As regards the education of the higher ranks, you record your opinion that, as at present pursued, it fails to qualify its pupils for their proper stations in society, or for participation in public life. Now it is true that the system of public school training, as we call it in

England, is not indigenous in this country, and is not at once adaptable to the traditions or habits of Oriental society. Nevertheless the Rajkumar Colleges in various parts of India are now established on a firm footing, and appear on the whole to be producing excellent results. Here, again I would call your attention to the fact that in England this class of education has been supplied almost entirely by private initiative and without the assistance or support of the State. Should, however, there be any suggestions in this respect which are present in your own minds, and which you think capable of translation into practice, I shall be glad if you will appoint a committee of your own body, with whom I would associate an educational officer to assist in formulating your views for my further consideration.

In your ensuing paragraph you deprecate Western methods of judicial administration as foreign to Oriental instincts, and as unfortunate in their results. I have never myself felt any personal attraction towards the law courts of any country, whether Eastern or Western ; and, while the law-giver who evolves order out of chaos has been justly regarded in all ages as a great man, I think that an even greater would be he who could persuade his fellow-creatures to abstain from drinking too deeply of the wells of justice. The thirst is frequently not appeased until it has entailed some exhaustion to the constitution of him who drinks. Litigiousness, however, has always struck me as the result not so much of the temptations of law courts as of the temper

of peoples; and I do not know that it would be altogether correct to say that litigation, according to Western rules, has been found in practice to be abhorrent to the instinct of Eastern peoples. However that may be,—that simple cases should not be taken to the law courts, but should be settled by arbitration, or by some other outside method; that the costly and dilatory procession of appeals should be discouraged; and that society should learn to regard the courts as a refuge, and not as a relaxation—these are propositions which few will be found to deny. Your punchayet institutions are, I gather, accustomed to deal with questions of a particular character rather than with the cases, or disputes, that commonly end in a reference to courts of justice. But that the Government are keenly interested in the employment of arbitration as a substitute for judicial proceedings, is shown by the Arbitration Bill which has only lately been introduced by one of my colleagues, the Legal Member of Council. I conclude with the hope that the interest thus testified may be met by a corresponding inclination on the part of the people.

Gentlemen, I thank you for your good wishes in the career of pleasurable responsibility that lies before me.

REPLY TO THE ADDRESS OF THE IMPERIAL
ANGLO-INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

In reply to an address of welcome presented by the Imperial Anglo-Indian Association, His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

Gentlemen,—Your address differs from every other that has so far been presented to me in this important particular—that while, as you say, there are topics of special interest to you which you might have brought to my notice, anomalies or drawbacks that you might have pleaded to have redressed, urgent measures that you might have desired to recommend, you have refrained from pressing your views upon any such points, and have been content to swell the volume of generous acclamation which has greeted the assumption on my part of the Viceroyalty of India with a contribution which I count as inferior in interest or importance to none of those that I have previously received. Allow me in the same spirit, gentlemen, to thank you for your welcome, so gracefully extended to Lady Curzon as well as myself ; to assure you, in my capacity as head of the Government, of my confidence in your loyalty—a loyalty which, as you remind me, you have not been slow to testify by personal service in the past—and to wish well to your exertions and interests in the future. You rightly observe that the community which you represent occupies a unique position, midway between the social extremes of Indian society. In my judgment this is a position which, while not unattended with

difficulty, and while accompanied by apparent disqualifications, is yet endowed with some positive advantages. There are many functions in a social economy like that of India which can be best performed by those who have ties of blood with both the European and the indigenous peoples; and who to the bringing-up and associations of Englishmen, add the familiarity with native character, language, and habits of thought which descent from an Indian parentage, whether recent or remote, can scarcely fail to impart. In particular it seems to me that these faculties should find a ready field of employment in the mechanical industries which are being developed with so much rapidity in modern India, and not least in Bengal. The fact that, on the one hand, Anglo-Indians, by their education and mode of life, are in touch with the European proprietors or managers of such enterprises, while, on the other hand, they must have a closer understanding of the interests and feelings of the native artisans than a foreigner can ever acquire, should render their services in many cases as foremen, or as intermediaries in some capacity or other between the two ranks, of great practical value. I am informed by those who can speak from an experience of many years that such has in many instances proved to be the case. I invite your attention, therefore, to this arena of honourable occupation for Anglo-Indian youths, and I would respectfully represent to your Association that great dignity, and no reproach, attaches to manual labour; and that the community that succeeds best in the world is that which

most speedily determines its true adaptation to the environment; in which it is placed.

REPLY TO THE ADDRESS OF THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

In reply to an address of welcome from the Indian Association His Excellency spoke as follows :—

Gentlemen,—The address which you have been good enough to present to me covers, I think, a wider field than any of those which it has been my agreeable task to receive and acknowledge during the past month. At the same time it is not one whit behind them in its sympathetic expressions of welcome and in the good-wishes which it formulates for my administration. I need not either allude to or recapitulate expressions which have occurred in previous speeches of my own, and to which you have paid the compliment of quotation. I do not know that sentiments gain in intensity, even though they may earn a wider publicity, by frequent repetition ; and I will therefore content myself on the present occasion with saying that I hold by what I have previously said, both of my anxiety to serve this country and its peoples, and of my deeply-rooted conviction that as Great Britain succeeds or fails in India, so to a large extent will she be judged by the High Court of History. If there is sound reason for not repeating this afternoon what I have so often been called upon to say elsewhere, I have been supplied by yourselves, gentlemen, with an equally valid reason for not

advancing on to new or debateable ground. In your fourth paragraph you justly remark that it would be altogether out of place on an occasion like this to discuss the great public questions of the day, and that you would not be justified in soliciting an expression of my opinions with regard to them at so early a date. I observe with pleasure that your disclaimer in the former respect has not prevented you from conveying to me with considerable amplitude and with abundance of argument your own views on several of those topics. I say "with pleasure," because while you deprecate discussion or the premature extraction of any pronouncement from me, it must yet be an advantage to me to be made acquainted, as early as possible, with the attitude that is adopted towards these subjects by the important Association to which you belong. I take note, therefore, of what you say with regard to Local Self-Government, to the separation of Judicial and Executive functions and to the employment of natives of India in the service of the State ; and, while deferring to your canon that any utterance on these questions is not at present called for from me, I may yet be at liberty to add that they are topics which have constantly occupied my attention, and will, no doubt, while I am in India, frequently come under my eye. I would observe, however, that they are questions, some of which are of a controversial character, and admit of a good deal of debate ; and which are not settled, even though they be advanced, by a consideration of one side of the case only. It will be my duty to look into both sides, and to decide,

so far as decision is called for, impartially, and without fear or favour. In the discharge of this duty I cannot always expect to carry with me the assent, or even the approbation, but I hope that I may at least never forfeit the respect, of the community which I regard as so high an honour, while energy and hope are still strong within me, to serve.

THE LAHORE MUNICIPAL ADDRESS.

On the 30th March, 1899, at the Government House at Lahore, in reply to an address of welcome from the local Municipality,—the Viceroy spoke as follows :—

Your Honor and gentlemen,—I am glad at this early stage of my period of office to have the pleasure of visiting the historic and important city of Lahore. Every Viceroy must desire to become as soon as possible acquainted with the Punjab, and with its capital. A good deal of the success and the greater part of the tranquillity of his administration will be decided by what passes during his term upon the frontiers of this province. In its leading city he will observe the relics of a kingly past. He will be brought into contact with a race that still begets, not merely men, but heroes, and he will have the opportunity of consulting with the officers upon whose tact and experience the management of what are more than provincial interests in the main depends. If in my case these experiences are not entirely novel, they do not render it any the less agreeable to me to return as Viceroy to a locality which I have

more than once visited as a student, and which has always possessed for me a peculiar fascination.

We are in the habit in England of celebrating important anniversaries in our history, with the object either of recalling great events, or of commemorating great men. I cannot fail, therefore, to notice upon the present occasion that yesterday, when I arrived at Lahore, was the exact fiftieth anniversary of the day on which the treaty was signed by which the Punjab was included in the dominions of the British Crown. Were the Governor-General now living who concluded that treaty, he might indeed congratulate himself upon the issues of his policy, and upon the reception accorded half a century later to his eleventh successor in that high office.

While I sympathise with you in the sufferings from famine and plague which have in recent years visited the Punjab, in common with so many other parts of India, I may yet congratulate you upon having escaped far more lightly than some of them have done. As the head of the Government, I cannot be insensible, to your gratifying recognition both of the efforts of the administration in India and of the generosity of the British public. They have not merely contributed greatly to the mitigation of your hardships, but they have testified to the unity of the interest and sentiment which it is my desire to encourage in both countries.

In the fourth paragraph of your address you assure me of loyal support from the inhabitants of this Province in the pursuance of a policy that shall at once

protect and pacify your frontiers. This is not the occasion for any pronouncement upon frontier affairs. It will be sufficient for me to say that my desire is to keep India safe, to respect tribal independence, to be friendly to those who will be friendly, but firm towards those who attack without provocation. No man can forecast what may happen in a region so fertile in surprises as the Indian border : but I shall perhaps not err if I record my own conviction that frontier politics are not an exact science, and that their prudent management is less dependent upon hard-and-fast rules than it is upon methods and manners, and, still more, upon men. The ideal frontier is that in respect of which its own sons are largely enlisted in its defence.

In the next place, you call my attention to the efforts which you have long been making, and are continuing to make, for the improvement of the drainage and water-supply of your city. I have been brought up in England as a member of a political party whose leader once prescribed for it the motto "Sanitas sanitatum, omnia sanitas." I have, therefore, what I may almost call a hereditary political prepossession in favour of such exertions ; which, I may observe, are even more urgently called for in the conditions of an Eastern climate, an Eastern soil, and Eastern habits of life, than they are in the West.

Having thus appealed to a predisposition upon which you can safely rely, you proceed to ask me to evince my sympathies by reducing the rate of interest upon a loan which you have already contracted with the Government

as well as upon another for which you are about to apply. That the Government do not take altogether the same view of the question as yourselves, is apparent from the fact that you included the same appeal in your address to Lord Elgin five years ago. Its repetition in substantially the same form now would seem to indicate that you have not been able to convince the Supreme Government in the interim. It will, of course, be both my duty and my pleasure to consider any fresh application that may reach me from your Government which is the proper channel of communication ; nor will there be any predisposition on my part to treat such an appeal from the exclusive standpoint of official or financial pedantry. I must, however, point out to you on the one hand, that in every country in the world State loans to local bodies are only granted upon a margin beyond the actual burden incurred by the State because its credit is to a certain extent diminished by this hypothecation of its resources ; on the other hand, that there is a growing tendency in India to regard the State as a milch-cow, whose duty it is to provide universal sustenance, whereas the real function of the State as a money-lender is to lend in quarters which cannot borrow on their own account, rather than to supplement and prop up an independent and already existing credit.

You conclude by inviting my attention and support to the provision of technical education in the Punjab, either by the founding of suitable institutions, or by the gift of grants-in-aid. By technical education I

understand you to mean the sort of education that will fit a man for the professions of life, rather than for the arm-chair in the study. In this respect I concur with your aspirations, and I have ascertained that the Local Government already support a Medical College, a Veterinary College, a school of Art, and a number of Industrial schools, and that the number of pupils under technical training in the Punjab exceeds 2,000.

There are two observations, however, which I am tempted to make in this connection. In England such matters as technical education are largely taken up and pressed forward by Municipal Corporations. May I ask if the Lahore Municipality have taken any independent steps on behalf of the interest which they have so much at heart? The second observation is this: Technical education while not precluding State Assistance, may be largely assisted by private enterprise. I have heard of one such Industrial school at Rawalpindi in this Province, but of one alone. Grants-in-aid are available on easy terms for any similar institutions that may be founded; and if the demand be as urgent as is represented, there should be little difficulty in enlisting public or private generosity up to the point at which the State may legitimately be called upon to assist.

In conclusion, allow me to thank you, gentlemen, for your loyal address, which I understand it is intended to enclose in a specimen of the silver work of Lahore. I would give a great deal to revive the ancient art industries of this once ingenious and artistic country.

REPLY TO THE ADDRESS OF THE CHENAB CANAL COLONISTS.

On the 3rd April, 1899, the Viceroy replying to an address of welcome from the Chenab Canal Colonists said:—

Nawab Mahomed Hyat Khan and gentlemen,—I am only sorry that I cannot address you in the language most of you will understand, but I daresay that my remarks although in English will be translated afterwards, and communicated to the large body of those who do not understand them in the form in which I speak. A new Viceroy, coming out to India learns many interesting lessons and sees many surprising things. Among the most novel and gratifying is the operation of the great system of irrigation, which in England we dimly know has filled up immense blanks on the map of India, has made the wilderness to blossom like the rose, and provided sustenance and livelihood to millions of human workers. What we do not and cannot know there is the sort of experience that I have been able to derive to-day from a visit to the actual scene of one of these beneficent reclamations, and from the study of the reports and information presented to me in connection therewith.

The Punjab has been one of the main fields for this particular application of the energies and resources of the Government of India, and it may interest any of my fellow-countrymen in England under whose eyes these words may subsequently fall, to know that at the present time in the Punjab alone, we have constructed 4,500 miles of main and branch canals, not including

10,500 miles of small distributaries ; that the total area irrigated by these means, which in 1868 amounted only to 1,000,000 acres, in 1878 to 1,300,000 acres and in 1888 to 2,300,000 acres, has risen owing to the startling progress of the last decade, to 5,200,000 acres in 1898 ; that the value of the crops which the irrigated area produces is estimated at ten millions sterling ; that the total capital outlay on the irrigation works of the Punjab has been nearly six millions sterling ; and that the net revenue is over ninety lakhs or 10½ per cent on the capital outlay. Though statistics are commonly said to be prosaic and dull, I venture to think that in these figures, with their astonishing upward march, and with the evidences of sound finance with which they teem, there is an element of romance that almost surpasses in its dramatic surprise the more solid interest attaching to a far-sighted and successful effort of imperial administration.

And now I turn to the particular project and locality which have tempted me here to-day and which I have spent a pleasurable day examining. When I am informed that four years ago the place in which I am now speaking, and which has the appearance of a flourishing township and mart of agricultural produce, was a barren and uninhabited jungle, and that there are now a thousand separate villages in the settlement that eight years ago existed only on paper, I only confess I doubt whether the records of the far West of America, where towns are said to spring up like mushrooms almost in a night, can show

any result more wonderful or more gratifying. Here was an area of $2\frac{1}{2}$ million acres of waste land. The big dam across the Chenab, commenced in 1889, was finished in 1892. At the end of the year just closed, one million acres have already been brought under irrigation, there has been a capital outlay of $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores, or $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions sterling.

The net revenue in 1898 was sixteen lakhs of rupees, or a return on the capital outlay of nearly $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Now that the annually irrigated area has reached 1,000,000 acres, it is estimated that the total value of the crops raised, in a single year equals the capital cost of the entire works, and I have little doubt the ultimate returns of the expenditure will nearly, if it does not quite double the present amount. On the land thus reclaimed has been planted a large and prosperous peasant population, with allotments of from twenty to thirty acres each, upon which they enjoy perpetual and heritable rights of occupancy. Other portions of the land have been bestowed as rewards upon pensioners of the native army, and yeoman grantees, or have been sold or leased to capitalists. There is believed to be a population of over 200,000 persons—now in a district which, six years ago was almost without an inhabitant. Where at that time immigrants could with difficulty be found for what appeared to be a precarious venture, there is now almost a rush of would-be settlers, and great care is required in sifting the numerous applications for grants.

I have only to look about to note that contentment

and affluence everywhere prevails. If ever there was a case in which has been realised the ambition of the statesmen as described by our English poet,—“to scatter plenty over a smiling land, and read their history in a nation's eyes,” it would seem to be in this favoured corner of the province of the Punjab. I observe that in your address you attribute this remarkable triumph to British philanthropy, organising power, and engineering skill. I am glad you have included the two latter among the elements of success, for it is certainly true that no small share of the credit is due to the officers who devised or have superintended the execution of this magnificent scheme. Among them I may mention Colonel Ottley, Colonel Jacob, and Mr. Preston; also the engineers who have carried it out, and who, with a precision of detail never before attempted, have brought the water literally to the door of each tenant as he has entered upon his holding, and the Colonization Officer, Captain Popham Young, who has accompanied me here today, and who, both by his ingenious and successful subdivision squares upon principles that have been equally acceptable to the settlers and helpful to the administration, by his institution of the admirable system of panchayets for settlement by arbitration of your local disputes, and by his paternal influence over the colonists, has done so much for the rapid development of this Indian Ethopia. (Applause).

Let me also, on my part, include a tribute of well-merited praise to the sturdy and sensible peasants

of the Punjab, who leaving their old homes have girded up their loins, and marched forth with confident courage to this new land of promise. While expressing your thanks for the benefits which you thus enjoy, you conform to what appears to be the hallowed practice of Indian deputations by asking for a little more. (Laughter).

Your first request is for a military cantonment at Lyallpur. I sympathise with your martial ardour, but I am informed by my military advisers that there are other places better suited for the proposed dispositions. Next you ask for certain pecuniary advantages; first, is a remission of the ground-rent levied on all town lands in the settlement. I do not think that this is a reasonable request, and I see no chance of its being granted. The second is that the revenue thus raised may be conceded to the municipalities for local use. Now I must point out to you that the fund realised from the sale-proceeds of sites has already been handed over to the Municipality of Lyallpur, and, while I am willing to consider any fresh plea on its own merits, I must observe that in one respect you go far to justify the character for precocity by opening your mouths rather wide in your early years. Thirdly, you ask for quicker trains and better goods sidings. All these will come in good time. You must not be in too great a hurry.

You conclude by asking me to give you some special service to perform to discharge your gratitude to the Government. I appreciate the offer and the

spirit in which it is made, but for the present the only service that I could impose upon you is that of developing the colony of which you are the parents, of living in peace and concord with your neighbours, and of setting an example of loyal citizenship to the other parts of this great and flourishing province. (Applause)

REPLY TO THE DELHI MUNICIPAL ADDRESS.

In the course of his autumn tour, the Viceroy arrived at Delhi on the 28th October, 1899, where on the same day an address of welcome was presented by the local Municipality. In reply His Excellency spoke as follows :—

Mr. President and members of the Municipal Committee of Dehli :—I have not, since my arrival in this country, received a more model Address. My experience of Addresses in India, although as yet inconsiderable, has taught me that they are sometimes, and I am far from saying improperly, made the vehicle of a skilfully designed petition or appeal, and that occasionally, even under the delicate disguise of a compliment, may be detected a remote echo of complaint. I am happy to observe in this Address that you ask me for nothing ; that you complain of nothing ; but that, on the contrary, you record for the most part a condition of affairs which testifies to the good management in the past, which reflects existing contentment, and which is of good omen for the future. The observations you have made upon the work which the

Delhi Municipal Committee has long been engaged in carrying out for the benefit of the city appear to indicate a wise and correct realization of the main functions for which a Municipality exists. You are concerned with the life, health, dwellings, and means of subsistence of your fellow citizens; and this being so, the main efforts should undoubtedly be directed towards making the conditions of life in this great city sanitary, decent and of good example. That such ambitions are not always susceptible of swift or easy fulfilment is evident from your own case, since I find that, as long ago as 1881, when your predecessors welcomed Lord Ripon to Delhi, they descanted in the Address of welcome upon those very works of city drainage and of water-supply—which you have also brought under my notice as being still in course of execution, but which must, I imagine, be now in majority of cases approaching the later stages of fulfilment. The advantage, nay even the necessity, of the local application of the latest resources of science in respect of sanitation and drinking supply to large masses of people, is now becoming universally recognised, and is one of the greatest triumphs of civilization over prejudice and ignorance. It is 12 years since I was last present as a private tourist in Delhi, and both from what I have heard and read and from what you have just told me I shall expect to find in your city signs of great and remarkable development. Much of this expansion you owe to the central position which has always made Delhi a capital city, now of commerce as once of power; more still to engineering policy that

has converted it into a pivot of so many radiating lines of railroad; and perhaps, most of all to the judicious Municipal finance, that has understood not merely when to tax but where to spare, and that has thereby accelerated the development of Delhi into a great emporium and distributing centre of Indian trade. There are few spectacles more interesting to the traveller who is somewhat of a student than that of cities which, in modern times and under novel conditions, have recovered or revindicated the fame of the illustrious past. In Italy, Rome, in Persia, Ispahan, in Syria, Damascus, in Japan, Kioto,—all of them former capitals of the Empire—have caught the spirit of the age, and, instead of sighing over political or imperial supremacy that has vanished, are found eagerly pushing to the front in the modern march of industry and invention. In Delhi, we may see signs of similar vitality. It has already carried you far, and will, I believe and trust, carry you farther still. It has been a source of sincere grief to me to learn that the neighbouring districts of this province are severe sufferers from the affliction which has darkened our autumn prospects in so many parts of Northern and Central India. If my visit to your City is of shorter duration than I should on personal grounds have preferred to make it, you will, perhaps, pardon the brevity of my stay, on the grounds that I am anxious to visit the centres of scarcity myself and to see with my own eyes how the poor people are faring, and what steps are being taken by our highly-trained and gallant district officers to meet the storm that has so swiftly

and cruelly broken over their heads. I am confident that I shall find them labouring at their posts, and that whatever expert knowledge, human sympathy, or material assistance can contribute to the relief of the suffering peasants will be forthcoming until the enemy has been finally vanquished and has disappeared. You have concluded by asking me to convey to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress an expression of your loyalty and devotion. I shall have great pleasure in carrying out your desire, and I doubt not that Her Majesty will be rejoiced to receive one more addition to many loyal messages that from time to time have reached her from the city in which her Imperial title was first proclaimed and in whose prosperity she has never failed to display the most lively interest. I should like, in conclusion, to add one word of personal thank as to the particular form which the casket and Address have taken. I am always glad when these presentations are made to me to receive something especially reminiscent of occupations or arts of the place where the presentation occurs, and it is with satisfaction that I notice that the casket containing the Address bears on the lid and sides in miniature for which the artists of this part of India have always been famous, and which appears to me that they practise as well at the present time as in by-gone days.

THE NAGPUR MUNICIPAL ADDRESS.

On Saturday the 18th November, 1899, His Excellency the Viceroy and party arrived at Nagpur where His Excellency was

presented with an address of welcome by the Nagpur Municipal Committee. The Viceroy in reply spoke as follows :—

Mr. President and members of the Municipal Committee of Nagpur,—I receive this address at your hands with mixed emotions. On the one hand, I am very glad to be presented, through the medium of one of your most representative citizens, himself a member of my Legislative Council, with, so loyal and complimentary an address as that which has just been read. On the other hand, I am beyond measure sorry that my first visit to the Central Provinces should take place at a time when the people are distressed and the country suffering. Nevertheless, the explanation and, I would fain hope, the justification of my visit lies in that very fact. It seemed to me improper and impossible, at a moment when so many thousands of the inhabitants of Northern and Central India are in sorrow, that I should hold myself altogether aloof from their troubles, or that I should be pursuing in more fortunate districts, an official and ceremonial tour. For this reason I have diverted somewhat from the normal routine, both of practice and locality, and have spent the last three weeks in travelling about among the principal areas of actual or probable distress. I trust that I may have learnt a good deal by so doing, and now that my informal itinerary has brought me to the Central Provinces, I would fain hope that the educational process is not exhausted, and that in the next few days I may, by personal observation and by contact with the people, acquire some knowledge of the particular

difficulties with which you are called upon to contend in this part of country. Some idea of their nature and extent may be derived from the address to which I have just listened. I have been engaged elsewhere in visiting in some places famine works, in other cases plague works, but here you have the twofold misfortune of suffering simultaneously from both plague and famine, and there is added to your condition the melancholy and exceptional feature that these calamities have not fallen upon a province in the hey-day of prosperity or upon a people well-to-do and capable of a stout resistance, but that they have attacked you at a moment when you had barely recovered from a previous and devastating shock, and were still crippled and impoverished by its severity. In these circumstances it behoves all parties to unite heartily and without reserve in a common effort to save the community from disaster, which, if unarrested, would in many cases amount to ruin. I am pleased to learn from the information that you have laid before me, and from independent enquiries, that much is being done in respect of both visitations. You have in Nagpur a very large and important body of operatives engaged in the weaving of cloth. They amount, I am told, to more than one-sixth of a total city population of nearly 120,000 souls. I rejoice to hear that the Government is helping them in their distress, which is genuine, and that relief works have been opened, upon which as many as 4,000 persons are already engaged. Any permanent injury to the staple industry of the town cannot but react upon the entire

community, and I appreciate the wisdom as well as the promptitude of this relief. Private effort has, I understand, come to the aid of Government in respect of another class of your native population, viz,—those whose position or surroundings might render them reluctant, inspite of their sufferings, to accept Government relief. For these a cheap grain shop has been opened by the generosity of some among your citizens, and I cannot imagine a more philanthropic or patriotic expenditure of money. There are many fields which Government, however keen its sense of duty, cannot properly or successfully cover, but which provide material opening for that personal charity which is an immemorial tradition of the East. Concerning plague, I have now in other parts of India seen so much of its operations, and of the steps that are or can be taken to meet it, that I approach each fresh field of suffering with a discriminating as well as a sympathetic eye. Of course, where the duration of the plague has been longest, there the preparations are furthest advanced, and the people themselves acquiesce most readily in the precautions which science and experience jointly suggest. In great cities, for instance in Bombay, where there have been recurrent epidemics, and where there is a large number of enlightened and public-spirited citizens, the measures for inoculation, evacuation, disinfection, and occupation camps, and hospital camps, are in a highly organised state of efficiency, and are acquiesced in by the people. In these cases pressure or compulsion is unnecessary, even if it were thought wise—which I doubt

whether it would be—because the people have learnt wisdom. Elsewhere there is not the same experience or the same acquiescence in such cases, and I count Nagpur among their number. A great responsibility is devolved, in my opinion, upon the leading members of the Native community. Where Government has pursued a policy of patient and consistent regard for the scruples of the people and has declined to take compulsory steps, there, I think that a special duty rests with the leaders of native opinion to exert their own influence with their fellow countrymen. I suppose that no educated human being in India doubts that if the plague attacks a house the elementary measures that should be adopted are to remove the patient to some quarter where he can be properly tended, and if possible, cured ; to disinfect the house and temporarily shift the remainder of its inmates to a spot where they shall, if practicable, be at no great distance from the patient and where they shall live in comfortable and healthy conditions until they are permitted to go back. But many of them are so ignorant that they decline to move, or be moved, and prefer to sit still and to wait till death overtakes them. Furthermore, there is the preliminary safeguard or precaution of inoculation, concerning which I spoke strongly at Poona, which also falls into the category of measures prudent in themselves, but not to be associated prudently with force. I venture, therefore, to impress upon the members of the Municipal Committee, and upon the prominent citizens of Nagpur, that in all respects they may do a good deal to save those

poor sufferers from the consequences of ignorance, and to induce them voluntarily to consult their own safety. After all Government cannot conceivably have any object in its plague policy except the good of the population, and if the latter can be convinced of this fact by those who are their natural guides, any reluctance arising from prejudice or apprehension should before long disappear. Your address concludes with an expression of the kindest feeling towards both Lady Curzon and myself. I regret that she is not here on the present occasion, for I dared not ask her to share with me the great strain of the past three weeks; but I hope that if we are ever able to visit the Central Provinces together, we may find that the garb of mourning has been put off, and that prosperity and contentment are again shining on the faces of the people. (Loud Applause.)

REPLY TO THE MUNICIPAL ADDRESS AT JUBBULPORE.

On the 22nd November, 1899, in reply to an address of welcome from the Jubbulpore Municipality, Lord Curzon said :—

Mr. President and Members of the Municipal Committee,—Although I am only the second Viceroy who has visited Jubbulpore since the days of Lord Canning, the fact that I have come here within three years of the visit of my predecessor Lord Elgin, is an indication that the Central Provinces occupy no backward place

in the regard of the Government of India, and that the welfare of this city and neighbourhood are objects of my personal solicitude and concern. It is not unnatural that we should both of us compare the circumstances of three years ago, when you presented an address to Lord Elgin, with those of to-day. There is this similarity between the two cases that in both of them the Province has been confronted with a serious scarcity arising from deficient rainfall, and has been called upon to make an exceptional effort in the face of a widespread and calamitous distress. I gather, however, from a comparison of the statement which you made to the late Viceroy in December, 1896, and that which you submit to me now, that there are features in the present situation which justify feelings, not as you very properly remark, of congratulation, but, perhaps, of some slight relief. We are certainly better prepared to meet a fresh emergency from the experience gained during a former one. The conditions of scarcity and destitution have not upon the present occasion developed themselves with the startling rapidity that they did in 1896, and I am glad to hear you say that the poorer classes in this neighbourhood are physically in a better state than they were at that time. On the other hand, while we may confess a relative sense of relief at the situation as it now stands, we cannot shut our eyes to the possibility of less encouraging features in the near future. Even now you are dependent for your next rabi crops upon a rainfall which is ardently hoped for, which may yet come, but which, like the summer and autumnal rains that

have lately failed us, may turn out to be inadequate or illusory. It is for this reason that I refrain deliberately from using any words of what might be thought premature hopefulness. I prefer rather to err on the side of caution and to imagine that we are only at the beginning and not in the middle of a long vista of anxiety and exertion, and I call upon all parties, upon officers of my Government, as to whom I am convinced that a more unselfish, or highly-trained body does not exist than those who are engaged in the administration of this Province, upon the leaders of public opinion, and upon the wealthy and public-spirited individuals among the native community, to address themselves with unmitigated energy to meeting a strain which may increase instead of diminishing, and which, before it has slackened, may possibly affect the fortunes and even the lives of many millions of human beings. Gentlemen, as I go round the various areas of suffering, as I see the efforts that are being made to relieve it, as I observe the unpretentious but unsparing activity of British officers, Civil and Military, in combating the afflictions and in alleviating the misery of the people, and as I witness the bold and comprehensive schemes, devised in no commercial or parsimonious spirit, but on broad and statesmanlike lines both by Local Governments and by the Government of India, I ask myself questions—and I ask them in no temper of hypocritical self-laudation but in one of philosophic enquiry—has there ever been a period in the history of India when such a philanthropic regard for the well-being of the toiling

and helpless masses has been shown by the rulers of the country? Did Hindu or Mussalman sovereigns, a Mahratta, Mogul or a Pathan ever so exert themselves for the safeguarding of human life? Is there at this moment a Government in the world, that if it were in our place, would devote its resources, both of means and men, with so large-hearted a munificence to your relief, and would identify itself so thoroughly with the people? And if the answer to all these questions be—as I think it must be—in the negative, may we not find therein a convincing proof, as well as a supreme justification, of the high mission to which the British power has been called to India? It is often observed that we have given to the inhabitants of this country immunity from internal warfare for nearly a century; but we have done more than that. We endeavour to relieve you—and year by year we attain a larger measure of success—from the ceaseless conflict with more inveterate foes of humanity even than human beings themselves, namely, poverty, starvation, disease, and pestilence. It is an arduous campaign, but our hearts are in the task. Gentlemen, I have always heard of Jubbulpore as a place distinguished for the public spirit of its citizens. You have mentioned one case to me in respect of the enterprise of a prominent member of your community—Raja Seth Gokuldas—who advanced funds to the Municipality, by which were undertaken the great water-works that have now been in operation here for 17 years. Since that date you have been compelled to hypothecate one half of your annual

income from octroi for the payment of interest on this loan ; but I learn with pleasure that, owing, in the main, to the sound administration of the Municipal Committee, your revenue has risen sufficiently to enable you now to proceed without risk to the execution of a further scheme which is the natural complement of a good water-supply, namely, the scientific drainage of the city. In this project I wish you every success, and I trust that the Municipal Committee of Jubbulpore may never deviate from the creditable standard of efficiency which they have lately attained. It is a source of pleasure to me to feel on the occasion of my first visit to the Central Provinces that, while you are losing for the time the services of as capable and sympathetic a Chief Commissioner as you have ever had in the person of Mr. Ibbetson, you are about to receive in Mr. Fraser a successor who may be described as a Central Provinces, man in every fibre of his being, and upon whose intimate knowledge and high character I confidently rely to guide the Province through its dark days of trouble.

REPLY TO THE MUTTRA MUNICIPAL ADDRESS.

On the 4th December, 1899, the Municipality of Muttra presented the Viceroy with an address of welcome. His Excellency replied as follows :—

Mr. chairman, and Members of the Municipal Board of Muttra, I have been brought to this city by my desire,

wherever I can in India, to see the main centres of population and the sites of history or religious importance, as well as to show my own interest in that which is invested with interest or with sanctity in the eyes of the people. Muttra has been for so many centuries associated with memories of religious devotion or of secular power that its name occupies no mean place among Indian cities ; and although the monuments of successive religions have for the most part been mutilated or swept out of existence by the iconoclastic zeal of rival faiths, its sanctity in Hindoo eyes has remained unimpaired ; while, during a period of close upon a century that has elapsed since it passed under British rule, it has recovered that material opulence and dignity of aspect in keeping with its illustrious past. It is a striking fact that, at the close of the century of which I am speaking, I, as Viceroy of India, should be addressed by a Municipality, itself a British institution, successfully introduced into an almost exclusively Hindoo city, which attributes to British ascendancy and influence the revival of its prestige and renown. To one among the gifts of Western civilization, as you have indicated, are especially due both the rehabilitation of the ancient sanctity and the growth of the modern prosperity of this place. I speak of the railroad, which brings pilgrims in tens of thousands to your shrines, and exports the rich harvests of grain from your markets. I have myself, in the course of my Oriental travels, seen enough of hardships endured by bands of pious devotees wending their way for

weary months across mountains and deserts in order to visit the hallowed places of their faith, to be able to appreciate the benefit to you of the means of locomotion that carries the pilgrim to your very doors. When Muttra has been linked with the broad-gauge system of railways by the construction of the Agra-Delhi chord, your advantages in this respect will be increased, while the connection should give great impetus to local trade.

I believe that it is with justice that the Municipality has claimed credit, in the address which has just been read to me, for the good sanitation, and for the efficient local government of the city. I understand that the Lodging House Act of 1892, which was passed in order to secure a more vigilant control of house accommodation in Muttra, has been administered with much tact and discretion by the board; and I think, therefore, that I am entitled to congratulate you upon the results. You have mentioned with reasonable pride the liberal contributions that are made in Muttra, both to the charitable entertainment of poor travellers and to the alleviation of exceptional distress. I am glad to hear that the Municipal Board takes the lead in these eleemosynary undertakings and that, at the same time, it does not ignore the claims of education or of medical relief. In the circumstances of the present winter, though they are fortunately much less severe in this neighbourhood than they are in other parts of India, an unusual demand will probably be made upon your generosity, and I rejoice to hear that private

charity is coming forward to supplement the necessarily limited assistance which you are able to render from the Municipal funds.

In conclusion let me thank you for the agreeable terms in which you have welcomed Lady Curzon and myself to your town. Every place that we go to deepens, by the warm-hearted reception that it affords to us, our interest in this delightful country and strengthens my desire to utilise my term of office, in so far as I have the opportunity and the strength, in the service of its people.

REPLY TO THE BRINDABAN MUNICIPAL ADDRESS.

On the 5th December, 1899, in reply to an address of welcome from the Municipal Board of Brindaban, the Viceroy spoke as follows :—

Mr. Chairman and members of the Municipal Board of Brindaban,—I have learnt, with no small interest, from the address that I am only the second Viceroy who has visited the picturesque and sacred town of Brindaban. I once saw an album of photographs of the temples and shrines of this famous spot, and I resolved that, if ever again I found myself in the neighbourhood, Brindaban should at all hazards be included in my itinerary.

A great and becoming reverence is paid by humanity to the birth-place of heroes, and to the sanctuaries of nations. Whatever has attracted the enthusiasm or

has inspired the devotion of large masses of mankind, is deserving of more than a superficial attention, since it is by such sentiments that men have, as a rule, been impelled to exceptional deeds. In Brindaban the piety of your devotees has adorned this locality with some of the most magnificent temples that have been erected in modern times—all of them, I may remark, under the secure and even-handed protection of British rule. But your most considerable ancient structure, the temple of Govind Deva, which I have seen described as the most impressive religious edifice, erected by Hindoo art in Northern India, also owes its restoration to the British Government, which, twenty-five years ago, allotted a sum of more than Rs. 30,000 to the task.

I do not quote this fact so much as illustrating the considerate impartiality which the supreme power has consistently displayed in India towards the sectaries of rival creeds, as because it exemplifies what, in my opinion, is one of the primary duties of the Government in this country. I regard the stately, or beautiful, or historic fabrics of a bye-gone age, independently of the purpose for which they were set up or the faith to which they were dedicated, as a priceless heirloom, to be tenderly, and almost religiously, guarded by succeeding generations; and during my administration of the Government of India, no one shall find me niggardly or grudging in the practical realisation of this aim. We are not ordinarily so rich in originality ourselves as to afford to allow memorials of an earlier and superior art or architecture to fall into ruin, and I accept the conservation of

the ancient monuments of India as an elementary obligation of the Government. ✓

When Lord Ripon came here in 1881 the Municipality which his legislation had called into being, might have been described as still in its cradle. I am now confronted with a healthy adult, which has since justified itself by its works. In keeping the town of Brindaban clean and healthy, in safeguarding the health of thousands of pilgrims, who annually crowd your festivals and fairs, and in warding off the pestilence from your doors, the Municipal Board has acquitted itself with credit in a delicate and onerous task. I am glad that you recognize the sagacious advice in this respect that you have received from your present Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Antony Macdonnell.

In the concluding words of your address you ask me to convey to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress an expression of your deep and earnest feelings of devotion. I am well aware that it is solely as her representative that I am accorded the friendly welcome that you have extended to me this morning, and in conveying to Her Majesty your loyal message, I feel that I may truthfully assure her, in the opening words of your address, that she is regarded in this remote, but not insignificant Indian town, not merely as a Sovereign, but as the Royal mother of her faithful subjects.

REPLY TO THE AGRA MUNICIPAL ADDRESS.

The Viceroy reached Agra at 5 p. m., on the 5th December, 1899, and was presented with an address of welcome by a deputation of the Municipal Commissioners of Agra. The Viceroy replying to the address said :—

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen,—There was an old saying in Europe according to which all roads were declared to lead to Rome. This was a confession of the political and ecclesiastical importance of the imperial city. May we not similarly say in India that all roads lead to Agra? Hither comes the traveller of every nationality and clime, intent upon seeing the incomparable memorials of a by-gone age; hither comes the merchant drawn to a locality which is yearly becoming more and more an emporium of trade; and here, in due course, is to be seen each successive Viceroy, alternately engaged in a reverent contemplation of the marvellous relics of the past, and in a study of the new phenomena which the restless energy and commotion of the modern life are perpetually introducing to his gaze. ✓

There is a further sense in which Agra may be said to be increasingly becoming a junction of the ways. Already three railway systems meet in your city, which has become, next to Delhi, the principal railway centre of Northern India, and which will attain an even greater importance when the new line has been constructed, which is to connect you, *via* Muttra, with that old capital of the Mogul Empire. To one, before whose eyes the past and present are always mingling, as at Agra, in the mysterious haze of interwoven fancy and

fact, there is something peculiarly dramatic in the emulous nineteenth century enterprise of these two great cities, which, three hundred years ago, looked out upon each other from their separate sites on the bank of the sacred river with their rival coronets of domes and minarets and palace towers.

You have reminded me in your address that you have been able to turn these advantages of position and communication to a very practical and remunerative service in the past few months. They have enabled Agra to figure as a great distributing centre for the relief of the neighbouring States and districts that have been suffering from the aggravated scarcity that we all deplore. The North-West Provinces and Oudh have poured their superfluous stores of grain into this city so rapidly that the rolling-stock has sometimes proved inadequate to carry them, while simultaneously the country roads have been thronged with carts bringing in grass from the interior of the district. From Agra both of these supplies have been discharged again into the distressed States of Rajputana and even over a still wider area.

If the sufferings of others have thus proved to your merchants a source of commercial gain, they need not damp your legitimate satisfaction at having found yourselves in a position to lend assistance to your neighbours, while I hope that you will have been careful not to deplete your own resources, in view of contingencies by which, should the winter rains fall short of their normal volume, you might yourselves be gravely affected in the

future. For the present I am glad to learn that there is no prospect of such an emergency. The district appears to be well provided with wells and canals, and inspite of the failure of the autumnal rainfall the total outturn of the year's harvest will, I am told, exceed an eight-anna crop. When the test works, to which allusion has been made, were started last month, they did not fill, and the city poor-house still happily attracts but a few inmates. These are favourable symptoms, but they do not exempt you from the duty of unremitting vigilance, since the experience of the past summer supplies offers but little ground for confidence, either in the recurrence of normal conditions, or in the fulfilment of meteorological forecasts.

I am glad to learn, now that the affairs of your Corporation have been placed upon a sounder basis, that you are about to proceed with the final measures still required to ensure a full and adequate water-supply for the city, and also with the new drainage works that are necessitated as a complement to the above scheme. Our standards in both respects are much more exacting even than those of the preceding generation, and a municipality that furnishes its citizens with decent homes, pure water, and well-flushed drains, from a revenue raised by equitable taxation and administered with honesty, is one that will find quite enough to fill its own hands, and that will deserve well of the public.

You have not erred in calling my attention, even in a passing paragraph, to the glorious monuments of the past that have made the name of Agra a household

word throughout the civilised world. I said, in my reply to the municipal address that was presented to me at Brindaban this morning, that I regarded the conservation of national monuments as among the first duties of the Government, and if such be my views, you may imagine with what scrupulous and jealous care I shall apply this canon to the case of the priceless relics of the Mogul epoch at Agra. The British nation has, I hope, now purged itself of the spirit of stupid and unlettered Vandalism, which led it, in earlier days, wherever possible, to turn a disused palace in India into a barrack, and to obliterate, with a uniform whitewash, the exquisite decorations of the classical age. ✓

An immense amount of care has been devoted in recent times to the examination, the illustration, the preservation and repair of the principal monuments at Agra, and at the present date large sums are being annually expended upon the upkeep of the Taj, of the palace in the Fort, of the tomb of Akbar at Secundra, and upon his deserted town of Fatehpur Sikri. I shall examine all these buildings, which are already well known to me, with the most minute care, and I shall not rest satisfied until, in each case, the structure has been rendered secure against the ravages of further decay, and has received such attention as may be feasible and desirable in the faithful restoration or reproduction of that which has been injured or destroyed. With these memorials of a vanished epoch the modern world, with its different objects and ideals can never aspire to compete. In a more utilitarian age we expend the public funds not

upon forts and palaces and tombs, but upon institutions of ascertained worth and of public value : Hospitals, colleges, and schools have taken the place of the royal fabrics of the past.

I rejoice to hear that in this respect Agra is not falling short of its ancient traditions, and that its monuments of the nineteenth century, if they are not magnificent, are, at any rate, useful, and, instead of gratifying the costly tastes of kings and princes, are devoted to the unpretentious service of the community.

In thanking you, gentlemen, for this address, may I add one word of especial acknowledgement of the happy thought and the good taste that have suggested to you the presentation to me, in the place of the ordinary municipal casket, of this beautiful specimen of the *Pietra Dura* handicraft, for which Agra has always been renowned ? It is a work which I have, on previous occasions, not merely studied in the glorious examples of the seventeenth-century art, but in the attempts of modern artificers to reproduce it, and from the cursory examination which I have, so far, been able to give to this table, I am led to think that your craftsmen retain a large measure of skill and ingenuity which rendered the architecture of this place so famous a few centuries ago. I should like myself that the specimens of this work should not merely be known to the visitors who come to Agra during the cold weather, but that it should gain a wider field of publicity and popularity, and I am convinced that my own possession of this table, for which I cordially thank you

will have that tendency, so far as it is seen by my friends, and will encourage many who do not come to Agra, as well as those who do, to give orders which are certain to be well executed.

REPLY TO THE ADDRESS OF THE ANJUMANI ISLAMIA OF LAHORE.

In reply to an address received from the Anjumani Islamia of Lahore His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

It has given me much pleasure to receive at your hands the eloquent complimentary address to which I am now called upon to reply. In visiting the Punjab, no one who has the least acquaintance with the history of the past can fail to be aware that he is setting foot in a region which was once the seat of the Moslem Empire, powerful in its prime and magnificent even in its decay. The City of Lahore itself and its environs, with their still splendid relics of Mahamedan architecture, supply a witness not less proud than pathetic to this chapter of human history. The chapter is now concluded, and the sceptre and dominion have in this country and province passed away from Moslem hands. Nevertheless, it is a remarkable fact, and one that should be not without consolation to the followers of that faith, that although the Mogul Empire has long ceased to have any independent existence,—its prerogative and its possession are vested in a monarch whose sway extends over more Mahomedan subjects than any other ruler in the world, and who, in wresting from their ancestors the titular

badge of sovereignty, has given them in return a personal security of life and property which even in the gorgeous days of Mogul dominion they can never be said to have enjoyed.

To me who come here as the representative of the present illustrious occupant of that throne, it is especially pleasing to find that the Moslem community of the Punjab are conscious of these considerations, and through the medium of that important confraternity which has presented this address, are prepared to render such frank and forcible recognition thereto. When you speak of the inestimable benefits conferred upon India by British rule, the blessing of settled and civilised government, and the freedom of thought and belief which you owe to its dispensations, I believe you to be recording not merely the facts of history, but your own sincere conviction. Such unsolicited testimony from so powerful a section of the community as that which your co-religionists represent, is a striking answer to the nonsense which I sometimes hear and read in print about an India bleeding under British rule, nonsense which, as far as I can judge, finds little echo in India itself, but is sometimes retailed at the safe distance of 7000 miles by perfidious orators upon English platforms. When further, you give utterance to the feelings of proud and affectionate loyalty which you entertain towards the Queen Empress, I believe you to be rendering not merely superficial homage of the lip, but, to be paying the heart's tribute of a grateful people. The knowledge, of which I am permitted to assure you, that from her

distant home in England Her Majesty is constantly making enquiries as to your welfare and interesting herself in schemes that have for their object your moral and educational progress, should stimulate the allegiance which already rests on solid foundations. I rejoice to hear that you will have before long in Lahore a visible reproduction of the person and features of that august sovereign ; a memorial which, cast as it will be, in the imperishable material of bronze, will hand down, exempt from the ravages of decay, a personal monument of her just and benignant reign.

I notice with respectful sympathy the allusion made to the career and labours of your late leader, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. The service of such men, pioneers of their generation, is, however, by no means confined to their life time. A great and noble work has in itself a vitality independent of and greater than that of its creator, and while the visible spark of the ethereal flame that flickers in the mortal body is soon quenched and dies, its transmitted essence continues to burn brightly in the living products of human genius and imagination. It behoves the Mahomedans of the Punjab to carry on the work which was inaugurated by their departed leader, and to give to it a permanence and durability which will be the most fitting monument to his memory. Your aim should be to recognise the realities of the modern world in which you live, which is a world of competition and flux and change, and instead of expecting your environment to accommodate itself either to the traditions of the past or to the dis-

abilities from which you may still suffer, to adapt yourselves by strenuous self-cultivation to the conditions which you have the capacity, if you will develop the resolution, to conquer. Here in the Punjab you are less than in other parts of India confronted with what you describe as the better equipped sections of the Indian people. You have an open field, upon which many of you have already won high and honourable distinction in the service of government, If you will perseveringly set yourselves to the acquisition of the learning which renders a man not a glib scholar but a useful citizen ; if instead of musing over the past you will strain all your energies towards the future ; and if in your own society and homes you will practise the elementary, but too often neglected, virtue of thrift, there is no reason why the Mahomedans of the Punjab should not recover a large measure of the influence which results not from territorial dominion but from the legitimate ascendancy of character and intelligence.

REPLY TO THE CAWNPUR MUNICIPAL ADDRESS.

From Agra the Viceroy arrived at Cawnpur at noon on the 11th December, 1899. His Excellency was met at the Railway Station by a deputation of the Municipal Board who presented him with an address of welcome. His Excellency in reply spoke as follows :—

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Municipal Board of Cawnpore,—As you have remarked in your brief,

but courteous, address, my visit to Cawnpore upon the present occasion is too short to admit of more than an interchange between us of friendly greetings, although from the records at my disposal I cannot ascertain that even so much as this has passed between my predecessors for many years and yourselves. Perhaps it may be that Cawnpore has attracted the itinerant steps of Viceroys less than other, but not more deserving, spots. Perhaps their visits have been associated with an inspection of the historic sites which render the name of this city one of painful, but honourable memory to Englishmen, rather than of the industrial or commercial undertakings which are now giving to it a novel, if less sentimental, fame. Perhaps it is that the development of Cawnpore into a great centre of manufacture and trade has been so rapid as almost to have eluded the attention of your rulers. It is in the main the latter phenomenon, *viz.*, the existence and growth of great manufacturing industries in this place, that has tempted me to halt for a few hours here this morning. The time will no doubt be quite inadequate for at all a through examination of the many factories, workshops, and mills that have converted Cawnpore in recent years into what may almost be described as the Manchester of Northern India, in which there has been sunk, as I am informed, a capital of not less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees, and which provides employment for an artisan population, including families and dependents, of something like 90,000 persons.

I only have leisure to-day to visit the Government Harness and Saddle Factory and Messrs. Cooper Allen and Company's Army Boot and Equipment Factory. These two enterprises alone employ between 5,000 and 6,000 hands, and their interest to any Viceroy must be great, both because of the striking evidence that they afford of the success of a policy dear at any rate to me, viz., the encouragement of manufactures and industry in this country, whose population possesses so many aptitudes for operative toil, and because of the financial saving to Government that their institution has caused. I have little doubt that I shall be greatly interested in all that I see, and that Cawnpore will, in future, be invested in my mind with very tangible and stimulating recollections. Allow me to thank you, gentlemen, for your address, and for the handsome silver casket in which it is contained.

REPLY TO THE LUCKNOW MUNICIPAL
ADDRESS.

At Lucknow, on the 12th December, 1899, the Municipal Commissioners waited on the Viceroy at Government House and presented an address of welcome. His Excellency replied as follows :—

Gentlemen,—The complimentary and appreciative terms of your address serve to remind me that I have now been in India for nearly a year, while they encourage me by their sympathetic warmth to hope that

I have not yet exhausted the welcome which was extended to me with so liberal a hand upon my arrival, and of which I continue to receive fresh and no less generous instalments as I visit new localities and scenes. Though many parts of India are fairly familiar to me from the travels to which you have made allusion, this is the first time that I have found myself at Lucknow, and your city is already sacred to every Englishman for its dramatic and glorious memories, and interesting to every Viceroy as the capital of a great Province and the centre of a teeming population. It will fill a bright spot in my future memories both from the agreeable cordiality of the reception accorded to Lady Curzon and myself yesterday, and from the more stately ceremonial in which I am to take part to-morrow.

Your reference to my recent tour through the tracts of scarcity and destitution enables me, by the sharp contrast to its experiences that is afforded by the umbrageous verdure and prosperous cultivation of this neighbourhood, to congratulate you both upon the completeness of your recovery from the famine of 1897, and upon the providential escape of this Province from a severe failure of crops in the present year.

Compared with some of your neighbours, you may call yourselves blessed. I am grateful for your kindly reference to my frequently expressed desire—a desire to which I think I may claim to have already given some practical form—to develop the industrial resources and to stimulate the commercial energies of the country. Upon this point I would say that a Viceroy, aided, if he

be, and as I am, by able and experienced counsellors, can do something both by the removal of the previously existing shackles upon mercantile investment, and by imparting a tone of liberality, instead of indifference, to the general attitude of Government. But he cannot do everything. He is dependent upon a sympathetic and enterprising spirit among the business community, and the realisation of his aims is closely associated with the mysterious and incalculable factor of confidence which is not of very rapid growth in the mercantile bosom, but which it is the object of my colleagues and myself, by the financial policy that we have lately inaugurated, to foster and instil.

Among the densely populated Indian cities to which I have so far turned my steps, I do not know of any, where problems that it behoves a municipality to solve have made a greater call upon prudence and economy than this place. Lucknow was not originally, or by nature, a great industrial or manufacturing centre. It enjoyed no external trade ; it had expanded in a picturesque and crowded diffusion around the pivot of an Oriental Court. As a consequence when it was handed over under the British rule to the administration of a Municipal Committee, the latter found a city larger than the need of its reduced population, with streets and avenues and public works, the upkeep of which involved no slight drain upon local resources.

It would be ungenerous not to accord praise to those who have so sagaciously and successfully grappled with these difficulties, who have converted the surroundings

of the city into spacious parks and gardens, and who have provided a sufficient and gratuitous supply of pure water to a native population of over a quarter of a million souls. These works have naturally constituted a heavy charge upon your municipal revenues, but I doubt not that, with the expansion of commerce that must follow an extended railway system, and with the gradual introduction of manufactories, in which respect there seems to me to be no very good reason why Lucknow should lay behind its neighbours, your financial condition will improve, and you will be able to proceed with the drainage system which you already have in contemplation.

There is another respect in which, in common with other municipalities in these allied provinces, you are, I think, entitled to congratulation. From whatever source the plague bacillus may derive its original being, it cannot be disputed that insanitary conditions in populous centres are, so to speak, a forcing-house for its propagation. That the North-West Provinces and Oudh have escaped contagion during the recent recrudescence of the pest in other parts of India, may be attributed on the one hand, to the wise precautions taken by the experienced hand of your Lieutenant-Governor, and on the other, to the sanitary campaign that has been conducted by the Municipal Boards in the larger cities and towns. I hope that here and elsewhere they may continue to be rewarded by success.

I shall not fail to convey to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress the expression of your loyal sentiments which

you have asked me to transmit to her. When I study the records and the speeches of Viceroys as far back as half a century ago, and find them the recipients of similar requests with regard to the same illustrious Sovereign, while it makes me feel a pigmy in knowledge in relation to this unique span of individual experience and authority, I am yet enabled to assure you that in her advanced years Her Majesty's interest in everything that passes in India is as fresh and eager as it was in the days when Lord Auckland was her first Governor-General. She will receive with a zest that never wavers or tires the account of the proceedings of the present week and the record of your heartfelt devotion on behalf, not merely of myself, but of Lady Curzon, who is rejoiced to find in so typical an Oriental city as this, substantial proof of the well organised philanthropy of her countrymen. I thank you for your address and for our welcome to Lucknow.

REPLY TO THE ADDRESS OF THE BENARES MUNICIPALITY.

On the 16th December 1899, the Viceroy replying to an address of welcome from the Municipal Board of Benares, said :—

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Municipal Board, —Benares is my last halting place on my return journey to Calcutta for the work of the winter. It is not inappropriate that a tour, which opened at Delhi, the former Capital of a Mahomedan dominion, should terminate at Benares, the most venerated, as well as the

oldest, of the holy cities of the Hindu faith. Such a journey, so begun and so ended, with all its wealth of intervening instruction, seems to carry one through a complete cycle of human history, elucidating at once the rise and fall of Empires, and the growth of sentiments that have profoundly affected the consciences of men.

Assuredly no one, whether Viceroy or traveller, can afford to pass by Benares with its accumulated weight of sacred lore, with its echoes of a famous past, and its unexhausted and inexhaustible appeal to the devotion of millions of human beings. I have previously seen it in the one capacity, and now that I visit it in the other, I find my interest strengthened and not diminished by the fact that, as head of the Government of India, my attention is drawn more particularly to those aspects of your every day life, which illustrate the successful fusion of the modern spirit with ancient tradition, and which testify to the diligence with which you are bringing the resources of science and of practical economics to bear upon the problems arising from a densely crowded city and a vast immigrant population. These conditions render the task that has developed upon the Municipality of Benares one of special difficulty. For while the claims that are made upon you are exacting in proportion to the immense numbers of those for whose sanitary and personal protection you are called upon to provide, the constant ebb and flow of your pilgrim population and the large number of mendicant and priestly orders among the resident

classes curtail the sources of income to which you can safely appeal, and compel you, with restricted means, to grapple with a responsibility as onerous as that which faces any Municipal Board in this country.

It is, therefore, I think a cause of legitimate congratulation that you have carried to so successful an issue a great scheme of water-works, which has cost you more than a quarter of a crore of rupees, and which has given to Benares the credit of having one of the amplest, if not the amplest, water-supply in Northern India. How eagerly advantage is taken of these benefits by the native population is shown by the fact that your annual consumption, which in 1894 was about 457 million gallons, rose in 1898 to 855 million gallons, thus nearly doubling itself in the space of four years.

At the same time I entertain no doubt that the immunity, which you now enjoy from the epidemic of cholera, that in former times so frequently ravaged the city, is also to be attributed to the same fact. It was in consideration of the excellent work thus performed, and of the straightened resources available to you for carrying out the supplementary sanitary measures, without which the water-works cannot realise their full scope of beneficence that the Government of India conceded to you the liberal extension of the term of repayment of both your water-works and drainage loans, of which you have made grateful acknowledgement in your address.

I am informed that seven lakhs have already been spent upon the latter scheme, but that your original

programme, which was perhaps, somewhat in excess of your fiscal capacities, may require some modification. I wish that I had the financial ingenuity to suggest to you some novel, but fair and reasonable, source of municipal income. Until such be discovered, I can give you no better advice than to cut your coat according to your cloth, and prudently to husband your existing resources.

I am glad to hear of the public spirit that has led some of your fellow-citizens to present you with the means of providing Benares with a public park in the heart of the city. Coming as I do from Lucknow which may, with truth, be designated a city of parks, I have had opportunities of seeing how greatly their existence conduces to the health, the comfort, and the enjoyment, of the people. We call our great parks in London the lungs of that huge and congested city, and Benares, which, on my former visit, struck me as the most thickly-packed centre of population that I saw in India, stands in no less need of well-organised and carefully-tended means of respiration. I hope that the generosity of many wealthy persons, who either visit or reside in your city, may enable you to carry through this scheme to early completion.

It is with much pleasure, gentlemen, that I accept your address, contained in what seemed to me, from my slight inspection of it, a very characteristic, as well as a very beautiful, piece of local silver ware, and thank you for the loyal and friendly sentiments which it contains.

PART III.

SPEECHES IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FIRST SPEECH IN COUNCIL.

On Friday the 13th January, 1899, His Excellency Lord Curzon for the first time presided at a meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council. In opening the proceedings of the Council, His Excellency addressed the members as follows :—

Your Honour and Gentlemen,—In taking my seat for the first time at this table, I should like to say, before we advance to the proceedings of the morning, what an honour I conceive it to be to preside over this distinguished and representative body, which is entrusted with the legislative work of the Government of India. I think I may claim a peculiar interest in the work of this Council, for the reason that I happened to be the Minister, as Under-Secretary of State for India, who, in 1892, under the Secretaryship of State of Lord Cross, had to conduct through the House of Commons the Indian Councils Bill of that year. To that Bill we owe the enlarged Constitution, and as I believe, the extended usefulness of the Council, and of the kindred, though smaller bodies in the other parts of India ; and it is, therefore, with exceptional pleasure that I find myself presiding here over a body which I assisted to launch into the later stage of its existence, and in

which I feel myself entitled, therefore, to entertain a more than official concern. I hope, Gentlemen, that our deliberations may be characterised by the dignity which has always attended the proceedings of this Council, and that they may redound to the advantage of this country and of its peoples. For my own part, I doubt not that I shall receive at your hands, as my predecessors have always done, the help which your greatly superior experience in Indian matters must put you in a position to afford.

ON THE SUGAR DUTIES BILL.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council held at the Council Chamber on the 20th March, 1899, the Hon'ble Sir James Westland moved that the Bill to further amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, (popularly known as the "Sugar Duties Bill") be taken into consideration. In winding up the debate, His Excellency the President spoke as follows :—

Before I put the question that this Bill be passed into law, I should like to make a few observations with regard to it. I have been glad to notice the complete unanimity that has prevailed with regard to the Bill in this Council—representative as it is of so many diverse and important interests. The Hon. Mr. Mehta indeed would have preferred that this Bill should have been referred to a Select Committee—a contention to which I think that an adequate reply was given by Sir James Westland. I also understood him to urge that it might have been desirable that further enquiry should have taken place with respect to the subject-matter of

this legislation. Well, I have always heard it made a reproach against the Indian Government that it is perpetually conducting enquiries, and very seldom acting upon them ; and that reproach I, at any rate during my time of administration here, desire to escape.

The answer to my honourable friend, Mr. Mehta, is that we have been conducting enquiries for a whole year past. We have received representations from every leading Chamber of Commerce in the country, and from most, if not all, the important firms connected with this industry. We have addressed observations to, and received replies from, the Governments of all the Provinces and districts of India concerned. We should have had, if my honourable colleague's advice had been followed, to wait for the best part of another year before we introduced this legislation. We regarded the case as urgent, and we were not prepared to accept such a delay. At the same time I am glad to notice that the Hon. Mr. Mehta, although he delivered this criticism on a point of detail, did not withhold his assent, which I am certain that he is prepared to give, to the general principle of the measure. Then we have had on a previous occasion and again today a statement approving the Bill from the Hon. Mr. Allan Arthur, the distinguished representative of European mercantile interests in this capital, and finally, we have had two speeches from the Hon. Mr. Chitnavis and the Hon. Mr. Ananda Charlu which I take it we are entitled to regard as typical of the opinions that are held by those important sections of the Native community

which they represent at this table. I am therefore, I think, justified in saying that, at any rate within these walls, complete unanimity has prevailed with regard to the principle of the Bill.

This complete unanimity here reflects an almost equally complete unanimity outside. There are, it is true, certain interests and certain Chambers of Commerce—Bombay and Karachi I may name—in which those interests are strongly represented, which have not entirely concurred in the necessity for countervailing duties at this stage. Those representations are entitled to due consideration, but it is to be noted that they do not come from the areas where the sugarcane is grown, where the refineries exist, or where the real effect of the bounty system is felt. They represent in the main the interests neither of the producers nor of the consumers, but of the importing merchants. On the other hand, if I regard either the representations to which I have already referred, and which have been received by us from the Local Governments, or the reception which our proposals have met with alike in the English and the Native Press of India, I do not hesitate to say that few measures have ever passed through this Council with a greater weight of qualified and homogeneous opinion behind them.

Now the first point that I desire to emphasise is this—that it is in the interests of India, and of India alone, that this legislation has been proposed by us and that I have authorised the introduction of this Bill. It may be that our Bill may ultimately affect the action of other

countries. It may more immediately touch the interests of certain of our own Colonies as well. Sir James Westland in his speech today has alluded to the representations that we have received from the Colony of Mauritius, a colony in which, in view of the enormous Indian population that is there engaged in labour, we here are bound to take a close interest, and whose welfare we should be glad, I am certain, consistently with our own, to subserve. It may be that this Bill will set an example of far-reaching significance. By some it may even be regarded as a factor in the Imperial problem. It is from such points of view that we may expect the measure to be examined, and perhaps criticised, in the British Parliament in London. I do not deprecate such examination, or such criticism, conscious that it will not weaken, but will rather strengthen, our case. All I have to say here is that our conduct has not been determined by those considerations. We are exercising our own legislative competence, of our own initiative, though with the sanction and concurrence of the Secretary of State, to relieve India from an external competition, fortified by an arbitrary advantage, which can be shown to have already produced serious consequences upon our agriculture and manufactures, and which, if unarrested, is likely to produce a continuous and a dangerous decline.

There is another point upon which I must, in passing, say a word. I have been glad to notice that no one in this Council has ventured upon the argument that we are guilty of an economic heresy in our proposal to meet

bounties by a countervailing duty. Bounties are in themselves an arbitrary, and in my opinion, a vicious, economic expedient designed in exclusively selfish interests. They are inconsistent with Free Trade, because they extinguish freedom, and they reverse the natural currents of trade. To meet them by a countervailing duty is to redress the balance and to restore the conditions under which trade resumes its freedom. I do not think that we need pay much attention, therefore, to the mutterings of the high priests at Free Trade shrines. Their oracles do not stand precisely at their original premium. This is not a question of economic orthodoxy or heterodoxy ; it is a question of re-establishing a fiscal balance which has been deflected for their own advantage and to our injury by certain of our foreign competitors.

Moreover, if the utilitarian basis upon which the doctrines of Free Trade are supposed in the last instance to rest, namely that they regard the interests of the greater number, be examined, out of their own mouths would the prophets of those doctrines, in India at any rate, be condemned. For here we are dealing, in the case of the sugar industry, with a population, the vast majority of which are not consumers of a cheap imported article, but are themselves producers of the raw material, and in their capacity as consumers consume for the most part the article which they have themselves produced and worked up. In other words, the conditions that prevail in England are completely reversed. The majority in England consists of poor consumers to whom it is indispensable that the price

of sugar should be low. The minority consists of capitalist producers. On the other hand, the majority in India consists of poor producers whose industry is at stake ; the minority consists of well-to-do consumers of refined sugar who are not likely, in my judgment, to be affected seriously, if indeed they are at all affected, by enhanced prices resulting from our legislation, but who, if they were, could not claim that their interests should override those of the overwhelming majority of the population.

Now I shall not recapitulate the figures which have been laid before you with so much ability and clearness by Sir James Westland when he introduced the Bill a week ago ; but let me remind you of the facts which have been established in this discussion. They are these : Firstly, that there has in the last few years been an enormous increase in the importation of beet sugar into India from Germany and Austria—a fact which is unquestionably due to the loss by the American market of those countries in consequence on the imposition of countervailing duties by the Government of the United States in 1897 ; secondly, that in the same period the rupee price of sugar in this country has seriously fallen ; thirdly, that there has been a contraction in nearly every part of India in the area under sugar cultivation, the total reduction being estimated at as much as 13 per cent ; fourthly, that there has been a widespread and a still unarrested closing of native refineries, a phenomenon which is capable of one explanation, and one alone ; for while it may be argued that the decline

in the total area under cultivation may be partially due to other causes, such as famine and the low prices resulting from famine, that this is not the case in respect of the factories which have been closed is demonstrated by the fact that in districts where cultivation has increased or remained stationary—in other words in districts which have remained unaffected by famine—the refineries nevertheless have been, and still are being, shut.

From these facts it appears to me to be impossible to draw any other conclusion than that this decline in an Indian industry—in which I have seen it stated that two millions of people are employed, and in which the value of the annual crop has been estimated at nearly 20 millions sterling—is due to the importation of beet sugar at a price below the natural cost of production, *plus* the cost of transport, in other words, to the unrestricted competition of a bounty-fed article.

Now this is a state of affairs which neither the Government of India, nor I, as the head of that Government, from whatever point of view we may regard it, can contentedly accept. If we look at it from the point of view of the agriculturist, we cannot sit still and look on while he is impoverished by the economic exigencies of Continental nations. If we regard it from the point of view of native manufactures, what would be the meaning and value of the speeches which I have made since I came to India about the encouragement of native enterprise, if I were to acquiesce in the tacit suppression of this promising branch of indigenous

industry? We ought, on the contrary, I think, to stimulate and to encourage its development by every means in our power. Finally, if I approach the question from the point of view of the Government, while we should be strangely constituted if we could contemplate with equanimity preventible growth of an agrarian and industrial grievance, which must sharply react upon the general prosperity of the people, we should also be poor stewards of our own estate if we were to acquiesce in a condition of affairs that must detrimentally affect both the land assessments and the canal returns, and in this way jeopardise the ultimate revenues of the State.

These are the grounds—which I have endeavoured to state in their wider rather than in their narrower aspect—that have induced the Government of India to introduce this Bill, and that enable me confidently to recommend it to the acceptance of this Council and of the public.

ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET STATEMENT.

The discussion of the Financial Statement for 1899—1900 took place in Council on the 27th March, 1899, His Excellency Lord Curzon presiding. In closing the debate, the Viceroy spoke as follows :—

I am glad to think that I need not detain my honourable colleagues by remarks of any great length. The discussion to which we have listened has been far from devoid of interest; but although it has elicited differences of opinion, such as may legitimately be

expected, it has, on the whole, been marked by an unusual unanimity of sentiment, due, no doubt, in the main to the prosperous circumstances in which we find ourselves, but nevertheless gratifying both to the Government and to the Financial Member with whose last Indian Budget we are dealing. The official life of Sir James Westland, to whose affecting farewell we have none of us listened without emotion, has been, as he has just told us, indissolubly bound up with the finances of India. This is the seventh Budget that he has introduced into the Legislative Council of Government. Few Chancellors of the Exchequer in England, where the conditions of public employment are more permanent, have introduced a greater number. I doubt if any Indian Chancellor of the Exchequer has introduced so many. In neither country, I imagine, has any guardian of the public purse been confronted in the course of his official career with more marked vicissitudes of fortune than has Sir J. Westland. He is happy, I think, in this—that his fat years have followed upon his lean years, instead of preceding them; and I can well believe that the anxieties and worries which have distracted him in times past are now forgotten in the glow of honourable satisfaction with which he can regard the termination of his labours, and can congratulate India, not less than himself, that he leaves her upon an ascending plane of material and economic progress. If the Finance Member in India is chided and reproached for his misfortune in bad times, at least he should not be robbed of his share of the credit for

better days ; and I am sure that the Council will cordially join me in assuring Sir James Westland of our grateful appreciation of his long and arduous labours, and in wishing him equal success in whatever work he may set his hand to in the future. With regard to his speech, to which we have just listened, I would also say this—and I would say it from personal knowledge—that he represented himself as a much less charitable individual than he really is. To myself it is, I confess, a source of no slight pleasure that the first financial statement to which I should have listened in this Council has been one of so gratifying a description. My belief, more than once expressed on previous occasions, in the economic vitality of this country, in the solidity and range of its resources, and in its capacity for an industrial expansion far beyond what has hitherto been deemed possible, is confirmed by the experience of the past year. I recognise that the circumstances have been exceptionally favourable. War has fortunately ceased upon the frontier. There has been a high and an almost uniform rate of exchange. There has been a notable expansion in certain industries. The harvests have been abundants. On the other hand there have been corresponding sources of depression and alarm in the recurrence of plague, which neither the resources of science nor the utmost administrative vigilance have so far succeeded in defeating, and which has made heavy inroads upon the Imperial as well as upon the Provincial exchequers. That the net result of these contending influences should yet be a balance

of $4\frac{3}{4}$ crores is indicative to my mind not merely of uncommon powers of recuperation, but of a marvellous latent reserve of strength. We have been criticised in these circumstances for not having proposed a remission of taxation; and that criticism has found capable expression in more than one quarter at this table today. I quite understand, and I do not in any degree deprecate, such criticism. It is the natural and legitimate desire of taxpayers all over the world to obtain relief from what they regard, or at least represent, as their burdens, and to feel the passion for relief swelling in their bosoms in proportion to the apparent existence of the means for satisfying it. I doubt not that the payers of income-tax would have welcomed an extension of the scale of exemption. The Hon. the Maharaja of Darbhanga pleaded their cause with great ability and was anxious for the extension of that scale from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,500; the Hon. Mr. Charlu took much the same view, and the Hon. Mr. La Touche pleaded for some relaxation of the same system. I may add also that it is equally the desire of Governments not merely to earn the popularity that may result from a remission of taxation—although my experience is that popularity so won is a very ephemeral asset—but also in the interests of good Government itself to reduce the burdens upon the people. But there are considerations in this case, both normal and exceptional, which decided us to take the opposite course. The normal consideration of which I speak was that of ordinary caution. Though I have spoken of the astonishing recovery of

the past year, though I believe it to represent a much more than transient improvement in the resources of the country, and though Sir James Westland budgets for a surplus of nearly four crores in the coming year, I am yet too conscious of the part played by what I may describe as the swing of the pendulum in the economic world to be willing to sacrifice any portion of a hardly-won advantage by being in too great a hurry. The Hon. Sir Griffith Evans has reminded us that India is a land of surprises, and these surprises are liable to start into existence equally in the spheres of politics and finance. Even in the more sober atmosphere of England we have had during the past year a startling instance of this phenomenon; for whereas in the plenty of our wealth and substance, the Government of which I was a member a year ago agreed to a remission of taxation by which we forfeited in the case of one duty alone a sum of nearly 1½ million sterling, without, so far as I remember, exciting any gratitude from anybody; within the space of a year the balance has so completely swung round owing to unexpected calls that, if what I read in the papers be correct, there will be no cause for surprise should the forthcoming Budget contain proposals for the recovery of considerably more than was then remitted. To reduce taxation in one year and to reimpose it in the next is a condition to which Governments have frequently been driven by unforeseen events. But it is one which it is better to avoid by an excess of prudence at the time than to meet with whatever ingenuity at a later period.

The special circumstances which more even than these general considerations decided us against any remission of taxation in the forthcoming year are known to all. It is not unlikely that we may be invited before long to inaugurate momentous changes in the financial system of the Indian Empire. What these changes may be none of us as yet know, and we reserve our entire liberty to examine and consider them when they are submitted to us by Her Majesty's Government as the result of the expert inquiry now proceeding in London. But it must be obvious to the least informed that the prospects of any such change as we may decide to undertake must depend very largely upon the position and the credit that we enjoy at the time in the eyes of the world : that they will be enhanced by the evidences of financial strength to which a large balance and expanding resources are the best testimony ; and that they might be correspondingly imperilled by any stringency or insecurity here. We may be called upon to take steps that will affect the entire future of Indian trade and finance. We cannot afford, therefore, to slacken our hold upon any implement that may conduce to their success. There is another respect in which we may be thought to have carried caution to excessive lengths. The honourable member has framed his estimates for the next year upon the basis of a 15½*d.* rupee. This has been variously explained as typical of the prudence of one whom I may perhaps without offence describe as " an old financial bund," or as prompted by a chivalrous desire to present a larger surplus than is

apparent on the surface to his successor. I understand that both interpretations have been repudiated by the honourable member today. May I, however, add—and I do not think that I shall err on the opposite side of optimism in so doing—that this under-estimation, for so I think it may be called, must not be taken to indicate the least want of confidence on the part of the Indian Government. For my part I have every belief that the rupee will retain throughout the ensuing year the same position that it has done during the past ; and I may even go further and say that I shall be disappointed if we are not able to invest the 16*d.* rupee with a greater durability than any which it has hitherto attained. I am glad to have heard in the speeches of those honourable members who have special knowledge of the circumstances and needs of outlying Provinces, notably in the speech of the Hon. Mr. Rees, speaking for Madras, and I think, if he will allow me to say so, speaking for interests rather more wide than the Railways of Madras, and in the speech of the Hon. Mr. Spence, speaking for Bombay, a generous recognition of the assistance that has been rendered by the Government of India to those of the Subordinate Governments who have been in distress. For a few months before the Budget is finally made up, and while the lips of the Finance Member are still sealed, he is the object either of passionate objurgations or of piteous appeals from those who think that they are going to get less than their due share of the Imperial superabundance, and who in the agony of their apprehension

not infrequently appeal to the large-hearted impartiality of the Viceroy to rescue them from the niggardly prepossessions of the Finance Member. Such at least has been the experience of Sir James Westland and myself during the past few weeks. Meanwhile the Finance Member holds his counsel, and behind a front of iron conceals a melting heart. The result is that now that the figures have transpired, it is, I believe generally admitted that we have dealt liberally with our suffering brethren.

The Hon. Mr. Mehta, indeed, argued that inadequate treatment had been given to his Province of Bombay. Now let me assure him that I have specially interested myself in the fate and fortunes of Bombay. I have been in frequent correspondence with its Governor on the subject, and I have been most anxious that financial justice should be tempered with some financial mercy. I believe that the Government of Bombay are themselves, on the whole, content with the treatment meted out to them; and I was glad to find that the honourable member, although he commenced his remarks in a tone of criticism, ended them in a spirit of generous, and I might almost say of wholesale, congratulation. The ordinary grants, as I may call them, that we have made to the Provincial Governments, in relief of the heavy burdens which have been laid upon them by the direct charges of plague and famine, amount to forty-two lakhs. We have given to them in addition an extraordinary sum of seventy lakhs, a gift which while it is no criterion of ordinary opportunities or

deserts, and while it must not be interpreted by them as a precedent upon which they can rely, is yet, I hope, fairly proportionate on the present occasion both to our abundance and to their needs. The Provincial contract system is one for the successful working of which a good deal of consideration is required at both ends of the scale; and I hope that the Provincial Governments, while they press upon us the obligations of munificence, will not lose sight of the corresponding obligation of economy.

I am entirely in agreement with some of the remarks that fell from the Hon. Mr. Arthur with respect to the present high rate of telegraphic charges. I regard that rate as inimical to trade, as being a barrier to the ever growing intercourse between India and the mother-country, and as being obsolete and anomalous in itself. I have already considered the question, and I may say that I have placed it in a category of twelve important questions, all of them waiting to be taken up, all of them questions which ought to have been taken up long ago, and to which, as soon as I have the time, I propose to address myself. What these questions are, I do not propose to relieve the curiosity of Honourable Members by now informing them. It is conceivable that I may have to add a thirteenth to their number in respect of the appeal of the Honorable Sir Griffith Evans with regard to the Small Cause Court Judges in the mofussil. That is a question with which I am necessarily not myself familiar, but while I understand the Finance Minister to have answered him on the point of finance,

the impression left on me by Sir Griffith Evans' remarks was this, that he was arguing the case not from the point of view of pay, but from that of character. It is from that point of view that the question is deserving of the attention of the Indian Government, which attention I shall be glad to give to it. But another question has been raised by an Honourable Member sitting at this table which I am unable to add to the dozen already alluded to. I am unable to add to it the suggestion of the Honourable Mr. Chitnavis that I should acquiesce in the reduction of the British soldiers in India. I can assure him that no such proposal will form part of the programme of the Government of India during my time. As regards Railways, Sir James Westland has indicated in his Budget Statement that for the moment our motto is *festina lente*, although this must not be taken to mark any policy of revulsion from that which has lately been pursued. There are times, however, at which it is desirable to go a little slower than the maximum pace. I am, however, rather in sympathy with what fell from the Maharaja of Darbhanga concerning the encouragement of light gauge feeder railways; and since I came here I have authorised the construction of some hundreds of miles of such lines. I should say in this context that one of the subjects to which I propose to turn my attention while at Simla is the whole question of the policy of Government in respect of railways in India, and our attitude towards private enterprise in particular. I am not satisfied with a condition of affairs which lays the Indian Government open

to the charge—whether it be true or false I have not as yet the knowledge that enables me to pronounce—of indifference to the offers of assistance that are made to it, and of hostility to the investment of British capital in the country. We may hope much from fixity of exchange, if we can succeed in establishing it. I should be glad if the Government could at the same time by its own attitude encourage what I hope may before long be a pronounced inclination towards India of the financial currents in the mercantile world. The subject of irrigation is one that appeals very closely to my concern. We are all familiar with the aphorism about the service of the statesman who can make two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before and in India we do not need to be reminded of the direct and almost immediate benefit to the agrarian class that results from an increase in the area of cultivation. I shall not embark upon any discussion of the rival advantages of irrigation and railways, because such a discussion would not be germane to this debate, and is in reality futile. The Government of India has never been inclined to balance its duties in these respects one against the other and would, I think, be unwise to do so. Nevertheless the annual allotment of seventy-five lakhs which has for some time been made to irrigation might, I think, with advantage be extended; and I have persuaded Sir J. Westland in his estimate for the forthcoming year to give me another ten lakhs for that purpose. I had asked for more, and he would have been willing to give me more. But a scheme of irrigation is not a project

upon which you can start quite as expeditiously or as easily as you can upon a railroad. In the first place, the best areas for the purpose have already been utilised. Fresh schemes are likely to be less profitable, and therefore, require more consideration than their predecessors. In the next place, very careful surveys require to be made, levels have to be taken, a staff must be got together, an investigation of existing rights has in all probability to be undertaken. It is not the case, therefore, as is sometimes imagined, that as soon as the cheque is drawn, it can at once, so to speak, be cashed in terms of tanks and canals. For these reasons it has been found that we are not in a position in the forthcoming year to spend more than an additional ten lakhs upon irrigation; although in succeeding years, if our finances continue to flourish, I hope that we may present to you a more extended programme. I am about, in the course of a visit to the Punjab, to inspect the great irrigation works that have been taken from the Chenab River, and which were favourably alluded to in the speech of the Hon. Pandit Suraj Kaul, and I shall hope to learn a good deal there both concerning the present system and as to future requirements. It only remains for me to thank you for your co-operation in the labours of the Session which is now about to conclude, to terminate this discussion and to announce that this Council is adjourned *sine die*.

ON THE PRESIDENCY BANKS BILL.

At a meeting of the Council held on the 1st September, 1899, at the Viceregal Lodge, Simla, the Hon'ble Mr. Dawkins (Finance Minister) moved that the Bill to further amend the Presidency Banks Act, 1876, be taken into consideration. Before putting the motion His Excellency the President spoke as follows :—

I should like to add a few words upon the subject touched upon by the Hon'ble Mr. Dawkins in the remarks to which we have just listened. The speech which he has made represents the views that are unanimously entertained by the Government of India. The question that has been raised by him is one, in my opinion, of great importance, and one upon which I should be grateful for the enlightenment and backing of public opinion. The Bill now before us, as he has told us, is one for a more or less formal amendment of the Presidency Banks Act of 1876, so as to admit to the list of securities, with which the Banks are at present permitted to deal, a particular security which has only hitherto been excluded, because, when the Act was last re-enacted the Bombay City Improvement Trust had not yet been called into existence. The proposal, however, adumbrated by the Finance Minister, contemplates a still further extension of the securities in the future by including in them the scrip of subsidiary assisted Railway companies.

Now under the existing law, the Presidency Banks are prohibited from dealing in them. We are disposed, as my Hon'ble Colleague has pointed out, to relax those restrictions, in the first place, in the interest of the

Banks, so as to increase the scope of their operations, but, secondly, and still more, in the interest of the investing public, and of the general development of the country which we have all so much at heart. But here we must interpolate a word of caution. We are anxious to be generous; but we are bound to be prudent, and there is a certain point beyond which we cannot go.

The Presidency Banks, as the Hon'ble Mr. Dawkins has pointed out, are not like ordinary Banks. No relaxation of restrictions, even if such were possible in an extreme degree, could make them so. They differ, because the bulk of their cash balances—or what I suppose I may call their loanable capital—is supplied by Government, and because, if we subtract this at any given moment, they are not as a rule, in possession of sufficient independent capital, to enable them to conduct operations on a large scale. The Government, therefore, is under a peculiar responsibility for these Banks, and we are bound to enforce special regulations for the protection and the security of the balances which we ourselves have provided. We cannot afford to jeopardize them in the interests of general philanthropy. Within these limits we desire to do all in our power to free the Banks from artificial bondages, and to give to them ample liberty of movement. But herein I should like to point out that a reciprocal obligation in my judgment, is involved. We do not contemplate these steps merely in order to provide a new field for the employment of Government balances. What we

want to do is to enlarge the opportunities available for the employment, in enterprises indigenous and beneficial to the country, of capital, both English and Native. It will be for the latter to profit by the occasion. The Government cannot do more than open the door. It will then be for the investing public to walk in.

And here I am tempted to indulge in a further reflection. An examination of the existing system leads me to doubt whether the banking institutions of India are at all adequate to the growing needs of the country. This is a conviction that is gaining ground outside of India, and that I believe already exists in India itself. You will find substantial testimony to it in the speech delivered by the Secretary of State in the House of Commons in the Budget Debate three weeks ago, and you will notice that his sentiments on the subject were re-echoed by his predecessor, Sir Henry Fowler. Here we are at the end of the nineteenth century, with 22,500 miles of railway opened in this country; with the telegraph wires connecting all our important cities and centres; with business operations being conducted every year on a larger and increasing scale. Moreover, we are looking forward, if we can settle our currency difficulties, to a considerable expansion of financial and industrial enterprise. And yet, in respect of banking, it seems to me that we are behind the times. We are like some old-fashioned sailing ship, divided by solid wooden bulkheads into separate and cumbrous compartments. This is a state of affairs which it appears to me can hardly continue. I can

well believe that local interests will require to be consulted, and we must be careful to see that no injustice is done. But I cannot think that any sectional prepossessions should be allowed to stand in the way of a consolidation and concentration of banking facilities which strike me as being required in the interests of the business accommodation and credit of the country. Should we succeed in effecting any such amalgamation—should we get any such central Bank, established on a sterling basis, giving us access to the London market—then I think we might with safety dispense with many of the existing restrictions, because we should have on the hypothesis of a common currency with England, a permanent and stable link between the Indian and English markets. This is a question worthy of serious examination, and which I submit, with these few introductory remarks, to the consideration of the financial and mercantile public,

ON THE NEW CURRENCY BILL.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 8th September, 1899, at the Viceregal Lodge, Simla, the Honble Mr. Dawkins moved for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Coinage Act, 1870 and the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1882. Before putting the motion, His Excellency the President said :—

The situation in which we are placed today, the circumstances in which the Finance Member has just spoken in introducing this Bill, are not without an element of surprise. If any one had prophesied two years

ago, or even one year ago, that in response to the unanimous finding of a composite body of experts at Home, in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary of State, and, so far as I can judge, with the almost unbroken concurrence of public opinion both in India and England, the Government of India would to-day be introducing a Bill to establish a gold standard with a gold currency in this country, he would have been laughed at as a dreamer of dreams. The bimetalists would have scouted him as a bigoted doctrinaire, and the champions of free silver would possibly have denounced him as a traitor. Even when the Committee was launched and already fairly under way, I venture to think that the likelihood of a unanimous report exceeded the expectations even of the most sanguine. Indeed, I remember the charge being brought against the Committee that so evenly had rival interests been balanced, and of such a motley of opinions was it composed, that its deliberations could have no other result than to add to the already existing confusion, and once again throw the future of the Indian currency into the crucible. We have been saved from such a catastrophe by the sagacity and common sense which characterised the proceedings of the Committee, by the ability with which its counsels were guided by its Chairman; most of all, I think, by the convincing and overwhelming strength of the case for a gold standard which was submitted to its consideration. Hence we have arrived at the remarkable result of a consensus of opinion upon a matter hitherto fiercely disputed, and we are engaged

this morning in giving to it legislative effect. I should like to point out that, in taking this final step, the Government of India are acting in logical accord with the policy they have pursued ever since, more than twenty years ago, the fall in the gold value of the silver first became acute. Throughout this period the underlying principle of their action has been the defence of India from the inevitable consequences of an unarrested decline in the sterling value of the rupee, namely, the necessity of imposing fresh taxation upon the Indian people at the same time that the capital upon whose introduction and proper application their future prosperity so largely depended was being driven away by the insecurity arising from a constantly fluctuating exchange. The continuity of the policy of which I speak has not been impaired by the fact that other remedies than that finally adopted have before now been sought, or that even when the desirability of a gold standard became generally recognised, proposals were put forward for attaining it which have since been abandoned. For instance, as long as there was hope of an international bimetallic agreement, the Government of India looked favourably to such a solution, but when the Brussels Conference broke down, and it became obvious that we could not count upon co-operation with others, but must depend upon ourselves, the gold standard then rose into prominence. Since then it has been a question, not of principle, but of method. The Government of India never lost sight of the ultimate goal they had in view. With that object they closed the mints to the

free coinage of silver ; with that object they made definite proposals to the Secretary of State ; with that object they now accept the recommendations of the Committee and are introducing this Bill. We do not tie our hands by taking this step. For whilst the adoption of a gold standard renders us independent of the caprice or hostility of foreign countries for the time being, it will not prevent us, at any date in the future, from embarking upon a discussion with the foreign Powers as to an international agreement, should such an idea be again put forward, but will, on the contrary, enable us to enter the field upon equal terms, if, indeed, we may not claim a positive advantage in the possession of a stable system. My honourable colleague has explained in his speech the reasons for immediate legislation. They rest in the main upon the desirability of acquainting the public at the earliest moment with our resolve, and inspiring them with confidence. We are not conscious of rashness in admitting ourselves that we are not much afraid of the danger with which we have been threatened, *viz.*, that we may lose some of the gold which is on its way to our reserves. If this risk were a serious one I would ask how it comes about that since the report of the Committee, since its acceptance by the Home Government and its recommendation to us, when all the world, so to speak, had been anticipating the action that we are now about to take, gold has nevertheless continued to flow into our treasuries, not in diminishing but in increasing volume. In June we only received £77,000 and in July £23,000, but in

August, after all these events had taken place, the inflow rose to £223,000; whilst for the week that ended on Monday last the additional amount of gold received in our treasuries and mints amounted to £18,060. This does not look as though we were frightening away gold or driving it into channels from which it would be incapable of recovery. Since sovereigns began to enter India last year, the amount of gold retained in our treasuries amounts to £2,620,000, and in future, as announcements that have been made will show, we look to receiving and coining gold of Indian production, in addition to that which enters the country in the ordinary operations of trade from outside. I do not wish to dilate upon what to some may appear the sentimental advantage of a single gold coin uniform and incapable of depreciation circulating throughout the British Empire, although to me it seems that the fact has a very practical and an imperial application. I will put it another way and will say that in the unimpeded and steady flow of the sovereign in circulation in and out of India appears to me to exist a very potent guarantee for the extension of our mercantile relations with the United Kingdom and with other parts of the British Empire. Every merchant who trades with India, every capitalist who invests in this country, will know in future that his sovereign is worth 15 rupees. Lender and borrower will be dealing in the same money with a fixed unalterable denomination. For my part I cannot doubt that such security must lend stability and confidence not

merely to our trade with foreign countries—and the London Committee has reminded us that four-fifths of our foreign trade is with countries possessing a gold standard also—but also to commercial and industrial development within our own shores. I do not desire to indulge in any chimerical dreams of the future. I do not expect any sudden or frantic rush of capital to India. I do not pretend that we are opening an Asiatic Klondyke to the investing world. Least of all am I anxious to import the speculative element into Indian business or finance, but I do firmly believe and hope that, subject to chances which none can foresee, but against which we are already on the watch, we shall, by taking these measures, invest the financial horoscope of India with a security which it has hitherto lacked, and which it will be our duty to utilise in the interests of our own clients, who are the Indian people.

ON THE PUNJAB LAND ALIENATION BILL.

A Bill to amend the law relating to agricultural land in the Punjab was introduced at a meeting of the Council held at the Viceregal Lodge, Simla, on the 27th September, 1899. The Hon'ble Mr. Rivaz, in moving for leave, made a lengthy speech, after which His Excellency the Viceroy said :—

“The historical retrospect with which the Hon'ble Mr. Rivaz commenced his interesting speech appeared to me to be of value in its general as well as in its particular application. He shewed that the question of agricultural indebtedness in many parts of India had

attracted the attention of Government, and had elicited the opinions of expert authorities at intervals throughout the present century, but that during the past 25 years it became pressing and acute. Minutes had been written, resolutions had been circulated, laws have been passed for the mitigation of abuses, but all these have dealt, so to speak, merely with the fringe of the subject, and only to-day are we engaged for the first time in introducing a measure of first class legislative importance to check this great and growing evil. Does not this fact illustrate in a striking manner the method of deliberation with which we proceed? I am one of those, as may be known, who find the machine of Government apt to move somewhat slowly in this country, and be a little ponderous and rusty in the revolution of its wheels; but for caution and slowness in a matter affecting a vast area and territory relating to the concrete rights of property, and touching the livelihood of hundreds of thousands, if not of millions, of the population, I have nothing but praise. Our studies and investigations can scarcely be too protracted. Our action must, on no account, be flustered or precipitate if our proposals are to be successful. Full opportunity must be afforded for public opinion to digest and accept them, provided, that is, that they are deserving of acceptance. It is very important that the mills of the Sirkar should grind slowly, because in the long run they are apt to grind exceedingly small

Let me apply these observations to the present case. Mr. Rivaz has just asked leave to introduce a

Bill which has, I may almost say, been for years in course of incubation. It represents the unanimous views of the Government of India, it has been accepted by the Secretary of State, it is supported in the chief by the powerful argument to which we have just listened, by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province to which it is proposed to be applied. Yet so conscious are we of the importance of the precedent we are setting, and of the far-reaching consequence of the solution we propose, that we resolved to give the amplest opportunity for the expression of opinions, and even of criticism, to those whose interests will be affected by the measure. In my opinion the legislation in this Council, which is invested with the law making prerogatives of the Government of India, should be deliberate in proportion to its facility for making laws. Laws that are made in haste are apt to be repented of at leisure. For these reasons we but now introduce the Bill, which public and expert opinion will have ample opportunity of discussing during the next six months, and fortified, as we hope, by this outside assistance, we shall then take up the measure when we reassemble at Simla next year. As regards the merits of the Bill itself, I would make a few observations. The issues at stake are, in my judgment, as momentous as any that can attract the attention of the Government of India. There is no country in the world so dependent upon the prosperity of its agricultural classes as India. There is no Government in the world so personally interested in agriculture as the Indian Government. We are, in the

strictest sense of the term, the largest landlords in creation. Our land revenues are the staple of our income. Upon the contentment and solvency of the millions who live upon the soil is based the security of our rule. In the present case we have all the greater responsibility from the fact that in the province of the Punjab, with which we are now about to deal, we originated the present land system, which has had such unfortunate consequences, that it is proposed to rectify, as well as the legal system which has given the usurer his opportunity. A double responsibility, therefore, rests upon our shoulders. We cannot afford to see the yeoman farmers of the Punjab, the flower of the population, and the backbone of our Native Army, dwindle and become impoverished before our eyes. Neither can we acquiesce in the consummation of a social revolution which is in contradiction both of the traditions of Indian Society and of the cardinal precepts of British rule.

If it be asked why we selected the Punjab as the field of this experiment, the answer is that there the problem is most serious, there the evil has reached, or is reaching, the most dangerous dimensions, and there it possesses a political and social, as well as a purely agrarian complexion. But our vision is not centred upon the Punjab alone. The canker of agricultural indebtedness, which is eating into the vitals of India, and which is one of the twelve questions I have set before myself with the humble intention to examine, and, if it may be, to attempt to solve, is not one of a narrow or con-

tracted application, though in particular parts it may be more grave in its incidence than in others. We shall doubtless require to handle it in different ways in different areas. We began some years ago after a tentative fashion in the Deccan. We are now proceeding with a bolder venture in the Punjab. Should we be successful in this enterprise we shall be encouraged to proceed, and thus, stone by stone, layer by layer, build up a fabric of financial and social stability for our rural population. I do not shut my eyes to the fact that many objections can be, and probably will be, raised against this legislation. It will be said that we are taking away the right, which, we ourselves too generously conferred; that we are depreciating the value of land, which in my opinion has been unduly inflated, or that we are affecting the credit of a section of the population, to whom the mistaken system has given the opportunity of borrowing up to edge of their own ruin. I have, in these few sentences, indicated what would be the nature of my reply in each case, but I may add that even were these minor drawbacks to be realised, and I do not think they will be to any appreciable extent, they must be weighed in the balance against vastly superior advantages to the land-owning and agricultural community, that we have in view, and must be measured by the scale of the disaster, which, unless some drastic measures be taken, will assuredly, before long, overwhelm the smaller Zemindari classes of our population. I trust that, in the public scrutiny to which we now commit the proposal, these considera-

tions of statesmanship may be borne in view, and it may be remembered that great and salutary ends are not apt to be secured by timid and temporising means.

ON FAMINE IN INDIA : A REVIEW OF THE PRESENT SITUATION.

At a meeting of the Legislative Council held at the Viceregal Lodge, Simla, on the 20th October, 1899, His Excellency Lord Curzon presiding, the Hon'ble Mr. Rivaz and the President both made statements intended to place before the public such information as was then available as to the probable character and extent of the present distress and as to the measures taken to meet it. The Viceroy said :—

I should like to supplement the detailed statement to which we have just listened from the honourable member in charge of the Revenue and Agricultural Department by a few observations of a more general character upon the attitude and policy of the Government. It has been a source of great distress to me, and my feelings in this respect are those of all my colleagues, that in my first year of office, while plague, the first great Indian scourge, has remained a persistent visitor, the second, which is famine, should once again be threatening this sorely tried country and its patient and unmurmuring population. For months past, it is no exaggeration to say, that the daily meteorological report has been to everyone of us who are, in our different spheres, responsible for Indian government, a document to which we have turned with most anxious

interest each morning, and day by day as we have contemplated a sky of brass and unclouded sun, we have longed bitterly and would have sacrificed much for the sight that met the watcher upon Carmel, of the little cloud no bigger than a man's hand. If in our regrets at the ill fortune that has attended us we may nevertheless recognise grounds of legitimate alleviation, they will consist in the fact that we have had upon the present occasion a long warning of the coming scarcity, and have in consequence been able to formulate our plans of campaign in advance ; and secondly, that while the area of certain distress is unfortunately large—much too large—it is yet considerably smaller than the corresponding area in the famine of 1896-97, and, if Providence should favour us with late autumnal rains, is still capable of contraction.

In Rajputana it is to be feared that the suffering will be in excess of any since the sad year of 1868-69, and in the Central Provinces I regret to think that a portion of the ordeal of three years ago may again have to be endured by the same poor people who have barely had time to recover from the last shock. But elsewhere, as Mr. Rivaz has shown, the situation, though grave, affords less ground for acute apprehension, while in many parts of India the sufferings of unfortunates elsewhere will, to some extent, be balanced by exceptionally favourable conditions.

The narrowness and the comparatively precise definition of the areas affected should enable us to devote our energies to their relief with all the greater

concentration. I do not pretend that in so doing we have any novel or startling methods of procedure to announce. Perhaps the worst and least reassuring declaration that a Viceroy could make upon an occasion like this would be that the Government of India proposed to experiment in respect of scarcity and famine. Our proceedings must be, and will be, founded upon the very opposite extreme of principle. All that we have acquired from the recorded observations of a century, all that we have learned from the experience of the past twenty-five years, during which India has three times been visited by serious famines, all that we have been advised or warned by the recent Famine Commission—these must be the bases of our action. They will furnish the pocket-book for field service, with which our soldiers of peace will enter upon their humane and bloodless campaign.

If I be asked to summarise the action which it is in the power of the Government of India to take against famine, in respect either of Executive intervention, or sympathetic assistance, or of local control, I would make the following reply. In our own territories we have a fourfold scheme of operation. In the larger villages and towns we open poor-houses for the reception and sustenance of the famishing waifs and strays; in the country hamlets we distribute gratuitous relief weekly or fortnightly to the sick and aged, the widow and the orphan. We employ tens of thousands of impoverished, but willing, hands upon relief works, the making of roads, the digging of tanks, the

construction of embankments for future lines of railway. The honourable member has, in his speech, given you some idea of the numbers who are already thus engaged, and they represent but a small fraction of the total for whom our existing organisation would enable us with scarcely a hitch to provide paid employment of this character, should the emergency arise. Finally, by the appointment of special officers selected for their training or experience, we supplement the existing staff and endeavour both to supply a stimulus and to strengthen local supervision.

These are our more immediate measures. Prospectively we always have in contemplation *taccavi* advances to enable the peasant to sow his seed before the next rains, and that ultimate standby of the distressed agriculturist in all lands, remission of rent, or, as we call it in India, land revenue. I do not think that in any period of scarcity or famine the Government of India has shown an inclination to be ungenerous in these particulars. If we turn to the situation as it affects the Native States, we are necessarily upon somewhat different ground. Here we must be careful to do nothing that would diminish the responsibility or slacken the energies of the Native Chiefs and durbars. The Government of India should not step in either to usurp their proper functions, or to relieve them of an obligatory duty. On the other hand, we may do much, and in the case of Rajputana we are endeavouring to do much, by the loan of officers and by the offer of expert advice to systematise and to co-ordinate local action

We can further help the Native States with loans from the Imperial exchequer, and I believe that my honourable colleague, the Finance Member is prepared to show a far from obdurate disposition in this respect, and we may, by individual acts of assistance or relief, contribute to lessen the strain. For instance, I may mention that a little while ago I offered to remove and to maintain at the expense of the Government of India one of the two Imperial Service Cavalry regiments of Jodhpure during the present and forthcoming distress, and that this offer was gladly accepted by the State.

May I venture to add that there must be many localities, populous districts, or large cities, in which men of substance reside, where some local effort for the assistance of their suffering countrymen would be most acceptable. I have already heard of such private charity having been started, in some cases, of a local famine relief fund, of a subscription-list, and of a committee of distribution. There are large classes of the native population who are not touched either by relief works or by gratuitous relief, but who may be saved from perishing by the timely exercise of such philanthropy.

In detailing the liberal and sustained plan of action with which the Government of India are prepared to meet the emergency, I feel that I have a peculiar right to call also upon India's own sons to come to her rescue in the hour of her trial.

My own knowledge of famine work and famine relief is necessarily at present, owing to the short time

which I have spent in the country, only in an incipient stage. May I add that I propose to invest it, in so far as I can, with a more practical and beneficial complexion by visiting, in the course of my forthcoming tour, a large number of the principal areas of distress in Northern and Central India. The experience which I shall thereby gain may, I hope, enable me both to render useful help on a future occasion, should such arise, and to enter more closely into the sorrows as well as joys of the Indian people.

PART IV.

MISCELLANEOUS SPEECHES.

ON THE TATA UNIVERSITY SCHEME.

On the 31st December, 1898, at Bombay, Lord Curzon received a deputation in reference to the Tata University scheme. The proceedings were informal, but a memorial was presented which, after setting forth the history and scope of the scheme, pointed out that as the scheme proposed a strictly post-graduate course of studies, it would not in any way interfere with the working of any existing Universities, and expressed the hope that the Government would see its way to sanction a grant in aid of the annual expenditure of the proposed Institute.

Lord Curzon, in reply, said he had carefully examined the representation. Though he could of course give no final answer to it, he could at all events assure them that the object which they had in view had enlisted his warm sympathy. In the first place, he desired to recognise the great generosity and public spirit which Mr. Tata had shown in contributing so magnificent a sum for the promotion of a great public purpose. He himself, though he could lay claim to no special knowledge of the subject, had learned in the course of some years' study of Indian questions that there were gaps at both ends of the educational system of India. It was the gap at the upper end which Mr. Tata by his generosity was anxious to supply. While he warmly sympa-

thised with the object of the scheme, there were certain considerations which, without the least hostility to it, or without committing himself to any unfavourable opinion in regard to it, he was desirous of eliciting information upon. In the first place he desired to know if the Committee were satisfied that when they had got together a number of professors with high salaries there would be a sufficient number of pupils for them to teach. He would be the last to say anything against paying professors on the most liberal scale. At the same time it would be disappointing to have a number of liberally paid professors lecturing to empty classes. Then, again, a good deal had been heard about the number of students turned out by the Indian colleges who found it difficult to obtain remunerative employment. Were the Committee satisfied that after a number of qualified chemists and scientists had been trained in the proposed institution, posts would be available for them? He noticed that a reference was made in the memorial to the part that it was hoped Native Princes would take in assisting the scheme. Something was said about their co-operation with the Government of India. He should like to know what was in the mind of the Committee in relation to this aspect of their scheme, for anything like an effort on the part of the Government of India to influence Native Princes to contribute to it might be misunderstood. Then there was one branch of the proposed Institute described in the scheme as philosophical and educational, about which he had some misgivings. It was

proposed to expend sixty thousand rupees a year upon salaries for professors to teach such subjects as the methods of education, ethics, psychology, history, archæology, and so on.

SPEECH AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL.

Speaking at the Annual meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, held on the 1st February, 1899.

The Viceroy said it give him great pleasure to be present on that occasion. He had come there not in his official garb as patron of the society, but as a student and writer who had himself profited by its publications, and who was intensely interested in its work and welfare. He was glad to have heard the interesting inaugural address of Mr. Risley and the account by Mr. Bendall of his recent researches and discoveries in Nepal. The latter was a country of great interest, in which he doubted not that original discoveries would await the future explorer and student. Mr. Bendall's remarks on two subjects in particular had confirmed his own observations in Asiatic travel. The parallelism which Mr. Bendall had noticed between some of the features and practices of Roman Catholicism and of the Buddhist religion in Nepal had been observed in many other countries, and was one of the commonplaces of Oriental travel. He had himself made some study of monastic life and institutions in China, and had made a careful note of the many points of re-

semblance between the ritual theogony, and to some extent even the dogma of the two religions. Perhaps it was this coincidence that in some degree explained the easy entry of the Roman Catholic propaganda into some Asiatic countries. The combination of a sort of nature worship with an æsthetic regard for the beauties of natural scenery had also greatly struck him in Corea, and he gave an account of the annual mission of the State Embassy from Seoul to pay homage to Long White Mountain in the north. As regarded the work of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, although he knew that it consisted mostly of voluntary efforts, and that they did not spurn the help of amateurs, he yet did not personally regard its action as the mere academic exercise of students. He looked upon it rather as part of a duty which we owed to India. Planted as we had been by Providence upon the throne of the Indies, we were trustees for the world of a literature, an archæology, a history, and an art that were among the priceless treasures of mankind. For nearly three thousand years there had been a succession of kingdoms, dynasties, races, and religions in India, all of them leaving relics of some sort, many of them relics of the highest value which it was incumbent upon us to examine, to elucidate, and to conserve. It was sometimes said that officials in India had nowadays no time for independent study or research. "No time" was always the excuse of idleness, and the busiest man was usually he who had most time at his disposal. He did not, therefore, accept that plea as an excuse for any

relaxation in the efforts which so many distinguished members of the Society had made in the past, and during his term of office he meant to do whatever lay in his power to encourage research, to promote study, and to safeguard the relics of the past as a part of our imperial obligation to India.

THE CONVOCAATION OF THE CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

On Saturday the 11th February, 1899, His Excellency the Viceroy, as Chancellor, presided at the Annual Convocation of the Calcutta University. The Vice-Chancellor (Sir Francis Maclean, Kt., Chief Justice of Bengal) having declared the Convocation open, the presentation of the new graduates took place in the usual form, after which His Excellency addressed the assembly as follows :—

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—
Among the most honourable, and certainly not the least pleasant, duties that devolve upon a Viceroy is that of presiding as Chancellor at the Convocation of this University. If I may venture to say so, to me the task is one of peculiar gratification and interest, for I will not conceal from you that I am a University man to the core of my being ; and that, deep down in me, behind the mask of the official immersed in public affairs, and beneath the uniform of State, there lurks an academic element, ineradicable and strong, connecting me with my old University days, and affecting me with a natural sympathy towards those who, although in different circumstances and under a different clime, can also claim connection with a University.

(Applause) It has been reserved for you in fact to put the crown upon an otherwise imperfect academic career. I have been an Undergraduate of a University, a Bachelor of Arts, a Master of Arts, a Fellow of a College, and a Member of Convocation. But a Chancellor I have never been until today—(applause)—and perhaps when when Sir Francis Maclean and I some years ago entered Parliament together—a situation which is not very productive of academic repose—we little thought that a day would one day arrive when, clad in fine raiment, we should appear upon a dais side by side as the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of a University. I must be allowed to congratulate you upon having secured the services of Sir Francis Maclean as your Vice-Chancellor. (Applause.) That a Chief Justice of the High Court of Calcutta should be the *de facto* head of your Governing Body seems to me a very fitting exemplification of the harmony that should prevail between two cognate branches of human knowledge and learning. And may I be allowed also to congratulate myself upon a discovery which I have made from a study of the proceedings on previous occasions, namely, that, while but few observations are expected from me this afternoon, the real burden of the performance will fall upon shoulders that are so well fitted to bear it; in other words, upon the Vice-Chancellor himself. Though I am but a new comer in this country, I am yet not so ignorant of its educational system as not to know that when I speak of my own connection with a University in England, I am speaking of something very different

from the University which prevails here. A residential and teaching University such as Oxford, or Cambridge, with its venerable buildings, its historic associations, the crowded and healthy competition of its life, its youthful friendships, its virile influence upon character, its *esprit de corps*, cannot, either in Great Britain or in any country, be fairly compared with an examining and degree giving University such as yours. They are alike in bearing the same name, and in constituting parts of the machinery by which in civilised countries all peoples work for the same ideal, namely, the cultivation of the higher faculties of man. But they are profoundly unlike in the influence that they exert upon the pupil, and in the degree to which they affect, not so much his profession, as his character and his life. Nevertheless, inevitable and obvious as these differences are, there may yet be in an examining University, and there is in such institutions in some parts of my own country, and still more abroad, an inherent influence, inseparable from the curriculum through which the student has had to pass before he can take his degree, which is not without its effects upon character and morals, which inspires in him something more than the hungry appetite for a diploma, and which turns him out something better than a sort of phonographic automaton into which have been spoken the ideas and thoughts of other men. (Applause.) I ask myself may such a thing be said with any truth of the examining Universities of India? Now, at first sight, it may appear that I shall be met with an overwhelming chorus of

denial. I shall be told—for I read it in many newspapers and in the speeches of public men—that our system of higher education in India is a failure; that it has sacrificed the formation of character upon the altar of cram; and that the Indian Universities turn out only a discontented horde of office seekers, whom we have educated for places which are not in existence for them to fill. Gentlemen, may I venture to suggest to you that one of the defects of the Anglo-Saxon character is this, that it is apt to be a little loud both in self-praise and in self-condemnation. When we are contemplating our virtues, we sometimes annoy other people by the almost pharisaical complacency of our transports. But equally, I think, when we are diagnosing our faults, are we apt almost to revel in the superior quality of our transgressions. There is, in fact, a certain cant of self-depreciation as well as of self-laudation. I say to myself, therefore, in the first place, is it possible, and is it likely, that we have been, for years, teaching hundreds and thousands of young men,—even if the immediate object be the passing of an examination, and the winning of a degree,—a literature which contains invaluable lessons for character, and for life, and a science which is founded upon the reverent contemplation of Nature and her truths, without leaving a permanent impress upon the moral as well as the intellectual being of many who have passed through this course? (Applause.) I then proceed to ask the able officials by whom I am surrounded, and whose trained assistance makes the labour of a Viceroy of

India a relaxation rather than a toil, whether they have observed any reflection of this beneficent influence in the quality and character of the young men who enter into the ranks of what is now known as the Provincial Service. And when I hear from them almost without dissent that there has been a marked upward trend in the honesty and integrity and capacity of the native officials in those departments of Government, then I decline altogether to dissociate cause and effect ; I say that knowledge has not been altogether shamed by her children ; and grave as the defects of our system may be, and room though there may be for reform, I refuse to join in a wholesale condemnation which is as extravagant as it is unjust. (Applause.) But, gentlemen, when I admit the existence of imperfections, you may say that, as head of the Government, it is my duty to define them, and still more to find a remedy. May I remark in reply that, though I have been here long enough to find out that everything is not perfect, I have not been here long enough to dogmatise as to how perfection may be attained. Perhaps in succeeding years I may be able to express opinions which will be less presumptuous than they would be at the present time. On the whole, I believe the present system to be faulty, but not rotten, and I feel that cautious reform, and not wholesale reconstruction, should probably be the motto of our action. (Applaus) There is one consideration, however, by which, I am forcibly impressed. I find myself the Chancellor of this University in virtue of my office as Viceroy of India, and I draw

from this fact the not unnatural conclusion that the Government of India assumes some direct responsibility, not merely for this University, the functions of which I am informed, extend over the Central Provinces, Burma, Assam and Ceylon, as well as Bengal, but also over the entire system of which this University is the exemplar and head. At the same time I am not certain that the Supreme Government applies as close an attention to, or exercises as genuine a supervision over, education as it might do. There is no separate Educational Department in the Government of India, as we have in England, with an organisation and a staff of its own. There is no official charged with the ministerial or secretarial management of education alone. May it not be that we have been somewhat remiss ourselves in the task, and that we have been expecting the plant to flourish when we have not sufficiently exerted ourselves to trim and prune its branches? (Applause.) This only I will say before resuming my seat today, that the whole subject of education in this country, in which I think are involved both the reputation of England and the future of India, will, during my term of office, have my earnest attention, and that I shall hope annually to attend at this Convocation, and to show myself not unworthy of the honourable post which I am permitted to fill. (Applause) It remains only for me to congratulate those who have received their degrees this afternoon, and to call upon the Vice-Chancellor to deliver his address. (His Excellency was warmly applauded on resuming his seat)

SPEECH AT THE ANNUAL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BARRACKPORE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL.

On the 11th March, 1899, His Excellency the Viceroy presided at the annual distribution of prizes to the pupils of the Barrackpore Government School, the distribution being held on the lawn in front of the Government House at Barrackpore. The Principal of the school having read the annual report and addressed a few words welcoming the Viceroy and regretting Lady Curzon's absence, there were recitations by the boys after which, His Excellency the Viceroy addressed the assembly.

He said he was glad to have had the pleasure of seeing them all there that afternoon, and of giving them the prizes. He was not surprised that the Principal should have expressed in his address the disappointment of the masters and boys that Lady Curzon could not be present there that afternoon, and he was obliged to him for the gracious terms in which he had alluded to her. He hoped that on a future occasion, in another year, Lady Curzon would have the pleasure of being present, and seeing them. He gathered from what the Principal said in his opening remarks that this school had long existed there under the eye and under the patronage of Government, that it had grown in size and influence, and that it turned out a number of young scholars who did credit to themselves in the world after they had left the school, and carried its reputation far and wide. The school was under the auspices of the Viceroy of India and continually patronized by successive Viceroys, and situated as it was outside the grounds of Barrackpore Park, the Viceroy for the time being could not but

come to know the school and take an interest in it. His Excellency had listened to the recitations the boys had just given, and he thought, considering the age of the boys, some of whom were very young, they did well. He was glad to find particularly that they spoke slowly and he urged all the boys when they spoke in a foreign tongue—and English was to them a foreign tongue—to articulate slowly. No foreign tongue came naturally to anyone, and the only way to make anyone with whom they were conversing in English understand them, was to speak slowly. Therefore, he advised the boys when they spoke English not to gabble it, but to speak slowly. If they spoke slowly they also got time to think. It was too hot to make speeches or listen to them. It had been a pleasure to him to be present on that occasion. He wished well to the boys who had gained prizes, and better luck next year to the boys who had not gained prizes. He would have all of them bear this in mind that the boy or man who deserved no sympathy whatever in the world was the boy or man who could not make up his mind what to do, who could not settle what his profession in life was to be, and who, starting in the world by saying that he had nothing to do, ended up by having nothing to do. His Excellency hoped they would bear in mind these few words of advice, and that he would have the pleasure of seeing them on future occasions at Barrackpore.

THE ANNUAL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION OF THE CALCUTTA VOLUNTEER RIFLES.

On the 22nd March, 1899, the Annual prize distribution of the Calcutta Volunteer Rifles took place at the Government House, in the presence of a large gathering of friends of the Corps, His Excellency Lord Curzon presiding. After the distribution was over, His Excellency addressed the men as follows :—

Among the many unaccustomed but agreeable duties which I have been called upon to perform since I took up my present office, the function in which I have been privileged to take part this afternoon is not the least strange. In the first place, I, who am essentially a man of peace, find myself for the first time in my life a Colonel, although it is true only an Honorary Colonel. Perhaps, however, when I remember that your actual Commandant, Colonel Jenkins, whom I have pleasure in congratulating upon the admirable work that he has effected in the reorganisation of your corps, is also sometimes, in the few moments that he can spare from military duties, to be seen in a civilian and even a judicial garb, I may feel rather less uncomfortable than I otherwise should in my novel position. I am also told that it is my duty to make you a speech ; and I am astonished to find that on similar occasions in previous years my predecessors, who were also like myself men of peace, although one of them, Lord Lansdowne, has subsequently blossomed into a Minister for War, delivered to the Calcutta Volunteers rather lengthy and very eloquent orations upon the advantages of Volunteer forces in general, and

the merits of this corps in particular. I assure you that on the present occasion I shall be more merciful.

We are frequently told that it is the duty of all patriotic citizens to be willing to shed the last drop of their blood for their country. I accept this obligation; and also the chronological sequence which it seems to involve. It is the business of the Army, I apprehend, to shed the first drop: of the Volunteers, including the Calcutta Volunteers, to shed the second: and of the Viceroy, whether he be an Honorary Colonel or not, and of the civil administration, to shed the last. (Laughter).

Now I gather that since the last occasion when this corps was inspected by Lord Elgin in the grounds of Government House, a great change has taken place in its organisation. At that time—I am speaking of 1895—the old Administrative Corps of Presidency Volunteers still existed, including in its composition the Calcutta Light Horse, the Cossipore Artillery Volunteers, the Calcutta Volunteer Rifles, and the Eastern Bengal State Railway Volunteers. This organisation I understand to have been superseded by the present corps, consisting exclusively of infantry. Meanwhile, I gather that the old Presidency Volunteer Battalion has, under the energetic auspices of Colonel Jenkins, both changed its character and expanded its numbers and range. What may be called a departmental organisation has been applied to it, with great advantage, as it seems to me, both to the practical utility and to the *esprit de corps* of the entire battalion.

The amalgamation thus effected by Colonel Jenkins will, I hope, give a new lease of life and activity to this most important organisation. It is in my opinion greatly to be desired that the youths and young men of Calcutta should voluntarily undertake these duties. Their service is an evidence of public spirit and of private unselfishness which entitles them to the encouragement and patronage of the State. It places every man in this corps at the responsible position of being not merely the guardian of his own household, but a factor in the defensive system of the Empire. As such, I regard it as an honour to be connected with your corps, in whose welfare I shall feel a continuous and a growing interest.

It remains only for me to congratulate you upon the work of the past season and upon the success of your prize meeting, at which I learn that my prize was won by the extraordinary and record score of 291 ; to notice the efficiency of the Armenian boys at their drill in the Lieutenant-Governor's competition ; to compliment your Commander upon the efficiency of his corps, and yourselves upon the energy of your Commander ; and to wish you every good fortune until we meet again. (Applause).

DINNER TO THE HON. SIR JAMES WEST-
LAND AND THE HON'BLE MR.
CHALMERS.

On the 23rd March, 1899, at the Government House, Calcutta, a farewell dinner was given by the Viceroy, to the Hon'ble Sir

James Westland and the Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers, on the eve of their departure from India. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Calcutta and other high officials were present besides many ladies. His Excellency Lord Curzon proposed the toast of the guests of the evening in the following terms :—

Your Honor, your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, —We meet tonight upon an interesting occasion, although it is not without a tinge of melancholy and regret. I have invited you all here this evening to join with me in bidding good-bye to two public men—colleagues of some of us, friends of all—who are about to leave India, and to devote their great abilities to some other branch of the public service. Of course, it is an accident that places me in the position of being their host upon this valedictory occasion, and that lays in my hands the delicate task both of composing their Indian epitaphs, and of wishing them success in whatever incarnations they may choose to adopt in their future career in the West. (Applause.)

No one, probably, in this room is less qualified than myself to do justice to such a task, for while I yield to none in admiration of the virtues and the qualities that have raised them to their high station, and that have endeared them to all, I must own that until three months ago it was only by reputation that I personally was acquainted with those qualities and with those virtues. Perhaps, at the same time, my brief familiarity with them, whilst it may disable me from speaking with the authority which others in this room might claim, may enable me to feel as well as any how great is the

loss which the Government of India, and I, who am the head of that Government, sustain in their approaching departure. (Applause.) Now, ladies and gentlemen, there might not appear to be any remarkable exterior resemblance between the careers of Sir James Westland and Mr. Chalmers, but at the same time, there is one point of strange and peculiar identity between them. Neither of these gentleman has been able in the course of a long and varied career to shake off the remarkable and inexplicable, but absolutely irresistible fascination of India. (Applause.)

Mr. Chalmers first came to this country—although no one who regards him will believe it—as much as thirty years ago. He came as a member of the Civil Service, but he left again in 1872. At a subsequent period he dispensed justice with equal ability upon the Rock of Gibraltar, and in the Borough of Birmingham—(applause)—but for him, as for so many others, the East was always calling, and it is not surprising, therefore, to learn that, in 1895, he came back to this country as Legal Member of Council, a procedure by which it is hardly necessary to say that the loss of Birmingham was converted into the gain of Bengal. (Applause.)

Now, let us look at Sir James Westland. (Laughter.) In the middle of his career, for some reason unknown to historians, Sir James Westland retired to the *otium cum dignitate* of a pastoral existence in the Colony of New Zealand. (Laughter.) But, ladies and gentlemen, it was no good. (Laughter.) A man cannot fight

against his destiny, and like Cincinnatus of old, Sir James Westland was presently called back from the plough, or whatever may have been the New Zealand equivalent of that instrument—(laughter)—to the guidance of the fortunes of this country. (Applause.)

Well, in the face of these precedents affecting these two gentlemen, who knows, and who can say in what capacity, or as the Avatars of what future revelation they may again reappear in our midst. (Laughter.) We may see them again in the flesh in India. (Laughter.) I devoutly hope, and believe, that we shall, but even if we do not, it is certain to me that their disembodied spirits will hover over the Departments in which they have presided, and will communicate a stimulus and an inspiration to those who are their unworthy successors. (Applause.)

Now, ladies and gentlemen, may I touch a little more closely, with your permission, upon the careers and the services of these two gentlemen who are our guests this evening. It is with profound respect that I must speak of the career of Sir James Westland which began in India at a time, now nearly forty years ago, when I myself was in what is popularly known as the nursery. Sir James Westland's career has been a remarkable career, and it has been remarkable for its continuity and consistency as much as for any other feature. It has come to my knowledge, for instance, that almost the first act of merit performed by Sir James Westland, when he came to India was the writing of a report on the cultivation of sugar, whilst it is

a matter of public knowledge that his last act has been the passage of a Bill to prevent the extinction of that useful article. (Laughter and applause.)

It may, therefore, be said of his career as it can of no other within my knowledge that it has been equally sweet at the beginning and at the end. (Laughter.) It reminds me indeed of the famous oration of the great Chatham who made a speech in the House of Commons which he commenced with the words "Sugar, Mr. Speaker," and when he was greeted with the irreverent titters of the honourable members around him he proceeded to reiterate with increased animation and anger the word "Sugar, Mr. Speaker, who will laugh at sugar now?" Now it is in connection with the Financial Department of the Government of India that Sir James Westland's chief services have been rendered. He entered that department as Under-Secretary in the year 1870. He became Accountant-General, Controller-General, Financial Secretary, and ultimately Financial Member of Council. In 1881 as Financial Member of Council he devised the system of accounts which is the basis of the present financial organisation of the Government of India. In 1895 he converted the Indian Debt with the result of an annual saving of nearly fifty lakhs of rupees to the revenues of the State. For full five troublous years he has been the Chancellor of the Exchequer of our Government, and, during that time, he has been a vigilant guardian of the public purse. (Applause.) He has seen his lean years, but I suspect that sometimes in the night watches, like Pharoah of old—

an historical character to whom I would not compare him—(laughter)—except in this respect that he has known sometimes how to harden his heart in the night watches—I am convinced he has seen visions of the fat years that were to come ; and so it is that he now retires, I will not say in the odour of sanctity, because that is incompatible with the word finance—(laughter)—but at any rate in the comfortable atmosphere that is engendered by the production of a record surplus, and by the acclamations of a contented people. (Applause.) Ladies and gentlemen, these are no light services, and no man is capable of rendering such services who has not an equal familiarity both with the conditions of India and with the principles of finance. It is to my mind one of the proudest features of our system that we are enabled to enlist in the service of India the most capable intellects of our time. Among such men assuredly no one has rendered more patriotic, or more farreaching services to the Government of India than our guest of this evening. (Applause.)

He has been, as I have said, a vigilant guardian of the public purse, but behind the almost impenetrable orthodoxy of his superficial aspect there has been, if I may say so, concealed a temperament which was open to every petition of mercy and never refused the dictates of common-sense. (Applause.) He now retires from the service of the Government of India conscious of the great work which he has performed, and by which his successors will profit. On behalf of the public service of this country, of which it is my pride to be the

head, I acknowledge these great services. I bid god-speed to Sir James Westland as he leaves this country, and I hope that, in another and not less useful sphere, India may continue to profit by the abilities which he has so freely spent upon her behalf. (Applause.)

Mr. Chalmers has been for a less time a Member of the Indian Government, but any one who has heard, even for the short time that I have done, his logical and trenchant utterances in the Legislative Council of the Government of India, or who has read the masculine record of opinions with which he favours us on paper, must be conscious of the fact that strength goes out of the Government of India because of his departure. (Applause.) He has now been summoned to England to draft the laws which a wise, or an unwise Parliament insists in impressing upon a happy or an unhappy people. It is said that there is no Act of Parliament which is passed, through which it is not possible to drive a coach and four. I believe that to be absolutely true, but, in the presence of Mr. Chalmers, it will only be gallant to assume that is the fault, not of the Lawyer, but of the Politician. I hope that sometimes in the sombre recesses of Whitehall, Mr. Chalmers will look back upon the three years that he spent in listening to the manuscript eloquence of his colleagues in the Legislative Council of the Government of India,—(laughter and applause)—and that he will console himself for the bad laws that he is called upon by Government to draft for the Parliament of England by remembering the good laws that he drafted on his

own responsibility for the Government of India. (Applause.)

These, Ladies and Gentlemen, are the two friends and colleagues to whom we are met here this evening to say farewell. Is it permissible for me to add in the case of Sir James Westland that we equally dedicate our gratitude and our respect to Lady Westland and to her two daughters—(applause)—who during the time that they have been here have made so many friends and will leave such happy memories, and that, if I cannot speak of the past or the present of Mr. Chalmers in tones of similar domestic eulogy, it is yet to be hoped that in the more populous and social clime to which he is about to revert, he will make amends in the future? (Laughter and applause.)

Ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to drink the health of our guests this evening, Sir James Westland and Mr. Chalmers.

SPEECH AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LADY DUFFERIN FUND.

On the 25th March, 1899, the Viceroy presided at the Annual Meeting of the Lady Dufferin Fund. His Excellency, who on rising was received with applause said :—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—As this is the first occasion on which I have had an opportunity of evincing my interest in the work of this Fund, I should like to say what a pleasure it is both to Lady Curzon and myself to carry on the work which has been initiated

and patronised by our predecessors. I say Lady Curzon and myself, because I must, in fairness, place her in this as in all other matters, in a different and in a superior category to myself. (Applause) It is she who is the Lady President of this Fund, succeeding in that post the three eminent ladies who have preceded her, and who have, I believe, distinguished themselves by the business-like aptitude with which they discharged the duties of that office ; it is she who visits the hospitals ; it is she who presides over the Committee which is responsible for the control of this now gigantic organisation ; and, so far as I can ascertain, the only function which she does not perform, and from which I think, if I may express an opinion, she wisely abstains, is that of making the speeches on this annual occasion. (Laughter). That function she devolves upon the shoulders of others ; the business-like speech she entrusts to the capable hands of Mr. Rivaz ; the ornamental speech she assigns to me. (Laughter.) Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have not in the short time that I have been in this country had time to acquaint myself with all the minutiae of the work of this Association in its various branches, and, indeed, had I done so, and come here this afternoon with a speech packed with detail of a laudatory character, the words would have been taken out of my mouth by the speeches delivered by those who have preceded me. But my position being, perhaps, somewhat different from theirs, I should like to say that my attitude towards this Association and its work is determined by wider out-

side considerations to which you will perhaps allow me in passing to refer. There was once a time, now lost in the mist of ages, when the Aryan race, to which both the British people and the bulk of the Indian peoples belong, started forth from their ancestral home and commenced those wanderings which have taken them to such opposite corners of the world. Where that home was nobody knows, and I am not going to hazard a guess. If I did so I should probably find some scholar rising up in some corner of this building to confute me (Laughter.) There are some who say it was in the valley of the Oxus, in the plains of Bactaria or in the unlands of the Pamirs. If it was in the latter, it must have been in a very cold region. (Laughter.) There are others who fix the locality in Mongolia or Sarmatia ; in fact there are as many theories as there are students, and much study in this case, as in others, leads to weariness of the flesh. However, wherever that home originally was, from it diverged the two great branches of the Aryan stock. Since then the European branch on the one hand, and the Asiatic branch on the other, have passed through many vicissitudes of fate, and fortune, and power. While the Kingdoms of Asia were powerful, Europe was still uncivilised. Later on, as Asia crumbled, Europe became more strong. At length came a time when the Aryan branch from Europe came back to this country to rule its own kith and kin. They came back as conquerors but as benefactors also ; they came to govern the Asiatic branches of the Aryan family, but they brought gifts in

their hand, and they said to these people : "See here, we have for long sojourned in the West, where we have acquired much knowledge, and made many discoveries, and we come back to you to ask you to take a share of these blessings." Now, what were the boons which they brought, and with what have we come to you in India as gifts in our hand? We have brought to you our religion, our law, our literature, and our science.

Now about some of these gifts some doubts may be legitimately entertained. As regards our religion, there are some who accept it, but there are others—and they are a far larger majority—who prefer their own ; and inasmuch as religion amongst all intelligent persons and races is a matter of free thought and free choice, and should never be imposed by force by one people upon another, we leave you to choose, or to adhere to, what you will. (Applause)

As regards our law, we have arrived at a happy compromise. You had a law of your own, which was not so much the work of independent legislators in the past as it was the slowly ripening product of the experience of many centuries and the necessities of your country. We have, I think, done much to amalgamate the two systems—the British and the Indian—and in this way the stately outlines of British jurisprudence have been filled in with the details suggested by the experience and needs of the East.

Then as regards our literature, I think it has taught you many good and ennobling lessons, and I know it

has brought you enlightenment, and has taught you the true significance of moral and intellectual freedom. (Applause) But there are here, as in most cases, two sides to the shield, and there are some who argue that, while it has done much to elevate, it has also in some cases done something to unsettle and to disturb.

And now I come to the last boon, which is science, and medical science in particular, and about this I say that no two opinions can possibly be entertained. There may be prejudices, and there may be scruples arising from long custom, or from ignorance, or from other causes, but doubts there cannot possibly be ; and I say this, that if we had come back to you from the West with our medicine in our hand, and with that alone, we should have been justified in our return. For what is this medical science that we bring you ? It is no mere collection of pragmatical or experimental rules ; it is built on the rock-bed of pure and irrefutable science ; it is a boon which is offered to all, rich and poor, Hindoo and Mahomedan, woman and man ; it lifts the purdah without irreverence ; and it is, so far as I know, the only dissolvent which breaks down the barriers of caste without sacrilege. Medical science, indeed, is the most cosmopolitan of all sciences, because it embraces in its merciful appeal every suffering human being in the world. Now, our Anglo-Indian poet Rudyard Kipling—and I claim him as Anglo-Indian, though he is also the property of the world—our Anglo-Indian poet, in his latest poem—and I hope and pray,

and I am sure you will join in that prayer, that it will be by no means his last—has thus written :—

“Take up the white man’s burden,
The savage wars of peace,
Fill full the mouth of Famine
And bid the sickness cease.”

Well, this part at any rate of the white man’s burden, this portion of the bounty of the Aryan of the West, has not been ignored by the British in India, and in my view every hospital that we build in this country, every doctor that we train, every nurse that we turn out, every patient that we cure, is a part of the service that we owe to India, is an element of our duty in this country, is a part of the home-coming gift which the Aryans of the West have brought back to their kith and kin. (Applause.) For these reasons it is, Ladies and Gentlemen, that I take so keen an interest in the work of an Association such as this. Now, I gather from what I have heard this afternoon, and from the Report which I have, in part, studied, that this Association is steadily winning the confidence of all classes of the people ; that it is slowly but surely wearing down the prejudice which it had to encounter, and that it has already relieved an enormous amount of human suffering. I am glad to see from the figures supplied to me that it does not interfere with the usefulness of already existing institutions. Had it done so, there would have been cause for jealousy and there might have been friction ; but I find that the class of those whom it aids lies, for the most part, outside those affected by already

existing institutions, and that whereas the women who were treated in hospitals and dispensaries in India officered by women are rapidly increasing in numbers from year to year—from 100,000 in 1888 to 600,000 in 1893, and to 1,377,000 in 1897, the figures for women who were treated in Government hospitals and dispensaries in India, officered not by women but by men, are increasing in a similar ratio—2,126,000 in 1888, 3,171,000 in 1893, and 3,751,000 in 1897.

I think these figures are re-assuring, because they show that the two great systems can work side by side without interfering with the work of each other. Speaking in Calcutta, and in the presence of the Lieutenant-Governor, I wish also to offer my congratulations upon the excellent work done in Bengal. The Lieutenant-Governor spoke of this—as he appears to do of all matters of the kind—with almost unnecessary modesty, and he attributed no part of the credit to himself, but ascribed it all to the generosity of those who have subscribed to the fund. But my experience is that people do not subscribe unless there is some conciliatory and popular person to induce them to do so. I know very well in my own case that where I would give one man one rupee, I would give another man twenty, and I am quite sure that the personality of the Lieutenant-Governor, and the interest which he and Lady Woodburn, as well as Mr. Gayer, the Honorary Secretary of the Bengal Branch, have taken in this work, have very largely been responsible for the excellent results obtained. I am glad also to notice

that in other parts of the country the rulers of some of our Native States—of Cochin and Travancore, as well as of Jeypore, Gawlior, Hyderabad, and Bikanir—have done much to assist the Association with scholarships during past years. I hope these efforts will be continued on their part, and will be imitated by others. In conclusion, therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would say to my own countrymen : Persist in your efforts in connection with this Association,—efforts all the more honourable from the fact that they are voluntary and unpaid—persist in these efforts because it is part of the service that you owe to the country in which you live, and in which lies your work. (Applause) And I would say to the great and wealthy men of India : ‘Come forward and show your interest in this great and truly philanthropic work ; give to it from your ample means, exercise what influence you can to support this Association, encourage young women to study and to embrace a medical science, which is not the monopoly of one nation, but the handmaiden of all. I am sure that we all listened with interest to the speech of the Maharaja of Darbhanga this afternoon. May I say that it is a pleasure to all of us to observe the manner in which he, at this very early age of his tenure of his new dignity, is following in the footsteps of his lamented and admirable brother. We rejoice that native gentlemen of high rank, position, and means should come forward to help us, and I hope that the example of encouragement set by him may be followed by others.

I hope, Ladies and Gentlemen, to have many other

opportunities, while in India, of showing my interest in the work of this Fund. I have to thank you for the very gracious references to Lady Curzon, and to assure you on her behalf, as she cannot do it herself, that her heart is in this work, and that during the time she is in India she recognises the tie that binds her as a woman to the women of India, and that she will do whatever lies in her power to alleviate and to brighten their lot. (Loud and continued applause.)

SPEECH AT THE ANNUAL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION OF THE PUNJAB AITCHISON COLLEGE.

On the 1st April, 1899, His Excellency the Viceroy presided at the Annual Prize-giving at the Aitchison College, Lahore. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor was present. After the reading of the annual report, the Viceroy distributed the prizes. His Excellency then rose and addressed the assembly as follows :—

Your Honor, Ladies, and Gentlemen.—It has been a great pleasure to me to visit this College, and to present these prizes to-day in this beautiful hall, which forms so noble a feature of the stately building in which we find ourselves, and which appears to me to be so well suited to the purposes for which it has been raised. I confess I did not know that, included in the pleasure which I was to experience this morning, would be the compliment of finding myself addressed in Persian by two original poets. However, I can assure them that, although I could not, from my ignorance of the language,

estimate the full measure of the compliment, I am yet very much gratified at the manner in which they have paid it.

Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, I think that after the interesting address which has been read to us by Sir Benjamin Bromehead, it is not incumbent on me to say much, either as to the foundation or as to the objects of this institution. We know that a little more than twelve years ago the foundation-stone was laid by the then Viceroy—Lord Dufferin—in the presence of one of the sons of the Queen—the Duke of Connaught.

This College takes its name, as we have been told, from Sir Charles Aitchison, the then Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, whose features in marble we see before us, and whose long and active interest in the objects with which this school was founded, as well as in those of the similar Mayo College at Ajmere, is known to you all. The funds with which the College was endowed were partly subscribed by the Punjab Chiefs and partly given by the Local Government, assisted by a subvention from the Imperial Government, and the aim with which it was started was to supply the benefits of what we call a public school education in England to the young men of princely and of noble families in the Punjab.

Now the question may be asked—What are the benefits of that which we describe in England as the public school system? And inasmuch as I am an old public school man, and to a certain extent, therefore, the product of that system, I am, perhaps, entitled to give you a reply. The public school system, as we under-

stand it in England, is one which is devised to develop simultaneously and in equal measure the mind, the body, and the character of the pupil. We undertake to educate our young men at these schools in England for the position or profession in life which they are destined to fill. We endeavour to train their physical energies, so as to give them a manly bearing, and to interest them in those games and pastimes and pursuits which will both conduce so much to their health, and add so greatly to the pleasure of their lives ; and above all, by the ideals we set before them, by the high example which we endeavour to inculcate in them, and by the attrition of mutual intercourse with each other from day to day, we endeavour so to discipline their character that they shall be turned, not merely into men, but into what in England we call gentlemen. (Applause.)

Now, in England this system of which I am speaking, has attained a perfection unequalled in any other country. In England boys are drawn to our public schools from every class in the community that possesses adequate means. Two of the Queen's grandsons are at this moment being educated at Eton, which is the greatest of our English public schools. There the boys of the school mingle together in a position of perfect equality. They board together in the same house ; they take part in the same classes ; they play games together ; they are taught, not merely by their masters, but by the high standard that prevails in the school, and among the boys themselves, to be honourable, chival-

rous, and just ; they form friendships with each other that last for a life-time ; and when they go forth from the school to take their place in the world, they are proud and fond of the school, and their first and highest desire is to do credit to the institution which has done so much for them. (Applause.)

Now let me give you an illustration of the strength of the feeling of which I am speaking. A few months ago, when I was appointed to the high office which I now hold, there were appointed, almost at the same time, two other old Etonians to posts of great distinction under the Crown. One of these was Dr. Welldon, the present Metropolitan of India ; the other was Lord Minto, who has gone as Governor-General to Canada. All three of us, as I have said, were old Eton boys, and when our appointments were announced, almost at the same time, it befel that a number of old Etonians—over two hundred in all—joined themselves together to give us a parting dinner, and to bid us farewell. At that dinner there were men of over seventy years of age, and men of not more than twenty. There were Viceroy and Judges and Commanders-in-Chief. There was a Prime Minister in the Chair. There were also men of modest careers, and of unambitious lives, but everyone of those old Etonians who met there together was animated by the same feeling of love for the school which had sent them all forth, by pride that she was still fulfilling her high mission, and by hope for the success of those who were going out to carry her name into the uttermost corners of the world. (Applause.)

That, boys of this College, is the spirit engendered by the public school system in England ; that is the spirit that we want to introduce into this country of India.

Now, I am aware that there are many difficulties in the task. In England the public school system which I have been describing has been the gradual growth of many centuries. It is the natural outcome of the free institutions and of the liberal sentiments of the British nation, and it is easy in a country where the territorial aristocracy, is both recruited from, and finds its chief strength in, the remaining confidence of the orders of the people ; but here, on the other hand, all is different. The public school system is an exotic in India. It is not a natural growth in this country. It has to contend with many obstacles, such as prejudice and custom, and it has to fight against the barriers of caste. It is only by slow degrees, therefore, that we can expect it to take root in India.

Nevertheless, from the reports which have been submitted to me, which have been drawn up from year to year by the Governor and Principal for this College, and by the Inspector, who makes his annual report, I derive the impression that substantial progress is being made towards the idea which the founders had in view. I am glad to note that the educational standard is steadily improving, and that the boys are reported to be industrious and well-behaved. (Applause.) I am also glad to observe that they take part in games with more zest than they were at first disposed to do, and I hope that that inclination will be encouraged, because

game and gymnastic make boys nimble and active and strong. They also bring boys very much together, and they stimulate a healthy spirit of emulation. I was glad also to hear what the Governor said about riding. I think every boy in this College, or at least a large majority of the boys in a country like India, ought to learn to ride, and to ride well, (Applause)

Now I have a word to say to you, young men and boys of this College. If you, boys of this College, if you will allow me to make you a few personal observations, I would say this: Do not fritter away the time that you spend at this College. It is a very precious time, and believe me that you will rejoice later on for every moment here that you have spent, and you will bitterly regret every moment that you have wasted. Make friends with each other, because the friends that you make here will be friends in prosperity or adversity in after-life. Do not regard the education you get in this College as a sort of State machinery provided by the Government in order to enable you either to pass the Entrance examination at the University, or to obtain Government posts later on. There are a great many of you who will never obtain Government posts, and who are not fitted to obtain them, and a larger number who will never take a University degree at all, and are not required to take a University degree. The education you receive here is intended for the most part to qualify you to fill with distinction and honour the high stations in life to which your birth will naturally raise you when you leave this College. (Ap-

plause.) Now, as I have just said, many of you, young men and boys, are of good birth and of high rank, and these are qualifications which obtain, and I hope that they will long continue to obtain, respect in a conservative country like India, but you have no right to be conceited or haughty because of your birth or rank.

There is a certain honourable pride which a man may take in high birth, and which it is legitimate for him to feel, only on one condition that he be inspired thereby to dutiful ambitions. We have a motto in England which runs as follows, *noblesse oblige*, and the meaning of that is, that noble birth requires a man to be noble and to act nobly. It means that high rank carries with it duties as well as privileges, and that when you go forth into the world you must so comport yourselves as to be worthy of your position ; otherwise you will forfeit, first, the confidence of your fellow-countrymen, and finally, the position itself. (Applause.)

Next I have a word to say to any Chiefs of the Punjab who may be here present, and if none are here today, it is possible that my words may reach them through the medium of the Press. If they were here, I would speak to them in the following terms : This Aitchison College has not been founded in our interests. It is not a device that has been constructed by Government in order to bring either credit or advantage to the British Raj. It is an institution that has been founded in your interests, and in the interests of your families and your fortunes. You ought, therefore, Chiefs of the Punjab, to give to this College greater

support than you have hitherto done. You ought, with scarcely an exception, to send your sons and grandsons and male relatives to this College, and you ought to endeavour to turn it into that which was the ambition of its founders, namely, that it should be the Eton or the Harrow of the Punjab (Applause.) Believe me, Chiefs, if you are here present, that the days are gone by when a hereditary aristocracy, however noble its origin, or however illustrious its service, can sit still, with folded hands, and contemplate the glories of its past. If you are to hold your own in the estates which you enjoy by virtue of your position, and in the confidence of the people, you must come forth from your isolation, must grapple with the facts of life, and show that you are fitted, by character and worth, for the position which everyone is ready to concede to you. You must march alongside of knowledge, instead of toiling helplessly and feebly behind it. You must reinforce the claims of your high birth by equally high attainments. You must realise, above all, that destiny is not a passive influence, that lies in the lap of the gods, but is an active instrument that is in your own hands to shape as you will. (Applause.)

Now that I have ventured to give these words of advice to the boys and young Princes and nobles of this College, and also to a wide circle of the Chiefs of the Punjab outside, may I be allowed to say that I have done so in no spirit of censorship or dictation or command. I have spoken to you both because I am a student interested in the manly and splendid traditions

of this famous province of the Indian Empire—(applause)—because, as Viceroy, I have a claim to the support of every man in this country in my efforts to make India prosperous and strong, and because, as your friend, I desire that in future generations and in an era of peace, you should retain, not by rank alone, but by pre-eminence of influence and character and worth the position which you won for yourselves in the more stormy days of old. (Loud and continued applause.)

SPEECH AT THE RAILWAY CONFERENCE.

At the annual Meeting of the Railway Conference held on the 15th August, 1899, at the Viceregal Lodge, Simla, His Excellency Lord Curzon presided and delivered the following address :—

In holding and presiding over this Conference, I am following the practice instituted by my predecessor, Lord Elgin, who devoted himself with so much business-like energy and with such beneficial results to the development of railways in India during his term of office. Under the practice established by him this Conference meets yearly at Simla. Every third year the programme of expenditure and construction is drawn up in the Public Works Department by which the Government of India is more or less bound for the triennial period ; and in intervening years classification of prospective lines, as originally adopted according to their degree of urgency, has been examined and revised by the Conference as a guide to the Department in the light of later experience or pressing need.

There are substantial advantages in this procedure. On the one hand, the comparison of the various proposals submitted to Government is conducted by an impartial Committee who make an honest endeavour to advise upon their selection, postponement, or rejection. On the other hand, a programme is drawn up for Government by which its proceedings are regulated, and which prevents a policy of drift or caprice. In other words, we are gainers, first, by possession of system, secondly, by the reasonable prospect of some continuity in that system.

Nevertheless, I cannot say that I regard our proceedings as perfect or as realising the maximum possible advantage, nor am I clear that this Conference, either in its character or in its results, corresponds with the intention of those who originally suggested it. Their idea, I believe, was in some way to give a guarantee to the promoters, and to public opinion, of the fair consideration of the various schemes submitted to the Government of India, and, while not depriving the latter of its position as the final arbiter, to strengthen its decisions by the confidence attaching to an examination whose proceedings or whose results should have the additional merit of publicity. Whatever the benefits of our annual Conference, I cannot claim for it that these objects have been fully attained. Indeed, I am somewhat doubtful as to whether it can legitimately be entitled a Conference at all. A Conference is a high-sounding title, which conveys the impression of a meeting and a discussion between the principal parties concerned, who are in this case

the Government of India on the one side, and the companies or promoters on the other. But a Conference, in which one of the two parties is not represented save by its manuscript statement or application, seems to me to have an imperfect claim to the title, and I should prefer to call our body what it is, namely, a Departmental Committee of Officials of the Government of India constituted to supplement the work of the Public Works Department. To apply to it the test of a wider examination in which general considerations of policy shall play a part and to recommend to the Government of India a systematic, and, so far as possible, a scientific programme, I have resummoned the Conference this year in order that I may have a personal experience of the advantages or faults of the system before passing a final judgment upon it, and because I propose, when our sittings are concluded, to take the public into our confidence to a greater degree than has previously been the case.

I propose to recommend to the Government of India that the conclusions at which we arrive with reference to various lines shall be formulated in an easily intelligible shape, and be published. In this way the promoters will learn how their schemes stand in the estimation of the Government, instead of having to be content, as now, with the official intimation of success or the private inference of failure, while the public will gain an idea both of the magnitude and complexity of the problem which we are called upon to discuss,

and of the general principles upon which we attempt to decide it. There remains to be considered the question whether it is possible to invest the proceedings of this so-called Conference with any of those features in which I have described it as lacking. Upon this point I have had the benefit of the opinion and advice of my present Public Works colleague, Colonel Gardner, who speaks with the double advantage both of official and commercial experience of railways in India. There are many difficulties in the way. We cannot suddenly constitute a body resembling a Parliamentary Committee at home. We have not the materials. The questions for decision are far more numerous and more complex. The Government of India is much more intimately concerned than is the Government in Great Britain. Above all, India is a much bigger country than England, and Simla is not like London, an easily accessible centre to all parts of the kingdom.

It has occurred to us, however, that there may be cases in which local interests are acutely involved, and in which local feeling is likely to be more fairly represented if it is heard upon the spot than by any official or semi-official representations either at Simla or Calcutta. It is therefore in my mind to constitute, should the case arise, a small peripatetic Commission in which Government should, of course, exercise predominant influence, the Public Works Member, in all probability, taking the chair, and which should, in the touring season, visit and conduct public enquiry in any locality where such a problem called for decision, the local

Government, or local commercial bodies, being represented upon the Commission so as to lend both impartiality and weight to its decisions, which should then be communicated in the form of a recommendation to the Government of India.

If we carry out this idea, the experiment will be a tentative one. If it is a failure, it can be dropped. Should it turn out a success, I conceive it as not impossible that a body so formed might constitute a germ or nucleus of a more permanent Commission, which should place the Government in constant touch with the currents of public opinion, and which should also satisfy the promoters as to the *bona fides* and thoroughness of the investigation to which their claims are submitted. As regards the official programme prepared by the Public Works Department, there seems to me a disadvantage, so long as the triennial system is maintained, in not always keeping up that programme three years in advance. As matters now stand it is drawn up in every third year. The first of these programmes, based upon the first Conference, was drawn up in 1896 when an expenditure of 29½ crores was fixed for the three succeeding years. As is known, this total was, for various reasons, not worked up to and only 25 crores were spent last year. When the second triennial programme was drawn up, less ambitious ideas prevailed, and an expenditure of 20½ crores, subsequently increased to 22½ crores on account of lapses in expenditure on the grant for 1898-99, was estimated for during the years 1899-1900, 1900-1901,

and 1901-1902. Meanwhile, in the intervening years, the construction programme is annually examined and recast in the second year for the two remaining years of the triennial period, and in the third year for the single remaining year. But it appears to me that we should do well to be always three years ahead with our financial working programme. I therefore propose to recommend to the Government of India that Mr. Upcott should not limit himself to the two remaining years, the present term, but should include in his forecast the year 1902-3, and follow the same practice in succeeding years.

Concerning the general policy of the Government towards railways, it seems to me that just as the currency problem, which has agitated and perplexed the public mind for twenty years, has, in part, been solved by the steady compulsion of events, so also the same irresistible pressure is directing our railway policy into more or less permanent grooves. It is easy to denounce the diversity or inconsistency of plans that has prevailed in the past. It is easy either to laugh or to cry over the Homeric battle of the Ganges. To me it seems more profitable to assist in the adaptation of our policy to the lines which seem to be marked out before it, both by past experience and by common sense. The natural inclination is, in my judgment, in the direction, not of expanding, but of gradually restricting Government agency. I must not be understood to deprecate in all cases State management or State construction; on the contrary, I see great advantages,

both political and financial, in the maintenance of a Government staff. Still less would I impugn the advantage of State ownership or the necessity of State control. I am myself a believer in the desirability of purchasing a few outstanding lines as these continue to fall in. While State supervision is of the essence of State possession, probably we shall, as times improve, and as better offers are made us, gradually divest ourselves of the working of the majority at any rate of those lines which are still both owned and maintained by the Government. The terms under which we may be prepared to part with them appear to me to be a matter of financial expediency rather than of fixed principle. Our object should be to make the best bargain for the State. For my own part, I do not think there is anything surprising in the fluctuations that have hitherto occurred in our policy. When Lord Dalhousie first introduced railways into India, Government was unequal to the venture, and capital required to be attracted by easy, and even generous, terms. Later on, when the Government found it had been financially a heavy loser by the arrangements so made, there was a sharp reaction, and the railway policy of Lord Lawrence and Lord Mayo was based upon strict governmental and centralising lines. We, who have now had a long experience of both systems, can discriminate between their virtues and vices, and can adopt a reasonable compromise. If that compromise tends towards a contraction of the area claimed by Government and an increasing expansion of facilities afforded to com-

panies, it is because we do not want to overweight the shoulders of Government with a burden they are unfitted to bear ; because we want to reinforce our own power and resources, with the assistance of capital, both British and native—and I wish that there were more of the latter forthcoming, as well as of the former—and because, in the spirit of healthy competition so engendered, seems to lie the best guarantee for the promotion of the public interest.

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO THE MERWARA BATTALION AT AJMERE.

On the 2nd November, 1899, the Viceroy in presenting fresh colours to the Merwara Battalion at Ajmere spoke as follows :—

I was to have performed two military or *quasi*-military functions during my short stay at Ajmere. I was to have presented the Cross of the Bath, which has been conferred upon him by the Queen for distinguished military service to that gallant Rajput nobleman Maharaj-Dhiraj Sir Pertab Sing. Unfortunately the Maharaja, who escaped the perils of war with only a slight wound, has been prevented from meeting the peaceful ordeal that I had prepared for him by an untimely fracture of his leg, and so the ceremony is postponed.

There remains for me the second part of my programme, *vis.*, the presentation of the colours to the

Merwara Battalion, This is one of those regiments that is wholly and distinctively local in its origin, recruitment, and name. Since the days when it was first raised by that excellent officer Colonel Hall as a sort of Irregular Police Battalion down to the present time, it has always been enlisted from Merwara. It has always consisted of Mhairs, and it has retained that *esprit de corps*, which connection with the particular locality and tie of common race seldom fail to produce. The regiment also has a record of which, equally with ourselves, it may be proud, for we do not forget either the name of Colonel Dixon or the particular feat with which the regiment was associated under his command. It was then in the early days of the Mutiny when the fate of Northern India was trembling in the balance, and when every loyal native soldier was worth his weight in gold, that the Merwara Battalion, by a forced night march from Beawar to Ajmere, saved the Treasury and arsenal falling into the hands of the enemy, and kept the British flag flying over this British stronghold in Rajputana. Since those days the battalion has sustained its reputation. It has seen foreign service, for it was employed upon the Khyber line of communications in the last Afghan war, and it is now on the list of those regiments which may be drawn upon for service in any part of the Indian Empire.

In presenting the regiment with these colours, I trust that its officers and men will remember that it is an honour to them to serve the Queen, and the colours which I hand them are the external symbol of that

fealty and allegiance. I hope no stain may ever be allowed to rest upon the folds of this regimental flag, but that in peace, it may be a guarantee of orderly conduct and good discipline, and that should the colours ever be taken from the headquarters of the regiment, where I understand they are to be deposited, for employment on the field of action, they may wave in the front line of battle, and may guide this regiment to victory.

SPEECH AT THE MAHARATTA PLAGUE HOSPITAL AT BOMBAY.

In the course of his autumn tour the Viceroy arrived at Bombay on the 8th November, 1899 and on the 9th, visited several Plague Hospitals, the last Hospital visited being the Maharatta Hospital for Hindus, where after inspection of the different wards, the Viceroy was conducted to a large *shamiana* containing about 300 people. Dr. Dhargalkar, the Medical Officer of the Hospital having made a short speech welcoming the Viceroy and giving a short account of the Hospital His Excellency spoke as follows :—

I am much obliged to Dr. Dhargalkar for the kind words in which he has welcomed me here this morning. I have before now remarked, on more than one occasion, since I came to this country, that India is a land of surprises. The remark is not original, but, however often repeated, it never tends to become stale. Of the many surprises which have been prepared for me since I first landed in Bombay, eleven months ago, none, I think, have been more complete in its character than

that which Lord Sandhurst has delicately arranged for me this morning. I undertook to accompany him round this morning to visit the various plague hospitals, to see what had been done, and to show my sympathies with the sufferers, and note from personal observation the system under which you work, but that has not been the whole extent of the performance I have been required to go through. I have been photographed once, and believe I have been photographed again, and now when I come to this place I find a tasteful shami-ana and a large number of gentlemen collected, and Lord Sandhurst informs me it is my duty to make them a speech. Speech is not in my power, and certainly not my intention to make, but I welcome the opportunity afforded by my visit here and this large gathering of gentlemen, by saying a word of sympathy to you in the great troubles you have experienced. It is quite clear to me that these troubles can only be successfully overcome by co-operation between officers, Government, and influential members of the native community; neither party in the work being independent of the other. It is for the Government, in some respects, to supply the general lead, lay down a plan of campaign, and regulate the procedure. On the other hand, where you have a people as susceptible and sensitive as are the inhabitants of this county, they want the moral authority and personal backing of influential members of the native community behind them. I am glad to find in the short experience I have had this morning, and in the evidence given me by this very meeting,

that the Government can look with confidence to receiving that support. I am sure I only speak the thoughts of Lord Sandhurst when I say how grateful he is to all those members of the native community who have joined these volunteer committees, who have gone in and out amongst the people, have taught them that true aspect of affairs, have collected subscriptions, and have, in fact, endeavoured to bring the good-will and wishes of the Government home to the hearts of the people ; and equally, I am sure, I am speaking the views of those gentlemen when I say that throughout it has been a source of strength and help to them to have had over them a Governor as sympathetic and body of workers as active and self-sacrificing as those who now for between two and three years have been engaged in plague operations in this place. The campaign against plague, I know from experience, to be successful cannot be a campaign of compulsion. It can only be a campaign of moral suasion, and that moral suasion can best be exercised by the system of co-operation that I have described. It has been a pleasure to me to go round through these hospitals and buildings, and I am glad to see them comparatively empty and hope they will not be filled again. None of us can prophesy with regard to plague. It seems to defy alike diagnosis and prognostication, and it is possible that, as you have now suffered for two or three years, you may suffer again in the future. But your machinery has been improved ; spirit and heart seem to be growing in your people, and should further trouble

await you, I think you have machinery and courage with which to meet it. While I am speaking I should like to include in the words of compliment and thanks I offer not merely the officers of the Government, nor only the volunteer workers, but the whole staff. There are numbers of young military officers whom we have lent for the purpose of combating the plague, and I believe they have carried their work through with the skill and discipline that you associate with the character and duty of a soldier ; but who at the same time have been by no means lacking in the sympathy and kindly feeling that is expected of them as men. Then there is the staff of nurses both recruited in this country and brought from Home, many of whom have rendered invaluable service. I can only say from the bottom of my heart that I wish you all good fortune in the bitter struggle in which you are engaged, and hope that a better day is dawning for you, and that out of these calamities some good may arise, as not infrequently happen when suffering falls ; some good both in improved and better sanitation and the better building of the city, and above all, and I rate this as more important still, some good in the tightening of all those bonds of sympathy and co-operation which should always unite all sections of this great community. It has been a great pleasure to me to meet you here this morning.

(Loud applause)

FOUNDATION-STONE LAYING OF THE
BOMBAY IMPROVEMENT TRUST
SCHEME.

On the 9th November, 1899, in the afternoon, the Viceroy was present at the foundation-stone laying of the Improvement Trust Scheme at Nagpada, Bombay: Lord Sandhurst, the Governor of Bombay having laid the stone, made a speech giving a history of the scheme. His Excellency the Viceroy then spoke as follows :—

When I landed in this City in December last, I did not then anticipate that within less than twelve months I should again be a visitor in your midst; still less could I have anticipated the circumstances under which I now come. Parts of India were then suffering, and Bombay in particular was suffering from an epidemic which, although it appeared in some measure to have abated its force, was far from eradicated. Since then that epidemic has again burst out with renewed virulence, both in Bombay and still more in other parts of this Presidency. Further, as if to intensify the affliction under which the people were weighed down and leave no source of misery unexplored, famine has fallen upon many districts in the northern part of this Presidency through which I have just been travelling; and although most fortunately it does not affect this immediate part of the country or this city, it must yet be a source of great anxiety to your rulers and must make them look forward with trepidation to the next period at which their annual accounts will have to be squared. If we were to accept the saying as of general application, that those whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, we might

draw the conclusion that the Bombay Presidency was very dear to Providence, such has been the range and duration of its sufferings throughout this period. No impartial observer can fail to have been struck by two facts; firstly, by the resigned and pathetic patience displayed by the mass of the people; secondly, by the activity and zeal with which the Local Government, aided by patriotic co-operation of representative citizens, has endeavoured to cope with its almost herculean task. It is to indicate the sympathy of the Government of India with the woes of the people, and their admiration of the efforts which have been put forward for their amelioration, that I have come upon this informal visit to Bombay. To me, gentlemen, it seems that the Government of India cannot and should not in the smallest degree wash its hands of the interest in and an ultimate resort of the responsibility for that which passes in presidencies and provinces that may be remote from its immediate ken. The head of the Government of India should not, in my judgment, be a passing phantom, that comes and goes amid pageantry, processions, and firing of salutes. The interests of all India are his interests, the salvation of all India is his duty. There are none so humble or so remote, and for that matter, none so powerful or so independent, as not to fall within the legitimate scope of his care. And now as to the particular circumstances that have brought me here today. When I was planning out my amended tour to the centres suffering in Northern and Central India, and when I offered myself to your Governor for

the brief visit to Bombay and the Deccan, he was good enough to inform me of the projected gathering this afternoon, and to invite me to play the principal part in it. I could not consent to deprive him of the leading position to which his long and keen interest in this scheme conceived and now finally started during his term of office entitled him, and which no other could possibly have filled in his place, but I readily arranged my plans so as to bring me to Bombay in time for this ceremony, and to enable me to support him in the discharge of his pleasant duty; for gentlemen, what is the task upon which he and you are alike engaged and one of the inaugural steps in which we are commemorating this afternoon. I take my description of it from words that have fallen from Lord Sandhurst's lips just now. You are endeavouring to provide this great City of Bombay with the conditions which will make life here for the poorer classes sanitary, decent and wholesome. You want to bring the fresh breezes of the sea into the congested lungs of Bombay, to destroy the microbes of fever and pestilence that prey almost unchecked upon the constitution of an overcrowded, enfeebled population. You wish to make your city not merely beautiful without, but healthy within. It is for these purposes that all these vast works of the removal of old buildings and erection of new ones, of providing open spaces, of cutting wide and airy streets, of destruction and reconstruction and reclamation are designed. It is a scheme proportionate in conception to the magnitude of the problem. It may probably, I hope, prove to

be proportionate in the execution to the necessities of the case. Lord Sandhurst will, I am sure, bear me out when I add that the Government of India have from the start, two years before I joined it, evinced a much more than a platonic interest in your scheme. We have supported you in your appeals to the Secretary of State, and have surrendered a large area of valuable property for the purposes of the contemplated improvements ; have passed special legislation in order to assist financial operations and add to the credit of the Trust, and we have lent the invaluable support of the credit of the Government of India to your Municipal loan. I feel, therefore, that I am only carrying out with a certain hereditary fitness an obligation which has been passed on to me by Lord Elgin's Government, in being present at the successful inception of a portion of that scheme which the support of himself and his colleagues helped to launch into existence. I said a little while back that it was the right and proper thing that Lord Sandhurst should play the leading part in the ceremony of today. It must gladden his heart as he draws near to the close of his official connection with this Presidency to feel that all the attention, labour and care that he has devoted to this city and these proposals, should begin to fructify in his time, and that before he leaves these shores a new Bombay will have started into being—a city not of palaces and towers, not of merchant princes or nobles, but of toilers and sweaters who drink only of the dregs of the cup of human happiness and to whom at least we should

endeavour to secure that their scanty beverage is not bitter but sweet. To few Governors, if to any, has it fallen to pass through such a fiery ordeal, such a seven-times heated furnace of trouble and trial and affliction as has attended Lord Sandhurst during the past few years in Bombay. Such trials, if rightly met, broaden sympathies. At the same time they steel the nerves of a man who is by temperament both humane and brave. I am sure that there is not an individual in the Bombay Presidency, European or native, who does not know that in Lord Sandhurst they have had a Governor whose sympathies have always been with the suffering, whose courage has remained inflexible in the face of any calamity, however dire. He will leave behind him a record of arduous work honourably and conscientiously performed, and what is not given to any but few to enjoy, a place in the affectionate regard of the people. I have the advantage of knowing and of having worked for many years as a colleague in Parliament of the new Governor, who in a few months' time will take his place. The Parliamentary career and public reputation of Sir Stafford Northcote and the name of his father who was one of the most liberal-minded and successful Secretaries of State whom India has ever had, would in any case have ensured to him a favourable reception in India ; but the personal acquaintance I have the honour to claim with Sir Stafford Northcote, entitles me to assure the people of this Presidency, that they will find in their next Governor a man of ripe experience and much sagacity, who will worthily sustain the tradi-

tions of his predecessors in respect both of sympathy with the people and sound judgment in administration. I hope that when next I visit Bombay, I may find that the scheme which Lord Sandhurst has so energetically started may be far advanced on the way towards completion, and that I may see this fair city with smiles on her face and no longer with tears in her eyes. (Loud cheers.)

SPEECH AT POONA.

On Saturday the 11th November, 1895, the Viceroy was present at a meeting of voluntary plague workers in the Council Hall at Poona. Some 500 or 600 workers were present. His Excellency Lord Sandhurst, Governor of Bombay, who received the Viceroy, in his opening speech referred to the admirable work done by the Volunteers and said that a few words of approbation and encouragement from the Viceroy would be highly valued. After a brief address had been read by the Presidency Magistrate, the Viceroy said :—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is a source of great pleasure to me in this beautiful hall, which I now see for the first time, to have received the words of sympathetic and appreciative welcome that have just fallen from the lips of Mr. Padamjee who, I understand, has been for many years one of your most leading and representative citizens. In one respect I cordially endorse what he has said. I am glad to be able to congratulate you, on this occasion of my first visit to Poona,

upon better times. There can be no doubt that you have suffered cruelly and long. Poona during the past year has, I am afraid, been like a city lying in the valley of the shadow of death. The city has been largely deserted by the population, and fear and apprehension have naturally enough entered into the hearts of the people. Pestilence has not spared the home of Europeans any more than it has that of the native, and in striking it, in cases which are known to us all, it has taken away the dearly beloved, the fair, the young. There was another very pathetic case which I came across in my tour of inspection this morning when I learned of the death of a worthy Mahomedan citizen of this place, Juffar Yusuf, who contracted plague in the very hospital which largely by his own munificence and activity had been called into being, and there have been other cases similar to these, such, for instance, as the one mentioned by Mr. Padamjee in the remarks to which we have just listened. At the same time the extent to which the native population have suffered is shown by the fact that they have lost, I believe, a total of more than 10,000 of their inhabitants in this city. In these circumstances, your Excellency and gentlemen, great credit is, I think, due to that brave band who have never lost heart in the deepest hour of adversity, but who with unwavering courage and with purest self-sacrifice have continued to wage battle against the foul fiend that was encamped in your midst. It is to meet this gallant band of fighters and congratulate them now that their battle may be said to be well nigh over

and their victory to have been won, that I have come here this afternoon and warm, I can assure you, are the feelings of respect with which on behalf of the Government of India I recognise their devotion, and warm also the thanks which I tender them for the work that they have done. As the Chairman of the Municipal Commissioners himself indicated in his remarks, you have had an untiring and chivalrous commander in your Governor and a double compliment can, perhaps, not be better paid than by saying that the soldiers have not been unworthy of their captain. It is quite certain that but for the voluntary efforts—and I understand from what you, Sir, tell me that the majority of those I am addressing are volunteer workers,—the state of Poona would have been much worse than it has been. Of course, the Government here as elsewhere has its own organisation and officers.

Those officers, both civil and military, have distinguished themselves by their ubiquitous and unsparing zeal. But there are strains which no official mechanism in the world, however perfect, is adequate to meet without the supplement of some extraneous help. Such a crisis does occur when you have a great epidemic breaking out in a populous city. Then you require not merely the trained energy of the official, but you also want the quick and more subtle influence and co-operation of popular residents in the place, who will go to and fro and in and out among the people, and who are none the worse off if their local knowledge is also tinged with a little of the enthusiasm of the amateur. You

have had all these advantages in this place, and you have had the further assistance of a body of nurses as unselfish and devoted as in any country or any period of the World's history have ever given themselves to alleviation of the sufferings of their fellow creatures. Your Excellency and gentlemen, what the future of plague may be none of us can say, we can but struggle on and do our best. Whether a cure for the pestilence is ever likely to be discovered, it would be rash for any one of us, and particularly for one who like myself is a layman to predict. At present by taking each case as soon as you can, by removing the patient from an infected house or quarter into the nearest hospital, and by surrounding him there with conditions under which he is certain of pure air and sound treatment and stimulating sustenance, you endeavour, and I believe that in a constantly increasing percentage of cases you manage, to pull him through. But there are many prophylactics against the plague which can, and which, in my opinion, ought as widely as possible to be employed. I say frankly on this occasion, and I do not care how widely my words may be spread, that in my judgment inoculation is by far the wisest system of prophylactics that you can adopt. I do not say so because I have medical or chemical knowledge which would enable me to pronounce with authority upon the constituent proportions or upon the scientific results of the serum, but I say so because as a thinking human being, with the power of using my eyes and ears, I cannot fail to be conscious of its demonstrable

effects. If I find, as I do, that out of a hundred plague seizures among uninoculated persons the average of those who died is something about 70 to 80 per cent., and if I find that in a corresponding number of seizures among inoculated persons the proportions are entirely reversed, and that it is 70 to 80 per cent. if not more who are saved—and these are calculations which have been furnished to me from more than one very responsible quarter—then I say that figures of that kind cannot but carry conviction to my mind, and I fail altogether to see how in the face of them it is possible for anyone to argue that inoculation is not a wise and necessary precaution. It is all very well to say that it is not infallible. No one so far as I know claims that it is. Its effects are apt to be obliterated in the passage of time. It acts differently in different cases. There are some physical constitutions to which it is apparently entirely unsuited. Unless the serum is most carefully administered as well as scrupulously prepared, there is some danger arising from contamination. These are the risks, but I think, small risks, attendant upon the introduction of the system, for which no one that I know of claims absolute faultlessness. But that inoculation has saved thousands and thousands of lives that would otherwise have been lost, and that it gives to the patient more than a reasonable chance of recovery, and that in spite of its theoretical conflict with the conservatism of Indian feeling and with the traditions of native medicine the majority of the most distinguished native medical practitioners in

this country are already in its favour, and that more converts are being made from the remainder each day—these are the propositions which I believe to be impossible to dispute. If you have any doubt about it, take the case which was mentioned by His Excellency in his speech just now. Take the Cantonment which lies within the sight and knowledge of most of you in this room and ask General Burnett whose unfaltering devotion you know so well, what inoculation has done for him in the Poona Cantonment. I do not say that you ought to force inoculation upon the people. I am entirely of the opposite opinion. It is difficult to force something upon a community which we ourselves who give it may be entirely convinced is for their good, but which either from prejudice or from ignorance they are equally convinced is for their harm. You can do it in the case of children, because they are irresponsible, but it is not easy to do it in the case of a community of grown up men, and still less easy is it in the case of an Asiatic country where, as we all know, feelings of conservatism are very strong, and where among a great mass of the population a knowledge of what we in European countries call medical science cannot be said to exist but for the sake of those who know no better, in the interests, not of science but humanity, for that in the cause which I am pleading and for the future welfare of thousands of human lives, let no effort be spared to spread facts, to inoculate reason, and win by persuasion that which you cannot extort by force. But you may say to me (if I may turn an English proverb

into terms that will be familiar to yourselves) that a seer of example is worth a maund of precepts, I quite agree with that philosophy, and I may inform you that I have carried it out in my own person. Knowing that I was likely to spend many agreeable hours in visiting plague hospitals in this part of India I practised my own precept, and I and my whole party were inoculated before we left Simla. I have had no cause to regret it, and cordially commend the example to others who may be placed in a similar position. It now only remains for me to bid you farewell. My visits to Bombay and Poona have, I think, enabled me to realise better than a study of newspapers or reading official reports, how genuine have been the sufferings of the people, and how heroic the efforts that have been made to alleviate them. I have also seen that here at Poona, as elsewhere in the world, a dark cloud has its silver lining, and that the co-operation against human suffering and disease in which you have all been engaged has done a great deal to draw tighter the cords of harmony and fellow-feeling that should unite, and which I believe at the present juncture more than at any previous time do unite, all sections in this city. I shall go back to my work at headquarters encouraged and fortified by what I have seen and I hope that the knowledge, little though it may be, that I have secured, will enable me the better to cope with any further emergency should such arise. I will only add that in such a case I earnestly hope that the city of Poona will not again be one of the victims.

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO THE
WELSH REGIMENT.

On the 13th November, 1899, at Ahmednagar, His Excellency the Viceroy in presenting new colours to the Welsh Regiment, second Battalion, spoke as follows :—

Colonel Penno, Officers, and Non-commissioned officers of the 2nd Battalion of the Welsh Regiment, twice during the last fortnight has it been my privilege to present new colours to regiments of Her Majesty's Army in India. At Ajmere, ten days ago, the recipients were the gallant Native regiment, the Merwara Battalion. Today it is to one of the regiments of the British army that I make a similar presentation. There is no prouder or more agreeable function which a Viceroy can be invited to perform. Nearly thirty years ago the colours to which you are about to bid farewell were handed to you at Quebec by a son of Her Majesty the Queen, and it is as Her representative that I am entrusted with the repetition of the same honourable task this afternoon. The presentation of new colours is an occasion when a regiment reviews the memories of an illustrious past and finds in them stimulus and inspiration for the future. It marks one of the milestones in the military history of the battalion. In your case the episode may remind you of the noble deeds in which the old 69th, as it was then called, has borne a conspicuous part. It will bring up before you the names of St. Vincent, Quatre Bras, and Waterloo; of service on shipboard in the vessel of Nelson; service on land in

the armies of Wellington. It will reopen a vista in which East Indies and the West Indies, Mauritius and Java, have all borne witness to your feats of arms. In more modern times the regiment has served in all quarters of the globe, but has not been engaged in action. Nevertheless, on the field of sport, which is the nursery of action, I learn that the regiment has greatly distinguished itself, and has for six years provided the champion football team of India. The events, however, that are passing from day to day in South Africa, prove that the swords of British regiments do not grow rusty, and that their bayonets are not blunted, because of the time they have been laid by ; and when your turn comes again, I feel confident that the officers and men of the Welsh Regiment will be found once more in the vanguard of battle, with temper as fearless and spirit as high as in the brave days of old. I regret the practice by which the colours of a British regiment are no longer carried upon the field. In the flag that waved over an advancing line, or round which a last shattered remnant would gather and stand, seem to me to have been symbolised and enshrined the traditions of the regiment, the romance of patriotism, the glory of the service of the Queen. If it be said that officers and men were led thereby to court death, I would answer—and South Africa is again my witness—that British lives do not appear to be any the less freely or ungrudgingly laid down when the colours are left behind. However that may be, I doubt not that the colours which I have just presented you will continue to inspire the

SPEECH AT THE STATE BANQUET AT BHOPAL THE 3
regiment to discipline in times of peace, and in war
will quicken your pulses to strenuous and heroic deeds,
May fresh names be inscribed upon them as years roll
by, and may each addition testify to posterity the valour
of the regiment and victory to the British !

SPEECH AT THE STATE BANQUET AT BHOPAL.

On the 25th November, in the evening, Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal gave a State Banquet at Bhopal in honor of the visit of their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Curzon. After dinner the Begum veiled in a handsome *bhurka* of *brocaded* silk entered with Colonel Barr, the Resident and took her seat between the Viceroy and Lady Curzon. His Excellency having proposed the toast of the Queen Empress, the Begum, who was received with cheers in, a clear unfaltering voice read in the vernacular a speech proposing the health of the Viceroy and Lady Curzon. His Excellency in responding to the toast spoke as follows :—

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—Her Highness the Begum, whose guests we have the pleasure of being to-night, has the gift of graceful speech no less than that of munificent hospitality. She has proposed the health of Lady Curzon and myself in terms so felicitous that in our recollection they will always crown the memory of our first official visit to one of the principal native States of India. (Cheers.) It is a satisfaction to me to think that the particular State which thus receives us should be one the ruler of which has during a period of more than thirty years won so

honourable a reputation for enlightened and public-spirited administration, besides sustaining the tradition already rendered notable by the conduct of her mother of devoted loyalty to the British Crown. (Cheers) That the sceptre need not pass into feeble or irresolute hands when by the accident of fortune it is wielded by a woman, is shown by the career of our own beloved sovereign, Her Majesty the Queen Empress—(cheers),—nor may we fail on a smaller scale to find an illustration of the same phenomenon in the case of the two successive Begums who have now for a combined period of more than half a century presided over the fortunes of the State of Bhopal. (Cheers.) Her Highness' mother was distinguished not only, as I have said, for her fidelity to the British Raj, but also for her ability as a ruler. Similary the rule of Her Highness has been rendered memorable by many acts of administrative prudence and of private generosity—(hear, hear)—while from the speech which she has just delivered I gather with pleasure that her active interest in the well-being of her subjects is far from being exhausted, and that she still continues to device and to carry out projects which testify to her practical wisdom and will conduce to the prosperity of the State. (Cheers) I shall on Monday morning have the pleasure of inspecting on the parade ground the regiment of cavalry which Her Highness has contributed to the defence of the Empire, and which she has designated with the name of Her Majesty the Queen Empress. (Hear, hear.) Her Highness has never failed to take as great

interest in these men as though she were herself their military commander, and I am pleased to hear that she has recently added to the attractions of the regiment by raising the scale of pay. (Hear, hear). I look with great interest upon the conversion of the native currencies in the feudatory States of India, and the substitution for them of the uniform and stable coinage of the British mints. In taking this step as far back as 1897, Her Highness has acted as a pioneer in a movement in which, I believe, she is destined to find many followers, and which must unquestionably tend to the commercial advantage of the entire community. Similarly Her Highness has been well advised in keeping her eye upon the gangs of desperate and unruly men who from time to time raise their hands even in modern India, and who find in any season of distress an opportunity for reviving the discredited profession of predatory crime. The first test of an orderly State is the degree of security which it gives to the life and property of its citizens, and dacoits are public scourges to whom the State should show no mercy. (Hear, hear and cheers). It is a source of great gratification to me to find on coming into the Bhopal State that although, as Her Highness has said, the situation is not altogether free from anxiety as to the agricultural outlook, yet the circumstances of this part of India are so much more favourable than many of those which I have lately been visiting. It is a trying experience to see pinched human faces and dying cattle. I echo Her Highness' prayer that in this State she may escape

both calamities, and that providence may be merciful to her people. In conclusion, it only remains for me to thank Her Highness the Begum for the friendly and auspicious wishes that she has uttered on behalf of Lady Curzon and myself, to assure her that we shall not forget our right royal welcome in this State, and to ask all the ladies and gentlemen who are seated at this table, and who like ourselves are the recipients of her profuse hospitality, to join with me in drinking "Long life and prosperity to Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal." (Loud and continued cheers.)

SPEECH AT THE GWALIOR STATE DINNER.

On Wednesday the 29th November, 1899, His Highness the Maharajah Scindia of Gwalior gave a dinner in honor of their Excellencies Lord and Lady Curzon. In reply to the toast of their Excellencies, proposed by the Maharajah, the Viceroy spoke as follows :—

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen—In rising to thank His Highness for the agreeable manner in which he has proposed the health of Lady Curzon and myself, I feel that I am enjoying one of the happiest experiences of an Indian Viceroy in coming for the first time as a guest to the ruler of the State of Gwalior. (Cheers.) There is in this place such a pleasing and uncommon blend of old-world interests with the liveliest spirit of modern progress that one hardly knows whether the

imaginative or the practical side of nature is more thrilled by all that one sees and hears. The official visits of Viceroy's to Native States are sometimes deprecated on the score of the ceremonial and perhaps costly formalities which they involve and of their time-honoured attributes of pomp and display. I am not inclined to share these views. To me personally there is no more interesting part of my Indian work than the opportunities which are presented to me on tour or elsewhere of an introduction to the acquaintance and as I fondly hope to the confidence of the native princes and chiefs of India. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) And if these princes prefer, as I believe they do prefer, to receive the representative of the Sovereign whom they all acknowledge and for whom they entertain a profound and chivalrous devotion (hear, hear)—, with a dignity becoming both to his position and to their own rank, I think that he would be a captious and sour-minded critic who were to deny to them an opportunity which I believe to be as highly appreciated by their subjects as it is valued by themselves. (Cheers.) The spectacles and the problem of Native States of India are indeed a subject that never loses its fascination for my mind. Side by side with our own system and sometimes almost surrounded by British territory, there are found in this wonderful country the possessions, the administration, the proud authority, and the unchallenged traditions of the native dynasties; a combination, which both in the picturesque variety of its contract, and still more in the smooth harmony of

its operation, is, I believe, without parallel in the history of the world. (Cheers.) The British Government, alone of all Governments, has succeeded in the wise policy of building up the security and safeguarding the rights of its feudatory principalities and to this are due the stability of their organization and loyalty of their rulers. I rejoice, wherever I go, to scrutinise the practical outcome of this policy; to observe the States consolidated, the Chiefs powerful, and their privilege unimpaired; but I also do not hesitate to say wherever I go that a return is owing for these advantages, and that security cannot be rapid by license or the guarantee of rights by the unchartered exercise of wrong. The Native Chief has become by our policy an integral factor in the Imperial organisation of India. (Cheers.) He is concerned not less than the Viceroy or the Lieutenant-Governor in the administration of the country. I claim him as my colleague and partner. (Loud cheers.) He cannot remain vis-a-vis with the Empire, a loyal subject of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress and vis-a-vis with his own people, a frivolous or irresponsible despot. (Hear, hear.) He must justify and not abuse the authority committed to him. He must be the servant as well as the master of his people. (Cheers.) He must learn that his revenues are not secured to him for his own selfish gratification, but for the good of his subjects; that his internal administration is only exempt from correction in proportion as it is honest, and that his *gadi* is not intended to be a divan of indulgence, but the stern seat of duty. (Cheers.) His figure should

not merely be known on the polo-ground, or on the race course, or in the European Hotel. (Hear, hear). These be his relaxations, and I do not say that they are not legitimate relaxations, but his real work, his princely duty lies among his own people. (Cheers.) By this standard shall I at any rate judge him? By this test will he in the long run be judged? Is a political institution to perish or survive? (Cheers.) It is with the greater freedom that I venture upon these remarks on the present occasion; because I don't know anywhere of a prince who better exemplifies their application, or who shows a more consistent tendency to act up to the ideal which I have sketched, than the young Maharaja, whose splendid hospitality we are enjoying this evening. (Loud cheers.) Before I arrived in India I had heard of his public spirit, his high sense of duty, his devotion to the interests of his country. During my first few days in Calcutta I had, as he has mentioned, the pleasure of making his acquaintance, and now in his own State the opportunity is presented to me of improving it, which I very highly prize, and of seeing at first hand the excellent work which he is doing in almost every branch of administration. The Maharaja appears to me, from all I have heard, to have realised that the secret of successful government lies in his personality. (Hear, hear.) If he expects his officials to follow an example he himself must set it. If he desires to conquer torpor or apathy he must exhibit enthusiasm—(hear, hear)—everywhere. He must be to his people the embodiment of sympathetic interest, of personal authority, of dispassionate zeal.

There is no position to which a prince who fulfils this conception may not aspire in the affections of his countrymen, and there is scarcely any limit to his capacity of useful service to the State. (Cheers.) It is only five years ago the Maharaja Scindia was invested with full ruling powers, but how much can be done within a short space of time by an exercise of the faculties and accomplishments which I have described, may be gathered from the remarkable but unassuming record of administrative progress set forth in the speech which His Highness has just delivered.

It is a record which any ruler might be proud to point to and any Viceroy gratified to receive. (Cheers.) The Maharaja has mentioned the steps which he took in 1896-97 to relieve the famine and distress in those portions of his State, which were then afflicted, but he has refrained from alluding to a measure then taken by him, which I regard as of at least equal importance in the evidence of public-spirited and practical sagacity which it supplied. He came to the rescue of some of the neighbouring States in their hour of need, and by a system of well-timed loans, in which the Government of India were only too happy to lend him the assistance of their guarantee, he enabled several of his brother Chiefs to tide over what would otherwise have been a serious crisis, at the same time that he obtained a reasonable interest upon his own outlay. The policy in fact was not merely one of opportune and generous relief, but also of sound and practical finance. (Hear, hear and

(Cheers.) I hope that should the occasion again arise, His Highness may be equally ready in protecting the interests of his own subjects, while I rejoice to have heard since my arrival in Gwalior that he has already volunteered to repeat his former action in lending a helping hand to some of his less wealthy and well-placed neighbours. (Cheers.) The Maharaja has alluded to another measure, viz, the conversion of his currency, in which we may find a further illustration of the same liberal ideas combined with good business. (Hear, hear) It is observed that the existence of as many as five different coinages of various and fluctuating value in a State of this size must have been fraught not merely with inconvenience but with positive economic loss to his subjects. Indeed the Maharaja himself has graphically described it as a public calamity, so it was ; but it will not be so much longer, for I entertain no doubt that the conversion when it has been completely carried out, will result in a direct expansion of the revenue of the State, as well as an advantage to every class of the population from the zemindar and cultivator of the soil to the merchant and bunnia in the city bazars. I must also express my acknowledgement of the excellent service that has been rendered in a perhaps less showy, but certainly not less important, field of administration by his revision of the revenue settlement in Gwalior, and by the operations of the Revenue Board, in both of which measures his Highness has had the invaluable expert assistance of one of his ablest officials, Colonel Pitcher.

(Cheers.) And now I come to another department of the Maharaja's activity, in which he has shown a good deal of the spirit of the enthusiast as well as of the aptitude of the statesman. I believe that His Highness may be said to have inherited his military instincts from his distinguished father, the late Maharaja, who, as we all know, was no mean soldier, and who was honored by being made an honorary general in her Majesty's army. (Cheers.) To-morrow morning I shall have the pleasure of inspecting both the Imperial Service troops which His Highness has furnished on so liberal a scale towards Lord Dufferin's great scheme of combined Imperial defence, and also his own military forces. I must not therefore praise that which I have not yet seen, except in the streets yesterday and to-day, but I am at liberty to appeal to notorious facts. The service which was rendered by the Gwalior transport corps in the Chitral and Tirah campaign is known to all—(cheers)—and we also know how keenly the Prince has interested himself in every detail of their equipment and discipline and how earnest was his desire to be permitted to serve with them at the front. (Cheers.) His two regiments of Imperial Service Cavalry are, I am informed, equally fit for active service, and it must be a gratification to Sir Howard Melliss and to his capable band of inspecting officers to see how thoroughly the aid that they have given to the Maharajah in the organisation and training of these troops has been justified by the results, the more so as this is the last occasion upon which Sir H. Melliss will inspect

them before he retires from a service, which has been of equal advantage to the Native States, whose Imperial Service Regiments he has supervised, and to the Government of India by whom he has for so many years been entrusted with the task. (Cheers.) As regards his own forces the Maharaja's rule has been characterised by a similar advance in efficiency, for while he has decreased the number of his troops he has taken active steps in which he has not been unassisted by the Government of India to raise the standard, and to improve the condition of the remainder. I am convinced that his Highness is speaking from the bottom of his heart, when he declares that he has no higher ambition than to serve in person against the enemies of the Queen in any capacity or place where an opportunity may be afforded to him, and I shall not fail to pass on to Her Majesty his loyal statements and his manly and patriotic words. (Loud cheers.) I was glad to note the generous and friendly tribute which was paid by the Maharaja to my Agent in Central India, Colonel Barr (hear, hear) as well as to his office. (Hear, hear) I know from experience that Colonel Barr who has been so long associated with his Highness, regards him with an affection that has in it almost a parental tinge, (cheers) and I rejoice to think that the many services which Colonel Barr has rendered to the Maharaja and to the State are not less frankly recognised in Gwalior than they are at the head quarters of Government (Cheers). Before I sit down I must not fail to thank His Highness for the singularly graceful terms in which he has included the name of Lady

Curzon. In this toast we shall both look forward while we are in India, to further opportunities of improving an acquaintance, so happily begun and so likely as I hope to deepen into a personal regard. I shall watch the future of His Highness with the keenest interest. I believe that he has before him a career that will be replete with advantage to his subjects and with honour to himself. I trust that he may be blessed with good health; that his spirits may remain eager, and his courage undimmed (cheers); for my own part I can truthfully say that I never raised a glass to my lips with greater pleasure than on this present occasion, when I give to you, all ladies and gentlemen, the toast of His Highness the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior. (Loud and continued cheers.)

SPEECH AT THE OPENING OF THE
VICTORIA COLLEGE AND THE
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
AT GWALIOR.

On the 30th November, 1899, His Excellency the Viceroy presided at the ceremony for opening the Victoria College and Memorial Hospital at Gwalior. The Maharajah in asking His Excellency to declare the buildings open explained that the College was in commemoration of Her Majesty's Jubilee and the Hospital in memory of his father the late Maharajah. The Viceroy in reply said :—

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentleman,—I gladly accept the invitation which your Highness has just addressed to me to declare these buildings, the Victoria

College and the Memorial Hospital, open, and I congratulate your Highness upon the successful completion of two very remarkable undertakings which will not merely redound to your own credit, but will be of great advantage to your people. Both are in a sense memorial buildings, but whereas the college commemorates a great event in the history of a life fortunately still spared to the world, viz, that of her Majesty the Queen-Empress, the other is a filial monument to the memory of a life which has passed away. Permit me to remark that in selecting the character of these memorials your Highness has in this case shown a wise discrimination, for, whereas a building for the relief of human suffering and all the ills to which our mortal flesh is heir is the worthiest and most unselfish of tributes to the dead, I am certain that her Majesty the Queen-Empress could not wish for any more suitable trophy of her Jubilee year than an institution which, as time goes on, will teach to hundreds of her Indian subjects the lessons of her wonderful and beneficent reign. (Cheers.) And first I must be allowed to congratulate your Highness upon the external features and beauty of these buildings, in a land which was once so celebrated for its architecture and its arts, and which contains what are, on the whole, the most beautiful monuments in the world.

I am always on the search for some evidence that we do not live in an artistically degenerate age, and that the 19th century can follow even at a remote distance in the footsteps of the 17th and the 16th. I do

not, as a rule, find much to encourage me in my investigation, but from time to time in modern buildings that reproduce the architecture of the Moghul epoch, or as your Highness has called it, the Indo-Saracenic style, I have observed traces of the old grace and imagination in detail. The greater part of the modern work seems to me to be incomparably inferior, but I have noticed in the buildings which I am now opening some specimen of the carving in stone for which Gwalior has long been famous, and which seems to me to perpetuate, with a good deal of fidelity and some originality, the classical productions of a by-gone age. I have listened with interest to what your Highness has told me concerning the curriculum of this college and the judicious admixture of physical exercise with mental training which is provided for its pupils. If your professors and masters can teach the boys and young men that the supreme aim in life is not to win a University degree, but to qualify themselves for the profession in life which they aspire or are adapted to fill, they will have done a good work. Let them make their syllabus of teaching broad and many-sided, and let it also be business-like and practical. It is a better thing to be able to succeed in the battle of life, than it is to attach the initials B. A. to one's name (Cheers.) In this context, I would venture to urge upon your Highness the desirability of providing the college with as good a library as possible. Many a boy only realises his natural bent from a comparative study of books. He discovers, it may be by accident, a

subject, a science, an art or a profession that arrests his attention and quickens his concern, and so instead of drifting from the current of life he moors his craft in some selected spot and becomes a useful, because he is a self-centred, member of society. I am happy to think that the institution of this college is no merely fitful or spasmodic exhibition of your Highness's zeal in the cause of education but that it represents a stage, and a very advanced and important stage, in a sustained policy of public instruction which your Highness is now applying to all classes and to both sexes in our State. From this point of view, I have heard with much interest of the Service school which has recently been started to train up young men for State employment, of the military and law schools which are to give instruction in those two professions, and of the Sirdar's school which has been designed for the education of the young nobles of the Gwalior State. I regard the latter as a most excellent movement in India: the impulse must in nine cases out of ten be communicated from above, and it is the aristocratic and land-owning classes who must be, so to speak, inoculated before the lower orders can be permeated with a desire for better things. If I turn to the Memorial Hospital, I feel that it ought in a not inferior degree to fill a useful place in the organisation of the State. It will, in the first place, be a good thing to get the sick and ailing persons out of the crowded quarters of a native city into the pure air and ample surroundings henceforward to be provided for them, and it is also in my judgment a good thing that

such measures should be spontaneously inaugurated by native princes, in as much as there can in their case be no ground for the suspicion that sometimes out of pure ignorance attaches to European or Government action. The Medical Department of the Gwalior State under the able management of Lieutenant-Colonel Crafts appears from the reports that have been submitted to me to be in a very efficient condition, while the manner in which it succeeded in extirpating plague, when it attacked the village of Khandraoni in 1897, was a model of scientific and summary procedure. (Cheers.) In declaring these buildings open, as I now do, I hope that they may have before them a long and successful future in training the mental energies, and in relieving the physical sufferings of the inhabitants of this State; and if this hope be realised, a time will come when they will be regarded as monuments, not merely of your Highness's loyalty to the Queen-Empress, or of your affection for a father's memory, but of your own enlightenment and commonsense. (Cheers.)

OPENING OF A RAILWAY AT GWALIOR.

The opening ceremony of the Gwalior Light Railways took place on the 2nd December, 1899, His Excellency Lord Curzon presiding. His Excellency in declaring the line open said:—

It is with much pleasure that I conclude my visit to the Gwalior State, which has been one of equal gratification and profit to myself, by inaugurating so admirable an enterprise as these Light Railways.

When I said at the banquet the other night, that the Maharaja was an enthusiast in military matters, I might with equal truth have added that he is an enthusiast in railway matters and an expert in both. And when I said that he had probably inherited his military instincts from his father, I might also have attributed to the same hereditary transmission, his enlightened policy in respect of railways. The late Maharaja was, I believe, one of the first Native Princes who encouraged and himself provided for the introduction of railways into the Native States, and his mantle would appear, in this respect, to have fallen upon no unworthy or reluctant shoulders, in those of his son, the Maharaja. In his speech, the Maharaja has described the circumstances in which the works for these two light railroads were started, and it is, I think, no bad augury for their future success that they should have originated in a successful endeavour to provide work for the famine-stricken population. I commend to the attention of His Highness the wisdom of always having a scheme of such practical undertakings prepared in advance ; so that when trouble comes relief may at once be given, in the form which later on will be remunerative to the state. I am interested to learn that no sooner have these two railways been started, than the Maharaja is already contemplating useful extensions. I gather that in the neighbourhood of both termini, namely, Sipri and Bhind, are grain or rice producing areas of considerable although hitherto almost untapped resources, and I have little doubt that these extensions, if judi-

ciously planned, will not merely have the results anticipated by His Highness, in increasing the trade and in rendering easier the administration of the country, but that they will also prove to be a sound investment for the cash balances of the State treasury, a consideration to which, I am sure, so shrewd a business man as His Highness will not be altogether indifferent. I am a great believer myself, in an agricultural country like India, where are large tracts of fertile and productive soil separated by great distances from markets of sale and distribution, in a policy of light feeder railways. Though they are sometimes looked upon with jealousy, in the initial stages they seldom fail in the long run to add to the revenues, and to build up the credit of the main lines which they serve. Their tendency is not to divert but to create traffic, and His Highness in building these lines is pursuing a policy with which, as head of the Government of India, I desire to express my cordial sympathy, and to which I shall gladly avail myself of any opportunity for giving effect in other parts of India. The Maharaja has preserved a modest silence about the other works of railway construction, which since his accession to the gadi he has taken in hand. In other parts of his State, the two Ujjain railways and the Bina Guna line have also been constructed by him and are his property, and he appears to have realised with a rapidity that some of his fellow rulers might well emulate, how essential are the most improved means of communication and transit to the orderly administration as well as the

material development of a country. I have had evidence, during the past few days, that His Highness not only knows as much about railways as I do, but that he knows much more about trains, inasmuch as he can drive them. I feel therefore that I am in the presence of an expert who may convict me of some error if I proceed any further ; but to whom may safely be committed the future of the working of the lines, which it is now my pleasing duty to declare open. As this is the last opportunity of public speech, that I shall enjoy before I leave Gwalior in a few minutes, may I take advantage of it to thank His Highness for the princely manner in which he has provided for our entertainment during the past four days. In taking leave of him, while I feel that we are parting from the most thoughtful and generous of hosts, I hope he will accept my assurance that the outgoing train is about to carry away the most appreciative and grateful of his guests in the persons of Lady Curzon and myself.

PRESENTATION TO SIR PERTAB SING.

On the 9th December, 1899, their Excellencies Lord and Lady Curzon in the course of their sight-seeing at Agra, visited Akbar's famous tomb at Sikandra, where, in the gardens there, the residents of Agra entertained the Viceregal party at a garden party. Then His Excellency presented Maharajah Sir Pertab Sing, with the cross of the Bath. In doing so, His Excellency spoke as follows :—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I now proceed to the most pleasurable part of this evening's entertainment, namely

the presentation by myself, as the representative of Her Majesty the Queen, of the Cross of the Bath to Colonel the Maharaja Adhiraj Sir Pertab Sing. The Cross of the Bath, as we all know, is an Order ancient in origin, illustrious in character, conferred by the Sovereign for eminent service, either in the civil branches of her administration or upon the field. She has given it to the Maharaja for services rendered by him in the Mohmand expedition of 1897, when he served as an Extra Aide-de-Camp upon the Staff of Major-General Elles. The Maharaja cheerfully and courageously bore his share in the hardships of that campaign and he thereby set an excellent example to every class of Her Majesty's subjects.

At a later date in the Tirah campaign, under our present Commander-in-Chief, Sir William Lockhart, the Maharaja rendered similarly excellent service. He was wounded in one of the engagements that then took place, and he was rewarded for his services by being promoted to a Honorary Colonelcy in the ranks of the British Army.

Nor have I by any means exhausted, in this short record, the catalogue of the services of the Maharaja. He has been a firm and loyal friend of the British Government, and has gained honour in peace as well as in war. We know that for many years, as brother of the late Maharaja and as uncle of the present ruler, he has played a great part in the administration of his State of Jodhpur. We know that to him, in the main, we owe the raising and the equipment of the

two splendid regiments of Jodhpur Imperial Service Cavalry His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has included him in the ranks of his Aides-de-Camp, and the Maharaja has ridden a conspicuous and chivalrous figure in two Jubilees of Her Majesty the Queen.

This, ladies and gentlemen, is the striking personality whom I have invited you here to honour this evening. A gallant Rajput nobleman, a brave warrior, a genuine sportsman, a true gentleman, a loyal and devoted subject of Her Majesty the Queen, long may he live to wear the decoration which I am now about to pin upon his breast, and may the younger men of India, the Princes and Chiefs and Nobles of this country, imitate his manly and inspiring example.

SPEECH AT THE LUCKNOW DURBAR.

On the night of the 31st December, 1899, a great Durbar was held in a large tent in the Martiniere Park at Lucknow, at which the Rajah of Kapurthala and 528 Talukdars and Durbaris were presented. After the presentations, the Viceroy addressed the assembly as follows :—

Talukdars and Durbaris of Oudh—In the concluding stages of a tour which, while it has been one of hard work and of some strain, has yet taught me much and enabled me to see much that a Viceroy of India ought to know, it is with no small pleasure that I meet in the dignified and time-honoured function of a Durbar, so famous and so loyal a body of Her Majesty's sub-

jects, as the Talukdars of Oudh. Upon my arrival at Calcutta you paid me the compliment of an address of welcome, presented to me by the hands of your President, the Maharaj of Ajudhya, and now in the historic capital of your own province, to which so many memories cling that are dear both to your race and mine, the opportunity is presented to me of returning the compliment and of receiving you in a manner befitting the rank and traditions of the Talukdars of Oudh.

I regard a Durbar as an occasion of no ordinary significance, not merely because of its picturesque and stately ceremonial, or of its harmony with the venerated traditions of an ancient polity, as because of the opportunity which it furnishes to a Viceroy to meet, in becoming surroundings, the leading men in the community and to exchange with them those formal assurances which, to my mind, are invested with a much more than conventional courtesy, inasmuch as they are the real foundation stones of the stable fabric of Her Majesty's Indian Empire. Open speech and a clear understanding between the Queen's representative and her trusted lieges, are essential to the solidarity of a dominion which is built upon the co-operation of both, and while I am honoured by holding my present office, I shall welcome, instead of shrinking from, any such occasion for any such an interchange of confidence and renewal of understanding. Indeed, to me it seems that the times have passed by, when rulers or the deputies of rulers can anywhere live with impunity amid the clouds of Olympus. They must descend from

the hilltops and visit the haunts of men. They must speak to their fellows in their own tongue and must be one in purpose and in heart with the people. Only so will they justify their high station ; only so will their authority be free from challenge ; because it will be founded upon trust. It was in such a spirit that Lord Canning came to Lucknow in October, 1859, to obliterate the fears of the Mutiny and to inaugurate the new regime of generous clemency and benefaction, to which the Talukdars of Oudh owe their status and their rights in this assemblage today. There are doubtless some here who remember that historic occasion and who call to mind the assurance of Lord Canning, that so long as the Talukdars remained loyal and faithful subjects, and just masters, their rights and dignities should be upheld by every representative of the Queen, and that no man should disturb them. It was in pursuit and in confirmation of Lord Canning's policy that Sir John Lawrence came here in 1867 to acknowledge the liberal manner in which the Talukdars had met his efforts to mitigate certain hardships which had resulted from the arrangements of 1858. It was in a similar spirit that in 1882 Lord Ripon received the Talukdars upon the very spot where Lord Canning had presented to them their charter twenty-three years before, and while it is on the same site, it is also I assure you in an identical spirit, that after a further lapse of seventeen years, another Viceroy has come here, today, to renew to you the friendly assurances of the sovereign power, and to mark yet another stage in

the history of the undisturbed and happy relations that subsist between the Talukdars and the British Government. It was not till I had ascertained from inquiry that you yourselves were most anxious that this Durbar should be held, and that you recognized in it a compliment to your position as well as a confirmation of your privileges, that I arranged with Sir Antony MacDonnell for the ceremony of this afternoon. I am not one of those persons, Talukdars, who would venture to claim that the policy of the British Government in India has always or everywhere been distinguished by consistency, or foresight, or wisdom. We have made many experiments and we have perpetrated some failures. I am not sure that Oudh has not been the scene of some of those experiments, and perhaps also the witness of some of those failures. We have sometimes poured new wine very hastily into old bottles, and have been surprised if they have burst in our hands. But whatever the errors, the miscalculations of the British Government, in the past, we may, I think, claim with truth that we do not depart from our pledged word and that British honour is still the basis, as it is the safeguard, of British administration. It was once said by a most brilliant writer, who has yet devoted his genius to the illumination of Anglo-Indian history, that English valour and English intelligence have done less to extend and to preserve our Oriental empire than English veracity. I agree with those words. Where the faith of the Government has been pledged there, even at a loss to ourselves, at a sacrifice of our material

interests and, sometimes, even to our 'political detriment, we have, so far as my knowledge extends, uniformly held to our bond, and I hope shall continue to do so to end. If ultimately we have profited by this conduct no such considerations of expediency, believe me, have been our motive. We have pursued justice and truth, it may be some times with faltering steps, but for their own sake and for that alone. Our relations with the Province of Oudh afford a not inapt illustration of steadfast adherence to this high standard of public honour. For forty years our policy towards Oudh has never deviated from the ideal which when the Mutiny was over was deliberately accepted and promulgated by Lord Canning, and at a later date was ratified by Sir John Lawrence, namely, that of maintaining the existing privileges guaranteed by the binding engagements of the landed aristocracy of this province.

With this object have been devised the various measures of legislation that have from time to time been passed, with reference to the land question in Oudh, the Oudh Estates Act of 1869, the Talukdars Relief Act of 1870, and the Oudh Rent Act of 1886. It is with the same object in view that your present Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Antony MacDonnell has recently framed the Settled Estates Bill, which, with a patience worthy of a statesman and with an anxious desire to consider every point of view, and to conciliate all reasonable opposition that has uniformly characterised his public career, he has successfully guided through the earlier stages of its inception and introduction.

It is unfortunately but too true that some members, at any rate, of your body have fallen upon evil times, and that pressure of financial embarrassment, due sometimes to extravagance and folly, but sometimes also to the force of circumstances beyond human control, has resulted in the increasing transfer and alienation, in other words, in the breaking up of the estates which it has always been the desire of the British Government, equally with yourselves, to conserve from those dangers the unarrested progress of which would be fraught with mischief to the entire community. The Talukdars themselves petitioned Government to find for them some relief, and it is in deference to this request that the Bill, of which I speak, has been drawn up and brought in.

Gentlemen, it rests with yourselves whether, when this Bill has been passed into law, you take advantage of it or not. In deference to our engagements in the faithful execution of our pledged word, we cannot, and we should not, propose to dictate to you a curtailment of rights, which, if acceptable to some, might be superfluous and obnoxious to others. We can but provide the means by which, without prejudice to the legitimate rights of creditors, those of you who desire to ensure the maintenance of their hereditary estates, by direct settlement, may be able to do so. If the Court of Wards Bill, which has been introduced and passed by the local legislature, with the same disinterested and conservative aim, be regarded by the Talukdars as the supplement of the Settled Estates Bill, to whose

successful operation it should lend a great reinforcement of strength, I see no reason why you should not obtain speedy and permanent relief from the embarrassments of which you complain. But I repeat that the Government, having played their part, it is now for you to play yours in the same temper of loyalty and good faith that has uniformly marked your relations with the Supreme Government, since the present system began.

Gentlemen, everywhere throughout India, I observe an increasing spirit of public activity and an awakening to the conditions of modern life, which convince me that the conservatism of the most conservative of countries is not incompatible with a keen recognition of the necessities of an age of progress. The spread of railways, the increase of education, the diffusion of the press, the construction of public works, the expansion of manufacturing and industrial undertakings, all of these bespeak not the placid reveries of a recluse, who is absorbed in abstract thought or in numb contemplation of the past, but the eager yearnings of a fresh and buoyant life. This spirit, as is natural, is most visible in the great centres of population and in districts which are traversed by the main lines of rail, but it is also penetrating to unconsidered corners, and is slowly leavening the mighty mass in this province, the natural richness of which has caused it to be designated the Garden of India. ✓

You have greatly profited by recent railway extensions, and you possess a railroad system which, running

parallel in the main to the course of your great rivers with the frequent lateral connections, appears to be well adapted to the exploitation of your abundant resources. We hope, before any very long time has elapsed, to supply you with a further connecting link in the shape of the Allahabad-Fyzabad line, with a bridge across the Ganges. The important link, together with shorter communication with Lucknow, should be of great benefit to the province.

The name of Lord Canning, to whom you owe so much, is perpetuated in the title of the College which exists in the city. It is not an unfitting tribute to his memory that the Talukdars should have lent so consistent a support to the Canning College since its institution 35 years ago ; and I am glad also to be informed that you take an equal interest in the Colvin Institute, specially designed as it was for the education of your sons. While you thus show that you are not indifferent to the claims of higher education to which we owe in so large a measure the development of that growing energy and vitality of which I have already spoken, pray remember that among your tenants in country villages and districts are many to whom higher education will never be anything more than a riddle, but to whom you owe it that their elementary education shall be something more than a name.

In the ingenious glosses and paraphrases to which a Viceroy's utterances in India are not infrequently exposed, he is apt to find that praise of one thing is interpreted as involving unconscious disparagement

of another. When I praise you, therefore, for your support of the higher education of your sons and families, I must not be understood to deprecate the claims of primary education among the masses of the people and when I invite your attention to the great importance of the latter subject, I must not be supposed to be offering an affront to the former. Only in proportion as the peasant population is poor and backward and helpless, so is the responsibility greater that is devolved upon their superiors, to furnish them with rudimentary means by which they may raise themselves in the world.

In Oudh may be observed a happy reproduction of a system with which we are very familiar in England, where the traditions and the spirit of territorial responsibility, resulting from the growth of centuries, are exceptionally strong. There we find the country gentleman sitting in the gratuitous and voluntary discharge of the administration of justice among his neighbours, to their complete satisfaction, and with no small advantage in the shape of increased knowledge and power of good to himself. I am glad to think that this graft from an English stock, which after all is only an adaptation in Western form of a custom familiar in the East, has found so congenial a climate in the Province of Oudh, and I should like to tender my thanks to those native gentlemen who have thus assisted Government by acting as Honorary Magistrates. Every case which, by a simple and straightforward decision, they succeed in keeping out of the Law Courts

involves, in my judgment, not merely a saving of expense, friction, and heart-burning to the parties concerned, but also a positive service to the community.

Finally, gentlemen, let me say with what satisfaction I have met today in this great assemblage, and have had presented to me, a number of Chiefs, some of them the sons or grandsons of those who stood by us in the great hour of trial forty-two years ago, some of them, a dwindling number, the still surviving actors in those solemn and immortal scenes. I have noticed upon the breasts of others here present, a seamed and gallant band, the medals that tell me of participation in the defence of the Residency, of lives risked and of blood shed in the cause of the British Government, with which was indissolubly bound up, in the agony of that fateful struggle, the cause of order as against anarchy, of civilisation as against chaos.

Standing here at this distance of time, I, who am of a later generation, and was not even born when these brave men performed deeds at which the whole world has since gazed with admiring awe, count it as among my highest privileges that I should see the faces, and as Her Majesty's representative, receive the homage, of these illustrious veterans. Still prouder and more inspiring is the thought that in this great Durbar, where are gathered in loyal harmony with our old allies the descendants of some who took another part I may read the lesson of the great reconciliation, and may point the eternal moral, that mercy is more powerful than vengeance.

FIRST YEAR'S SPEECHES
OF
LORD CURZON
PART I.

SPEECHES DELIVERED IN ENGLAND.

SPEECH AT THE ETON DINNER.

On the 10th of October, 1898, Lord Curzon, the Rev. J. E. C. Mordaunt, Lord Minto, on their appointment respectively as Governor-General of India, Bishop of Calcutta and Governor-General of India, were entertained at dinner by a large number of their old Etonian friends. Lord Rosebery presided. The toast was "Our Etonians." Having been drunk, the Chairman in giving the toast "Our Etonians" thus referred to Lord Curzon's previous speech on the case of Lord Curzon of Kedleston, I am glad to say that in his position at the Foreign Office qualities of debating power, of argument, which have hardly been equalled in the career of any man of his standing. (Rise.) I say—it would be difficult to say—that he has never been in a position of difficult positions, because that would be at a political issue of the very gravest kind. (Laughter.) I am sure that no Under-Secretary has ever had to defend in the House of Commons any but positions of difficulty, and that when Lord Curzon has had to defend these positions he has defended them with not less than his customary vigour. I believe he has devoted special study to India. I believe he has maintained amicable relations with neighbouring potentates.