# TWENTY FIRST INDIAN NATIONAL CCNGRESS HELD AND BENARES ON 27.28: y \& 30t. DECe 1905 

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## PRESIREAFAL ADORESS



## INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS,

Twenty-First Session held at Benares.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS,

By The Hon. Mr. G. K. GOKHALE, c...e

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Fellow-Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,--

$H$THANK you from the bottom of my heart for the great, the signal honour which you have conferred upon me by electing me to preside over your deliberations this year. As has been said by more than one of my predecessors, the Presidentship of the Congress is the highest distinction which it is in the power of our countrymen to bestow upon any one ; and proud indeed is that moment in an Indian's life when he receives at your hands this most conspicuous mark of your confidence and your favour. As I, however, stand before you to-day, it is not so much the honour of the position, great as that is, as the responsibility which it imposes upon me, that occupies my thoughts. When I was first invited
nearly four months ago to accept this office, we were able to see on the horizon only the small cloud-no bigger than a man's hand. Since then. the sky bas been overcast and for some time a storm has been raging; and it is with rocks ahead and angry waves beating around that I am called upon to take charge of the vessel of the Congress. Even the stoutest heart among us may well own to a feeling of anxiety in such a situation. Let us, however, humbly trust that in this holy city of Benares, the Divine guidance, on which we may securely throw ourselves, will not fitil us, and that the united wisdom and patriotism of the delegrates assembled will enable the Congress to emergr from the present crisis with unimpaired and even enhanced prestige and usefulness.

The Prince and Princess of Wales.
Gentlemen, our first duty to-day is to offer our most loyal and dutiful welcome to Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales on the occasion of this their first visit to India. The Throne in England is above all parties - beyond all controversies. It is the permanent seat of the majesty, the honour and the beneficerce of the British Empire. And in offering our homage to ts illustrions occupants and their beins and repre-

## 8

centatives, wa not only perform a loyal duty, but also express the gratitade of our hearts for all that is noble and high-minded in England's connection with India. The late Queen-Empresi, again, was known, within the limits of her constitutional position, to exercise during her reign her vast influence in favour of a policy of justice and sympathy towards the Indian people. We oan never forget that the great Proclamation of 1858, on which we take our stand so largely in our constitutionad struggle, was, not only in spirit but asso ' in subustanoe, her own declaration of the priuciplee on which India was to be governed. The present King-Emperor lins announced his neolve to walk in tlip footsteps of his nother, and we have no doubt that the Prince of Wales is animatid by the same denire to a policy of righterusness pursued towards Indie. We rejoico that Hia Royal Highnews and his noble consort Lave come out amongst us to moquint themoelves permonally with the ancient civilization of this contry and ite preat condition, The Congres ternestly and repectfully wirhes Their hoyal Ilighnesios a most suocesoful tour through India, and it humbly trusts that the knowledge they vill acyuire and the recollections they will curry back
with them will constitute a fresh bond of sympathy and attachment between the Royal Family in England and the Princers and people of this country.

The New Viceroy.
The Congress also offers a most cordial and reepretful welcome to Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Minto. The new Viceroy ascumen the responsibilities of his office at a critical juncture. The temper of the people, so sorely tried during the last three years, calls for the exercine of wise and statesmarlike conciliation on the part of those who are in authority, if further estradement between the rulers and the raled is to be prevented. I earnestly trust that such corciiiation will be forthoming. Meanwhile, a special responsibility rests upon all to see to it that the immediate task that confronts His Excellency is not male more difficult than it already is. The diffuluties of the situation are not of Lord Minto's creating, and he has a right to expect the cooperation of both the oflicials and the public in his endeatours to terminate a state of terwion, which has aliendy profuced deplomble resulta anil which camot be prolonged withont serious ine riment to the best interests of the country.

Lorb Curzon's Administration.
Gentlemen, how true it is that to everything there is an end! Thus even the Viceroyalty of Lord Curzon has come to a close! For aeven long yeare all eyes had constantly to turn to one masterful figure in the land,-now in admiration, now in astonishment, more often in auger and in [min, till at last it bas beoume difficult to realize chat a change has really come. For a parallel to tuch an administration, we must, I think, go buck to the timen of Aurangeeb in the history of our own country. There we find the same uttempt at a rule excowively centralizod and intensely persounl, tho same stisanous purjowe, the same overposering cousciousnews of duty, the sume uarvellous rapaity for work, the same mease of lonelinesis the wave persistonce in a policy of distrust and repression, resulting in bitter erasperation all round. I think even the mont devoted miluiver of Lord Curzon cenuot chaim that he has strengethened the foundations of pritinh rule in Iudia. In nome respects his Iordship will alvays le reongrised ws one of the . grastant Englinhmen that ever came out $\omega$ this country. His wonderful intellection gifto, his brilliant power of exprovion, hi pheoomeliad
energy, his boundless enthusiasm for work,these will ever be a theme of just and unstinted praise. But the gods are jealous, and amidst such lavish endowments, they withheld from bim a sympathetic imagination, without which no man can ever understand an alien people; and it is a wad truth that to the end of his administration Lord Curzon did not really understand the people of India. This was at the root of his many inconsistencies and made bim a perpetual puzzle to most men. And thus the man, who professed in all sincerity, before he assumed the reins of office, his great anxiety to show the utmont deference to the feelings and even the prejudices of those over whom he was set to rule, ended by denouncing in unmeasured terms not only the present generation of Indians, but also their remote ancestors and ercu the ideals of their race, which they cherish above everything else; he, who, in the enrly part of his administration, publiely warned the official classes that "official windom is not so transcendent as to be superior to the sti, -mulus and guidance " of public opinion and who declared that in the present state of India " the opinion of the educated classes is one which it is not statesmanship to ignore or to despise," ended
by trampling more, systematically upon that opinion than any of his predecessors, and claiming for his own judgment and that of his official colleagues a virtual character of infallibility. The fact is that Lord Curzon came to India with certrin fixed ideas. To him India was a country where the Englishman was to monopulize for all time all power and talk all the while of duty. The Indian's only business was to be governed and it was a sacrilege on his part to bave any other s.spiration. In his schense of things there was no room for the educated classes of the country; and having failed to emuse them for any length of time by an empty show of takiug them into his confidencej he proceeded in the end to represe then. Even in his last furewell speech at the Byculla Club in Bombay, India existe only as a scene of the Euggishman's latouns, with the tailing millions of the country -ighty per cent, of the populationin the buckgound. The remaiuing twenty per cent, for aught they are woth, might ex well be gently swept intw the men! Had Lard Curon been lews arlfrentred, had he had more hunility in his nature, he might perhaps have discovered his mistake befory it rais too lato. This would
probably have enabled him to avoid giving so much offence and causing so much pain as he unhappily did during the last two years, but I doubt if the main current of his administration would even then have flowed in another channel. Lord Curzon's highest ideal of statesmanslip is efficiency of administration. He does not believe in what Mr. Gladstone used to call the principle of liberty as a factor of human progress. He bas no sympathy with popular aspirations, and when he finds them among a subject people, he thinks he is rendering their country a service by trying to put them down. Thus in his Byculla Club speech be netually stated that he had not offered polition concessions to the people of India, because he "did not regard it as wisdom or statesmanship in the interests of India itself to do so"! Taking Lord Curzon at his highest, we find him engaged in a herculean attempt to strengthen the Englishman's monopoly of power in India and stem the tide of popular agitation and discontent by rousing the members of the bureaucracy to a sense of duty similar to his orn and raising the standard of administrative efficiency all round. The attempt bas failed, as it was bound to fail. Nerer was
discontent iu India more ncute and widerpread than when the late Viceroy laid down the reins of office ; and as regards the bureacratic monopoly of power, I think we are sensibly nearer the time when it will be successfully assailed.
One claim Lord Curzon advanced in his farewell speech at Bombay which it is necessary to examine a little. He told his hearess, as he had done once before-on the occasion of the last Budget debate-tbat even if be had incurred tho Loertility of educated Indians, the massers would be grotuful to him for what he had done for them. This attempt to distinguish between the interests of the educated clases and thowe of the bulk of their countrymen is a favourite derice with thrse who seek to repress the legitimate aspiratiums of our paople. It is significant that Land Curion bad never remorted to it till hee had finally broken with the educated claser. Wre know of conme that the distinction is unreal and ridiculuts, and wo know alno that most of thune Who use it as a ocinvenient means to disparage the educated claeses cannot themselrees really believe in it. Land Curana mentians the ivduction of the milt-duty, the eriting of of funine arteank, the increned zrante to primary education and to
irrigation, the attempt at Police reform as measures on which he bases his claim. The suggestjon here is that he alopted these measmes for the good of the masses in spite of the opposition-at any rate, the indifierence-of the edurated claisses, when the plain fact is that it was the Congress that had been urging these measures gear after year on the attention of Government and that it was only after years of pervistent agitation that it was able to move the Government in the desired direction. Four years ago, when, with a surplus of seven crores or nearly five millions sterling in hand, the Government of India did not remit any taxation, and I ventured to complain of this in Council and to urge an immediate reluction of the salt-duty, I well remember how Lord Curzon saeered at those who "talked glibly" of the burdens of the masses and of the necessity of lowering the salt-tax as a measure of relief! Lord Curzon was fortunate in coming to India when the currency legislation of Lord Lansdowne and Sir Inavid Barbour bad succeeded in articiciallyraising the rupee to its present level, thereby enabling the Government of India to sare about four millions sterling a year on its Home remittances. This, with the recovery of the opiam revenue,

## 11

plweed huge surpluses at Lord Curzon's disposal throughout his administration, and he never knew a moment of that financial stress and anxiety which his predecessors had to face for a series of years. Considering how large thess sumpluses bave been, I do not think the relief given by Lord Curzon to the taxpayers of the country has by any means been liberal. He himself estimated last March the total amount of this relief at 7 milliona aterling. He did not mention that during the same time he had taken from the taxpayers 33 millions starling over and above the requirements of the Government. Again, how paltry is the celief gion by the reduction of the salt-duty and the writing off of famine arrears, compured with the enormous injury done to the masin of our people ly the artificial raising of the value of the rupee, which led to a heavy immedinte depreciation of their small sevinge in silver, and which nukes a grievous addition to their pertuanent burdens ly indirectly enhancing their assersmentis and increasing their debts to the money-lender as prices adjust themselves to the new rupee! Much has been mailo of Lord Curzon's increased grants to primary education. Considering how little the State doses in India for
the education of the masses, it would have been astonishing, if with such surpluses Lord Curzon had not made any addition to the edncational expenditure of the country. But if be bas given a quarter of a million more to education, he has given five millions a year more to the Army; and with reckless profusion he has increased the solaries of European otticids in many departments and has created several new posts for them. "A spicit of expenditure," to use an expression of Mr. Cladstone's, has been abroad in all directions during his time, and he has never practised the old-fashioned virtue of economy, with which the real interests of the prople art: bound up. Of course a ruler camnot labour ins devotedly as Lord Curzon has done for seven years for increased efficiency without removing or mitigating important administrative evils; but that is quite different from a claim to champion the special interests of the masses, as against their natural leaders and spokesmen, the educated clasen of the community.

Partition op Bexgal.
Gentlemen, the question that is uppermast in the minds of us ail at this moment is the Partition of Bengal. A cruel wrong has been indicted
on our Rengalee brethren and the whole country has been stirred to its deepest depths in sorrow and resentment, as had never been the cane before. The schenve of partition, concocted in the dark and carried out in the face of the fiercest opposition that any Government measure has encountered furing the last half a century, will always stand as a complete illustration of the worst features of the present systenn of bureaucratic rulo-its utter contempt for public opinion, its an nogaut pretensions to superior wisdom, its recklewe dinregard of the most cherished feelings of the prople, the mockery of an appeal to its sense of justice, itn cool preference of Service interests to thove of the governed. Lord Curzon and Lis adviserin-if he ever limd any advisers-coald never allege that they liad no means of judging of the depu of public feeling in the matter, All that could pansilly lave bren done by way of a nes. percful repmesultation of the views of the people had leen done. As evon as it wis hnown that a pertition of wome mort was contemplated, neting after meeting of protest was held, till over fire humhed puldic neetings in all parts of the Province laxd proxlaimed in no uncertain soice that the attempt to dismermber a compact and homo-
geneons Province, to which the people were passionately attached anil of which they were justly proud, was deeply resented and would be resisted to the uttermost. Memorials to the same effect poured in upon the Viceroy. The Secretary of State for India was implored to withhold his sanction to the proposed measure. The intervention of the British House of Commons was sought, first, by a monster petition, signed by sixty thousand people, and later by means of a debate on the subject raised in the House by our ever watchfinl friend,-Mr. Herbert Roberta. All proved unavailing. The Viceroy had made up his mind. The officials under him had expressed appromal. What business had the people to have an opinion of their own and to stand in the way? To add insult to injury, Lord Curzon described the opposition to his measure as 'manufactured'--an opposition in which all classes of Indians, bigh and low, uneducated and educated, Hindins and Mahomedans, had joined, an opposition than which nothing more inteuse, nothing more widespread, nothing more spontarieons had been seen in this country in the whole counse of our political agitation! Let it be remembered that when the late Ficeroy cast this stigma on thase who were
egninst his proposals, not a single public pronouncement in favour of those proposals hat been made by any section of the community; and that among the foremost opponents of the measure were men like Sir Jotindra Moban Tagore and Sir Gurudas Banerji, Raja Peary Mohan Mukerji and Dr. Resh Behary Ghose, the Mabarajas of Mymensing and Kasimbaza;,-men who keep themselves aloof from ordinary political agitation and never say a word casculated in any way to embarrass the authoritiss, and who came forward to oppose publicly the Partition Project only from an overpowering sense of the nesersity of their doing what they could to avert a dreaded calamity: If the opimions of even such men are to be bruhliad aside with contempt, if all Indiane are to be treated na no letter than dumb, driven cattle, if men, whom any other country would delight to honour, we to be thus made to realize the utter Luariliation and liellusesteres of their position in their own, theu all I can suy is "Goudbye to all hepo of co-operating in any wuy with the buresucracy in the interestos of the people!" I can conceive of no graver indictment of British rule than that such a state of things should to powible after a hundred joers of that rule!
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Gentlemen, I. have carefully gone throut mes the papers which have been published by the" Govemment on this subject of Partition. Three things have struck me forcibly $\rightarrow$ determination to dismeniber Bengal at all coats, an anxiety to promote the interents of Aram at the experne of Bengil, and a desire to suit everything to the interests and coms mience of the Civil Service. It is not merely that a number of new prizes have been thrown into the lap of that Service-one Lieutenant-Goremorship, two Memberships of the Board of Revenue, one Commissionership of a Division, several Secretayships and Cade-Secte-taryships-but alternative schemes of readjotment have been rejected on the express gromend that their arloption would bo unpopular with the members of the service. Thas, even if a reduction of the charge of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal hat really become ineritathe-a contention which the greatest living authority on the subjoct, Sir Henry Cotton, whow sas Sertary to the Bengal Goveriment under seven Lieutenant-Governors, does not admit-one would have thought that the cout natural course to take was to separate Pethar, Orissa and Chota Nagpore from Bengal and form them into a separme Proxince. This would have
made the Western Province one of 30 millions in place of the Eastern. But this, says the Government of India, " would take from Bengal all its best districts and would make the Province universally unpopular." This was of course a fntal objection, for, comparad with the displeasure of the Civil Service, the trampling under foot of public opinion aud the outraging of the deepest feelings of a whole people was a small matter! But oue can see that administrative considerations were really only secondary in the determination of this quastion. The dismemberment of Bengal had become necessary, because, in the view of the Government of India, "it cannot be for the lasting good of any country or any people that public puinion or what pasies for it slould be manuffectured by a coonparatively small number of poople at a single centio and should be diserminatod thence for universal adoption, all other views heing discournged or suppresised," "From every point of view," the Government futher stateck, "it appears to us desinable to encourage the growth of centrta of independent opision, local aspintiong, hoon idembs and to preGerve the growing intelligence and enterprive of llengal from lwing cramped and atunted by the
process of forcing it prematurely into a mould of rigid and sterile uniformity." Yom will see that this is only a paraphrase, in Lord Curzon's niont approved style, of the complaint of the people of Bengal that their fair Province bas been cismembered to destroy their growing solilaility, check their national aspirations and weaken their power of co-operating for national ends, lesien the influence of their educatel classes with their countrymen, and reduce the politicyl inportance of Calcutta. After this, let no applogist of the late Viceroy pretend that the object of the partition was administrative convenience and not political repression!

Gentlemen, it is dificult to speak in terms of due restraint of Lord Curzon's condnct throughout this affair. Having published his earlier and sualler scheme for public criticism, it was his clear duty to publish similarly the later and larger scheme, which he afterwarls subatituted for it. But in consequeace of the opposition which the fint scheme encountered, he abwidon: ${ }^{3}$ the idea of taking the public any more into his confilence and proceeded to work in the matter in the dark. Fur more than a year nothing further was heard of his intentions, and while

Le wes silently elaborating the detaily of his mea. nure, he allowed the impression to prevail that the Government had nbendoned the Partition project. And in the end, when he land succeeded in securing the Secretary of Sinte's sanction to the acheme, it was from Sinila, where he and his official collengues were beyond the reach of public opinion, that he sprang the final orders of Government apon an unprepared people. Then suddenly came his resignation. And the people permitted themselves for a while to hope that it would bring them at least a britf respite, especiunly mas Mr. Brodrick had prouised sbortly bufure to prewent further pupers on the subject to Irdiament, and that wris undorstood to mean that the wheme would nat lee brought into operatiun. till Purliament teresembled at the beginning of next year. Of courwe, after Lord Curwn's resig. wation, the ouly proper, the only dignified course for him was to take no step, which it was difficult to revoke anil the comsequences of which would huve to be fared, not by him, hut by his suevesor; he owed it to Lord Blinto to give hive an opportu. nify to exanime the querition for limself; Le owed it to the liayal visiture not to plugge the largent Province of India into violent myitation
and grief on the eve of their visit to it. But Lord Curzon was determined to partition Bengal hefore he left India and so he rushed the necessary legislation through the Legislatise Council at Sima, which only the otticial members could attend, and enforced his orders on lith Octoler last-a day observed as one of universul mourning by all chasses of people in Bengul. And now, while he himself has gone from India, what a sea of trubles he has bequeathed to his successor! Fortunately there are grounds to believe that Lord Minto will deal with the sitnation with tact, firmness, and sympathy, and it weems he has already pulled up to some extent Lord Curzon's favourite Lieutenant, the first ruler of the new Eastern Province. Mr. Fuller has evidently cart to the winds all prudence, all restraint, all sense of reaponsibility. Even if a fraction of What the papers have been reporting be trut, his extriordinary doings must receive the attertion of the new Secretary of State for India and the Honse of Commons. There is no surer method of goarting a docile people into a state of dangerons deppair than the kind of hertoring amil represion he has been attempting.
But, gentlemen, as has been well siall, even in
things evil there is a soul of goodnest, and the dark time through which - Bengal has pased and is passing bave not been withouta messinge of bright hope for the future. The tremendous aphearal of popular feeling which has taken place in Bengal in consequence of the partition? will constitute a landmask in the history of our nutional progresi. For the first time since British rule began, all nections of the Indian community, without distinction of caste or creod, have been moved by a conmon impula and without the stinulus of extertal pressure to act together in offering resintance to a common wrong. A wave of true national conariousnesis has swept over the Provinee, and at its fouch old barivers lanee, for the tiwe at any rite, beeu thrown down, pernonal jecolousies lave vanisuld, other controvervies have bean bushed! Bengal's Leavic stand against the oppresoion of a hamah and uncontrolled buneaucincy hase astroished and gratifiod all India, and hev sufferiugs have int been endured in vains when they have lutped to draw closer all purts of the country in syrupathy and in espiration. A great rush and uprining of the waters, such ad lise been recently witnemed in Bengal, cannot take phece without a litude inundation over the
and grief on the eve of their visit to it. Bat Lord Curzon was determined to partition Bengal before he left India and so he rushed the necessary legislation through the Legislative Council at Simla, which only the ofticial members could attend, and enforeed his orders on 16th October last-a day observed as one of universal mourning by all classes of people in Bengil. And now, while he himself has gone from India, what a sen of tiruthen he has bequeathel to his successor! Fortunately there are grounds to believe that Lord Minto will deal with the situation with tact, firmness, and sympathy, and itseem. he has alreally pulled up to some extent Lord Curzon's favourite Lieutenant, the fist ruler of the new Eaxtern Province. Mr. Fuller has eridently cast to the winds all prudence, all restraint, all sense of responsibility. Even if a fraction of What the papers have been reporting be trur, his estraordinary doings must receive the attemtion of the new Secretary of State for India and the Honse of Commons. There is no surer method of goading a docile people into a state of dangerous despair than the kind of heectoring and repression he has been attewpting.

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banks here and there. These little excesses are inevitable, when large masses of men move spontaneously -especially when the movement is from darkness into light, from bondage towards free. dom-and they must not be allowed to disconcert us too much. The most rstounding fact of the situation is that the pullic life of this country has received anaccession of strength of great importance, and for this all India owey a deep delt of gratitude to Bengal. Of conrse the lifitculties which confront the leaders of Bengal are enormous and perhaps they bave only juat begu. But 1 know there is no disposition to shrink from any responsibilities and I have no lonbt that whatever acrifices are neressary will be cheerfully made. All India is at their back and they will receive in the work that lies before them the comdial sympathy and assistance of the other Provinces. Any discredit that is allowed to fal', un them affect. us all. They on their side must not forget that the honour of all India is at present in their ketping.

Teg Spadeshi Movemert.
Gentlemen, I will now say a few works on at morement which has spread so rapilly and has been hailed with so much enthusiasm all over the country during the last few monthi-the simadeshi
movement. It is necessary at the outset to distinguish it from another movemeat, started in Bengad, which has really given it such immense impetus-the baycott of British goods, We all know that when our Bengalee brethren found that nothing would turn the late Viceroy from bir purpose of partitioning Bengal, that all their protests in the press and on the platform, all their memorials to him, to the Secretary of State and to Purliament were unavailing, that the Goverament exercised its dexpotic strength to trample on their most cherished feelings and injure their dearest interestis and that no protection agrainst this of any kiad wus forthooming from niy quarter, they, in their estremity, resolved to hare recourse to this boycott morement. This they did with a twofold oljeet-first, as a demonstrution of their deep resentiment at the treatment they were reviving, mud necondly, to attruct the attention of the people in England to their grievanas, so that thowe who were in a position to call the Governuent of India to nocount might under. stand what wastaking pluwe in India. It was thus as a pulitical wexpon, used for a drfuite political purpone, thant lieg, had recourse to the bogott; and in the circumatances of thrir pasition they
banks bere and there. These little excesses are inevitable, when large masses of men move spon-taneously-expecially when the movement is from darkness into light, from bonlage towards free-dom-and they must not be allowed to disconcert us too much. The most astounding fact of the situation is that the public life of this country has received an acceesion of strength of great inuportance, and for this all India owes a ilepp debt of gratitude to Bengal. Of comrse the difticulties which confront the leaders of Bengal are enomous and permaps they have ouly jnot hugun. But 1 know there is no risposition to shrink from any responsibilities and I have no toobt that whatever acrifices are necesary will be cheerfully made. All India is at their back and they will receive in the work that lies before them the curdiad sympathy and assistance of the other Proviucres. Any discredit that is allowed to fall on them affect. us all. They on their sile mist not forget that the honour of all India is at present in their keeping.

The Sradesiil Morenest.
Gentlemen, I will now say a few words on a morement which has spread so uroilly and has been hailed with so much enthusiasm all over the country during the last few monthe-the siondeshi
movement. It is necessary at the outset to dis. tinguish it frow another movement, started in Bengal, which has really given it such immense impetus-the boycott of British goods. We all know that when our Bengalee brethren found that nothing would turn the late Viceroy from his purpoee of partitioning Bengal, that all their. protests in the prows and on the platform, all their memorials to him, to the Secretary of State and to Pusliament were unarailing, that the Goverinment exencised its dexpotic strength to trampleon their suost cherished feelings and injure their deareat interestos and that no protection againat thix of any kind was forthooming from any quaster, they, in their extremity, reoolved to have recourse to this boycott movenent. This they did with a twrold object-first, as a demonstratiou of their deep rewntanent at the trentment they were receiving, und secondly, to attract the attention of the pexple in England to their grievan. ate, no that those who were in a pasition to call the Government of India to scoount might understand what wastaking place in Indis. It was thus ma a pulitical weapon, uned for a definite political purpose, thant they, had reooutise to the boyoutt; and in the circumstatices of their prosition they
had every justification for the step they took. And I can tell you from personal experience that their action has proved immensely effective in drawing the attention of English people to the state of things iu ourcountry. But a weapon like this must te reserved only for extreme occasions, There are obvious risks involved in its falure and it cannot be used with sufficient effectiveness, unless there is an extruorlinary upheaval of popular feeling behind it: It is bound to rouse angry passions on the other side, and no true well-wioher of his conntry will be responsible for provoking such passions, except under an overpowering sense of necessity. On an extreme occasion, of couse a boycotting demonstration is perfectly legitionate, but thatocasion must be one to drive all the clisses, as in Hengal, to act with one impulse, and make all leaders sink their personal differences in the presence of a common danger. It is well to remember that the term 'boycott,' owing to its origin, has got unsavoury axsociations, and it conyeys to the mind before everything else a vindictive desire to injure another. Such a desire on our part, as a normal feature of our relations with England, is of course out of the question. Moreover, if the boycott is confined to British
goods only, it leaves us free to purchase the goods of other foreign countries, and this does not belp the Swadeaki movement in any way.

Gentlemen, the true Swadeshic movement is both a patriotic and an economic movement. The idea of Swadeshi or 'one's own country' is one of the noblest conceptions that have ever stined the Lourt of humanity. As the poet asksem
'Brenthes there the man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself hath said,-
This is my own, my native land!'
The devotion to motherland, which is ensbinod in the highent swadeshi is an influence so profound aud co prasionates that its very thought thribs and its metual touch lifts one out of oneself, India needs tu-day abowe everything else that the gonpel of this devotion should be preached to high and low, to Prince and to prasaut, in town and hamlet till the ervice of motherlasd becomes with us as overnaastering a pasion mit is in Japan. The Siredeshi movement, as it is ordinarily undenstool, preents one part of this gaenel to the mase of our people in a form which brings it within their comprehension. It turna their thoughis to their country, eacuitoma them to the iden-of voluntarily making oume
sacrifice for her sake, enables them to take an intelligent interest in her economic development and teaches them the important lesson of co-operating with one another for a national end. All this is most valuable work, and those who undertake it are entitled to feel that they wee engaged in a higuly patriotic mission. But the movenent on its material side is an econouic one; and though self-denying ordianaces, extensively entered into, must serve a malnable economic purpose, namely, to ensure a reitly consumption of such articles as are produced in the comitry and to furnish a perpetual sti nulus to protuction by keeping the demand for indigenons things larely in exces of the suryly, the diffentims that surround the question eronomically are so great that they require the co-speration of every available agency to surmount them. The problem is, impeed, one of the first magnitude. Twelve years ago the late Mr. Ranad, remaked at an Industrial Conference held at Poma: "The poli. tical domination of one courtry by another attenctis far more attention that the more formidatle, though unfelt domination which the copital, enterprise and skill of one country exercise over the trade and rianufatures of

- another. This latter donination has an insidious influence which paralyzes the springe of all the varied activities, which together make up the life of a nation." The question of production is a question of capital, enterprise and skill, and in all thene factors our deficiency at present is very great. Whoever can help in any one of these fields ix, therefore, a worker in the Svadedic cause and should be welcomed as such. Not by methods of exclusion but by those of comprehension, not by insisting on every one working in the same part of the feld but by leaving each one five to welect his own corner, by attracting to the canne all wiou are likely to belp and not alienating any' who nee already with us, are the ditficultion of the problem likely to the overcome. Alvere all, let us me to it that there are no freols divisious in the comutry in the bame of Suadeshasw, No greater perversiun of its true apirit could be iungined than that.

Tike the quention of eotton pieco-goodis, of which we import at preent over 22 millioas aterling worth a year. This is by far the heariat iten anoong our importa and our proent Swadeshi ngitution in directud mainly towands produciing as marh of there gools in our own country
as possible. I have consulted three of the best experts avajlable in lulia on this subjectMr. Bezanji of Nagpore, the right hand man of the late Mr. Tata in mill matters, the Hon. Mr. Vithaldas Damodarlibas, who has. written an admirable paper on the cottor industry for the Industrial Conference and has kindly placed a copy of it at my dispowal, anil our friend Mr. Wacha. They are all agreed about the requirements and the difficulties of the situation. So far as cotton fabrics are concerned, even strict Free Tmilers should have nothing to say against the enconragement, which the Swadeshi movement seeks to give to their manufacture in India. In the first place, many of the usual objections that may be mod against a system of State protection do not apply to helpful voluntary action on the put't of consumers, such as the S'radeshi novement endeavours to promote. Noreover, the essence of Free Trade is that a commolity should lee produced where the comparative coit of its production is the leust and that it should be consumed where its relative value is the bighent ; and if accidental circumstances late thwarted such an adjustment in a given cave, any agency
which neeks to overcome the impediment works in the end in the interests of true Free Trade. Now everyone will achnit that with cheap labour and cotton at her own door, Indis enjoys exceptional advantages for the manufacture of cotton goods; aud if the Swadeshi movement helpe her to regain her natural position in this respect-a position which she once occupied but out of which the has been driven by an extreordinary combination of circumstances,the movement works not against but in furtherance of trus Eree Trade. Even at present the Cotton Industry in India is an important one. It is the largest industry after ugticulture in the fcountry; it is also the ouly one-agriculture excepted-in which the Indians theruselves have a sulustantial share. It is repreventod by a paid up capital of shout 17 caros of rupes or a litle over 11 millions sterling, the number of mills being about 200, with five million spindles and fifty thousand power-looms, In addition to this, there are, according to the Census of 1901 , about a quarter of a ctore persons engaged in hand-loos wenving in the country. Our milla consume menty 60 per onk. of the cotton
produce of Indis and produce 58 crore lis. of yarn. Of this quantity, Mr. Vithaldas tells us, about $23 \frac{1}{2}$ crore lbs. is exported to China and other foreign countries, about $13 \frac{1}{2}$ crores is used in our weaving mills, and about 19 crores is woven by band-loom weavers, the remaining 2 crores going to the manufacture of rope and twine. In addition to this, 3 crore lbs. of yarn is imported from the United Kingdom and is consumed by the hand-loms. The hand-loom industry of the country thus alisorbs, in spite of its hard struggles, about 22 crore lbs. of yarn, or nearly double the quantity woven by power-looms, and this is a most interesting and sigmificant fact. The yarn used by the weaving mills produces about 55 crores of yurds of cloth, of which about 14 crore yards is exported to foreign countries and about 41 crores is left for consumption in the country. If we put ilown the production of the hand-looms at about 90 crore yards, we have about 130 crore yards as the quantity of Swaileshi cloth consumed nt present in lidia.

The quantity of piecegoods importell from the United Kinglom and retained for use in the country is about 205 croce gards a year.
of the total cloth cousumed, therefore; over one-third is at present Swadesti. This is an encouraging feature of the situation. But the imported cloth is almost all superior in quality. "While our mills," Mr. Vithaldas says, " produce the coasser cloth, say from yam up to 30 N count and in a few casés up to 40, the bulk of the imported cloth is of the finer quality using yarn over 30s count. The Indian wearing mills are obliger to nestrict themselves for the mont part to weaving coarwer cloth owing to the inferior quality of cotton now grown in the country." It may be noted that even frocn exiuting cotton, hand-loome can, owing to their gremter delicury of handling the yarn, produce finer cloth than the power-loome. Fortunately owing to the exertions of the Agricultural departmeat of Ue Bombay Government-exertions for which it is entitled to the best thanka of the whole country-Egyptian cotton has just been suocesosfllly introduced into Bind, and thise year a thoumad bale of a quality equal to very good Egyptian have been producol, A much heovier comp is expectad nert yoar and there in no doult that ite cultivation will mpidly extend. The manin difficulty in the way of our manofac-
turing the quality of cloth that is at present imported is one of capital. Mr. Wiacha eatimates that if the while yuantity of 205 crore yards is to be proluced by mills, the industry reguires an adilitional capital of about 30 crores of rupes. Even if we propised to spreal this over ter yesrs, we should reguive an aldition of 3 cores of rupmesery year. Now if we turn to the Stationical distact of British India, we Aball find that the total inctese in the cifital invested in cotton mills during the last ten yeas las been oulyahout 3 crores,-an amount that Mr. Wacha wants every year for ten years. The mormal development of the mill industry is thus plainly unegual to the requirements of the siturtion. Moreover, it is well to remember what Mr. Ibeanji say:-that the present mill-owners muet not be experted to tee rery keen abont the production of finer cluth, because its manufuture is mach les paring than that of the coaner cluth. This is due tar sabions calleses, the priacigal ne among them being that Engliah mpital, sumilaty invented, is sitisfiod with a smaller ronge of profic. Capital from other tharters must, therefote, be induced to come forwand and uniertake this busines. If we
again turn to the Stutistical Abstract, we shall find that our people hold about $50^{\circ}$ crores of rupees in Government Secrarities and about 11 crores in Postal Suringe Banks. In the Presi, dency and other Buaks, 'the private deposits stand at about 33 crores of rupees, but there are no means of ascertaining how much of the amount is held by Indinas. Considering the exteut of the countigy and the nuublers of the population, these resources xie, of counse, extrumely weagre. Still they night furrish some part of the capital needed. In this connection, way I say that a npocimal raxponsibility now restid in the matter on the Ariotociacy of Bengel! And this is not merely Lutwure the Suadeski movenent is being so vigorously medrocated in their Prociawe, but also lucaume, owing tw the Permaneut Settlowent of Bengent, they wre eumbled to enjoy resource which, in other purts of Iudia, are swept into the coffers of the State. If oufficient capital is forthrowing, Mr. Bezanji' patriotion may, I am sure, be relied ou to merue for the undertating whinterer axisistace his grent capracity and uniivalled kenwiedge can give. It must, bow. erer, be almithen that capital will ownie forward only cautiously for this immode of the buminam.

But the hand-looms are likely to prove of greater immediate service. Mr. Vithaldus looks forwand to a great revival of the hand-loom industry in the country, and I cannot do better than quote what be says on this point in his paper. "This village industry," he says, "gives means of livelihood not only to an imuense number of the weaver class, but affords means of supplementing their income to agriculturists-the backbone of India-who asually employ themselves on handlooms, when field work is unnecessary, and also when, oring to famine, drought or excessive raius, agricultural operations are not possible. Now the apparatus with which they work is nensly two centuries behind the times. Mr. Havell, Principal of the Caicutta School of Arts, Mr. Chatterton of the Madras Sehool of Arts, and Mr. Chumhill of Almeduagne, along with many other are doing yeoman's serriey by taking keen interest in the question of supplying economical and improved apparatus to the hand-loom weavers. Mr. Havell has pointed ont that in preparing the warp our hand-loom wearess are incapable of winding more than two threads at a time, though the simplest mechanical device would enable them to treat 30 or 100 theads simultaneoms)!. The

Latest Europian hand-loom, which succesesfully sompetes with the power-loom in Cairo and in many plices in Europe, cain turn out a marimuna of 48 yarde of common cloth in a day. Mr. Havell is satisfied that the greater portion of the imported cotton cloth can be made in the Indiun hadd-looms with great profit to the whole conmunity. The question of the immediate revival of the hand-loom wesving industry on a connmercial hasis, demmnds the most exrnest attention of every well-wisher of India and evidence gives promine of a successful insue to efforts put forward in this direction." The mutlook here is thus hopeful and cheering; only we must not fuil to realize that the co-operation of wll who can help-including the Gov-enmment-is needed to overcome the difficultion that lie is the path.

OCR AIMA AND AGPIRATOSE, (ientlemen, this is the twenty-first session of the Indian National Congrese Year after year, ainco 1885, we have been memenbling in theot gatherings to gire voice to our mpirintions and to furnulate our wanta When the movement was fint inaugurnted, we were under the influense of that remarkalise cuthunt of enthusinve for British

Rule, which had been evoked in the country by the great Viceroyalty of the Marquis of Ripon. That bext beloved of India's Viceroys was not content to offer mere lip-honage to the prineiple theit rightenusness alone exaltetb a nation. He had diared to act on it in practice and he had lrared persecution it the hands of his own conntrymen in India for ita sake. Lord Ripmen's noblest service to this country was that he greatly quickened the processes, by which the consionsness of a national purpose comex to establish itioulf in the minds of a people. The Congrews morement was the direct and inmediate ontcome of this reallization. lt was started to focms and ugy inize the putriotic forces that were working independputly of one another in different parts of the country so as to invest their work with . national character and to increase their general effectivenew. Hope at that time was warm and faith shone bright, largely as a result of Lord Ripon's Viceroyalty, and thove who started the Congress believel that by offerigg their criticisa
 form, where they coull speak in the name of all Intlia, they would be able to secmue a continuors improvenent of the adminitration and a steady
mivance in the direction of the political emancipation of the people. ' Twenty years have since elapwed, and during the time much has happened to chill that hope and dim that faith, but there can be tuo doubt that work of great value in our national life has elready been accomplished. The mindi of the peopla have been familiarized with the idea of a united India working for her salvation ; a national public opinion has been created; clowe bonds of symputhy now knit together the different Provinces; caste and creed separations humper leses and less the pursuit of common aixns; the dignity of a conseiousness of national existetoo hase equred over the whole land. Our recond of politioal concessions won in, no doubt, very meagre, but chove that have been eecured are of conxidetulle value; come retrogression has been prevented; and if latterly wo have hea unsble to wetil the tide of reaction, the nexistance we have offered, though it has fruled of its avowed purpose, has substantiully strengthened our publie life. Our deliberations have extended ever a very vide muge of prodlemas; public opinion in the country in in comequence, better informed, and the Preem is ateadily growing in authority and wesfulneas. Abow all, there in a general preception now of
the goal towards which we hare to strice and a wide recognition of the arduous character of the strusele and the immense sacrifices it requires.

The goal of the Congress is that India should be governed in the interests of the Indians themselves, and that, in course of time, a form of Gorernment should be attained in this country similar to what exists in the self-governing Colonies of the British-Empire. For hetter, for wome, our destinies are now linked with those of Enyland, and the Cungress freely recoguises that whatever adrance we seek must be within the Eupire itwolf. That alrance, moreover, can only be gradual, as at each stage of the progress it mary be necessary for us to pass throngh a brief course of apprenticeship, before we are enabled to go th, the next one; for it is a reasonable proposition that the sense of responsibility, required for the proper exercise of the free political institutions of the West, can be acquired by an Eintern people throngh practical training and experiment only. To admit this is not to express any agreement with those who msually oppose all attempts at reform on the plea that the people are not ready for it. "It is literty alone," sags Mr. Giladome in words of profoun' wis.lom, "which fits men fit
liberty. This proposition, like every other in politics, has ita bounds; but it is far safer. than the counter doctrine, "wait till they are fit." While, therefore, we are prepared to allow that an advance towards our goal may be only by reanonably cautious steps, what we emphatically. insist on is that the resources of the country. should be primarily devoted to the work of qualifying the prople, by means of education and in other waym, for such advance. Even the most higoterl champion of the existing system of admi. nistration will not pretend that this is in any degre the case at prement. Our net revenue is alwat 44 millions sterling. Of this very nearly one-half is no exton up by the Army, The Lome Clarges, exclusire of their military portion, nlmutb nemily one-diind. These two, between them, macout for mbout 34 milione out of 44. Then over 3 milliona are pmid to Europern otficiuls in civil euphoy. This lonvew only uhout 7 millione at the dieponal of the Govenument to the applied to other pur. powes. Can any one, who roulises what this menne, wander that the Gorernment spends only a minerthle threequarters of a million out of State fundis on the educetion of the peoplo-
primary, secondary and higher, all put together ! Japan came under the influence of Western ideas ouly forty yeass ngo, and yet already she is in a line with the most advanced nations of the Went in matters of mass educition, the State finding funds for the education of every child of schoolgoing age. We have now been a hubdred years under England's rule, and yet to-day four villages out of every five are withont a school house and seven chilliren out of eight are allowed to grow up in ignorance and in darkness! Militarism, Service interests and the interests of Eng. lish capitalists,--all take precedence to-day of the true interests of the Indian people in the administration of the country. Things cannot be otherwise, for it is the Government of the people of one country by the people of nother ; and this, as Mill points out, is bound to produce great evils. Now the Congress wants that all this should change and that India should be governed, first and foremast, in the interests of the Indians themselves, This result will be achieved only in proportion ass we obtain more and more voice ir the government of our country. We are prepared to bear-and bear cheerfully-our fair share of the burdens of the Empire, of which we are now a part, but we
want te participate in the privileges also, and wo oijgect mont strungly to being ancrificed, as at pre:sent, in order that others many prosper. Then the Congress asks for a redemption of thase promises for the equal treatment of Indians 'nd Englishmen in the Government of this country; which have heen so solemnly given us by the Sovereiga and the Parliament of Kingland. It is now threequarters of a centary since the Parliament passed an Act, which, the Court of Directors pointed out, meant that there was to bo no governing censte in Iudia. The governing caste, however, is still as vigoroun, as exclusive as ever. Twenty-five years later, the lute Queen-Empree addrewed a most memorable Pivelinamtion to the Princes and people of India. The circumstancer, counected with the issue of that Proclamation, and its neble contents will always bear witurss to the true grentnesi of that grewt wovereign and will never ceave to diod lustre on the Englieb name. The Proclnamation repente the pledges countrineed in the Clisrter Act of 1833, and though an antounding attempt was made thinn two yeary ago by the late Viceroy to explain awny its wolean inport, the phain menning of the reyal mesenge caunot be adtered without attriluting what is nothing lese than
an unworthy subterfuge to a Sovereigu, the deep reverence for whose memory is an asset of the Empire. That the Charter Act of 1833 and the Queen's Proclamation of 1858 lave created in the eyes of reactionary rulers a mast inconvenient situation is clear from a blumt declaration, which another Viceroy of India, the late Lond Lytton, made in a coufidential document, which has since seen the light of day. Speaking of our claims and expectations lased on the pledges of the Sovereirn and the Parliament of England, he wrote: "We all know that these chams and expectations neper can or will be fulfilled. We have hald to choose between prohibiting them (the Satives of Inlia) and chenting them, and we have clasen the least straightforward course. Since I am writing confidentially, 1 do not besitate to say that both the Goveruments of England and of Intia appar to me, up to the present monent, uatile to answer satisfactorily the charge of having taken every means in their power of lreaking to the heart the words of promise they had uttered to the ear." We rccept Lord Lytton as an unimpeachable authority on the conduct of the Govermment in evading the fulfilment of the pledgex. We deny his claim to lay down that our
"claims and expectations never can or will be fulfilled,"
Our whole future, it is needless to say, is bound up with this question of the relative positions of the two races in this country. The domination of one race over another-expecially when there is no gneat disparity between their intellectual. endowments or their general civilization-inflicts kreat injury on the sulject race in a thousand insidious ways. On the moral side; the present situation is steadily destroying our capacity for initiative and dwaring us as men of action. On the material nide, it has resulted in a fearful impoverishment of the people. For a hundred years and more now, India has been, for members of the dowinant race, a country where fortunem wete to be maileto betaken outand apent elsewhero. As in Ireland the eril of absentee landlordiom has in the puat nggravated the racial domination of the Euglinh over the Irish, oo in India what naty be colled alwentee cupitalism has been addod to the racial ancendnucy of Engliabmen. A groat and ruinour draiu of wealch frous the country bus goce on for many yener, the net excomor of exports over inpurta (including trwsure) during the laot forty yeursmounting to no les than a thouend millions
sterling. The strady rise in the death-rate of the country-from 24 per thousind, the average for 1882-8t, to 30 per thousani, the average for 1892-94, and 34 per thousand, the present average,-is a terribleand conclusive proof of this continuous impoverishment of the mass of our peopie. India's beat interests-material and moral-noless than the honour of England, de: mand that the policy of equality for the two races promised by the Sovereign and by Parliament should be faithfully and courageously camied out.

THE RUBEALCRACY.
Gentlemen, as I have alrexdy observed, the manner in which the Partition of Bengal has been caried out furmishes a striking illustration of the worst features of the present system of bureaucratic rule. Happily these fentures are int always so conspicuously in evidence. No one also denies that a large proportion of the members of the bureaucracy bring to their work a high level of ability, a keen sense of duty and a conscientious desire, within the limits of the restricted opportunities permitted by the predominance of other interests, to do what good they can to the people. It is the system that is really at fault-a system which relegatex the interests of
the people to a very sulordinate place and which by putting too much power into the hands of these men, impairs their sense of responsibility and develops in them sepirit of intolerance of criticism. I know many of thesi men we on their side constantly gmarting under a weluxe of anfair condemantion by our country. men. They fail to realize that if the criticisn that is passed on their metions is sometimes iilinformed mad even unjust, this is largely due to the seil of eecrecy which carefully hides official proceedinge from the view of the people in India. Mureover, theirs are at present all the privileges of the pasition and they must bear, without iniputieuce or litternés its few disedrantagen. I have alrendy mid that our mivance towards our goul enn ouly be gradual. Meanobile there in a great deal of work to be done for the country in which ofticiuls and mon-officialis conld join hands. A oonsideruble part of the way we could both go teqether, but it can ouly be on terar consistent with the self treppett of either side. In old tinies, witen Britinh rule was new and its higher standardis and itu more vigorous purposes excitad gene. Inl ailairation, the Englishman's clam to a pio. vileged praition, even outside the eqthere of officidl
duties, was allowed to pass unchallenged. That is now no longer possible, and those otticials, who expect the Indians to approach them with bated breath and whispering humbleness-and the type is not confined to the new Eaxtern Province ex-clusively-not only make useful reiations between the two sides impossible but do more harm to their own class than they imagine. In one, respoct the gulf between the official and educated classes of the country is bound to widen more and more every day. The latter now clearly see that the bureaucracy is growing frankly selfish and openly hostile to their national aspirations. It was not so in the past. In a most remarkable letter which I had the honour to receive, while in England, two monthe ago, from Mr. Howigwn Pratt-great and vonerated yame among all lovers of peace-he tells us with what object Western eduration was introluced into this country. "Fifty years ago," writex Mr. Pratt, who in those days wasa meniber of the Berigal Civil Service, "while India was still under the Government of the East India Company, it was considered both just and wise to introk ure measures for pational eilucation on a likeml sale with adequate provision of whols, cullecers, and
universities. This event was bailed with lively sutisfuction hy the nutive population ne heralding a new ere of anciel prugress, and as satisfying the netive intelligence of the Hindus. Now it must be observed that the charactor of the tenching thus inangurated by Englislmen would neoesarily refect the idenle, which have for centuries prevailed nmong them. In other words, Indian youthe would be brought up to admire our doctrines of politional liberty, popular rights, and nutional independence ; nor could it ever have loen supposed that these lessons would fall upon denf earx and cold hearts. On the oontrary, the inevitable result of such teaching was clearly perreived hy the Government of those days, and Wush regarded in a generous spirit. In suppont of this ewertion I way mention thut at the time of the insuguration of these measures I accompanied the then Lieutemant-Governor of Bengal (Sir Fraderich Mallidny) ou one of his winter tours through the province. Naturilly be callod the attention of three, whe attended the public moetingo Leld by him, to. then new education policy, und ho al waya touk occumive wdedare that the nchuols would pronncte ous of the leading purponen of Britind rula, arlich west to prepare tha prople fir
self government. It certainly was not supposed that at any subsequent time a policy would be adopted, which would disappoint the legitimate bopes thas created." Now, however, that the time has come for the bureaucracy to part with some of its power in favout : of the educated classes, all kinin of excuses are brought forwarl to postpone what is no doubt regarted as the evil day. One favomite argument is that the educited classes are as yet only a very small fraction of the commonity. The hollovaess of this plen was well exposed by the late Mr. George Yule in his address as Piewident of unt National Congrem in 1888. Quoting Prof. Thorold Rogers, he printeil ont that a hundied yeris ago, not one man in ten or one woman in twenty knew how to read and write in Englant. Going moother century or two lack, he silded, the proplo of England, man and woy, high and low, with the exception of a mere handful, were steeperl in the grossest ignorance, and yet there whan Holine uf Commons. We hase now in this rountry about 15 millem pan! when dend atal write, amd about a million of these have come uniler the intluence of some kind of English education. Moreover, what we ask for at prevent is a voice
in the Government of the ecountry, - not for the vinle population, but for such portion of it es has been qualifed by eletuntion to divelarge propery the repuribilities of such issocintion. Another argument, broughe forward ipur favour of maintaining the preveit bureacerintie minoopoly of purer, is thut though the adseeted-alasen semken grievame of it the mane of the preaple are quive indifferent in thid mather.' Now, ias:the irint plece, this is uot true.". Howeser it may aivit the intereste of the odicinite te doay chrefecth, the
 of Indie, the memat leadera yf the people. Tharira

 in a hendrod saya lury have mores to sho miede of the lutuerpend.in hate the colucated Impiabs thiut to-dey; elbe enet of. I adin thinte tormamor.



 frouthiet ave finced it be o domanaty, thatt, they do not mixp angoligetion to to ' pereat isymen of admimiderativicis "The momout alumatiod auikibos

range themselve against a continuance of the system!

OLE IMMEDIATE DEMAYD8.
Gentlemen, a number of important questions will come up before you for discussion during the next two days, and following the practice of previous Congreses, you will, no doubt, recond after due deliberation, your views on them in the form of resolutions. This is, of course, necensry ; but may I suggest that for purpowes of effective agitation in the immediate future, we should now concentrate our main energies on certain selected portions of our progimme? Speaking broadly, most of the reforms that we have been advocating may be grouped ander four hends:-(1) thiowe which aim at securing for our people a larger and larger share in the administration and control of our affairs; these include a reform of our Legishative Councils, the appointment of Indians to the Secretary of State's Council and the Executive Councils in India, and a stewdy substitution of the Indian for the Europenn agency in the public seivise of the country ; ( 2 ) those which seek to improve the methods of adninistration, sueh as the separation of Judicial from Executive functiors, Police Keform, and similar proposals; (3) thone which propase
a readjustment of financial arrangemeuts with the object of mecuring in reduction of the burdens of the taxperyere and a more efficient application of our rewouroes; under this head come a reduction of military charges, the moderating of. land assessmente and so forth; and (4) those which urge the adoption of mensures, calculated to improve the condition of the mass of the people; these include a vigurous extension of primary education, fucilities for industrinl and tecinical instruction, grants for improved sanitation, and a real attempi to dent with the alarming indebtedness of the peassantry. Now what I would most earvestly' and respectiflly sugetest is that we should select from ench group: such reforms as may be immedintely urged with the grentent effect and pres them forward in this ocuntry and in England with all the energy we call command.' In my lumble opinion, our inmediate demands. whouth be:-(1) 'A ieform of our Legislatise' Councils, raiding the proportion of elected menkers to one-liul', requiring the budgetio to be formally proal by the Cumsils, and empowering the metubers to bring forwad amendwents, with megruncths for briaging the debater to a rlome in a remosumble time. The Prerideaty of the

Councils should have the powes of peto. The Viceroy's Legislative Council consists at present of 25 members, of whom only five are elected, one by the Chamber of Commerce of Calcutta-a body of Europeans-and the other four 1 four provinces. We must ask for the propoi ; of elected members to be now raied to 12. $f$ this number, two seats might he given, one to commerce and one to certuin industries, and the remaining ten should be assigned to different provinces, two to eich of the three older provinces, and one each to the remaining. And, to begin with, the right of members to move ameudments may be confined to one amendment each. The two members for commerce and industries will generally be Europeans. and they will ordinarily vote with Government. Thus even if all the ten provincial members voted together, they would be only 10 out of 25. Ordinarily they will not be able to carry a motion against the Government, but on exceptional occasions they may obtain the support of two or there men from the other side, and then the moral effect of the situation will be considerable. In the provincial Legislative Councili, we munt have an increase in the number of members, each district
of a province being empowered to send a member: The objection that these bodies will, in' that ease, be nomewhat unwieliy is not entitied to much weight.
(2) The appointinent of at least three Indians. to the Secretary of State's Council, to be returned, I one each, by the three older provinces.

- (3) The creation of Advisory Boands in all ${ }_{4}$ Districts throughout India, whom the heads : of districts should be bound to consult in important unattety of adminixtration concerning the public. before taking netion. For the present, their functions should the only givisory, the Collectors or District Magistrater leeing at liberty to set aside their advice in their discretion. Half the members of "a Boand should be electel representatives of the different Talukas or subdivisions of the district and the other half should consist of the principal Districe Officen and such : non-ofticial gentlemen as the head of the district anay appoint. Thene Bonnds must not be confounded with what are known as District Locel Boards. There in at prewnt, too much of what nay be colled liecretariat rule, with an excesive multiplication of central departumente. District nilminintuation must be largely froel frou this
and reasonable opportunities afforded to the people concerned to influence its course, before final decisions are arrived at, If such Boards are created, we may, in course of time, expect them to be entrusted with some real measure of control over the district administration. The late Mr. Ranade used to urge the iraportance of such Boards very strongly. If ever we are to have real local government in matters of geneml administration, the creation of these Bonrds will pave the way for it. One great evil of the present system of administration is its secrect. This will be materially reduced, so far as instriet administration is concerned, by the step propaved.
(4) The recruitment of the Judicial Branch of the Indian Civil Service from the legal profession in India.
(5) The separation of Judicial and Executive functions.
(6) A reduction of military expenditure.
(7) A large extension of primary education.
(8) Facilitios for indastrial and technimal education.
(9) An experimental measure to deal with the indebtedness of the peasintry over a selected areas.

I think, gentlemen, if we now concentrate all our energies on somes such programme, we may, within a reasonalile time, see results, which will not be altogether disappointing. One thing is clear. The present is a specially favourable juncture for such an effort. In our own country, there is sure to be a great rebound of public gpinion after the repression to which it has been subjected during the last thnee yeurs. And in England, for the first time since the Congress moveuent began, the Liberal and Radical parts will come into rael power. My recent risit to Englund, during which I enjoyed somewhat exceptional opportunitier to judge of the situation, hes natixified me that a atrong current has already not in there agninat that narrow and-aggresive Imperiadinm, which only the other day seemed to le carrying everything before it. The new Prime Minister is a tried and trusted friend of freedom. And as nugurds the new Secietary of State forIndia, what shall I say 1 Large numbers of eduented wen in this couitry feel towards Mr. Morkes as towards a Mmster, and the beert hopes and jet it trembloy, as it had never hoped or tremblod Inefows. He, the reverent student of Burke, the dimiple of Mill, the friend and biograpbere of

Gladstone,-will he sourageously apply their principles and bis own to the government of this country, or will he too succumb to the influences of the India Otfice around him, and thus cast a cruel blight on hopes, which his own writings have done so much to foster? We shall see ; but in any case his appointment, as Secretary of State for India, indicates how strongly favournble to our cause the attitude of the new Ministry is. Mr. Ellis, the new Under-Secretary of State for India, is openly known to be a friend of our aspirations. A inore gratifying combination of circumstances could not be conceived and it now rests with us to tarn it to the best adrantage we can for our Motherland.

> conclesion.

Gentlemen, one word more and I have done. I have no wish to underrate the difficulties that, lie in our path, but I am convinced more tlun ever that they are not insuperable. Moreover, the real moral interest of a struggle, such as wr are engaged in, lies not so much in the particular readjustments of present institutions, which we may succeed in securing, as in the strength that the contict brings us to be a permanent part of ourselves. The whole life of a people, which is
brouderand deeper than what it touched by purely political institutions, is enriched even by frilures, provided the effort has been all that it should be. For such enrichment, the present struggle is invaluable. ."The true end of our work,", said Mr. Ranade nine yeare aga, " is to renovate, to purify, and aliso to perfect the whole man by liberating his intellect, elevatirg lis standard of duty, and developing to the full all his powers. Till so renovated, purified, and perfected, we can never hope to be what our ancestors once were- chueen prople, to whom great tasks were allotted and by whom great deeds wero performed. Where this feeling animates the worker, it is a matter of comparative indifference in what particular direction it nssersts itself and in what particular method it procereds to work. With a literated manhiood, with booymurt hope, with a faith that never minks duty, with a sense of justice that deals fairly by will, with unclouded intellect and powers fully cultivated, and, lustly, with a love that overleaps all hound, renovatod ladia will take her proper rank among the nutious of the woild, and be the mameter of the situmation and of her urn desting. This is the goul to toe reached-this is the promised lund. Happy nie they, who ese it in dintant vision;

## 58

happier those who are permitted to work and clear the way on to it: happiest they, who live to see it with their eyes and tread upon the holy soil once more. Famine and pestilence, oppresion and sorrow, will then be myths of the past, and the gods will once again descend to the earth and associate with men, as they did in thmes which we now call mythical," Gentlemen, I can add nothing that may be worthy of being placed by the side of these beautiful words. I will only call to your minds the words of another great teacher of humanity who asks us to keep onr faith in spite of trying circumstances and warns us again-t the preamption of despaining, becanse we do not see the whole future clearly before our eves:- .
${ }^{-}$Our times are in His hand
Who saith - A whole I planned, [afraid,"
Youth show hut hulf; trust (iod: all, wor be

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