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A  
FULL & CORRECTED REPORT  
OF  
THE PUBLIC MEETING

HELD AT THE TOWN HALL,  
**On the 25th February, 1862,**

IN HONOR OF

HIS EXCELLENCY EARL CANNING,  
*FIRST VICEROY OF INDIA,*

TOGETHER WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE CEREMONY OF UNVEILING  
THE STATUE.

Calcutta:

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1878.



A FULL AND CORRECTED REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING IN HONOR OF LORD CANNING.

NO. 41. CALCUTTA, FEBRUARY 1862.

PURSUANT to previous announcement, a public meeting of the Inhabitants of Calcutta was held at the Town Hall, on Tuesday, the 25th February 1862, at 4 P. M. for the purpose of testifying their respect and gratitude to Lord Canning for his general administration of the country. The meeting was attended by all classes of the community and the spacious Town Hall was literally crowded to overflowing. Among others, we noticed the following Noblemen and Gentlemen:—Rajah Radhakant Bahadoor, Raja Kalikrishna Bahadoor, Raja Narendrakrishna Bahadoor, Raja Pertaup Chunder Sigh Bahadoor, Raja Sutto Shurn Ghosaul Bahadoor, Raja Rutton Singh, the Hon'ble Raja Dinkur Rao, the Hon'ble Raja Deonarain Singh, the Hon'ble Mr. Harrington, the Hon'ble Mr. Erskine, the Hon'ble Mr. Eden, Baboo Ramapersaud Roy, Baboo Pannalaul Seal, Baboo Ramanauth Tagore, Baboo Rangopaul Ghose, Baboo Heeraloll Seal, Baboo Chooneeloll Seal, Nawab Asgar Ali Khan Bahadoor, Moonshee Ameer Ali, Moulvie Abdool Lutceef, Coomar Sutt्यानund Ghosaul, Baboo Rama Nauth Sen, Baboo Brojogopaul Mullick, Baboo Chundermohun Chatterjee, Baboo Hurro Nauth Roy, Baboo Kallykissen Tagore, Baboo Shibchunder Guho, Baboo Obhoychurn Guho, Baboo Obhoychurn Bannerjee, Baboo Koylaschunder Ghose, Baboo Neelmoney Muttyloll, Baboo Degumber Mitter, Baboo Joteendromohun Tagore, Baboo Wopendermohun Tagore, Baboo Khalutchunder Ghose, Baboo Eshanchunder Bose, Baboo

Dwarkanauth Mullick, Baboo Rammohun Mullick, Baboo Prosodoss Mullick, Baboo Gobindchunder Sen, Baboo Pearymohun Day, Baboo Nogenderchunder Ghose, Baboo Sreekisssn Singh, Baboo Jadubkrishna Singh, Baboo Kaliprossuno Singh, Baboo Denundo Mullick, Baboo Rajendro Mullick, Baboo Debendro Mullick, Baboo S. C. Mullick, Baboo Soobul Das Mullick, Baboo Joygopaul Sen, Baboo Tarenychurn Banerjee, Baboo Horeemohun Sen, Baboo Bissonauth Goopto, Baboo Prosonno Coomar Chowdry, Baboo Kalidoss Dutt, Baboo Ramnarain Mullick, Baboo Odoitchurn Mullick, Baboo Ramnarain Dutt, Baboo Debender Dutt, Baboo Kishenkissor Ghose, Baboo Ramshurn Mullick, Baboo Ramdhone Ghose, Baboo Satcowry Dutt, Baboo Doorgachurn Law, Baboo Greeschunder Dutt, Baboo Greeschunder Ghose, Baboo Hurruchunder Ghose, Baboo Kassepersaud Ghose, Baboo Kissory Chund Mittra, Baboo Debendernauth Tagore, Pundit Eshwarchunder Surmah, Hossun Ibrahim Binjohur, Mohommud Muzhur, Aga Mirza Sheerazee, Aga Roochuk Sheerazee, Aga Syud Hossain Shooshtree, Buzloor Ruhum, Hubeebool Hossain, Surafut Hossain, Nuzeer Ally Khan, Mohommud Wujeeh, Saikh, Ibraheem, Hajee Zakariah Mohommud, Izhur Hossian, Mr. Grey, Mr. Young, Mr. Wylie, Mr. Hume, Mr. W. F. Feigusson, Mr. A. King, Mr. Grant, Mr. Cochran, Mr. Piffard, Mr. Brett, Mr. Agabeg, and Mr. Shircore. The enthusiasm with which the assemblage was inspired was so great that at times it was difficult to repress it from bursting into disorderly uproar.

At the appointed hour, the Hon'ble Mr. Cowie, the Sheriff, opened the business of the meeting by reading the Requisition.

Baboo Hecralaul Seal then moved, seconded by Baboo Ramnath Tagore, that the Sheriff take the chair.

Raja Radhakant Bahadoor moved the first Resolution as follows :—

“That the meeting desires to record its high sense of the eminent public services of the Right Hon'ble Earl Canning during his administration of British India, marked as his career

has been by consummate ability and rare judgment, by unswerving rectitude of purpose and by a large, liberal and enlightened spirit of justice and mercy which have secured for him the gratitude of the teeming millions of this country."

Baboo Ramgopaul Ghose, in seconding the Resolution, said : Mr. Sheriff, I have been asked to second the Resolution which has just been proposed. I rise to do so reluctantly, not because I do not feel a warm interest in the cause that has brought us together to-day, but because I feel I will be unable to do justice to the subject of the Resolution in consequence of having been suffering from an ailment for some days past. I am, however, persuaded that to such an audience as I see before me, little need be said to commend the Resolution for their adoption, as I know the feeling is universal among native gentlemen of all classes that our most cordial acknowledgements are preeminently due to the departing Governor General. Sir, I cannot pretend to pass in review all that has transpired during the six eventful years of Lord Canning's administration. I must, however, briefly allude to the leading features of the policy which has guided him in the government of these vast territories. You will remember, gentlemen, that a little more than twelve months after he landed in India, the mutiny of the native army broke out, and the terrible misdeeds and horrors to which it led shook the Empire to its very basis. In those perilous and momentous times, the Head of the Government had a most onerous duty to perform. In the midst of those dangers and difficulties, it was impossible to have re-established peace, good order and prosperity without being guided by consummate wisdom and forethought, with a courage truly heroic, with an adamant firmness of purpose to deal out even-handed justice—retributive where retribution was called for—justice tempered with mercy, where considerations of a contrary nature evoked into exercise that divine attribute of the human heart. Lord Canning has lived to witness the great success of his policy. Where confusion reigned order has

been established. Where rebellion reared its gory head, contentment has been restored. Peace and plenty now shines forth where bloodshed and disorder were rampant. Lord Canning's policy was to punish the wicked, to encourage the faithful, and to win over by conciliation the wavering subjects of the British Crown. True it was, that Lord Canning has past through the greatest crisis in the history of British India, and "time the corrector where our judgments err" has now proved the excellency of his policy. Following upon the mutiny, came embarrassing financial difficulties of the country, very much aggravated as they were by the mutiny itself. The various measures taken to overcome them were subjects of the most anxious attention to the Governor-General. The success which has attended them prove how well they were generally adapted to the end in view. True, he had been ably aided in these measures by his talented colleagues, but as every act required his *imprimatur*, we may not unfairly identify them with the vicerojal policy. The measures adopted were on the one hand those of retrenchment and on the other of new taxation. None will quarrel with the former, but there will always be a difference of opinion as regards the latter. I, however, for one have always considered the Income Tax a just one on principle. It has doubtless been felt by many as a personal hardship, but it cannot be denied that if we wish to enjoy the blessings of peace, it is our duty to contribute our quota towards the expenses of maintaining it. I believe, Sir, the Government seriously desires to make the burden as light as possible, as has just been proved by the crowning act of Lord Canning's administration. Need I say I allude to the abolition of the License Tax, which is an earnest that whenever taxation can be safely dispensed with the government will not be backward in relieving us. Depend upon it that if the present flourishing state of the finances goes on prospering, the time is not distant when the Income Tax as well will be repealed.

Hitherto whether intentionally or otherwise, we have seen each

successive Governor-General bent upon an aggressive and aggrandizing policy ; that of Lord Canning has been one of conciliation, placing the affairs of the Empire on a sound and broad basis so as to bring forth the fruits of peace and contentment. In confirmation of what I say I need only allude to the settlement of Oude and of the Punjab, to the consolidation of the Nagpore Provinces and, last not least, to the amalgamation of British Burmah. All these are proofs of Lord Canning's anxiety to place the affairs of the state on that consolidated basis, on which depends the safety of the Empire.

During Lord Canning's administration great advances have been made in the material improvement of the country. The progress of railways has been latterly satisfactory—great improvements are taking place in steam communication between the different portions of this vast Empire. Great efforts are making for encouraging the growth and export of Cotton from India. Considerable expenses have been sanctioned for the construction of what may be called Cotton Roads. The Redemption of the Land Tax and the sale of Waste Lands in fee-simple are two large measures of the greatest importance which have lately been past. They are fraught with future benefit, which will prove alike advantageous to the people and the state. The unrestricted right of adoption which has been conceded to the Chiefs and Princes cannot fail to be grateful to them. It has indeed been already hailed with the warmest feelings of grateful admiration. Such are some of the benefits which the departing Governor General has conferred upon the country. Can we then remain silent on the occasion of this departure ?

There is one point and I believe one point only in Lord Canning's policy on which I have heard a difference of opinion. It has been said that at the time of the Mutiny, he leaned too much towards clemency and conciliation. I do not desire to reopen this sore subject, but this much I might safely say that speaking from a native point of view, the more I think of his Lordships'

conduct during that dangerous period, the stronger is my sense of gratefulness. When the cry was vengeance, ruthless vengeance, who stepped in between the hangman and his victim ? Who saved the innocent from being enrolled with the wicked ? Who infused into the heart of the avenger a sense of justice ? In the midst of the scenes of devastation and massacre, Lord Canning appeared indeed as if he were the protecting Angel from heaven. It would therefore ill become the Native Community if they do not cheerfully tender to him their most grateful acknowledgements for the good that he has done to them. Thanks to that education, which has been so rapidly extending under the fostering care of Lord Canning, there are now thousands and ten thousands throughout the length and breadth of these vast territories who do understand and understanding appreciate the Policy of Government. And amongst those thousands, Sir, I am certain there is not a pulse that will not throb the quicker as they pronounce a benediction upon the departing Governor General, there is not a tongue that will not raise its voice of commendation, there is not a heart that will not glow the warmest, and glowing, bless him who has showered so many blessings upon them.

The resolution was then put to the vote and carried unanimously.

*Baboo Romanath Tagore* said, it had been entrusted to him to move the second Resolution. It would be presumption on his part to attempt to make a speech after the eloquent one they had just heard made by Baboo Ramgopaul Ghose ; but what he did say he said with honest feeling. He was glad to see such a large gathering for the purpose of doing honour to Lord Canning before he left India. If his Lordship had been allowed to depart without such a tribute of respect being paid to him it would have been a slur on the national character of the Natives. Soon after his arrival, Lord Canning had been beset with formidable difficulties but these difficulties were overcome by a wise and vigorous policy, which had resulted in the thorough restoration of peace

and tranquillity. Those present had not forgotten when the mutiny arose that a cry of vengeance was raised on all sides. Lord Canning, however, had firmly adhered to the side of mercy, and in so doing had saved an immense number of innocent lives. He (the speaker) had lived during the administrations of Lord Bentick, Lord Auckland, Lord Hardinge and Lord Dalhousie, but he was sure that in a political point of view, the administration of Lord Canning was one to which the historian will never fail to give a prominent place in the history of India. He had heard with mortification that a portion of the Native community did not approve of the later acts of his rule, perhaps they had their reasons, but whether they had them or not, he must say that the position of the Governor General was a peculiar one. He had to govern 200 millions of men of different races, of different creeds, with different habits and customs, and to please them all was surely a Herculean task. Would they find fault with a man, who had conferred ninety-nine favors upon them because he could not complete the number of one hundred? If so they did injustice to one of the noblest feelings which God had given us—gratitude. He had seen in the *Harkaru* some articles which were likely to be detrimental to the native interest, inasmuch as it was said that the meeting had been called in opposition to the address presented to the Judges. This, on the part of his countrymen, he begged most emphatically to deny, for the present Meeting had been determined on fully two months before the address to the Judges had been presented. Those articles had been written with a view to create a bad feeling towards his countrymen on the part of Englishmen. But he hoped that Englishmen, as true Englishmen, would not be led away by such writings but follow the dictates of their own feelings, and make no difference between creed and colour. He would propose the adoption of the Address which would now be read to them.

Mr. John Cochrane then read the following address :—

TO HIS EXCELLENCY EARL CANNING, G. C. B. G. M. S. I.,

*Viceroy and Governor General of India.*

*&c.,*

*&c.,*

*&c.,*

We the inhabitants of Calcutta and its vicinity, venture to approach your Excellency, on the eve of your departure, in order to express to you the regret felt by us all on your resigning the government.

During the eventful period of your administration, we have never failed to admire the justice and impartiality which have always characterized your actions.

It is with mingled feelings of respect and gratitude that we call to mind your humane and merciful conduct to our unfortunate and misguided countrymen exercised at a time when, by most men, the principles of moderation would have been forgotten.

We thank your Lordship for the late extraordinary reduction of taxation, which at the very time it lessens the burthens of the poor, furnishes the best proof of the prosperous condition of the country.

We are grateful for the many liberal measures which have adorned your administration ; for the principles of justice so constantly inculcated by you, rendered doubly dear by being blended with a humanity dictated by wisdom and moderation.

In the establishment of the Councils of the Empire, we recognize an anxious desire to forward the interests and well-being of India.

We thank your Excellency for the valuable privilege which you have conferred upon the community by allowing the redemption of the landed revenue ; and we are especially grateful for the careful protection of the interests of the public creditor, which is apparent on the face of the proclamation issued by your Lordship.

At no time has your Excellency been ever wanting in promoting the welfare of your fellow creatures ; the cause of education never had a warmer friend,

We need not enlarge on your many noble and charitable actions.

We lament the existence of the present disputes in Bengal, and the bad passions created by them. In accordance with the benevolent suggestions of your Excellency, we earnestly trust that these our bitter days may give rise to kinder feelings and that resentments of every kind among all classes of society may pass away and be forgotten. If such should be, it will not be the least cheering reflection in the mind of your Lordship when parting from the land you have governed so long.

We look upon your Excellency as one who has saved this country from a great and impending calamity—the results are before us:—A mutiny suppressed; public credit maintained; and peace universal.

Nothing now remains but to bid your Excellency farewell. Safe may you return to your native land; the good wishes of all attend you.

Think, at times, kindly of a people by whom you will always be held in respectful and grateful honor.

Once again farewell. In the far land of the West—if justice and humanity be ever honored—you cannot but hold a most distinguished place.

*Mr. Cochrane* said he had much pleasure in seconding the motion. We meet here, gentlemen, in times calmer than those which greeted the Governor-General in the early part of his administration.

Thank Heaven, those troubled days are gone—never, I sincerely trust again to return.

It will gratify all to learn that the malancholy anticipations of many regarding the revenues of India are not likely to be realized. By the labours of a Committee, appointed by the head of this Government, income and expenditure are more than equal. The late remission of taxes is an evidence of the prosperous condition of the country. It is pleasing, Sir, to behold so many assembled

on this occasion to pay a tribute in parting to one whose firmness, ability and moderation, to my view, not slightly assisted in protecting you and your families through months of difficulty and danger.

I never remember any Governor-General so wholly free from all unworthy feelings as the present. In others, I have at times noticed the marks of prejudice and passion, but this man has been always placable and ever just. Never yet had he the misfortune to learn from his own actions, that moderation becomes the resentment of a gentleman. You yourselves have witnessed the untiring calumny and abuse which have followed him through years of his Government. In that calumny and abuse few, if indeed any, of all assembled to-day, have ever joined.

Nothing but the consciousness of doing his duty could have supported him through the painful and arduous trials he has undergone.

I need not here enlarge on the well known liberality of Lord Canning, but all of you are aware of his long continued exertion in the cause of civilization by promoting the education of man. This matter has been already alluded to and no doubt will be more fully commented on by others who may address you. I will content myself here with observing that if ever any man deserved well of his fellow citizens, this high-minded and able Governor merits honor from all.

You all remember the siege of Lucknow—I know not whether the escape of the inhabitants of the city when the town was won arose from the direct orders of the Governor-General or whether such was the result of the principles of justice so constantly supported by him, but this I do know, that such an act was acceptable to God and to man.

Well may you, Princes and native gentlemen of India, well may you thank this nobleman in the name of your unfortunate and misguided countrymen for his humanity towards them. Believe me, it will be an acceptable tribute to pay at the close

of his eventful and memorable administration, during every portion of which he has pursued the just and honorable line of conduct, and in no one instance has ever degraded the distinguished name he bears or tarnished the memory of the celebrated Statesman from whom he is descended.

There is one matter alluded to in the address so important to the interests of the public and Government that with your permission I will make a few observations upon it. I allude to the redemption of the land revenue.

The 41 and 42 clauses in his Lordship's Proclamation are as follows :

“ The price to be paid is fixed at 20 year's purchase of the existing assessment. Doubts are expressed by experienced officers whether many purchasers will come forward at such a rate so long as the current rates of interest for money lent on security, or employed in trade continue so high as at present. But justice to the public creditor, and a due care for the resources of the Government require that, as long as the public revenue is no more than sufficient to meet the current charges of the Empire and the interest of its debt, no lower terms of redemption of a permanent tax forming the security for that debt, should be accepted than will, when the price is invested in the public securities, afford a corresponding relief in the payment of interest.” Nothing, Sir, can be fairer than such provisions, for as by Act of Parliament the revenues of the country are specifically pledged for the payment of the territorial debt,—if the price to be paid for the redemption of the revenue had been fixed at ten years' purchase instead of 20—the security of the public creditor on the amount realized by such sale would have been lessened one-half. All that seems wanting to this great measure is a direction by the Legislature that on the receipt of any funds arising from such money should be immediately applied to the reduction of the public debt.

The fund produced by the sale of the Government Revenue

stands on the same footing as the sinking fund did in England—both are intended to reduce the debt of the country. I am fearful, Sir, of leaving any such fund to accumulate either in company's Paper or the Public Treasury. Some emergency may arise, which may dissipate the fund itself.

The mischief of leaving such fund in the hands of any Government is well observed on by Adam Smith in his great work on the Wealth of nations. The passage is short and I will read it to you.

“ During the most profound peace, various events occur which require an extraordinary expense, and Government find it always more convenient to defray this expense by mis-applying the sinking fund, than by imposing a new tax.

“ To borrow of the sinking fund is always an obvious and easy expedient for getting out of the present difficulty. The more the public debt may have accumulated, the more necessary it may have become to study to reduce it, the more dangerous, the more ruinous it may be to misapply any part of the sinking fund; the less likely is the public debt to be reduced to any considerable degree, the more likely, the more certainly is the sinking fund to be misapplied towards defraying the extraordinary expenses which occur in a time of peace.”

The observations of private men seldom attract attention, but the serious warning contained in this passage cannot be neglected with impunity.

By directing the immediate application of the sums received to the extinction of a corresponding amount, you prevent the possibility of misapplication, and all danger to the interests of the public in general is avoided. If the precaution I speak of be adopted, the Nobleman at the head of this Government will earn an additional title to that respect which already is so justly his due.

One word more, Gentlemen, that I may not, this day again trespass on your attention. If it should be proposed to offer

a testimonial to the Governor General, and if such proposition should be supported by the votes of this Assembly, let it be, I entreat of you, some public monument like the classical statue which adorns this city, to be placed before all, not merely that you may admire the triumph of art or the beauty of its execution; but that it may stand forth as a memorial of gratitude and of honor to point out to his successors the reward of humanity and justice.

*The Chairman* said he perfectly concurred with the wording of the address except that part which said "we the inhabitants of India." He would prefer if it were written, "we the native inhabitants of India," and if that one word were inserted, he would be satisfied, as this was wholly a native meeting, there not being more than 12 or 13 European gentlemen present. (Cries of no! no!)

*Mr. Piffard* said he objected strongly to the insertion of the word. He as well as others there that day came at the public invitation of the Sheriff of Calcutta. In accordance with the public notification any one might come, any one might oppose.

*Mr. Hume* said if there was the slightest chance of his being heard, he would like to say a few words relative to the suggestion made by the Chairman to interpolate a word into the address. If the requisition had been a wholly native one, it would have been right and proper, and it would have been very impertinent for any one to interfere, but it was not so, it had been publicly notified in the newspapers and he knew nothing but what he saw in them. It was true that the Sheriff was not a countryman of the sepoy, but neither was he (*Mr. H.*) a member of the Native community: he had been for many years resident in Calcutta and he wished to add his voice and name in support of the object of the day's meeting. If the Sheriff were to insert the word "Native" it would preclude his doing so. If the right he claimed under the Sheriff's invitation was disallowed he had no more to say.

*Mr. Piffard* understood that it was a public meeting, to which any European in Calcutta might have come, and if he objected to any thing, he might raise his voice. In that light he would make a few observations, and if the words "misguided countrymen" in the address were so obnoxious he would say "fellow subjects," which term he was sure would meet with the approval of the meeting. The men who were hostile to this meeting dared not come forward, and it was unfair to alter the words in the address, unfair to the Europeans in general; it was a public meeting and not right that two or three should stand in a corner and propose and alter as they thought proper. (Cries of—no alteration!)

*Mr. W. Brett* said:—Before any amendment was put to the meeting, he wished to say a few words and with their permission to be better heard, he would give himself a temporary elevation (by mounting on a table.) He came there in his public duty as a journalist and nothing more, and to give his fullest support to the meeting as he understood it to be, and that was a purely native one, to do honor to a man to whom honor was due and to whom they owed so much, and to whom the highest praises should be awarded, but from the way the meeting had gone on, and from the course it was taking he felt compelled to fulfil a yet higher duty than what he came for and raise his voice in opposition. He stood there knowing that he represented the European population of Calcutta. (Loud uproar, derisive shouts and cries of no! no!) If they would remain quiet, they would understand what he was going to say: he would beg to move an amendment upon what had been put and every one would agree to it.

It has been said that it was a public meeting, so that the gentlemen who had objected put themselves upon the footing of attendants on the meeting, and he also as such an attendant begged to have the resolution as it originally stood and with this amendment, "The Native Inhabitants of Calcutta with the

concurrence of the European gentlemen whose names are appended."

In making this amendment, he would repeat that he came there with the intention of heartily supporting the address through the press, believing it to be a just and proper one as far as natives were concerned. He should be glad to see his amendment seconded, but as in looking around him he saw no European gentlemen but the two or three whose opinions had been avowed, and it might therefore find no seconder, he would remark that an amendment did not necessarily require to be seconded and could be put to the meeting and recorded without it.

Mr. Brett's amendment was then put to the meeting, and negatived ; after which the original motion was put and carried.

Babu Ramapersaud Roy next moved the third Resolution as under :—

"That his Lordship be requested to sit for his Statue in England and that it be erected in the City of Calcutta as a memorial of his Lordship's successful administration of the British Empire."

He said :—

I have been entrusted with the duty of proposing the third Resolution which I most cheerfully move and commend it to your consideration. Under ordinary circumstances as a public officer I would have thought very difficulty about joining a Public Meeting. But I ignore all delicacy on the present occasion—I consider it a fallacy to suppose that because a man accepts office, he gives up his nationality, loses all his feelings for the good and the great, all his sensibilities for the appreciation of justice and humanity, and all his affection and regard for those who are justly entitled to our esteem and admiration. Gentlemen, we are assembled here to-day on a peculiar and extraordinary occasion. This is not the solitary instance in which the citizens of this great metropolis have met to do honor to a departing Governor-General at the close of his rule. Dozens of times, if not more, have we met on

similar commissions. But gentlemen, you will recollect that all those meetings were mainly organized by Europeans, brought about by Europeans, and carried out by Europeans. This day we behold a monster meeting of the sons of India. Not a party or a class meeting or a meeting induced by the action of the governing classes, but we see whole India, as it were, consisting of representatives of innumerable classes and creeds, turning out of their free will and accord this fair evening to pay a parting tribute to one who has so richly deserved India's homage and gratitude. Gentlemen, I do not propose in the course of a short address, even if I had the talent, to review the eminent services rendered to India by Lord Canning. In recounting those services perhaps you will not find things to dazzle your eye or captivate your fancy. Perhaps we will not hear of great and glorious battles fought and won or some great extraordinary annexations made, but gentlemen, there is in Lord Canning's services some thing so very substantial, something so very intimately connected with you and everything dear to you, something so very materially congenial to the best and greatest interests of India, that I have no doubt when I come to consider them, both you and those who come after you will find abundant reasons to cherish the name of Lord Canning as the greatest benefactor of India. After what you have just heard, need I recount to you how he saved you and India at a crisis perhaps unparalleled in the history of nations? At a time when passions had been raised to their highest pitch, when the foul deeds of a misguided few out of millions of our countrymen had excited a spirit of indiscriminate revenge and retribution, it was owing to the unswerving courage, uncompromising justice, moderation and humanity of that Nobleman that myriads of innocent beings were saved from a premature and ignominious death, that the lives and property of millions of Her Majesty's loyal subjects were vouchsafed to them, aye, that we are enabled to appear to-day, at this great meeting as free citizens, men of substance and intelligence to be listened

to and cared for. This is, gentlemen, but the dark side of his rule, or what according to Hindu notions may be called the iron days of his administration. But if you look to his golden days or the bright side of his rule, you find the last years of it characterised by acts and measures at once calculated to secure peace, harmony and security throughout the land, and to promote the material, social, and intellectual advancement of India. No sooner had the clatter of arms subsided and the mouth of the cannon been shut, than Lord Canning instead of looking upon all around him with universal distrust, which circumstances might have justified, most nobly set about to make a wise and benevolent discrimination between the loyal and the disloyal, largely and generously rewarding the former, and justly though mercifully punishing the latter.

Gentlemen, whether you look to the restoration of the confiscated estates in Oudh, to the ancient settlement of that province, the suppression of that most infamous practice infanticide or the abolition of the bar which was laid upon the princes and magnates of this land, in the exercise of their right of adoption; according to their own religious views;—whether you look to the administration of justice, the two universal Codes, Civil and Criminal, giving security of life and property to the rich and poor alike; the encouragement given to the cause of education, to the impetus given to the development of the resources of this country by the influx of European capital and enterprise on sound and just principles; or whether you look to measures adopted for equalising the expenditure and income of this vast empire with those for the redemption of the Revenue and the sale of waste lands, you only see and invariably find that the advancement of India's interests has been foremost in the thoughts of his Lordship. But the culminating measure of his administration, to which I would draw your attention has been the recognition of the national policy which is most erroneously called Lord Canning's native policy. Lord William Bentick, in 1829, laid the

foundation of that policy, but it was left to Lord Canning's administration to carry it out. He has introduced in India a system of self-government by investing landholders and other respectable men without distinction of country or creed, with responsible power, to be exercised for the benefit of the country ; and he has allowed the Natives, alike with Europeans, a share in the highest offices of the State to which human ambition can aspire. Would our ancestors believe that it would be possible for them to hear of what we see, that a Rajah Dinkur Rao, or a Rajah Pertab Chunder Sing should sit with the British Viceroy, and Lieutenant Governor, in the Councils of the Empire, and advise those high dignitaries as to what measures would be for the benefit of the country.

It is, gentlemen, by these and similar measures, that Lord Canning has secured for the Government of Her Majesty the Queen, the tranquillity, the contentment, good will, and attachment of all India. It is to render homage to this personage, to mark substantially our sense of his services, to perpetuate the memory of his wise and liberal acts, that we have met here this day ; and it is to be hoped that you will show to the world, by what we do and resolve at this Meeting, that India is not backward in justly appreciating and gratefully acknowledging the eminent services of her rulers.

Gentlemen, I cannot of course conceive any memorial, which can fully or adequately express our gratitude to the nobleman, whose departure we regret. Be that as it may, in commending the Resolution which I have to propose to your consideration let me exhort you to vote such a memorial as may be worthy of the services of Lord Canning, worthy of his great and eminent services, and worthy of India and the millions of her people whom you represent here.

*Raja Pertap Chunder Sing* seconded the Resolution, after which, *Mr. Hume* said,—Sir ; before you put this Resolution, I desire to address the Meeting. I have no part set down for me in the

programme of this day's proceedings: I have had nothing to do with the arrangements, and I saw nothing of the requisition until it was published in the newspapers. As one of the public, I have been invited here by you, and I cannot be present without lifting up my voice in support of the great and good object which has brought together this immense meeting of the Native inhabitants of Calcutta. I am *not* here authorized to represent others in the expression of opinions, political or otherwise, but I am here to speak for myself something of what I know and feel, and I should for ever hold myself in contempt if I hesitated to do so because I am not supported by a body of my fellow-countrymen. Gentlemen, let us not be too hard upon the absent: it is impossible that many of the non-official portion of the European community of Calcutta should be here: in 1857 they committed themselves beyond redemption: they clamoured and petitioned for the recall of the Governor-General, and attacked him with a virulence quite, unparalleled as a man wholly unequal to the trust reposed in him the Government of this great Empire: it is obvious it would be impossible for them to join us on this occasion without—I may almost use the term—hideous self-stultification. Let us not then triumph over the defeat and disaster that has befallen them, but leave them quietly in the pitiable condition in which they have placed themselves. When I recall that memorable petition, memorable not only for its unreasoning violence and insolent tone, but for the calm, perspicuous, unanswerable, and gentlemanly reply it received from Lord Canning, scattering all its calumnies to the winds, I feel still more strongly how utterly impossible it is that any of the parties to it should have been here to-day. I repeat that I am not authorized to speak for them, but I venture to hope they will excuse me for saying they are ashamed of the past. I am justified in saying so, for have they not arrived at the conviction that the best thing that could have happened for India would have been Lord Canning's continuance at the head of the Government! What need then of their most

sweet voices to vote a statue or their signatures to an address ! Now, gentlemen, I beg you to understand that I am no thick-and-thin supporter of Lord Canning : there are measures he has approved that I cannot go with, but in reviewing such a career as his, years of labour bestowed on such a trust as he has had imposed on him, is it common justice that we should declare against him on particular grounds while the balance of good is largely in his favour ? If we lived an hundred years, we should not have a Governor-General who on all occasions gave satisfaction to all parties : we have several statues of the predecessors of Lord Canning, and with the exception perhaps of Lord Hardinge, who retired before his time, after having engaged in war preparations and in the field for a very large portion of his rule, there were very strong parties against portions of their policy, or the policy attributed to them. Lord William Bentinck, the most popular Governor-General with the people of this country who ever came here, had a powerful party against him. Lord Auckland received a statue while we were yet horror-stricken at the disaster in Afghanistan, and before it was known that the policy which led to it was not his own, and Lord Dalhousie alienated a large number of his admirers by the crowning act of his administration—I am sorry to have to say not a crowning of any credit—the—well it is over now and perhaps I had better only say—the *annexation* of Oude. In all these instances the public did what generosity and justice alike demand—they weighed the good and the bad, or what they deemed the good and the bad, and pronounced their verdict accordingly. The proposition before us is for a statue of Lord Canning, in acknowledgement of his services to India. I beg you to remember that a statue is more an honor to the givers than to the receiver : what does posterity care about a statue to this man or the other, except as it marks contemporary appreciation. In history a man's acts stand independent of statues or any other testimonials, and I believe that the record of the last five years will be amongst the

bright pages of the history of this great country. Gentlemen, it has pleased the Almighty to visit Lord Canning while about to depart from among us with the severest calamity that can fall on man. Let us all pray—and for myself I earnestly do—that it may please God to give him consolation in a future active career, and that his great abilities and matured wisdom may be devoted, as they have been for the last six years, to the prosperity of India and the happiness of its people.

*The Hon'ble Rajah Dinkur Rao* also supported the Resolution in the following terms delivered in Hindoostani :—I offer my thousand thanks to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General Lord Canning for his goodness and kindness towards me personally. But it is a more gratifying thing to me that by admitting me into his own Council for the most important and confidential business of State, his Lordship has testified how much confidence has Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen in His Highness the Maharajah of Gwalior. The following are some of the most important and meritorious acts which His Lordship performed for the good of the country. He dispelled the doubts of the Princes and Chiefs about their old custom of adoption ; he gave Enams, Honors, and Zemindarees to Natives suitable to their services and loyalty. He conferred high offices on them by opening the Council Chamber and the Judicial Service. He raised the Talookdars in Oudh to importance and so on.

There are two divisions of the people in India, one the Princes and Chiefs, and the other the Government's own subjects. For guaranteeing to the Princes and Chiefs the permanency of their estates, he dispelled their doubts about adoption, and for the good of the people he admitted natives into the Councils for making laws and regulations. Now it will depend on the intelligence of the legislators to do good to their fellow-subjects. This was enough to convince the people of the liberal and just policy of His Lordship.

The departure of such a well-wisher of the country was no

doubt much to be regretted. But it was gratifying that he will advocate the cause of the Indians before Her Most Gracious Majesty.

There are two modes of gratifying a desire of seeing a person who is far away; one to write letters and the other to have his likeness in picture or statue. But it is impossible to write letters to all. By having a statue of His Lordship many shall have the opportunity of gratifying their wishes of seeing him.

I am much pleased with the native gentlemen of Calcutta for their expressing gratitude to His Lordship for the just and humane policy which dictated his measures in restoring tranquillity in the mutinous and disturbed provinces of India as well as for other benefits they have derived from His Lordship's Government.

The Resolution was then put to the vote and carried.

Coomar Suttayanund Ghosaul Bahadoor moved the fourth Resolution seconded by Newab Asgar Ali Khan Bahadoor.

That the following gentlemen be requested to wait in deputation on His Lordship to present the Address :—

Raja Radhakant Bahadoor.	Moulvi Abdool Lutief.
Raja Kalikrishna Bahadoor.	Coomar Suttayanund Ghosaul.
Raja Komulkrishna Bahadoor.	Baboo Chundermohun Chatterjea.
Raja Narendrokrishna Bahadoor.	„ Hurrnauth Roy.
Raja Pertaubchunder Singh Br.	„ Obhoychurn Goho.
Raja Suttoshurn Ghosaul Br.	„ Obhoychurn Banerjea.
His Highness the Raja of Kuppoor- thullah.	„ Degumber Mittra.
Raja Dinkur Rao.	„ Jotendromohun Tagore.
Raja Deonarain Singh.	„ Wopendromohun Tagore.
Baboo Heeraloll Seal.	„ Khalutchunder Ghose.
„ Ramapersaud Roy.	„ Eshanchunder Bose.
„ Ramanauth Tagore.	„ Dwarknath Mullick.
„ Ramgopaul Ghose.	„ Gobindchunder Sen.
Moonshee Ameer Ali.	„ Nogenderchunder Ghose.
	„ Jadubkristo Sing.

Baboo Kaliprossonno Singh.	Newab Asgar Ali Khan Bahadoor.
„ Rajendro Mullick.	Hussun Ibrahim Binjohor.
„ S. C. Mullick.	Mohummud Muzhur.
„ Soobuldass Mullick.	Aga Mirza Sheerazee.
„ Horeemohun Sen.	Aga Roochack Sheerazee.
„ Kissenkissore Ghose.	Aga Syud Hossain Shooshlree.
„ Ramdhone Chose.	3uzloor Rhumen.
„ Doorgachurn Law.	Hubeebool Hossain.
„ Grishchunder Ghose.	Lutafut Hossain.
„ Hurruchunder Ghose.	Nuzeer Ali Khan.
„ Kassepersaud Ghose.	Mohummud Wujeeli.
„ Rajendrolaul Mitter.	Saikh Ibrahim.
„ Kissorychand Mitter.	Hazeer Zakeriah Mohmed.
„ Debendronath Tagore.	Izhar Hossain.
„ Kristodoss Paul.	

(With power to add to their number.)

Moulvi Abdool Lutief supported the Resolution. He said :—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen. After what has fallen from the very able gentlemen who have spoken this evening, it would perhaps be presumption on my part to attempt to speak a word. But as a member of the Mahomedan Community of Bengal, I think it my duty to express the feelings of that community—a large number of whom I am glad to see around me—on the present occasion.

I shall content myself with saying simply, that I only give expression to the feelings of the Mahomedan Community of Bengal, when I say, that they equally feel grateful to Lord Canning, with their fellow subjects of other denominations in India, for the undeviating justice, liberality, firmness and humanity, which have always characterized his eventful administration.

*Raja Kalikrishna Bahadoor*, then moved the fifth Resolution.

He said :—Mr. High Sheriff and Gentlemen: The speakers who moved and seconded the preceding Resolutions have already dealt, in their elaborate speeches, upon the benevolent acts of

His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General, during his wise administration in India; and have left almost nothing for me to say on this occasion. Amongst his Lordship's numerous acts for the good of the public he has given great encouragement to the cause of Native Education which is the great lever for raising the social and moral condition of our countrymen. Therefore instead of detaining you any longer, I beg to move the following Resolution :

That a Committee consisting of the following gentlemen be appointed to receive subscriptions for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Statue, and carrying out the object of the preceding Resolutions.

Raja Radhakant Bahadoor.	John Cochrane, Esq.
„ Kalikrishna Bahadoor.	J. H. Cowie, Esq.
„ Pertaubekunder Singh Br.	H. Sandeman, Esq.
„ Suttoshurn Ghosaul Br.	J. J. Harvey, Esq.
His Highness the Raja of Kup-poorthullah.	J. Graham, Esq.
The Hon'ble Sir Bartle Frere.	C. Piffard, Esq.
The Hon'ble C. Beadon.	Manickjee Rustomjee, Esq.
The Hon'ble Raja Dinkur Rao Br.	Moonshee Ameer Ali.
The Hon'ble Deonarain Singh Br.	Moulvi Abdeol Lutief.
Raja Norendrokrishna Bahadoor.	Baboo Rajenderlaul Mitter.
Baboo Ramanath Tagore.	„ Kissorychand Mitter.
„ Ramgopaul Ghose.	„ Hurreemohun Sein.
„ Heeralaul Seal.	„ Jotendromohun Tagore.
„ Degumber Mitter.	„ Ramapersaud Roy,— <i>Member and Secretary.</i>

(With power to add to their number. Three to form a quorum)

The following gentlemen have been since added to the Committee ;

Mr. A. R. Young.

The Hon'ble A. Eden.

Cowar Suttyanund Ghosaul Bahadoor.

Baboo Kristodoss Paul, to be *Member and Assistant Secretary.*

*The Hon'ble Rajah Deo Narain Singh Bahadoor* seconded the

Resolution in a short speech in his Native tongue, a translation of which almost *verbatim* being as follows :—

At the time when the rebel sepoy's in conjunction with the wicked men of the realm rose against the Government in violation of the laws both of God and man, which it is not necessary to dilate upon here, and which so much provoked many of the ruling classes, who in their turn became naturally very violent, the consequence was that many lives were sacrificed and many more were on the point of destruction. The Governor General at once proceeded to Allahabad, put a stop to almost a general massacre, and thus numberless lives were saved. At this critical moment, whoever assisted the Government even if in a very imperfect manner were loaded with rewards. Every man then thought within himself that though life was saved, and reward was received we were no more to be trusted by our gracious government. But Lo ! his Lordship showed a great increase of confidence by inviting our countrymen to consult in the settlement of the country and give their voices to its legislation ;—a boon the natives of this country never dreamed of. From failure of direct issue some of the most distinguished families would have disappeared from the land had not His Excellency in order to establish them, kindly recognized the native right of adoption. We naturally desire most three things on earth ; life, wealth and dignity. Our Viceroy has given us these things unasked : what then can give stronger evidence of his Lordship's sincere love for the country he is about to leave after a most brilliant and successful administration ? The benefits conferred by him upon the country are so great that it is beyond our power in any way to do him justice. It remains for us as our first duty not merely to thank him for his great and good deeds, but to make them known to the world at large and to transmit that knowledge to all our posterity. I have already observed that it lies not in our power to proportion our gratitude to his kindness : yet we must endeavour to do what is possible for

us, by the grateful perpetuation of the honoured name of Lord Canning.”

The sixth and last Resolution was moved by *Manickjee Esquire* and seconded by *Rajah Norrendro Krishna Bahadoor*, as under :

“That the Committee be requested to communicate with such parties as they may deem proper in Bombay, Madras, Oudh, the North-West, the Central Provinces and the Punjab with a view to invite them to join in the Memorial to Lord Canning.”

*Baboo Ramanath Tagore* here said that he had received a letter from the Rajah of Burdwan in which the Rajah expressed his hearty approval of the objects of the meeting and would be happy to assist in carrying them out.

The usual vote of thanks to the Sheriff was proposed by *Babu Khelut Chunder Ghose* and the Meeting separated.

ABSTRACT Cash Account of the Canning Testimonial Fund.

Amount realized from Subscription .. ..	50,727	0	0				
Interest on Government securities realized .. ..	3,818	0	8	54,575	8	0	
							44,234 2 10
							1,844 15 11
							624 15 1
							4,006 6 0
							2,000 0 0
							52,710 8 4
							1,864 15 8
							54,575 8 0

By remittance on account of statue including loss by exchange ... ..  
 By purchase of site for the statue amount paid to the Outram Statue Committee ...  
 By loss in the purchase and sale of Government securities on account of premium and d's out... ..  
 Miscellaneous charges including freight and insurance on the gunmetal shipped for the statue, commission to bank for realizing interest and selling Government securities, brokerage for sale of securities, collection charges, telegrams and postage, stationary and contingencies ... ..  
 Cost of putting up the statue in Calcutta being amount paid to the Executive Engineer 3rd Calcutta Division for the work ... ..

Total .. ..  
 Balance .. ..

DETAILS OF BALANCE.

Government securities in the Bank of Bengal 1,500 0 0  
 Cash in the Bank of Bengal... 364 16 8  
 1,864 15 8\*

(Signed.) SUTTYANUND GHOSAL, } *Honorary Secretary.*  
 KRISTODAS PAL, } *secretaries.*  
 Passed by the Committee at a Meeting held on the 9th April 1878.  
 The 8th April 1878. (Signed.) ASHLEY EDEN, — *President.*

\* It was resolved at a meeting of the Committee held on the 9th April 1878, that after paying the establishment and all other liabilities the balance should be appropriated to reprinting the full report of the original meeting together with an account of the ceremony of unveiling the statue and to the casting of a bronze medallion containing the face of Lord Canning or in the absence of

## UNVEILING OF THE STATUE.

(Reprinted from the *Hindoo Patriot*, 25th March 1878.)

A most interesting ceremony was held on the Maidan on Monday last under the auspices of His Excellency the Viceroy, for the unveiling of the memorial statue of Canning the Just. The *elite* of the European and Native communities were present ; the troops were drawn out and salutes were fired to give *eclat* to the occasion ; His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, as President of the Committee, opened the ceremony by asking His Excellency the Viceroy to unveil the statue, and His Excellency in performing this act of grace delivered a glowing, eloquent and effective address. We give below both the speeches. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor said :

“ The delay has not arisen from neglect or want of interest on the part of the Committee, but from causes altogether beyond their control. The cost of the statue was remitted to England shortly after Lord Canning’s death and the work was placed in the hands of the eminent sculptor Mr. Foley. Unfortunately, when but little progress had been made in the work, Mr. Foley received the commands of Her Majesty to undertake other important work, and the order of the Committee was necessarily held in abeyance. Mr. Foley, when he was able to give attention to the work, was in bad health, and unfortunately died before he was able to complete it. At his request the work of completion was left in the hands of Mr. Brock his assistant : and the patience of the subscribers has been rewarded by a statue which will be an ornament to the capital of India, and which is eminently typical of the calmness and dignity of the statesman whose rule over India it is intended to commemorate. But on the whole, perhaps, it is not to be regretted that the delay has occurred, since the healing influence of time on wounds opened

during Lord Canning's administration has fostered and strengthened the public appreciation of the man we wish to honour.

India has passed since Lord Canning assumed the government of the country, through a baptism of blood into an era of progress, prosperity, peace and good will ; and there will be now found few who will dare to deny that the result is due to the courageous and passionless justice of Lord Canning, who firmly resisting, the temper of the times and the natural clamour of angry men determined that the mutiny of the soldiery should not be turned into a war of races by indiscriminate vengeance.

The very charges brought against him at the time are the highest testimony to the nobleness of his nature. The name of Clemency Canning, which was attached to him as a stigma by unthinking men, is now by the light of history held to be a title of honour. His was not the clemency of fear, or of hesitation or of sentiment ; but clemency founded on justice, on courage, and foresightedness. It remains for me to ask your Excellency to unveil the statue of one of whom it has been well said by a former colleague and friend, who knew perhaps better than any one else the working of his mind and the motives of his conduct, that he had "done much to restore and, better still, to justify, our dominion in the East, who, at a time when it was sadly needed, has exhibited to India and the world some of the finest virtues of the English character, and in doing so had shed new lustre on the English name (applause.)"

His Excellency the Viceroy spoke to the following effect :

"Your Honor and Gentlemen,—I need hardly assure you that I esteem it a very high privilege to have been asked to unveil this statue.

Just sixteen years ago, on the 25th February, 1862, the inhabitants of Calcutta assembled to do honor to the great statesman who was then about to leave them, and, in honouring him, they added to the annals as you have now added to the monuments, of this city a record of their feelings which is highly honorable to

their own character. The memorial then adopted ended with the following words : " Safe may you return to your native land ; the good wishes of all attend you ! In that far land of the West if justice and humanity be ever honored you cannot but hold a most distinguished place."

Gentlemen, those heartfelt wishes were not destined to receive complete fulfilment. Even while they found utterance in the words I have just re-called to your recollection, Lord Canning was smitten with that illness which, four months later, joined his honored ashes to Thiers, who have found their fit resting-place in the faue which a people's voice has dedicated to the deathless momory of its dead heroes. Nor, in looking at the names of the Committee who were entrusted with the duty of procuring the statue I am this day charged to unveil can I fail to observe with sadness how busy death has been among their number. Of the European gentlemen who sat on the Committee, two only remain among us ; one I am thankful to say, being my honored and valued friend, your President, the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal. Of the native noblemen and gentlemen, but three or four are left ; and nearly all of Lord Canning's contemporaries in this country are now replaced by a younger generation, to whom his fame is a social memory or a national tradition, rather than a living element in their personal existence.

But, Gentlemen, if there be much that is said in this retrospect, still, as you, Sir, have reminded us, the sixteen years which have elapsed since the Calcutta public and more specially the native community of this city, determined to erect the present memorial of their departing ruler, have not been without some counterveiling advantages. We are enabled, by this lapse of time, to appreciate the great personal qualities of Lord Canning, and to measure the effects of his public actions, in the calm atmosphere of historical retrospect ; undisturbed by the fierce clamour, the bitter detraction, and the almost savage partisanship which received an abnormal development from the events of 1857. That

clamour, that detraction, that partizanship, little as he allowed them to influence the serenity of his steadfast and statesman-like attitude, could not fail to darken the light in which he laboured, to embitter the devoted performance of his anxious task, to intensify the difficulties of his rule, and to disturb the judgment of its contemporary critics. Now, it is not my intention nor is this the time or place, to follow the career of Lord Canning through those grievous, but glorious events, which have given to the earlier half of this administration, their unapproached importance in the history of British India. The stormy darkness of those days is happily passed away ; but the firmness, the justice, the " clemency," of Lord Canning, the unwavering fortitude of the heroic officers (both civil and military), who assisted him to save and heal this Empire, " the many a light that out of the darkness leapt, and shone in the sudden making of splendid names,"—all these are now imperishable parts of the English history.

Gentlemen, it was Lord Canning's arduous task to quell the most formidable rising ever known against the English power in India. It is his lasting glory to have done this, without dishonoring those principles of justice and mercy on which our rule is built, and without leaving behind him the baneful seeds of disaffection. To carry out with success such a task as this, required qualities not often found in combination. It required the quickness, courage, and endurance of the soldier ; together with the foresight, the imaginative sympathy, the exalted tolerance, of the statesman. All these qualities Lord Canning possessed in an eminent degree ; and, with them, nature had associated in the character of that great man, a simplicity of purpose and an utter absence of all self-seeking, which were peculiarly his own. Now, to such a man, with such a task, one might have expected that the sympathy and confidence of his own countrymen, whose peril in some measure, and whose anxieties in an unequalled measure he surely shared, would have been ungrudgingly, loyally, and devotedly given. And so, no doubt, they *were* given by those whom

his labours had brought in immediate contact with his character. But their voices, if we may judge from the evidence of contemporary journals, were drowned in the storm of calumny that pursued him. By a portion of his own countrymen, not probably the largest or the wisest, but certainly the noisiest portion, (men, it must, in justice to them, be remembered, whose tenderest sympathies had, indeed, been intolerably outraged by the sufferings and indignities of those dear to them). Lord Canning was attacked with a virulence to which, in this season of calm weather, we are happily strangers, and which now seems almost incomprehensible. They clamoured and petitioned for his recall; they derided him for his clemency; they urged to him under pain of impeachment, and even revolution, measures of violent and impossible retaliation; and thus, they not only added immeasurably to the political difficulties of his position, but increased a thousand fold the burthen of anxiety and sadness already laid upon him. The tribunal of History, however, reverses many a popular verdict. No one here, or elsewhere will now dispute the assertion of my hon'ble friend Mr. Eden, that the clemency for which Lord Canning was then ridiculed and denounced is now his chiefest glory. The breadth of view which enabled him, "with Palinure's unaltered mood," to overlook the angry resentments of the present, in the deeper based conciliation of the future, and his resolute determination to preserve his countrymen from their worst and most unreasoning selves which were then a stumbling-block and an offence to them, are now acknowledged as indisputable claims to their unending gratitude. No, Gentlemen, the *vox populi* is not necessarily nor even generally, the *vox Dei*. It is quite as likely to be the *vox diaboli*. Lord Canning knew its value and went on his uncheered, solitary way, resolute and self-possessed; not, indeed, unheeding the clamour of the multitude, for that was impossible, but unswayed by its violence, uninfluenced by its threats, unstung by its insults, in well-founded faith that time and reason would

do their work, and eventually prove his best and all sufficient justification.

Gentlemen, there is an old Fairy tale which most of us have probably read in our childhood and which has in it a moral that deserves to be remembered. The hero of this story in order to liberate some imprisoned Princes is called upon to ascend to the summit of a haunted mountain, which the hostility of supernatural powers has rendered inaccessible to human enterprise. Others, before him, have in vain essayed this quest. Prematurely deterred by the terrors they encountered, they have abandoned their purpose, but not with impunity ; for their bodies, turned to stones, remain along the road,—the monumental records of their failure. On this unaccompanied enterprise the adventurer meets with no visible opponent ; no fiery dragon or armed giant contests his passage. But he is pursued at every step and at every turn from stage to stage of his discouraged progress, by the angry voices of innumerable unseen critics and advisers ; voices of dissuasion and reproach, voices of denunciation and menace. The less he heeds them, the louder and fiercer grow the voices : but at last, the successful traveller achieves his undertaking, by stuffing his ears with cotton ; and thus enabling himself to concentrate his attention on the solitary upward path he is treading, uninfluenced by those swarming and intimidating cries—those croakings and howlings—which, after all, have no visible sources, or palpable embodiment. I say that this story is not without a moral. To discriminate between the ephemeral frenzies of popular, or personal prejudice, and the fixed and well-considered expression of social wants and national feelings, is one of the most difficult tasks of those who are called upon to rule. To be influenced by the former is unworthy weakness ; to disregard the latter is unstatesman-like obtusity. Lord Canning's course was equally removed from the one as from the other, extreme.

Well, again, there is another advantage in our distant standpoint. It enables us to judge by their results of the different measures

which marked Lord Canning's administration. To his recognition of the right of adoption by native chiefs, to his restoration of the confiscated estates in Oudh, to his warm appreciation of many loyal and friendly acts on the part of natives of distinction we assuredly owe the real confidence and good will with which, despite the assertion of our ill-wishers, the suzerainty of the Empress is, now, throughout India, regarded. Then, too, it was Lord Canning who gave the first practical form and impulse to a policy which we hope to see yet more fully developed; the policy of calling to our councils representative native gentlemen of intelligence and position, and of giving to such gentlemen, residing on their own estates magisterial powers and duties, with a large share in the administration of the Empire. Lord Canning's initiation of this policy has in the rapid march of events rather dropped out of sight and out of mind; but how it was regarded at the time may best be judged by an extract I shall ask leave to read you from a speech made at the meeting to which I have referred. Baboo Rama Pershad Roy, afterwards elevated to the Bench of the High Court was one of the most cultivated native gentlemen of his day. He said on that occasion,—“ The culminating measure of Lord Canning's administration, to which I would draw your attention has been the recognition of the *national* policy Lord William Bentinck, in 1829, laid the foundation of that policy, but it was left to Lord Canning's administration to carry it out. He has introduced a system of self-government by investing landholders and other respectable men, without distinction of country, or creed, with responsible power, to be exercised for the benefit of the country; and he has allowed the natives, alike with the Europeans, a share in the highest offices of the State to which human ambition can aspire. Would our ancestors believe were it possible for them to hear of what we see, that a Rajah Dinkur Rao and a Rajah Pertab Chunder Sing sit with the British Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor in the Councils of the Empire, and advise these high dignitaries as to what measures

would be for the benefit of the country ? It is by these and similar measures that Lord Canning has secured, for the Government of Her Majesty the Queen, the tranquillity, contentment, good-will, and attachment, of all India" (applause).

These, Gentlemen, were the sentiments of the most enlightened natives of sixteen years ago. It is neither to be wondered at, nor to be deplored, if native public opinion has since then advanced, with the advancing progress, and increasing unity, of the Empire ; and is no longer contented with what was then regarded as a great concession. How best to carry out the spirit of Lord Canning's policy on this subject, is a matter which has had the ceaseless and earnest consideration of myself and my Council. I look upon the increased employment of native agency in the service of the State as a question of great and pressing importance.

There are few questions to which of late, notwithstanding the calamities and anxieties of the last two years, my own attention, and that of my most experienced colleagues, has been more carefully and constantly directed. I can conscientiously assert that the early and comprehensive settlement of this great question, in a manner just and satisfactory to the rights and interests of all concerned, is one of the most cherished objects of the present administration. But, while we are bent on meeting the wishes of the native community, as far as we can reasonably and properly do so, the safety of the Empire must always be our first consideration ; and nothing will induce us to take a step beyond what we deem consistent with that supreme requirement.

Time would fail me to dwell upon other measures of Lord Canning's policy, which were, when first discussed, the subjects of most vehement praise and blame. It is not without a warning, that we now read of the immense importance attached by Indian politicians sixteen years ago to such measures as the redemption of the land-tax, and the sale of waste lands in fee-simple : for some of the measures which all parties regard to-day as measures

of burning importance may similarly perhaps, be found a few years hence, in the same "wallet" to which Time has already consigned these "alms for Oblivion." None the less, should we act on the same motives, and be inspired by the same spirit which guided Lord Canning's endeavours, to seek to develop the resources, and remove restrictions on the enterprise of the country; thus, at least deserving, if we cannot command, success.

Gentlemen, I recognise, I appreciate, and I share, the feelings which have induced you to add to the noble group of monumental statues already possessed by Calcutta, the effigy of that statesman who was the last Governor-General of the Company and the first Viceroy of the Queen. For I am persuaded that throughout the long list of heroes and statesmen, whose fame has sprung into splendor from the clash of antagonistic elements in Indian life, there is no name more deserving of the gratitude and reverence of the people of this country than the name of Charles Canning (applause.)

His Excellency then pulled a string placed conveniently at hand, and the temporary wood work sliding down, the statue stood revealed. It is a life-sized equestrian bronze statue, and those who had known Lord Canning in India pronounce the likeness to be a good one. It was designed by the late J. H. Foley, R. A., but on the death of that artist, it was executed by his pupil, M. T. Brock. It cost Rs. 35,000 in England, and the marble pedestal on which it stands cost another Rs. 7,000. On the base of this pedestal is the following inscription: "Charles John, Earl Canning U. G., G. M. S. I. Governor-General and 1st Viceroy of India. Born 14 December 1812; died 17 June 1862." When the statue had been unveiled, a salute was fired from the Fort, and the ceremony came to a close.

