

The Free Hindusthan

An Organ of Freedom, and of Political, Social and Religious Reform.

"RESISTANCE TO TYRANNY IS OBEDIENCE TO GOD."

"EVERY MAN IS FREE TO DO THAT WHICH HE WILLS, PROVIDED HE INFRINGES NOT THE EQUAL FREEDOM OF ANY OTHER MAN."—Herbert Spencer, "Principles of Ethics," Section 279.

"RESISTANCE TO AGGRESSION IS NOT SIMPLY JUSTIFIABLE BUT IMPERATIVE, NON-RESISTANCE HURTS BOTH ALTRUISM AND EGOISM."—The study of Sociology, Chap. 8.

VOL. I.

VANCOUVER, B. C., APRIL, 1908.

NO. 1.

A STRONG PROTEST AGAINST BRITISH INJUSTICE.

At Vancouver, B. C., the natives of Hindusthan held a mass meeting on March 22nd, to protest against the unjust treatment of the Dominion and Home governments. The meeting was largely attended by all classes of people but no white man was present. A cablegram of protest has been sent to Hon. Mr. John Morley, Secretary of State for India, London, to the following effect:—"Mass meeting Natives of India protest deportation, exclusion from Canada. British subjects claim Government protection throughout the Empire. If our interest overlooked, brothers in India must necessarily resent your Government's neglect.—Udayram." Pandit Udayram of Millside, B. C. bore the expenses of sending the cable.

OUR NATIONAL LIFE IS AT STAKE.

Today our national life is at stake. The British Government in India has already adopted all possible repressive measures to crush our national aspirations; and a new measure is going to be adopted which will lead our national life to stagnation. We are slaves in our country and have no voice in the government of our country far from having any representation of our own. We are treated worse than cats and dogs of Englishmen in the British Colonies. To-day the door of Hindusthan is open to the hungry Britishers and other colonists who are wrongfully robbing our nation while millions are yearly starving to death. The British Government thinks that we have nothing to say against these as if we are foreigners in our native land. The gate of the Commonwealth of Australia, a British colony is barred against the natives of India. We are getting far worse treatment in South African Colonies than we used to get from the hands of the Boer Republic. To-day Canada has already adopted indirect measures to stop our entrance in the country and she is going to adopt the direct measures under the sanction of the Secretary of State for India. I beg to quote the few words of Lieut. Col. Smith, M. D., Adviser of Maharaja of Mysore, published in the Vancouver Daily Province of March 18th, 1903: "I feel confident that the representation now being made on behalf of Canada to the Secretary of State for India will result in prohibiting further emigration of Indians. Once the official machinery is set in motion the Viceroy will not be long in communicating the orders to the various states, and so on through minor officers. In this way the decision of the government will soon be known to the entire popu-

lation." And this fact has been confirmed by London Telegram of March 21st.

Now the time has come for our national leaders to unite for a national cause forgetting little differences and party feelings. Why is it that laws are passed against our countrymen entering into other British colonies freely? Only because we think we are slaves and do not know how to stand up like men and fight for our rights as men. Why is it that our people, driven to starvation in Hindusthan, attempting to make an honest living in other British colonies by hard labor, are not allowed to enter freely? Because we do not know our birthright and have forgotten the sacred doctrine that "All men are born and always continue to be free and equal in respect of their rights; civil distinctions, therefore, can only be founded on public utility." How is it that we cannot enter any British colony to make an honest living by hard labor, whereas the Indian Civil Service is open for all Britishers and Colonials, and it is held in England, far away from our home, so that we cannot appear in the examination in a large number to get a better share in the government of our own country? Is it not curious that to-day India is the inviting land of all Britishers to occupy all high positions, and the natives of India cannot become common laborers in the British colonies where they can understand the principles of Liberty! The Indian government sends every year, shiploads of immigrants to Fiji Islands under contract to serve the British planters as slaves, but she is going to stop immigration into Canada as it is a land of Freedom!

We ask our leaders at home to take all possible steps to arouse the feeling of the masses so that the proposed step to stop immigration to Canada may not be passed. This act, once passed, will serve as a cause of stagnation of our national life. We believe in the sense of justice of the government of the United States, as the state department nobly refused British Ambassador Bryce's silly proposal of excluding Hindusthanees, like the Chinese; yet there is very little doubt of the fact that as soon as Canada excludes natives of India, the United States may follow her example. Then the cause of our young men coming into the United States as self-supporting students will be hampered because they will be mostly regarded as laborers in the guise of students. Moreover, the passing of this law will cause financial depression among the peasantry of the Punjab.

Let us tell, in an active way, to the British government, that if we are not allowed to enter British colonies, Britishers will sooner or later be excluded from Hindusthan. The treatment we get in British Columbia is heart-rending. We cannot get

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"BANDE MATARAM" Editor
TARAKNATH DAS, Manager

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houses to rent. They say "we will rent houses to the Chinese, Japanese, Negroes, but not to the Hindus, though they fought for the British flag." The government officials like Mr. W. D. Scott, the superintendent of immigration of Canada, says, "We do not want the Hindus (natives of India) here."

During the last six months about 500 Hindusthanees, physically qualified, most of them having served as soldiers under the British flag, came to this country by selling their small homes to acquire the passage money, but were not allowed to land on Canadian soil, and thus about 500 families were made shelterless and forced to starvation!

We earnestly wish that the leaders of our country, especially of the Punjab, will do their duty to the cause of the oppressed people with a united effort, like men, not like cowards and slaves.

We ask the authorities of the British government to use discretion about our interest. Really the foundation of the British Empire is undermined on the very day when the legislative body unjustly supports measures, owing to which the natives of Hindusthan cannot go freely to other parts of the British Empire. We fear another act of injustice may bring the news of an upheaval which will rend the Empire into pieces.

FAMINE IN HINDUSTHAN AND THE ONLY REMEDY.

A terrible and shocking famine is raging in Hindusthan and daily the condition is becoming worse. The report of February 7th shows that the number of people getting private and public relief is 576,427. According to the report of February 14th the number is 738,934; of February 21st, 902,836; February 28th, over 1,000,000, and March 6th, over 1,250,000. Think of it, where over a million and a quarter of people are getting relief, then how many millions are there out of relief, and how many thousands are daily dying of starvation! The civilized world knows very little of it because Hindusthan is represented by the British bureaucracy which can shamelessly trumpet that Great Britain is uplifting a population of three hundred millions, nearly one-fifth of the population of the world to the highest standard of civilization and prosperity while she is really using all her power to devitalize the nation by all means possible. The interested English papers do not want to let the civilized world know the dark stains of the murderous commercial policy of Great Britain, which caused a mortality of over nineteen millions of people in famines alone during the last twenty-five years, while the British merchants exported hundreds of tons of rice, wheat and other kinds of

staple food daily during the very days of famine in the country.

Famine in Hindusthan is mechanically created by the British government and capitalists in their greediness to rob the natives under a hundred and one pretexts. The true reason of famines in Hindusthan is not the lack of rain-fall, which is mischievously spread all over the world by the party robbing the country. Hindusthan is an extensive agricultural country and the average land produces two crops a year, and in Bengal there are lands which produce thrice a year. Bengal alone produces such large crops, that they are quite sufficient to provide all the population of Hindusthan for two years. And the preachers of lack of rain-fall cannot prove that there is a scarcity of rain-fall all over Hindusthan every year. Let us accept, for the sake of argument, the doctrine of lack of rain-fall all over Hindusthan. It is a well known fact that the admirers of British rule in Hindusthan boast of the splendid irrigation work done in the country. But now the question comes, if the British government in Hindusthan has really done what she ought to have done in respect of irrigation and agricultural development of the country, then how is it that the splendid irrigation cannot make up the need of water supply for cultivating lands when rain-fall is not sufficient?

The British government in certain provinces, especially in the Punjab, has done some irrigation work, but it is not sufficient, and has not been done to improve the condition of the agricultural people, but with the motive of robbing the poor peasants of Hindusthan, the poorest people on the face of the earth, by imposing fresh and heavy taxes.

I beg to quote a few lines to prove the dangerous motive of the British government about the so-called benevolent irrigation work:

"The capital of seven millions sterling invested in the Punjab canals yielded in 1906-1907 the large net profit of 10½ per cent., whilst in the case of the Chenab canal it rose to the extraordinary and unhealthy figures of nearly 22 per cent. It was in the Chenab colonies that the bitterest discontent existed."—The Causes of the Present Discontent in India, by C. J. O'Donnell, M. P., page 98.

Irrigation tax is an unbearably heavy one as it has been well proved by the riot of 1907 in the Punjab, when the peace-loving peasantry revolted against the re-assessment of the heavy irrigation tax.

What is the true cause of famine in Hindusthan is the question, and to answer it I should say that the poverty of the Indian peasantry, which is 85 per cent of the total population, is the true and only cause. And this poverty is created by the British government by her unjust and merciless taxation, willful destruction of native industries, exorbitant military expenditure and many other mechanical processes of draining away an incalculably large sum of money from our beloved mother country every year without giving back a cent in return.

"The government assessment does not leave enough food to the cultivator to support himself and his family throughout the year."—Sir William Hunter, K. C. S. I., the Historian of India, in the Viceroy's Council, 1883.

"There is no more pathetic figure in the British Empire, than the Indian peasant. His masters have ever been unjust to him. He is ground until everything has been expressed, except the marrow of his bones."—Mr. Herbert Compton in Indian Life, 1904.

We will discuss in detail the questions of taxation, destruction of native industries and other

measures adopted by the British government to drain away the vast resources of Hindusthan, in our future issues. The famine, the terrible dragon, is most shocking in case of Hindusthan, where millions of people do not know from the beginning to the end of the year what is a full meal.

"The number of human beings in India who subsist in perennial hunger, usually on one meal a day, was estimated a few years ago by the Pioneer at one hundred millions."—The Causes of Present Discontent in India, page 104.

Is there any remedy for this inhuman massacre of God's created beings by the so-called followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, the teacher of the sublime doctrine of Liberty, Equality and Humanity, under the garb of civilization? The reply and sympathetic response comes in the voice of "raise a famine relief fund." Again the question comes, Will that be sufficient and permanent? No! No famine relief fund will ever be able to stop this massacre and will be of no permanent good. The British government in Hindusthan every year shows the mockery of famine relief very benevolently, but the next year famine comes again with greater force than ever. When the disease is in the internal organs no external application of medicine will sufficiently and successfully serve the purpose. To stop famines in Hindusthan we have to stop the draining of the wealth of the country by the British government and her commercial policy. This can only be done by taking the reins of the government of our own country in our hands. Self-government of Hindusthan is the only remedy for famines in Hindusthan where mortality by famines during the last twenty-five years surpassed over ten times the mortality of all the bloody battles of the world during the last hundred years.

Dear brothers of Hindusthan, for the sake of humanity, let us be united together and exert our best energies to get Swaraj (absolute self-government). And to recover this glorious right from a bureaucratic foreign power we have to prove our worthiness by overcoming immense and unsurmountable difficulties. Sacrifice will be the only genuine test to justify our sincere desire and effort to serve the cause of the country and the humanity. Progress will be the path, and education will clear the way. Take the banner of absolute self-government in the right hand and the doctrine of free, universal and compulsory education, which is a dream in Hindusthan under the British rule, in the other and proceed calmly but firmly and stubbornly, and success is at our hand.

We are grateful to the people of the United States and other countries who tried to rescue the famine-stricken people of Hindusthan by sending all kinds of aid. We tell them again that no famine relief fund will ever be sufficient to stop the calamity until the people of Hindusthan get Self-government. We beg sympathy and aid of men and women of noble feeling in all countries to help us in our cause. They can help us better by adopting measures to spread practical and scientific education on national lines and under national control in Hindusthan than by raising famine relief funds. They can really help the cause of humanity by maintaining a few energetic independent-spirited and well-educated students of Hindusthan in the western countries so that they can get thorough practical and scientific education which they will properly utilize and spread when they return to Hindusthan.

Prof. Edward T. Mathes, Ph. D., principal of the State Normal School at Bellingham, is a good friend of India. His practical sympathy is suffi-

cient proof of it and we are indebted to him for his kind services. He is taking care of one Hindu student in his institution. He expressed his desire and capacity to help a few more Hindu students in different institutions. The students must be of good moral character and bearing recommendations from respectable and reliable parties. Recommendations from nationalist leaders of Hindusthan will be preferred. Students desiring to avail themselves of the opportunity may communicate with him.

THE RUSSIAN MEASURES IN HINDUSTHAN.

What is patriotism for a free nation is treason for a subject one. What is preaching of the sublime doctrine of the sacred rights of man in a free country is seditious in a subjugated one.

To-day freedom of speech, one of the emblems of glory of the British Constitution, ceases to exist in Hindusthan. To-day in Hindusthan no man can speak out openly to his countrymen what will be truly beneficial to them. No newspaper can declare its views on any subject which may be displeasing to bureaucracy and foster the public feeling of the masses of Hindusthan.

During the last few months over a dozen editors and printers have been sentenced to hard labor, some of them for five years, for expressing the noble views of our national aspirations. Recently the printer of the Jugantor, a weekly paper published in Calcutta, has been sentenced for printing seditious articles, to two years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1,000 (£66) or in default to undergo another six months similar imprisonment. The Chief Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta has sentenced printers of two daily papers of the city, Navasakti and Sandhya respectively, to six months and two years imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1,000 (£66) for publishing seditious articles.

This is the fourth time four different printers of the Jugantor have been sentenced for the above mentioned offence within a year. The editor of the Jugantor, the younger brother of the late revered Swami Vivekanda, the Hindu Saint, who represented Hinduism (Vedanta) in the Parliament of Religion of 1897 at Chicago, is now in prison.

As one goes to prison others come eagerly forward to occupy the vacant place, being fully conscious of the duty toward the cause of the mother country.

"The editor of the Sandhya was a Catholic and for a time a missionary of that faith. He recently died in prison."

The repressive measures adopted by the British government in Hindusthan to curb the national aspiration of the people is daily revolutionizing the people. The civilized world hates the Russian measures, but it is really unknown to the world that the British government has adopted measures in Hindusthan in no way inferior to those of the Russian bureaucracy.

TO THE FOLLOWERS OF BANDE MATARAM.

Our long contemplated idea of starting a paper from the North American continent has now become successful after strenuous efforts. Now it is upon you that the future existence and success of the paper depends, which will serve as a medium to exchange our thoughts and as an organ to represent true conditions of Hindusthan to the civilized world.

We earnestly solicit your literary and pecuniary aid. The income from the paper will be spent for the permanent good of Hindusthan.

A DEPARTED SOUL.

We are extremely sorry at the untimely death of Wallabh Hira, a young patriot, native of Ahmadabad, Hindusthan, residing in New York. The funeral ceremony of the departed was held in the chapel of the Fresh Pond Crematorium on March 7th, and was of a unique nature, prophetic of United Hindusthan. Representatives of the world's great religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Mohamedanism, Christianity and Behaism were present on the solemn occasion. The services were conducted by Swami Paramanda of New York Vedanta Society, Mr. P. N. Dutt, a Hindu from Bengal, and Secretary of the Hindusthani Association of New York, Professor Barkatulla, a Mohamedan from Bhopal, Hindusthan, The Rev. John M. Scott, a Unitarian minister, Mr. S. L. Joshi, M. A., a native Christian of Bombay and secretary of the Pan Aryan Association, Mr. Nasserwanji Panthaky, a representative of Zoroastrian faith and Mr. B. B. Sircar, a representative of Bramho Samaj of Calcutta.

Peace be unto the departed soul!

A LESSON FROM THE GERMAN REVOLUTION OF 1849.

The German revolution of 1849 was an unsuccessful attempt, but it has left many glaring lessons for posterity and workers in the cause of humanity. We will cite one of them, and it may help to guide the leaders of the Indian National Congress in their idea of organization. In Baden, during the first part of the Revolution, the governing power was vested in the State Committee composed of representatives of the people, which may be very well compared with our National Congress. The first business transacted by the representative body was to form a regular form of government with these few departments: (1) Department of Finance, (2) Department of Justice and Public Peace, (3) Department of War, (4) Department of Interior. The Department of Foreign affairs was united with the Department of Interior.

Our National Congress, if it wants regeneration of our country, must be divided into several departments containing responsible members who will work incessantly all the year. We need the above mentioned departments in our Congress, but we don't need any Department of War. The Department of National Education can very well take its place. We need some more departments and they are, Department of Commerce, to promote our industries and commerce; Department of Public Health and Sanitation, to preserve our national health, and the vitally important Department of Agriculture.

We earnestly hope that our national leaders will re-organize our National Congress on national lines and under national control to gain our national aspiration of Swaraj (absolute self-government).

OUR GRATITUDE TO THE GAELIC-AMERICAN.

Nothing will ever be sufficient to repay the services done to the cause of Hindusthan by the esteemed weekly paper, the Gaelic-American, of New York, devoted to the cause of Irish independence, Irish literature and the interests of the Irish race, published from No. 12 Dutch street, New York City.

We beg to express our sincere gratitude to the authorities of the paper, especially to Mr. Geo. Freeman, for their untiring and unselfish works. They have been representing the cause of Hindusthan for years in the United States, advocating

against the British tyranny. The British government has recently stopped the circulation of the paper in Hindusthan, fearing that the doctrine preached by the paper may stir up a national feeling there. Tyrants are always cowards.

Hindusthan is indebted to Arthur Crosby, D. D., head master of Mount Tamalpais Military Academy, for kindly giving three Hindu students a chance of working their way in his institution. We beg to thank Dr. Crosby, the commandant of the academy, and other members of the faculty on behalf of Hindusthan for their kind care and sympathy towards the Hindu students.

AN IDEA OF RELIGION.

"Superstition is a great enemy of man but bigotry is worse." If anybody dreams of the exclusive survival of his own religion and the destruction of the others, I point out to him that upon the banner of every religion will soon be written, in spite of their resistance: "Help and not fight; assimilation and not destruction; harmony and peace and not dissension."—Swami Vivekananda, Chicago Parliament of Religion, page 20.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH.

"Government should be directed by the people through their representatives, and it is better for a nation to make mistakes in the course of self-government than to be ruled, be it ever so wisely, by an irresponsible monarch."—Henry More Stephens' Revolutionary Europe.

GENEROSITY OF YOUNG PRINCE.

We congratulate the young Maharaja of Patiala for his generous donation of Rs. 5,000 (£333) from his private purse for the education of orphans in the Punjab. The young Maharaja is yet a minor and has no control over the revenues of his state. We hope that the prince will do more for the good of the country when he attains his majority. We ask the native chiefs of Hindusthan to follow the praiseworthy example of the young prince and to help the National Council of Education established at Calcutta. Mass education on national lines and under national control is one of the most important things necessary for our national regeneration.

THE FREE HINDUSTHAN FUND.

We have started the Free Hindusthan Fund. Its object is to collect money to defray the expense of publishing the paper, The Free Hindusthan, and to aid all of our affairs of national importance. We beg to acknowledge the receipt of the following donations:

Receipts.

Taraknath Das, Vancouver	\$15.00
Hindusthani student's of Corvallis Agricultural College, Oregon	5.00
Sj—Navi Rani, a Hindu student, Bellingham	5.00
Sj—Bishan Das, Vancouver	10.00

Total \$35.00

Expenditure.

Cost of publishing two previous pamphlets and postage	\$15.00
Balance	\$20.00