

A REBUKE TO "PANJABEE"

Editor THE GAELIC AMERICAN

I was extremely sorry to read the "Indian reproof" published in your paper and felt myself bound as an Indian to protest against the monstrous and foolish tone that the article from the *Panjabee* of Lahore seems to have assumed.

To begin with, the editor has fallen foul of those who have the courage and energy to "cross the rubicon". Cowards who have neither the courage nor the will are at liberty to desist from the adventure. But they add folly to cowardice's when they have the audacity to censure Crass for "crossing the rubicon" in the heart of his real.

The editor then goes on to say, "We have not the slightest doubt in the honesty and good faith of the Government in their attempts to root out the plague." Is he not aware of the fact that the plague, as the famine, is the direct result of the poverty and the wretched state of life that the people of that vast country are reduced to lead, owing to the inhuman policy of the foreign oppressors? Does he not contradict himself when he says that the plague claims an extraordinarily large number of victims owing to the insanitary conditions in which the masses live and also the want of vitality to resist. I ask him what honesty and good faith his best foreign government has shown to remove the unsanitary condition of the masses who are the poorest in the world? And what is the cause of the loss of vitality to resist but the political slavery for which the foreigners are directly responsible. Beyond finding in the plague a new excuse to rob India of her money and means, the Government has done nothing, nor any sane man can expect a foreign power to do anything to save the conquered race.

But to the eternal shame of the Indian press and platform the editor of the *Panjabee* proclaims in a solemn voice that "the people of the country has not yet lost all faith in the righteousness of the Government." This abominable statement in the name of a whole nation is either insultingly false or extremely foolish. Can he declare, in the name of God, or in the name of Humanity at large, that he has not lost all faith in the righteousness of the foreign government? If he cannot, then he must have deliberately undertaken to misrepresent three hundred millions of people. And he has renounced the claim to be an honest and true representative of the Indian nation. But if he declares that he was honest in voicing forth his sentiment, then he is extremely foolish and deserves not to edit a paper that is naturally looked down upon as the mouthpiece of the

nation by foreign sympathizers. The yoke of slavery that is tightened on the Indian neck, is it the righteousness that the editor is speaking of ? or the educational policy ? or the English kick which daily bashes the slaves head ? Or the taxes or the drainages of thirty crores of rupees ? or the partition of Bengal and the regime of Fuller Khan, or the practical sanction of the atrocity by the Secretary of State, John Morley ?

Where does he find the righteousness he is so confidently referring to ? How is it that the leaders have lost their manhood ? It is slaves that are the results of continued and “ faithful ” slavery and not men.

If, O Indian editors and leaders, if you have not the boldness to assert the truth, better keep silent on such points but do not undertake to commit the atrocious crime of misreading your nation’s ambitions and ideals. By such slavish and detestable pronouncements you degrade yourselves in the eyes of all honest nations and can command no sympathy from the Irish or the Americans or the Japanese.

Yours truly,

VINAYAK

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