

otherwise be respected and dreaded, is disregarded and discredited, and being confounded with the mass of indiscriminate abuse, loses its due effect.

I entirely concur with you in the desire which you entertain, that if at any time actual danger to the State should render necessary temporary or local restraints on the liberty of the press, the precautions applied by the Legislature may be only commensurate to the real exigency, and that no restrictions may be made permanent beyond those which are necessary to ensure responsibility; and I trust that all legislation, with a view to protect the community against licentiousness, will be in the true spirit of liberty.

I am sensible of your kindness in the wish which you have expressed that I may remain in my present office long enough to take a part in passing the proposed measure into a law. For two reasons I entertain the same wish. I am naturally desirous of having a share in the completion of a law which will, I trust, conduce to the welfare of India and mankind. I am also anxious to relieve the Governor-General elect from the responsibility of a measure regarding which long experience in India enables me to proceed without hesitation. On the other hand, there is a consideration which will more than reconcile me to the transfer of this duty to the hands of the distinguished nobleman appointed to this office. Fully believing that all the prepossessions of a British statesman, and especially of one who has witnessed the inferiority of countries where the press is enslaved, compared with his own, where it is free, must be in favour of the liberty of the press, I shall rejoice at his having an opportunity of commencing his administration with an act which will at once establish a good understanding and a cordial feeling between the head of the Government and the community over which he is to preside.

C. T. METCALFE.

THE PLAGUE AT PAHLI.

(Page 180.)

“The spread of the plague on the western frontier has excited much alarm even at this Presidency. The *Hurkaru*