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High Government Officials

ON

ARYA SAMAJ & ITS

मन्दिर पृ. 3778

पु. अग्रिम कर्मांक

आर्य समाज महिला महाविद्यालय, कुरुक्षेत्र

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LORD & LADY CHELMSFORD (in the centre).
MAHATMA MUNSHI RAM (on their right) AND SIR JAMES MESTON (on their right)

विषय

आर्यम्

दिनांक

·COMPILER'S NOTE.

When the Arya Samaj began its work, it thought that it should do its work of education and philanthropy, of social reform and individual betterment, of moral uplift and of spiritual emancipation, silently and without frequent and needless intrusions on the time or purse of the Government; that is bound by a policy of strict religious neutrality.

But this attitude of the Samaj was woefully misconstrued, and it was charged with keeping aloof from the official world, and the opportunity was taken by members of various religious communities who did not see eye to eye with it on account of its religious propaganda which it carried on vigorously and fearlessly, to poison the ears of the officials.

It caused official suspicion towards the Samaj; and culminated in persecution of its members in the unfortunate year of 1907, the year of the deportation of Lala Lajpat Rai, a distinguished member of the Samaj and in the following years

The Arya Samaj received a rude shock and found to its dismay and cost that it had pursued a harmful policy.

Its members and workers tried to defend it; and a pamphlet called "The Arya Samaj, a Political Body" was published early in 1909 in the form of letters to Lord Morly, the then Secretary of State for India. To that, Mahatma Munshi Ram, an honoured leader of the Arya Samaj, contributed a foreword. It set forth a reasonable defence of the Arya Samaj; and was followed by a more famous and detailed work on the subject, "The Arya Samaj and its Detractors, a Vindication," from the joint pen of Mahatma Munshi Ram himself and the able editor of the Vedic Magazine, Professor Rama Deva.

The efforts of the servants of Vedic Dharama contributed to some extent in clearing the horizon; but it still remained over-clouded, until Sir James Meston appeared on the scene. He assumed the Lieutenant-Governorship of the United Provinces in September of 1912; and leaving aside the official views of the work of the Arya Samaj His Honor took steps to acquaint himself personally with the inner meaning of its work and propaganda.

The first act of His Honour was to pay a visit to a great and favourite institution of the Samaj, the Gurukula at Kangri (near Hardwar). His Honour was favourably impressed with what he saw and made the first official speech on the work of the Arya Samaj.

Soon after, at Nainital, on the 12th. May 1913, Sir James Meston "granted prolonged interviews to Pandit Tulsiram Swami, President and Mr. Madan Mohan Seth, Secretary of the Arya Representative Assembly, U. P.....
.....His Honour was most favourably inclined towards the Arya Samaj." *

This was followed by His Honour's visit to the Gurukula at Brindaban, another institution started by the Samaj to revive the ancient system of Brahmcharya and of Vedic Learning combined with everything that is best in the modern system of education. There, on the 8th. August 1913, Sir James Meston laid the foundation-stone of the School buildings.

Since then His Honour has been pleased to pay visits to various institutions of the Arya Samaj scattered all over the provinces. Sir James

* The Leader Allahabad, May 18, 1913.

Meston's good example has been followed by Sir Micheal O'Dowyer, Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab; who paid his first visit to the great Women's College of the Arya Samaj at Julundhar; and then to other institutions in the Punjab.

These official expressions of sympathy and goodwill are now sealed by the gracious visit of His Excellency Lord Chelmsford to the Gurukula at Kangri in October, 1916.

The present brochure is an attempt to collect the speeches and remarks made by high and responsible officers of Government during their visits to the institutions of the Arya Samaj. It contains only those made by the heads of the Governments or other high officials of that rank. Exigencies of space have rendered the exclusion of many appreciative utterances even of the heads of Departments.

For instance, those of the Hon'ble Mr. C. F. de la Fosse, the Director of Public Instruction in the United Provinces who made a characteristically sympathetic speech on the 7th. December, 1916, while presideing over the Prize Distribution Ceremony of the Dayanand Anglo-Vedic School

at Allahabad. After a few introductory words Mr. de la Fosse observed :—“They had listened that day to a report of progress in 3 years which he thought was remarkable and almost, at any rate in his experience, unique. That was due, they must not forget, to the earnest efforts of some young men whose names were not even now recorded. No better example of social service had come under his notice. Their friends who were upon the committee and they produced a School which was sure of a long and successful career. The Arya Samaj was peculiarly fortunate in always being able to obtain the services of earnest and enthusiastic workers. In this School itself they had secured teachers on salaries which were as compared with the salaries received in other Schools, undoubtedly low and yet they put into their work their full earnestness. The committee spoke very modestly in the report of its services but they knew that a building such as that and a work such as that could not be done without money and so they should not find it hard to satisfy themselves as to where that money came from. It was sometimes said that directors of public instruction were narrow-minded and so perverse as to be unwilling to en-

courage new enterprises unless they had already reached a high standard of efficiency. That at any rate, he might assure them, had not been his guiding principle. He had always felt that time must be given to new institutions to establish themselves, and he had also been very anxious to see more Schools started because to him at any rate this conviction was strong that they could not have too many educated men in any country in the world. (Hear, hear and applause.) Therefore in going there that day he need, he thought make no apology to them for going to a School which was only just on its way to establishment.

Turning to the report, the speaker proceeded, he was sure they would agree with him that the report itself was an admirable piece of work. It gave them a clear and interesting account of the history and the progress of the School and it told them just what they wanted to know about the moral atmosphere which it was the aim of the committee to secure. He could not help reading to them again those words in the report which struck him very forcibly :—

‘The distinguishing feature of the School is the imparting of religious and moral education.

Our ideal is to produce a young man who is thoroughly efficient and useful, who loves his country and is loyal to the Government. We seek to encourage a reverent study of our ancient literature and mould the life of our young men on the lines of our ancient Rishis. In short, we seek in our education the combination of all that is best in the civilisations of the East and the West. The ideal may be, at present, out of our reach but we assure the public that we shall act on the motto "Awake, arise and stop not till the goal is reached."

Those words, he thought sufficiently characterised the general aims of the Arya Samaj, and he saw they had an instance there of their application. Broad-minded in its outlook and at the same time realising that education was not merely a question of book knowledge but that much depended upon the philosophy, if he might so use the word, which underlay it, the Arya Samaj had a clear aim in view, and so when it set out it was not in want of a philosophy. In the sentences which he had just read to them they had the Samaj's aim and their philosophy. It was an aim and a philosophy with which they must all sym-

pathise whatever their views might be. He wished the school long life and prosperity and that the admirable tone with which it is started might be permanently maintained. (Applause.)*

Here it may be mentioned though that official appreciation has been fuller in measure during the recent years, particularly from the time when Sir James Meston took the initiative in the matter; it had not been altogether absent in former years.

Thus in the Punjab Education Report for 1887-88, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab was pleased to make the following remarks as regards the first and the grandest educational institution of the Samaj on modern university lines, at a time when it was still in its infancy:—

“A remarkable success has attended private educational effort in the case of the Dayanand Anglo-Vedic School and College at Lahore. Again in the report for 1889-90, His Honor was pleased to observe: “The Lieutenant-Governor would be glad to see the spirit of interest in educational progress further encouraged in the case of various classes of the community and indivi-

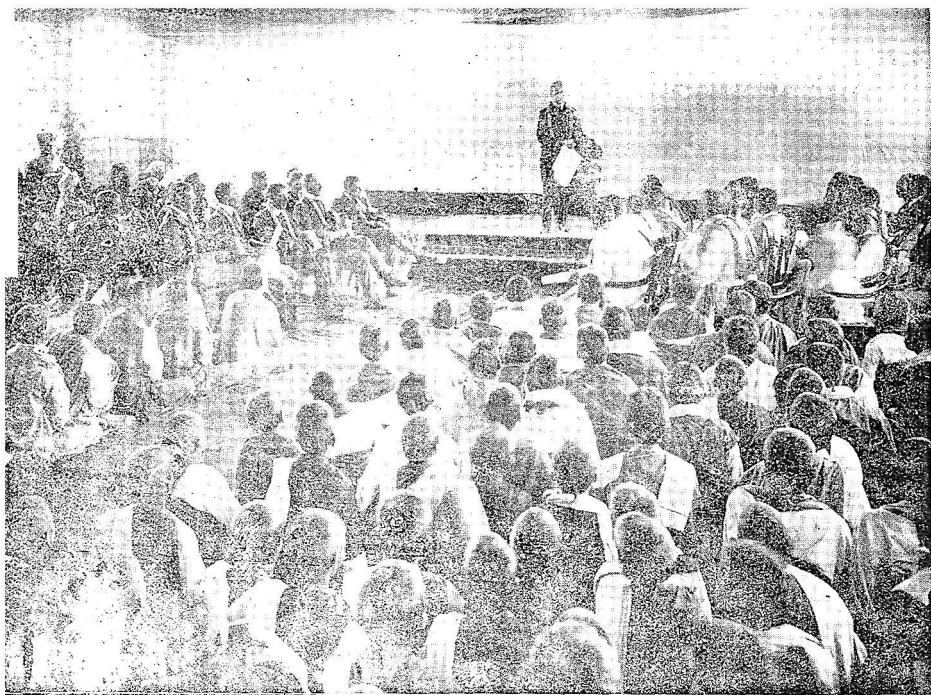
* The Leader, Allāhabad, December 10, 1916.

duals. What can be done in this way is shown by the establishment by the Arya Samaj of the Dayanand Anglo-Vedic School and College at Lahore." *

These prefatory remarks ought to suffice since we have no desire to detain the reader longer than we have felt absolutely necessary.

JHANSI, U. P. }
The New Year's Day, 1917. } M. M. SETH.

"The Growth and Development of the D. A. V. College during the last 25 years. " Dated 15th. April, 1911, by Rai Bahadur Lala Lal Chand, M. A.



SIR JAMES MESTON,
REPLYING TO THE ADDRESS AT THE GURUKULA, KANGRI.

Gurukula, Kangri (Hardwar, U. P.)

His Honor Sir James Meston, accompanied by Mr. Burn, Chief Secretary, Collectors of Saharanpur and Bijnor, Mr. Hobart, and various other high officials visited the Gurukula Kangri, near Hardwar (on the opposite bank of the Ganges) maintained by the Arya Representative Assembly of the Punjab Arya Samajes, on Friday, the 6th. of March, 1913. The institution presented a gay and festive appearance. Triumphal arches were erected and the College, the School and the Boarding House were profusely decorated with Veda Mantras, Slokas from ancient Sanskrit classics, evergreens, buntings, mottoes in Sanskrit and English, flags bearing the sacred symbol *Om* and Union Jacks. His Honour and party were received at the principal gate by Mahatma Munshi Ram, the Governor, Mr. Madan Mohan Seth, Secretary, U. P. Pratinidhi Sabha, and the College staff and were garlanded. On alighting from the elephant His Honour was greeted with tremendous cheering from the yellow-robed Brahmacharies who lined both sides of the route and presented a magnificent and picturesque appearance. His Honour inspected the College, the School and the Ashramas and evinced much interest in the experiment being successfully tried in the Gurukula of imparting instruction

in the higher branches of Chemistry, Economics, Mathematics and Botany through the medium of the mother-tongue (Arya Bhasha). His Honour watched the boys in the chemical laboratory doing practical work in Chemistry. The Science students had specially electroplated a copper plate with gold for presentation to Lady Meston. His Honour graciously accepted the present on behalf of Lady Meston. He also carefully inspected the classes of Mathematics, Botany, Economics and Kindergarten and saw the professors and students at work. He was immensely pleased and favourably impressed with all he saw. After His Honour and party had partaken of refreshments consisting of fruits, Indian sweetmeats, Pakoras and some other Indian dishes, and a sweet pleasant and refreshing decoction prepared out of the leaves of the sacred "Tulsi" plant, they adjourned to the reception pandal where an address of welcome was presented to His Honour. The address was in Sanskrit and was artistically written on art paper by the calligraphy expert, Pandit Gaurishankar Bhatta, of the Gurukula staff.

It was enclosed in a casket exhibiting artistic swadeshi engraving work in ivory.

The address of welcome emphasized the fact that the main object of the Gurukula was to produce true

Brahmans who would lead a life of honourable and voluntary poverty and devote themselves to the service of humanity. It was also in contemplation to start Ayurvedic classes. His Honour was fitly compared to the Rajarishis of ancient India who deemed it a privilege to visit seats of learning.

His Honour's reply was most gracious and sympathetic. The following is the substance of His Honour's speech :—

“Mr. Munshi Ram, professors and students of the Gurukula, I regret my inability to answer you in the same language in which the address was couched; but whatever the language, what I have to say will be short, for the shades of evening are closing in and I must reach my temporary home in Hardwar. I must express my most warm thanks for cordiality of the invitation, reception and hospitality. While at Hardwar I proposed myself a visit to the Gurukula for various reasons.

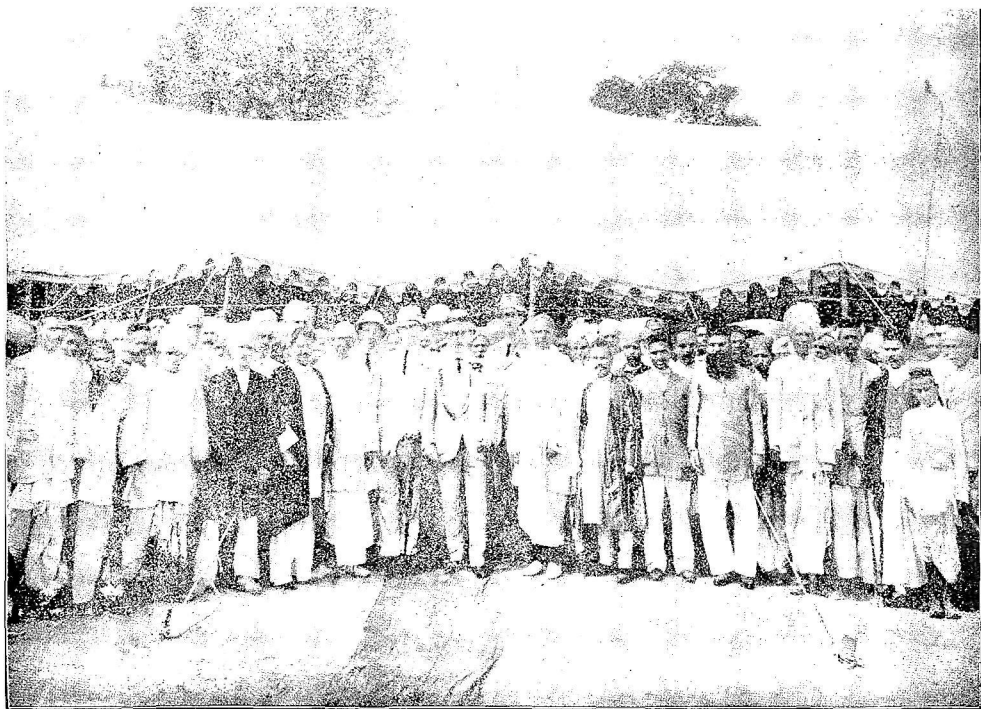
The Gurukula is one of the most original and interesting experiments carried on in these provinces, in fact in the whole of India. It is one of the loveliest places in these Provinces.

Again I wanted to meet the community which had been described in official papers as a source

of infinite trouble and unknown dangers (Laughter). The best answer to this was to come myself (Loud cheers). I have been more than rewarded by visiting one of the most wonderful, interesting, and stimulating institutions. Here we have a band of ascetics devoted to their duty, and working in the wilderness following the traditions of the ancient Rishis combined with the most modern scientific method and working practically for nothing, and a set of students of strong physique, obedient, loyal, truthful, and devoted, extra-ordinarily happy and extra-ordinarily well-fed. One thing, that I have noticed there is that while in our Schools and Colleges unfortunately, I am sorry to say, one out of three boys have spectacles, here we have one in twenty.

I will not talk of the political aspect of the question where politics are unknown. If I have further enquiries or suggestions to make, I will have private consultation with your respected Governor who has kindly promised me the pleasure of a visit at Lucknow next month. I have nothing more to say. I thank you once more for your genuine and unaffected reception and hospitality.*

Vedic Magazine, Gurukula-Kangri, Vol., III, 10 and 11—Chaitra and Baisakh 1970 B. E. and *The Leader*, Allahabad, Sunday the 9th. March, 1913.



SIR JAMES MESTON (in the centre)
AFTER LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE GURUKULA, BRINDABAN.

Gurukula Brindaban (U. P.)

Sir James Meston, accompanied by Mr. Burn, Chief Secretary, Mr. Woods, Chief Engineer, Private Secretary to the Government, the Collector of Muttra and various other high officials visited, on the 8th. of August, 1913, the Brindaban (Muttra) Gurukula, maintained by the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of the U. P. Arya Samajes. The Kula presented a galla appearance. His Honour and party was received at the gate by the late Pandit Tulsi Ram, President of the Sabha, M. Narain Prasada, Governor the Gurukula, the Secretary and other members of the Executive Council.

As His Honour alighted from his elephant, he received a great ovation from the yellow-robed Bramcharies who lined His Honour's route from the gate to the beautiful *shamiana* that was packed by noted Arya Samajists from various parts of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh and by the elite of the Muttra District including representatives of the orthodox community. He was presented with an address to which he kindly made the following reply. After this he laid the foundation stone of the school building. The building has since been completed and is a standing monument of

Sir James' interest in the educational work of the Arya Samaj.

His Honour's reply ran as follows :—

“Gurus and Brahmacharis of the Brindaban Gurukula, I offer you my grateful thanks for inviting me to come here and for welcoming me in the terms you have used, particularly in the touching prayer at the end of your address. I come, here, I assure you, in no spirit of curiosity, and certainly in no spirit of criticism but with feelings of genuine sympathy with the great social and spiritual movement in which you are taking so prominent a part. Among many and almost bewildering varieties of what has well been described as Hindu Protestantism, there is none which has more captivated my fancy from my earliest years than the Arya Samaj. For a long time it was impossible for me to get into touch with the Samaj and for that there were many reasons some of them good and some indifferent. One of these undoubtedly was the atmosphere of official suspicion which gathered round the Samaj in the early days.

Another was the undisguised antagonism with other creeds which was generated in the early propaganda of your body and perhaps you will pardon

me for saying that another was the unwisdom of the speeches and writings of some of your nominal followers. All these and certain other causes contributed to certain aloofness from which, I confess, I was not exempt but coming back to these Provinces with a somewhat wider knowledge of the real aim and objects of your creed and your propaganda I was anxious to see for myself if that aloofness was justified.

I accordingly took a very early opportunity of visiting your parent institution, the great Gurukula at Kangri, and subsequently making the acquaintance of a good many of your leaders and your friends. This brought me into contact with Mahatma Munshi Ram and I am sure that his modesty would be a sufficient reason for causing me to refrain from expressing the opinion I have formed of that remarkable man, but this much I can say with safety and with due regard for his feelings that it is impossible to be a minute in his society without seeing the sincerity of his spirit and the loftiness of his aims. Unfortunately we cannot all be Munshi Rama and even the Arya Samaj has black sheep in its fold. You are exposed to very special temptations which arise from the constitution of your institutions, but these are constantly in your minds and your precau-

tions against them are, I am sure, complete. There are also certain spiritual temptations to which you are peculiarly exposed. I mean the unintentional arrogance, if I may use the word, of a new creed, of new discoveries, of new ambitions and of new ideals when brought into contact with older fashions and opinions of the world and when they run up against the creeds of a conservative character which have been holding their own without fear, antagonism or criticism for so many centuries as they have been doing in this country. But Gurus and Brahmacharies, unless I greatly misjudge you, you have in your creeds, in your mission, in your spirit, true power, charity and moderation, and it is in the belief that this power will prevail over the powers of darkness that I am here to-day to open your Gurukula and to invite you to accept this sign of official good-will and friendliness.

I pray you, Gurus, to preach and you, Brahmacharies, to learn and to practice gifts which are common to all true faiths—the gifts of cleanliness and of uprightness in body and in mind and gifts of toleration with the views, with the weakness, and even with the follies of others, of charity with all men and in that charity I would ask you to teach and to learn the

inclusion of friendship and respect for the object and the work of the British Government in this country.

And if I succeed in persuading you and I am sure you require very little persuasion to accept that point of view I can also assure you that you will find in that Government your best and truest friend." *

* The Annual Report of the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha, U. P. for the year 1912—13.

The Arya Girl's College, Jullundhar (Punjab.)

On the morning of the 11th August, 1913, His Honour Sir Michael Francis O'Dowryer, K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, accompanied by the Commissioner, Jullundur Division, the Deputy Commissioner, Jullundur, and several other Civil and Military Officers, visited the Kanya Maha Vidyalaya (the well-known college for girls). His Honour was received at the entrance by the members of the Head Council of the Institution, and the Honorary Lady-Principal Pandita Savitri Devi. The girls welcomed His Honour with *Namaste* and the chanting of the sacred Veda Mantras.

After a song exquisitely rendered by the senior students, Dewan Badri Das, M. A., Pleader, read an address of welcome on behalf of the Head Council. The address, after welcoming His Honour, naturally referred to the part Jullunder had taken in the field of female education. The address went on to refer to the history of the progress made by the Jullunder institution until now ; it had 400 pupils on the rolls, 200 of them being resident scholars. It had supplied about 90 teachers to outside schools. The address closed with a reference to the paucity of funds but for which the Vidyalaya would have expanded at a more rapid rate.

His Honour, in the course of an appreciation and encouraging reply said that it was a great privilege to visit the institution which had rendered an incalculable service to the cause of female education in the Punjab. He was glad to find that the institution had flourished in every respect, and he advised other communities to follow the noble example set by the workers of that institution. The success of the Vidyalaya, said His Honour, might be judged from the fact that the first lady to graduate in the Shastri Examination in the Province was a student of this institution. This progress, added His Honour, reflected great credit on the Head Council of the Vidyalaya and that success was a sufficient reward of their efforts. His Honour assured the committee that he would always be glad to assist them in any way. At the end His Honour wished the Vidyalaya and the Committee further success and advised other communities to follow this model institution.

While leaving, His Honour, shook hands with Pandita Savitri Devi, the Honorary Principal of the Vidyalaya, and praised her for the great sacrifice she had made and wished her every success in her noble mission. His Honour donated Rs. 200 from his purse for sweatmeats to be distributed among the

girl. His Honour also inspected the new buildings and approved the design.

His Honour, also made a reference to the Kanya Maha Vidyalaya, while replying to the address presented to His Honour by the Qaisar-i-Hind Club and said that Jullundur was not a historical place, but the Vidyalaya had made it known throughout the length and breadth of the country. *

His Honour, Sir, Michael Francis O'Dwoyer K. C. S. I., Lieutenant Governor of the Panjab paid his second visit to the Kanya Maha Vidyalaya of Jullundur on Wednesday, the 29th. of October, 1914. His Honour went round the Boarding House, the widow's Home and the Orphanage, and was highly pleased to see the improvements made since his last year's visit. His Honour Sir Michael Francis O'Devyer spoke very encouraging words to Pandita Savitri Devi, Honorary Principal, and gave rupees one hundred to the girls for sweetmeats.

* The Tribune, Lahore, the 13th. August, 1913.

**The Dayanand Anglo-Vedic High School,
Dehra Dun, (U. P.)**

His Honour Sir James Meston paid a visit to the D. A. V. High School, Dehra Dun, on Wednesday, the 26th. of April, 1916, in connection with the laying of the foundation stone of the new buildings. The institution presented a gay and festive appearance. Triumphant arches were erected and the school and the boarding houses were profusely decorated with Veda mantras, slokas from ancient Sanskrit classics, buntings, mottoes in Sanskrit and English and Union jacks. On alighting from his car his Honour was received by the members of the D. A. V. College Trust Management Society and the headmaster. The passage to the pandal was lined on both sides by scholars of the D. A. V. High School, who looked very smart in their beautiful new uniforms and presented a magnificent and picturesque appearance. As his Honour passed along, the scholars saluted him. At a little distance from the pandal the Gurkha band, kindly lent by the officer commanding, was in attendance and saluted his Honour with a most charming tune. When his Honour reached the gate of the pandal,

which was specially erected for the occasion and most tastefully decorated with mottoes, buntings and Vedic texts, the whole audience stood up to do honour to Sir James Meston. The pandal was full to overflowing. The headmaster of the local Mission High School with staff and most of the scholars was present. The Rev. Dr. Fife, Principal of the Mission School, too, graced the meeting with his presence. The raises and gentry of the town and the district mustered strong to welcome his Honour. All the Government departments, the Survey of the Government of India, the Railway, the Police, the Forest and the Military, were all fully represented. After his Honour had taken his seat on a silver chair on the dais under a velvet canopy, embroidered in threads of gold, a batch of three boys of the school stood up and recited Veda Mantras in honour of the occasion followed by another, who recited some verses in Hindi welcoming his Honour to the school and praying for victory to the British Arms in the world-wide struggle in which Great Britain is fighting for liberty, freedom and justice. At its conclusion the President of Trust Society, Hon'ble Rai Shankar Sahai Sahib of Jhansi read the address. When the address was read, the Hon. Rai Anand Swarup Bahadur of Cawnpur, Secretary, D. A. V.

College Trust and Management Society presented the address in a silver tray. In reply his Honour said that he was very glad to say that the School authorities had kept the invitation open so long for him and that it gave him the greatest pleasure to come and lay the foundation stone of the new buildings of the D. A. V. High School, Dehra Dun. His Honour was also pleased to remark that the Arya Samaj was doing good work in uplifting the lowly and educating the young, and that he had accepted the invitation to be here to wish them God-speed in their further stage of journey, that the School has been doing good service and has shown great sacrifice. His Honour was also pleased to refer to the names of Babu Puran Singh Negi and Babu Jyoti Sarup, raised and Honourary Magistrate, Dehra Dun, whose names were mentioned in the address. In the end His Honour expressed high hopes and wishes for the success of the institution.

His Honour then proceeded to lay the foundation stone, which was done in midst of cheers and chanting of Veda Mantras. Loud 'hip hip hurrahs' in which His Honour also joined reverberated through the pandal. At the conclusion of the ceremony, His Honour was shown over all the buildings and

conducted to the *Raspanah* to see a piece of land close by which will serve the purpose of a playground for the School and also improve the surroundings. His Honour left the School in midst of loud cheers.*

* The Leader, Allahabad, May April, 1916.

The Arya Samaj Orphanage, Barielly (U. P.)

In 1895, Sir Allen Cadell laid the foundation-stone of the buildings of the Arya Samaj Orphanage, Barrielly ; but His Honour's speech, if he delivered one, is not available. However this institution too did not escape the ever kind vigilance of Sir James Meston who paid a visit to it and gave Rs. 25 for sweets to the orphans and made the following remarks in the log book on the 29th. February, 1916. "I visited the Orphanage this morning and was gratified to see the inmates looking so fit and happy. The up-bringing of youngsters seems to be on prudent lines and the steady development of the industrial side of the training is most praiseworthy. I am glad to hear that the members of the Arya Samaj give most liberally to the orphanage and keep it free from financial anxiety. Their generosity could not be better employed. The institution is doing a work of humanity in a spirit of kindness, which commends the entire admiration of us all." Earlier than this there is a record of the visit of Sir Charles H. T. Crosthwaite, Lieutenant-Governor of the then N.-W. P. and Oudh ; and the following letter was addressed by His Honour's Private Secre-

tary, on 26th. October, 1893 : “ His Honour desires me to inform the Committee of the Hindu Orphanage, that he visited that institution on the 24th. instant and was very glad to find the children well and happy and the houses clean and nicely kept. His Honour begs leave to subscribe Rs. 50 to the Orphanage.”

The Arya Samaj Orphanage, Ferozpur (Punjab.)

His Honour Sir Michael O'Dower, Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab visited the Arya Samaj Orphanage, Ferozepore (Punjab) and laid the foundation stone of the widow's Home there. His Honour made the following remarks in the log-book, on the 20th. January, 1915. “It was a great pleasure to me to see something of, this admirable institution during my visit to Ferozepore and lay the foundation-stone of the widow's home which the generosity of a philanthropic lady is providing. The Arya Samaj deserves much credit for what it is doing for the care of the widows and the orphans, and neither Vedic religion nor any other can inculcate higher notions than these. I am glad to learn that Government has provided the excellent site of some 20 acres and that generosity of individuals had erected the

fine block of buildings in which the orphans are located, taught and trained to various professions. I wish the orphanage and the widow's home all success in the sphere of charity and utility."

The Dayanand Orphanage, Agra, U. P.

On the 19th. October, 1916, Sir James Meston paid a visit to the Dayanand Orphanage, Agra, maintained by the Arya Samaj of that place. In reply to the address presented, His Honour said : " I offer my warm and hearty thanks for your address of welcome and the tuneful *Anath-pukar* of the orphans, I need not repeat and impress upon you in theory what you are actually doing indeed. I have come here to see your work and not to deliver any speech. All of you realise the benefit of labour and industry and I need not repeat anything about it to you. I offer my hearty congratulations to you on the well deserved success you have achieved in this institution. Starting from a small beginning it has risen to what it is, being one of the great charities of this city. It is recognised by the Government and will I hope continue to be so recognised. I must also congratulate you on the assistance you have received from your kind Collector, Mr. Ferguson and which I hope will continue to be rendered by him and

his successors. As regards the giving of lease of these premises in a more permanent way no recommendations have yet reached me but I assure you when the papers are placed before me the question will receive my most favourable and sympathetic consideration. After a few hours I am going to Gurukula Kangri, and will see your great leader Mahatma Ram and I will be glad to tell him what progress you have made."

His Honour also indited the following remarks in the logbook: " I had the pleasure of paying a short visit to the Orphanage this morning, being shown over it by the President (Mr. Salig Ram) and the members of the Executive Committee. It seems admirably managed on kindly and common sense lines and I was much struck by the healthy and happy appearance of the orphans. I need not write about the value of this form of practical philanthropy and only say that any reasonable aid which Government can offer will always be at the disposal of the managing body. The whole institution reflects great credit on the Arya Samaj Community and on those great members thereof who spend their leisure in this good work."

Minor Arya Samaj Institutions.

The Dayanand School, Benares.

On the 18th. August, 1913, Sir James Meston took the trouble of going over to the Dayanand School at Benares and laying the foundation stone of its new buildings.* His Honour in reply to the address said that he was sorry he could not reply in the language in which the address was given. His Honour mentioned that he has just performed a similar function at Brindaban for the new Arya Samaj College and that what he had said there was what he would like to say here. But he would not keep them on a hot afternoon while he repeated himself.†

Second Visit to Gurukula Kangri.

On 19th: February 1914, Sir James Meston paid his second visit to the Gurukula Kangri (U. P.) This time, Lady Meston also accompanied him. During his inspection of the Kula, His Honour is reported to have remarked. "This is my ideal of an educational institution."

The visit left behind a very happy impression.

* Unfortunately, the land where His Honour laid the Foundations stone was subsequently pronounced by experts to be unfit for a firm building and hence it was abandoned.

† The Leader, the 17th August, 1913.

Arya Girl's School, Amroha.

The next day, that is on the 20th. February 1914, His Honour and Lady Meston visited the Arya Samaj Girls' School at Amroha (District Moradabad) (U.P.). An address was presented. In reply His Honour said that only the previous day he had inspected their parent institution at Kangri and his sympathies with the movement were wellknown. (*)

His Honour also made a donation of Rs. 25 to the Parthala.

Arya Samaj Library, Kannauj. (U. P.)

His Honour Sir James Meston paid a visit to the Arya Samaj Library, Kannauj (U. P.), and addressed the following few lines on the 9th Dec. 1915, to the Manager :—"On the 7th inst. I paid a brief visit to this Library, which was in excellent order. The idea is an admirable one, and reflects the greatest credit on L. Lakshmi Narayan. I wish it every success."

The Arya Girl's School Naini Tal.

The following is the copy of the letter dated the 2nd. November 1916, sent by His Honour Sir James Meston to the Hony. Manager of the Arya Girls'

Both the accounts appeared in the Leader of Sunday the 22nd. February 1914.

School, maintained by the Arya Samaj, Naini Tal :—

“You have been again so kind as to send me your annual report of the Arya Girls’ School, Naini Tal, and I have read it with sincere interest. It is a record of most admirable work, carried without the assistance of any special endowments; and I congratulate you on the success you have achieved.

With all best wishes to the School and yourself ‘believe me’.

Arya School, Almora.

Sir James Meston paid a visit to the Arya School for depressed classes at Almora, (U. P.) on the 14th. October, 1916. The School was well illuminated and His Honour was conducted to the School by M. Krishna Hari the Manager of the School. His Honour was pleased to make the following remarks :—

“With Mr. Wyndham I visited the School this evening, and saw it at work. It is an admirable effort of genuine philanthropy and deserves every encouragement. I warmly congratulate the managers and all who assist them and will gladly render any help in my power”.

गुरु विरजानन्द टण्डी
मन्दर्भ प्रस
पु पुनिसुहेम के.मि.क. ... 3778

The Viceroy at the Kangri Gurukula, Hardwar
(U. P.)

The visits of the Lieutenant-Governors of the United Provinces and Punjab, the two provinces where the Samaj has already made its head way, were not few and unimportant ; but they were to be topped and over-shadowed by the gracious visit of His Majesty the King-Emperor's noble Viceroy in India accompanied by Her Excellency Lady Chemsford to the great Gurukula at Kangri, on the 21st. of October, 1916.

It is well-known that earlier than this our revered and beloved Ex-Viceroy Lord Hardinge intended to pay a similar visit to this noted Institution of the Arya Samaj ; but unfortunately he was so overwhelmed with private grief caused by sad bereavements and public anxiety produced by the great European War which is still devastating Europe and some portions of other continents ; that His Lordship could not do so.

And thus it was reserved for Lord Chelmsford to pay the coping stone on the policy of sympathy and conciliation initiated by one of the ablest rulers

in India. Even the credit of this visit is, in the main, due to Sir James Meston ; as is clear from its following graphic account taken in extenso from the Vedic Magazine and Gurukula Samachar. (Vol. X, 56—October and November, 1916).

A wonderfully successful visit-indeed, the most interesting event was the Viceregal visit to the young hopefuls at the Gurukula Kangri. For days ahead the Gurukula was the scene of enthusiastic preparations to receive the great honoured guest. Everything was put in ship shape and the surroundings of the Gurukula, beautiful already by the soft-sweet touch of nature, were decorated in a most picturesque manner by the loving labours of the Brahmacharies, anxious to accord a warm welcome to their Viceroy and Vicerene. Two triumphal arches were especially erected for the occasion and tastefully decorated with green leaves and turfs fresh with forest charm. The whole road was lined with flags. "Welcome to Lord Chelmsford, the educationist," "Welcome to Lady Chelmsford", "Loyalty to God", "Loyalty to Government," "Loyalty to Religion" such were some of the mottos artistically interspersed in a setting of green leaves and fresh turfs on the two triumphal arches.

In at the Gurukula.

It was just twelve-midday of the 21st. of October, that our revered Acharya Mahatma Munshi Ram, and the President and members of the Governing body of the Gurukula, a few honoured friends of the Gurukula, the whole of the College staff in yellow *Dupattas*, the Gurukula Sanataks in their light blue academic gowns stood under the inner Triumphal Arch ready to receive and welcome the Viceregal party. From the Arch right upto the garden gate stood the Brahmcharies, the students of the Gurukula, in their beautiful yellow uniform lining both sides of the road ready with flowers to shower on Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Chelmsford, an impressive sight indeed. Just seven minutes later the D. S. P. rode in to announce the coming of the Viceregal party. All eyes were directed to the Triumphal Arch ahead, anxious to catch a glimpse of the honored guests.

Three minutes more and lo the stately elephants are in sight a minute more and clapping, cheering and garlanding all indicate Their Excellences are in at the Gurukula.

The Reception.

“ This Your Excellency is Mr. Ram Krishan President of Arya Pritinidhi Sabha Punjab !’ A hearty handshake, a graceful bow ! ‘ These are the members of the Governing body. That is ‘ Pandit Indra, our Doctor of Sanskrit Literature and those the Gurukula Sanataks five of whom are on the staff. This side the members of the Professorial staff. These the Brahmacharis, the hopefuls.’ A respectful Namaste rings throughout the lines of the yellow garbed Brahmacharies. Their Excellencies and Mahatmaji pass on the Brahmacharis bowing a Namaste and gracefully showering fresh flowers over them as they pass. It was flowers all the way. ‘ I see you have students of different ages’ observes his Excellency. ‘ Yes, sir, we admit only once a year and that too in the children’s class. We take up students at the age of eight and keep them till graduation. ‘ That is a very sound principle’ is the gracious reply. Their Excellencies are at the garden gate now, underneath the big Shamiana. Five young Brahmacharis sweetly sing out in Sanskrit, *The Welcome Song*.

“ Hail ; Thou noble Viceregent of our Illustrious Sovereign. Welcome to this hermitage, this abode of peace, this ambrosial retreat washed by the crystal

waters of the Mother Ganges, covered by the hoary headed snowy summits of the Himalayas, this solitude begirt with the beauty of forest greenery.

Welcome ! Thrice Welcome !

Welcome ! Thou glorious representative of the Mighty Sovereign, so kind to his subjects, he on whose Empire the sun never sets. Welcome to our humble Teachers' Home, that stands to represent learning and righteousness, this Home, glorious in its grand mission to serve all humanity.

May thy gracious visit make this abode of our *Acharya* as charming as is the rarest diamond well set in gold, the laughing lotus played upon by the bright rays of sun, even as the sweet sound of the *koil* in a garden of rare beauty.

Thou art the representative of the King-Emperor, under whose rule the dread hand of Law leads but to the pleasant paths of Peace and the feet of Prosperity are planted firm by the hands that gather. What wonder then that in thy person thou shouldst combine the serene majesty of a ruler with the profound learning of a scholar.

Grateful, deeply grateful indeed do we feel Oh noble Lord! experiencing as we do the delicious

charm of thy kind presence amongst us. We one and all and all as one bow to thee our most respectful and loving *Namaskars* and with heartfelt gratitude acclaim our most sincere welcome.

And right hearty welcome to Her Excellency whom the ladies of the land look up, to with eyes of hopeful gratitude. Welcome to Her Ladyship, the kind look of whose eyes dispels all gloom (even) as a flash of lightning dispels, all darkness. Welcome to her, thy steadfast companion, thou cloud that pours forth showers of magnanimity, Welcome to this hermitage."

The whole party hear the song with evident delight. The Welcome song is then presented to Their Excellencies in a modest but beautifully carved casket. Looking towards the very youngest Brahmacharies His Excellency remarked 'Don't they feel the separation from their mothers.' 'Ah they appear so bright and happy they could not feel it' is Her Excellency's reply.

Through the Gurukula Garden.

Their Excellencies then pass through the Gurukula garden graciously interested in everything they see. "That huge, through right through, that long

room is the bath room of the Brahamacharis. Over forty students can bath there at one time". 'This, Your Excellencies is the fruit, flower and vegetable garden of the Gurukula.' 'Do the students work in the garden?' Enquires His Excellency. 'Yes, sir, they used to work in this garden but they have laid out perimental garden where they mainly work.

In the Ashram.

Their Excellencies have now reached the Gurukula Vidyala Ashram (School Hostel). 'That is the map of India in relief. That spot You Excellencies is Hardwar and that flag marks the birth place of Sawamiji'.

'This is the school Ashram. A duree, a blanket and a small pillow is all they have for bedding here. They have to sleep on these hard bedsteads. The Brahmacharies are trained to a hardy life'. Leaving the students' quarters we have reached the big *Yajnashalla* situated in the midst of the boarding house quadrangle. 'Here they perform their Agni-hotra, light the sacrificial fire and offer oblations of ghee and scented *Samigiri* and render the atmosphere pure and fragrant, Here too some of them perform their evening and morning meditations (*Sandhya*).'

We are now going towards the kitchen. The huge utensils, the roomy dining space in the open and roofed dining hall, the dining arrangements are inspected from the outside.

Their Excellencies are next taken to the tailoring department where looking to the Singer's sewing machines His Excellency observes ' You appear to be up-to-date.' Just a glance at our stationary and clothing store and the party proceed to inspect the Ayurvedic dispensary ' All these medicines are manufactured here according to Sanskrit system of Pharmacy. We have an Allopathic dispensary too'. 'So you don't discard the western system altogether.' 'No, not at all.' The doctor incharge of the Allopathic dispensary showed the dispensary and surgical apparatus, the eye testing charts, etc., ' You are up-to-date here too', remarked His Excellency.

In the Botanical Laboratory.

The Botanical Laboratory presented a very interesting appearance. Beautifully drawn sketches of different kinds of leaves, flowers, roots, etc., the microscopes and reagent are set in imposing array. Prof. Sinha's own publications on Chemistry, Botany and Electricity, the condensed milk experiment all showed

that the Gurukul was no mediaeval out of date institution. 'Will your Excellencies kindly allow me to present my publications? we are trying to build up Hindi literature, and bring out Hindi text books on science.'

The Economic Club.

The Sanskrit and Economic Clubs are next inspected. Their Excellencies are very favourably impressed by the command which the students display over our sacred language and intelligence with which they discuss difficult economic questions.

Under the Silk Cotton Tree.

Her Excellency is by this time a little tired. The beautiful platform under the big silk cotton tree is the best place to sit and enjoy the sight around. Her Excellency and His Honour Sir James Meston retire to the silk cotton tree. Her Excellency sat there reading the Vedic Magazine and expressing her great interest in all she has seen.

The Library.

His Excellency and party are now in the Library. Inspecting the different sections His Excellency has reached the shelf containing

Law Books. 'So you have law books too'. 'Yes, knowledge of law is necessary for good citizenship.' 'The bottom row of shelves contains only English publications'. This naturally gave rise to the remark, 'But where are the Sanskrit books' 'Just there is the top line of shelves built all round over the bottom shelves'. 'Yes, there is the Sanskrit Library a fairly good sized collection.' Looking to the fact that the Library was well nigh, packed to its full limit His Excellency remarked. 'So you will soon have to extend the Library.' 'Yes, Your Excellency, we want to double its space by building up a separate science block and removing the Laboratories there and making that space available for the Library'. The library reading table covered over with sixty different dailies, weeklies, monthlies, journals of learned societies, all the foremost magazines bore witness to the fact that though so far from the bustle of modern life we were quite in touch with the wide world.

The shelf containing the Gurukula publications was the object of His Excellency's special attention. A bundle of the best publications handsomely bound was presented to Their Excellencies. The Satyarth Parkash, Pundit Gurudatta's works and

such other publications were also presented to their Excellencies.

The Chemical and Physical Laboratories.

Physics Laboratory apparatus, Chemical laboratory working tables, the different experiments carried on by the students, the science charts all round impressed His Excellency with the up-to-dateness of the institution. 'You have all the latest educational apparatus and appliances but I don't see delicate chemical balances anywhere.' 'We have a separate room just adjoining where we have kept the balances'. The balance-room was next shown and then the chemistry lecture room where higher chemistry was being taught in Hindi by our brilliant graduate, Professor Vishvanath Vidyalkar.

'We teach the students in Hindi but teach them the use of the English text books and books of reference also'.

Drawing and Kindergarten.

The different College and School Classes were then inspected, English, Sanskrit literature and History, Drawing and Kindergarten, one after another. The Drawing and Kindergarten class was especially interesting. There was a hand drawn sketch of His Excellency done by one of the Brahma-

charis. His Excellency appreciated the efforts of the boy artist.

The Young Hopefuls.

Time being short it was arranged that the remaining school classes be passed over and His Excellency taken directly upstairs to view the College Museum and Philosophy and Mathematics classes. The Head Master, however, expressed a wish that it would be a great disappointment to the youngsters if their classes were not inspected. His Excellency said "Yes, I myself when young would under similar circumstances have felt great disappointment. Let us visit their classes too". His Excellency then visited each and every class and gladdened the hearts of young hopefuls. His Excellency is keenly interested in the little joy of children.

The College Museum.

The youngsters graciously attended to the party ward on upstairs. The Philosophy class, the Mathematics class are rapidly inspected. It was indeed something novel to see these higher subjects taught in Arya Bhasha. Now the party proceed to see the small Museum. Looking to the bones of

certain animals His Excellency was pleased to remark 'Yes, I have seen the living specimens of these animals in Australia.' 'These telephones, dry batteries, etc. are all made by the Gurukula Brahmacharis'. The curious collections of coins, the earthen ware toy collection, the beautiful set of French physiological brain models, the snakes and scorpions preserved in spirits, all the little curios are viewed with interest. The ploughshares and farm carpentry work of the agricultutral students were especially appreciated by the Viceroy.

Charming Scenery.

From the museum we get on the top story. What a glorious panorama bursts to our view. We look at the Shivalik range to the East and North, green mountains and the green plains below. There towards the north is the family quadrangle, the professorial quarters. 'That there is the new experimental garden laid out by the Brahmacharis'. 'Haven't you your own dairy?' 'Yes, there is the Gaushalla!' 'Nothing like fresh milk from one's own kine. That is the best of food for the Brahmacharies.' observes His Excellency. To the west what refreshing broad spacious lovely green lawns, the Gurukula play grounds, with the Gymnasium just

there at the west end of the garden. Down further to the west and south glorious Ganges meandering majestically, sparkling waters bifurcating here and bifurcating there branching off now and gathering into a broad base there, lovely setting indeed. Superb surrounding. No wonder that one is so absorbed that our foot strikes against the gas pipes laid on the top floor. 'I am so absorbed in drinking in the beauty of the scene that I quite forget the pipe on the floor'. 'And where are your quarters Mahatmaji. 'Mine, Sir, are just there by the Ganges banks, by that solitary green tree'. 'Oh that is a veritable abode of peace—a Shanti Ashram'. 'Let nature be your teacher' is certainly not forgotten in the Gurukula Scheme of Education.

Light Refreshments.

Descend we from the splendid sights up above and get down once more into the library, the August assembly of the Great of all ages. Refreshment for the mind is there and refreshment for the body too. The broad reading table is now covered with fruits and sweets instead of printed news of world's great War and weariness. Their Excellencies sit at the head of the table and by the side of His Excellency sits Mahatmaji. 'What about your Examination

System'. 'We have the American system of examinations. If a student fails in one subject he is examined in that subject only and not in all the subjects. We are our own examiners'. Being informed of the Branches and the Degrees conferred by the Gurukula, the Viceroy was pleased to remark, 'So you are building up a University of your own' 'Yes, Sir, we could not but help doing so since our curriculum and aims are so different, Sanskrit being our first language and character, culture and Brahmacharya the main features.

Gurukula Games.

From the Library after partaking of the refreshments we go over the green lawns to the college quarters where *Gatka* play is going on. This time Her Excellency goes in a Dandi provided for Her Ladyship. Emerging from the college quarters we behold the Brahmacharis lustily engaged in play some circling round the pole, some at the '*kabaddi*' some at Football and Hockey. How beautiful the play grounds and how hearty the play! It is a great relief to see these broad green lawns after the congestion of Simla.

The barefooted football team, how hard they kick ball. I would not venture to kick with bare-

feet, it is truly remarkable how they manage to kick so hard'. 'How furiously are they at the Hockey!' 'That rush there could stand comparison with the best of Hockey teams'.

At The Triumphal Arch once more.

From the play grounds we reach the Triumphal Arch. This time we gather to bid farewell. His Excellency in a few chosen words shows how deeply interested he has been in all he has seen. 'From the healthy looks of the Brahmacharis. I see that there is nothing wanting on the physical side at least, I remember when we used to visit schools how I would always put in a word that the youngsters be given a half holiday. Here as a Viceroy, I suppose I can order you to give the youngsters a holiday'. 'Sir, we shall give a whole holiday to-morrow'. 'Very well I believe I shall not have to visit you with any severe penalties for the disobedience of my order, was the good humoured reply. At the time of parting His Excellency graciously remarked that he would not forget the institution and that it has interested him much. The visit was a great success and has left a very happy impression on the minds of the Gurukulites.

Viceroy and the Language Question.

As we have shown already His Excellency was keenly interested in this unique institution. He gave personal attention and took great interest in all he said. Prof. Sinha's Laboratory, the Chemical and Physics Laboratory, the Library and the Museum were an agreeable surprise to him that the institution was not antiquated mediaeval seminary but an up-to-date educational centre trying to impart the best in thought of the East along with the practical scientific development of the West. What he saw was an attempt to achieve a happy harmony between the spirituality of the East and the practicality of the West. One of the main things and to which this institution owes its success is that teaching is carried on through the mother tongue. His Excellency got a practical proof that higher education could be imparted through the mother tongue. When the question of the introduction of vernaculars as the medium of instruction in higher education is exercising the minds of India, we are sure His Excellency's experience here will be of great help to the cause of vernaculars. All right-minded educationists are agreed, that education can best be imparted through

the mother tongue. We trust His Excellency will do his best to help to bring about the much needed reform.

Her Excellency.

The gracious presence of Her Excellency added very much indeed to the charm of the visit. Her Excellency was all smiles and by her kind remarks and gracious behaviors won the hearts of all. She was pleased to observe that the Gurukula was a great idea. The living contact between the teacher and the taught appealed to her very much. She also approved of the idea that a great amount of money had not been spent on building and that, on the contrary, all the money force went to secure efficient teaching and efficient workers. She was so keenly interested in the educational side of the work that we trust she would be a worthy successor to Lady Hardinge in the cause of Indian Woman's uplift. Our warmest thanks are due to her for her kind interest.

The Police not in evidence.

Their Excellencies were our honoured guests and it was but in the fitness of things that the charm of the visit be not spoiled by the intrusion of the unfortunately obvious presence on such occa-

sion of the red turbaned department. We are highly thankful to the department that while they helped us where we required their help they allowed us to peacefully manage the reception and safe conduct of the visit of the Viceregal party within our own precincts. For this consideration we are grateful to His Honour Sir James Meston and our kind friend the D. S. P

The Significance of the visit.

This visit ought to be an occasion of sincere joy to the Arya Samaj, the educated Hindu community and the Government. It shows the interest Government take in all right kinds of national institution. Such contact between the heads of Government and heads of national educational institution will, besides strengthening mutual trust lead to the solution of the great educational problem of India.

Independent educational institutions run on national lines, catering to the needs of vast sections of His Majesty's Indian subjects, showing what is required to satisfy the national need are a great desideratum ; they are an object lesson indicating the lines along which educational reform

may be directed. What is more needed for the welfare of humanity and for the welfare of India is a happy union between the best in the East and West and this the Gurukula is trying to embody. A visit to such an institution shows how Govt. appreciates all such right efforts.

His Honour Sir James Meston.

The success of the visit was in a very great measure due to the mutual good offices and kindness of His Honour Sir James Meston who so graciously takes such a personal interest in the Gurukula. The Gurukula authorities are indeed to be congratulated on the success of the visit but greater thanks and greater congratulations are certainly due to His Honour who personally looked to the successful carrying out of the programme and helped the authorities with valuable and kind suggestions. His Honour is a sincere friend of the Gurukula and the Gurukula is highly grateful to His Honour for this one more act of kindness.

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