

Souvenir - -

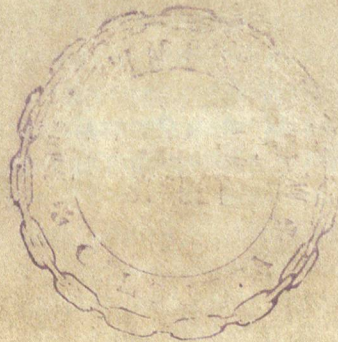
- - of - -

The Royal Visit.

Corporation of Calcutta.

January 1906.

THE CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.



The Corporation of Calcutta.

[As Constituted under Act III (B.C.) of 1899.]

Chairman:

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. H. ALLEN, I.C.S.

Ward Commissioners.

DR. R. G. KAR.
RAI SITANATH ROY, BAHADUR.
BABU KALI CHARAN PALIT,
BABU JUDOONAUTH SEN.
KUMAR DINENDRO NARAIN ROY.
BABU RADHA CHARAN PAL.
RAI HARIRAM GOENKA, BAHADUR.
MOULVIE BUDRUDDIN HAIDAR, KHAN
BAHADUR.
DR. HARIDHAN DUTTA.
T. G. CUYPER, ESQ.
DR. JOGENDRA NATH GHOSE.
E. M. D. COHEN, ESQ.

I. J. COHEN, ESQ.
MOULVIE AGA MUHAMMAD MUSA.
H. E. A. COTTON, ESQ.
J. G. APCAR, ESQ.
E. S. ANDREWS, ESQ.
A. J. WILSON, ESQ.
DR. SAGORE LAL PALIT.
BABU TARAPADO DAS.
G. LANE-ANDERSON, ESQ.
BABU PRIYA NATH MULLICK.
BABU AMULYADHONE ADDY.
R. BRAUNFELD, ESQ.
BABU NONI LAL BANERJEE.

THE CORPORATION.

Representatives of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

J. R. BERTRAM, ESQ.
W. H. MILES, ESQ.

SHIRLEY TREMBARNE, ESQ.
T. R. PRATT, ESQ.

Representatives of the Calcutta Trades' Association.

J. P. WYNESS, ESQ.
J. S. MIDDLETON, ESQ.

W. H. PHELPS, ESQ.
C. F. BAER, ESQ.

Representatives of the Port Commissioners.

L. F. MORSHEAD, ESQ., I. C. S.

THE HON'BLE MR. NALIN BIHARI
SIRCAR, C. I. E.

Government Nominees.

DR. KAILAS CHUNDER BOSE, RAI
BAHADUR, C. I. E.

THE REV. K. C. BANURJI.

THE HON'BLE MR. F. A. SLACKE,
I. C. S.

W. BANKS-GWYTHYER, ESQ.

J. H. VALLENTINE, ESQ.

DR. W. FORSYTH.

W. J. SIMMONS, ESQ.

F. G. DUMAYNE, ESQ.

MOULVIE SERAJ-UL-ISLAM KHAN
BAHADUR.

MAHARAJ-KUMAR SIR P. C. TAGORE.

R. H. M. RUSTOMJEE, ESQ.

MIRZA SHUJAET ALI BAIG, KHAN
BAHADUR.

A. E. SILK, ESQ.

RAJA BENOYE KRISHNA DEB.

(ONE VACANCY.)

THE CORPORATION.

Principal Officers.

<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	... BABU NILAMBARA MUKERJEE, M.A., B.L.
<i>Deputy-Chairman</i>	... C. F. PAYNE, ESQ., I.C.S.
<i>Chief Engineer</i>	... W. B. MACCABE, ESQ., M. INST. C.E.
<i>Health Officer</i>	... DR. J. NIELD COOK, D.P.H.
<i>Solicitor</i>	... BABU MONI LAL SEN, B.L.
<i>Chief Accountant</i>	... L. E. A. MANSFIELD, ESQ.
<i>Assessor and Surveyor</i>	... C. C. COOPER, ESQ.
<i>Collector</i>	... BABU R. M. CHATTERJEE, M.A., (on leave) ,, D. C. DUTT (Acting.)
<i>License Officer</i>	... H. E. D'CRUZ, ESQ.
<i>City Architect</i>	... H. T. BROMLEY, ESQ.
<i>Secretary</i>	... FRED. GAINSFORD, ESQ., B.A.



HISTORICAL.

Calcutta, the Capital of the Indian Empire and the Official residence of the Viceroy and Governor-General of India and of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, is situated on the East Bank of the River Hooghly and lies about 86 miles from the sea. It covers an area of 20,547 acres, including the Maidan (1,113 acres) which, less than a hundred years ago, was a tiger-haunted jungle. The Maidan and Fort William are outside the limits of Municipal Calcutta, which is divided into four Districts comprising 25 Wards. There are 18 Wards in the Town Proper, and the seven Suburban Wards were incorporated by Act II (B. C.) of 1888. The population of the Municipal Town is 847,796, and with the Suburban Municipalities 1,106,738. The latter figure (which includes Howrah) is greater than that of any European city except London, Paris and Berlin, and of any city in America except New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia, excluding China, the population of whose cities is uncertain, the only city in Asia with more inhabitants than Calcutta is Tokio. The population is rapidly increasing, the addition during the last decade having been no less than 24 per cent.

The history of Municipal Administration in Calcutta dates from 1727, when the first Corporation, consisting of a Mayor

HISTORICAL.

and nine Aldermen, came into existence. In 1794, Justices of the Peace were appointed and regular assessments were authorised. In 1803, Lord Wellesley appointed a Town Improvement Committee of 30 Members, and they took over the Lottery Fund, which, since 1793, had provided the money for public improvements. In 1817, a regular Lottery Committee was constituted, and this Committee was employed for 20 years in schemes for the improvement of the town. It was during this period that the Town Hall was built. In 1836, the Lottery Committee ceased to exist, public opinion in England having condemned this method of providing funds for Municipal purposes. In 1840, an Act was passed dividing Calcutta into four divisions, and in 1847, the Justices were replaced by a Board of 7 paid Members, 4 of whom were elected by the ratepayers. Their number was reduced, in 1852, to four, two being nominated by Government and two elected : four years later, the Board was reduced to three Members, all of whom were nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor. In 1863, the Municipal Government of Calcutta was vested in a body composed of all the Justices of the Peace for the Town of Calcutta, together with all the Justices for the Province who happened to be resident in Calcutta, and it was during this period that the



HISTORICAL.

drainage and water system were largely developed. A new Corporation was created in 1876, consisting of 72 Commissioners with a Chairman and Vice-Chairman : 48 of the Commissioners were elected by the rate-payers, and 24 appointed by the Government. In 1888, the Municipal boundaries were extended, and the number of Commissioners was increased to 75, of whom 50 were elected, 15 appointed by Government, and the other 10 nominated by the Chamber of Commerce, the Trades' Association and the Port Commissioners.

The Corporation of 1888 was displaced by Bengal Act III of 1899, under which the Municipal administration is vested in three co-ordinate authorities—the Corporation, the General Committee and the Chairman. The Corporation consists of the Chairman and fifty Commissioners, of whom 25 are elected at Ward elections, and the remainder are nominated as follows—15 by the Government, 4 by the Chamber of Commerce, 4 by the Trades' Association, and 2 by the Port Commissioners. The General Committee consists of the Chairman and 12 Members, 4 of whom are elected by the Ward Commissioners, 4 by the nominated Commissioners and 4 by the Government.

THE NEW MUNICIPAL OFFICES.

The new buildings in which the central offices of the Corporation are located, and which lie off Chowringhee, to the north of the Sir Stuart Hogg Market, were completed last year at a cost of about Rs. 6½ lakhs. A special feature of the building is the Council Chamber which is handsomely furnished and equipped. The buildings were elaborately illuminated on the 3rd January 1906.



THE NEW CORPORATION OFFICES.



A COMPARISON.

The following figures, comparing the state of things at the present time with that of 30 years ago, when His Majesty the King-Emperor visited Calcutta, may be interesting :—

	30 years ago.	To-day.
Rateable value of town ...	Rs. 1,22,34,342	Rs. 2,60,62,994
Annual Revenue of the Corporation ...	Rs. 26,17,994	Rs. 66,48,729
Annual Expenditure ...	Rs. 30,60,755	Rs. 61,42,820
Loan Liability ...	Rs. 1,50,00,000	Rs. 3,75,49,464
Filtered Water Supply in Gallons per day ...	6,200,000	20,900,000
Unfiltered Supply ditto ...	786,000	16,600,000
Amount expended during the year on Improvements ...	Rs. 3,52,560	Rs. 22,73,336



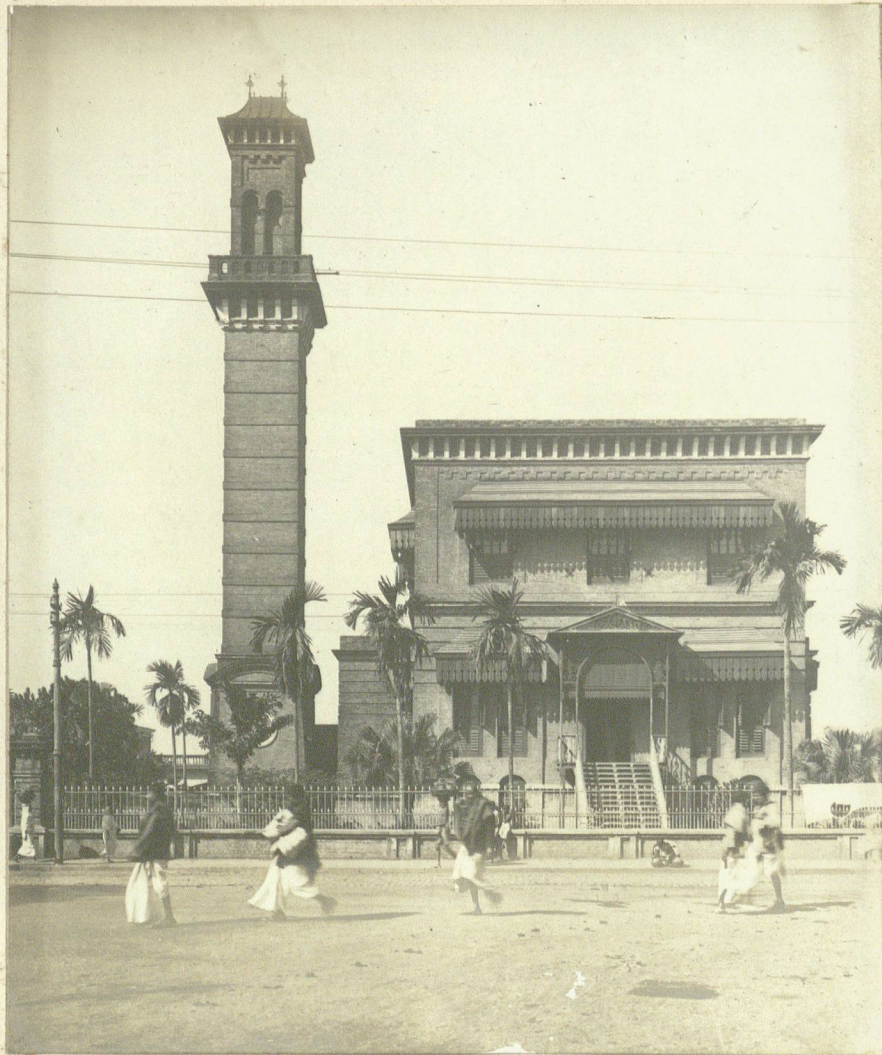
DISTRICT OFFICE BUILDING.



WATER SUPPLY.

Previous to 1866 the City depended for a water supply upon water taken direct from the River and upon tanks and wells in various quarters of the Town. In 1866, the construction was commenced of works which provided for the filtration of 6 million gallons per day. The present supply to the City amounts to over 26 million gallons per day of filtered water together with about 18 million gallons per day of unfiltered water, which is used for watering roads, flushing drains, etc. The main works are situated at Pulta, about 14 miles above Calcutta, where water is pumped from the River into Settling Tanks from which it gravitates on to filters of about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million feet in area. After passing through the filters the water gravitates to Calcutta, where it is pumped from four Pumping Stations to supply the needs of the City. The greatest care is taken to maintain a high standard of purity in connection with the filtered water supply. The water is bacteriologically examined and analysed each week and the quality of the water will bear comparison with that of any large city in the world. There are two Pumping Stations for the unfiltered supply.

WATER SUPPLY PUMPING STATION



DRAINAGE.

The Drainage of the area within the Municipal boundaries has been a difficult problem for the Commissioners to deal with. By far the greater area is below the highest tide level of the River Hooghli; some parts are only about 5 or 6 ft. above mean sea-level, whereas the spring tides in the Hooghli have risen on one occasion recorded as high as 16 ft. above mean sea-level. The bank of the river is only a few inches above this level, but providentially kept the river within its bounds. Fortunately the mean high spring tide level is about 13 ft. over mean sea-level and leaves a greater margin for our safety. The area of the City and the Suburbs may be taken as practically flat falling from North-West to South-East 1 foot in 1,000 ft.

Before 1859 Calcutta existed without a Sewerage System and was drained by filthy open ditches which reeked with foetid matter. In that year a Drainage Scheme, (including 72 miles of sewers) designed by Mr. Clarke, was commenced, and by 1884 the Drainage of the City proper by means of underground brick and pipe sewers had been practically completed at a cost of about £630,000. The sewage was lifted at a Pumping Station and discharged East of the City into the streams of the Salt Lakes, while the storm water, when the state of the tides admitted, was discharged eastward into the Bidiadhury River. When the storm water

DRAINAGE.

discharge was obstructed by high tide, the City was liable to be flooded.

In 1888 the area of Calcutta was augmented considerably by the addition of what is known as the Fringe and the Suburban areas, for which it was necessary to provide Sewerage projects. A project for the Sewerage of the Suburb and the improvement of the City Outfall was prepared in 1896 and the works, costing over £450,000, are now approaching completion. This included 45 miles of sewers and 3 Pumping Stations.

To remove the difficulty of the Storm Outlet being tide-locked, two huge Storm Water Reservoirs, one for the Town and the other for the Suburbs, provided with 10 Stoney's Roller Gates, have been excavated through the Salt Lakes, and will serve the purpose of storing flood water during the interval the tide remains above the level of free discharge of the City Storm Water Outlets.

A scheme has now been prepared to deal with the Fringe area Drainage at an estimated cost of nearly £200,000, and a project is now before the Corporation for the surface drainage of the greater portion of the Suburban area at a cost of some £60,000. This great City is extending so rapidly that the surface drainage of the remaining portion of the Suburbs will have to be dealt with in the immediate future.

THE MUNICIPAL MARKET.

The Municipal Market which was constructed at a cost of Rs. 6,51,622, was opened on the 1st January 1874. It is named after Sir Stuart Hogg, the then Chairman, to whose foresight the Corporation are indebted for one of their most valuable assets.

The private market at the corner of Dharamtola Street was purchased by the Corporation for a sum of Rs. 7,00,000 and was closed in February 1874, from which date the Municipal Market began to flourish. The receipts have increased from Rs. 1,01,554 in 1875 about on Rs. 2,40,000 at the present time. Proposals are under consideration for the construction of an additional wing to accommodate the hundreds of vendors who are now obliged to squat in the open spaces in the vicinity of the Market.



MUNICIPAL MARKET.



MISCELLANEOUS.

The Municipal Slaughter House at Tangra was built in 1870 at a cost of Rs. 2,28,308. The receipts average Rs. 37,500 a year. It is contemplated to provide each of the Districts with a Slaughter House of its own.

The Corporation also possesses two Dhobikhanas or Laundries, and a workshop.

THE MUNICIPAL DHOBIKHANA.



MISCELLANEOUS.

Since March 1869 the greater portion of the refuse of the town has been removed to the Salt Lakes where the reclaimed land is found to be well adapted to the growth of vegetables. The refuse is loaded into railway wagons at platforms along the Circular Road and is thence transported to the Salt Lakes. Each District has a Gowkhana of its own, with a Conservancy Staff for the cleansing of the town.

SCENE IN A GOWKHANA.



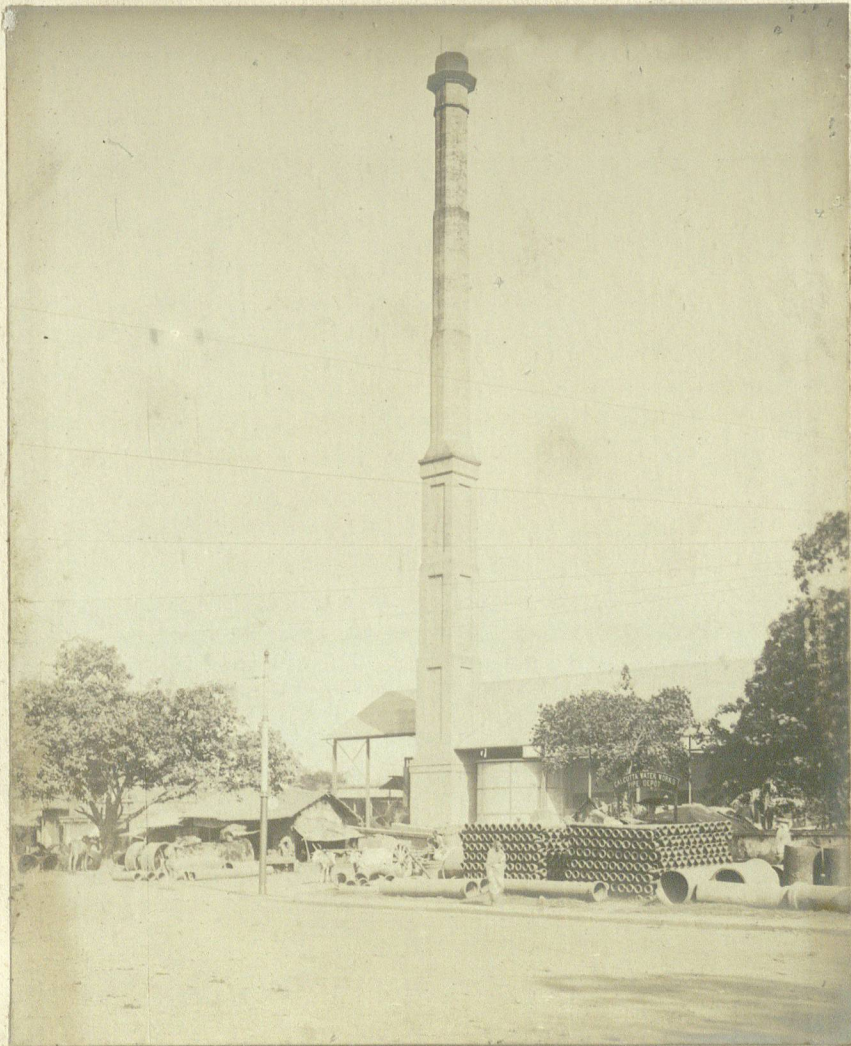
MISCELLANEOUS.

Two incinerators are in use. The latest one, at Entally, cost about £12,000.

Thirty years ago there were only 2,720 gas lights and 717 oil lights in the streets of the town: at the present time the Corporation maintains 8,484 gas lights and 2,417 oil lights. The gas supply is obtained from a private Company—whose main works are at Sealdah.



THE INCINERATOR.



THE CORPORATION ADDRESS.

The following is the text of the Address of Welcome presented by the Corporation to Their Royal Highnesses on their landing at Prinsep's Ghat on the 29th December 1905 :—

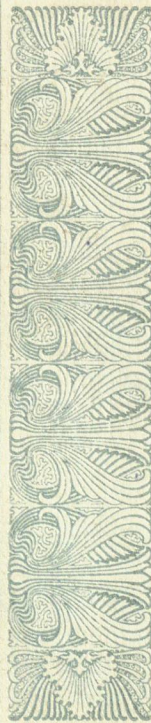
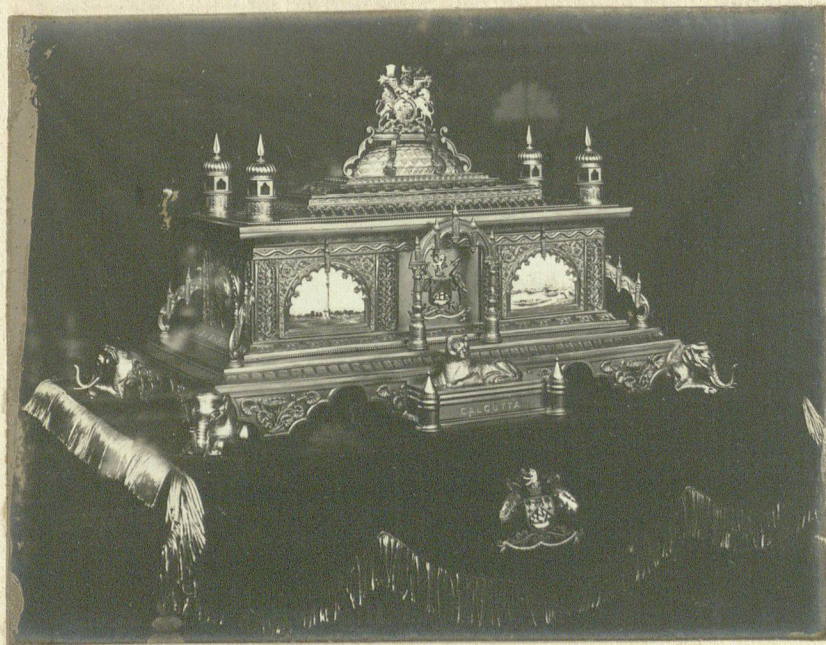
MAY IT PLEASE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES,

WE, the Chairman and Commissioners of the Corporation of Calcutta, on behalf of the inhabitants of this city, approach Your Royal Highnesses with a most respectful, loyal and heartfelt welcome on this occasion of the visit of Your Royal Highnesses to the metropolis of this great dependency of the British Crown, and to express to Your Royal Highnesses and through Your Royal Highnesses to our beloved King and Emperor, our allegiance and devotion to His Most Gracious Majesty's person and throne.

2. This is the second occasion upon which the Heir to the Throne has honoured India with his presence, and the universal rejoicing with which our present King-Emperor, then Prince of Wales, was greeted 30 years ago, still lives in the hearts of the people of this city.

3. This visit of Your Royal Highnesses, while strengthening and cementing the bonds of loyalty and attachment which have ever bound the people of India to their Sovereign, affords us an additional pledge of His Majesty the King-Emperor's abiding interest in the welfare and advancement of His Indian subjects.

THE CASKET WHICH ENCLOSED THE ADDRESS.



THE CORPORATION ADDRESS.

4. Calcutta is proud to be reckoned the city in the British Empire, and Your Royal Highnesses will find here abundant indications of the prosperity which everywhere accompanies British rule. The continued moral and material progress, not only of Calcutta but of all India, as evidenced by the numerous works of public utility, the growth and development of trade, commerce and industries, and the spread of education, is a lasting testimony to the fostering care for the Indian people, which is the guiding principle of His Majesty's rule.

5. The present occasion is a source of special rejoicing as this is the first visit of a Princess of Wales to Calcutta, and we beg leave to offer for Her Royal Highness' gracious acceptance this Jewel as a gift from the inhabitants of this city. We trust that it may serve to remind Her Royal Highness of the real love and affection of the people of this city.

We beg to subscribe ourselves with the highest respect—

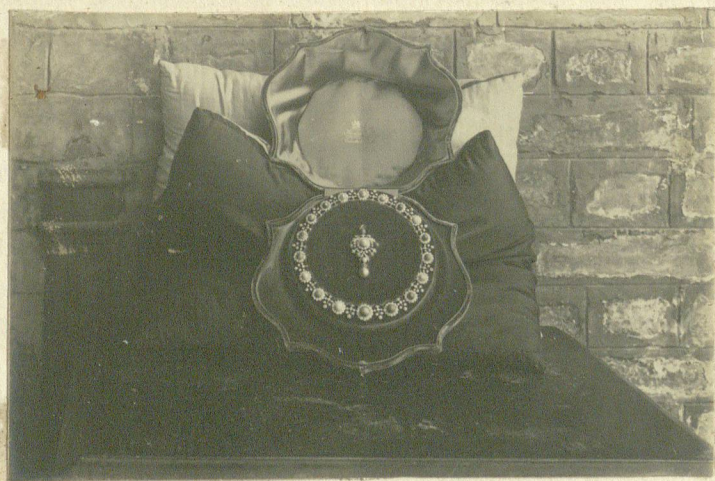
Your Royal Highnesses'

Most dutiful and most obedient Servants,

THE CHAIRMAN AND MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS
OF CALCUTTA.

The Address was read by the Vice-Chairman and the Jewel (a necklace of coloured pearls set in diamonds, from the Dholpur State Jewels) was presented by the Chairman.

THE NECKLACE PRESENTED TO HER
ROYAL HIGHNESS.



HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,—The magnificent spectacle which you have afforded to the Princess of Wales and myself, the vast crowds which are assembled to welcome us, and the eloquent words of your address will remain among our most memorable experiences of this great Empire and its people. We both know that we are merely the fortunate recipients of the loyalty which the citizens of Calcutta feel for the King-Emperor, and in conveying to him your utterances of allegiance and devotion I shall endeavour to describe the impressive scene on which we are now looking. There is perhaps nothing in the whole of India more typical of the relations between the British and Indians than Calcutta, which has grown from a river swamp to be the second city of our Empire. If, as you say, the prosperity which blesses this place is common to all India, we may congratulate ourselves on the results of the bond between the Mother Country and India. Every citizen of this great capital may feel a legitimate pride in the wonderful town which has sprung up on the Hooghly. And our fellow subjects in other parts of the Empire will see in Calcutta's present prosperity and future growth the sign, which I recognise everywhere in India, of a union which, under God's Providence, seems destined to endure. It is a great pleasure to the Princess and to myself that she has

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS'S REPLY.

been able to accompany me to India, and on her behalf I thank you most heartily for the beautiful gift which Calcutta so generously offers her and which she will always treasure as a charming remembrance of our visit and a token of affection and goodwill.

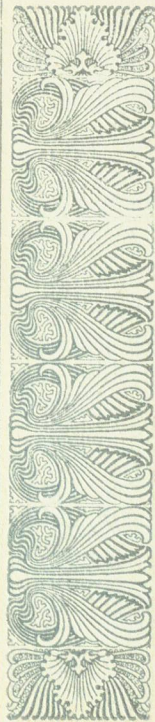


THE CITY ARMS.

To all and singular to whom these presents shall come Sir Albert William Woods, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Garter Principal King of Arms, sendeth greeting, whereas the Chairman of the Municipal Corporation of the City of Calcutta hath represented unto the Most Noble Henry, Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal of England, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter and one of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council that in an Act passed by the Legislative Council of Bengal entitled No. II of 1888, and which Act received the Assent of Her Majesty's Viceroy and Governor-General of India, on the twelfth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight, it was enacted that the Municipal Corporation of the City of Calcutta should consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and seventy-five persons to be appointed or elected as thereafter is provided and should by the name of "The Corporation of Calcutta" be a body corporate and have perpetual succession and a common seal and have power to hold land and by such name to sue and be sued. That the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the Municipal Corporation of the City of Calcutta are desirous that the common seal be used by them in their corporate capacity, should contain fit and proper

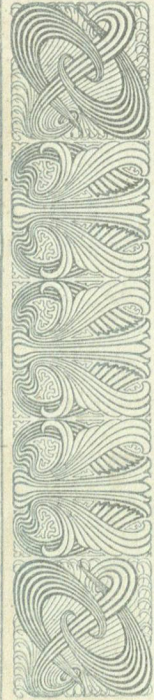
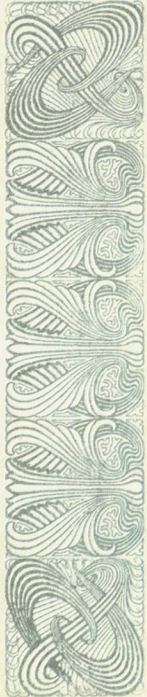


THE CITY ARMS.



THE CITY ARMS.

Armorial Bearings under legal and unquestionable authority. He therefore requested on behalf of the said Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members, the favour of His Grace's Warrant for my granting and assigning such supporters to the Arms of the said Corporation of Calcutta as may be proper to be borne by them and their successors on Seals, Shields, Banners or otherwise according to the Laws of Arms and forasmuch as the said Earl Marshal did by Warrant under his hand and seal bearing date the thirteenth day of June last authorise and direct me to grant and assign such supporters accordingly. Know Ye therefore that I the said Garter in pursuance of His Grace's Warrant and by virtue of the Letters Patent of my office to me granted do by these Presents grant and assign unto the Corporation of Calcutta the Supporters following that is to say on either side—A Representation of an Adjutant Bird, holding in the beak a serpent proper, charged on the shoulder with an Eastern Crown, or, as the same are in the margin thereof more plainly depicted to be borne and used for ever hereafter by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the Corporation of Calcutta and their successors on Seals, Shields, Banners or otherwise according to the Laws of Arms. In Witness whereof I the said Garter Principal King of Arms have to these



THE CITY ARMS.

Presents subscribed my name and affixed the seal of my office this twenty-eighth day of December in the sixtieth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, etc., and in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-six.

(Sd.) ALBERT W. WOODS, *Garter*.

