

for the success of this gathering and for what it will do to advance the cause.

INDIA

We have received from Mr F. G. H. Anderson, I.C.S. (Bombay Presidency) a letter commenting on the extract from the *Australian Inter-Collegian*, reprinted in our June issue and written by the Rev. F. Hawkyard, Baptist Mission in Mymensingh, Bengal. Mr Anderson points out that the system described by Mr Hawkyard prevails over only a portion of the province of Bengal, certainly not one-tenth of India; and anyone who took it as a picture of India as a whole would be badly deceived. The description (of landlordism) given by Mr Hawkyard, our correspondent writes, can only possibly be true of those parts of Bengal under the Cornwallis Permanent Settlement and "it is well-known that that was a deplorable blunder and has never been repeated anywhere else."

Mr Anderson comments also on the further (and separate) item in our issue of June, which, quoting *Labour's Northern Voice* of 4th May on the authority of the *Morning Post* of 25th April, referred to the disturbances at Ferozpur (Punjab) arising out of the agitation of the villagers for a change in the system of land tenure. Our correspondent declines to think that this had anything to do with the system of land tenure which in the Punjab is poles asunder from the system described for Mymensingh, and he hazards the opinion that the agitation for a change was in fact a landlord agitation—to the very system condemned in Mymensingh. "All landlords," he writes, "in India, and in fact perhaps the world, cast longing eyes on the Permanent Settlement in Bengal and would love to have it extended to their land in order that they might reap the rich and rare fruits which the Rev. F. Hawkyard has described as falling to the lot of the Zemindars."

It will be well to explain, as Mr Hawkyard has stated in a later communication to us, that the "Permanent" decision of Lord Cornwallis in 1793 was that the Government of the Province of Bengal would never raise the assessment of land revenue above the figure "settled" at that time. The tremendous increase of land values since that remote date, partly due to British activities, railways, canals and roads, has been appropriated by the landlords (who, previous to 1793, had been rate collectors or stewards on a vague but modest commission basis.—Editor, *Land & Liberty*.)

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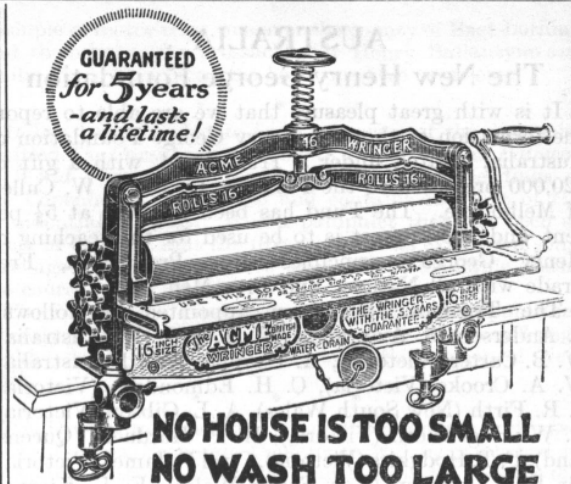
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