



OUR "LIST OF VISITORS ON THE HILLS."

(WITH OUR APOLOGIES TO THE ENGLISH DAILIES.)

સીતલ ટેકડીઓ ખાતે ફરવા મયલા પરોણાઓની ટીપ !

(ઈંગરેજ રાજાં પતરે ઉપર અમારો અહુ યવો.)

With reference to the call made by a member of Parliament on the Secretary of State for India for a statement showing the total cost incurred by the Government of India on account of the annual visits of the Viceroy and the Governors of presidencies to the hills since the assumption of direct rule over India by the Crown, the *Bombay Samachar* of 26 May observes that: 'if the statement showed the travelling allowances of the officials, the cost of buildings provided for the residence, the money spent for furnishing these buildings, and other expenses incurred on account of the Viceregal and gubernatorial sojourns, the total would come to an enormous amount and would vividly show how the taxes collected by the Indian ryot are misspent. It is asserted on the one hand that the official sojourns to the hills are quite unnecessary and are not at all beneficial to the people, while on the other hand, the climate of the presidency towns becomes unhealthy in the hot season and then the officials are compelled to visit the hills for the preservation of their health. The latter statement is not correct. All the presidency towns have good climate and are kept very clean by their respective municipalities. The Viceregal and gubernatorial residences are built in the best and healthiest parts of the presidency towns.' The Viceregal

and gubernatorial visits to the hills also cause delay in the transaction of public business.

In a paragraph headed "Annual Sojourn in Simla", the *Subodh Patrika* (15) of 25 May noted: 'We learn that on the 1st instant, Mr. Gorst asked the Under Secretary of State for India in Parliament whether he could furnish returns of the dates of the annual migration of the Government of India to Simla and of its return thence to Calcutta since 1858, as well as of the extra annual cost that was incurred in consequences. Mr. Cross thereupon promised to get the same from the Government of India as there were no papers at the India Office from which they could be furnished. Will anything come out of this? We cannot say. But surely these annual sojourns to Simla for a greater portion of the year are very expensive and do considerably impede work. Either the period of stay in Simla should be shortened or someplace nearer Calcutta should, if possible, be substituted for it, in the interests of the Indian tax-payer and of good government. And to whom can we look with better hope for taking steps to bring the change than to Lord Ripon himself? We have great confidence in his sense of justice and in his anxiety for the welfare of the people committed to his charge.'