

Copy of a letter no. 1918 S.B., dated the 2nd May, 1914, from the Chief Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department.

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In reply to your letter no. 47, dated the 9th April 1914, regarding the recent demand of security from the Mission Steam Press, Ludhiana, which prints the Nur Afshan newspaper, I am directed to forward, in duplicate, for the information of the Government of India, a full translation of the offending article, which appeared in the Nur Afshan on the 9th January 1914, and also abstract translations of the three objectionable articles from issues of the paper dated the 24th October 1913, the 7th November 1913, and the 5th December 1913.

2. It will be observed that first of these is an attack on orthodox Hinduism and is in an extremely offensive form. The others deal with the question of the doctrine of atonement which has been a frequent bone of contention between Christian and Muhammadan preachers and writers of recent years.

3. The controversy leading up to the present developments appears to have commenced at the end of 1909 with a lecture under the aegis of Khawaja Kamal-ud-din by one Mufti Sadiq, a Muhammadan who had become a convert to Christianity for a short time. The subject of his lecture, which subsequently appeared in pamphlet form, was the refutation of the doctrine of atonement, and was a reply to the Anti-Muslim utterances of certain Christian Missionaries, in particular of the Revd. Mr. Thomas Howell, an Indian Pastor of the Church of England, Lahore. In answer to this and other arguments and attacks by the Ahmadi sect generally, a booklet appeared during the year 1913 from the pen of the Revd. Mr. Howell which was the cause of considerable annoyance and indignation among Muhammadans; and it was a signal for the appearance of several violent and insulting reports in the Press, more especially in the Wahabi paper of Amritsar, the Ahl-i-Hadis.

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Mr. 926/14