Appendix - C

Report on the Progress of Historical Reasearch in Assam
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A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF JOURNALISM IN THE ASSAM VALLEY

The following is a complete list of the various journals and newspapers which have been started from time to time:

(1) Arunodaya.—This monthly magazine was the pioneer of journalism in the Assam Valley, and was started in 1846 by the American Baptist Missionaries at Shingal. It was, after the example of their brethren of Surslipore, established the first printing press in Assam in 1849. From this press they issued not only numerous vernacular publications connected with the Propagation of the Gospel, but also the magazine just mentioned, the buradhi by Kripalal Tansui Phukan, some useful educational works, and the only Assamese dictionary which has yet been published. The Arunodaya was written in a very popular style, and was devoted to religion, science, and general intelligence. Its pages were illustrated with wood-cuts copied from the engravings of the Illustrated London News, and among other interesting items, it published an Assamese translation of an Akbar buradhi and a buradhi of the Chutiyas. In 1857, its subscribers numbered no less than 700, and it made such an impression on the people, that any newspaper issued in the province is still called Arunodaya by the villagers. Having diffused useful knowledge for 36 years, this magazine was discontinued in 1889, when the Mission Press was sold.

(2) Adrishtbikshu.—This was a monthly vernacular paper issued in 1871, from the Dharmpulad Press on the Majula in Shingal. It was an organ of the Assam Club. It was mainly a religious paper, and contained only a few items of general information. The paper continued for twelve years and ceased to exist in 1883, when the Society was removed to a new site.

(3) Abhidhivalky.—This was the first weekly newspaper in Assam. It was published, in 1871, at the Childsanda Press, Guahati, and was at first written in Bengali, but subsequently in Bengali and English. It was discontinued in 1873 for want of sufficient support.

(4) Assam Durjana.—This was a monthly journal in Assamese, started during the year 1874-75, by a resident of the Darrang district. The paper was printed in Calcutta and published in Darrang. It existed only for a short time.

(5) and (6). In the year 1875-76, two papers, one treating of science and literature and the other of a religious nature, were edited by natives of Nowgong. These two papers were also printed in Calcutta.

(7) Golchandra Hristdhikshu.—This was a weekly paper in Bengali, published in 1876, at Golchandra. It was continued till 1878, and then failed for want of support.

(8) In 1876, a Dibangya Gostih, of Nowgong, started a monthly magazine dealing with religious subjects, which was printed at Guahati. It found only a limited audience among the disciples of the Gostih.

(9) Abhinav.—This was a monthly journal in Assamese, and was issued from the Dharmpulad Press in 1876. It lasted only one year.

(10) Chandradaya.—This was a monthly vernacular magazine, and was issued from the Childsanda Press, Guahati, in 1876, but ceased to exist after a short period.

(11) Assam News.—This was a bilingual weekly paper started in Guahati, in 1879, and contained articles in Assamese and English. At one time it had as many as 120 subscribers, and its articles were often well written. But, owing to difficulties in the midst of the editors, etc., it gradually fell off, and was discontinued in July 1879.

(12) Assam Bandhu.—This was a monthly vernacular magazine started in 1879 by Rid Gopal Chandra Burd, Bhulad. It contained articles relating to science, arts, and religion, and was printed in Calcutta. Only 10 members appeared, and the journal was then discontinued for want of support. The editor had commenced a valuable series of articles entitled Assam—past and present, but, owing to the untimely end of the paper, the series was nevercompleted.

(13) Hau.—This was a monthly literary journal, in Assamese, edited by Babu Har Nath Paul, of Guahati. The paper was printed in Calcutta. It made its appearance in December 1879, and was discontinued after the fourth issue, as the number of subscribers was very small.

(14) Assam Tirth.—This was a monthly vernacular paper started in 1888 and published at the Dharmpulad Press. It treated of religious, historical, and literary subjects, but was discontinued in September 1890. It ceased to exist owing to the proprietors having gone on a pilgrimage.

(15) Thakuri.—This is a monthly magazine and review established by the Assamese students residing in Calcutta. The paper was started in 1880, and is still in existence. It treats of scientific, historical, and other useful subjects, and has been conducted with real zeal and ability. Several well-written original articles have appeared in its pages.

(16) Byurda.—This is another monthly Assamese journal, which was started by Assamese students in Calcutta. It appeared in 1879, and was discontinued before the completion of its third year. It published some interesting articles on the Mahomedan invasions of Assam.

(17) Assam.—This is a weekly newspaper written in Assamese, with occasional English articles. It was started at Guahati in September 1879, and still exists. The paper is conducted with ability, is national in its tone, and reflects the opinion of the orthodox portion of the higher castes.

(18) The Times of Assam.—This is a weekly newspaper, in English, started in January 1880, and published at the Dharmpulad Press, Dibrugarh. It still exists, and is conducted with considerable ability. It attempts to reflect the opinion of the planting, as well as the advanced section of the native community.

* This Note was written for me by Babu Hem Chandra Gostih.