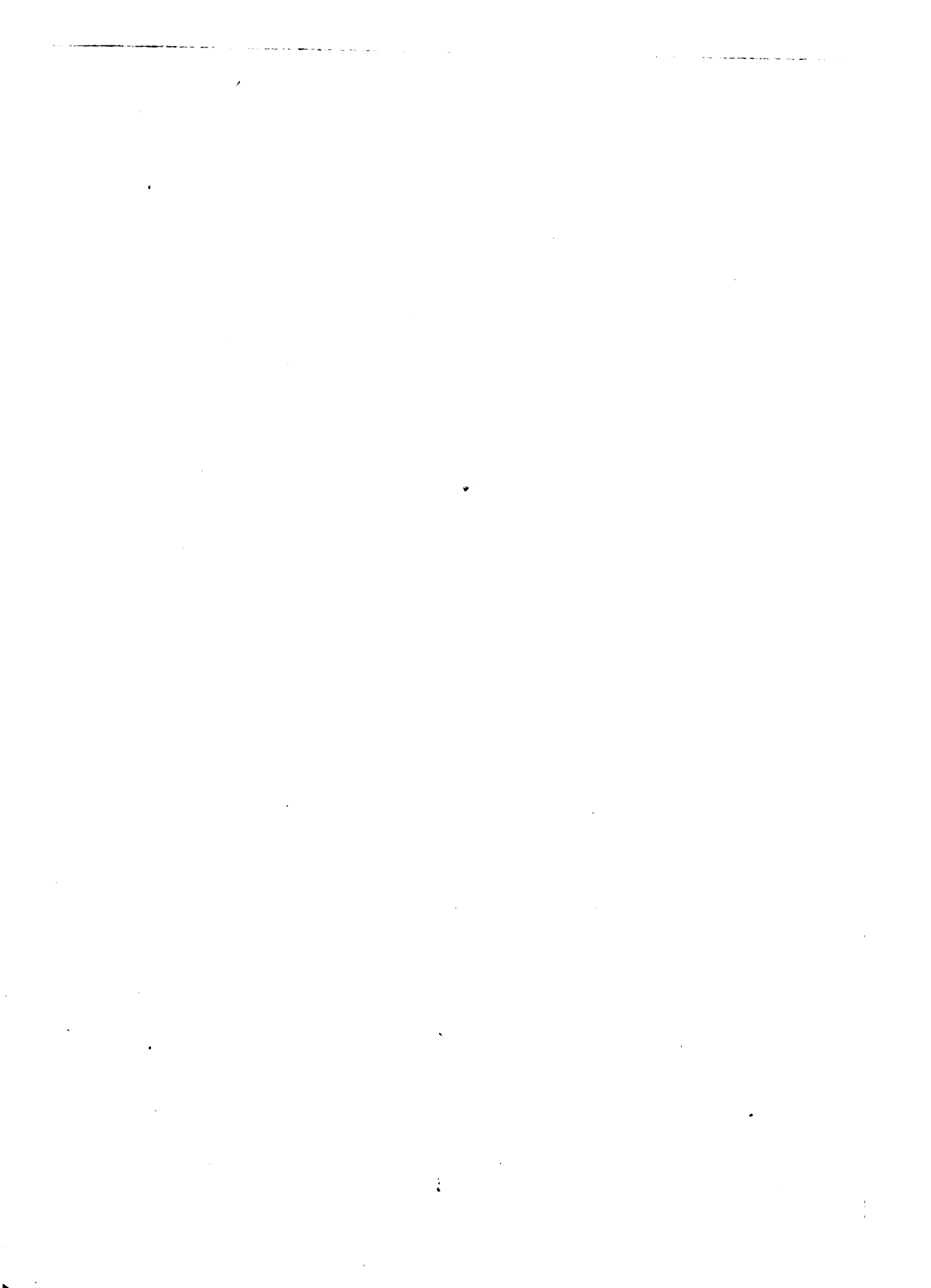


**RECORDS OF THE DELHI RESIDENCY AND
AGENCY.**

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Carpenter

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

THE present volume is one of a series of selections from the Punjab Government records which have been published by the Punjab Government. The volumes constituting the series are—

The Delhi Residency and
Agency Records ... 1807-1857, Volume I.

The Ludhiana Agency Records, 1808-1815, Volume II.

The Political Diaries of the
Resident at Lahore and his
Assistants ... 1846-1849, Volumes
III—VI.

The Mutiny Records—Corres-
pondence and Reports ... 1857-1858, Volumes
VII and VIII each
in two Parts.

It had been intended to issue further volumes also, dealing with (a) the records of the Karnal, Ambala and Ludhiana Agencies (including the despatches of Sir D. Ochterlony, Superintendent of Political Affairs and Agent to the Governor-General at Ludhiana, and the diaries of his Assistant, Captain G. Birch), 1816—1840 ; (b) the records of the North-West Frontier Agency, 1840—1845, and (c) those of the Lahore Residency, 1846—1849 ; but it has been found necessary on financial grounds to postpone the publication of these further papers.

The material for the volumes issued has been prepared and put through the Press by Mr. A. Raynor, late Registrar of the Punjab Civil Secretariat.

LAHORE :

December 1915.

P R E F A C E .

THE records from which the papers in this volume are a selection relate to the old Delhi territory and appear to have been transferred to the Punjab Secretariat after the Mutiny.

The records may be divided into two classes,—(a) *Revenue*, ranging from 1807—1834, and (b) *Political and Miscellaneous*, from 1806—1857. The Revenue records consist of correspondence relating to the settlement and administration of the Delhi territory and the Political records of correspondence relating principally to the Royal family of Delhi. The Political records are very incomplete. A few papers from each class have been selected for publication in this volume. The names of persons and places have been spelt as in the original manuscript.

It may be noted that Delhi was captured by the British in September 1803. The first Resident of the Delhi territory was Colonel (later Sir David) Ochterlony who was in charge from 1803—1806. Colonel Ochterlony had not been a year in office when the city of Delhi was besieged by Holkar, whom he repulsed after a gallant defence which lasted nine days. Colonel Ochterlony was succeeded in 1806 by Mr. A. Seton from Bareilly. Mr. Seton remained in charge until 1810, being relieved by Mr. C. T. Metcalfe, who administered the Delhi territory as Resident for nine years, *viz.*, up to

December 1818, when he was transferred to Haidarabad, and Sir D. Ochterlony returned for two years. In November 1821 Sir D. Ochterlony went to Rajputana, and, after an acting charge by Mr. H. Middleton, Mr. A. Ross was in May 1822 appointed to the administration in the capacity of Agent to the Governor-General. In 1823 Mr. W. Fraser acted as Agent for a few months and was succeeded by Mr. C. Elliott, who held charge until October 1825. Sir C. T. Metcalfe then returned to Delhi in the capacity of Resident and Commissioner, with control of Rajputana and the conduct of foreign relations with Kabul and Lahore. In 1827 Sir Charles Metcalfe was appointed Member of the Governor-General's Council and was succeeded at Delhi by Sir E. Colebrooke, who was removed in August 1829. Mr. William Fraser then acted for about six weeks and was succeeded by Mr. F. Hawkins, who held charge until November 1830, being relieved by Mr. B. Martin, who remained until March 1832, when the Residentsip was abolished and an Agency again constituted. Rajputana was made a separate charge, leaving Delhi and the Protected Territory and foreign relations still with the local administration. Mr. W. Fraser was appointed Agent and held charge until March 1835, when he was murdered at the instigation of the Nawab of Ferozpur. Then followed the long administration of Mr. T. T. Metcalfe, who in the capacity of Agent to the Governor of Agra and later as Agent to the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces held charge at Delhi until his death in November 1853. Mr. Simon Fraser then became Agent to the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces and Commissioner at Delhi, and was in office when the Mutiny broke out. He was murdered on the 11th May 1857.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

	PAGE.
Settlement of the Revenue of the Assigned Territory, 1807-08	1

CHAPTER II.

Settlement of the District of Bewári, 1808	41
--	----

CHAPTER III.

Establishment of a Government Farm at Hissar, 1815	57
--	----

CHAPTER IV.

Despatch of stallions and mares from Pusa to the Hissar Farm and proposed grants of land to encourage horse-breeding	63
--	----

CHAPTER V.

Report on the Revenue System of the Delhi Terri- tory, 1820	69
--	----

CHAPTER VI.

Report by Mr. T. Fortescue, Civil Commissioner, Delhi, on the customs and town duties of the Delhi Territory, 1820	131
--	-----

CHAPTER VII.

Management of <i>mal wakf</i> , <i>lawaris</i> , <i>zabt</i> and <i>taiul</i> lands in Delhi, 1821-22	215
--	-----

CHAPTER VIII.

	PAGE.
Reports on lapsed and reserved territory in the Protected Sikh and Hill States and on the latter generally, 1824	229

CHAPTER IX.

Village accounts and mode of levying the Government assessment in Delhi, 1826	325
---	-----

CHAPTER X.

Ceremonial observed on the occasion of the visit of the Governor-General (Lord Amherst) to His Majesty the King of Delhi in 1827	337
--	-----

CHAPTER XI.

Failure of negotiations for a meeting between the Governor-General (Lord William Bentinck) and His Majesty the King of Delhi in 1831	343
--	-----

CHAPTER XII.

Question of the privilege of the King of Delhi to confer titles and dresses of honor	355
--	-----

CHAPTER XIII.

Complimentary letter from the Heir-Apparent of Delhi to Sir R. T. Metcalfe, Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces	367
--	-----

CHAPTER XIV.

Death of His Majesty Akbar Shah (2nd) of Delhi and succession of Muhammad Bahadur Shah, 1837	371
--	-----

CHAPTER XV.

Presentation of <i>nazars</i> to the King of Delhi by British officials	377
---	-----

CONTENTS.

iii

CHAPTER XVI.

PAGE.

Orders connected with the future succession to the Throne of Delhi	405
--	-----

CHAPTER XVII.

Recognition of Prince Mirza Fakr-ud-din as Heir-Apparent to the King of Delhi and the conditions imposed, 1851-52	413
---	-----

CHAPTER XVIII.

Illness of His Majesty the King of Delhi and arrangements in the event of his demise, 1853 .	443
--	-----

CHAPTER XIX.

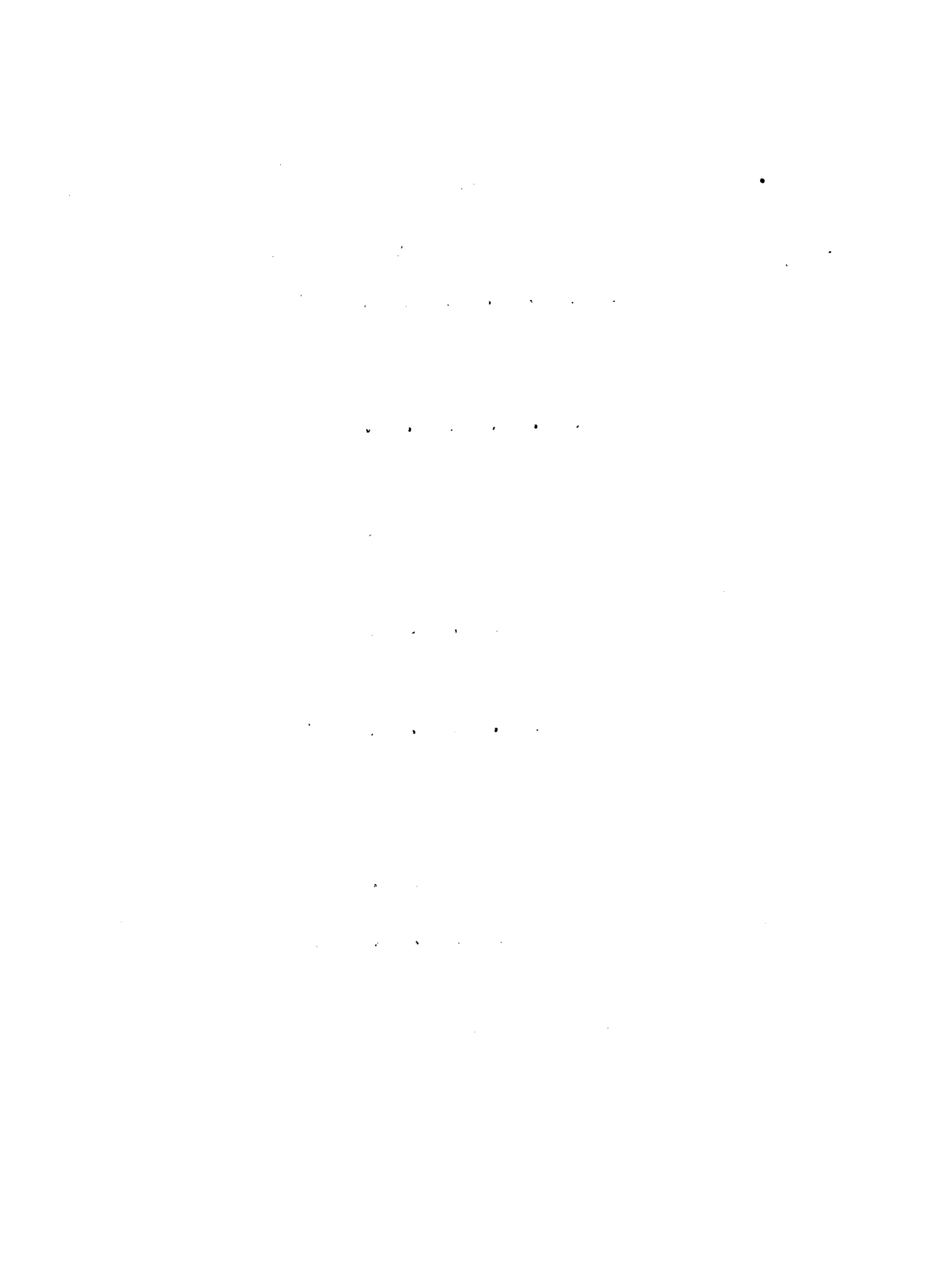
Death of the Heir-Apparent of Delhi and question of a successor, 1856-57	453
--	-----

CHAPTER XX.

Pretensions of Mirza Jawan Bakht to the office of Heir-Apparent, 1856-57	475
--	-----

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

Portrait of Mr. W. Fraser, B.C.S., Agent to the Governor-General, Delhi, <i>to face page</i> . . .	191
Portrait of Captain C. P. Kennedy, B. H. A., Political Agent, Hill States, <i>to face page</i>	255



CHAPTER VIII.

REPORTS ON LAPSED AND RESERVED TERRITORY IN THE PROTECTED SIKH AND HILL STATES AND ON THE LATTER GENERALLY—1824.

EXTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE RIGHT HON'BLE THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL, IN THE POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, UNDER DATE THE 27TH AUGUST 1824.

1. *From CHAS. ELLIOTT, Esquire, Agent to the Governor-General in the Western Provinces, to G. SWINTON, Esquire, Secretary to Government in the Political Department, Fort William,—No. 34, dated Delhi, 7th June 1824.*

I HAVE now the honor to submit, for the perusal of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council, the accompanying copy of a letter from Lieutenant Murray, dated the 23rd ultimo, covering a General Report on the Protected States, as required by the orders of Government dated 31st January last.

General Report on the Protected States.

2. The establishments which Lieutenant Murray proposes to entertain appear to me to be on a very moderate scale, and I beg leave to recommend that they may be authorized. Also that Lieutenant Swetenham of Engineers be instructed to repair the Fort of Umballa (at an expense not exceeding Rs. 6,000) under the directions of Lieutenant Murray.

Repairs of Fort of Umballa.

3. The garrison of 100 men required for the Fort of Umballa can without inconvenience be furnished by Captain Kennedy, and the men may be relieved every month, or every

Garrison of Fort.

second month, as the Governor-General in Council may think proper to direct. Lieutenant Murray will of course take care that their discipline is kept up during their stay at Umballa, and this party, combined with 100 of Skinner's Horse, the Contingent of the *Putteedars* and *Tabedars*, and the Irregulars of the Native Chiefs, will form a respectable force in a central position between Kurnaul and Loodiana.

Proceeds of the sale of the property of the Rani of Ambála and its disposal.

4. The Governor-General in Council will observe that, after defraying all arrears of pay due to the establishment of the late Ranee Diakooar of Umballa, the sum realized from the sale of her property and carried to the credit of Government amounted to Rs. 94,452-10-9 as per accompanying statement,¹ of which 67,000 rupees has been remitted to Lieutenant Wade for the payment of the troops at Loodiana, and regarding the disposal of the remainder I await the answer to a letter which I addressed to the Superintendent of Resources.

Rules proposed for administration of justice in the new territories.

5. The pergunnahs of Umballa and Belaspore and the Kaardah Dhoon being now unalienably (I hope) annexed to the territory of the British Government, it is very desirable that some specific rules should be prescribed for the administration of Civil and Criminal Justice in these our new possessions.

6. Lieutenant Murray has no doubt acted wisely in keeping up all the ancient institutions which he found in existence, but a Legislative enactment is now necessary to render legal any decision passed by them, as the Chief by whose order the *Punch* was assembled and in whose name justice was administered is no longer in existence.

7. Lieutenant Murray proposes to refer any serious cases which may occur for my decision, but at present I could not venture to decide on any case which did not endanger the tranquillity of the country, and the Supreme Government would no doubt find a difficulty in acting under such circumstances. I would therefore beg leave to propose that a regulation be passed empowering the Deputy Superintendent to assemble the *Punch*, and to decide according to their award,

¹ Not printed.

in all common cases, conformably to the established usage of the country; and that in all cases of murder, highway robbery, dacoitee, wounding, or affray in which lives are lost, Lieutenant Murray investigate the case in the first instance, and commit the parties for trial before the Political Agent at Delhi, whose decision in sentences of death or transportation for life should be referred for confirmation to the Nizamut Adawlut and all others be carried into effect without reference; a half-yearly statement only being submitted to Government.

8. It affords me much pleasure to bear my testimony to the conduct of Lieutenant Murray. His zeal for the public good, his ability, temper and long experience render him eminently qualified for the situation which he holds. A great deal of additional duty must now devolve on him in the charge of the Umballa Estate, and I would with deference submit his claim to increased salary to the favorable consideration of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council.

Commenda-
tion of Lieu-
tenant Mur-
ray.

ENCLOSURE TO 1.

2. *From Lieutenant W. MURRAY, Deputy Superintendent of the Sikh and Hill States, to O. ELLIOTT, Esquire, Agent to the Governor-General in the Western Provinces,—dated Umballa, 23rd May 1824.*

I HAVE the honor to transmit my Report on the Reserved Lands in the Protected Sikh and Hill States.

2. The Fort of Umballa being very extensive, it will require 100 men for its protection, and I beg to suggest that a detachment of this strength be detached from the 1st Nusseeree Battalion at Subathoo, and that the Goorkhas employed on this duty receive their extra batta in the same manner as the Regular Sepoys.

Repair and
garrisoning
of Fort of
Ambála.

3. The parapets and ramparts of the Fort being in a dilapidated state, it will require about 6,000 rupees to repair them, which may be defrayed from the collections arising from

the estate, and the works be kept in serviceable condition, and the place be retained in our own hands for the reasons detailed in the report.

4. I have endeavoured to rate the establishments as low as it was practicable with a due regard to the proper discharge of the duties to be performed.

Begar system.

5. I beg leave to solicit your early attention to the cruel system of pressing the few inhabitants of the Kaarda Doon as *begars* or porters.

Application
of Lieutenant
Murray for
increased pay.

6. I may with delicacy be permitted to notice to you the great additional weight, responsibility and labor which have devolved upon me by the charge of the reserved lands, in addition to my other heavy political duties, the charge and discharge of which I consider to be an high honor, and in which I feel a peculiar interest and pleasure, and it is with much reluctance I plead through you to the liberality and consideration of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council for such emendation of my salary as I may seem to merit.

P. S.—I have omitted to charge for a *Podar* or Treasurer at Rs. 30 per mensem, which I trust you will consider necessary.

ENCLOSURE TO 2.

3. *Report on the Reserved Lands in the Protected Sikh and Hill Territories by Lieutenant MURRAY, Deputy Superintendent.*

UMBALLA ESTATE.

Description of
the estate.

THE possessions of the late Sirdarnee Dia Kour, which have lapsed to the British Government, are situated in the centre of the Protected Sikh States, and were acquired in Sumbut 1820 (A. D. 1763) on the defeat of Zyn Khan, the Governor of Surhund, by two brothers who came from Manjha (the country to the south-west of Umritsur and Lahore) and were named Goor Buksh Sing and Lall Sing. Both these Chieftains dying at an early period without issue, the widow of the former succeeded to the estate, and held the Government for 38 years, to the hour of her demise, on the 13th January 1824.

2. Goor Buksh Sing and Lall Sing were accompanied by many of their brethren in the acquisition of the territory, who were treated as equals and lands were parcelled out into five grand *puttees* or divisions,—(1) Umballa, (2) Thurwa, (3) Punjhokrah, (4) Bubbeal and (5) Boh,—and these again, branching out into many smaller dependencies, to *Tabedars* or feudal followers. The table¹ No. 1 in the appendix shows the number of villages, extent of their lands and amount of collections appertaining to the Umballa domain, with those of the other *Putteedars* and *Tabedars*.

3. During the lifetime of Sirdars Goor Buksh Sing and Lall Sing the several *Putteedars* owed a voluntary obedience to Umballa, and were in the field with their superiors on emergent exigencies, whose paramount authority they acknowledged either from a sense of brotherhood or inability to support and protect themselves against the encroachments of the more powerful. The four *puttees* were at one time, however, leagued against Umballa, and internal tranquillity was only restored by the cession of 6,000 *beegahs* of land to the Punjhokrah *Puttee*, a share in the town of Umballa demanded by each *puttee* being long and successfully resisted by Goor Buksh Sing.

4. The succession of Dia Kour and the consequent mismanagement and imbecility of female rule amongst turbulent tribes, lawless followers and corrupt officers, afforded the *puttees* a fair opportunity of asserting independence, and a partial estrangement was effected, and each *puttee* in a great measure became a separate community, and only aided the widow of their liege lord with contingents of troops, under a pressing emergency, or when occasion prompted and convenience and self-interest dictated. The title of the Sirdarnee as paramount head of the *Missul* or confederacy was disputed by none, but the extortions and encroaching spirit evinced by her Minister, Sepahee Mul, disgusted and harassed the *Putteedars*, whose constant petty disputes were maintained with the most unbounding obstinacy and rancour, which the *Surkurdah* or heads of the *Puttee* were seldom able to settle, unless their

¹ Not printed.

decisions were enforced by the hand of power, and it often occurred that these heads were rather parties than judges, and at variance amongst themselves or in league with the corrupt Minister of the veiled and aged lady, the nominal and immured representative of the confederacy. Since I have had the honor to fill the situation of Deputy Superintendent in these States, I have controlled the turbulent *Putteedars* through their *Surkurdah* or Native Chiefs with a success which has more than answered my most sanguine expectations.

Divisions. 5. The Umballa Estate is separated into 6 divisions—Umballa Khas and 5 villages; Shapoor and 13 villages; Moollana and 12 villages; Simulhairee and 6 villages; Kooralee and 3 villages; and Doorana, and each cut off from the other by the possessions of other Chieftains and the lands and villages of the *Putteedars* and *Tabedars*.

Irrigation. 6. The Rivers Chistee, Oombla, Ghuggur, Tungree and Markhunda intersect the several divisions of the Umballa domain, and *kools* or cuts are drawn by the cultivators to irrigate the lands which are termed *maroo*, being entirely dependent on the periodical rains for the produce, wells only existing in the villages, the water of which is used for culinary purposes alone.

Products. 7. The *khurreef* or autumnal crop consists of *dhan* or rice, *mote*, *bajra* and other coarse grains, sugarcane and cotton. The *rubbee* or vernal crop produces wheat, *jow* and gram, and small quantities of tobacco and poppies with the *sur durukhtee* or fruit orchards.

Civil administration. 8. I have preserved unimpaired as far as practicable the practice for the civil administration which I found established by Sepahee Mul, the Dewan of the late Sirdarnee, adopting a few changes tending to ameliorate the condition of the ryot.

Village discipline. 9. Each village forms a distinct community within itself, and has its *Punch* or *Chowdree* who holds lands in *inam* and being the hereditary head of the place all affairs are referred to him for his advice and decision; he looks jealously to the preservation of the boundaries, settles the sum each *Asamee* has to pay, and may be considered the mutual agent of the cultivator and the Government. In fact the maintenance

of good order, the promotion of the cultivation and the suppression of crime rests with the *Punch*, upon whose virtue or vice the fair name of the village must stand or fall in the estimation of the neighbours.

10. Next in consequence is the *putwarree* or village *Patwari* accountant, who keeps the records and attends the *kunneea* or appraiser of the fields, noting down the *Asamees'* names and making out the dues from each to Government in his *khet khusrah* or field book, which serves as a check to the *Tehseeldar's khusrah* and *jummabundee* accounts.

11. The chief part of the cultivators in the Umballa Tenures of lands. estate hold the lands in *meiras*, which are hereditary and saleable, the lord of the demesne confiscating them in case of rebellion or contumacy, and giving them over to another to cultivate. The *meerassees* pay the half of the produce to the *Sirkar* loaded with various impositions, independent of the village expenses, the maintenance of carpenters, blacksmiths, *chumars*, barbers and charity to mendicant *fakerees*.

The *meerassees* or proprietors in many villages employ *Malees*, *Racens* and other classes of hardy and industrious farmers to till small portions of the land, for which they pay an anna or two per *beegah*, or in kind, to the *meerassees*, exclusive of the Government share.

12. The collections were made by the late *Sirdarnee's* Land collections. officers at three stated periods, the *rubbee*, *khurreef*, sugarcane and cotton crops. In the first the *butaee* or equal division of the grain on the field was adopted; at the second, the *kun* or appraisement; at both the *Sirdarnee* receiving her share in kind and the *zubtee* or cash payment for the sugarcane and cotton crops. The mode of levying the *eek-baree* or sugarcane collections is by taxing the *koloo* or presses which express the juice, in some villages two rupees and in other Re. 1-8-0 per press for every 24 hours they work. In general the *zumeendars* paid their revenue with punctuality, and in cases of inability or refusal the defaulter was thrown into irons should the prior extremity of a *dustuck* or billet not have produced a salutary effect.

Extra collec-
tions.

13. These items, termed *seiwace jumma*, were twofold, those received by the late Sirdarnee and others which her officers appropriated to their own use. Among the first was a tax named *kathee* or saddle taken from the cultivator; half an anna in every rupee received from the Shahpoor district, which fell also upon the cultivator; a tax of 17 per cent. on the sale of all houses and land; a supply of *ghee*, cotton and buffaloe hides from each village; *bach* or tax upon gaming, *settrinjee*-makers, weavers, binders of ornaments, tobacconists, *hooka* snake sellers and butchers in the town of Umballa; *jureemana*, or fines; a fee upon all Mussulman marriages and on *khutna* or circumcision. Those levied by her officers were very numerous and had various appropriate names.

In addition to these exactions there were exigencies which demanded a heavy *Nuzzurana*, such as that paid to Rajah Runjeet Singh in his incursions, or to any other powerful Chieftain, and termed *Rakhee* or Protection Money, but which has ceased to exist since the influence of the British Government has been paramount in these States.

Customs.

14. The *zekaut* or transit dues were farmed out by the late Dia Kour, the farmer levying so much per camel and bullock load. The system of *Hoonda Bhara* held by the class called Nanukpotrah is a convenience to the mercantile body, for by the payment of a given sum the caravan of goods is passed through the territories of the several Sikh Chieftains by the Nanukpotrah, who settles at each *chowkee* for the duty, and the sanctity of his character prevents over-exaction.

15. The Town Duties were held by the farmer of the *zekaut*, who levied a small sum on all imports and exports and a trifle from *settrinjee*-makers and weavers on producing their cloth from the loom.

Abkarce and
drugs.

16. These produced a very insignificant revenue of about 20 rupees per mensem to Dia Kour, arising from the cheap sale in the adjacent territory of other Chieftains.

Modes of
collecting.

17. The native system of making the collections may be termed threefold, the *Kun*, *Butace*, and *Tushkhees*, all of which had at different periods been adopted by the officers

of the late Sirdarnee. The *Kun* or appraisement, if skilful natives can be found, is the most simple and expeditious method of assessment, but requiring great fidelity, experience and judgment in the *Kunneea* or appraiser, who should be chosen from among the oldest zumeendars and over whom the Tehseeldar should keep a vigilant and circumspect eye. In the case of a cultivator being dissatisfied with the appraisement of his field by the *Kunneea*, an instant recourse should be had to the practice of beating out a *Beegah* or *Biswa* of the grain on the disputed field, and thereby ascertain the exact quantity to the satisfaction of both parties. It is obvious that a constant appeal to this principle ought to be avoided as tedious and vexatious, and it is seldom the cultivator calls for its application, and still less does the *Kunneea* like to put his judgment to the test.

The *Butaee*, or division of the grain on the spot, seemed to present many objections. Three heaps are made, one for the Sirkar, the second for the ryot, and the third for *khurch* or village expenses; so that Government receives only about a third of the produce, which has led to the phrase "*Butaee Lootaee*," or division is plunder. The grain has to remain on the field for a length of time, exposed to the elements, ere it can be trodden out and winnowed, added to the expense of persons to watch the *khulwara* or stacks from the spoliation of the zumeendars, who are tempted to remove portions of the grain during the night season. Could these and similar difficulties be surmounted, no mode offers such a show of justice as the Government and its subject dividing the gifts of nature on the spot.

The *Tushkhees*, or farm of an estate to the highest bidder, distresses the cultivator, and, however pleasing the lucrative receipts may appear for the few first years of the lease, eventual loss, paucity of cultivation, emigration of defaulters and diminution of revenue must ensue. The Lahore and Putteealla territories are now suffering from the farming system, and many, once respectable, individuals who held the districts have been ruined and disgraced by Rajas Runjeet Sing and Kurm Sing from failing in their speculations. In cases

where the heads of villages propose to take their lands on a short lease, much advantage may be expected; the ryot will forward the cultivation for his individual benefit, and the Government receive a fair revenue direct from the zumeendar, with amelioration to its subject, and just equivalent to itself.

System of
collecting
the revenue
adopted by
the Deputy
Superin-
tendent.

18. I have introduced the *Kunkoot* or appraisement throughout the Umballa Estate, levying according to the actual cultivation and assessing every field agreeable to the produce. The ryot knows what he has to pay, is assured that no money exactions harass him, and has prompt attention paid to all his complaints, which will be heard with patience and decided with equity. There is a certain severity of unbending justice and unrelenting manner of administering it, which perhaps does not so well accord with the habits of the people as the ancient system of procrastination and bribery by which a man who filed a cause was never so completely lost as to suffer by the taunts of his neighbours, but always hoped in the course of time to have a revision in his favor, never considering his case settled or lost as long as his money lasted and he had a friend at Court.

I have granted a year's lease of the Shahpoor district to the heads of the several villages at their earnest solicitation and taken a banker's security for the payment of two *kists* or instalments. Shahpoor may be reckoned on an average to yield Rs. 12,000 per annum, and the zumeendars give Rs. 14,000 for the farm, exclusive of their *Inamee* lands, which amount to upwards of a thousand rupees.

From a difficulty of fixing a tariff, I have farmed the Customs for one year at Rs. 4,500 per annum, being an advance on the late Sirdarnee's lease of Rs. 1,700; the *Abkaree* and Drug Shops for Rs. 420, the sale of opium at Rs. 425, which produced nothing to Dia Kour; Butchers Rs. 40 and Gardens at Rs. 231 per annum; rent of shops at Umballa, the property of the late Sirdarnee, Rs. 452-4-0 per annum, making an aggregate total of Rs. 6,068-0-4 per annum. I have taken the liberty of abandoning some taxes which were obnoxious to the inhabitants and restrained commerce and cannot be termed legitimate revenue, such as the *kathee* or

saddle, a charge on the cultivator, the *bach* or tax on *settrinjee*-makers and weavers' looms, which caused much satisfaction; and the trifle which has been yielded in this department is increased in others very capable of bearing the charge, so that no loss occurs to Government; on the contrary, I trust to see the collections improve and the inhabitants happy under our rule.

19. The late Dia Kour set aside much in charity, and the Table No. 2 in the appendix¹ will show the distribution of this item in her time and her general annual expenditure. I propose that 6,369 *beegahs* of land, being a reduction of about 4,000 *beegahs*, be confirmed to those *Milkees*, *zumeendars*, *fakcers* and old servants who have enjoyed this species of benevolence under the old Government, and the reduction of which would be very unpopular. Many Sikhs and mere retainers who held lands in lieu of military service have of course received their discharge and the lands been resumed.

Charity and
Inam lands.

20. The *Punch* is responsible for the conduct of every person in his village, and his principal duty is to prevent the harbour of thieves, and when the *Sooragh*, or trace by the footsteps, is brought to his limits he must either convey it without his own boundary or be answerable for the robbery according to the practice of the country. Should the trace be brought to the village ere the inhabitants and cattle have gone abroad, it might often be just, but where it is attempted to be carried on after sunrise it generally fails. A very extensive and daring robbery was perpetrated in the town of Jugadree in the year 1819, and on the following morning blood was traced to the village of Dheen, about 6 *coos* distant on the high road. The evening before a quarrel had taken place in Dheen in which a *Fakeer* had been wounded, and the concurring circumstances were so strong that the estates of the Sikh Chief of Dheen were attached and given over to the Jugadree merchant, who claimed Rs. 25,000. In 1820 I succeeded in establishing the robbery in the western districts of Kote Kuppoorah, Fureedkote and Wudnee, 130 miles distant from the scene of plunder, and Raja Runjeet Sing paying the

Police.

¹ Not printed.

amount the Dheen Sirdar was released from the charge. The demand of indemnity should be made with much caution, but responsibility should nevertheless attach to the head of every village in such a state of society ; otherwise neglect will follow and the villagers become thieves, presenting the *chaharum*, or fourth share of their profits, to the *Punch*, who will in few instances be able to resist the temptation, unless he conceives himself to hold a certain degree of respect in the estimation of his immediate superiors.

Punishment
of offenders.

21. The chief number of criminals taken up in Dia Kour's Government were convicted of robbery and petty offences, murder and maiming being very seldom committed except in the case of a disputed boundary betwixt zumeendars of different estates. Confinement and extortion were the punishments inflicted, very often without even the form of a summary trial.

The enforcement of penal bonds from every village signed by the heads binding them in "*Igarah Goonee*," or to make good 11 times the amount of the property traced to and completely established in their villages by inhabitants thereof, might prove of use in deterring from robbery, and it is pleasing to reflect that not a theft has occurred in Umballa or its villages since the rule of the British Government. As all thieves by profession must depend on the early and cheap disposal of their ill-gotten property, I have directed that *Bunnees* and others making purchases from strangers and suspected persons register the same at the *Kotwallce* and the vendor produce security of his respectability ere he receive the purchase money.

Use made of
the *Tabedars*
and
Pattidars
in the Police
Department.

22. The *Putteedars* and *Tabedars* have ever retained the management and administration of justice in their own hands, no revenue having been exacted from them by the Chief of Umballa and the cultivators being entirely subject to their orders. The *Putteedars* being very numerous and holding many villages, the Police was extremely lax and Dia Kour had little power over them. The Police of the *Tabedar* villages was, on the contrary, more in the hands of the late Sirdarnee's officers, who exercised an indirect control,

especially in all cases of murder, robbery and boundary disputes. Few of the *Putteedars* obeyed the call of Dia Kour even in cases of emergency. The *Tabedars*, being viewed more in the light of feudal vassals, furnished a few foot soldiers each when demanded. Having shewn the tenure by which each held his lands, it is only required to particularize the use I have made of these jagheerdars. Acting on prior practice, I have only demanded from the *Putteedars* 40 horse and from the *Tabedars* 40 foot soldiers, which were furnished with promptitude, and I have given all a general assurance that no revenue or *nuzzurana* will be exacted from them.

For the purposes of police and protection of the town of Umballa I have found these auxiliaries most useful. During the government of Dia Kour nightly robberies took place, notwithstanding her large and expensive military establishment, and since her demise and the introduction of the *Putteedars* and *Tabedars* not a single theft has been perpetrated, either in the populous town or adjacent villages.

23. On assuming charge of the Umballa Estate in the name of the Government, my attention was early drawn to the right of the subject, and the mode best calculated to render justice to all classes according to their prejudices, habits and long established and fondly cherished forms. It was obvious that no European Code of Jurisprudence could embrace these points, and that the Regulations in force in the Hon'ble Company's Provinces would be ill-suited to give satisfaction to thousands who had each for centuries past been guided by the practices of his own individual caste and tribe. Civil Justice.

It would have been highly inexpedient and objectionable to take into my own hands the reins of justice and on my own unassisted and inexperienced judgment to decide on the rights of others, in which from local or other circumstances I might be more a party than a judge, and suspected in many instances of partiality and favor. To delegate the smallest authority to the Natives acting under my orders seemed to be the *dernier ressort* of oppression and extortion.

The practical difficulty and inconvenience which must attend the government of these distant and insulated escheats which fall to us by the extinction of the ruling family, more essentially in the administration of justice, are points in which the name and honor of the British Government and my own reputation are deeply involved.

Panchaits.

24. All offences of a serious nature will be referred to you for your orders and instructions, and with regard to the ordinary distribution of summary police and the trial of minor cases, I am humbly of opinion that the *Punchait*, with all its objections, seems to afford the best facilities and most accords with the inclinations and habits of all classes of natives. By thus regulating the ends of justice, I hope to relieve myself from being often thrown into situations of perplexity and difficulty. Added to the simplicity and summary proceedings of the *Punchait*, additional satisfaction will be afforded to the applicants for redress by directing them to choose their own *moonsiffs* or arbitrators, and these to be from a distinct estate to themselves and of the same caste as the disputants, allowing each to challenge, and where the plea of affinity or bad character can be established another choice should be made. *Muchulkas* or penal bonds may be taken from each to abide by the award of the arbitrators, from which no appeal ought to be heard, unless bribery and corruption be distinctly substantiated.

Capital crimes are almost unknown in the Umballa Estate, and the *Punchait* under the provisions above stated consequently embraces every purpose of equity, and is without doubt the mode best adapted to the wishes of every class, and which we may invigorate and correct where we find it defective; but, however coarse it may seem to us, it would be difficult perhaps to change and improve the system and give equal satisfaction. I cannot call to recollection a single instance, during 10 years' experience in these States, of a *Punchait* being convicted of bribery, and the common phrase "*Punchait men Purmesur*" imposes respect upon the arbitrators and stamps their decisions. The members selected are generally the oldest inhabitants of the town or village, of most approved probity and experience, and their award is either verbal or written as may best please

the parties. I have ordered that all decisions be committed to paper and signed by the members composing the *Punchait* and recorded in the Town *Chubootra*.

25. Umballa being the great thoroughfare to and from Northern India and the British Provinces, I have ordered a register to be kept in the Public *Chubootra*, in which is notified the daily arrivals and departures of all strangers and caravans, the market prices, and every other occurrence worthy of notice, which is daily perused and signed by my initials.

26. A large quantity of damaged and saleable grain being found in the Fort of Umballa, I have taken upon myself the responsibility of clearing out the wells and repairing the extensive *pucka* brick *Badshahee* Caravanserai, giving the work people at the rate of four *seers* per diem, which has employed a number of the poorer inhabitants and restored a noble monument of princely munificence to its pristine use in giving shelter to travellers and merchants from the inclemency of the seasons and the nightly depredations of robbers.

27. I beg to propose the following establishments for the conduct of the Police and Revenue duties of Umballa, which I hope will meet your sanction and be considered moderate :—

Police and Revenue Establishments proposed for the Estate of Ambála.

POLICE.		Rs.	A.	P.
1 <i>Kotwal</i> at per month		30	0	0
1 <i>Moonshee</i>		15	0	0
2 <i>Dundeees</i> , Rs. 3 each		6	0	0
2 <i>Chuprassees</i> , Rs. 4 each		8	0	0
Pen, ink and paper		5	0	0
Charity to Nanoo Singh, 6 rupees and to Soota Sidh Rs. 2, the first a very old servant of the late Dia Kour and near 80 years of age, and the Sidh, a holy man of Umballa and of the same age,—this pension to continue for the remainder of their lives		8	0	0
2 <i>Meheters</i> for the <i>Kotwalee</i> and Fort at Rs. 2-8-0 each		5	0	0
Total per month		77	0	0

REVENUE.

	Rs. A. P.
1 Tehseeldar per month	40 0 0
1 Mootsuddee for Moollana	8 0 0
1 Dundeca for ditto	3 0 0
1 <i>Jumadar</i> and 12 <i>Sebundy Sepahees</i> for the protection and care of the town of Moollana : 4 rupees <i>Jemadar</i> and 3 each <i>Sepahees</i>	40 0 0
Pen, ink and paper	10 0 0
7 <i>Chuprassees</i> ,— for Umballa 2, for Moollana 1, for Shahpoor 1, for Simulhairee 1, for Kooralee 1, for Doorana 1,—at Rs. 4 each per month	28 0 0
Total	129 0 0

Repairs of
fort of
Ambala.

28. The *pucka* brick forts of Gurdhaun, Simulhairee and Doorana have been abandoned to save expense, and I should humbly propose that the large and extensive *pucka* brick fort of Umballa be put into a suitable state of repair, which may be effected, I think, for about 5 to 6,000 rupees, and serve as a safe place of retreat for the office, the house built by Captain Ross falling fast to decay and being much exposed to nightly depredations from thieves.

BEELASPOOR ESTATE.

Description of
the Estate.

29. The demise of Dia Kour in 1820 put the *Talook* of Beelaspoor into our possession. It is situated in the north-east quarter of the Protected Sikh States and is termed "*Chupper Bas*," the whole of the inhabitants living in grass huts, and the several villages present, in consequence, a poor and mean appearance, the town of Beelaspoor alone containing 366 flat-roofed houses.

The lands and villages of the *Talook* and its *Putteedars* extend along the base of the desert hills, which form the Kaarda *Doon* or valley, from Sadhoura E. to Khizzurabad, Raewalla and Kulaisur on the Jumna W. They have been originally parcelled out without any regard to regularity, situation or proximity, and a commixture of interests and complication of boundary lines prevail throughout the *Talook*.

Many changes have also taken place in the course of 60 years, when the country was acquired by the Sikhs, and the subsequent power and encroaching disposition of Sirdar Jodh Singh, Kulseea, the Chicheroulee Chieftain, after his attachment to Lahore, led him to distress Dia Kour and the lesser *Putteedars*, and in all probability he would have seized the greater portion of their lands had not the protecting arm of the British Government been stretched over them and its liberality guaranteed their estates.

The district is well cultivated, presenting an undulating surface, producing wheat, rice, barley, sugarcane and cotton, the lands being turned *maroo* or dependent on rain for the products. The Sarsootee sacred stream rises in and meanders through the *Talook*, and the *Teeruths* of Audbudree, Pulanch, Kurpal and Runmochun are all held in veneration by the Hindoos, who bathe in the pools of water at each. The *Bun* or wilderness and well of Raja Senthul are celebrated as of *Sut Joog* antiquity.

30. Beelaspoor contains 22 villages which have yielded to us from 10 to 12,000 rupees annual collections, but I apprehend it has been much neglected, and the Tehseeldars failed in doing their duty with fidelity. With a view to ascertain this important point, I made a considerable stay at Beelaspoor in March last, and after the most particular investigation and inquiry I discovered many abuses which have been already brought to your notice. Revenue.

There was no stated and regular method of making the collections,—in some villages the *Kun*, in others the *Butaee*,—and the Government share did not amount, where it was reputed half of the produce, to more than 34 *mun* and 16 *seers* in every 100 *muns*; on the reputed $\frac{1}{3}$ rd we only received 27 *mun* 9 *seers* and 5 *chittacks*, on the 4th 20 *mun* and 17 *seers*, and on the $\frac{2}{3}$ ths 32 *mun* and 27 *seers*.

The dismissal of the old and the appointment of another Tehseeldar afforded me the opportunity of making a new settlement of the revenue with the heads of villages, and I assessed each in the following proportions according to the *Kunkoot*:—For such lands from which we have received the *nisfee*, or

half, I have taken 38 *muns* and 28 *seers* on every 100 *muns* of grain appraised in the field, on the $\frac{1}{3}$ rd 29 *muns* 1 *seer*, on the $\frac{1}{4}$ th 21 *muns* 30 *seers* and 12 *chittacks*, and on the $\frac{2}{5}$ ths 34 *muns* 33 *seers* and 4 *chittacks*. This arrangement was not of course popular, but with reference to past low assessments it is fair and equitable and even much *under* the assessment which should, and I hope will, be made gradually in a year or two, enabling the cultivator to give half for the entire estate. It differs so materially from the old regimen that I did not look to the good-will of the cultivator, who was forced to acknowledge its justice, whilst he deplored the loss of his large receipts, and the *Rubbee* collections have just been effected on the new principle without a murmur. I have also made a corresponding increase in the *Eek-baree* or sugarcane payment, and remitted a trifling sum taken in lieu of cotton, *ghee*, milk and leather from the villages and the *Hu boob* or fees extorted by the Tehseeldar and his *Mutsuddies*.

Customs.

31. We have generally received about 148 rupees per annum for the *Zekaut* of Beelaspoor. I have farmed it out for one year to a merchant of Sadhoura for Rs. 1,000, from which some trifling payments to the *Putteedars* should be deducted, who have shares with us in Sadhoura and Khizzurabad, and to whom I did not consider it politic to grant the privilege of collecting for themselves and shackling commerce with additional exactions.

Revenue establishment.

32. I found the following establishment for the conduct of the Revenue Department, *viz.*—

	Rs.	A.	P.
1 Tehseeldar at	25	0	0
4 <i>Chuprassees</i> at Rs. 4 each	16	0	0
8 <i>Sepahces Sebundy</i> at Rs. 3 each	24	0	0
Pen, ink and paper	5	0	0
Total per month	70	0	0

Lands in *inam*.

33. The lands in charity and *Inam* amount to 1,086 *Beegahs*, and were considerably more under the rule of Dia Kour, being conferred on unworthy persons, whom I detected in attempts to sell and transfer the lands to others.

34. *Police and Civil Justice.*—The administration to be under the same rules I have detailed for the Umballa Estate, the *Putteedars* exercising authority over their own subjects agreeably to prior practice and repairing to the office of the Deputy Superintendent for the decision of their own disputes, which are generally made over to a *Punchait* of the *Surkurdah* or heads of the *Puttee*.

Police and
Civil Justice.

KAARDA DOON.

35. This is a beautiful, picturesque and verdant valley, bounded on the north by the State of Sirmoor and on the south by the Hills which divide it from the Beelaspoor *Talook*, on the east by the Jumna and Girree rivers, which separate it from the Deyrah Doon, and on the west by the Kuthasun *Teeruth*, which bounds it towards Nahun. The Doon is 22 miles long and varying from 13 to 6 miles in breadth, the surrounding mountains forming it into an amphitheatre. The soil is of the most productive nature, yielding every species of grain and the finest pasturages. The celebrated *Raj-Bun*, whence the *Saul* timber is felled, and which is exported by water carriage down the Jumna to Hindoostan, is situate in the north-east angle of the Doon. The woods produce spontaneously most of the drugs found in the *punsarees'* shops, and wild elephants range the skirts of the valley and are often entrapped in the *Ougy* or pits dug for them, which is a dangerous and cruel mode of taking the animal, which often loses its life in the struggle. The small stream called the *Battoh* running east and west intersects the Doon and disembogues into the Jumna. The richness of the pasturage invites those who have numerous herds of horned cattle to bring them to graze in the Doon during the months of March to June, when the verdure is scanty in the plains. A revenue of about Rs. 150 is derived from this source, each *gole* or herd paying two rupees for the season. *Ghee* and milk were extorted from the *goles* by the Goorkha and Sirmoor Governments, which I have judged it but just and politic to remit.

Description of
the valley.

The season of the periodical rains is unhealthy in the Doon, and the inhabitants are subject to intermittent fever

and ague. This, however, will no doubt much decrease on the progressive cultivation of the land, the influx of settlers and the amelioration in the condition of the people, whose present poverty and indigence are drawbacks to the procurement of nutritive food and warm clothing.

Revenue.

36. The land revenue of the valley has been for several years farmed out to the Sirmoor Raja at 450 rupees per annum, and of 16 villages which we took from the Goorkhas in 1814-15 only 5 now remain, the inhabitants having fled to avoid the oppressions of the Nahun Raja. On a late tour I made through the valley the few wretched inhabitants petitioned that they might be protected: they were British subjects and had been cruelly neglected under our Government.

The lease of the Nahun Raja being up, I have taken the management of the village into my own hands and left there the respectable and experienced *Chowdree* of Beelaspoor, to whom I have given *tuccavee* or advances to enable the cultivators to purchase bullocks and seed; and I am happy to find that the inhabitants of 10 deserted villages are returning, and I hope in the course of one year that considerable improvement will follow the measures I have adopted, and that this interesting Doon will be restored to its primitive luxuriance.

Customs.

37. I have farmed the customs for Rs. 3,000 a year, for one year, to the Jughadree merchants, which is the largest sum ever obtained.

I can say little more respecting the valley in its present state of desolation, but I trust my next report will be more satisfactory as the measures in train shall advance.

HILL STATES.**Hill States.**

38. These petty principalities are enjoying the full measure of the British protection and are in a state of the most profound tranquillity. Murder is seldom committed and robbery unknown, and the several Rajas are content and happy and their subjects receiving all the blessings of a mild and happy rule. The cultivation has improved in a fourfold degree, and the faces of the mountains are clad in stepped verdure to their base.

39. The inhabitants of the retained lands of Raeen, Sundoch and Burrowlee are governed in all petty disputes by the decisions of their *Seeanas* or heads of villages, and offences of a serious nature are referred to the Assistant at Subathoo, and from him to the Deputy Superintendent, and finally to the Agent of the Governor-General.

Police in the retained districts.

REVENUE.

40. Schedule of the collections, tribute, &c., received from the States betwixt the Rivers Sutlej and Jumna :—

Collections, tribute, &c., of Hill States.

Collections.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Pergunnah Raeen	1,004	0	0
Ditto Sundoch	662	14	0
Ditto Burrowlee	1,800	0	0
Total	3,466	14	0

Tribute.

Bussahir, annually	15,000	0	0
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Commutation in lieu of Begars.

Baghul, 100 <i>Begars</i> at Rs. 3 each	3,600	0	0
Komharsain, 40 ditto	1,440	0	0
Joobul, 70 ditto	2,520	0	0
Bhujee, 40 ditto	1,440	0	0
Muhlog, 40 ditto	1,440	0	0
Bulsun, 30 ditto	1,080	0	0
Dhamee, 20 ditto	720	0	0
Ootraj, 8 ditto	288	0	0
Beja, 5 ditto	180	0	0
Khotar, 30 ditto	1,080	0	0

Total received yearly from the Hill States . 92,254 14 0

The payments are made by quarterly *kists* or instalments, on the 1st January, 1st May and 1st September, and no arrears are due by any of the States.

*Begars or
hill porters.*

41. The inhabitants of the Doon complained that they were pressed to carry loads through the valley to Nahun, a distance of 16 *cos*s, by officers and others coming from Saharanpoor. This system is cruel in the extreme, considering the few inhabitants in the valley, who are dragged from their families and occupations without often being paid. I entreat in the strongest manner that an immediate stop be put to this system and orders be issued to the Civil Officers in Meerut, Saharanpoor and Deyrah Doon to give a public notice that no porters are procurable, and any attempt to force the inhabitants be brought to the notice of the local officers for the commands of the Supreme Government.

4. *From O. ELLIOTT, Esquire, Agent, Governor-General, to G. SWINTON, Esquire, Secretary to Government in the Political Department, Fort William,—dated Delhi, 16th July 1824.*

*Submission of
a report on
the Protected
Hill States.*

ON the 7th ultimo I had the honor of forwarding to you a general Report on the Protected States from Lieutenant Murray, the Deputy Superintendent of the Sikh and Hill States.

2. In continuation of the subject, I now have the pleasure to forward a copy of a letter from him of the 6th instant, giving cover to one from Captain Kennedy of that date, with a detailed report on the Protected Hill States, and I request you will submit it for the perusal of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council.

3. His Lordship in Council will determine how far the local authorities may interfere to prevent the arbitrary exactions now levied by several of the Chiefs from their Ryots.

*Proposed re-
covery of
tribute from
Hill Chiefs
in the form
of opium.*

4. As the Collectors in the Western Provinces are furnished with opium for sale from Behar and Benares, and as it appears to be the wish of Government to obtain an increased quantity of this drug, perhaps no objection would arise to our receiving the tribute from the Hill States in opium, which might be delivered to Lieutenant Murray at Umballa and by him forwarded to the Collector of Saharanpoor for circulation

to the other Collectors as required by them ; but on this point Government will no doubt wish to consult the Board of Customs.

ENCLOSURE TO 4.

5. From Lieutenant W. MURRAY, Deputy Superintendent, Hill States, to O. ELLIOTT, Esquire, Agent to the Governor-General, Western Provinces,—dated Oamp Subathoo, 6th July 1824.

I HAVE the honor to transmit an elaborate report on the Protected Hill States by Captain and Assistant C. P. Kennedy, which I trust will be perused with interest, and recommend his zeal and diligence to the notice of Government.

Remarks of Lieutenant Murray on the report on the Protected Hill States.

2. In my recent tour to the Bussahir frontier I have remarked with peculiar satisfaction the general state of tranquillity and comparative degree of comfort which reigns throughout this highly interesting portion of India placed under our protective guarantee, and heard the most lively sentiments of gratitude unequivocally expressed by all classes for the blessings they enjoy.

3. The great road of communication from the Sirsa or Pinjore Valley over the mountainous region to Rampoor, the capital of Bussahir and *entrepôt* of the commerce betwixt the Sikh and Hill States, and other transverse roads, are in the best state of preservation, and calculated to afford ample facilities to the trade, which, although yet in its infancy, has increased to a degree beyond the most sanguine expectation, and I met considerable caravans of loaded mules, jackasses and hill porters conveying iron from the mines in Saree and Nawur to Seeswa, a possession of the Sikh Chieftain, Deva Sing, and importing a return cargo of Lahore rock salt.

4. The erection of the *Sangas*, or wooden bridges, across the Sutlej at Wangtoo and Namptoo have much accelerated the general purposes of commerce, and a ready, safe and commodious passage over this rapid and dangerous stream is now effected to Shipke and Shealkur, the Chinese Frontier towns on the north-east, and to the town of Leh and districts of Ladak on the north.

Remarks of
Lieutenant
Murray on
the report on
the Protected
Hill States.

5. In the *sunnuds* originally granted by the Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council in 1815-16 to the several Hill Chieftains, the Rajas of Bussahir, Hindoor, Kuhloor, Sirmour and the Rana of Keonthul, with Putteealla, had each a clause sanctioning the levy of a transit duty upon the trade passing through their several domains; and although a prohibition in express terms was not conveyed to the numerous petty Ranas, yet it was generally understood by them, as they had received no permission in their *sunnuds*, they had virtually no right to demand a tax from the traders.

6. It has been brought to my notice by Captain Kennedy that a few of the Ranas have been shackling the trade by the imposition of new taxes which were becoming a source of vexation to the mercantile community. A reference to the *sunnuds* showed that the Governor-General in Council never contemplated the collection of a tax by the various Ranas who were not substantive chieftains prior to the Goorkha invasion of the country, and, acting up to what I humbly conceive to be the spirit of His Lordship in Council's benevolent intentions for the extension of commerce, I have directed that a strict adherence to the *sunnuds* be observed.

7. The important and visible improvement in the state of agriculture since the expulsion of the Ghoorkhalee power would on a superficial view lead to the conclusion that an equally corresponding amelioration in the condition of the ryot had been a concomitant consequence.

8. Were the lands to be assessed according to the actual produce, this desirable result might be obtained and the contrast between the fertile fields and extreme poverty of the farmer disappear; but this can never be the case so long as the Hill Chieftains continue to levy what is termed *dund*, or heavy fines, from all the subjects who are possessed of, or supposed to have acquired, any property, and these are exacted under the most frivolous pretexts and false accusations.

9. The glaring and avowed length to which this pernicious system has attained under the benign influence of British

protection is, I consider, a subject of regret, and I beg leave to submit the consideration of its abolition to your tried wisdom and experience.

Remarks of
Lieutenant
Murray on the
report on the
Protected Hill
States.

10. After the conquest of the hills by the British arms the several expatriated Ranas were reinstated in their domains, and each received a grant of his country from our hands, and they were all expressly enjoined to cherish their subjects, increase agriculture, promote the extension of commerce and encourage the manufactures.

11. The gratuitous abandonment of our conquered rights in favor of the ancient rulers of the land entitled us to make such wise and salutary stipulations as should tend to the general benefit of the country and to the relief and happiness of the inhabitants.

12. Such is the docile disposition of the generality of the Ranas that a simple expression of disapprobation at the indiscriminate exaction of the *dund* would deter and remedy the evil, and a gradual increase of wealth and security of personal property may be expected to follow the prohibition.

13. I apprehend that no trouble will be experienced, and still less do I contemplate the exercise of a direct interference by our local agents betwixt the ruler and his subjects, and I confidently hope that the love of cupidity may yield to the dread of incurring displeasure.

14. The want of a cash-circulating medium added to the general poverty of the hills in supplying grain more than equal to the consumption of the inhabitants, present difficulties to the Chieftains in paying their tribute and commutation money, and it is with extreme diffidence I should recommend a change of the system.

15. The best opium is obtained in that portion of the mountains situate north and east of the Simla range and the finest ginger in the southern Thakooraees. The demand for these two articles from the Sikh States is very extensive, and so pure is the opium considered that the Sunnyassee

Remarks of
Lieutenant
Murray on the
report on the
Protected Hill
States.

merchants repair every year from the Western districts in the Punjab to make their purchases of opium in Bussahir.

16. Should it accord with the views of the Supreme Government, the quarterly instalments of cash paid by the Hill Ranas may be commuted by furnishing from the several estates a supply of opium and ginger equal in value to the sums they now pay.

17. The cultivation of these important articles of export would be increased, additional employment would be found for the inhabitants of all classes in the opium fields, and this pernicious but useful drug would become a monopoly in our hands.

18. Should you be pleased to suggest the consideration of the measure to Government, the services of Mr. Assistant Surgeon Gerard on a small salary would be of utility, and his local knowledge and experience might ultimately render him useful and necessary.

19. With reference to Mr. Secretary Adam's despatch of the 16th December 1815, paragraphs 6 and 7, on the subject of administering justice in the reserved hill districts, I would recommend the farm of *pergunnahs* Sundoch and Raeen to Bussahir, from which State they were withheld in 1814-15 with a view to military posts.

20. The local officers will be relieved from the difficulties and perplexities attendant on the delicate, important and responsible task of administering justice to thousands, with whose provincial dialect, peculiar manners and ancient usages they must naturally be imperfectly conversant.

21. The retained *pergunnah* of Burrowlee surrounding the military post of Subathoo has been held in farm for several years by the Keonthul Vizier at a fixed assessment, to the ease and comfort of our troops and the benefit of the zumeendars.

22. Sundoch and Raeen might be equally advantageously disposed of to Bussahir and the difficulty attending the trial of capital offences obviated.

Day of
California



110 Prayers.

Survey of India Office, Calcutta, 1831.

CAPTAIN CHARLES PRATT KENNEDY, B. H. A.

COMMANDING THE 1ST NASIRI BATTALION AT SUBATHU AND ASSISTANT TO THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT FOR SIKH AND HILL AFFAIRS IN ADDITION TO HIS MILITARY DUTIES, FROM 1822 TO 1827; POLITICAL AGENT IN CHARGE OF THE HILL STATES (WITH HEAD-QUARTERS AT SUBATHU AND LATER AT SIMLA) FROM 1827 TO 1835.

ENCLOSURE TO 5.

6. *From Captain C. P. KENNEDY, Assistant Deputy Superintendent, Sikh and Hill States, to Lieutenant W. MURRAY, Deputy Superintendent, Sikh and Hill States,—dated Subathu, 6th July 1824.*

In compliance with the orders of Government communicated to me through you under date the 12th September, I have the honor herewith to submit a report of the Protected Hill States under my superintendence, regretting the lapse of time that has been inseparable from the preparation, but indulging a hope that the nature and matter of the subjects treated on will in some degree plead a delay, which has been still further protracted by my solicitude to draw my information from the most unexceptionable channels.

Captain
Kennedy's
report on the
Protected
Hill States.

2. For a time I contemplated how I should best fulfil the desire of Government by presenting a report that would be deemed satisfactory and at the same time conducive to the interests of the protective guarantee given to the inhabitants of this region, and with this view I directed my attention to those objects that represented the character of the country, its inhabitants, commerce, connexion with Foreign States, the state of government they are under and the means of instituting improvements, for the better illustration of which I have ventured to consider it necessary to enter into geographical and physical relations and even the climate of this singular tract, hoping the acquisition of new facts will justify in some degree the prolixity necessary to their development.

Scope of the
report.

3. The chief object of my enquiry has been directed to Bussahir, which claims from its extent, boundaries and system of government a larger share of consideration and greater research than I am even now prepared with, to give a full and comprehensive report on. Its proper geographical limits I am induced to think are but imperfectly known, also its connexion with Tartary and the States that border upon and have intercourse with Russia.

4. I have given the level and course of the river Sutledge through the Protected Mountain Territory, and, although protracted, I have the satisfaction to think it is original, and I hope it may be considered interesting.

5. In conclusion, if the introduction of subjects not usually embraced within the limits of a report be considered objectionable, it is a fault which springs from an interest, on my part, in a country of extraordinary aspect, still involved in obscurity, and from a solicitude to present a faithful and full report, gleaned, not merely from personal enquiry and observation, but from the opinions of those more familiar from longer residence in the country than myself. I have derived considerable satisfaction in the corroboration which they have afforded me on those points I had personally acquired, and in submitting the results I venture to do it with confidence of general accuracy.

REPORT.

List of Principalities and Thakoorais.

1. The Protected Mountain States between the rivers Tonse and Sutledge comprise the following Principalities—

Culloor,
Hindoor,
Bussahir,
(4) Sirmoor,

and the following *Thakoorais* (or Lordships)—

Keonthul,
Bughaut,
Bhagul,
Khotar,
(5) Combarsain,
Bhujee,
Mulog,
Dhamee,
Kotee,
(10) Kearie or Madan, } tributaries to Keonthul,
Konyar,
(12) Mungul,

2. The above 12 States are called the *Bara Thakoorai* or *Mahul* and the following 18 are denominated the *Athara Thakoorai*—

- | | | |
|------|---------------------------------|---|
| | Joobul. | |
| | Kotegurh. | |
| | Bulsun. | |
| | Raeen, retained by the British. | |
| (5) | Kunaitoo | } are tributaries and are incorporated with Bussahir. |
| | Kurrungloo | |
| | Dulaitoo | |
| | Sare | |
| | Nawur | |
| (10) | Dudoo Kuwur | } are tributaries to Keonthul. |
| | Theog | |
| | Ghoond | |
| | Poondur | |
| | Burrowlee (was sold to Bulsun). | |
| (15) | Beeja. | |
| | Shangree. | |
| | Dhurkotee. | |
| (18) | Ootrach. | |

3. *Boundaries*.—On the north, by the districts of Ludauk, in latitude 32° North, longitude 78½° East, and the confines of Chinese Tartary; on the east by the Chinese Territory, longitude 79° at Shipkee; on the west by the river Sutledge; and on the south by the Sikh Protected States (cis-Sutledge). Boundaries.

4. With the exception of the following States, the whole of the Protected Hill territory may be said to be in profound peace, progressing towards improvement, and the Chieftains adhering strictly to their engagements with the British Government. General tranquillity of Hill States with exceptions.

5. *Joobul*.—This State has been long a prey to internal dissension. It has been at different periods of its history subject to Sirmoor, Bussahir and Gurwal, but for many years previous to the Nepal invasion (A. D. 1810) it was but nominally so. Jubbah.

Jubbah.

The Nepalese extracted by great violence from this State
the—

	Rs.
First year	22,000
Second year	19,000
Third year	15,000

The fourth year saw the British arms in the Hills.

The State is most unhappily situated in regard to its interior government.

The system of hereditary Wuzcers is tolerated, and, like the others where such is the case, the Rana is in a state of mental imbecility, incapacitating him from taking a part in the management of his affairs.

The early use of opium and other deleterious drugs have entirely absorbed his senses, and in consequence the Wuzcers, by name Ram Sing, Saj Ram and Bur Sing, have obtained the collection of the revenues and administration of the executive.

At the recommendation of Captain Ross a guardian was nominated, whose duty is to see that a due proportion of the revenue is appropriated to the use of the Rana, and to check any oppressive and unjust acts of these Wuzcers in the administration of justice.

In all the States where the system of hereditary Wuzcers is tolerated the first object is to endeavour to induce idiotism in the Rana (or Chieftain) by indulging him in every species of debauchery; this too readily accomplishing, they become paramount, and the Rana is retained a puppet in their hands.

This State was the cause of the greatest anxiety to my predecessor, Captain Ross, and although by no means so prosperous as the other districts at present, yet I fondly imagine of late there has been an amendment in the conduct of its people, who have been, for ages, prone to rebellion, and from the stupendous nature of the country have generally defied all attempts to keep them in peace and subjection.

The Rana, Poorun Chund, having no male heir, this territory will fall, at his death, unto the British Government. Its present revenue is derived from 22 pergunnahs and amounts to Rs. 9,000 per annum. Last year a road was advanced into this State, which, I hope, will be the means of inducing a commercial intercourse, and in the course of time ameliorate the condition of the people.

7. *Kotegurh*.—This State was tributary in former periods to Keonthul and Bussahir, but previous to the Nepal invasion it was only nominally dependent upon the latter. It paid the Nepalese 6,600 rupees, and the Rana received about 2,400 rupees per annum. The progressive prosperity of this State has been considerably retarded in consequence of dissensions in the Chieftain's family. The Ranee is said to be a woman of the most dissolute morals and character. She now receives a subsistence from her lord, but lives apart from him. Kotgarh.

8. The modern epoch of political geography of these States may be taken as follows :— Condition of Hill States under the Nepalese.

- 1st, under the Nepal dominion.
- 2nd, under the British protection.

1st, under the Nepal dominion (A. D. 1805).—At this period Raja Ramsurn of Hindoor had obtained an almost absolute ascendancy over the Principalities of Culloor, Sirmoor and the *Bara Thakoorai*.

The tyrannical policy adopted by him favored the views of Nepal, from whence succour had been solicited by Culloor to cast off the hateful yoke. The person deputed to Culloor, by name Ragnauth Rae, sojourned at Katmandoo several years, during which time the Nepal conquests were advancing towards this frontier under the superintendence of Kajee Umer Sing Thappa, who commanded a force of 8,000 men (Sumbut 1860). Kurm Purgaus was at this time Raja of Sirmoor, detested for his cruelties and despised for his imbecility. He secretly favored the views of Nepal to rid himself of the Hindoor yoke. But Raja Ramsurn instantly despatched a force which repelled the first invasion of the Nepalese. Soon

Condition of
Hill States
under the
Nepalese.

after he deposed Kurm Purgaus, who fled across the river Jumna and joined Kajee Umer Sing Thappa, who immediately advanced into Sirmoor and in a battle defeated the Hindoor Chief.

The result of this victory was the retreat of Raja Ramsurn and his discomfited troops to his fortresses in Hindoor, from which they were expelled in a few months with the exception of Plassiah, where all the chief people of his State and himself retired to.

The State of Kangra trans-Sutlej assisted Hindoor at this crisis, but the Nepalese were too powerfully aided by the principalities of Culloor and Sirmoor, with which Umer Sing entered into treaties, and the hill territory belonging to Hindoor remained in the possession of the Nepal troops.

The whole of the *Bara* and *Athara Thakoorais* soon fell under the Nepal arms; Umer Sing Thappa strengthened his interest by espousing one of the Bughaut Rana's family, which at that period was in point of power the second State of the *Bara Thakoorai*.

With few exceptions, the Ranas and Chieftains of these *Thakoorais* (Petty States) either fled or were exiled. Their territory was parcelled out to the Nepal troops and their revenues exacted by the sword.

The husbandman never could calculate upon more than a bare subsistence, and if he unfortunately possessed a desirable looking female in his family she was appropriated to the Goorkha Chieftains, possibly sold to the jackals of the Princes of the plains, whose *zenanas* or harems have for ages been supplied from this interesting portion of the human race.

When the Nepalese had established themselves in the mountain territories, cis-Sutlej, they crossed the river and laid siege to Kangra. The Raja, Sunsar Chund, made a gallant resistance, and after a very protracted siege he was able to raise it, assisted by the troops of Raja Runjeet Sing of Lahore, who came to his assistance. The Goorkhas retired and suffered dreadfully during the siege and in the retreat.

As soon as Umer Sing returned to these States from Kangra in A. D. 1809, he turned his whole force against the Hindoor Raja, but the advance of the British troops this year to Loodiana is supposed to have saved Plassiah from being laid siege to and captured.

Had the Nepalese succeeded in reducing Kangra, there is little doubt but they would have very shortly after extended their conquest to Cashmere.

The excesses committed in the year 1810 by the Goorkhas in the State of Poondur, a remote and very savage State in the Himalaya, will bear comparison with any that the history of the world produces. Humanity shudders at the scenes of horror and rapine that occurred; more than half the population emigrated, or were destroyed by their ruthless invaders. The implements of husbandry, the seed grain, the cattle, were all swept away by the Goorkhas during this epoch.

The law was administered at the will and caprice of the Goorkha Chieftains. When a malefactor was destitute of friends and money, he died without mercy. Fines and mutilation were the ordinary punishment resorted to.

9. I now proceed to the second era: "*When taken under the British protection.*"

Condition of Hill States under the British.

Immediately after the expulsion of the Nepal troops by the British arms in 1815, the Native Chieftains who had been exiled during the former *régime* presented themselves and laid claim to their estates, which they received under certain stipulations (which will be hereafter stated). With the exception of Bughaut and Keonthul, the whole of the Chieftains received nearly their possessions as they held them at the Nepal conquest. The cause of Bughaut and Keonthul being debarred the boon which had been given their neighbours was that these Chieftains had not attended so promptly to the British Proclamation, and in consequence had not assisted in the manner it had been expected they should have done in the conquest.

In consequence of the orders of Government and at the suggestion of Sir David Ochterlony, the States of Keonthul and Bughaut were partially dismembered and sold to the Puttecala Raja for two *lacs* and eighty thousand rupees.

The *pergunnahs* in which the Cantonment and Fort of Subathoo, the Cantonment at the advanced post towards Bussahir, of Kotgooroo and the Fort of Raen, are situated, were retained by the British in order to obviate the disputes incidental to a divided authority to which they might be subjected.

The State of Poondur, which has been a prey to the most savage tyranny exhibiting a frightful picture of human misery, was likewise retained by the British, but at the suggestion of Captain Ross it was subsequently transferred as a fief to Keonthul.

The arrangements entered into with the Native Chieftains were that each was to supply a certain number of hill porters for constant attendance and to perform other feudal duties, such as supplying a war contingent in the event of being called upon and to keep the roads in their States in good repair. The attendance of porters was subsequently commuted for the payment of 3 rupees each porter per month, which produces a revenue of 13,788 rupees per annum.

Such were the conditions entered into with these States, saving Bussahir, and this principality agreed to pay a tribute of 15,000 rupees per annum to the British for protection of its territory *cis-Sutlej*, besides performance of feudal duties and repairing roads.

The administration of justice was entrusted to the Chieftains, and the parts reserved by the British had Regulation X of 1817 passed, which governs them.

The amount of revenue collected from these retained *Pergunnahs* amounts to 3,466 rupees per annum.

The Chieftains are assisted by Wuzeers, who in some States claim a hereditary right to this station. I consider this a pernicious system, as will hereafter be noticed in

regard to the principality of Bussahir and the *Thakoorai* of Joobul.

10. Having given the existing arrangements with the Chieftains, I shall proceed to report upon the manner in which the benevolent views of Government have been accomplished, or are likely to be so, in having taken these people under protection.

Measures for the amelioration of the condition of the Hill Chiefs.

11. It was a most perplexing and no less delicate duty to arrange a just and equitable settlement of this territory at the conquest in 1815, it being difficult to assign legitimate boundaries of ancient inheritance of States that owned no principle of action but their ability to conquer and enslave. It was fortunately delegated to those who may now derive satisfaction from reflecting that their labours have been accomplished so far that for once in the history of this district the Chieftains appear content and to live happy within themselves.

Adjustment of boundaries.

At the conquest in 1815 there was scarcely a Chieftain who did not consider himself entitled to neighbouring territory, to a greater or less extent, upon the plea that at some period of the history of his State his ancestors held it.

12. During the period of two years and a half six murders have been reported, and I am induced to think that no others have been committed. The perpetrators were caught, tried by their own Chieftains, and, agreeably to the custom of the country, hanged.

Crime and punishments.

A few cases of highway robbery and petty theft have been reported. In the reserved parts but one murder has been committed.

The Police of these States, if judged of by the few crimes committed, appears to advantage. Five of the murders before mentioned were retaliatory.

The punishments in use are—for murder execution, and for all other offences corporal punishments and transmission or banishment from the country.

Under an impression that it is not consonant with British feelings, mutilation has been relinquished, and the punishment inflicted in its place is by fine where the offender has the means of paying it; but it has frequently occurred that Chieftains have applied to know what they were to do with certain classes of offenders who, in spite of corporal punishment, returned to their States and committed crimes. There are no prisons, and the Chieftains are often at a loss in what manner to punish where the crime does not come up to murder.

System of
fines.

13. The Chieftains appear to administer criminal justice with peculiar leniency. Fines are common for misdemeanours, and not unfrequently levied without much regard to justice. However, the custom of ages is in favor of its toleration, and complaints are but seldom made of its infliction.

This custom is a great drawback to the progressive improvement of the country, and when indiscriminately indulged in by the Chieftains, or rather their Wuzeers, the effect is most apparent in the general aspect of these districts.

The inhabitants emigrate and of course there is less cultivation. A Chieftain's wealth consists more in the number of husbandmen in many parts of the country than in the number of his acres.

Amicable
settlement of
disputes.

14. Occasional disputes between the States occur in regard to the exact boundaries of their territories, but there has never yet been an instance of their having recourse to violence on such occasions.

Applications are constantly made by Chieftains to induce their neighbours to afford redress for trespasses and other petty crimes which are promptly attended to.

Confidence of
Chiefs in the
British Gov-
ernment.

15. Confidence in the British Government appears to be gaining ground, although it is no easy matter to induce these people, who have suffered so long under the lash of oppression and tyranny, to reconcile to their minds how a Government can afford to conquer a country and not to claim its revenues.

16. The Chieftains begin now to evince in their outward appearance a degree of improvement in the way of State dress and luxury they possibly never before knew or dare indulge in. Scotch chintz is in general wear and a few English articles may be seen about them.

Improvements
in dress.

17. The finances of every State have increased very considerably since brought under the British protection. The revenue of the tract held by Putteeala in Keonthul was leased the first year of the conquest for 9,000 rupees, and last year it was farmed at 22,000 rupees.

Flourishing
condition of
finances.

18. One of the greatest boons these States have yet received from the British protection and superintendence has been the main road leading from the Pinjore Valley into the Bussahir territory, a distance of 126 miles, traversing an elevation of 10,000 feet above the level of the sea, and is without doubt one of the most beneficial works of the kind in Asia. It is 12 feet broad and in some places is cut through immense strata of rock. This road has been the means of introducing a trade, and in consequence civilizing the people more than by any other expedient that could have been devised. The cost it has been to Government was only the pay of a company of Pioneers for a few years.

Improvement
of communi-
cations.

Already the Chieftains are so sensible of its vast advantage that I have applications from all quarters for the loan of tools to make transverse roads into the interior of this stupendous Alpine belt.

During the last year an excellent road has been made into the once savage and unhappy State, Poondur. Another also has been executed through the Bhagul, Konyar, Hindoor, and Culloor States to the capital of the latter principality at Billaspoor upon the Sutlej. A road in the direction of Nabun has been advanced from Subathoo, and is about half distance finished; another through the State of Bhughaut about nine miles.

19. Independent of the advantages of trade and the foreign intercourse these States derive from roads of communication, it is most gratifying to observe that quadrupeds

Advantages of
the abolition
of the *Begar*
system.

begin to supply the place of suffering man in the carriage of merchandize, &c., &c. The benevolent orders of Government forbidding the impressment of the people are strictly attended to, and in consequence man begins to feel and assume his dignity and station. Cultivation and its adjunct, population, appear in a wonderful degree to increase. The surplus grain now finds a market. The zemeendar is induced to sow more than will feed the members of the family. The *Basmutty* rice is highly prized on the plains and eagerly sought after. Ginger forms a chief source of export. The potato has been successfully introduced into these States and in the most remote parts of Bussahir at very high elevation this vegetable is now cultivated. The oat is found indigenous to the country; but, as there are no mills sufficiently powerful, the grain cannot be reduced to meal. The cattle are fed upon it. The European seed introduced about Subathoo thrives particularly well.

The cultivator knows what he has to pay his Chieftain, and for once in the history of these States he derives the blessings vouchsafed by Providence of occasionally having an abundant harvest.

Prosperous
condition of
the hill peo-
ple.

20. The States in the wild fastnesses of the Himalaya are now at peace, fearing to follow their former lawless habits; their courage and former warlike spirit are in some degree broken, and they have been induced to commence a trade which they never did before, and under the protection and equity of the British Government seem to be sensible of the sweets and comforts of industrious habits, obedience to their Chiefs and domestic repose.

The Arts have made but little progress in the lower Himalaya, but this may be accounted for by the state of rapine that for ages existed previous to our conquest.

As we advance towards the Chinese frontier, and only a few miles from Subathoo, the eye is struck by the neat and highly tasty workmanship of the temples and houses of the inhabitants, entirely in the Chinese style: the carved parts of the timbers are executed in a very neat manner.

The habitations of the natives are superior to anything to be seen in British India. In the vicinity of Subathoo they are generally whitewashed outside, which gives them an air of great cleanliness. The houses in Bussahir are built of a blue stone without cement, and clamped with pieces of timber; the roofs of slate formed after the Chinese fashion. Proceeding towards the northern frontier of Bussahir, the inhabitants change their language, dress, customs and manners. The people become gradually tinctured with the Tartars. In another place will be found a few remarks on the state of our relations with this territory.

21. The cremation of widows exists in these States, and on some occasions men have immolated themselves on the funeral pile of their Chieftains. There have been three women saved from this diabolical custom within the past year, who had formed the determination to perform *Suttee*, but who afterwards were induced, by merely being persuaded not to do so, to relinquish it.

Practice of
Sati.

Last year the Ranee of Keonthul solicited my opinion in the case of two women of her State who wished to burn. I expressed my horror of such a practice to her *Vukeel*; the sacrifice was abandoned without the slightest appearance of murmur or discontent being evinced by the people of the district.

I shall here introduce a circumstance which occurred last year, which I have been furnished with by an European Officer, the late Captain W. Walker of the Invalid Establishment, who resided in one of the remote districts of these hills:—

“Last year several zemeendars, my neighbours, applied to me on this subject (*Suttee*). One of their brethren had died and his widow determined to perish with the body in the funeral pile; they were all averse to it and opposed her wishes, but without any apparent effect, which induced them to apply to me. They merely requested my orders, saying that if I approved they would withdraw their opposition. Although I was not vested with any public authority, I did not of course hesitate to assume the functions and fulfil the duty of a man. I told them simply I must

peremptorily forbid the sacrifice. They were perfectly satisfied ; the woman did not burn as a matter of course after being ordered not to do so, and I never heard more of the matter. About a month after the chief *Mookhceah* of this *pergunnah* died, and I was assured that two or three of his women would have been burned, but did not in consequence of my conduct on a former occasion, and I believe the practice is for ever annihilated in this district. I am perfectly certain that Government or any of the officers of Government have only to express their disapprobation of such a proceeding and there is an end at once, and for ever, to such an abomination in the hills."

When a Chieftain dies, the honor of the family does not appear to be suitably sustained if there are not a number of human victims sacrificed to this diabolical custom. *Suttees* are considered as the test of chastity, and not unfrequently resorted to by the most abandoned to expiate their former conduct. The chief inducement among the lower orders to perform this sacrifice is that they are frequently left destitute and if unable to labour become beggars.

Cessation of
practice of
selling human
beings.

22. The sale of human beings I may safely pronounce to have ceased. The several miscreants have been caught and punished who have come with the intention of purchasing female children.

Marriage
customs.

23. Marriage may be considered a species of slave trade. No man gets a wife without paying her father a certain price. If she is turned off without a cause assigned, the purchase money is retained, but if parted by mutual consent, the purchaser receives back his cash. Although females are still held in so degraded a light and are put to more laborious tasks here, I am inclined to think their condition is not inferior to those in the plains of Asia.

Female
infanticide.

24. Female infanticide appears to have been practised in former periods in only some of the wildest, least civilized and least populous districts as Poondur, Joobul, &c., and probably was most frequently the result of superstition and vows by the parents to some bloody deity in order to obtain male offspring, on which so much of the hope of a Hindoo as to a future state depends.

Against the supposition that such a crime may be general or of extensive prevalence it is sufficient to state two facts of notoriety—

First.—The women of the hills, until the British influence took place, were always in great request for the *zenanas* or harems of the plains, and as slaves brought great price ; the demand was probably greater than the country could supply. The great amount of this slave trade sufficiently proves that the prejudices of castes (which are in all cases very weak, and which the *khusseeah* or coolies, the principal branches of population, being of very low caste, can scarcely venture to assert), or feelings of family honor (still weaker) were not allowed to interfere with the suggestions of sordid avarice to counteract the demands of pecuniary distress and penury, occasioned by the oppression of their rulers.

Secondly.—The only species of marriage known in the hills from time immemorial, as has been stated, is in fact a matter of bargain and sale.

Both these facts, the foreign slave trade and the domestic custom, are completely and most strongly opposed to the crime of female infanticide being common, because they make young women a valuable article of property.

25. It is with reluctance I treat upon the morals of this people. Where there is so little crime, it may be inferred that the morality of the inhabitants is the cause ; certain it is there is less falsehood and theft than in any quarter of Asia. There is a degree of simplicity too amongst these people, and in the interior a modest assurance to be observed that induces an idea of a certain degree of morality existing, but when we take into consideration some of the customs peculiar to them, our belief is shaken. It must be remarked, however, the people consider them no crime whatever, and in consequence we ought to view them more leniently. It may not be so much vice as ignorance. No horror is expressed at the violation of female chastity. Shame hardly exists in some of the remoter States.

Morals of the
hill-people.

The abhorrent custom of polyandry (a plurality of husbands), the debased state of the sex, all speak the moral depravity of the people to a certain extent.

Sacrifices.

26. No ceremony is undertaken without duly offering a sacrifice to the superintending *genii loci*, to propitiate which goats, buffaloes, &c., are constantly sacrificed.

Human sacrifices have been made at the shrines of some of the temples, but of late years, if there have been any, they have observed a profound secrecy of these impious deeds.

Temples of
Deities.

27. The common insignia of superstitious reverence in the hills are small buildings or rude temples which crown all the prominent heights, and flags suspended upon poles and tumuli of stones in passes of the mountains, besides the usual places of Hindoo sanctity.

The summits of mountains, sources of rivers, volcanoes and hot springs have been objects of adoration in all countries, partly from their remoteness and difficulty of access, but chiefly from veneration and the celebrity of the undertaking.

In the hilly tract hither to the Himalaya, every peak or mountain summit is consecrated and considered as the repose of one or more deities, and a temple is erected for the oblations of pilgrim travellers. Many of these are perched upon lofty and abrupt ridges, remote from the abode of man, and are only visited at certain seasons of the year, when a *mela* or fair is held at the spot. At these fairs feats of agility are performed, swings and other amusements, dancing, sword exercise and gallantry are displayed, and many articles are brought for exchange and sale. It is at this time that female modesty is unmasked.

The Deotas or deities of the hills are very numerous, and to each is assigned some particular function or attribute, such as the god of the weather; some rule over the forests, others preside over rivers and fountains, some have charge of the crops, and others sway the actions of men.

We are struck with the synonymy with the Heathen Gods of History, and cannot but suppose our own fabulous accounts derived from Hindoo mythology.

Every accident that occurs is connected with the superstitious ideas of the agency of those *genii loci*.

28. The grand places of sanctity in the hills are Hurdwar (the most revered) ; Jooalla Mookhee ; Buddreenauth in the snowy range in the Kumaon Province ; Kedarnauth, also in the snow ; the sources of the Ganges and the boiling springs at the head of the Jumna. Places of sanctity.

Kylas, a very lofty snowy peak, near Lake Munsurowur, and the lake itself, are celebrated and revered. There are other places of less note trans-Sutlej, Munikurn and Rawalsir in Kooloo.

All these places are visited by the Lamas. The number of devotees and pilgrims who resort to these shrines of worship is very great. The temples and the officiating priest are supported by the offerings of the pilgrims, and in some instances they constitute a source of considerable revenue to the State.

I subjoin a more precise description of the foregoing Sanctuaries :—

1st.—Hurdwar is too well known to require observation, and I can add nothing now to the accounts of others.

2nd.—Jooalla Mookhee, in the Rajship of Kutoch or Kangra, held in high estimation, perhaps next to Hurdwar, has a subterranean flame which is conducted into a temple and issues forth from a small aperture in the buildings ; it is a perpetual and unextinguishable flame and is much respected.

3rd.—Buddreenauth, to the eastward, another remarkable temple cut out, or rather formed, in the rock. It lies in the snowy range at an elevation of between twelve and thirteen thousand feet, and is consequently buried in snow for half the year. The journey to it is arduous, and even perilous, and the severity of the climate, even in summer, contributes to enhance the holiness of the spot.

The Brahmins attend only in the warm season, or for half the year, and depart in autumn, leaving the temple in charge of the gods. A lamp is lighted and is asserted to burn through the winter without any aid from men.

Revenue.

Revenue
system.

29. It is difficult to give an accurate report of the manner the revenue is levied in these States. It differs essentially in almost every one. In some parts of Keonthul the Rana claims one-fourth of the produce, and certainly no peasantry appears to live in greater comfort. The want of regular assessment in some of the States is one of the greatest evils the country labours under. It does not appear that previous to the Nepal conquest any regular fixed revenue was levied. The Chiefs lived principally on the produce of their own demesnes, being lands, the best, reserved in every *pergunnah* or district for the supply of their household, and these were ostensibly the principal source of their revenue. They are managed by particular officers, who have nothing to do with the public revenue, and cultivated by coolies who have a small portion of the produce, and also a little land free from impost or taxation. These coolies are the lowest caste of people (and probably are the aborigines of the country), and are too poor to pay any portion of tribute or feudal dues. They are the agricultural labourers to the Khusseeahs (Kunnaitis) and Brahmin zemeendars.

Demands of
Chiefs on the
people.

30. Formerly and still the people are called upon to contribute a stated sum for particular occasions of ceremony, or otherwise, involving considerable expense, as the Chief's marriages and the marriages of his children, their investiture with the thread of caste, some festivals, religious ceremonies, &c., &c.

The sum levied on these occasions is generally much larger than (perhaps double or treble) what is actually expended; nor is it fixed by any rule or precedent, but depends, as to its amount, on the will of the Chief and the supposed ability of the people to pay. Each *pergunnah* is informed that a certain sum is required from it. The head *Mookheeah* assembles

the *Mookheeahs* (or Chiefs of villages) and the principal or whole of the zemeendars. They consult and settle among themselves what sum each head of a family is to pay, which is proportioned according to his circumstances, the quantity of land he cultivates, or more correctly, what includes all other considerations, the number and condition of his family.

The sums levied by the Chieftains for commutation in lieu of *Begars* may safely be taken at double the amount which they actually pay the British Government.

31. The situation of the cultivators in these hills is undoubtedly equal, if not superior, to that of any peasantry in any part of the world. Condition of the peasantry.

In Kunawur many of the inhabitants possess considerable riches; they appear in good circumstances for their class. They have enough of the necessaries of life and not a few of the comforts.

32. From the foregoing pages (I trust) it may safely be inferred that these districts are progressing towards improvement, and I shall now venture to suggest what I imagine may assist in the main object of ameliorating the condition of the inhabitants. Suggestions for further amelioration of the condition of the inhabitants.

33. The prejudices of the mountaineers are certainly fewer, in respect to caste, than those of other Hindoos, which arises from ignorance. They have scarcely any knowledge of the Hindoo religion which they profess. The Brahmins, of whom there are many villages, are as ignorant as the rest, and in fact are Brahmins only in name, performing all the labours of husbandry, excepting holding the plough. Books they have none, and their education is confined to reading and writing the few letters they may have occasion to send or receive on business, or accounts. These accomplishments are confined almost exclusively to the Chiefs' families and their officers, with few of the *Mookheeahs* or headmen. Education.

Education appears to have reached the female members of the Chief's family. There are several Ranees who read and write in these States.

There are no Brahmins or other teachers by profession, and of course no schools. The education, such as it is, is purely domestic and paternal. The father teaches his son what he was taught by his father. There would be no difficulty whatever in introducing an efficient system of education. A few teachers from the School Society and an adequate supply of books from the School Book Society would, in my humble opinion, be sufficient for the great purpose; and I am satisfied the people would eagerly and gratefully avail themselves of the boon.

Religions
instruction.

34. From the lax state of religious feelings in the mountaineers I am induced to imagine that a mission of the *Unitas Fratrum*, or Moravians as they are commonly called, would be admirably adapted for the moral and political improvement of this people, because they apply themselves, in the first place, to the introduction of the morality of Christianity and the arts and comforts of civilization, setting a powerful example in their own conduct and diligent occupations.

The absence of seclusion of the females is a very favourable circumstance as regards the hope of future improvement.

Improvement
of bridges.

35. The adoption of the Postmaster-General's rustic bridges of tension and suspension would be a vast acquisition in these States, where there are so many rapid torrents which render all attempts to cross extremely hazardous whenever there is a fall of rain; numbers of lives are constantly sacrificed in attempting to ford, and I am of opinion if this description of bridge was adopted the mountaineers would not hesitate at all seasons to traverse the main road from Rampoor to Pinjore, which at present they are unable to do for six months in the year.

The manner the Sutlej is crossed in these mountains is by the means of a rope drawn tight and made fast to a tree on each bank, and the man is dragged across in a noose or crate, to which another rope is affixed. This is called a *jhoola*. It is a very dangerous method, and it is almost impossible to cross a quadruped. It requires two men to be stationed on each side of the river, which renders it in a certain degree expensive.

I have stated that this great road has been executed at the almost sole expense of the inhabitants, that the benefits arising from it in the amelioration and prosperity of this region are immense; may I venture to suggest that a trifling sum from the commutation fund revenue be appropriated to introduce this species of bridge. Ropes of grass, very strong and durable, are made for the *jhoolas* everywhere along the Sutlej. Wood is almost everywhere to be had, and iron is one of the principal exports. Tar is procurable. The grass ropes wear all the better for being saturated.

Feeling the greatest desire to fulfil, to the utmost of my ability, the duties of my situation in these States, I trust I may be pardoned for mentioning what appears of such benefit to the country, and to offer my humble services to carry into execution, with the strictest economy, the object I have proposed.

36. The comparative state of civilization in the lower Himalaya can only be ascribed to the intercourse the inhabitants possess with the neighbouring States, and as the country becomes pervious so will the minds of the people become enlightened and able to appreciate the advantages they derive from the British protection.

Advantages of
intercourse
between Hill
States.

It may not be amiss to remark that I have found the Chieftains through whose territory the main road passes most ready to afford every assistance to keep this great work in constant repair, and that they appear sensible to the advantages it affords their people.

37. The present Chieftains are all Rajpoots who still retain the traditional memory of the emigration of their ancestors from Hindoostan or the Deccan, most of them from 800 to 1,000 years ago, or at the era of the first Muhammadan irruptions.

Castes and
sub-divisions.

The aborigines of the country may be considered the coolies, who are esteemed the lowest tribe of the mountain population, but at present they are not the most numerous portion, having been supplanted by *Khusseeahs* or *Kunnaites*, who compose the bulk of the population.

The Khusseeahs are by their own account (which is agreed to by all the other tribes) the offspring of intermarriages, or concubinage, of the emigrant Rajpoots with the original inhabitants, who were probably a savage race without any religion except a kind of worship of the *Nagas*, as they are called, a sort of Goblin or, as our poets would denominate them, "spirits of the mountain."

The Khusseeahs being according to Hindoo law bastards, or *Burrun-Shunkurs*, have properly no right to any distinction of caste, being by strict law the lowest of the low.

But the laws of caste are almost a dead-letter, at least as regards those things which ought to produce the loss of caste, and Khusseeahs are accordingly considered, in the Hills amongst themselves, as a kind of inferior Rajpoots in virtue of their supposed paternal origin and descent.

Introduction
of vaccina-
tion.

38. It would be difficult to afford a just idea of the lamentable havoc committed in these mountains by the small-pox. Whole tracts are depopulated during its visitation. The inhabitants fly from the infected States. Quarantines are everywhere formed, and the trade, yet in its infancy, is temporarily annihilated.

The establishment of Rs. 80 per month authorised for the dissemination of vaccine has been most faithfully and actively employed under the superintendence of Mr. Assistant Surgeon J. G. Gerard, who has been a most zealous labourer for many years in these districts in propagating this great discovery, without any other reward than what his philanthropy must have created in contemplating the vast benefits he has bestowed upon thousands of the human race. I am well aware of the pecuniary sacrifices he has voluntarily made in frequent excursions into the most remote fastnesses of the Himalaya, chiefly with the view of benefiting his fellow-men. That the Doctor has gained the love and confidence of the inhabitants is almost daily manifested at Subathoo; and in reporting his laudable exertions it will (I trust) be considered satisfactory to state that many of the Lamas from Tartary during the past year have willingly permitted themselves to be vaccinated, and

their confidence in its efficiency cannot better be demonstrated than by their earnest solicitation for Mr. Gerard to visit their frontier with a view of disseminating the discovery to their brethren.

Bussahir.

39. This is the most remote part of the British dominions in Asia. Its situation renders it interesting in its political, geographical and physical relations, being bounded by the dominions of China on the north and east; Ludauk north-west; and by Cooloo (trans-Sutlej) west; south by the river Nauglee, which runs into the Sutlej ten miles south of the capital, Rampoor. Half of the territory lies hither Himalaya and the remainder, which is known by the name Kunawur, within this snowy barrier.

Description
of Bashahr.

Boundaries.

The grand divisions of this Principality may be taken as under:—

Grand
divisions.

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Dussow | } | Includes that portion contained in the valley of the Sutlej up to Sooran. |
| Kunawur | | |
| Chooara | | |
- Commencing immediately above Pooaree and lies within the snowy crest of the Himalaya.
- Occupies both banks of the River Pauber and its tributary streams.

Foundation, Sumbat 472.—This Raj was founded by an emigrant Rajpoot from the Deccan in Sumbat 472, by name Dumber Sing.

40. *Annexations.*—The *Thakoora's* of Dulaitoo, Kurungoloo and Kunaitoo were annexed about Sumbat 1611.

Comharsain, Sari, Shangree and Kotgooroo were wrested from Keonthul Sumbat 1761 and annexed as tributaries to this Principality.

Raen was also wrested about the same time from Gurwal.

In Sumbat 1868 (A. D. 1810) died Raja Oogar Sain. He left an infant heir, the present Raja, 18 months old, and a few months subsequent to his decease the Nepal troops took

possession of this State, with the exception of Kunawur, to which place the infant Raja with his mother and the hereditary Wuzcers fled. The Nepal troops followed them as far as Wangtoo, where there was a wooden bridge, called a *Sanga*, across the Suttlej. A partial action occurred between the Kunawarees and the Goorkhas, which was followed by the retreat of the latter, but not until the bridge had been destroyed by the inhabitants of the country to cut off the communication with Bussahir proper, which remained in the hands of the Goorkhas.

The Bussahir Prince with his mother remained in Kunawur, but they paid Rs. 12,000 tribute per annum, for being left in peace, to the Goorkhas, until the advance of the British troops, when they returned to the capital in Bussahir.

Revenue of
Bashahr.

41. The revenue of this province at the period of the invasion of the Nepalese, as taken by Captain Ross, amounts to Rs. 67,000 per annum.

42. At the period of the British conquest of these mountains, little or nothing was known of this portion of the territory, particularly that lying within the snowy range; and although the value of the soil was ascertained, yet its extent and boundaries seemed to indicate far greater resources, which actual inspection and survey only proved to be imaginary.

Travellers and men of science behold the singular spectacle of a country guarded by natural and almost impregnable barriers, which also formed the country itself and upon sites where labour was scarcely productive, the loftier regions and summits repelling every nutritious particle and veiled in eternal snow (*sic*).

Prosperous
condition of
the people.

43. Scanty as the population is of the interior of this province, and unproductive the soil, the inhabitants are perhaps more comfortable and in better circumstances; they certainly possess a greater freedom than in any other district in these hills.

Surrounded by rocks of difficult access, inimical to industry, offering little inducement to cultivation, in a climate

of protracted rigors, the inhabitants of Kunawur have followed that course which nature dictates, and we find them active, enterprising and industrious, occupied in extensive commercial intercourse and trade; rearing vast flocks which form their chief dependence and trafficking into remote countries under great hardships and privation to gain a comfortable subsistence for their families at home.

44. In no part of the protected dominion, and I may give a wider scope and say the world, is there less crime known. Absence of crime.

45. Independent of their hereditary Wuzeers in this province, every *pergunnah* has a Chief with that title annexed to his name. Petty Chiefs.

46. Bussahir, notwithstanding its physical strength, has by its annexations with States of greater resources occasionally been visited by aggression and has become the aggressor in return. From west to south it has no powerful neighbour, being there in contact with the small States of Comharsain, Kotgooroo, Joobul, Poondur and Gurwal, none of which, with the exception of the latter, possesses means of aggrandizement, and the government of this State is too weak and vacillating to undertake systematic warfare. Aggressions into Bashahr and retaliation.

The frontier borderers, towards its northern and eastern frontier, who own little allegiance to their Chiefs, frequently made irruptions in former periods into Bussahir, plundered and laid waste the territory, and retreated again to their wilds, resuming their aggressions on the first impulse of their predatory habits.

The valley of the Pauber has been the chief scene of their depredations, from whence the flocks have been carried off. The frontier *pergunnah* of Neelung in the Chinese territory has been frequently plundered by these banditti.

South-east to north-east, Bussahir confines upon Tartary, all within the snowy mountains; north and north-west it comes in contact with Spitee of Ludauk; and west it borders upon Cooloo trans-Sutlej, the river forming the line of demarcation. All these boundaries have in former times been the

subject of dispute and contention. Tartars from Neclung (on the Gunges) and from the great tableland beyond Shipkee have visited the country with hostile views.

The *pergunnah* of Hung Rung, the most remote portion of Bussahir, formerly belonged to the Chinese ; its inhabitants are Tartars, and have the same language and customs as their neighbours who are subjects of the Chinese Government. The Ludauk frontier has been the scene of much desultory warfare, but the aggressions on either side resemble those that formerly occurred in Scotland in feudal times, consisting of forays and assaults on the borders, the seizure of cattle, firing of villages, etc. But these skirmishes seem never to have distracted the internal quietness or prosperity of the country. Many years ago Bussahir got possession of Dunker, a fort of Spitee, but its present frontier at Shealkur is more eligible for securing the tranquillity of the country, and under this idea Dunker may have been relinquished. The great barrier of snowy mountains, towards Ludauk, formidable as it is, has frequently been crossed by parties of robbers, who after plundering the frontier villages and carrying off their flocks, retreated with their booty across the mountains by roads and passes that none but desperadoes would attempt.

Political
importance of
Bashahr.

47. Bussahir, considered in a political light, possesses considerable interest. It confines upon the Chinese territory and Ludauk, as has already been stated, and communicates through the latter territory with Yarkund and Kashgar, connexions that give it a political aspect of some importance. It may be borne in mind that, while the house of Timour ruled the destinies of Hindoostan, a Tartar Government managed the Empire of China. These relations give the country a geographical interest, more lively when we recollect that it sends forth the great rivers which formed the scenes and boundary of Alexander's conquests in Asia.

Interesting
features of the
country.

48. In a physical view the extraordinary character of the neighbouring country (the great Plateau of Tartary), the singular elevation of the soil, the climate, productions, and inhabitants—all point to conclusions of which we have only the signs.

49. Regions producing the shawl-wool goat, and the yak (an invaluable animal), tracts said to be rich in metallic wealth and inhabited by singular tribes, whose character and resources we know but little of, altogether attach an intense interest to this great Central Plateau.

50. The portion of Bussahir called Chooara (so named from its producing a reddish species of rice) lies all hither to the Himalaya range, but ramifying amongst the roots and gorges of snowy mountains (as has been stated) on both banks of the river Pauber, which winds up amongst the peaks and spurs of the snowy chain, having its source in a lake called "Churamuna" of perpetual ice upon the southern slope of the Himalaya at an elevation of 13,700 feet. The ridge is crossed above the lake by three passes called Goonas, Neebrung and Ghoosool, 16,000 feet above the level of the sea. The descent on the other side leads into Kunawur by the valley of Buspa. There are five *nalas* or divisions in Chooara which are again sub-divided into others, and were formerly under petty Chieftains.

Description of the portion of Bashahr called Chooara.

51. The lower parts of this valley (of the Pauber) at a town called Roorakotie (where the bed of the river is 5,000 feet above the level of the sea) are very fertile. Rice is the chief crop, the fields of which are irrigated from the river Pauber and torrents from the snow beds. The cultivation far exceeds the consumption, and the surplus is exported to Kunawur in exchange for wool, and to Nawur for salt, where it is again bartered for iron, etc., etc.

52. Tukral is the remotest inhabited portion of the valley approaching the source of the river (Pauber). The country is extremely wild and rugged, exhibiting steep cliffs crowned with eternal snow, and their bases clothed in deep forests. The inhabitants of this region assume the same character as their mountains, rude, savage, warlike and independent, living in seclusion and naturally of a ferocious character. Only a few years since they owned but little allegiance to their Government, and the revenues could only be collected by an armed force. They wear a cast of independence

Description of Tukral and its inhabitants, &c.

and self-confidence which is unknown amongst Asiatics. Their country is inhospitable, climate harsh, and the soil yields them but a scanty subsistence, and this reluctantly. Naturally savage and their hopes often blighted by the climate, they appear to live at variance with themselves. They are hardy and courageous, but given to plunder. In some respects they rise superior to the whole race of Asiatics, being ingenious and enterprising; in others, they sink into the grossest abandonment of all principle. Their weapons are chiefly bows and arrows, the latter barbed with bone. Every man's house is his castle. They seem always ready prepared to give or to resent an injury, considering, I presume, "the surest way to keep at peace is to be ever prepared to go to war." They are fond of hunting, and pursue the chase (deer and wild goats, etc.) with keenness, through the snow. They are expert at striking a mark, and are famed for the practice of some athletic or warlike exercise. The elevation of these villages is commonly about 9,000 feet above the level of the sea, and here the climate is very rude, snow falling towards the end of October and remaining in the field until the middle of April. The inhabitants get rid of the snow in spring by throwing soil upon it, as is practised in Switzerland, which absorbs the sun's rays. In harvest time, in the highly elevated districts, the people carefully avoid discharging firearms, lest a fall of snow should succeed the concussion and destroy the crops.

Products of
Kunawar.

53. In Kunawur the people chiefly subsist by trade, and live upon their flocks. The grape, apple, and turnip are extensively and most successfully cultivated, and form a chief source of food during the winter months. Blankets form the chief export to the Chinese territory, raisins, *newzas* (nuts), tobacco, rice, horse shoes, saddles, stirrups, &c., &c., are sent to Tartary.

Female
slavery.

54. In no part of the hills has female slavery had so easy a purchase as in Chooara, and this partly from the scanty subsistence the country affords, the absence of morals in the people, and the inducement of metallic wealth. None better than the inhabitants of these upland sequestered tracts know the value of a bar of silver.

55. Two famed robbers by name Ram Chander and Micha (Rob Roys) frequently made irruptions into this part of Chooara, by difficult passes in the snowy mountains, and levied black mail; but since the British protection has been afforded this province, the country no longer is a prey to savage banditti or agitated by internal feuds. Every body lives in tranquillity, and Bussahir receives its revenues without the intervention of an armed force, although the Government at present may be deemed pressing and rapacious in consequence of the youth of the Rajah and he being in the hands of the hereditary Wuzeers a mere puppet.

Tranquillity
of Bashahr.

56. The people of Chooara dress in woollens, their own manufacture; their cap is worn conical and not unbecoming.

Dress of the
people of
Chooara.

57. The valley of the Pauber communicates with Kunawur by lofty passes through the snowy chain, which are numerous, and of difficult access and are encountered at personal risk, people perishing every year in attempting to cross. Their general elevation is above 15,000 feet in the region of perpetual frost and snow, but there is no check to the adventurous spirit of man. The inhabitants of Tukral now trade extensively in iron, which they take from Nawur in Bussahir.

Difficulty of
passes in
Kanawar.

58. The population of Bussahir may be estimated at 40,000 souls, but there has not been an actual census taken as yet.

Dress, &c., of
people of
Bashahr.

The dress of the inhabitants consists of woollens at all seasons of the year, a brown hair cap, made into the form of a turban, woollen shoes, coloured stockings in the Chinese fashion, a pouch with steel and tinder; and a dog resembling the species of a Newfoundland in Europe generally attends a Kunawurie.

The women dress their hair plaited down to their heels nearly. They wear extremely massive pewter rings round their ankles, which gives an idea that they were not placed there for ornament; they wear a woollen petticoat and cap

like the men, with the exception of the colour of the top, which is red. Their features are pleasing and they appear well skilled in husbandry and in spinning wool.

Lamas in
Kanawar.

59. In Kunawur the Lamas or priests take an active part in the government. Their temples are magnificent buildings of stone, in the Chinese style of architecture, and generally well filled with manuscript books and brazen images. Offerings are daily made to these gods of Puwaseen, and tracts of lands are set apart for the maintenance of the Lamas. There are numerous nunneries in Kunawur. The nuns do not conceal themselves, but come out and solicit alms. They are in general by no means the most comely of their sex.

Minerals.

60. *Mines.*—There are several iron mines in Bussahir which are worked by the inhabitants of the country, who appear in good circumstances. Some of the galleries extend half a mile horizontally into the side of the mountain, but they are not above three or four feet wide. They use no perpendicular shafts, so that the miners are obliged to work by torch-light.

Nawur may be considered the principal mining State, and there the iron sells for 12 seers per rupee. The Bussahir Government levies a duty of $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of an anna upon a load (as much as can be carried by a man), which is from 40 to 50 seers, or nearly one cwt. The place of rendezvous for the sale or barter of the iron is Sissoo, a town in the Protected Sikh plains about 34 miles from Subathoo, and there the mountaineer either receives cash or produce of the plains, such as goor, grain, tobacco, cloths, sugar, &c., &c., for his iron.

None of the precious metals are found in Kunawur or any part of Bussahir. If a vein of metal was discovered the constitution of the mountains, composed of gneiss, granite and other most hard rocks, and the impracticable nature of the country, would entirely preclude the possibility of working it to any advantage. Copper, which always contains more or less gold, is found in one part of Kunawur. The mine was worked for a short time by a miner from Cooloo, who abandoned it as soon as the ore on the surface was exhausted

A gold mine was discovered a few years ago in the Tartar dominions adjoining Bussahir, but for what reason it was immediately shut up by orders from the "Maha Cheen" is not distinctly known.

61. The Government of Bussahir consists of the Raja and three hereditary Wuzeers. I beg leave to notice the evil that arises to these districts where these Wuzeers are hereditary.

Government
of Bussahir.

As soon as they obtain an influence over the Chief by indulging his propensities, intoxicating his senses with drugs inducing a degree of mental imbecility, then commences the abuse of men dressed in a little brief authority; money is their only god, and they do not hesitate to give ample scope to their rapacious and tyrannical propensities.

The present Raja is 14 years of age. He was placed upon the *Musnud* in 1821. Only a few weeks after his inauguration his mother, who had the guardianship of her son in his minority, was burnt to death, by accident or design is not quite ascertained, but it is generally supposed the latter, and at the instigation of the Wuzeers, in order that they might be better able to continue the system they had pursued of keeping the reins of government in their own hands.

The education of the Raja has been grossly neglected, and already he has the appearance of being an opium-eater. The Wuzeers allow but a very trifling sum of the revenues which they have charge of to be appropriated to the expense of the Raja's state or comfort.

62. Rampoor, the capital, is situated on the left or eastern bank of the river Sutlej, which is about 210 feet broad here and extremely rapid; latitude $31^{\circ} 27'$ north; longitude east $77^{\circ} 38'$. It is 91 miles by the main road from Subathoo, and within 10 miles from the great Himalaya peaks which are covered with perpetual snow. Its elevation above the level of the sea is 3,300 feet. This capital is situated in the dell of the river, at the bottom of most precipitous, lofty and rugged cliffs from 4 to 5,000 feet, rising almost perpendicular to

Description of
the capital,
Rámpoor.

Description of
the capital,
Rámpur.

the town. The reverberation of the solar rays produces intense heat, and in summer stagnates in the dell night and day (*sic*), the thermometer rising to 100° and not unfrequently to 110° of Fahrenheit in the shade. In the winter the sun, being so long hid by the cliffs, does not heat the valley; and there rises a raw, damp and most unwholesome atmosphere, the effect of which is observable in the persons of the inhabitants, who are mostly sallow and sickly in appearance. In the month of November the sun was not seen at Rampoor until past 11 o'clock, and it disappeared at 3 o'clock behind the hills.

The inhabitants appear very industrious and have a manufacture of coarse shawls and other woollens. There is an excellent bazar, and at three periods of the year fairs are held which are attended by people from the Sikh plains, Cooloo, Kunawur, Tartary, Ludauk and Cashmere. One occurs in the month of May, one in October, and one, called the *Dhal Mela*, in December. At this fair one person from every zemeendar's house in Kunawur must be present, and the whole armed, whence the name *Dhal*. Hatchets and battle-axes are the most common arms. There are a few matchlocks, shields and swords. This militia march through the town at this period and are mustered before the Raja's residence, when they fire a volley.

The Raja's house is built in the Chinese style of architecture, of stone and wood, without any kind of cement. It consists of three stories, and the workmanship appears excellent and executed with great taste.

The streets in the bazar are broad and well laid out; the houses stand in squares, having an area in the centre, appearing neat and possessing great conveniences and comforts.

At the above-mentioned fairs are to be seen some English staples, and throughout the country a preference is given to English chintz, which are only worn by the better order of people. A gentleman from an extensive manufacturing firm in Perth visited this part of the country in 1822 and recognized a piece of chintz, the pattern of which he had designed.

Rampoor may be considered the emporium of these States. It is a channel of commercial communication between Chinese Tartary, Ladauk and Cooloo. It is the resort of people of many countries, characters and customs. The Tartar was observed putting his wool in one scale and receiving its weight in tobacco, or coarse sugar, from the trader of the plains of India, neither of them being able to comprehend each other's language. The common steel yard was observed in general use in the fair for weighing articles of trade (*sic*).

The marks of Nepal oppression meet the eye constantly in the depopulated and decayed houses in Rampoor. The town begins now to wear the appearance of progressive improvement, and in the course of a few years, if the present Raja retains his senses and proves a blessing to his country, this capital may be fairly expected to resume its former flourishing trade. There is an air and appearance here altogether different from the character of Asiatic towns.

63. The Sutlej is crossed by a *Joola* of rope made of grass, of very rude construction, which communicates with Cooloo.

Communication with Kulu.

The State of Cooloo from Rampoor appears very sterile and warlike: every peak within view is fortified. During the winter season the Sutlej is crossed on inflated buffalo hides.

64. On account of the intense heat of the summer months the Raja and his court remove to a town distant from Rampoor 22 miles, called "Soran." It lies on the slope of mountains which, immediately above it, were covered in the month of June with snow. These are the declining summits of the parent chain Himalaya. The Sutlej rolls in a dark worn bed between stupendous cliffs 3,000 feet, almost perpendicular, to Soran, rendering the scenery grand and imposing. Soran is 7,200 feet above the level of the sea, and possesses a delightful climate. The mean temperature is lower than that of London. Here again is to be seen the hand of former oppression in the demolition by fire of the houses. The crops at the level consist of barley, *ogul*, *phaphra*, *chena* and *kuddoo*.

Description of Soran, the summer residence of the Raja.

Numbers of people live under the actual projection and shelter of rocks.

The principal temple of Soran is dedicated to the Goddess "Bheema Kallee," who is styled the "Governess of Bussahir." Human sacrifices are said to have been made at the shrine of this *Deota*, but have been discontinued since the British conquest. The temple is attended by Brahmins, but beyond this place none of that caste are to be seen towards Kunawur, which may account for the decidedly apparent superior comfort and morality of the people.

Description of the country in the neighbourhood of Rámpur and Soran.

65. The country in the neighbourhood of Rampoor and Soran (and indeed it may be applied to the whole province) does not exhibit a single level spot equal to the dimensions of a field of two acres, square measurement. The pathways are wholly impassable to laden horses and mules, and, with the exception of those parts where the main road has been made, there are great difficulty and risk for sheep and goats, upon which most of the trade is transported, each animal carrying from 30 to 40 lbs. English weight. It is surprising to observe the regularity and order kept up by means of dogs (a species peculiar to the mountains, huge, savage animals) in these flocks as they proceed to their destination. The whole tract of country is singularly rough and difficult of access, and may be said to be made up of clusters and ridges of sharp peaks, many of them covered with perpetual snow. The inhabited regions are confined to the dells and gorges which intersect them and drain off the streams, the cultivated parts forming so small a proportion as to appear as patches or steps of stairs up the slopes of the mountains. In the interior, as we advance from Soran towards the Tartar frontier, the inhabitants assume a Chinese aspect in their persons, dress, manners, customs and religion, subsisting chiefly on their flocks and deriving their commodities, luxuries and metallic wealth from their trade and commerce with neighbouring countries.

66. In Kunawar the inhabitants are called after their States or houses, as in Scotland, and in their intercourse with other States are better known by them.

67. Two species of tea plant have been found in Kuna- Tea plant.
war, in the Soongnam dell, by Doctor Gerard.

68. *Intercourse between Bussahir and the Chinese Frontier.*—The intercourse is pretty extensive. The months of May and June is the season when the people of Bussahir repair to Garoo, which is the chief mart of shawl-wool on the Tartar frontier, and the Chinese resort to Rampoor in October and return in November. No danger but that of the precipitous nature of the road is known. Formerly the remote portion of Bussahir in Kunawar was possessed by the Chinese, and was given up to them. The Tartar *pergunnah* of Hung-Rung is a portion of Bussahir, and for its size is a main source of its resources. Blankets, raisins, nuts (*newzas*), tobacco, rice, horse shoes, saddles, agricultural instruments, firearms and other produce of the hither Himalaya form the chief exports to the Chinese territory; wool and salt the imports. The prosperity of Bussahir mainly depends upon this intercourse. The advantages appear mutual, but the Chinese have frequently threatened to put a stop to the trade. There is little allegiance between the two States at present, although formerly Bussahir received a trifling respect from Neelung, which is the frontier Tartar town. Bussahir is fully aware of the singular situation and importance of this commerce, upon which it is so dependent. The distance from Rampoor to Garoo, by the banks of the Sutlej, is 100 *coss*; to Shipkce, the frontier village, it is 120 miles. Bussahir communicates by several routes diverging from the river Sutlej to the tableland of Tartary—

Intercourse
between
Bashahr and
the Chinese
Frontier.

Firstly.—By the river Buspa, which takes the traveller over a pass 16,000 feet above the level of the sea, and brings him to Neelung on the Chinese frontier. Many people perish in attempting this route.

Secondly.—A route from the Sutlej by the course of the river Teedoong, a considerable stream, 25 miles higher up the valley. The Tartar villages of Neelung and Charung occur in the dell. This road is also difficult of

Intercourse
between
Bashahr and
the Chinese
Frontier.

access. It leads to the great tableland at the back of the snowy range and communicates with Buddreenauth and Kedarnauth, places of superstitious Hindoo reverence; also with Daba, and by the Neetee pass with Kunawar, the road lying behind the Himalaya crest.

Thirdly.—By the Taytoo stream, ten miles up the dell, setting out from Neesung, a Tartar village of Bussahir. This leads to Bekhur, a Chinese district.

The pass into Tartary, from hence, is over a very lofty ridge. In the month of July the snow was seen drifting on it. In the vicinity of Bekhur the country is represented, by a gentleman who has visited it, as open, and the people generally ride on horseback.

The Chinese admit no European to pass this town (Bekhur). They have never been known to offer violence to travellers proceeding there, but mildly insist on their return. The inhabitants are represented as tall, athletic, good humoured and self-confident, remarkably well dressed and accoutred with handsome head-dresses of basket or wire covered with silk, and a fringe round it, crowned by a trident.

From the town of Shipkee roads diverge in all directions, and couriers travel with despatches into the interior of China. The routes lead by Garoo, on the banks and near the forks of the Indus, and by the course of the Berhampootra to Lhassa, which is the principal seat of Government on the frontier. From thence communications are made into Yarkund, Toorkistan, Samarkund, Bokhara, and the Russian frontier.

The character of the people and the suspicious vigilance of the Chinese cannot be better illustrated than by the mode of intercourse between the frontier posts and the interior, which has been derived from Puttee Ram, a well-known, respectable merchant of Bussahir, who has frequently visited those States. Regular posts traverse the country, carrying the news of events from the remoter confines into the interior

with a rapidity and precision quite astonishing, and also on a scale of rigour suited to the jealous policy of the Government. The despatches are tied upon the back of a courier and sealed to it. He is then mounted upon a horse. Unless accident occurs, nothing justifies the seal being broken ; in consequence the rider cannot dismount until he arrives at the next stage and all his interest lies in accomplishing the distance with the utmost speed.

The same distrust of foreigners meets the traveller on the confines of India equally as in the centre of Peking. A gentleman who visited this frontier in 1821 represents that the intelligence of his arrival spread immediately, and that every pass was guarded by parties of Tartars to prevent his further progress. Numbers of Tartars were seen on the great tableland in tents made of the hair of the yak ; they were frank and civil, but would not hear of his proceeding another step ; their lives would be forfeited if they failed to obey the orders from Lhasa.

The people of Cooloo have occasionally invaded the Chinese territory. No resistance was made, and in reply to a question the latter said " it was not worth the consideration of so large a State as the ' Maha Cheen ' to send a force to swallow up the smaller."

69. The Russians are known on the confines of Bussahir by the name of " Oroos." Merchants resort to Leh, the capital of Ludauk, and an active trade is carried on between the Russians and Ludaukees *viâ* Yarkund. A few articles of Russian manufacture find their way to our frontier. The chief are felts, beads, coral, amber, cloths and leather.

Intercourse
with the
Russians.

Tea from China and bars of silver, stamped by authority, from Yarkund, toys from Russia, may occasionally be had at the Rampoor Fair. Mandarin chopsticks, cups and saucers are seen in Kunawar. Dresses of men of rank, some of them very costly, silks, satins of very beautiful patterns and texture come also to the same fair.

Gold coins of Belgium and Russia are occasionally seen in the Subathoo bazar, and the purity of the gold is highly esteemed.

Trade with
Ladák and
Tibet.

70. The distance from Rampoor to Leh is given at 25 days' journey. Traders resort from thence to Bussahir in the months of February, March, April and May, and return in June and July. The road for the first 12 days is most precipitous and dangerous even for man, and wholly impracticable to loaded horses or mules. From Dunker northward the road is represented as pretty good, level, and quadrupeds travel without the least danger.

Ludauk pays tribute to China and Cashmere in equal proportions.

The Kunawarees who trade to the Tibet frontier pay no duties there or in Ludauk by ancient agreement. Their commerce with these countries produces more than enough to pay their contribution to Bussahir. The British Furruckabad rupees are now the principal currency in all the frontier districts.

Rivers of
Bashahr.

71. *Rivers.*—The principal rivers in Bussahir are—

- (1) The Sutlej.
- (2) The Pauber.
- (3) The Buspa.
- (4) The Teedoong.
- (5) The Spittee or Lee.

The Sutlej.

72. As the river Sutlej, independent of its celebrity in ancient geography and the obscurity and fame of its source, forms the boundary of demarcation of the British territory on the west of India, I have considered it both useful and interesting to ascertain from the best sources of information the line of its course within the mountains, and sections of its level, to the extent explored by European travellers; and this has been satisfactorily done between the limits of Loodiana in the Punjab, or Sikh plains, and Shipkee, the frontier village of the Chinese Government, which is the highest point reached by following up the stream. The river has been visited at Bekhur on the tableland of Tartary, three days' journey

beyond Shipkee, which is the most eastern point that has yet The Sutlej. been actually attained, but it has been seen from the crest of the Neetee pass, ten days' journey higher up, and its level geometrically deduced.

Lake Munsurowur (or Mapang), the supposed source, is ten days' journey above this position, and it has been visited by Messrs. Moorcroft and Hearsay. This celebrated Lake is an object of high adoration by the Hindoos and Lamas. I have every reason to believe that the heights as here given by ebullition and barometrical observations are nearly as correct as could be obtained by Trigonometry, and the coincidence, when both methods were used, is proof of general accuracy. Dolland's mountain barometers were used, and thermometers were of all kinds, and the observations taken free from local influence. The few barometers that were preserved from accident were verified on returning, and found not to have varied in any degree. The boiling point of water was constantly observed as a check upon the barometrical indications.

73. I shall proceed to show the sections of level of the Sutlej commencing at Loodiana.

The Sutlej (or Hesudrus of the ancients) is the only river, within British territory, that carries its course entirely through the snowy chain of Himalaya, rising in the celebrated Lake Munsurowur, agreeably to the oral accounts of numerous native travellers, particularly the Lamas. It traverses a portion of the elevated Plateau of Tartary, entering the mountains at Bekhur, latitude north $31^{\circ} 35'$, longitude east 79° . At Shipkee it is already confined within vast cliffs of granite; it continues inbound by hoary tops for 100 miles, and a little below Wangtoo (where the river has a channel of solid granite) it emerges from the snowy zone and flowing on in a deeply indented and narrow ravine for 150 miles it debouches into the Sikh or Punjab plain at Mukuwal. At Loodiana the bed of the river appears to have a positive elevation of about 900 feet according to the observations made by the late Captain Blair of the Engineers; the expanse here is very considerable, and the stream is consequently shallow and intersected by sand banks, and in the cold season shows an insignificant body of water.

The Sutlej.

74. In May and June the river swells from the thawing of the snow in the mountains, and in August, receiving accessions from the periodical rains, reaches its maximum limit. At the town of Belaspoor, in the Rajship of Cooloor, distant from Loodiana 100 miles and two days' journey within the mountains, the river was found by Mr. Moorcroft to be about 1,500 feet above sea level, which gives a medium acclivity of about 10 feet per mile in direct distance; but if the inflexions of the stream are considered, the actual rise of the soil will scarce exceed half of this, or 5 feet per mile. At Belaspoor the river is about 100 yards broad including its sandy bed, and is crossed by inflated skins. The course of the stream hence is very devious, making sharp turns round the bases of the mountains, and is often very much contracted and jagged, without any shore or slip of soil at the margin, but washing the feet of the mountains.

75. Near Soonee, in Bhujee, about 60 years ago the river was arrested by an enormous avalanche of its banks, and during a period of 40 days not a rill of water escaped. This fact was related by a very old man with a hoary head who was eye-witness to the phenomenon. It was brought to notice by observing a temple, or sanctuary, high above the level of the stream, eaten, as it were, away by the effects of water. The gatherings of such a stream for 40 days must have been prodigious, and the consequences were duly contemplated by the inhabitants, for before the breach of the barrier a sort of telegraphic signal was established along the course of the river to announce the approaching event. The Raja's palace at Belaspoor was swept away by the vast and overwhelming tide, and many lives were lost. An earthquake is supposed to have been the agent in the avalanche. The Sutlej at the point recorded to have been arrested is very narrow, and the cliffs on each side appear to be but a few yards apart.

76. During the winter months there is a ford across this river opposite Soonee, and near this, trans-Sutlej, are found hot springs which seem to deposit sulphur and nitre.

77. At Rampoor, the capital of Bussahir, the river is already at the height of 3,200 feet, agreeably to numerous

barometrical observations taken at different seasons of the year, and is here (under the town) 210 feet broad, very rapid and obstructed by blocks of rock. The rise of the river from the last point of observation is about 31 feet per mile direct distance, but little more than half by the margin. A rope bridge, or *jhoola*, is thrown across it here. This consists of 5 or 6 thick grass ropes drawn as tight as they can be made, but necessarily forming a catenarian curve; from this a loop or cradle chair of rope is suspended, being attached to a piece of wood scooped or hollowed so as to traverse the ropes, and in this the passenger takes his seat, and is drawn across the foaming torrent, at a great height above it and under considerable agitation. A little below this point, where the stream is calm, it is crossed by inflated skins, but the space is so narrow that accidents often occur, and the adventurer on his frail vessel becoming entangled in the current is overwhelmed and perishes. The course of the river hitherto has been from Loodiana to Belaspoor, within a few points of north-east; thence to Rampore within a few points of east. Above this the rise of the level goes on very rapidly, vast masses of feldspar arrest the stream in many parts; but it often softens into deep blue calmness, and is hemmed in by mural cliffs: the course is now nearly east; the country assumes a ruder aspect; the mountains are bolder and rise to a vast height; the scale of nature enlarges, and the Sutlej seeks its course with loud noise. Hitherto it has diminished scarcely anything, no feeder of any size occurring except the Naugree, which rises from the snow in the Moral ridge falling into the Sutlej four miles below Rampore. At Wangtoo, 41 miles above Rampore, we find the river rolling in a granite channel. At a height of 5,200 feet the stream is amazingly rapid, and the solid rocks of the banks, scooped and eaten away by incessant friction, record the violent action of the waters. The river is crossed here by a *sanga*, or wooden bridge, 82 feet within the margin. On the Goorkha invasion this bridge was demolished, and such is the inaction and frugal policy of the Government, that, until aided by British liberality, its renewal was never contemplated, a rope bridge sufficing for foot passengers, but very inconvenient

The Sutlej.

and dangerous. Above this point the periodical rains are very light, the river being now environed by the Himalaya peaks. The stream is observed to be here fullest in May and June, or beginning of July, from the snow thawing under the powerful influence of the sun; after this period it receives very little accession from the rains, and the snow is then both very elevated and much diminished in bulk. In the interval between Rampore and Wangtoo the medium rise of the river is 74 feet per mile. Beyond this the stream is dreadfully agitated; falling over a great declivity and bounding like the swell of the sea, vast masses of rock insulated in it, and the borders lined by acres of blocks, it tears its way in foam and whiteness overhung by impending avalanches, menaced by eternal snow.

Under the village of Brooang at the confluence of the Buspa, the head of the Sutlej is found at 6,000 feet; the direct distance being eight miles from Wangtoo gives the rate of the acclivity 100 feet per mile; the stream is here broad and slightly agitated: bed and borders of sand and pebbles. The Buspa is a principal feeder of the Sutlej, and may contribute one-fifth to its size. It rises from the eternal snow in a ridge of mountains that is crossed by a pass to the Tartar village of Neelung on the banks of the Junnubee, or veritable branch of the Ganges.

78. The next point where the Sutlej has been correctly observed is at the village of Poarree, in the division of Kunawar named "Tookpa"; the road distance is about 11 miles by the bank of the stream, the direct about 7 along the margin of the river, which is much less ruffled than in its other reaches, till near Poarree, where it dashes amongst rocks and spreads out to nearly 100 yards. In July the body of water is immense; the whole expanse of bed is overflowed and trees appear studded in the water, their tops only visible. There was formerly a *sanga*, or wooden bridge, here (Poarree), but it was destroyed on the approach of the Goorkhas, and while they were yet at Wangtoo a temporary rope bridge was erected whenever required. The breadth of the river and the sandy border are unfavorable for a good *sanga*. The level

is here about 6,500 feet, having risen at the rate of $66\frac{1}{2}$ The Sutlej.
feet per mile. In this neighbourhood the vine comes to great perfection. Thence on to Rispee, 13 miles by the road and about 8 direct distance. In this interval the river exhibits an intercepted line of whiteness, being choked by granite blocks and hampered by mural cliffs.

79. A little below Rispee the stream softens and spreads over a large expanse of sand and pebbles, and is intersected in the cold season by small islands : the surface is scarcely ruffled ; the elevation is here 7,000 feet above sea level, the rate of ascent 80 feet per mile. In this last space, or between Poarree and Rispee, is situate the Kylas cluster of peaks, all of granite, their feet washed by the Sutlej, which hourly carries away the loose fragments and mouldering portions of the rock, while the frosts are gradually crumbling down their elevated cliffs and levelling the summits, which are covered by eternal snow, and attain the height of 21,000 feet. They rise up very abruptly and spire into sharp crests (at one reach) of 14,000 feet perpendicularly above the Sutlej.

80. Beyond Rispee the rocks change to slate and gravel and crumble at their surface, and the Sutlej preserves a more tranquil character and is often seen from the heights which the road traverses, deep blue, and still at a vast depth below.

81. Proceeding towards Nissung, a Tartar village of Kunawur, the road rises to the height of 13,700 feet, and the river is seen below under an angle of 40 degrees.

82. At the Numptoo *sanga*, or wooden bridge, the Sutlej has an elevation of 8,200 feet, which by inferences from the level at Rispee, where observations are more numerous, gives the medium rise in the direct interval of 15 miles at the rate of 80 feet per mile. The river is here 80 feet broad, under the *sanga*, which is 80 feet above the water. The rapidity and violence of the stream is here excessive, and in one point the whole volume of water is compressed within a space of about 10 feet. This spot is altogether very singular ; the site of the bridge is upon the wrecks of an ancient avalanche on one side,

The Sutlej.

and on the other rests upon a neck of rock eaten into by age and the action of the stream.

83. At the cradle bridge of twigs at Numgea, seven miles direct distance higher, the river is 8,600 feet and much reduced in size, the Lee, or Spittee river, rising in a ridge of land, which on its northern slope gives accessions to the Indus through Ludauk, joining about a mile below and little inferior in bulk to the Sutlej itself. The contact of the rivers is singular. The Spittee issues from a dark worn ravine, in a tranquil stream, and its waters scarce mingle with the Sutlej, till she is swallowed up in the clamour of her impetuous consort. The twig bridge under Numgea is both an insecure and tedious method of crossing, less safe, but more convenient than a *jhoola*. It is formed by a line of ropes made of twisted twigs which stretches from bank to bank; above this and on each side are leading ropes of the same materials, and connecting ribs at intervals of a few feet, forming altogether a trough, in which the passenger presses forward. The wind frequently gives the whole a lateral motion, very disagreeable to the feelings of the person crossing. This sort of bridge frequently gives way and people are lost.

84. Beyond Numgea all the way to Shipkee the river foams amongst rocks, with an acclivity of 150 feet per mile, tearing its way in surf and noise; the distance by the road is nine miles and by the river's edge seven. The pass to the Chinese territory is at the height of 13,500 feet. The Sutlej is here confined within vast mountain masses, capped by perpetual snow. The loftiest is Purkwal, supposed to be 22,500 feet; a pile of granite, yet an appalling monument of the slow but certain ravages of time and weather, it appears daily to be falling to pieces; immense masses are hourly seen falling into the abyss.

Village of
Shipkee.

85. Shipkee is the frontier village of Chinese authority by the course of the Sutlej; it is a populous place and the inhabitants appear to live comfortably. The extreme elevation is 10,600 feet. Apricots flourish luxuriantly. There are no periodical rains here as in the plains of India, and in July and

August the sun shines out its course, the sky being rarely obscured. The temperature at this time is between 53° and 73°. The crops are cut in August. The village lies on the slope of snowy mountains, facing the tableland. The Sutlej runs past it, at the distance of a mile. It was visited by Doctor J. G. Gerard and observations of the barometer made to ascertain the height of the stream, which is 9,700 feet above the sea. A bridge of twigs crosses it here. Shipkee is on the high road to Garoo and Munsuwur. A post of horses communicates with the interior. The course of the river from Wangtoo to Shipkee is to the north of north-east, and hence to its source south-east.

7. *Comparative Temperature of Fahrenheit Thermometer between Meteorology. London, Subathoo and Mount Simla.*

[The observations made in London are copied from the *British Review*, 1821, the results of 10 years. Those at Subathoo and Simla were made, with great care, by Mr. Assistant Surgeon Gerard.]

	LONDON.			SUBATHOO.			SIMLA.		
	Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Mean.	Maximum.	Minimum.
January	34	56	8	52	63	27	40	46	18
February	39	57	11	52	65	31	41	53	20
March	41	73	18	58	70	38	46	58	28
April	46	80	22	66	74	46	53	60	34
May	55	87	29	78	83	60	67	72	46
June	58	88	36	78	84	68	67	73	55
July	62	96	39	75	80	69	65	71	60
August	61	83	37	73	77	68	63	70	60
September	56	85	26	71	80	57	60	68	48
October	50	73	24	65	75	50	54	65	40
November	40	52	11	58	70	40	48	55	30
December	37	56	14	52	60	29	40	50	19
Subathoo, elevation above sea level				... 4,205 feet.					
Simla ditto ditto				... 7,300 feet.					

8. *From G. SWINTON, Esquire, Secretary to Government in the Political Department, Fort William, to C. ELLIOTT, Esquire, Agent to the Governor-General, Delhi,—dated 27th August 1824.*

Orders of Government on the reports on the reserved lands in the Protected Sikh and Hill States and on the Hill States generally.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters dated 7th June and 16th ultimo, with their enclosures, from Captains Murray and Kennedy, containing reports on the lands which have lapsed, or been reserved, to the British Government, within the limits of the Protected Sikh and Hill States and on the Protected Hill States generally, and to communicate to you the orders and resolutions of Government on the subject thereof.

Annexation of Ambála, Biláspur and the Kiárda Dun to British territory and method of administration.

2. The estates of Umballa, Belaspore and the Kaardeh Dhoon are of course to be considered as permanently annexed to the British territories and subject to the full exercise of our rights of sovereignty therein. The Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council does not deem it necessary or expedient, in the present circumstances of the people and our imperfect knowledge of them, that any formal legislative enactment should be passed for regulating the affairs of these lapsed estates, but resolves that they shall be managed by the Deputy Superintendent acting under the control and authority of the Governor-General's Agent at Delhi, who will be guided by the spirit of the following rules, and by such orders as he may from time to time receive from the Governor-General in Council.

3. As a principle generally applicable to the management of these new possessions, His Lordship in Council observes that the more the local customs and existing institutions are adhered to, the more satisfactory and, for the present at least, the more beneficial our rule will prove to the native population. Civil justice should, as you suggest, be administered through the medium of Puchayets as far as practicable, and the Deputy Superintendent will be directed to decide according to their award in all common cases, conformably to the established usage and local laws of the country. An appeal should lie to your authority generally in all cases of a civil nature. With respect to the administration of criminal

justice, the Deputy Superintendent is hereby authorized to take cognizance of and punish all offences and felonies not requiring the infliction of a punishment beyond seven years' imprisonment, with or without stripes, his proceedings, however, to be subject to the revision of the Governor-General's Agent when applied for by the prisoners. Persons charged with murder, dekaitee, or highway robbery, attended with aggravating circumstances, should be committed to take their trial before the Governor-General's Agent at Delhi, whose decision His Lordship in Council resolves shall be final when the sentence passed is for imprisonment extending to perpetual, with or without transportation ; but in all cases where the infliction of capital punishment may be considered necessary, a translation of the whole of the proceedings, with a full report thereon, must be submitted for the orders of the Governor-General in Council. In the present state of this newly-acquired territory reference to the Nizamut Adawlut is not considered advisable.

4. You will be pleased to require the Deputy Superintendent to transmit to you monthly returns and statements of civil and criminal cases, and you will yourself furnish half-yearly abstracts to Government drawn up as nearly as may be on the principle observed by the superior courts in our old Provinces.

5. Regarding the revenues and revenue management of Umballa, Bilaspour, &c., I am directed to state the following observations and instructions.

Revenue
administra-
tion of new
territory.

6. The account furnished by Lieutenant Murray of the history of Umballa, and the actual state of its land tenures (though the latter is by no means complete), has been perused by the Governor-General in Council with much interest.

7. The views of Government are decidedly unfavorable either to the *Kunkoot* system or that of contract farming. It appears far preferable to fix on each village a moderate *jumma* for a term of years, which should be distributed among the *Meerasadars* by themselves in proportion to the extent and

value of the land occupied by each. The demand for one half of the produce of the country as the share of the Sirkar seems far too high, and His Lordship in Council is disposed to think that, if any general standard could be taken, one-third would be quite sufficient. If we desire expensive works to be constructed, such as wells, watercourses, &c., calculated to extend and accelerate the progress of improvement, it is obvious, the Governor-General in Council observes, that we must give the people moderate assessments and long leases, and we should be prepared even to afford them direct pecuniary assistance for effecting the above objects, especially as regards the promotion of irrigation.

Abolition of
customs and
transit duties.

8. The Governor-General in Council is of opinion that all customs and transit duties whatever should be immediately abolished on these estates, and directs that the demand be discontinued on the part of the Government, and that the relinquishment of the same be proclaimed in the most public manner. The establishments maintained for the collection of the above will of course be discharged. You will be pleased to report the manner in which these orders have been executed, for the information of Government.

Pay of
establishment.

9. The establishments appointed by Lieutenant Murray appear to be fixed generally on far too low a scale to entitle us to expect common zeal or honesty on the part of the Native officers, and Government desires therefore that you will consider the expediency of augmenting the salaries of the headmen, such as *Kotewals* and *Tehseeldars*, to at least double the present amount, which after all would only give them Rs. 60 and 80 per mensem respectively.

Repairs of
Ambála fort.

10. The expenditure of Rs. 6,000 proposed for putting the Fort of Umballa in a respectable state of defence, and the arrangements suggested in the 3rd paragraph of your letter respecting the Irregular Troops to be stationed there, are approved and authorised by Government. The necessary communication will be made to the Military Department on the above subjects, whence orders will be issued to Lieutenant

Swetenham to undertake the repairs of the fort of Umballa in the manner proposed. The expense of the above work will of course be defrayed out of the revenues of the estate.

11. From the picture drawn by Captain Murray of the natural fertility and advantages of the Kaardeh Dhoon, His Lordship in Council is led to hope that that interesting tract may yet be rendered flourishing, happy and productive of a considerable revenue to Government by liberal treatment and skilful and careful superintendence. There is no reason whatever for continuing the lease of the valley to the Sirmoor Raja, and Government trusts that, as the attention of the Deputy Superintendent has now been particularly drawn to the subject, effectual measures will be taken without delay for improving the condition of the cultivators, and retrieving them from the consequences of the neglect and oppression which they have hitherto experienced. The customs, amounting to Rs. 3,000 per annum, should be immediately abolished. Very decided measures appear necessary to check the ruinous practice resorted to by English travellers of pressing the scanty population of the Dhoon to serve as porters and coolies, and His Lordship in Council proposes to consider in the Judicial and Territorial Departments the best means of giving effect to prohibitory rules on that point, addressed, as suggested by Captain Murray, to the Civil and Military authorities in the Meerut and Saharunpoor districts.

Orders regarding the Kiárda Dun.

12. The Governor-General in Council fully participates in the favorable sentiments which you express regarding the general good conduct, industry and intelligence which distinguish the character of the Deputy Superintendent, Captain Murray; and, considering that he is entitled to some remuneration for the heavy additional duty imposed on him by the charge of the lapsed Sikh Estates, Government is pleased to authorize him to draw an allowance of Sicca Rs. 300 per mensem, chargeable to the revenues of the reserved lands, as a part of the expenses incidental to their management and to be entered accordingly in the local accounts.

Increase to pay of Captain Murray, Deputy Superintendent, Sikh and Hill States.

Orders of
Government
on the report
on the Pro-
tected Hill
States.

13. I now proceed to notice the report of Captain Kennedy on the Protected Hill States, which is considered to be valuable and interesting, and to reflect much credit on the zeal and diligence of its author. The description likewise therein afforded of the extension of commerce and cultivation within the Hill States, the general tranquillity and contentment which prevail, the respectable state of the Police, and the growing confidence of the Chiefs in the British Government, is creditable to his management, and is contemplated by His Lordship in Council with much satisfaction.

14. A question of great importance has been submitted by yourself and Captain Murray in connection with the above report for the decision of Government, *viz.*, the extent to which the British authorities may interfere to prevent grievous oppression and exaction by the Hill Chiefs towards their ryots and to suppress the collection of vexatious taxes and transit duties by the several inferior Chiefs contrary to the spirit of their *sunnuds* and much to the general detriment of trade. On these points His Lordship in Council directs me to observe that he conceives no question can exist of our rights to interpose the paramount and controlling authority of the British Government, for the purpose of effecting all such generally salutary and beneficial objects as those above specified, and with regard to the latter of them it appears expedient that the notice proposed by the Deputy Superintendent should be at once issued to the several petty Ranas. A perusal, however, of Captain Kennedy's report is by no means calculated to lead to the belief that the ryots of the Hill States are particularly oppressed by their Chiefs. On the contrary, he expressly says that "the situation of the cultivators in the Hills is undoubtedly equal, if not superior, to that of any peasantry in any part of the world." This point therefore requires to be more maturely weighed. It is far from desirable that the local British authority should interfere in the details of the administration of any Protected State so long as the Native Chief conducts his affairs with even tolerable equity, moderation and humanity.

15. The plan suggested by the Deputy Superintendent of commuting the tribute of Hill Ranas for supplies of equal value in opium and ginger is not approved by Government, and His Lordship would deem it a preferable measure to reduce the amount of their tribute, if it cannot be levied without hardship and oppression to the people. As far too as the cultivation of opium is concerned, I am directed expressly to state that it is the interest of Government to check and discourage its production in that quarter to the utmost extent practicable, and that all measures tending to a contrary result should be carefully avoided.

16. Neither is the Governor-General in Council at all disposed to adopt the recommendation for farming *Pergunnahs* Sundoch and Racen to the Raja of Bussahir; and, far from desiring to extend the system of abandoning the government of our reserved lands in the hills to the adjoining Native Chiefs, His Lordship would wish that Burrowlee should be brought under the direct management of the British Officer stationed at Subathoo, whenever the lease of the Keonthul Vizier expires. The difficulties which were formerly considered to exist regarding the trial of capital offences committed within the Hills, have been materially reduced both by the enactment of Regulation X of 1817 and by the altered constitution of the office of the chief controlling authority at Delhi.

17. The Governor-General in Council has not failed to remark, with approbation and satisfaction, the favorable testimony borne by the Assistant at Subathoo to the persevering and philanthropic exertions of Mr. Assistant Surgeon Gerard for diffusing the benefits of vaccine inoculation throughout the mountainous region of the Himalaya. It occurs to Government, with reference to Captain Kennedy's remarks on the subject of education, that the services of the above gentleman, aided by a supply of books from Calcutta, might be beneficially employed in improving and extending public instruction among the natives of the hills. On this point you will be pleased to consult that officer and require

Vaccination
and Educa-
tion.

him to report his sentiments in detail, both as to the means of instruction already possessed by the people and on the best mode of improving and correcting the existing system of tuition.

Bridges.

18. It remains only to notice the proposition for the introduction of the Shakesperian bridges of tension and suspension into the hills, and to acquaint you that His Lordship in Council is disposed to afford every encouragement to that project and to authorize any reasonable expense for its accomplishment. Mr. Shakespear will be requested to place himself in direct communication with the Assistant at Subathoo on the subject, and after ascertaining the particular points at which it would be desirable to have such bridges and the probable cost of each, he will submit a further and detailed report for the consideration of Government in this Department.

19. You will of course communicate a copy of this despatch to the Deputy Superintendent and extract of such part as relates to the Hills to Captain Kennedy, with such further instructions and observations in the spirit of its contents as you may judge requisite.

9. *Order dated 27th August 1824.*

Additional
orders of Gov-
ernment.

Ordered that copies of the foregoing correspondence be recorded in the Territorial and Judicial Departments for information, and that any further consideration may be given in those Departments respectively to the question of a Revenue and Judicial nature, comprised in the reports of Captains Murray and Kennedy, which is judged necessary.

Ordered likewise that extract paragraphs 2 and 3 of Mr. Elliott's despatch dated 7th June, and paragraph 10 of the reply, be sent to the Military Department, for information, and that the necessary orders may be issued to Lieutenant Swetenham regarding the repairs of the Fort of Umballa.

10. *From C. ELLIOTT, Esquire, Agent, Governor-General, Dihlee, to Lieutenant W. MERRAR, Deputy Superintendent of Sikh and Hill Affairs, Umballa,—dated Dihlee, 22nd September 1824.*

On the 7th of June and 16th July last I forwarded to Government copies of your report on the Protected Sikh States and of Captain Kennedy's report on the Hill States, and have now the pleasure to transmit, for your information and guidance, copy of Mr. Secretary Swinton's letter dated the 27th ultimo, containing the orders of the Governor-General in Council thereon.

2. In the administration of civil and criminal justice in Umballa, Belaspoor and the Kaarda Dhoon you will adhere strictly to the rules prescribed in the 3rd paragraph, and hereafter I will forward to you the forms to be observed in the monthly and half-yearly statements which by the 4th paragraph you are required to furnish.

Administra-
tion of justice
in the Reserv-
ed lands and
Hill States.

3. I wish that you should take advantage of the approaching cold season to form a settlement of the territory in the mode prescribed in the 7th paragraph of Mr. Secretary Swinton's letter, and as the information which you at present possess must necessarily be imperfect, it appears advisable to grant leases only for a term of five years, *viz.*, from 1232 to 1236 F. S. inclusive. In the increase of the salaries of your Native officers, authorized in the 9th paragraph, you will exercise your own discretion, furnishing me at the close of your labors with a detailed statement of the persons employed and the salaries which you have allotted to each.

Settlement of
territory.

4. You will immediately make known by proclamation the liberality of Government in authorising and directing the abolition of all customs and transit duties—the establishment entertained for the collection of these duties will be forthwith discharged; and I request that you will obtain and forward to me from the headmen in each *talooqua* a certificate that this act of liberality on the part of Government has been so

Abolition of
customs and
transit duties.

generally promulgated that no one can henceforth pretend to possess authority to collect any duties whatsoever.

Repairs of
fort of Am-
bála.

5. As Lieutenant Swetenham is not engaged on any extensive public works, I hope that he will be able immediately to commence the repairs of the Fort of Umballa, and you will be pleased to make such occasional advances to him on this account (not exceeding 6,000 rupees altogether) as from time to time may appear necessary.

6. It is desirable that you should set apart some convenient building within the Fort for the confinement of prisoners who may be sentenced to hard labor, and whom you will of course employ in repairing the public roads around the town of Umballa.

Garrison of
Ambála.

7. I enclose for your information copy of my letter to the Secretary to Government, dated the 7th June last, from the 3rd paragraph of which you will observe that I suggest the expediency of the garrison of Umballa (100 men) being furnished by Captain Kennedy. This arrangement has been approved, and the necessary orders will be issued from the Military Department. You will be pleased to consider it a part of your duty to keep up the discipline of these men while they are employed under your orders.

Management
of Kiánda
Doon.

8. From the 11th paragraph of Mr. Secretary Swinton's letter you will observe that the Governor-General in Council entirely approves of your having declined to renew the lease of the Sirmore Rajah for the Kaarda Dhoon. As the management of this interesting tract of country is now entirely in your hands, I entertain sanguine hopes that the cultivators of the eleven villages, whom you mention to have fled in consequence of the Rajah's oppression, may be induced to return, and that ere long this may prove a valuable possession. You will immediately annul the lease of the customs granted to the Jugadhree merchants, and will, as directed with regard to Umballa, take effectual measures to make known generally the liberality of the British Government.

9. It affords me much pleasure to be the channel of communicating to you the increase of your allowances authorized in the 12th paragraph of Mr. Swinton's letter: as a proof that the zeal and ability with which you have discharged your public duties are not overlooked by Government, it cannot fail to prove highly gratifying.

Increase of pay to I. t. Murray.

10. The orders of Government contained in the 13th and following paragraphs relate to the Hill States, and are sent merely for your information and for any remarks to which the perusal of them may give rise; but I shall be obliged to you to prepare and forward to me the draft of the proclamation which you would recommend to be issued, prohibiting the levy by the Ranas of the oppressive exaction denominated *dund*.

Prohibition of levy of *dand*.

11. *From Captain O. P. KENNEDY, Assistant Deputy Superintendent, Soobathoo, to Lieutenant MURRAY, Deputy Superintendent, Umballa,—dated Soobathoo, 20th November 1824.*

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of an extract (paragraphs 13 to 19) of Mr. Secretary Swinton's despatch of the 27th August, to the address of the Agent to the Governor-General at Dehlee.

2. The orders issued under your authority last June abolishing the system, then existing, of every petty chieftain levying transit duties along the main road of communication within these States have been duly enforced, and attended with the most beneficial result to the prosperity of the mountain commerce.

Abolition of transit duties.

3. With reference to the subject contained in the 14th paragraph of the above-mentioned despatch, I beg to say that since your visit here in the month of June I have made particular enquiry into the system of levying vexatious fines, denominated *dund*, which is exercised at the will and caprice of each chieftain, and I have now the honor to submit the result.

Vexatious fines denominated *dand*.

4. The assessment of revenue in the lower parts of the Himalaya is made upon the lands actually cultivated, and, in general, one-fourth of the produce is exacted by the Chiefs, partly in grain and value in money. The cultivator is called upon to pay head money, *Bunarin*, on occasions of the investiture of the Chief with the thread of caste, his marriages and those of his children, birth of an heir, pilgrimages, &c. He is likewise obliged to assign a certain portion of grain to the *Deota* (temple), and at annual festivals he is expected to present a quota of grain or cash to the Chief.

5. In the upper States of the Himalaya the revenue is assessed according to the number and supposed condition of the inhabitants in each house, there being little cultivation compared with the lower tracts, the people subsisting chiefly upon the profits of their trade to the Chinese and Ladauk dominions. When a man is known to possess riches, or, as it is termed, "grows fat," one of the species of *dund* is occasionally resorted to, as I have been told, in order that he should not become proud and rebellious, the sure consequences of too much wealth. I am induced to think that this species of oppression is not practised to any extent in the lower States of the Himalaya, where the people are comparatively enlightened, where they can desert the oppressor, and, in cases of glaring imposition, submit their grievances to the local British authority; but, in the remote *Thakooraiies*, at a distance from Soobathoo, I fear the system of *dund* is carried to a vexatious extent.

6. In the report I did myself the honor to submit through you to Government last July I stated: "that fines are common for misdemeanors, and not unfrequently levied without much regard to justice; however, the custom of ages is in favor of its toleration, and complaints are but seldom made of its infliction."

7. If the *dund* was entirely abolished I have my doubts how long we should remain, as at present, in profound tranquillity. It is one of the few means the Chiefs possess of punishing certain offenders: they have no prisons, and

mutilation is entirely abolished. I therefore feel unwilling to recommend the abolition of an undoubted evil under apprehension of incurring a greater, an increase of crime.

8. With all deference to your judgment, I venture to propose that the system acted on in the reserved territory be adopted throughout the Protected States, that of not allowing fines—*dund*—to be levied without deliberate enquiry by *punchait*, and the proceedings duly recorded, for inspection, if required.

9. Agreeably to the 16th paragraph of the afore-mentioned despatch, I shall be ready to assume charge of the *pergunnahs* Burowlee, Soobathoo and Sewa, now in lease to the Kyoonthul Rana, at the termination of the present revenue year.

Management of *parqanas* Bharauli, Subáthlu and Shiwa.

10. There are at present four *mookheas* (or *putwaries*) employed to make the collections, and I beg to propose that these people be retained at four rupees each per month. I am not aware that any further increase of establishment will be requisite.

11. In obedience to the instructions contained in the letter of the Agent to the Governor-General at Dehlee, under date the 22nd September, and with reference to the 17th paragraph of Mr. Secretary Swinton's despatch of the 27th August, I do myself the honor to forward you a letter from Mr. Assistant Surgeon Gerard, who has left me nothing to add on this interesting subject. I have too many proofs of the Doctor's philanthropy to have a doubt that, whatever is for the benefit of the mountain peasantry, he will willingly lend an able and zealous hand to encourage.

Labors of Dr. J. G. Gerard.

12. I trust it will not be deemed supererogatory in me to mention that, since the removal of the 8th Company of Pioneers last year from hence, the entire management and direction of the main roads of communication through these mountains has fallen upon me; that during this period public roads, upwards of one hundred and fifty miles in extent, have been advanced into the interior; and that the expense to

Application of Captain Kennedy for an increase of pay.

Government has only been the wear and tear of tools and the pay of ten overseers. The duties I am about to enter upon, agreeably to the 16th and 18th paragraphs of Mr. Secretary Swinton's despatch of the 27th August, and those which I have been performing for upwards of a year without remuneration, may be deemed worthy of pecuniary consideration, and, as such, I trust I may be pardoned intruding them on your notice.

In conclusion. The daily improving state of this territory, as observed by yourself, will, I trust, be an unequivocal proof that my humble endeavours during three years' superintendence have been successful; and the approbation with which I have been honored by Government inspires me with the gratifying assurance that I have not been inattentive to the obligations of my situation.

ENCLOSURE TO 11.

12. *From Dr. J. G. GERARD, Assistant Surgeon, 1st Nusseeree Battalion, to Captain C. P. KENNEDY, Assistant Deputy Superintendent, Soobathoo,—dated Soobathoo, 20th November 1824.*

Report by Dr.
J. G. Gerard
on education
in the hills.

WITH reference to the 17th paragraph of Mr. Secretary Swinton's communication to the address of the Agent of the Governor-General at Delhee, wherein I am called upon to express my sentiments on the system of education now existing in the hill territory under your superintendence, and the measures best calculated to improve it, I beg to be allowed to acknowledge that my own personal experience is by far too limited to qualify me for affording that explanation and information which is required, but in attempting to realize the wishes of Government I shall keep in view the objects to be attained by a more perfect acquaintance, and the ends anticipated from the result of more ample information.

2. The means of education at present possessed by the hill inhabitants can scarcely be named, and if it was necessary many causes could be shown to account for their unenlightened situation.

3. Prior to the expulsion of the Goorkha power they had no glimpse of amelioration. A succession of rulers even worse than the Goorkhas left them nothing to expect from change of Government, and for some years after the establishment of the British supremacy they viewed our acts with more surprise than satisfaction, but each succeeding day now opens fresh sources of hope and improvement to the inhabitants. The prejudices and disinclination to step out of former tracks, or make an exertion which they could not expect to reap the fruits of, have now vanished and the most explicit confidence is placed in our Government, and the hopes and prospects of the permanency of British protection daily call forth increased industry and accessions of comfort. The roads of communication and the bridges which were at first viewed with indifference and even ill-will, and which, under former rulers, policy and not barbarism discouraged, are now considered the mainspring of prosperity. The advantages of education and the means of promoting it will only now begin to have effect; a degree of confidence in our Government and some amelioration of the inhabitants, with the prospects of permanent security, were indispensable before diverting their thoughts to higher attainments.

Report by Dr.
J. G. Gerard
on education
in the hills.

4. Anterior to the British conquest of the hills when the country was agitated by discord and fettered by thralldom, education was usually a prelude to disaffection, and the acquisition of wealth and power cherished independence and opposition to their Chiefs; it may therefore be expected that the most beneficial consequences will result under the British Government, which, by protecting the Chief, will hold out inducements to the subject without the prospects of cherishing an evil or jealous propensity. Education may therefore under our rule be expected to receive support and encouragement from the lords of the country, who, having emigrated from quarters enlightened by learning and being themselves of good parentage and wiser than their subjects, cannot but desire the introduction of knowledge into their possessions.

Report by Dr.
J. G. Gerard
on education
in the hills.

5. The example of European character and intelligence has not been lost upon the hill population. The Chiefs have beheld with pleasure many of the arts and sciences and the comforts of civilized life and have adopted several useful and laudable customs. I allude here to articles of dress, household furniture, implements of husbandry, glass windows, grates and chimneys, the cultivation and cookery of the potato, medicine and chemistry, and it is quite delightful to observe the daily disuse and abandonment of hereditary prejudices and the development of energy and civilization all over the country. The objects to be attained by education may be inferred from the foregoing traits of improvement in their physical condition and their inclination to be instructed may fairly be assumed.

6. Nothing like public or systematic instruction exists throughout the Hill States between the rivers Sutlej and Jumna. There are few men of learning in the country, and few people who can afford to educate their family ; there are no men of wealth, property or influence, excepting those attached to their Chiefs by title or services ; and there is an equality of people and property to a greater degree than is to be found in any other portion of India : a parity of ignorance therefore prevails—all the effect of the partitioned state of the country ruled by individuals who all act differently. The jealousies growing out of different habits, customs and degrees of comfort between districts have palled instead of excited a spirit of improvement.

7. There are few means of education within the compass of the hill population. The chieftains who are emigrants from the plains have kept up a degree of hereditary knowledge in their families, and several are men of learning and intelligence, but there are no books or inducements and no reward in their present situation.

8. I have met with many individuals whose acquirements in reading, writing and general information were very considerable and who might be advantageously employed in communicating what they possess to others, and as the hill

inhabitants are rather inquisitive and curious, they might be supposed eager to comprehend through the medium of books what at present they can only view with surprise. Reading and writing is rarely to be found anywhere except in the families of the Chiefs or the officers of the Government.

Report by Dr.
J. G. Gerard
on education
in the hills.

9. Education appears to have been most cultivated in the *Thakoorais* of Bhagul and Kyoonthul, where physical causes and the effects of good government have combined to favor it, and civilization, morality and knowledge have made the greatest progress in the remote and secluded regions of Koonawur. The Rana of Bhagul is a very respectable, frank and unassuming character, mild in manners, an admirer of the English customs, and possessed of an unusual degree of good sense and intelligence; his country is fertile and well cultivated, the houses better constructed and neater than in other districts and the people more comfortable and in better circumstances. The head-quarters of the Goorkha power were established in this Rajship.

10. Kyoonthul is at present ruled by a Ranee, who is a clever and superior woman and is almost the only individual who substantively regulates their country (*sic*). The hereditary respectability of the reigning family, which like that of the other Chieftains is originally from the Dekhun (education being regarded as a birth-right), and a degree of equity in management may be estimated in favor of the comfort and education of the people. The frightful number of twenty-two *suttees*, male and female, is a sad record of the respect and esteem in which the last Rana was held by his subjects. There is more of parental concern and friendly feeling in the Ranee's country than in others, and her example deserves credit and imitation.

11. Koonawur, in spite of the defects of the Bussahir government and its remoteness from the capital, ranks above every other State in point of intelligence, active industry and good feeling, but it is foreign to the purpose to detail the circumstances that have contributed to give it this superiority.

Report by Dr.
J. G. Gerard
on education
in the hills.

I shall only remark that there are no Brahmins in that country and there is much less of blind devotion in religion, but more of superstition. Education is there less cultivated than the actual acquirement of knowledge, which their intercourse with the Chinese, their commercial pursuits and habits of hardihood encourage and establish. In some of the inferior Hill States, and those embosomed in the mountains lying near the Himalaya chain, the people are still very rude and ignorant, although already much benefited under the protection and equity of British superintendence.

12. The objects to be anticipated in the education of the inhabitants are perhaps at present not so obvious, and while a wonderful degree of domestic happiness and tranquillity prevails throughout many States, the people possess very little self esteem, and rarely look beyond the threshold of their present situation, but they now begin, under the mild system of British rule, to perceive the connexion between the effects of education and their most futile enjoyments, but the agriculturist still requires all his family to assist his labors in a country where the climate is rude and the soil stubborn. The hill inhabitants live by toil, and at certain seasons of the year every hand is employed; there is no superabundant population to supply natural calamities or the ravage of disease. In the lofty regions, which for several months in the year are buried in frost and snow, the people have more leisure and weary hours to devote to domestic cares.

13. Instances of parental tuition in females occur in parts of the mountains rude and savage by nature and characterised by ignorance and barbarism, as in the half civilized tracts of Joobul and Poondur, where the women are enslaved to the labors of husbandry and are otherwise hard treated. In Koonawur, where females are respected and fill a better situation in society, education is little attended to; but learning and the accomplishments of civilization are cultivated out of proportion amongst the Goorkhas, and more reading and writing and manly feeling prevail in the cantonment of the 1st Nusseeree Battalion than is to be found

over half the country. The Goorkhas certainly possess the properties, the feelings and habits of civilized life, in a greater degree than any other Asiatic nation, and in spite of their odious and galling rule have left many exemplary traces amongst the inhabitants.

Report by Dr.
J. G. Gerard
on education
in the hills.

Of the best measures for promoting the benevolent views of Government in the instruction of the hill population I offer my own opinion with extreme diffidence, but in the way of experiment I conceive that the reserved States under your management offer more immediate prospects of success than any other. The direct control of the Superintendent over those *purgunnahs* must facilitate any measures that may be adopted, and education, if it cannot be forced upon the people, will be encouraged by the views of advancement and individual aggrandizement which the paramount authority has the means of holding out to the deserving. At first I do not recommend teachers from the plains, but rather select people, resident in the country, who can be made to participate fully in the advantages, and whose claims to consideration can be estimated by the success of their labors.

14. The *mookheas*, or headmen of villages, who possess a sort of influence over their respective domains, and are often chosen through interested motives, might under our Government be selected according to their merits as regards proficiency in reading and writing and general good conduct, and they might further be invested with the superintendence of instruction in their villages and be rewarded by power or emolument.

15. The *purgunnahs* of Burowlee, Soobathoo and Sewa in the vicinity of the British cantonment, and those of Sundoch and Raean near Kotgurh, being directly under British surveillance, offer incalculable advantages for introducing an experimental system, and it is in this last analysis that they will perceive the connexion between an enlightened policy and their physical wants; and, while we shall thus have an opportunity of proving the effect, these States will stand insulated examples of the superiority and liberality of our

Report by Dr.
J. G. Gerard
on education
in the hills.

system. It now only remains for me to speak of the method of tuition and the best way of exciting a spirit of application in the people. Parental instruction is most desirable, and as it exists in the families of several of the Chieftains might, by encouragement, gradually descend to the better classes of people. The Ranees of Kyoonthul and the Ranas of Bhaghul and Komarsain have educated and brought up their families in the most creditable manner.

Children's schoolbooks printed in the hill character should at first be only used and subjects connected with the situation and improvement of the inhabitants might be usefully introduced,—tracts on English jurisprudence and on the effects of education upon the comforts of life. There are people dispersed over the country who already possess learning sufficient for instructing others, and books in their hands must be acceptable.

16. I beg to observe here that you had in part anticipated the benevolent views of Government by encouraging reading and writing in the cantonment of Soobathoo, and holding out as inducements the prospects of service in the corps to those only who had made any acquirements,

17. With respect to my own services which have been honored by the approbation of my superiors, I am sorry that I cannot estimate them with that confidence and satisfaction which might have been considered due from my situation ; but I do not suppose the intention of Government to be that I myself should superintend the actual teaching of the inhabitants, and indeed my slight knowledge of the language unfits me for such a task ; but with people under me, qualified to discharge efficiently the obligations entrusted to them, and to whom I could explain the objects in view, I might contribute with some success my humble endeavours to their fulfilment, and by prosecuting vaccination at the same time enhance the general interest in the scheme.

18. In conclusion, without exciting expectations which circumstances might hereafter weaken, I may prejudge success

from the disposition and peaceful habits of the people and their gratitude for the comforts they enjoy under the British Government. The inclination of the Chieftains to adopt any suggestion that is recommended by you, not merely for visible improvement to themselves, but to please and court the approbation of their rulers, is so conspicuous as to encourage the fullest hopes of their hearty alliance in the cause of education.

Report by Dr.
J. G. Gerard
on education
in the hills.

19. The brightest ray of civilization has lately burst upon them in their altered views of the obligation of human sacrifices. In several instances, where from the facilities held out for the performance of this horrid immolation, the reference to you of its propriety and subsequent abandonment of the ceremony, without a murmur, evidently sprang from a feeling which, although too much enslaved to custom and prejudice to yield tacitly to the dictates of humanity, was so softened by example and your sentiments on former occasions as to require but your disapproval for its entire suppression. I allude to the late demise of the *Khulloor Raja*, while his predecessor was accompanied to the flames by a number of martyrs quite incredible.

20. I cannot conclude without observing from far the least estimable comfort which the hill population are deriving by the cultivation of the potato in the interior, especially, where at the last inhabited spots, and consequently the most inclement zones, we witnessed with pleasure fields of this valuable root, where the rigors of the climate too often chequer the husbandman's hopes and reduce the inhabitants to live upon grass or sell their children to support a miserable existence.

21. The inhabitants of the hills will thus observe with surprise and satisfaction a Government interested in their welfare, ever seeking to comfort and improve them without any other motive than what is the offspring of a superior feeling, or any other reward than the success of their solicitude.

13. *From Lieutenant W. MURRAY, Deputy Superintendent, Sikh and Hill Affairs, to C. ELLIOTT, Esquire, Agent to the Governor-General, Western Provinces, Delhee,—dated Umballah, 1st December 1824.*

I HAVE the honor to enclose copies of letters from Captain Kennedy and Mr. Assistant Surgeon Gerard.

Vexatious
fines denomi-
nated *dand*.

2. I have so fully discussed the subject of the exactions forced by the Hill Chieftains from their ryots in the 7th and following paragraphs of my despatch under date the 6th July last, that it becomes again unnecessary for me to enlarge on the subject, and I shall only express my apprehension that the measures proposed by Captain Kennedy in the 8th paragraph of his letter would tend to a greater and more direct interference in the internal management of the Hill States than was ever contemplated or is sanctioned by our engagements with the numerous petty Rajahs.

3. Although compelled at first to extend our aid and influence in the settlement of the Hill States, we have, as they attained the power of acting for themselves, tacitly withdrawn from direct control in all cases connected with their internal administration, restricting ourselves to the preservation of publick tranquillity and the suppression of all encroachments of one Chief on the boundaries of another, and this is fully exemplified by the few references which will be found in the official records since the year 1816.

4. If the draft of a Proclamation¹ which I did myself the pleasure to transmit to you with my letter of the 27th September, with a view to its promulgation in the Hill Provinces, prohibiting the excessive exaction of the tax termed *dand*, be considered exceptionable, I would in such case recommend with great deference the postponement or final abandonment of any determination in the matter to the more perplexing alternative of drawing the local Agents of Government into discussions involving points more immediately within the sphere and internal jurisdiction of the several Chieftains.

¹ Not traceable in the Punjab Records.

5. Should the Supreme Government be pleased to forward a small supply of school book tracts in the Hindee language and Dewanagree character for distribution among those in the hills who have already made some advances towards education, I will do myself the satisfaction of causing the selection of deserving and exemplary individuals upon whom such marks of attention might be conferred, and Captain Kennedy and Mr. Gerard will be enabled to judge of the experiment and report its effect prior to the adoption of planting schools or taking more decided steps in furtherance of the benevolent intentions of Government.

Education in the hills.

6. I beg leave to draw your notice to the concluding portion of the 12th paragraph of Captain Kennedy's despatch and to express my anxious hope that through your recommendation the merits of this assiduous officer may be brought under the favorable consideration of the Right Hon'ble the Governor-General in Council.

Services of Captain C. P. Kennedy.

14. *From C. ELLIOTT, Esquire, Agent to the Governor-General, Dehlee, to Lieutenant W. MURRAY, Deputy Superintendent of Sikh and Hill Affairs, Umballah,—dated Dehlee, 3rd February 1825.*

FOR your information and that of Captain Kennedy I have the pleasure to enclose copy of my letter to Government dated 7th December 1824 and of Mr. Secretary Swinton's answer dated 7th ultimo.

ENCLOSURE TO 14.

15. *From C. ELLIOTT, Esquire, Agent to the Governor-General, Dehlee, to GEORGE SWINTON, Esquire, Secretary to Government in the Political Department, Fort William,—dated Dehlee, 7th December 1824.*

IN conformity to the orders of the Governor-General in Council, communicated in the 14th paragraph of your letter dated the 27th of August last, I requested further information

Levy of fines known as *dand*.

from Lieutenant Murray and Captain Kennedy on the subject of the levy of *dund* by the Chiefs in the Hill States, and have now the honor to submit, for the consideration of His Lordship in Council, copies of a letter from Lieutenant Murray dated the 1st instant, and of its enclosures.

2. In States where imprisonment of person is rarely resorted to, and where crimes are generally punished by fine, the prohibition to levy fines, without authority from the British officers, would be attended with the greatest inconvenience; and although the *dund* is also extorted on other occasions, it may fairly be inferred from Captain Kennedy's report that it is not carried to an extent distressing to the ryots, while the practice having existed from time immemorial, the total abolition of it would give much offence to the Chiefs; and if in any particular instances it should be carried to greater lengths than is usual, it may be presumed that the circumstance will be made known by the party aggrieved, when a remedy can be applied, without resorting to that general interference which Captain Kennedy recommends.

Education in
the hills.

3. Dr. Gerard's report on the subject of education will be perused with interest; he is so benevolent and so much beloved by the people, that I am persuaded he will afford every assistance in his power, and that any proposition made by him will be kindly received by the inhabitants; but his want of knowledge of the written character is unfortunate. If a few school books were furnished as a commencement, we should soon be able to determine how far it will be practicable to procure teachers.

Proposed
increase of
pay to
Captain C. P.
Kennedy.

4. The zealous exertions of Captain Kennedy to improve in every way the condition of the inhabitants of the Hill States are already known to Government; his conciliating manners admirably qualify him for the situation in which he is placed; the great road which he has opened has been a work of much labor which has required and will require his constant superintendence; some further trouble will devolve on him in the management of the *pergunnahs* Burrowlee, Subathoo and Sewa; and as Lieutenant Murray's exertions have been reward-

ed by an increase of salary, he naturally feels disappointed that a similar mark of the approbation of Government has not been conferred on him. I therefore trust that I shall be excused in submitting his application to the favorable consideration of the Governor-General in Council.

16. *From GEORGE SWINTON, Esquire, Secretary to the Government, Political Department, Fort William, to C. ELLIOTT, Esquire, Agent to the Governor-General, Dehlee,—dated Fort William, 7th January 1825.*

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch dated 7th ultimo, and to communicate to you the orders and observations of the Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council in reply.

Orders of
Government
on the
preceding
letter.

2. With regard to the exaction of the contributions, or fines called *dund*, the sentiments of Government are very much in unison with those expressed by yourself, and it is not considered advisable at present to enforce the general observance of any restrictive rules on the subject in those portions of the hilly regions which are governed by their ancient Chiefs.

3. An extract containing copy of Mr. Assistant Surgeon Gerard's letter and of the suggestions to which it has given rise, will be transmitted through the Persian Secretary to the General Committee of Public Instruction, for their information, and with a request that they will consider whether any and what aid can be afforded by the Committee in promoting the diffusion of knowledge among the inhabitants of the Reserved and Protected Hill Territory, and improving the means of education actually existing in the country.

4. The Governor-General in Council has taken into his deliberate consideration your recommendation in favor of Captain Kennedy. And, adverting to the important and responsible duties which the Assistant at Subathoo has to discharge, to the accession which these have lately received, and

to the satisfactory manner in which Captain Kennedy has always acquitted himself, His Lordship in Council is of opinion that the salary of his office is scarcely adequate, and that it will be just and proper to make a small augmentation. Government resolves therefore that the civil allowance of Captain Kennedy shall be raised to sicca rupees 400 per mensem from the 1st instant.
