

12669

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

BOMBAY GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY,

FROM JUNE 1839 TO FEBRUARY 1840.

EDITED BY THE SECRETARY.

VOLUME III.

BOMBAY:

PRINTED AT THE AMERICAN MISSION PRESS,

BY E. A. WEBSTER.

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Sketch of Captain Hart's Route to Hinglaj.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BOMBAY GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

JUNE — AUGUST, 1839.

I. — *Report on the Landed Tenures of Bombay.* By F. Warden, Esq., B. C. S.

[Communicated by Major T. B. Jervis, F. R. S.]

Captain Dickinson in his exposition of the various tenures under which the ground within the fort of Bombay is held, has refrained “from going back to a remote period,” observing that “it will perhaps be fully sufficient for the present purpose to show that the Hon’ble Company were in possession, it is difficult to say of what portion, of the fort so long back as the year 1720.”

Upon an investigation of so important a nature, affecting in its result the rights and interests of so many individuals, holding so large a portion of the landed property on the island of Bombay, we cannot, in my opinion, carry our researches to too remote a period. The validity of those rights must depend, not so much upon the terms on which it was ceded to the crown of England, and subsequently transferred to the East India Company, as upon the policy by which the administration has been governed in the assignment of lands, as an encouragement to merchants and others to establish themselves in Bombay. A comprehensive review of this nature is essential to that full consideration of the subject which its great importance demands; and to the want of such a review I attribute the doubts and uncertainties under which we at present labour, in regard to the line of conduct to be pursued towards the land holders. I will endeavour to supply the omission above noticed, and in doing so no apology will be necessary I am persuaded, for the prolixity of this report, embracing, as it does a period of upwards of one hundred and fifty years, and involving the permanent interests of the Company and of so large and so wealthy a portion of their subjects.

The earliest English records in the office, are for the years 1720, 1723-4, and 1727-8, from which period the series, with the exceptions of the years 1721-2-5 and 6, is complete. For information, however, of the state of private property prior to 1720, I have had recourse to Bruce's Annals of the East India Company from their Establishment by the Charter of Queen Elizabeth in 1600, to the union of the London and English East India Company in 1707-8, and as those Annals have been compiled from official documents, the information they afford may be considered as authentic as if drawn from any of the records now in existence in the Secretary's Office of Bombay. I have had recourse also to other works that have treated on the state of this island at the period of its cession. I, therefore, flatter myself that this report will be found to comprehend data which may be relied on to assist the Government in passing that decision upon the nature of the existing tenures, which the community is anxiously, and with no small degree of agitation, expecting.

The points upon which I propose to treat, I will for the sake of perspicuity, divide into the following heads, viz.

1st. To enquire into the state of the claims to lands by the sovereign and individuals at the period of the grant of the island to the East India Company; and to endeavour to discriminate the extent of property belonging to each up to the years 1707-8.

2d. To develop the principles on which the Government has been in the practice of leasing or granting to individuals ground, the property of the Company, within the same period; and to ascertain whether those principles have been respected or departed from by the Government at any time, with the view to discover on which tenures it was the intention of the Government to allot lands to individuals.

3d. To ascertain the light in which the grantees have been accustomed to view their allotment of lands.

4th. To review the system of taxation from the cession up to this period, tracing the several alterations or modifications which have been made, with the view of ascertaining the right possessed by the Company to increase the land tax on every description of property.

5th. To review the effect of the policy by which this island has been governed.

6th. Possessed of these data, to offer observations on Captain Dickinson's Revenue Exposition.

Lastly. To fix the rate at which the rent shall be fixed for the future.

The state of landed property from the cession of the island up to 1707-8.

This report is confined principally to a review of the landed tenures within the walls of the fort, which the survey Captain Dickinson has completed alone embraces, but it will be found to be applicable to the island generally.

By the eleventh Article of the treaty of marriage between King Charles the Second and the Infanta Catherine of Portugal, dated the 23d of June 1661, the Crown of Portugal ceded and granted to the Crown of England, the island and harbor of Bombay, in full sovereignty.

A fleet of five men-of-war, under the command of the Earl of Marlborough, with five hundred troops under Sir Abraham Shipman, appointed to be General on shore, was despatched in March 1662, with a Vice-Roy of the King of Portugal on board, authorized to deliver the ceded island and its dependencies to the King of England.

The King's fleet arrived at Bombay on the 18th of September 1662, and demanded the cession of the island and of its dependencies, conformably to the treaty between the King and the Crown of Portugal. The Portuguese Governor evaded the cession in consequence of the English Admiral interpreting the terms of the treaty to embrace Bombay and its dependencies, or the islands of Caranja and Salsette, whilst the Portuguese Viceroy construed the cession to be limited to the island of Bombay, and not to include the dependencies situated between Bombay and Bassein. After some fruitless endeavours to arrange the terms of the cession, the Earl of Marlborough returned to England, and Sir Abraham Shipman was obliged to land the troops on the island of Angedivah, twelve leagues from Goa.

Without adverting to the attempts intermediately made to obtain possession of Bombay, it is only necessary to the object of this report to state, that Sir Abraham Shipman and the greater part of the troops having died at Angedivah from want of provisions and accommodation, and from the unhealthiness of the climate, Mr. Cooke, the Secretary to Sir Abraham Shipman, to preserve his own life and the lives of the remainder of the troops, was compelled to accede to a treaty with the Viceroy of Goa, in November 1664, in such terms as he would grant. By this convention, Mr. Cooke renounced on the part of England, all pretensions to the dependencies, and accepted the cession of Bombay only, on the same terms which its Governor had proposed, on the arrival of the Earl of Marlbo

rough, with the additional article that, the Portuguese resident in Bombay should be exempted from the payment of customs, and have liberty of trade from Bandora and the other creeks of Salsette.

The King, on receiving intelligence of the manner in which Mr. Cooke had agreed to receive the island from the Viceroy of Goa, disavowed the convention as contrary to the terms of the treaty; and appointed Sir Gervase Lucas to be Governor of Bombay.

When Sir Gervase Lucas arrived at Bombay (5th November 1666) and took charge of the Government, he instituted an enquiry into the proceedings and conduct of Mr. Cooke, and found that, instead of carrying the revenues to His Majesty's account, he had extorted the sum of 12,000 Xeraphins from the inhabitants, and converted it to his own private use, which was proved by his receipts, with other acts of an improper nature.

The account which Sir Gervase Lucas subsequently transmitted, not only of the importance and value of the island, but of its exposed situation to the Mogul power on the continent, affords evidence of the improvident convention which Cooke had formed, by receiving the island from the Viceroy of Goa, *without the King's rights being ascertained, or a statement given of the extent of them, as transferred to the Crown of England.* In his letter to Lord Arlington, of the 21st March, 1666-67; Sir Gervase, amongst other things, stated that he was making every effort to increase the King's revenues, but, from the *indefinite conditions* on which Cooke had received it, *it was impracticable to ascertain which of the inhabitants were legally possessed of sufficient titles to their estates, no stipulation having been made, relative to the King's sovereignty of the soil, as some of the best estates in the island refused to pay rent, and produced titles, which could not be disputed, though believed to be fictitious.* That the island, when properly cultivated, and the rights ascertained would be very productive.

The Crown of England considering the island of Bombay as an unprofitable and chargeable possession, transferred it to the East India Company by letters Patent, dated the 27th March, 1668.

By this Charter, the King granted the port and island of Bombay to the London East India Company, in perpetuity, with all the rights; "profits and territories thereof in as full manner as the King himself possessed them, by virtue of the treaty with the King of Portugal, by which the island was ceded to His Majesty, to be held by the Company of the King, in free and common soccage as of the manor of East Greenwich, on payment of the annual rent of £10 in gold, on the 30th September in each year." The Company

were neither to sell, nor part with the island. They were empowered to entertain officers and men, as a garrison for the island; to appoint and dismiss Governors and officers; to make laws for the better Government thereof, and to exercise Martial Law in it. — All persons born in Bombay, were to be accounted natural subjects of England; and the Company were to enjoy all the privileges and powers granted by this charter, in any place they might purchase or acquire, in or near the said island.

This transfer was communicated to Sir Gervase Lucas, by a letter from the Court of Directors, accompanied with an authenticated copy of the King's grant, empowering him to deliver the island to Sir George Oxinden and the council of Surat. The Court at the same time sent a commission to Sir George Oxinden, to receive charge of the island, and to vest one of the council of Surat with the civil and military administration of it: an estimate of the revenues amounting to £2833 per annum, was also transmitted to Sir George Oxinden with directions to engage any of the King's troops, who might be disposed to enter into the Company's service, and to call in the guards of the factory of Bantam, and a proportion of the Company's serving at Fort Saint George to fill up the garrison at Bombay; and, as an encouragement, these soldiers were to be allowed half pay, on condition of *their becoming settlers on the island, and affording their labour for the cultivation of it*; and annually new settlers were to be sent from England.

With the object also of improving the cultivation of Bombay, (that the produce might be equal to the charges of the Government,) Sir George was instructed to invite such of the natives as might choose to resort to, and settle on, the island, to encourage them by taking the most moderate profits on trade, and to endeavour to open a commerce between Bombay, the Persian Gulph, and the Red Sea, for each of which one small vessel, laden with Company's Goods, was to be despatched, and powers given to the commanders, to offer to the natives at the ports at which they might touch, a free passage to Bombay, and full protection when they should arrive, to enable them to carry on their trade.

When Sir Gervase Lucas assumed the Government, he appointed Captain Henry Gary to be Deputy Governor, and this officer seems to have proceeded on the same plan as his predecessor, *in ascertaining the royal rights in the island*, and improving its revenue and trade. In the preceding season, Sir Gervase had dismissed Mr. Cooke, for having appropriated part of the revenues to his own use, and endeavoured to defraud the heir of Sir Abraham

Shipman; on the event, Mr. Cooke had gone to Goa, and placed himself under the protection of the Jesuits. On hearing of the death of Sir Gervase Lucas, which occurred on the 21st of May, 1667, Mr. Cooke claimed his right to succeed to the Government: this Mr. Gary and his Council rejected, which brought Mr. Cooke to Bandora, on the island of Salsette, where he endeavoured to assemble a force, assisted by the Jesuits, to re-establish himself in Bombay. Cooke was proclaimed a rebel and a traitor, and refused any countenance or protection from Sir George Oxinden.

These mixed transactions however, would be of inferior consequence, if the source of them could not be traced to an event which took place during the administration of Sir Gervase Lucas; at the time when Mr. Cooke acceded to the terms, upon which the Viceroy of Goa agreed to cede the island, either he had not examined *the rights to the lands held of the Crown of Portugal by the inhabitants*, or he had considered that the ascertaining of those rights would become a source of emolument to himself. *The Jesuits' College at Bandora claimed a considerable extent of land and of rights in the island*, which Sir Gervase refused to admit; on which they had recourse to force: this, the Governor conceived to be an act of treason against His Majesty's Government, and declared *the lands and rights* to be *forfeited* to the King; a decision which explains the reception and encouragement given to Mr. Cooke by the Jesuits of Bandora. Mr. Gary the Deputy Governor, therefore, proclaimed Mr. Cooke a traitor, and Sir George Oxinden refused to receive or encourage him at the factory of Surat. The whole of these parties referred the matters in dispute, by letters to the King, to the Lord Chancellor, and to the Secretary of State; and Mr. Gary determined to maintain his right to the administration of the land, till the King's pleasure should be known.

In making these communications to the King and to the Secretary of State, Mr. Gary transmitted a statement of the revenues of the island, as improved by Sir Gervase Lucas and himself; this statement is the more interesting, as it ascertains the value of the grant of Bombay to the East India Company, and is as follows:—

			Xeraphins.	
Rupees	6,438	2 13	Rent of Mazagon	9,300 0 40
"	3,321	1 69	do. Mahim	4,797 2 45
"	1,645	3 54	do. Parell	2,377 1 56
"	1,203	1 20	do. Vadela	1,738 0 40
"	547	0 40	do. Sion	790 0 60
"	395	1 48	do. Veroly	571 1 34
"	4,392	1 80	do. Bombaim	6,344 2 61
"	6,611	2 16	do. Tobacco Stant or Frame	9,555 0 0
"	1,661	2 16	Taverns	2,400 0 0
"	12,261	2 16	The accounts of Customs	18,000 0 0
"	12,261	2 16	do. Cocoanuts	18,000 0 0
<hr/>			Xeraphins	73,870 1 18
"	50,740	0 88	More may be advanced	1,129 1 62
"	801	3 58		
<hr/>			Total Xeraphins . . *	75,000 0 0
Rs.	51,542	0 46		

Which at thirteen Xeraphins for 22s. 6d. sterling amount to £6,490 17s. 9d.

The Court, in this season, having made the requisite appointments for the administration of Bombay, framed the following general regulations, with the view of rendering the island an English Colony.

The fort, or castle, was to be enlarged and strengthened; *a town was to be built* on a regular plan, and to be so situated, as to be under the protection of the fort. Inhabitants, chiefly English, were to be encouraged to settle in it, and to be exempted for five years, from the payment of customs: the revenues (amounting according to Mr. Gary's estimate, to £6,490 per annum) were to be improved *without imposing any discouraging taxes*; the Protestant religion was to be favoured, but no unnecessary restraints imposed upon the inhabitants who might profess a different faith; manufacturers of all sorts of cottons and silks were to be encouraged, and looms provided for the settlers; a harbour, with docks, was to be constructed; a proportion of soldiers, with their wives and families, were annually to be sent from England; and an armed vessel, of about one hundred and eighty tons, was to be stationed at Bombay for the protection of the island and of its trade.

The orders of the Court of Directors on the subject of the claims of the Portuguese to land on the island, were to ascertain *whether the lands belonged to the Crown of Portugal or to indivi-*

* The discrepancy between the amount and items in this statement occurs in the MS. copy presented to the Society.—S. G. S.

duals, in 1661, the date of the cession, and that all acquisitions posterior to that date, must be held to have proceeded from an imperfect right, but, as it would be imprudent to delay strengthening the fort or building the town, the Government was authorized to purchase the lands in the immediate vicinity of the fort, provided the expense did not exceed £1500; the inhabitants were to be allowed a moderate toleration, but the claims of the Jesuits, though admissible by the Portuguese usages, were not to be held valid in an English settlement.

Sir George Oxinden the Governor died on the 14th of July, 1669, and was succeeded by Mr. Gerald Aungier.

President Aungier, on his arrival published the Company's Regulations for the Civil and Military administration of the island, and formed two Courts of Judicature; the inferior Court consisting of a Company's Civil officer, assisted by native officers, who were to take cognizance of all disputes under the amount of two hundred Xeraphins; and the superior Court, composed of the Deputy Governor and Council, to whom appeals were competent from the inferior Court, to take cognizance of all civil and criminal cases whatever; their decisions to be final, and without appeal, except in cases of the greatest necessity:—These Courts were to meet regularly once a week. The exemption from taxes for five years, recommended by the Court, to encourage the merchants and manufactures, Governor Aungier, without receding from the principle, modified, by continuing the old customs on the produce of the island, on cocoanuts and coir used as cordage, and on wine, arrack, opium, and tobacco; but he exempted bullion, and the goods specified in the Court's order, from all Customs, and to cover the loss of revenue imposed a port duty of one per cent. The result of this survey was, that the amount of the revenues from the lands had been overrated, *by the large proportion of them claimed and retained by the Jesuits*; but the amount of the lesser inland Customs had been underrated, because when put up to sale, they had produced £200 more in this, than in the preceding year. With regard to the projected town, the expense incurred in erecting the fort had rendered it a subject for future consideration; and *as the claims for rights to lands near the town had been numerous*, he had removed the fishermen to some distance, and intended to build the houses on the ground where their huts stood; but *it would require time to adjust the foundations of the rights to lands before houses for the settlers and merchants could be erected.*

The fortifications of Bombay were at this period on a limited scale; the bastions and curtains of the fort towards the land had been raised to within nine feet of their intended height; but towards the sea, batteries only were erected, as bastions would be the work of the subsequent year. The services of a Mr. Horman Blake as an Engineer, were accepted, and he was appointed Engineer and Surveyor General in Bombay; his surveys were also directed to ascertain the rights to property, as well as to the works. This survey is not forthcoming.

The separate information from Bombay during the season 1673-74, consisted of what would, in modern times, be termed a statistical account of the island, specifying the division of it into the districts of Bombay and Mahim, with an account of its inhabitants, European and Native, the extent and magnitude of the fortifications, upon which one hundred pieces of cannon had already been mounted; the strength of the garrison, consisting of two companies, of two hundred men each, of which the greatest proportion were topases, and one hundred more of this force employed in the Marine; and of three companies of militia. The report proceeded to consider (in the event of peace) the practicability of rendering Bombay a seat of trade, equal to Surat, without interfering with the purchases or sales at that Presidency. It was taken as a principle, that branches of trade might be opened between Bombay and the Gulphs of Persia and Arabia, and between this island and the ports of Sevajee, and those in the Deccan; but this speculation affords only the result, that however comprehensive the views of President Aungier might be, taking the whole of the preceding details into consideration, the prospect of an enlarged commerce from Bombay was precarious, if not doubtful.

President Aungier's attention was next directed to improve the revenues of the island by the establishment of a Mint, by farming the customs, and by taking measures for the introduction of excise duties, to which the inhabitants had been accustomed, under the Portuguese Government.

As the exemption from the payments of customs for five years (or the period which had elapsed, since the island was granted by the King to the Company) expired at the close of this season, Mr. Aungier and his Council framed regulations, with the following object, viz. the carrying the amount of the revenue to the Company's account, and applying one per cent. to defray the charges of the fortifications. Under this regulation, all goods, whether imported or exported, were to be entered at the Custom house of Bombay or

Mahim, and the following rates were fixed for the principal imports and exports: all goods imported, including coir, grain, and timber, to pay two and half per cent. and one per cent. towards the fortifications, with the exception of Indian tobacco and Indian iron, which were to pay eight per cent. custom, and one per cent. towards the fortifications: all goods exported, to pay three and a half per cent. with the exception of the produce of the island, (coconuts, salt, fish, &c.) which was to pay eight per cent. custom, and one per cent. towards the fortifications. Gold, silver, jewels, pearls, bezoar stones, musk, amber, and coins of copper and tin, to be free of all Customs, either on import or export.

Mr. Bruce has omitted to mention a very important proceeding that occurred during Mr. Aungier's Government, the compact entered into between Mr. Aungier and the inhabitants regarding their estates. It must be evident from the preceding detail, that after the island had been surrendered to the English, many discontents and disputes must have arisen as to what property belonged of right to the Crown, and what to the people; besides which the lands and estates of several persons had been seized by the English. When these circumstances became known in England, orders were sent by His Majesty, and the Court of Directors, that restoration should be made to all who could, on examination of their titles, establish their right to what they claimed.

As in the examination which took place, considerable doubts arose affecting the validity of other tenures, the people were desirous that their titles should be distinctly fixed by a regulation, rather than weakened by the scrutiny; and were willing to make a pecuniary compromise, for the permanent security of their property.

An assembly of all the inhabitants interested in the questions was therefore summoned on the 1st of November, 1674, and the Governor with the members of Council and others, together with those of the Portuguese inhabitants, who had been chosen representatives of the people, consented to the terms specified in the agreement copied in No. 3.

It was stipulated that this agreement should be perpetual and irrevocable, and for the satisfaction of the inhabitants, Government promised to prevail on the Company to confirm it by a patent under their hands and seals.

It does not, however, appear that it was ever either ratified or annulled by the Court of Directors, but the frequent reference made to it, and the continued fulfilment of its stipulations, prove, that the agreement was always considered valid, and conferred every force that it could have received from their confirmation.

At this early period, therefore, were the inhabitants secured in their possessions, all who now hold property subject to the payment of what is called pension, possess it by a tenure of which the government cannot deprive them unless the land is required for building "cities, towns or fortifications," when reasonable satisfaction is to be made to the proprietors.

The unsettled state of the government had, for almost three years, obliged President Aungier to reside at Bombay, and to leave the management of the Company's interests at Surat to the council: on his return to Surat, in September 1675, the instructions which he framed, and left with the Deputy Governor and his council, afford a distinct view of the situation of affairs at Bombay. After the President had suppressed a mutiny that had broken out, and introduced regularity into the administration, he placed before the Court an account of the inhabitants of the island, consisting of the English garrison and settlers; the Portuguese who had remained after the cession, and a mixed assemblage of Hindoo, Mahomedan, and Parsee inhabitants: he next took a view of the great object of the Company to render Bombay an emporium of trade, and recommended, that the regulations which had been established for the garrison and for the English settlers, should be the general rule of the government; but, as it would be difficult to reduce the mixed classes of the other inhabitants under those regulations, it would be proper to form them into something like the English incorporations, and to direct them to elect five persons, who were to become their representatives, to hear and prepare their different claims for the consideration of the Governor in Council; those persons to be responsible for all tumults, or disorderly conduct, of the classes of inhabitants whom they represented: by this expedient, President Aungier trusted, that general confidence would be created in the Company's government. With the object of encouraging the trade of the island, he recommended that forbearance and moderation should be observed in levying the duties of customs, rents, licenses, &c., but calculated that the revenue would amount to 10,700 Xeraphins per annum.

This year the duties were farmed, as the most profitable expedient, and excise taxes on provisions established, on the same principle as practised by the Dutch at Batavia; by which the amount of the revenues had been increased, and this system was to be followed up, as far as the circumstances of the island would permit. Of the military arrangements in contemplation, it is only necessary to notice the project to establish a militia, for the better defence of

the island. In the course of the season, the expedient was tried, and six hundred men embodied, the charges of which were defrayed by about *one hundred of the principal land owners on the island*.

The only material occurrence in the subsequent year consisted in the appointment of a Judge for the island, the embodying of a troop of horse and the encouragement directed to be given to the diamond merchants to settle at Bombay, and protection to the weavers; and such of the soldiers whose conduct had been regular, and whose term of seven years had expired were to be promoted to small civil trusts.

Mr. Aungier died on the 30th of June 1677, when the government devolved on Mr. Henry Oxinden.

The report of Mr. Oxinden on the internal circumstances of the island, stated, that the revenues from customs amounted to 30,000 Xeraphins per annum, that though the *inhabitants were numerous* (consisting of Gentoos, Mahomedans, and indeed the outcasts of all sects, who had sought protection) *they were of the poorer classes, to whom every indulgence had been shewn, in the hope of inducing the more wealthy native merchants and manufacturers to place themselves under the English government*: but the prospect of the island ultimately becoming a seat of trade was remote, from the opposite coasts being exposed to the armies of Sevajee, and from the Mogul armies being employed in the Patan wars and those in the Deccan being unable to stop his progress; that the Portuguese at Tannah and Caranja, continued to obstruct the entrance of provisions, and created every obstacle to the trade of the island. The political and commercial importance of Bombay therefore, was distant, and the difficulties of bringing it beyond its present narrow influence daily increasing, for the progress of Sevajee in countries immediately connected with it, and his alliances with Visiapore and Golconda, had enabled him almost to command the Deccan towards the Carnatic, and all the countries between it and Surat.

With the view of providing a sum equal to the civil and military charges of the government, the Court required in the year 1679-80 that all houses should be valued, and a proportionate tax imposed on each, the *uncultivated land surveyed, and let out on rent, and the marshy ground drained, and rendered fit for agriculture*.

The King, by letters patent, dated 9th August 1683, authorized the Company to exercise Admiralty jurisdiction in the countries within their limits: the object of this grant was to enable them to seize and condemn the ships of the interlopers: for this purpose, the President was appointed Judge Advocate, pro-tempore, to take

cognizance of all naval cases; these powers were given to the President and Council of Surat, to resist encroachments on the Company's privileges, at the time when the ships and cargoes of the interlopers had been detained in England, and prosecutions instituted against the owners and commanders.

This authority to the President and Council of Surat was, however, temporary only, that they might be enabled to seize the goods of the interlopers and allow the parties to recover, by suits in chancery, in England; for by a commission from the King, dated 6th February 1683-4; and from the Court dated 7th April 1684, Dr. John St. John was appointed Judge of the Court of Admiralty to be erected in the East Indies, and to have cognizance of all Admiralty cases within the Company's limits. This Court was to be held at Bombay, as being a possession acquired by the Crown, and, by it, vested in the Company, in full property. It was to consist of the Judge, and two merchants, Company's servants: the Judge was to have a salary of £200 per annum, and allowances at the Company's table; he was to take cognizance of, and to try, examine and decide on, all cases regarding the interlopers or private merchants, who might attempt, contrary to the King's orders, and in violation of the Company's exclusive privileges, to trade, or establish factories, in the countries within their limits: all the processes were to be in English, and not in Latin, and a table of fees to be framed, to prevent arbitrary charges on the King's subjects, or the natives of India.

The capture of Bantam by the Dutch, led to the declaration of the Court, that, in future, they would consider Bombay as an independent English settlement, and the seat of the power and trade of the English nation in the East Indies, a resolution which was incompatible with the retrenchments, civil and military, ordered in the two last seasons.

The revolution at Bantam had induced His Majesty and the Court to send out a naval and military force, the object of which was to oblige the Native powers to conform to subsisting treaties, and to assist in the restoration of the King of Bantam who had been dethroned by his son, instigated by the Dutch: when this service should be effected, the soldiers embarked for that purpose, were to proceed to Bombay, and to form the third company on the military establishment of that island. Forty recruits also, were sent to complete the two established companies, and the fortifications were ordered to be strengthened; and to add to the effective force of the garrison, two companies of Rajpoots, of one hundred men each,

were to be embodied and the men selected from the countries not subject to the Mogul, to Sambajee or to the Portuguese, to be commanded by officers of their own cast, to use their own arms, and to have a weekly pay, half in rice and half in money, and when on duty, to be blended with the regular English troops.

To defray the charges of this enlarged establishment, taking the Dutch at Batavia as an example, and proceeding on the practice at St. Helena, a duty of half a dollar was ordered to be levied on all ships anchoring in the harbour, (the Company's ships not excepted) a duty on all fishing boats, of one rupee each, per annum, whether those of the island or those of the Portuguese at Tannah to counteract their exactions; *and one rupee per annum on each shop-keeper on the island*; an exception, however, was made of the ships and boats of the subjects of the Mogul and of Sambajee, to prevent disputes with these powers.

With these sources of revenue, the Deputy Governor and Council, were to endeavour to liquidate the debts incurred on the dead stock, estimated at so large a sum as £300,000, that the revenues and debts might balance each other.

The orders of the Court to the President and Council of Bombay, for the internal administration of the island, were equally precise; as the Company had been vested with authority to exercise Admiralty jurisdiction and Martial Law, the Court resolved to bring to justice any of their commanders who might be guilty of disobedience, or refuse to act against their enemies, whether European interlopers, or Dutch or Portuguese rivals; and the President was ordered to enforce strict discipline in the troops, either regular or militia, that the force on the island might be adequate to its defence against any enemy.

To defray the charges of this naval and military force, the Customs on all goods were increased to five per cent, and the President and Council were in future to observe such orders as they might receive from the Secret Committee, appointed for the purpose of rendering the orders of the Court less known to their domestic or foreign enemies: in all treaties with the country powers, it was to be a preliminary that they should deliver up all English subjects in the territories, without reserve (whether they were Company's servants or not) to the respective Presidencies or factories, which might demand them.

With the object, therefore of rendering Bombay an efficient reGENCY and seat of trade, and to enable it to protect the agency left to keep up the commercial relations between Surat and Bombay,

it was ordered, that a dry dock should be built, and a duty of one dollar per ton levied on every ship that might be repaired at it, that a wharf and pier should be erected, for loading and unloading vessels, and rates established, to be paid on landing or shipping goods: that, to make the revenues balance the charges, a progressive duty should be imposed, *of from one shilling to two shillings and six pence, on every house in Bombay*: that the English inhabitants, not in the Company's service, should be liable to a duty of consulage; that a Post Office should be established, and reasonable rates for letters imposed, either in the island, or sent and received in the Company's commercial stations; that an Insurance Office should be constituted, on the same principle as that at Fort Saint George; that the fortifications should be increased and the garrison strengthened, by recalling all Europeans who might be in the service of the native powers, and offering to such men encouragement to engage in the Company's military service, because from having constitutions habituated to the climate, they would be of more use, than recruits brought from Europe, "one seasoned man being worth two fresh ones."

At the commencement of the year, the Siddee's fleet and army invaded Bombay, and got possession of Mahim, Mazagon, and Sion, and the Governor and his garrison, were besieged in the town and castle, and unable to take any measures for carrying into execution the orders of the Court for the improvement of the island, and it was not till the 6th May 1690, that orders were sent, from the Governor of Surat to the Siddee, to evacuate Bombay, or till the 22d June, that he quitted the island, and the English again took possession of Mazagon, Mahim, and Sion.

During these public transactions, it was impossible the measures recommended by the Court, for improving the revenue of the island, could be carried into effect. The natives it was found, would not undertake the coining of money, or managing of the mint, as it had been supposed they would; and during the period of actual or threatened invasion, the revenues from lands or houses could not be collected, or the projects of establishing a Post Office, or Insurance Office attempted; hence it was impossible to raise a revenue equal to the Company's estimate, which had erroneously been adopted, in imitation of the Dutch, without reflecting that what had been practicable in old establishments could not apply to Bombay, as yet only held by the Company for a short time, and, during that period, exposed to the insubordination of the garrison and inhabitants, and to opposition by the Portuguese occupying the

stations from which supplies could be brought to the island, or liable to perpetual alarms of invasion, by the contending powers on the neighbouring continent of India.

After explaining the general circumstances of Bombay, the Deputy Governor and Council reported that the *Jesuits* on the island had been *active during the invasion of the Siddee, in promoting his views, and therefore that they had seized on all the lands owned or occupied by them*, but had deferred any final decision on this subject, till the arrival of the President from Surat, who would judge of the claims of those people, and restore their lands to such of them as could exculpate themselves, or confirm the right of the Company to such portions as had been the property of the guilty. This measure, however expedient, it was feared, might induce the Portuguese to attack the island; but, it was kept in as good a state of defence as was practicable.

As the revenues were essential to the maintenance of their civil and military servants, and the preservation of the trade, the Court directed that they should be improved, by every practicable means, and explained that *the measure of confiscating the lands of those who had deserted them during the invasion of the island, had already been justified by the precedent of Signior de Tavora, which had been decided by Charles II. and the Privy Council, twenty years before the case occurred; but desired that the lands might be restored to such of the claimants as might be found innocent.*

This resolution appears to have originated in the conduct of the Portuguese inhabitants of Bombay, who during the Dutch war, and that with the Mogul, refused to assist in the defence of the island, and claimed exemption from military service: in this claim they were supported by the Portuguese Envoy in London, who presented a memorial in their favour to the King, founded on rights under the former Portuguese dominion at Bombay. In answer to this memorial, the Governor and Committees of the London East India Company stated, *that the inhabitants of the island of Bombay while they were subject to the King of Portugal, paid one-fourth part of the profits of their lands, as a quit-rent, which President Aungier, soon after the island came into the possession of the Company, commuted for a quit-rent of twenty thousand Xeraphins per annum, reserving to the Company, as representing the King, the right to the military services under which the lands were held of the Crown of Portugal: that during the late war with the Mogul, not only the payment of this quit-rent had been refused, but the right to the military services denied, and, during hostilities, the Portuguese in-*

habitants, had by *refusing military aids, forfeited the rights to their lands*, though it was admitted that they, by the cession of the island to England, had become subjects of the king, to whom, by their *tenures*, they were bound to afford *military services*, either personally or by substitute, more particularly in cases of invasion, and that the *lands held by ecclesiastics were equally bound to furnish military service*, either by the possessors, or by their substitutes. If therefore, it was considered, that the island, since being granted to the Company, had required for its defence, by fortifications and by garrisons so large a sum as £400,000, particularly during the wars between the Mogul and the Hindoos, this claim of exemption from such service was unreasonable, more particularly when the practice of the native inhabitants of Madras and of all the other English, Dutch, French, and Danish colonies in *India* could be adduced as evidence, that *such services were admitted and general*.

The Court next approved the retaining the *Gentoo soldiers* in their service, and *assigning them portions of lands for their maintenance*: they were also to be allowed half pay, but in this case, *the Company were to receive half the produce of their lands*; a regulation the more expedient, from the difficulty of finding a sufficient number of recruits in England to strengthen the garrison.

Sir John Gayer, appointed Governor of Bombay, on his arrival on the 17th May, 1694, found the Company's government and trade in a miserable condition, for the revenue had been reduced from 62,500 to 17,000 Xeraphins, and the principal source of it, or the cocoanut trees, from being tottally neglected had yielded a small sum only: the orders of the Court, respecting the forfeited estates had been obeyed and the lands restored to the proprietors, who had not actually assisted the Siddee in his invasion, on condition of paying one-fourth part of the produce, for the first year as a fine. Sir John, however, determined to make Bombay the centre of the English trade in the West of India.

No further information is traceable from Bruce's Annals regarding the revenues or the nature of the landed tenures of Bombay. These details are however sufficient to lead to these important conclusions.

That the King's rights having been omitted to be defined, from the indefinite conditions on which the island was taken possession of, it was impracticable to ascertain which of the inhabitants were legally possessed of sufficient titles to their estates, no stipulation having been made relative to the King's sovereignty of the soil; that some of the best estates refused to pay rent and *produced titles which could not be disputed, though believed to be fictitious*, that the

Jesuits College at Bandora claimed a considerable extent of land and of rights in the island, that the claims of lands near the town had been numerous, but that it would require time to adjust the foundations of those rights before houses for the settlers and merchants could be erected: that the fishermen's huts were removed from the town and houses built on their site for the settlers, that discontents and disputes having arisen as to what property belonged of right to the Crown and what to the people, Governor Aungier entered into the convention of 1674, which appears to have allayed those apprehensions, by recognizing the whole of the lands in a state of cultivation to be private property, reserving however to the Company the right to the military services under which the lands were held of the Crown of Portugal.

It does not appear that from the date of Aungier's convention to the year 1707-8, the lands were allotted to the new settlers under any specific leases. Within that period of thirty-three years, the population must have increased, and Crown lands been proportionably assigned for their accommodation, but we are ignorant of their extent and the terms on which they were leased out, or whether they paid any rent; but I am inclined to think not, and that until 1718, the new tenants held their lands as feuds at the will of the lord, under an implied engagement to afford military service when required, and that, in that year a money rent was substituted, as will be hereafter more particularly noticed.

Although no satisfactory result can at this distant period be drawn from an attempt to ascertain the precise extent of the lands belonging to individuals and to the sovereignty respectively, at the date of Aungier's agreement, I have yet deemed it proper to enter upon an enquiry. The statistical survey of the island noticed in the 25th paragraph would at once have solved the difficulty; but as it is not within our reach, we must have recourse to other evidence, and though it is utterly impossible to define, we shall yet be able to form a pretty accurate conception of, the extent of the property belonging to the public at that period.

To judge from the small amount of the compromise including the quit-rent, one would conclude that a very small part of the island was in a state of cultivation at the date of Aungier's convention, even admitting that the estates were considerably undervalued, of which I entertain not a doubt. This conclusion derives support from the smallness of the population at the period of the cession, which did not exceed ten thousand souls, and is further confirmed by the small amount of the revenues derivable from tobacco and

spirituous liquors. I entertain, however, no doubt, that the whole of that population resided where they could be best protected, near the castle of Bombay, the forts of Mahim and Mazagon.

I annex to this report an extract from the travels of Doctor Fryer, begun in 1672 and finished in 1681; which affords a very minute description of the island at that period. Fryer also states that in making over the island to us, it was stipulated that the royalties should belong to the King, but every particular man's estate to the right owner; that on Cooke's landing in Bombay in 1664, "he found a pretty well seated, but ill fortified house; four brass guns, being the whole defence of the island, unless a few chambers housed in small towers convenient places to scour the Malabars who were accustomed to seize cattle and depopulate whole villages by their outrages. About the house was a delicate garden voiced to be the pleasantest in India; intended rather for wanton dalliance, love's artillery, than to make resistance against an invading foe." Such was Bombay Castle in the time of the Portuguese; "the walks which were before covered with nature's verdant awnings and lightly pressed by soft delights," were, on Fryer's arrival, open to the sun and loaded with the hardy common. "Bowers dedicated to ease, were turned into bold ramparts, &c. &c., within the fort were mounted 120 pieces of ordnance, and in other convenient stands 20 more, besides 60 field pieces ready in their carriages to attend the Militia and Bandaries, &c. &c. At a distance enough (from the fort) lies the town, in which confusedly live the English, Portuguese, Topazes, Gentoos, Moors, Cooly, Christians, most fishermen. *It is a full mile in length*, the houses are low, and thatched with oleas of the cocoa trees, all but a few the Portugals left, and *some few the Company have built*. The Custom-house, and warehouses are tiled or plastered, and instead of glass, use panes of oyster shells for their windows, there is also a reasonable *handsome bazar*, at the *end* of the *town*, looking into the field, where cows and buffaloes graze. The Portugals have a pretty house and church, with orchards of Indian fruit adjoining. The English have only a burying place called Mendam's point, from the first man's name there interred, where are some few tombs that make a pretty show at entering the haven, but neither church or hospital, both which are mightily desired. On the backside of the towns of Bombaim and Mayin, are woods of cocoes (under which inhabit the Bandaries those that prune and cultivate them) these *Hortoes** being the *great-*

* Oarts.

est purchase and estates in the island. For some miles together, till the sea break in between them, over against which up the bay a mile, lies Masse Goung, a great fishing town, peculiarly notable for a fish called bumbolo, the sustenance of the poorer sort who live on them and batty, &c. The ground between this and the great breach is well ploughed and bears good batty. Here the Portugals have another church and religious house belonging to the Franciscans. Beyond it is Parell, where they have another church and demesnes belonging to the Jesuits, to which appertains Siam (Sion) manured by columbeens, husbandmen, where live the Frasses or porters also, &c. &c., under these esplants, the washes of the sea produce a lunary tribute of salt, left in pans or pits made on purpose at spring tides for the overflowing; and when they are full are incrustated by the heat of the sun. In the middle between Parell, Mayin, Siam, and Bombaim is an hollow, wherein is received a breach running at three several places, which drowns 40,000 acres of good land; yielding nothing else but samphire, athwart which from Parell to Mayin are the ruins of a stone causeway made by pennances. At Mayin the Portugals have another complete church and house; the English a pretty custom-house and guard house; the Moors also a tomb in great veneration for a peer or prophet, &c. &c. At Salvesong the Franciscans enjoy another church and convent; *this side is all covered with trees of cocoes, jaukes, and mangoes*; in the middle lies Verulee (Worlee) where the English have a watch. On the other side of the great inlet to the sea is a great point abutting against Old Woman's Island and is called Malabar hill, a rocky woody mountain, yet sends forth long grass. A top of all is a Parsy tomb lately raised, on its declivity towards the sea, the remains of a stupendous pagod, near a tank of fresh water, which the Malabars visited it mostly for: thus we have completed our rounds, being in circumference twenty miles, the length eight, taking Old Woman's Island, which is a little low barren island of no other profit, but to keep the Company's antelopes, and other beasts of delight."*

Fryer makes the population equal to 60,000 souls, "more by 50,000 than the Portugals ever had; a mixture of most of the neighbouring countries, most of them fugitives and vagabonds."

The correctness of the picture thus drawn of Bombay in the year 1671, must strike every one who examines it at this period. We find the inhabitants resorting to those fortified places where

* The present Parell House.

they could be best protected, and at the same time carry on their trades as fishermen, merchants, &c., near the castle, at Mazagon, and Mahim.

In respect to the extent of private property at that period, it appears more than probable from the description "that, at a distance enough from the fort lies a town *full a mile in length*; there is a reasonable handsome bazar at the end of the town, at the backside of which are woods of cocoes being the greatest estates on the island," the whole space within the walls of the fort was such, with the exception of the custom house, warehouses, and the few houses built by the Company. The space at the end of the town looking into the field where cows and buffaloes graze, I also consider as private property, the Foras ground probably dependent on the cultivated portion, inclusive of course of the house and church, and orchards belonging to the Portugals. "The woods situated in the rear of the towns of Bombay and Mahim *for some miles together*," must have been private property; as also the ground between Mazagon and the great breach, represented as being "well ploughed and bearing good batty." Parell and its demesnes belonged to the Jesuits, including Sion to which it appertained. The side where Salvesong is situated, "all covered with trees of cocoa, jaukes, and mangoes" must also have been private property, inclusive of "the lands held by ecclesiastics." Fryer's Historical Account of Bombay certainly represents a greater portion of the island to have been in a state of cultivation than one would suppose from the amount of the quit-rent stipulated for by Aungier's agreements.

In regard to the Crown lands we are left entirely in the dark, with the exception of the 40,000 acres of good land covered by the sea, Malabar hill, and Old Woman's Island; but even supposing that more than a moiety of the island was in a barren state, and consequently public property at the period of the cession, a considerable portion must have been alienated under the operation of the orders of the Hon'ble Court to invite strangers to settle on the island; to let the uncultivated land out on rent; to assign portions of land to Gentoo soldiers for their maintenance, the Company receiving half the produce. The lands, however, belonging to the Jesuits to "a considerable extent," situated at Parell and its vicinity including Sion, became the Company's by forfeit, with the estates belonging to those who aided the Siddee in the invasion of the island, but some of the lands were restored to such of the claimants as were proved to be innocent.

Rama Camatee's property was also forfeited to the Company at

the commencement of the last century, and the result of the proclamation issued on the 5th July 1720, in consequence of the Portuguese obstructing the communication between Mahim and Bandora, and stopping our pattamars, requiring all persons who lived in other parts, and had estates in the island to repair hither with their arms in the term of twenty-one days, on pain of having their estates confiscated, must have thrown some property into the possession of the Company; for on the expiration of the limited time, none of the absentees appearing, the Verindores were on the 30th of July, ordered to enter upon and receive the produce of their estates; and those who had demands on such estates were referred to the Chief Justice of the Court of Judicature. But we have no particular account of these forfeitures, nor whether any of them were within the walls of the fort, except* Rama Camatee's which would appear to have been situated within these limits.

Though I am of opinion that, on the conclusion of Aungier's agreement by much the greater part of the present limits of the fort was private property, I am at the same time inclined to think that, in the progress of constructing the fortifications, that property became the Company's by purchases and exchanges; but not at the early period conjectured by Captain Dickinson. The orders of the Court in 1669-70 to purchase the lands in the immediate vicinity of the fort, provided the expence did not exceed £1500, for which no small extent of ground could have been purchased in those days; the further instructions of the Court in 1709-10 to cut down the *cocoanuts* and *toddy trees for the space of a mile* from the fort; and the exchanges which Government subsequently effected up to 1745, in which year alone the value of the property acquired by the Company within the walls and on the esplanade amounted to Rs. 20,169 are strongly corroborative of that conclusion.

This attempt to define what was private and public property preponderates I think in favour of the former, as far as respects the limits under consideration. The inhabitants and merchants would not have voluntarily agreed, as they did in the year 1716, to pay an additional duty of two per cent. towards fortifying the town of Bombay; nor would the landholders have agreed to pay a tax sufficient to complete one bastion, to be raised in a term of years, if their property had not been at that period situated within the space intended to be thus secured.

* This property was sold on the 25th of August 1786, to Hurjeram Surput for Rs. 22600.

Admitting however, for the sake of argument, that the whole of the lands of Bombay appertained of right to the Crown, either at the date of Aungier's convention, in 1720, or even at any later period, still I am of opinion that the mode in which the Government has been in the practice of permitting individuals to occupy ground, or in other words that the custom of the manor, has, upon every principle of equity, converted the public into private property, base into copy hold tenures, and that the Company have forfeited whatever right they might have possessed to resume lands, or to alter the tenure which custom has established.

This leads me to the second head of enquiry. To develop the principles on which the Government has been in the practice of leasing to individuals ground the property of the Company; and to ascertain whether those principles have been respected or departed from by the Government at any time, with the view to discover on what tenures it was the intention of the Government to allot lands to individuals.

It has already been shewn that the island is held by the Company of the king in free and common soccage as of the manor of East Greenwich, on the payment of an annual rent of £10 in gold on the 30th of September in each year. I am inclined to think that the intention of the Government has been to grant lands to individuals upon the same tenures.

Though Aungier's agreement fixed the amount of the quit-rent payable to the sovereign, still the right to the personal services of the tenant was not commuted by that convention, but expressly recognized and reserved. Those services must, however, have been subsequently redeemed, for it appears by a letter from the Court of Directors of the 5th of April 1715, that "the Verindores entered into an agreement to excuse themselves from finding trained bands or militia in consideration of fifteen thousand Xeraphins a year, and though the Court called on the Government to report if that was a sufficient equivalent, and if it altered the ancient constitution of the island in such a manner as to prejudice the Company's interest, and whether under that agreement they thought themselves absolutely discharged from assisting in case of an invasion by an enemy." I have failed to trace any elucidation of that important question, or that any payments were ever made under that agreement. I should conclude not, as some traces of the payment would have existed at this period.

The ancient constitution of the island was feudal; and the lord could claim the military services of the tenants, until the year 1718,

when the rent services may be considered to have been substituted by a tax having been imposed "on *all the inhabitants residing within the town walls* in order to reimburse the right Hon'ble Company some part of the great expence and charge they had been at in fortifying and securing the said town."

This tax was no doubt imposed in pursuance of the orders conveyed in the 64th paragraph of the Court's despatch of the 21st of February 1717, when they "reminded the Government of its promise to improve the ground rent within the city wall by letting leases *renewable* or *by fines* or *quit-rent* or *whatever way* Government should judge most for the Company's interest; the consideration of their prodigious charge and the peoples protection and liberty are very cogent arguments, if rightly managed, to convince every one why *that ground* ought to be valued higher than it otherwise would."

I consider the imposition of the tax in 1718, to have changed the ancient constitution of the island, and that the military services of the tenants were commuted by a quit-rent.

In 1731 an appearance of regularity and vigilance in the lords of the manor, for the first time, manifests itself. On the 3d of December of that year a "mensuration of the ground within the town walls occupied by the English as well as black inhabitants made by a Committee of the Board, with the assistance of Captain William Saunderson clerk of the works, and Ramjee and Rowjee Purvoes, by order of council was laid upon the table, with a calculate of *quit-rent* and *ground rent* which was, and *has been hitherto paid* in a *manner entirely unascertained*, whereby some people have been prejudiced and others favoured. To prevent which abuse in future, it was resolved that all persons that have a mind to build apply to the land paymaster and signify to him in what part of the town, and what sort of a house they design to build; and on the paymaster's being satisfied that the spot of ground they have pitched upon, is a proper situation for such a house, he is to grant them his licence for building, receiving as fees for the same, two rupees and no more; provided the said house is built with stone and mortar and covered with tiles; and for such houses as are covered with cadjans one rupee, and upon any of the inhabitants applying to the Secretary for a lease or certificate to ascertain their title to the house to be built by licence of the paymaster, he is to grant them such a lease or certificate for the same on paying one rupee and no more."

On the 18th of May 1733, an attempt was made to introduce leases for years. I annex an extract from the records. "It being

found by experience that little regard has been paid by the inhabitants, within and without the walls, to an order of council made the 3d December 1731, directing that *ALL persons who HAVE houses, or may hereafter have any, should apply to the Secretary for a regular lease of the said house or houses paying him one rupee as his fee for drawing out the said lease; it is agreed that we order a publication to be made enforcing the said order, under penalty of dispossessing all such persons as shall not produce an authentic lease signed by the Secretary in six months from the date of the said publication, ascertaining their right to the said house or houses, and the ground they are built on;*" and it was on this occasion agreed that the Secretary "in framing such leases grant a term of forty-one years, renewable on the party's paying a fine of half a years' rent of the said house or tenement, according as the same shall be valued by the second in council and the collector of the revenues for the time being, and the possessor."

Here we have an instance of one of those vigorous measures of Government to which so much importance is attached. A proclamation is issued requiring all the inhabitants indiscriminately, those whose estates were secured under Aungier's convention not excepted, to apply on pain of forfeiture of their property if they refuse, for regular leases, which were to be granted for forty-one years, renewable on the payment of a fine. What did this proclamation produce? nothing, for, on the expiration of the six months, we do not find that any application for leases were prepared or that any forfeitures were declared. Was it to be expected, that tenants who had obtained possession according to the custom of the manor, would have taken out leases for forty-one years for lands which had descended in the family for upwards of half a century? Probably the Government may have issued that proclamation without a thorough understanding of the nature of the landed tenures on the island.

Since the conclusion of Aungier's convention the lands have not been allotted upon any established system. I have been unable to trace that up to the year 1731, a single square yard of the Crown lands has been leased on conditions clearly descriptive of the nature of the tenure or of the intentions of the parties. In contemplating the lamentable state to which the island was reduced in the year 1717-18 measures of encouragement could alone restore and increase its population, and establish its prosperity; and so late even as 1731, the resolution of the 3d of November of that year will "show the intention of Government to have been to invite settlers

on the principle of granting them land on a low fixed quit-rent in perpetuity." If the intention of the Government was to fix the quit-rent in perpetuity, their acts have been at variance with that intention.

Adverting in the next place to the proceeding of 1739, which led to the construction of the ditch around the walls of the fort which was in a most untenable condition, we find "that the principal merchants of the place, convinced of the necessity of putting the town in some state of defence subscribed the sum of thirty thousand Rupees towards the expense of this work, which was as much as could have been expected from that body considering the low declined state of trade;"* apprehensions were at this period entertained of an attack from the Mahrattas, who had subdued the neighbouring country and threatened the invasion of the island.

Upon this occasion the Government remarked on "the irregular practice had obtained of planting trees and building houses *through the permission or connivance* of the Government within the distance prescribed for the safety of all regular fortifications, against which the necessary precaution having hitherto been entirely disregarded, it behoved the board to come to such a resolution as may effectually prevent this evil in future, and obviate such irregularities and inconveniences as have arisen from want of a proper control in the buildings, works, and plantation of trees both *within* and without the walls. The following order was published :

"That no houses be made, or rebuilt nor any trees planted within the distance of four hundred yards from the town walls nor any houses erected within the said walls, until the ground be surveyed by the Engineer for the time being, and by him to be recommended to the land paymaster for his approbation and leave."

By this regulation, which has been and is strictly attended to, no person could repair or build within the walls of the fort without the permission of the Government, or of its officers, who it is to be presumed would not grant that permission upon Crown lands without authority; or without observing the rule prescribed in 1731, or in 1733, viz., "that upon any of the inhabitants applying for a lease or certificate, the Secretary in framing such leases was to grant one generally or for a term of forty years, renewable on the party's paying a fine of half a year's rent of the said house or tenement,

* In order to raise that sum one per cent. was levied additionally upon the trade, which was subject to pay two per cent. contribution to the town wall until the amount be cleared.

according as the same shall be valued by the second in council and the Collector of the revenues for the time being and the possessor."

The result of these proceedings then prove that between the years 1731 and 1733, two description of leases were established and must have been granted, to what extent it is needless to trace, because the resolution of the Government to introduce leases for years renewable on the payment of a fine has entirely failed; leases having been granted conformably to the rule established in 1731, and which is to this hour considered to be in force in the Collector's office.

On the 22d of March 1754 another proclamation was issued, directing that the name of every person purchasing a house within the walls, be entered in the Collector's office, before he enters on the premises. The reason of this is, however, explained, as it was difficult to recover the ground rent or to know the real measure of each house, few of the present possessors names agreeing with the rent roll.

A variety of other measures of a similar nature were pursued by the Government to ascertain and preserve the rights of the public. It is needless to quote them. I will admit that the Government has been in the practice of promulgating those notifications and proclamations annually, and denouncing the severest and the most arbitrary penalties on all those who failed to obey them. What good effects have they produced? none whatever; we are as much in ignorance of the royal rights on the island in 1814, as our forefathers were two hundred years ago.

Not only would these facts, as it appears to me, make directly against the Company, and in favour of individuals, but the acts of the Government or of its official servants can be adduced as positive evidence against them.

Let us estimate the merits of this important question on the basis of those proceedings of Government which have recently occurred, and which must be in the recollection of us all. Let us first review the proceedings of the late Town committee, appointed when the great fire in 1803, occurred, to investigate the nature of the tenures within the Town, when the question underwent the fullest discussion.

The Town Committee were directed to ascertain the right of possession or property in the tract laid waste by the conflagration. They were furnished with statements from the Collector's registry of the two descriptions of ground, public and private, affected by that calamity.

By a statement of the latter description of property in which the

names of the proprietors are given, it appears that 29,880½ square yards had been laid waste, which, at the rate of 6 reas the square yard, paid Rupees 448. ,, 28 to the Company, besides the Pension, of the other 45,867. 3, square yards were laid waste, of which the rent at eleven reas the square yard, amounted. to rupees 1,234. 2 59.

The plan for rebuilding the Town having been determined on, and attained a state of advanced progress which had excited the attention of the natives, the most wealthy individuals among them, formed a combination to resist, by legal process, any mode of lining out the new streets which should tend to intersect their old foundations, or to prevent their rebuilding on them; under these circumstances the opinion of counsel was required, "whether Government might under all the inducements for the future security of the fortress which had led to the course of conduct objected to by the natives, proceed in carrying the same into execution without risk of incurring material expence in pecuniary compensations to the inhabitants, who might prosecute; or whether he considered the said inhabitants to be at all events entitled to rebuild on their old foundations, and thus debar the Government from the adoption of those measures which were deemed essential to the security of the garrison."

Mr. Thriepland continued to think that the ground occupied by those who paid assessment was at the disposal of the Government, and that no opposition from Proprietors of this description, need be regarded, farther than that they had an undoubted right to be indemnified for any outlay they might have made either of permanent utility to the soil, or from which their successors therein can derive advantage &c. &c.

The Town Committee expressed a decided opinion that the plan should be adhered to, and pursued with firmness, vigour and expedition; they were aware that many instances of resistance would occur, but they pledged themselves to exert all their diligence, and to apply a remedy for every difficulty, expressing a hope that when the intentions of Government should be once promulgated, as an absolute determination, many of the supposed obstacles would disappear, and a conviction be established in the minds of the inhabitants that their convenience and the public security were the grand and only points which the proposed arrangements were intended to embrace.

It appeared, however, to the Committee on further consideration that the obvious and liberal line of policy to be adopted by the Company was this, let the division of the new allotment be made among the pensioned proprietors agreeably to the extent of their former

possessions as near as circumstances would admit, and those who desire more can purchase from others who may be inclined to relinquish their dwellings within the walls; as this might be reckoned an indulgence, they should be satisfied even with a deficiency (if such should arise) of a few feet, and their apparent title to compensation could only be for such deficit; but, if on the other hand this class of proprietors insisted on a high value for the ground it might be objected,

1st. That* under the deed they are only entitled to abatement of pension.

2d. If an equitable principle is adopted, the value may be referred to a sworn Committee, two to be European and two Natives.

When the pensioned proprietors are thus satisfied, the Company may put up the remaining space to be built to public sale, in such lots as might be best adopted for the convenience of every description of purchasers, and divide the proceeds among the assessed proprietors, in full of all their claims; allowing them, in the meantime, to withdraw the materials remaining of their houses; thus the Company appropriate every part of the ground to the former possessors agreeably to their right, and neither claim nor derive any benefit from it.

The Committee explained, on this occasion, that the indulgence proposed to be granted to the assessed proprietors should be understood to arise from a consideration of the losses they have sustained by the late fatal calamity of fire, and as this indulgence might, at first sight, appear to put them on a footing with the pensioned proprietors, who may have a claim upon the Company, the Committee proposed that the line of distinction to be drawn between them shall be this, namely; that the pensioned proprietors shall have the full extent of their former ground allotted them, and the deficiency to fall upon the assessed property.

It is not necessary to trace any more of the proceedings of the town Committee upon the subject of rebuilding the town, it is sufficient to state that, notwithstanding the decided opinion offered by the Advocate General in favour of the right of Government to resume possession of the assessed ground, and the opinion of all of the necessity of such a measure, the effort of the town Committee to carry their plans into effect as well by threats as by persuasions, entirely failed. The Natives ultimately succeeded in their opposi-

* This is a very contracted view of the question. The Court will be found to have considered the compensation on more just principles.

tion, and in the object of rebuilding on their old foundations; all the Committee could do was to limit their houses in respect to height, and taking off from each front a portion of ground for widening the streets, which the Natives readily conceded.

On the question concerning the right of pension proprietors to rebuild on their old foundations and of the assessed proprietors to indemnification for improvements, the Court observed "we must think with the town Committee in opposition to the opinion of our standing counsel, that the agreement of 1672, between Government and the pension proprietors, clearly proves that Government might resume for public purposes any part of the lands held by them on making a proportionate abatement of the pension or rent and paying a valuation for the property standing thereon; with respect to the assessed proprietors, as they have always been considered merely as tenants at will and liable to be removed, whenever the land might be wanted for public purposes, they can have no claim of compensation but for improvements, which in the present instance are destroyed."

On being subsequently informed of the opposition made by the Natives to the various plans and modifications made by the Committee to meet their prejudices, the Hon'ble Court directed that "should the inhabitants still obstinately refuse to accede to such regulations as are essential to the future safety of the garrison and the true interest of the community, and persist in their endeavours to gain possession of the sites of their former habitations, we direct that you take the earliest opportunity of advising us of the same; and that, in the interim, you use your utmost endeavours to delay, or as far as may be practicable to prevent, their rebuilding until you receive our further orders."

By comparing, however, the whole of the correspondence with the Hon'ble Court on the proceedings for rebuilding the town, it is obvious that they had no objection to the Natives occupying their former ground, within the fort, provided they consent to such regulations as in the opinion of Government are essential to the future safety of the garrison, and the true interests of the community. These objects they plainly think are perfectly compatible with permitting a native town within the walls of the fort, though not with allowing its inhabitants to occupy the exact sites of their former habitations, and it is, therefore, only in the event of their insisting on this, and consequently refusing to give up any space for widening

of streets, &c., that they direct "the utmost endeavours to be used to delay, or as far as may be practicable to prevent their rebuilding until the further orders of the Court are received."

In reviewing the result of those proceedings the sound policy which dictated the observance of a moderate line of conduct towards the inhabitants, must be applauded. The assessed ground had been mortgaged in many instances, and it was, therefore, a species of property as valuable in the market as the pension. Had the Government brought the question of the right to resume the ground to legal issue, and succeeded, they would have gained a barren property, but lost perhaps for ever the unlimited confidence which the Native inhabitants have hitherto reposed on the good faith and liberality of the Company. They would at once have seen that the acts and the long train of encouraging measures under which this island had risen from a state of barrenness to its present height of wealth and prosperity, were founded on disreputable views, on acts ostensibly liberal, but covertly designed to ulterior advantages; but after purchasing Hornby's property, which was in fact paying for the ground exclusively, for the walls and materials were not worth the expence of removal, the Government could not resume the ground of the other assessed holders of land without awarding a compensation, which was estimated at five lacs of Rupees.

I will now adduce two important instances where ground has recently been granted to individuals within the fort. They are important because the individuals to whom the grants were made have expended large sums of money upon the premises, upon the faith no doubt of their possessing a permanent right in the soil.

Mr. Henshaw on the 30th April 1798, "solicited the grant of a spot of ground within the town on lease for the term and duration of the Hon'ble Company's agreement with Mr. Sabatier whereon to erect an improved Hydraulic machine for compressing and retaining cotton wool." Instead of granting Mr. Henshaw a lease on the terms solicited for fourteen years, which I understand to have been the duration of the agreement with Sabatier; the Government directed the Collector "to adjust with Mr. Henshaw, the terms of possession on the usual payment of quit-rent, granting him thereon the customary lease." The Collector accordingly granted the customary lease indefinite as to the period; putting Mr. Henshaw in possession of 2078-3 square yards of ground on condition of his paying annually to the Company Rupees 57 0 58 reas, being the usual rate of quit and ground rent, calculated at eleven reas the square yard.

The original speculation on which the grant was solicited having failed, Mr. Henshaw applied in May 1805 for permission to convert the buildings into warehouses. The town Committee declined, giving an opinion upon his application, but the Government agreed "to his retaining the ground granted to him for erecting his cotton presses and to his converting the cotton premises into warehouses." Mr. Henshaw accordingly converted those spacious buildings situated in the most central and advantageous part of the town, as to trade, into valuable warehouses, the construction of which has cost him from first to last nearly two lacs of Rupees.

The other instance will show that another spot of ground within the fort of equal value, and which the Government might at one time have sold for at least fifty thousand Rupees, has been made over to Hormasjee Bomanjee on similar terms. It was at first determined to sell the ground to Hormasjee at the rate of twelve Rupees a square yard on his paying annually a quit-rent to the Company, provided it was usual to reserve such quit-rent on purchased ground within the garrison; but there being room to doubt the expediency of the Company's selling any ground belonging to them within the garrison, of which it was supposed scarcely any precedent could be found, the town Committee was ordered to enquire into the practice that had hitherto obtained in that respect, and if it should be found in favour of leasing rather than selling, they were to settle with Hormasjee on that footing accordingly.

Leasing appearing to have been the practice he was, therefore, put in possession on the usual "mode observed in putting any person in possession of ground belonging to the Hon'ble Company within the fort," viz. "by a grant or lease from the Collector without any definitive period being specified. The party or parties being thereby rendered responsible for the payment of the established ground rent of eleven reas the square yard annually." For this valuable ground situated behind the theatre, Hormasjee therefore pays an annual rent of Rupees 64 0 39. He has built a spacious family residence on it, at an expence of Rupees one lac and a half probably.

Besides these, the statement No. 7 will show other instances where applications for ground have been complied with on similar terms. That these grants or rather the titles to the ground have been respected by the Government, the proceedings of the town Committee afford sufficient evidence, nor can I trace an instance where these titles have been successfully, or ever attempted even to be, resisted. There are, however, many instances where the Government have

stamped the validity of these grants, by purchasing what is termed assessed property without bringing forward any claim of right to the ground, for the value of which the proprietor had the sole and exclusive advantage.

It is an extraordinary fact that the principal part, if not the whole, of the landed property which the Company now possess within the walls, they have acquired by purchase; and that within the memory of many of the inhabitants now living. Having purchased all the ground they now possess within the fort of those who were considered to be tenants at will, it is rather too late to attempt to establish a right to resume the property of that description, at their will and pleasure.

A part of the extensive range of buildings appropriated for the accommodation of the Secretary's Office was in 1764 purchased by Mr. Whitehill for the sum of Rupees forty-five thousand. It appears by the Collectors books to have measured 2133½ square yards, and paid thirty-two Rupees to the Company at the rate of six reas per square yard. It is within the recollection of some of the inhabitants now living that the site of the Secretary's Office was previously to the year 1764, a tank, which was filled up by Mr. Whitehill and the house in question erected thereon.

Mr. John Hunter in the same year tendered his house with all the warehouses, outhouses, stabling and two large compounds, being the premises formerly designated the "second's house," and now appropriated to the meeting of Council, and for the Sudder Adawlut, for the sum of Rupees sixty thousand; which was purchased upon the report of a Committee, showing that the Company would by the two preceding purchases, save seventeen thousand sixty-six Rupees per annum; the one was rented by Government for the Secretary's Office, and the other possessed advantages more than adequate to the warehouses rented by the Company. It measured 2766½ square yards, and paid Rupees 41 2 0 rent to the Company at the rate of six reas per square yard.

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I have but few words to offer on the third head of enquiry; to ascertain the light in which the grantees have been ascertained to view their allotment of lands.

It will be admitted I think that the conduct and measures of Government have throughout been calculated to generate an impression in the inhabitants that the right to the soil was intended to be per-

manently vested in the land-holder, and I ground that opinion upon the evidence contained in the preceding division of this report.

Upon an abstract view of the case and limiting our consideration of its merits to Aungier's convention and the proceedings of the Government since the year 1731, the opinion of Mr. Thriepland and of the Hon'ble Court that the Government had a right to resume lands which had become waste from the destruction of the buildings or other improvements, by fire or otherwise, seem founded upon a just basis. But the successful opposition made by the Natives in 1803 upon that particular point, the purchase of Hornby's premises, the exchanges made with Hormasjee Bomanjee and with Mr. Stewart, the difficulty of forming a principle of compensation for improvements, and a comprehensive consideration of the policy uniformly observed by the Government in inviting strangers to settle on the island, would, I should think, operate decidedly against the Company in any legal investigation of the question. Any attempt to shake the confidence of the Natives in the validity of their landed tenures should be avoided; but where ground may be required bonafide for public purposes, as was the case with Hornby's premises in 1803, it is to be regretted that the right of resuming such lands, where the houses had been destroyed, had not been brought to legal issue, when the principle of compensation would at least have been established; for I consider a tenant entitled to more than the mere value of the buildings, but the Government having, in every instance, shrunk from investigation, and purchased assessed ground on which the ostensible improvements had been destroyed, and otherwise for its just value, what must the impression of the Natives be? unquestionably, that their rights are indisputable.

If the Government should be desirous of trying the right of resuming ground occupied apparently without any authority, which yields an immense profit to the possessor, as I shall hereafter show, and upon which only sheds of a trifling value have been built, and for which alone the Company ought to pay, according to the prevailing legal opinions upon the subject, they have only to urge their law officers to prosecute the measures already prescribed, with the view of resuming the ground which has been represented to be a nuisance to the town barracks.

This is a case, however, very different from those which have been quoted in the course of this report. The parties occupy the ground without the colour of authority; and may be considered in the light of those persons who daily erect their stalls over every part of the island; the improvements are of little value, though the profit de-

rived from the rent of the ground is immense. It appears to me that the Company ought to succeed in ejecting the proprietors of this ground, but whether it will operate as a precedent to affect the other tenures within the walls of the fort, said to be held at the will of the Government, which could not have been improved and built upon without some permission, by the substitution of leases more favourable to the Company, is a question upon the legality of which the Advocate General can best pronounce. Upon the equity and policy of the measure, however, there can be but one opinion.

As a precedent in support of such a measure, considerable reliance has been placed on the issue of the case reported in Mr. Thriep-land's letter of the 11th of July 1806, Shaik Abdul Amoly against Nasserwanjee Cawasjee, who was only nominally the defendant, the Company having been the most interested in the question. I see, however, but little in that transaction which could uphold the Company in any attempt to eject a proprietor of ground within the walls of the fort. The ground in dispute was a batty field. The holder of the ground had expended no money upon it, for which he had not been annually recompensed from the produce. Had Shaik Abdul, as Mr. Henshaw and Hormasjee Bomanjee have done, constructed a costly house on the ground, I feel persuaded that the Court of Recorder would have given judgment in his favour. Even in that case, however, Sir James McIntosh delivered an opinion to the justness of which one cannot refuse unqualified assent. He observed that, "though the eventual right of resumption might be known to many or most of the inhabitants, the Company certainly suffered an expectation to be created and very generally entertained, that the right in question was one, the exercise of which was so exceedingly rare on their part, as not to require being very much, or at all taken into account in the transmission of property from one individual to another, hence the large sums so frequently paid on such occasions, hence the loans advanced on the security of such lands, and the imposing credit which they enable their possessor to obtain: while such things are familiarly known and daily brought under the eyes of Government, the unwary occupants may not have regular conveyances enabling them to maintain possession in a Court of law, but they have to allege a tacit acquiescence, a *primitive right*, which in the eye of conscience and morality gives them almost an equal claim to subsequent forbearance, and must, in every case of resumption where an adequate price has been bona fide paid, make the act appear, and be felt, as a grievous hardship, if not a open and downright injury."

Mr. Thriepland could not deny "that there was but too much truth in these observations of the Court." The arguments which Sir James McIntosh has advanced founded upon the custom of the manor are unanswerable; it would not only be felt as a grievous hardship, if not an open and downright injury, but would I am persuaded discourage other capitalists from settling on the island, and probably compel not a few to withdraw themselves, who have resorted hither with the view of becoming permanent residents. It would in short tend to sap the foundation of that policy by which the island of Bombay has risen from a barren rock to its present state of prosperity and celebrity as a maritime port.

I have failed, therefore, to trace an instance where those who are viewed tenants at will have been ejected, within the walls of the fort; but the instances where possession has been held in defiance of the Government are numerous, and sufficient to prove, that its intention, in granting those indefinite leases to have been to confer a right in perpetuity.

But whatever may have been the views of the Government, from the mode in which the Proprietors of ground have sold and transferred their property even to the Government itself, they have considered themselves to possess a right in perpetuity. The Register of sales and transfers of property is not carried beyond the year 1801. But the establishment of the court of the Recorder, and the operation of Sec. XVI. Reg: III. 1799 restricting the Revenue Judge "from receiving or entertaining any suit, under any pretence whatever relating to any house, land tenements, or hereditaments, nor a dispute regarding the boundary of lands, houses, tenements, or hereditaments, situated within the Town and island of Bombay;" without the enactment of any regulation whatever for defining and preserving the rights of the Company, leaving them to be maintained by the rule of custom, have virtually forfeited the titles by which estates within the Town have been held. The Proprietors have been at full liberty to obtain deeds drawn out by professional men, and registration in the King's Court, which, in the entire absence and neglect of every provision for those purposes on the part of the Government, which would appear to have abandoned from the year 1799, every control, if ever they can be said to have been vigilant in the exercise of it, over those transactions, must have stamped their validity.

But allowing that every lease has been granted conformably to the order of Council of the 18th of May 1733, still as it was renewable by the grantee, on the payment of one year's rent, the property would still have partaken of the character of a permanent tenure;

and all that the Company have lost, therefore, is the periodical receipt of a fine equal to one year's rent on a renewal of the lease.

I will, however, concede the argument, and admit that, though the Government have pursued a lax system, in leasing out the public property it is no justification for the blind and improvident manner in which individuals have invested their capitals on such undefined leases, and that the whole of the estates are by the letter of the law forfeitable to the company without any compensation. Will any one advise the company even to agitate the question of right with the view to its formal recognition? What may be considered as a fair and unexceptionable transaction between individuals in England, or even between the Government and an individual in England, where leases of Lands are well understood, would operate as an oppression in India and between the East India Company and the land holders of Bombay, would be felt "as a grievous hardship, if not an open and down right injury;" very few of the natives have any idea of the various tenures by which lands are leased in England; but few of them know what is necessary to be done to protect them against the operation of the statute of frauds.

The native Governments of the country are fully sensible of the advantage of giving the cultivator some property in his possessions; and accordingly we find the right of possession considered as strong as though confirmed by the most formal grants or sunnuds; indeed the country people seem to conceive the possession of a sunnud, either to imply that a doubt has existed, or at least that the property is recently acquired, and, therefore, even possessors of such instruments are unwilling to shew them. They conceive that they possess a "primitive right", superior to any derived from the most formal grant. These are natural impressions, and they have been long cherished in Bombay. Such in fact seems also to have been the policy of the Government, in establishing settlers on the Island; they have allowed a confidence to be created in the minds of the Natives of the permanency of their lands. They were told that if you want ground to build on, apply to the clerk of the works, and he will measure out what you want; this grant they have been accustomed to consider as conferring a right in perpetuity. They have seen ground thus granted repurchased by the Government; they have successfully resisted its resumption, and the Government have refrained to assert their right, when they had the fairest opportunity to do so.—

"The inhabitants of Madras and of all the other English, Dutch, French, and Danish Colonies in India were (we are informed) bound to furnish Military service upon emergencies;" hence it appears that

the lands all over India were held by a feudal tenure. By an advertisement published in the Madras Gazette, I find that the lands within the limits of that Presidency are leased for a number of years, renewable on the payment of an established fine; the grants of ground providing that "at the end and expiration of every thirty years of the term leased, there shall be paid for the use of the Hon'ble Company, the full and just sum of thirty Pagodas current money of Fort Saint George; and at the end of the term of ninety nine years the full and just sum of one hundred Pagodas current money of Fort St. George." I have no doubt that the lands are leased on the most moderate rents. The object of the Resolution of 1733 was to establish a similar system in Bombay. At Madras then the lands appear granted on leases renewable on the payment of a very trifling fine. Bombay is held of the crown by a similar tenure; and by the same tenure as far as respects their permanency have the crown lands been leased to individuals, or in other words the custom of the Manor has converted them into private property, or copy hold tenures.

That the mode in which the Government has leased the crown lands has not been regulated by the principles of English Law I admit. In fact they have been guided by no established system, but have granted lands to individuals so indiscriminately, that it is difficult to form an opinion upon an abstract consideration of the instruments by which they are held.

In the opinion of an English lawyer probably both Mr. Henshaw and Bomanjee may be considered merely as *tenants for life*. There are no words of inheritance in those instruments, the lands being let out to the latter on conditions of his paying annually to the Hon'ble Company or to the Collector for the time being the usual rate of quit and ground rent calculated at eleven reas the square yard. Upon his death, therefore, the property, according to the tenor of the bond, devolves to the Company.

But equity would probably quiet him in possession, in the event of Government being disposed to oust him. Equity would found its decision upon the custom of the Manor. By similar instruments the crown lands have been leased to individuals, yet their heirs have succeeded to the property without any objection on the part of the lord, and their administrators have disposed of those lands in many instances by the consent of the lord, and in others at their will and pleasure.

Upon these grounds then I contend that, by the custom of the manor, the crown lands leased since 1674, have become the property of individuals. The ancient constitution of the island was feudal. I

refer to the history of the feudal system and of the ancient and modern English tenures as contained in the 4, 5, & 6 chapters in the 2d volume of the Commentaries, * as affording a most applicable and correct view of the ancient constitution of this Island, and of the effects which have followed from the custom in which the crown lands have been allotted to individuals, as constituting the basis upon which my opinion is founded.

In Bombay as in England "at the first introduction of the feuds as they were gratuitous, so also they were precarious, and held at the will of the lord, who was then the sole Judge whether the vassal performed his services faithfully. Then they became certain for one or more years, but when the general migration was pretty well over, and a peaceable possession of the new acquired settlement had introduced new customs and manners; when the fertility of the soil had encouraged the study of husbandry, and an affection for the spots they had cultivated began naturally to arise in the settlers, a more permanent degree of property was introduced, and feuds began now to be granted for the life of the feudatory. But still feuds were not yet hereditary, though frequently granted by the favour of the lord, to the children of the former possessor; till in process of time it became unusual, and was therefore thought hard, to reject the heir, if he were capable to perform the services. &c. &c. In process of time feuds came by degrees to be universally extended beyond the life of the first vassal to his sons &c. &c; but when a feud was given to a man and his heirs *in general terms*, then a more extended rule of succession took place, and when the feudatory died, his male descendants in *infinitum* were admitted to the succession &c. &c."

Again, "Villeins, by these and *many other means*, in process of time, gained considerable ground on their lords; and in particular strengthened the tenures of their estates to that degree that they came to have in them an interest in many places full as good, in others better than their lords. For the good nature and benevolence of many lords of manors having time out of mind permitted their villeins and their children to enjoy their possessions without interruption in a regular course of descent, the common law of which custom is the life, now gave them title to prescribe against their lords; and on performance of the same services to hold their lands, in spite of any determination of the lord's will, for though in general they are still said to hold their estates at the will of the lord, yet it is such a will as is agreeable to the custom of the manor; which customs are preserved and evidenced by the rolls of the several Courts baron

* Blackstone.

in which they are entered, or kept on foot, by the constant immemorial usage of the several manors in which the lands lie, and as *such tenants had nothing to show for their estates but these customs*, and admission in pursuance of them, entered on those rolls, or the copies of such entries witnessed by the steward, they now began to be called tenants by copy of Court* roll, and their tenure itself a copy hold."

Again "in some manors, where the custom has been to permit the heir to succeed the ancestor in his tenure, the estates are stiled copy holds of inheritance; in others, where the lords have been more vigilant to maintain the rights, they remain copy holds for life only; for the custom of the manor has in both cases so far superseded the will of the lord that provided the services be performed or stipulated for, by fealty, he cannot, in the first instance, refuse to admit the heir of his tenant upon his death; nor in the second, can he remove his present tenant so long as he lives, though he holds nominally by the precarious tenure of his lord's will." I will not weaken the force of this quotation by any further observation on this division of the report.

I now proceed to trace the system of taxation from the cession up to this period, with the view to ascertain whether the Company possessed or have exercised the right to increase the land tax over every description of land holder.

It has already been stated that the inhabitants of Bombay whilst subject to the king of Portugal, paid *one fourth part of the profits* of their lands as a quit-rent, which President Aungier in 1674, commuted for a quit-rent of twenty thousand Xeraphins, reserving to the Company the right to the military services under which lands were held of the Crown of Portugal.

On the 24th June 1718 the Government laid a certain tax or ground rent on *all the inhabitants residing within the town walls* in order "to reimburse the right Hon'ble Company some part of the great expence and charge they have been at in fortifying and securing the said town;" this tax may be considered as a commutation of the military services reserved under Aungier's convention, and to have changed the ancient constitution of the island in respect to all lands in a productive state, or yielding rent.

* The Court of Directors had in their letter of the 24th March 1709-10, ordered the lands in Bombay to be surveyed and registered, and every one's property ascertained. In these proceedings, therefore we may recognize the establishment of something like "a Court of rolls."

In the year 1720, the principal inhabitants represented that the quit-rent was a heavy tax on them, and prayed to be relieved from the same. Government seeing reason for the complaint, the quit-rent was reduced to one half. But as several of the inhabitants to avoid paying the quit-rent had built without the town walls, a proclamation was issued announcing that, all houses within cannon shot of the town wall, should pay the same quit-rent in proportion as those built within; which would in some measure make amends for the reduction in the quit-rent."

By the resolution of Council of the 3d December 1731, the English inhabitants were hereafter to pay the same quit-rent for their houses that they had hitherto been assessed in, but for such ground as they might have taken in since the building of their houses or may hereafter take in, they shall pay an additional quit-rent of six reas for each square yard, but let free of ground rent; and all Natives to pay for the ground they occupied or should hereafter occupy, a quit-rent of six reas, and a ground rent of five reas for each square yard.

On the 3d of January 1758, with the view of reimbursing the "prodigious expence which the Company had incurred in increasing the fortifications and the works on the island for the security of the inhabitants in general," a tax was ordered to be levied on the produce of the landed estates belonging to the inhabitants of this island, at the rate of two shillings to the pound.

The original valuation made in pursuance of that order is now in the Collector's Office. The annual rent of the estates within the Bombay division of the island was estimated by the Veriadores at Rupees 47,480 3 93; the charges *pension &c.*, were taken at Rupees 5,567 leaving the net rent at Rupees 41,913 3 72½ which at 10 per cent. gave in round numbers Rupees 4,191 per annum.

The inhabitants prayed that this tax might be relinquished, but by their last orders on this subject, the Hon'ble Court directed that "as their fortifications at Bombay were far from being completed, they could not consent to relinquish the tax laid upon landed estates in the year 1758, which was designed as an aid to the Company in the erecting of those fortifications."

These are all the proceedings I have been able to trace elucidatory of the taxes derivable from the landed estates within the walls, which at all bear upon the question under consideration.

The legitimate rents and taxes levied on the landed property within the walls of the fort, are therefore of three descriptions, the quit-rent, the ground and quit-rent of eleven reas, and the tax of ten per cent.

By the 33d, George III., an assessment was directed to be levied at the rate of one twentieth part of the gross annual values on the owners or occupiers of houses, buildings, and grounds situated within the limits of the town for cleansing, watching and repairing the streets thereof.

By these proceedings it will appear that the Company or the Government have exercised the privilege of increasing the land tax, and of assessing even the pension property; the privilege was exercised in 1718, in 1733 and in 1758, and can be so again, at least I am not aware of the ground on which the right can be disputed.

With respect to the pension I have reason to think that the term has from the first been entirely misunderstood, if it has been considered in the light of a tax. The tenor of the article of Aungier's convention proves that it was not the quit-rent. The Portuguese word *penção* means when applied to estates, a payment for the enjoyment of lands; the bonus or the premium paid for the fee simple, on the compromise of a doubtful tenure. It also implies the allowance made for the maintenance of Curates and Vicars, and the emoluments of benefices, granted in virtue of a pontifical order. It is to be taken in the former sense only when applied to the estates in Bombay. It is to be regretted that the *penção* and the quit-rent were not distinctly specified under Aungier's convention. In some recent grant of lands, the Government has sanctioned the pension to be levied, and has thus surrendered the fee-simple as fully as under Aungier's convention.

This detail will show the irregular and confused principles on which the property is taxed within the walls of the fort. The estates under Aungier's agreement are subject to the payment of the pension the rate unknown; of the quit-rent which ought to be equal to twenty-five per cent. on the net produce of the tax established in 1718, of the ground rent which was ordered to be imposed upon all the inhabitants; and of the ten per cent. tax imposed in 1758. The property created since Aungier's convention ought also to have paid the whole of those taxes, with the exception of the pension. If these taxes were *bona fide* levied they would be pretty nearly equal to a moiety of the net proceeds of each man's estates.

If the nature of Aungier's convention barred the right in the Government to increase the rent over the pension property, the exercise of it in the instances pointed out has been illegal. On the other hand the pensioned ground was subject to calls of military service, which was commuted by the additional rents imposed in 1718; and if the rents have been once increased, they can be so

again. Under any circumstances the right of increasing the rent of the assessed ground is indisputable.

The 13th Article of the instructions under which Bombay was surrendered to Great Britain specifies that the inhabitants of Bombay and the landholders of that island shall not be obliged to pay more than the Foras (quit-rent) they used to pay His Majesty, this condition being expressly mentioned in the capitulations. This article would seem to bar the right contended for. Upon this clause, however, I beg to offer some explanations.

In the Appendix No. 2* is a copy of those instructions they were obtained by the late Sir Minguel de Souza from the archives at Goa at the express desire of the late Mr. Duncan, and have been brought upon our records as an authentic voucher. These instructions have also been produced in the Court of the Recorder, if I mistake not, as evidence against the Company's right to encrease the rents. It is of the first importance that the Government and their officers should distinctly understand that, these instructions were those which Cooke entered into, and which have been from the first disowned by the King and the Company. I have only recently discovered that the copy of the instructions received from Goa are those which Cooke accepted, or I should at an earlier period have done my duty in reporting the circumstance to the Government.

A memorial was sent home by the Portuguese authorities in this country in the year 1723, complaining of certain outrages committed by the English against the inhabitants of Portugal at Bombay, contrary as was said to the articles submitted to by Cooke and agreed upon between the two Nations.

“In respect to the validity or invalidity of the articles in question, and whether King Charles owned or disowned them” the Directors replied, in the first place “that it plainly appears from the instructions given to Sir Abraham Shipman, that the King of England had given no power to sign any such articles, but the orders import quite the contrary. And the Portuguese memorial which mentions the names of the commissioners that made the agreement with Cooke, says not one word of their being named or authorized by the Crown of Portugal as such, which certainly would not have been omitted, had there been any prospect in Europe of the necessity or intention of such a preliminary agreement, whereas, on the contrary, the Vice-roy was singly and purposely sent to deliver the pré-

* Those Instructions though heretofore considered as authentic, proved to be invalid.

mises pursuant to the articles of marriage between the two Crowns, so that the pretended articles were not only imposed upon Cooke contrary to the directions of the King of Portugal himself, which was to deliver up Bombay upon the Treaty of marriage, without any farther conditions, but are also inconsistent with the right of the King of England, as is manifest from the articles themselves, but more particularly so from the 11th article thereof, by which it is provided that those who are possessed of the inheritance of lands in Bombay, should not be deprived of them, but for crimes only which the Law of Portugal does order; which condition is to be perpetually annexed to the Land notwithstanding any alienation; so that if an owner of land in Bombay commits any crime against the Laws of England, even high Treason against his most Sacred Majesty, he is not to forfeit his Land there, because the law of Portugal doth not so order it."

"This instance alone shews the absurdity of those articles, and that they could not be terms agreed upon by the Kings of England and Portugal, but were a gross imposition, contrived by a faction of the Portuguese in the Indies, against the command even of their own Prince."

"And to this may be added, that it appears by the records in the custody of the Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations by the Report of the Lords of Council and by the letter of King Charles the Second, stated at large (Page 26 to 31) that His Majesty was so far from owning the Treaty with Cooke, that he rejected it, and resented the making it in the highest manner. He deposed Cooke, appointed a successor, and demanded satisfaction and reparation for the damages sustained in not having the Island surrendered up as it had been agreed on, and this is a truth so glaring that it can no longer be withstood. Records of fact still remaining are not to be controverted."

"And therefore, since those principles are established viz." —

"That the Treaty with Cooke was inauthoritative, both with respect to England and Portugal, and never ratified by either of those Crowns, it necessarily follows, that all that is built upon this foundation falls to the ground; and yet upon this foundation only stands all that is offered against the English."

"It is of the more importance to keep in view the non-ratification of those instructions because in the Petition recently delivered in by the inhabitants of Bombay against increase in the rents of their Batty ground, rely on the term of the agreement for the surrender of the Island, providing that the accustomed Foras of that

time and no more can be legally demanded from them as an argument against the increase of the rent on the salt Batty ground."

I now proceed to review the effects of the Policy by which this Island has been governed.

"The most decisive mark of the prosperity of any country is the increase of the number of it's inhabitants." "To judge by this unerring criterion of the wealth and prosperity of Bombay, the wisdom by which the Island has been governed will readily be admitted, even by the celebrated author of the wealth of nations, whose opinions are so hostile to the principles by which the colouies in the East have been managed by the Company."

At the date of the transfer of the Island from the King to the Company the population was estimated at ten thousand souls "the outcasts of all sects." Fryer estimated it at the time he visited Bombay at 60,000 souls "most of them fugitives and vagabonds." A letter from the Reverend Mr. Cobbe, the first clergyman appointed to Bombay to the Bishop of London dated the 5th of October 1715, reckons the number of inhabitants with English at 16,000 only. The permanent population may now be taken at 1,80,000 souls; the small space with the fort alone contains at this period, as many inhabitants as were in the whole Island in the time of the Portuguese. The floating population I calculate at 60,000, making a total of 240,000 souls.

The extent of the Island is about sixteen square miles, taking the permanent population at 180,000 souls we have 11,250 inhabitants to every square mile. In England the computations falls short of 200 to every square mile and by Mr. Revitt's report of the 25th of June 1796 the population of Salsette, averages 212 to the square mile.

The rapid increase in the population between the date of the transfer of the island to the British and of Fryer's account may be attributed to the encouragement afforded to settlers and to the moderation and justice of a British administration; and the decrease which appears in 1726, may also be satisfactorily explained by a reference to the lamentable state of the island a few years prior to 1716; arising from the opposition made by the Portuguese, and the obstructions they threw in the way of its being supplied with necessaries from Salsette and Bassein, and from the doubtful basis on which the British influence was founded, at that period.

Independently of the embarrassed state of affairs in 1702-3 from the prospect of a civil war in the Mogul empire on the death of Aurungzebe, which exposed the Europeans to constant alarms, Bom-

bay was from these causes constantly menaced with invasion by the Siddee and the Marathas; the safety of the island was threatened also by the Portuguese; who, besides obstructing the transport of provisions required by the garrison and inhabitants, were giving secret assistance to the Mahrattas; and as if these difficulties had not been sufficient to create alarm, the plague broke out in the island, carried off some hundreds of the Natives, and reduced the Europeans to the small number of seventy-six men; this calamity was followed by a storm, which destroyed the produce of the island, and wrecked the greatest part of the shipping by which it was protected.

These events and causes were sufficient to operate a diminution in the number of the inhabitants at the date of the last quoted authority, and to retard the increase for some years; if, therefore, we compare the present population of Bombay with that in 1715, as given by Mr. Cobbe, the accuracy of which for the reasons above assigned may be relied upon, no country in the world probably can exhibit so rapid and positive an increase of prosperity in the same period of time.

The population of Bombay has increased more than ten fold in a century. In 1716 it was estimated at 16,000 souls, in 1814 it is reckoned at 180,000, and increasing.

The revenues of the island at the date of the cession to the Crown of England amounted to £2,833. In 1667-68, they were estimated at £6,490, in 1694-95, they were reduced to 17,000 Xeraphins. In the year 1812-13, they amounted to £130,268 10s. But the prosperous state of the island will appear in a more prominent light by estimating the wealth of individuals, and by contemplating the many valuable estates with which the island is so richly studded.

The buildings within the walls of the fort including the Barracks, the Arsenal and the docks may be valued at one crore and five lacs of Rupees. Compare this picture with that afforded by Fryer. "The houses in the town are low, and thatched with oleas of the cocoa trees, all but a few the Portugals left, and some the Company have built. The custom house and warehouses are tiled or plaistered, and instead of glass use panes of oyster shells for their windows." If in addition to these local improvements, we estimate the importance of Bombay in a national point of view, in reference to the resources which it has afforded towards the extension and consolidation of the British empire in India; to the means of promoting the vend of the manufactures of the mother country for upwards of a century and a half in every quarter of India, throughout

Persia and Arabia; to the aid which it has afforded in upholding her military reputation, and in contributing to her naval power and resources, we cannot too highly extol the liberal policy, which has acquired and cherished those advantages; and in viewing the commanding situation of this possession, either in a commercial or in a political light, on the security of which the permanency of our Eastern empire mainly depends, we cannot be too cautious in preserving unimpaired the resources of the island, by encouraging and conciliating not only its own subjects, but those of the surrounding country; to convert the floating population into permanent residents; that Bombay, and ultimately the adjacent island of Salsette, may continue what it has hitherto proved, an asylum to those who seek for refuge and protection from the oppression of their own arbitrary Governments.

The Court of Directors have, from the earliest period, entertained an opinion that the island of Bombay might be rendered an advantageous settlement, and have, therefore, repeatedly enjoined the exercise of a mild and good Government, to encourage people from all other parts to come and reside under their protection; the impartial administration of justice has been anxiously urged, and that every facility might be afforded to the new inhabitants to build themselves habitations.

The Government has been directed to encourage speculators to stop the breaches where the sea overflowed the island, by allowing them to hold the land they recover for a term of years free of rent; *reserving only a small quit-rent to the Hon'ble Company*; and that they would grudge no tolerable expence to render the island healthful, for the promotion of which they would be contented that their rents be diminished by cutting some trees down. That Bombay be declared a free port; to suffer none to engross all or any commodities imported, or to do any thing else that may discourage merchants frequenting the port, or inhabitants that reside on the island; that the lands be surveyed and registered and every one's property ascertained. To construct a dry dock, &c. &c. &c.

In their later instructions the Court remark that it was very agreeable to them to observe that, notwithstanding the superstitious attachment of the Indians to the places of their nativity, yet that the number of inhabitants were greatly increased; and that very substantial people had settled in Bombay to the great advantage of the island. And as it was their earnest desire that as many people as possible, especially those of circumstance, be encouraged to settle at Bombay, therefore they strongly recommended it to Government to

use the *most prudent, equitable, and encouraging methods* for that purpose, and in particular “we direct, *that you suffer them to build houses wherever it shall be convenient to them*, so as not to incommode the defence of the place, &c. &c. ; and in general that they have all the reasonable privileges that can possibly be given them ; and as a freedom in trade was the most probable method and inducement for increasing the number of inhabitants, and encourage a general resort to the island, you are hereby directed, to suffer all persons to buy and sell publicly or privately, as they themselves shall choose, to deal freely and without restraint, with whoever they shall think proper, and if any of our servants, shall prevent or endeavour to prevent, such a freedom of trade, on any pretence whatsoever, they will incur our highest displeasure ; and the more effectually to prevent all combinations, monopolies, and attempts upon the freedom of Trade, you are to affix up in all the most Public places, in the usual languages, publications, for the notice of all persons of these our intentions, that they may be entirely free from apprehensions of being hindered, imposed upon, or oppressed by the Governor, the Members of the Council, our Superior servants or any other persons whatsoever.”

No measure is so calculated to secure the permanency of these advantages on an island like Bombay as the establishment of a moderate land tax — Above all it is indispensable to the increase of its population, scrupulously to avoid the resumption of lands under whatever defective titles they may have hitherto been held ; to declare the property to be permanently vested in the present possessors, to fix the tax derivable from that property permanently ; and to establish a scale of rent for lands which may be leased in future, in order that the whole of the demands of the state which each individual is bound to pay, may be certain and not arbitrary ; not liable to variation and increase at the will of the Government.

The recent order of the Court may appear adverse to a permanent settlement of the land rents. These orders, however, I conceive are intended to apply more immediately to the provinces ; in any event they only prohibit a too premature proceeding in fixing the rents in perpetuity, before an ascertainment of the utmost extent to which the productive resources of the country can be carried. The experience of nearly two centuries ought to be sufficient to enable us to determine on the amount at which the land tax should be permanently fixed, particularly on building ground, and on an island like Bombay. I fear that, unless the maximum of tax to which land holders shall be ultimately subject be not declared on the promulgation

of the determination, which the Government may now adopt, individuals will be deterred from vesting their capitals in any further improvement of the island; for nothing is so prejudicial to the progress of improvement, as a dependency, as well in respect to the amount of rent as the permanency of tenures, upon the will and pleasure of the ruling authority.

In tracing the progress of improvement in the town, or the increase of private buildings, the greatest portion of the property will be found to have been created since the year 1758. The quantity of ground paying rent, by measurement is 2,87,468.
Of that quantity the property paying Pension and tax, by measurement is - 75,046.

leaving square yards 2,12,422,

which, as not being subject to the payment of the tax of two shillings in the pound established in 1758, may be considered to have been created since that year, which is a great amelioration in a short space of time, and is to be attributed principally to the completion of the line of fortifications, which of course made the inhabitants anxious to reside within the walls of the Fort, where they could be best protected.

Since, however, the removal of the old Mandavie custom house to Musjid bunder, an increase of substantial buildings extending very nearly to three miles from the Fort, has appeared within these ten years, in a ratio exceeding the improvement noticed in the preceding paragraph. This spirit of vesting capital in land has arisen as much, in my opinion, from the mode in which individuals have been permitted to occupy lands, and the lowness of the ground rent, as from the decrease in the rate of interest, or from the difficulties which have of late years been experienced in the more advantageous employment of money.

Possessed of these data I proceed to the next division of the enquiry; to offer some observations on Captain Dickinson's Revenue Report.

These data which my long employment in the Secretary's Office, and the knowledge I have thence acquired of the records of the Government have enabled me to collect, and to bring to view in a manner more satisfactorily probably than Captain Dickinson had the means of doing, will I trust tend to elucidate many of the doubts with which that officer's observations are delivered; and enable the Government, by tracing the evil from its source, the better to understand the nature of the case, and to adopt such mea-

tures as may be necessary to secure the property of individuals, and to realize the public revenues by a more simple and efficient system than prevails at present.

In the course of these observations I have endeavoured to meet the arguments contained in the report of the various tenures under which the ground within the fort of Bombay is held; the remarks I have to apply, therefore, to Captain Dickinson's view of the subject will be but few.

Captain Dickinson commences by stating that the ground comprising the area of the fort is held of the Hon'ble Company under various *tenures*, enumerating nine. As no benefit can result from any attempt to trace the origin of these variations, beyond what has been attempted in this report, I will not enter into the inquiry. It is not at all surprising that during so long a period when the island appears to have been almost left to itself, and individuals permitted to take ground as they pleased, and no system or regulation established for the security of the revenues, that taxes of various denominations or tenure should have crept into fashion. I am only surprised that greater irregularities have not occurred.

The distinction drawn on the 3d of November 1731, between the rent to be paid by the English and native inhabitants, will account for some ground paying six, and other eleven reas per square yard. The *lump* I cannot explain, it is a species of impost created probably by the ingenuity of some of the Collectors; for instance the pension tax and six and five reas ground having been leviabie on some of the property, the whole has been consolidated, bills made up in the *lump*, and the term has thence derived its birth.

I have not been able to trace any proceeding respecting the levy of fifteen reas per single yard, but from one of the statements in Captain Dickinson's report, that tax does not appear to have been so productive as the six reas per square yard.

I am not aware of any express orders from the Court for the formation of a new register of the landed property within the fort, subsequently to the year 1703. Those quoted by Captain Dickinson, were by the Government. The resolution of the 3d of December 1731 clearly explains itself. The English inhabitants were to pay six, and the native eleven reas a square yard; there are inhabitants now living who recollect the space on which the Government house is built, and the whole range where the rope walk stood including the premises belonging to Mr. Forbes, and in fact the best part of the fort as plantations of cocoanuts; which it became the policy of the Government to acquire and to remove. The Fazen-

dars' property, therefore, by exchanges became the Company's, and has been again transferred to individuals; but, in those exchanges, the property lost whatever value may intrinsically attach to the term Fazendar.

It would be an endless task to enter into an examination of the statements annexed to Captain Dickinson's report, and to endeavour to reconcile the views and proceedings of former Governments. It is clear to me that the quit-rent and the pençao have been confounded; six reas have been established as the rent of one species of property, and eleven reas of another. The native inhabitants have been taxed by one system, and Europeans by another, and some ground has been let free of rent entirely; and the ten per cent. tax of 1758 has been levied on some property and not on others; in adverting to these circumstances one cannot be surprised at the various denominations of taxes to be met with in the rent rolls, as exhibited in Captain Dickinson's Exposition.

To the queries contained in the 14th paragraph, I reply that, in my opinion, the six reas ground did not originally belong to the Company, but that latterly it did, the precise period of its becoming public property is not traceable; but admitting that the six reas ground was originally the Company's, their right has been impaired and forfeited. I am of opinion that the Company possess the right to increase the rent; upon the fourth question, I think surplus ground paying rent is not resumable by the Company; and I entertain considerable doubts whether the surplus ground paying no rent is so, particularly if it has been alienated upwards of twenty years, it is a possession adverse to the Company's right. Admitting it, however, to be resumable, of what advantage will it be to the Company to obtain a few square yards in different parts of the town? It is rather too late to recover property, that has been alienated probably for upwards of a century; but rent* should in future be levied on such excess of ground.

I differ entirely from the opinions contained in the 20th and 23d paragraphs of Captain Dickinson's report. That respectable officer could obtain but a limited insight into the nature of the landed property within the fort, from not carrying his enquiries beyond the year 1720. At that period I have adduced evidence sufficient I think, to prove that the Company possessed but a small portion of ground within the fort. The evil of not ascertaining what were

* It is provided for by the 10th Article of rule, Ordinance and Regulation III. 1812.

the Crown lands commenced at the date of the cession "from the indefinite mode in which Cooke had received it, it was impracticable to ascertain which of the inhabitants were legally possessed of sufficient titles to their estates, no stipulations having been made of the King's sovereignty to the soil. Some of the best estates on the island refused to pay rent, and produced titles which could not be disputed, though believed to be fictitious." Has any thing been since done to remove those doubts, and are titles which, though questionable, could not yet be disputed in 1666, to be investigated in 1814? Captain Dickinson states "that a system though ineffectual was *early* introduced to preserve the Company's right." The first appearance of the introduction of any thing like a system was in 1731, I cannot call that an early period. What system prevailed prior to that date to preserve the Company's right's? none that I have been able to discover. The Company unquestionably possessed some lands around the castle at the period of the cession, but comparatively with the extent of private property it was insignificant, if we are to believe the evidence deducible from Bruce's Annals, and Fryer's Historical Account of Bombay, and the Hon'ble Court's orders to purchase the cocoanut oarts "to the extent of a mile from the castle."

The order from the Hon'ble Court adverted to in the 21st paragraph was against the grant of a lease for 99 years, with the rent probably fixed for that period; a lease of that description was certainly worse than those which the Government has been in the practice of granting. In the former the rent could not be increased, but in the latter it might. The objection, however, of the Court was to the perpetual surrender of the fee simple. Their words are "we find in consultation the 9th of December 1719, an old house and ground called Sir John Weybourne's sold to Mr. John Hill, for one hundred and eighty Rupees to him and his heirs for ever; we do not like this way of giving any body a fee simple or absolute inheritance of any house or ground in Bombay. It may one time or other be of ill consequence. We will have no more of it. But we allow you to grant leases for a term of years, or for lives *with a liberty of renewal*, but in that case, dont give a very long term, for once Bombay could be made secure and fit to invite merchants and useful inhabitants to reside there, we cannot doubt the ground rents rising considerably."

There is something extraordinary in the sale and repurchase of this old house and ground. On the 20th February 1715, the Go-

vernment bought of John Hill in behalf of the Company, "all that messuage, &c. commonly called, or known by the name of, Sir John Weybourne's house" for Rupees 3000, and, on the 9th December 1719, the Government sell this very property to the very same person for Rupees 180 only!

The orders of the Hon'ble Court, however, were ill adapted to the object in view, or to the feelings and customs of a native community. No Native would have invested his capital in buildings on leases for a short term of years, or for lives, even with a liberty of renewal, because that condition infers a doubt of its permanency. Suppose the Company's lands had been leased in 1700 for 99 years; and that, on the expiration of the leases in 1800, the Natives had witnessed the whole property, to the amount of half a crore of Rupees, revert to the Company. The effects of such a system upon the present generation, would have been fatal to the best interests of the Company. The transfer of so large a capital once the property of the subject to the sovereign, would have been a death-blow to the improvement of the lands the Company yet possess.

The last division of my report is to determined the rate at which the rent shall be fixed for the future.

According to Captain Dickinson's data, 834 square yards of ground most advantageously situated within the town wall, paying eleven reas the square yard, or Rupees 24 2 76 per annum to the Company, yield to the present holder, from being relet to under tenants the enormous sum of 1008 reas the square yard, or Rupees 2103 per annum, and estimate to be worth Rupees 35,039 or Rupees 42 the square yard.

"If the pension or quit-rent were to be levied on this property according to the original principle at twenty-five per cent., it ought to pay 252 reas per square yard; if to this were added the tax imposed in 1758, it ought to pay as pension and tax 353 reas. If ten per cent. alone be collected it ought to pay 100 reas the square yard, and if five per cent only be imposed it ought to pay fifty reas the square yard."

This is, however, no criterion of the general value of ground. The property is situated in the most advantageous part of the fort behind the Barracks, where the under-tenants have merely temporary sheds or shops, and is the property referred to in the 158 paragraph of this report, as belonging to the Company. It can never be expected that any Government can realize the profits of individuals,

or a great landholder those of his under tenants. It would be bad policy to attempt it. There is moreover a wide difference between the character of the Company now and in 1703. At that time they were not the great sovereign they may now be considered to be, and their policy should be regulated on more enlarged principles. They should be content with a moderate quit-rent as an acknowledgment of their sovereignty, and leave it to the industry of individuals to improve the property to the utmost advantage for their own benefit. Their landed property should be rendered subservient to the increase of population, which naturally leads to increase of wealth. A greater revenue can at any time be realized by a small increase on the excise than by any augmentation in the rent on lands; and I am inclined to think that, if the whole of the rent on building grounds were to be equalized and permanently fixed at its present rate of eleven reas the square yard, the revenue would in the course of a few years more than treble the utmost increase of assessment you can derive from the island.

As however the Court may expect an increase, and the majority of those whom I have consulted seem to think the ground rent moderate, the object at present is to fix upon such an augmentation as shall not operate as a discouragement to the increase of the population of the island.

The average value of one square yard of ground within the fort is assumed by Captain Dickinson at fifteen Rupees; six per cent. interest thereon is Rupees 0 3 60, which he calls the profits. Ten per cent. on the latter will be found to yield thirty-six reas per square yard, which he proposes as the future annual rent for one description of the Hon'ble Company's ground. That that calculation is not made on too high a scale, the following statement of ground sold within the fort subsequently to the fire in 1803, will probably satisfactorily prove; viz.

Moody's street . . .	331	sqr. yds. sold for	5999 1 58	Rs. 18 0 50	per sqr. yd.◆
Do. do. . . .	489	"	8100 1 14	" 16 2 26	"
Great bazar street . . .	189½	"	5732 1 50	" 30 1 00	"
Moody's street . . .	275	"	4491 1 75	" 16 1 33	"
Street not mentioned	286	"	3222 2 02	" 11 1 07	"
Solwar street . . .	166½	"	2699 3 19	" 16 0 86	"
Do. do. . . .	58½	"	1049 1 96	" 17 3 76	"
Moody's street . . .	68	"	1798 2 40	" 26 1 80	"
A sale by the Moody's family to Nagur Hirjee for 13 2 00 "					

Great bazar street	194	sqr. yds. sold for	7283 0 98	or	37 2 17	per sqr. yd.
Golwar street . . .	95½	„	1466 0 65	or	15 1 41	„
2d Bazar street . . .	388	„	5687 0 44	or	14 2 63	„
Do. do. . .	104	„	3095 0 16	or	29 3 04	„
Do. do. . . .	328	„	9749 3 20	or	29 2 90	„
Mahmed Suffer street	138	„	3084 3 96	or	22 1 42	„
Do. . . .	333	„	7059 2 40	or	21 0 80	„
Bazar street . . .	290	„	7999 2 60	or	27 2 34	„
Great bazar street .	366	„	13000 1 28	or	35 2 08	„
Moody's street . . .	233	„	4767 3 05	or	20 1 85	„
Street not mentioned	2400	„	30000 0 00	or	12 2 00	„

The demand for ground, however, within the fort was great after the fire in 1803 and the price rose in consequence; but the average price before that calamitous event was eight, ten and twelve Rupees per square yard. The Company paid for Ardaseer's ground twenty-five Rupees and for Hormasjee Bomanjee Rupees sixteen per square yard.

By taking the value of ground at Rupees twelve and two quarters per square yard, the future rent would be thirty reas the square yard, which is very nearly equal to £48 per acre. The late town Committee in a report dated the 11th of May 1803, thought that the ordinary annual ground rent near town being eleven reas per square yard, was a very handsome rent.

Let us ascertain the rent at which the ground within the walls of the fort is taxed. The assessed and pensioned ground yields the Company only Rupees 5257, whilst the Parliamentary assessment on houses and grounds within the same limits, amounts to five times as much, or about twenty-five thousand Rupees per annum. The landholders in the town of Bombay hence contribute for the cleansing, watching and repairing of the streets, five times more than they contribute towards the maintenance of the expences of the State, for the security of their rights and property, and for the protection which they enjoy against foreign enemies. The reverse upon every principle of taxation ought to be the case.

According to Captain Dickinson's statement,* the quantity of ground paying pension and tax by the Collectors books is	60,992	0	00
The ground paying six reas per square yard and the lump, measures	90,398	0	00
And eleven reas per square yard	1,07,854	0	00
Square yards	2,59,244	0	00

* Captain Dickinson's survey report will have been more complete had he given the area of the space within the walls of the fort in square yards. The Company's property, &c. &c.

From the whole of which a ground rent, tax and quit-rent is derived to the extent of Rupees . . . 5,257 3 49

being at the rate of little more than eight reas per square yard, or about £12 per acre.

But in estimating the amount at which the land is taxed, it is fair to include the assessment levied under the 33d George III., the annual rent of the property assessed within the walls of the fort amounted in 1813-14 to 5,27,360; the assessment at one twentieth, excluding the Company's property, is Rs. . . . 23,182 0 00
Add the ground rent as above inferred 5,257 0 00

Total ground and house rent 28,439 0 00

which if thrown upon the number of square yards assessed to the revenue, being 2,57,244, would average about forty-four reas a square yard, pretty nearly £66 an acre.

The great price given for all ground within the fort which seems daily rising; the buildings carried on in every quarter of the European part: the commodious and costly family dwellings which many of the Natives have constructed, and the large and expensive apartments used as shops and commission-warehouses by Natives as well as Europeans, afford the strongest evidence of the value of ground within the fort of Bombay; and I am of opinion that on an average it could well afford to pay a rent at the rate of £105 per acre, or say seventy reas per square yard; but as it is already assessed at the rate of fifty reas a square yard; or rather, as it already pays a Parliamentary assessment at the rate of thirty-six reas per square yard, the question to be determined is whether the Company should exact seventy reas in addition, or fix the future quit-rent at the difference; upon this point I think there can be but one opinion.

I am fully aware of the arguments that may be adduced against the principle of admitting the town assessment to operate as a deduction from the contribution which the State has a right to expect from the subject; but I am satisfied that if the rent be fixed at £105 per annum per acre, or at the rate of seventy reas a square yard, in addition to the thirty-six reas per square yard paid to the assessment, we shall I fear impose and insuperable bar to the progress of all further improvements.

To judge of the practicability of increasing the rent it may be as well to ascertain the rate at which the inhabitants of Bombay are taxed.

I have already taken the land, and larger revenues and the Customs at Rupees	10,42,148 0 00
Suppose we add for the assessment, wheel tax, market fees and other contingent taxes to which the inhabitants are subject	1,00,000 0 00
	<hr/>
Rupees	11,42,148 0 00

the fixed population I have taken at 1,80,000 the average of all the taxes is therefore Rupees 6 1 38 per head* which is not equal to one tenth of the earning of the great part of the population, and may be considered as an average, moderate upon the whole, for a flourishing island like Bombay; which being moreover collected almost wholly through the custom-master, the inhabitants are but little exposed to the vexatious importunities of the tax gatherer.

It is not, however, from the condition of the majority of the population that we can judge of the practicability of increasing the rent on building ground. They inhabit huts constructed of the cheapest materials, and which cover a space chargeable probably with a few reas of ground rent. It is necessary we should ascertain whether a builders' is a profitable trade in Bombay.

Adam Smith states "that the building rent is the interest or profit of the capital expended in building the house. In order to put the trade of builder upon a level with other trades it is necessary that this rent should be sufficient, first, to pay him the same interest which he would have got for his capital, if he had lent it on good security; and secondly, to keep the house in constant repair; or what comes to the same thing, to replace within a certain term of years, the capital which had been employed in building it. The building rent, or the ordinary profit of building, is therefore, every where regulated by the ordinary interest of money. Where the market rate of interest is four per cent., the rent of a house which over and above paying the ground rent, afford six or six and half per cent. upon the whole expence of building may perhaps afford a sufficient profit to the builder. Where the market rate of interest is five per cent., it may perhaps require seven or seven and half per cent. If in proportion to the interest of money, the trade of the builder affords at any time a much greater profit than this, it will soon draw, so much capital from other trades as will reduce the profit to its proper level. If it affords at any time much less than this, other trades will soon draw so much capital from it, as will again

* In England it is more than as many pounds per head.

raise that profit, whatever part of the whole rent of a house is over and above what is sufficient for affording this reasonable profit, naturally goes to the ground rent, and where the owner of the ground, and the owner of the building are two different persons, is in most cases, completely paid to the former."

The current or market rate of interest being six per cent., the rent of houses in Bombay ought, therefore, over and above paying the ground rent, to yield eight or eight and a half per cent. to the proprietor. With the view of forming some judgment upon the value of property within the fort I have framed statements of the ground belonging to eight of the principal landholders within the fort, to ascertain whether the net rent yields a fair and sufficient profit on the capital invested. The documents* are framed upon as correct information as I have been able to obtain, and by these it appears that in four out of the eight cases brought forward, the property within the fort is over taxed, two are assessed to the utmost extent of the principle, and two are under assessed. It is, however, generally admitted that those buildings have been constructed on a very expensive scale, and that the ground and place of the superstructure have not been disposed of to the best advantage. In respect to the other statements it is probable that I have over estimated the value of the property and underrated the annual rent.

The documents, supposing them to be accurate shew either that the property within the fort is sufficiently taxed, or that the Proprietors do not exact an adequate rent for their houses. To judge from the very exorbitant rent which Europeans are obliged to pay for houses the latter conclusion must be erroneous; whether the natives pay as exorbitantly I have no information, I should however think not. But whatever may be the rent to which the tenants are subject, and whatever may be the profit or loss of the landholders, it must be admitted that the Company do not derive an adequate rent from the ground.

The necessaries of life are exorbitantly dear in Bombay and the wages of labour are consequently at least one hundred per cent greater than in any other part of India. The expences of building, therefore, are proportionably great and will account for the apparently moderate profit enjoyed by the builder.

I have offered an opinion in a preceding paragraph of this report that if the ground rent were to be equalized and permanently fixed at the rate of eleven reas the square yard, the revenue would in the course of a few years more than treble the utmost increase of assessment that can be derived from the land on the Island. This re-

* These Statements are omitted here. — S. G. S.

mark I am ready to admit is more applicable to lands in the country beyond the space under consideration than to the limits of the fort, which being occupied principally by Europeans, and by the wealthier Natives, can afford to pay a greater ground rent; but still this portion of the Island and as far as the three mile stone is already taxed higher than any other division.

In establishing a principle of taxation for Bombay, the peculiarity of its situation should never be lost sight of. It is literally a barren rock. It affords no encouragement to agricultural speculations, but its commercial and maritime advantages are great. These advantages, however, are encouraging only to men of property, to those who have a little money to embark on commerce. The large supplies which the shipping require are derived from the continent and from foreign territories. The adjacent island of Salsette even, capable as it is of supplying all our wants, yet contributes but little towards that demand. To populate such an Island a moderate land tax, unrestrictive leases and security of possession, were indispensable at the introduction of our authority, and the policy of pursuing the same system with the view to retain and increase that population, appears to me to be indisputable. How few of the inhabitants of Bombay have that unconquerable feeling, the love of country to rivet them to the soil, under every disadvantage, which characterizes the population of other regions more favored by nature. Her inhabitants are absolutely strangers, who repair to Bombay to supply the demand for labour; to secure their permanent residence, let them occupy the ground free of rent, and you will derive a greater revenue from their industry, and from the two articles of spirits and tobacco which they consume, than from any assessment you can fix upon the lands.

I will submit the grounds on which I form that opinion. The floating population I have taken at 60,000 souls, composed of Camatees, Ghatees, Carwas, Mahrattas, Arabs, Persians, and Goa Portuguese, a great part of the sea faring men, with many Parsees. The four first mentioned description remain in Bombay a few years; hoard their earnings, and having saved from two to three hundred Rupees, return to their native country, where they obtain as much land as they require, little or at all assessed, by the cultivation of which they obtain a sufficiency for their future maintenance. It is true that their property is at the mercy of a despotic Monarch; their poverty however, secures them from the rapacity of the state, and of it's officers; and they only estimate the advantages of a country, by the easiest and cheapest mode of maintaining their existence.

To convert the floating population into permanent residents, suppose the Government were to allow these people to occupy lands free of rent; and they should be encouraged to settle in Bombay, the state would derive a certain revenue of at least 80,000 Rupees a year from the arrack and tobacco they would consume. That population by becoming permanent would make room for others to supply the demand for labour, and so on until the population would spread over to Salsette, and half a century hence it would be time enough to establish a ground rent over the Island on the principle that may prevail within the limits of the walls of the Fort.

Upon these data, therefore, and under these impressions, I conceive that the ground rent should not be fixed at more than 105 £ per Acre or per square yard 70 reas. But as the Parliamentary Tax already bears upon the Government in proportion of 36 0 00

The ground rent for the future should be permanently fixed at 34 0 00 Which upon 2,59,244, square yards would yield rupees 22,036. Deduct rent at present levied 5,257.

Gives an increase of Rupees 16,779.

I am aware that the assessment is not levied as prescribed by the act, upon the gross amount of rent, but upon a principle favourable to the owners of houses and grounds; and that by fixing the maximum of rent at 70 reas per square yard, the Magistrates have it in their power to absorb the whole of that rent by levying the assessment on the gross annual rent; such an attempt however, need not be apprehended; but if made, it can be counteracted by the Government decreasing the rate of the assessment.

In the event of the assessment being at any time reduced the rent payable to the company should be increased; provided that, upon the whole, the land holder pays no more than 70 reas the square yard.

The rent of houses for 1813-14 within the fort amounted to 527,360 (including the Company's property) and the assessment to Rupees 26,368 at the expiration of the present charter then, or say in twenty years, the inhabitants will have paid Rs. 5,27,360 0 00 I make no doubt if the collections were entrusted to the Collector of Bombay, and the establishments for cleansing, watching and repairing the streets within the limits placed on a more economical and

equally efficient scale, the whole of these expences could be maintained for 13,184 a moiety of the present assessment, which for twenty years would be	2,63,680	0 00
	<hr/>	
	2,63,680	0 00
Deduct expence of re-making the drains	50,000	0 00
	<hr/>	
leaves Rupees	2,13,680	0 00

as a saving which would be realized by the Company as a fiscal receipt in twenty years, by altering the limits of the town and placing the expenditure under greater controul and more economical management.

It will rest with the Government to determine whether it would be advisable to consult the Magistrates upon the practicability or expediency of co-operating in such a plan, the object of which has the public good alone in view. The construction of the drains is indispensable to the salubrity of the town of Bombay. I recommend that the advance should under any circumstances be made by the Government to enable the justices to complete so salutary a work, the assessment would repay the amount as it has before done, in the instances where pecuniary aid has been afforded to His Majesty's Justices.

Supposing then the ground rent to be fixed at thirty-four per square yard, the terms to be conceded to the assessed proprietors would be the removal of all doubts as to the permanency of their tenures, and they and the pensioned proprietors would be guarded against any further increase of tax upon their landed property.

The advantages of consolidating all the taxes into one, a quit-rent, at the rate of seventy reas per square yard are too obvious to require recapitulation. By such a consolidation the duties of the Collector's Office would be so simplified that he might make the collections and render an account of it on a smaller establishment and in a less confused manner, than he can do in the present state of things.

The rent of ground not built upon, but let out to under-tenants, for the erection of stalls and temporary sheds, should be assessed at a quit-rent of two hundred reas the square yard.

I propose that, during the period a house or warehouse may be untenanted the proprietor shall be subject to the payment of ground rent at the rate of eleven reas the square yard only; this will still improve the present receipts and render the general plan less objectionable.

It will be necessary to frame and pass a regulation for the future collection and management of the revenues of Bombay; which should not however be done, until the survey shall have been completed, and a system of taxation established generally for the whole island.

No better mode can be pursued in giving effect to any plan that may be determined upon, than that of following the precedent of 1674, the preamble to Aungier's convention, is remarkably applicable to the existing state of the tenures of Bombay. An assembly of the inhabitants need not be convened, but the measures determined on promulgated under a declaration of the views and intention of the Government, couched in terms similar to those contained in that instrument. The nature and variety of the existing taxes, and the instances where they have been charged and increased, as well with respect to the pensioned property as others, detailed in a clear and comprehensive manner, in order that the right to increase the rent over every species of property may appear distinct and indisputable.

Pearls and precious stones have from the earliest period been exempted from the payment of any customs or duties on import or export; and the Hon'ble Court have recommended that every encouragement should be given to the diamond merchants to settle on the island. These article continued to be exempt from duties until the year 1810 when they were first imposed. The receipts have been insignificant and the impost has certainly discouraged the diamond merchants from resorting to Bombay. That pearls and precious stones are smuggled and evade the duties are unquestionable, and as the object in imposing the duties has failed, I would recommend that clause 4th Sec. III. Reg. I. 1810 be annulled, and the pearls and precious stones as heretofore be imported free of customs and duties.

I would also recommend that the intention of taxing lime kilns be relinquished as increasing the expence of building, already too exorbitant; and if the customs on timber and plank* should not amount to a large sum per annum, I think they should be allowed to be imported free with the same view.

With all these remissions the customs would not in my opinion decrease provided they were levied in a different plan. That is by the establishment of a tariff to be framed by a Committee by

* I have since ascertained the amount to be on an average of five years Rupees 6956.

which the duties should be collected instead of the existing mode, which appears to me to be open to great abuse.

I beg briefly to recapitulate the facts which this investigation appears to me to have established, viz :—

That the island was received from the Viceroy of Goa without the Crown lands having been ascertained or a statement given of the extent of them, it thence became impracticable to discriminate which of the inhabitants were legally possessed of sufficient titles to their estates, that some of the best estates refused to pay rent and produced titles which could not be disputed, though believed to be fictitious.

That with the view of removing these doubts, and of appeasing the apprehensions of the inhabitants, a convention was concluded by Governor Aungier which commuted, for a certain sum of money, whatever rights the Company might have possessed over the estates on the island, which were in consequence acknowledged by that instrument to be freehold property; under a reservation, however, of the quit-rent, and according to the ancient constitution of the island, of a claim to the military services of the inhabitants.

All the uncultivated lands therefore, excepting probably such as by the constitution of the island, was an appendage to the cultivated portion as pasturage ground, was, at the date of that convention Crown land, inclusive of the marshy grounds; subsequently to which the Jesuits' lands, the forfeiture under the proclamation of 1720, and Rama Camaty's property devolved upon the Company; but that no register whatever of the extent of these lands is forthcoming.

That from the indefinite mode in which the orders of the Court of Directors of 1679-80 to let the uncultivated land out on rent, to invite settlers on the island to assign portions of lands to Gentoo soldiers for their maintenance, and to restore lands to their former proprietors, were carried into effect, a considerable portion of the Crown lands must have have been alienated up to the year 1707-8.

That in that year the greater part of the present limits of the fort was private property, but that from the purchases and exchanges made from 1707-8 to 1758-9, it became the Company's, and been subsequently transferred to individuals.

That notwithstanding the resolution of the Government of the 3d December 1733, fixing a limited period for leases to be renewable on the payment of one year's rent, lands have continued to be let on indefinite tenures, since the conclusion of Aungier's convention; that encroachments on the public property have been recog-

nized, if not expressly sanctioned by the Government on the payment of rent on all ground that might be taken by individuals, and that the rights to the landed estates, not subject to the pension are at this date, precisely in the same doubtful state as they were at the conclusion of that convention.

That the Government from sanctioning the sales of assessed ground, and from becoming, in various instances, the purchasers of such property, have clearly defined its intention in respect to the nature of such grants that they were meant to convey a right in perpetuity.

That though many proclamations have been issued and other proceedings adopted declaratory of the Company's right to the soil, and to resume possession of their will and pleasure, these measures were pursued at too late a period to be effectual, and have been worse than nugatory, as not an instance is to be found where they have been enforced, the inhabitants having continued in undisturbed possession.

That in 1718 a tax was established over every description of property which may be considered to have operated as a commutation of the military services, reserved under Aungier's convention on the pension property: that in 1720, the quit-rent was reduced one half, but extended to all houses within cannon shot of the town wall; that in 1731 an additional quit-rent was imposed on all grounds which the English inhabitants might have taken in since the building of their houses, and set free of ground rent; but that the Native inhabitants were required to pay for the ground they occupied or should thereafter occupy, a quit-rent of six reas and a ground rent of five reas the square yard, which is now imposed on all ground required for building; and that in 1758 a tax at the rate of two shillings in the pound was imposed on the produce of all the landed estates in Bombay.

That the Government has exercised and can therefore again exercise, the right of modifying and of increasing the rent whether quit or ground, or of imposing an additional tax upon every description of property on the island, pension not excepted.

That even admitting the legal right to resume possession of assessed property, it would be an unwise measure to disturb the tenures by which lands are at present held by individuals; that the act would be "felt as a grievous hardship, if not an open and downright injury."

That with the view of removing all doubts respecting the tenures of the estates created since Aungier's convention, the right of pro-

property should be declared to vest in perpetuity in the present possessors, and that the rents should be permanently fixed on principles just and equitable to the Company and to individuals, except in respect to such grounds as are held under special leases or conditions.

The valuable surveys and the book of references which Captain Dickinson has completed should be lodged in the Collector's Office, as affording the fullest information on all points connected with the regular discharge of the duties of that department.

20th August 1814.

II.— *Translation of the copy of the ancient record regarding the delivery of the Port and Island of Bombay by His Excellency Antonio de Mello e Castro of His Most Faithful Majesty's Council, Viceroy and Captain General of India, in the name and behalf of His Most Faithful Majesty Dom Affonco, 6th, to Humphrey Cooke, Esq., Vice-Governor, for, and in behalf of His Serene Majesty Charles II., King of Great Britain, &c. &c.*

(Extracted, by permission of the late Viceroy, Don M. de Portugal, from the Archives of Goa, and communicated by Major T. B. Jervis, F. R. S.)

In the Registry of the Royal orders for the year 1665, which is, in this Secretariate of State of India, in folio 54, is found together with a letter written by His Excellency the Viceroy Antonio de Mello e Castro in the said season to His Majesty, a treaty of the surrender and delivery of the Island of Bombay, in the following manner:

In the name of God, Amen. Be it known to all to whom this public instrument of the possession and delivery of the Port and Island of Bombay shall come, that in the year of the birth of our Lord 1665 in the 18th day of February of the said year, then and there being in the said Port and Island of Bombay, which is of the Jurisdiction of Bassein,—at the large house of the Lady Donna Iñez de Miranda widow of the deceased Dom Rodrigo de Moneato; present, Luis Mendes de Vasconcellos of His Majesty's Council and Overseer of His Majesty's Estates in India, and Doctor Sebastiao Alvares Migos, Chancellor of the Court of Justice at Goa, the Vereadores and other officers of the Chamber of the said city of Bassein, as also one Humphrey Cooke (which name in the Portuguese or Spanish language would be *Inofre* Cooke) Governor of the warlike men of His Majesty the King of Great Britain, and Ensign John

Torne and other persons of the English nation, being all present with me, the undersigned Notary Public. When it was declared by the said Luis Mendes de Vasconcellos, and Doctor Sebastiao Alvares Migos that, they had come there from the city of Goa, by order of the Viceroy and Captain General of India, Antonio de Mello e Castro, who had sent them; giving them two letters from the King our master, and his, the said Viceroy's, directions: with the credential from His Majesty the King of Great Britain, and the commission by which Sir Abraham Shipman had made and appointed the said Humphrey Cooke to succeed him on his death: all which are hereunder copied as follows.*

No. I.

I, Antonio de Mello e Castro Viceroy and Captain General, &c., maketh known to all to whom this Alvara (or instrument) may come, that, whereas, in conformity with the order received from His Majesty to deliver the port and town of Bombay unto the person nominated by His Majesty the King of Great Britain, I have for this purpose appointed and nominated Luis Mendes de Vasconcellos, &c. and Doctor Sebastiao Alvares Migos. And, as it is expedient that, for the better definition of all which on this occasion they shall have to treat about, they should be invested with sufficient powers, such as the nature of the matter requires, and having full confidence in the abovenamed persons, that they will act in a manner most pleasing to His Majesty, and satisfactory to His Most Serene Majesty the King of Great Britain, I am pleased to grant unto them, and do hereby grant unto the said Luis Mendes de Vasconcellos and Sebastiao Alvares Migos, my full power and authority to determine upon, and remove, all and whatever doubts may arise, observing nevertheless the instructions I have ordered to be given them; and every act of their's conformable thereto shall have the same effect and validity as if done, determined and ordered by me. Provided, however, that in the event of any case offering where they cannot proceed agreeably to my order, they shall acquaint me with every particular, and with their opinion thereon, to enable me to resolve upon the same as may be most convenient.

I do accordingly notify to the Captains of the Cities of Chaul and Bassein, to the Factor and Judges thereof and to all other Minister of Estates and Justice, officers and other persons whom this may concern; and I do hereby order and direct them to comply with this Alvara, and to see that it is wholly and fully complied

* Only a selection of these documents is here printed.

with, kept, observed and obeyed without the least doubt, &c., as if it were given in the name of His Majesty, &c. &c. &c.

Written by N. FERREIRA, at Panjin.

The 10th January 1665.

No. 2.

TO ANTONIO DE MELLO E CASTRO, &c.

My friend,—I the King send to you greeting. By the article of the contract which has been agreed on with the King of England my good brother and cousin concerning the dowry of the Queen his consort, my well beloved and esteemed sister, which you will receive with this letter, you will understand why and how the port and country of Bombay belong to him, and the obligation I am under to direct the same to be delivered over to him. Immediately on your arrival at the states of India, you will ask for the credentials from the King, by which you may ascertain the person to whom possession shall be given, and make the cession. And you will accordingly cause the same to be made in the manner and form of that capitulation, observing the same yourself, and causing the whole and every part thereof to be duly observed; and that the whole may be committed to writing very clearly and distinctly, &c. And you will send the same to me by different conveyances in order to settle and adjust the acquittance of the dowry promised to the King. By the other articles of that treaty it will be present to you the union we celebrated, and the obligation the King is under to afford me succour in all my urgencies and necessities, &c. &c.

(Signed) KING.

Written at Lisbon, 9th April 1662.

No. 3.

TO ANTONIO DE MELLO E CASTRO,

Governor, &c.

My friend,—I the King send you greeting. By way of England intelligence reached me that in the States of India doubts have arisen with respect to the delivery of the town of Bombay to the order of the King of England my good brother and cousin, in conformity with mine, which you carried with you. At which I was greatly surprised and much grieved; because, besides the reasons of convenience of this Crown, and more especially of the State of India, which made it necessary for me to take that Resolution, I wish much to give the King of England my brother every satisfaction. For these and other considerations, and as the King my bro-

ther must have sent fresh orders removing every doubt there might have originated from those he sent first, I therefore direct and order that you do, in compliance with those orders of mine which you carried with you, cause to execute the said delivery punctually and without the least contravention, as the matter does not admit of any, and the delay is very prejudicial; and by your complying herewith as I expect, I shall consider myself well served by you, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) KING.

Written at Lisbon, 16th August 1663.

No. 4.

Articles by which Bombay was delivered by Antonio de Mello e Castro, Viceroy and Captain General; &c.

The island of Bombay shall be delivered to the English with a declaration, that, whereas the other islands under the jurisdiction of Bassein have through the bay of the said island of Bombay, their commerce, trade, and navigation with equal rights, liberty and freedom, the said English shall never prevent, nor cause any impediment thereto, nor levy any tribute or gabelle, neither on the exportation of salt or other merchandise of those islands, nor on any other articles that may be brought there from abroad. And it shall be free for all vessels loaded or empty, to navigate from the same islands, and territories of the Portuguese or other nations that trade with them. And the subjects of the King of Great Britain shall not oblige them to discharge or pay duties at their Custom-house, &c. and they shall enjoy good treatment, and free admission to the ports of our territories as they have hitherto enjoyed. That neither the port of Bandora on the island of Salsette nor any other ports of that island shall be impeded, and all vessels from the said port or ports shall be allowed to pass and repass freely; and the English shall not allege that they pass under their guns, because it is on this condition that the island is delivered to them; and they cannot expect more than what is allowed them by the articles of the marriage treaty, &c.

That the English shall not receive any deserters from the Portuguese territory nor shall they under any pretence whatever conceal or protect them, as this is the most effectual means of preserving peace between the two Crowns, and of avoiding future injuries; and they shall engage to deliver up all such deserters to the Captain, for the time being, of the city of Bassein. And as many Gentoos who may have in their charge goods and money belonging to Portuguese

or other subjects of His Majesty, by way of retaining the same may, flee to Bombay and place themselves under the protection of the English flag, all such persons shall be apprehended until they shall satisfy the demands against them, or on their failing to do this, shall be delivered over to the Captain of Bassein, in order to satisfy the just claims of the parties whose property they have possessed themselves of:

That the English shall not interfere in matters of faith, nor compel the inhabitants of the island of Bombay to change their religion, or attend their sermons, and shall permit ecclesiastics to exercise their functions without the least impediment, this being a condition specified in the articles of peace under which the delivery of Bombay is made, &c.

That the fleets of the King of Portugal shall at all times have free ingress and egress into and from the said harbour of Bombay, &c.

That all persons who may possess estates on the island of Bombay, whether resident on the said island or residing elsewhere, shall be free to farm their estates or sell the same on the best terms they may be able to obtain, and should the English require the said estates, they shall give for them their fair and just value, &c.

That the inhabitants of the islands of Salsette and Caranjah and of other places under the Portuguese shall freely fish in the said bay and river, and in the arm of the sea which divides Bombay from Salsette, and the English shall not at any time prevent them, nor shall the English at any time, under any pretence whatever demand any tribute on this account.

That the Curumbies, Bandaries or other inhabitants of the villages belonging to the Portuguese shall not be admitted into Bombay, and all such persons resorting there shall be immediately delivered up to their respective masters, and the same shall be observed with respect to slaves who may run away, and likewise with regard to artificers who may leave the Portuguese territory and go to Bombay; they shall all be immediately delivered up; and if the English should at any time require the services of these artificers, they shall apply to the Captain of Bassein, who will allow them for a limited time, &c.

That in case any deserters from the Portuguese should offer to change their religion and pass to the confession of the English (to prevent their being restored to the Portuguese,) the said English shall not consent thereto; and the same shall be observed on the part

of the Portuguese with regard to persons who may desert to their territories.

That although the manor right of the Lady proprietrix of Bombay is taken away, the estates are not to be interfered with, or taken away from her, unless it be of her free will; she being a woman of quality, they are necessary for her maintenance. But after her death and when her heirs succeed to the said estates, the English may, if they chuse, take them on paying for the same their just value, as is provided in the case of other proprietors of estates; and should the English now wish to take her houses to build forts therewith, they shall immediately pay her their just value.

That persons possessing revenue at Bombay derived either from Patrimonial or Crown lands shall continue to possess them with, the same rights as before and shall not be deprived thereof, except in cases which the law of Portugal directs, and their sons and descendants shall succeed to them with the same rights and claims; and those who may sell the said estates shall transfer to the purchasers the same rights in perpetuity, that the purchasers may enjoy the same, and their successors in like manner.

That the Parish priests, and monks, or regular clergy residing in Bombay shall have all due respect paid them as agreed to, and the churches shall not be taken for any use whatever, nor sermons preached in them, and those who may attempt it shall be punished in such manner as may serve as an example.

That the inhabitants of Bombay and the landholders of that island shall not be obliged to pay more than the foras they used to pay to His Majesty, this condition being expressly mentioned in the treaty.

That there shall be a good understanding and reciprocal friendship between both parties, rendering one another every good office, like good friends, as this was the object of delivering this and other places, and the intention of His Most Serene Majesty the King of Great Britain, as appears by the treaty made and entered into by and between the two Crowns.

ANTONIO DE MELLO E CASTRO.

Given at Panjin, 8th Jan. 1665.

No. 5.

Instrument of Possession.

Possession was accordingly given and delivery made of the port and island of Bombay, which comprehends in its territories the villages of Mazagon, Parell, Worlee, &c., and the said Governor Humphrey Cooke accepted and received the same in the name of

His Serene Majesty the King of Great Britain, in the manner and form laid down in the instructions from the Viceroy Antonio de Mello e Castro. By all and every declaration, clause, and condition in the said instructions, which are fully expressed and declared, he promised (in the name of His Majesty the King of Great Britain) to abide; and, saying, assuring and promising so to do, he took personally possession of the said port and island of Bombay, walking thereupon, taking in his hands earth and stones thereof, entering, and walking upon, its bastions, &c., and performing other like acts which in right were necessary, without any impediment or contradiction, quietly and peaceably, that His Majesty the King of Great Britain might have, possess, and become master, (also his heirs and successors) of the said island.

And the inhabitants thereof gentlemen and proprietors of estates within the circuit and territories of the said island, who now pay *foras* to the King our Master, shall pay the same henceforth to His Majesty the King of Great Britain. And the said L. M. de Vasconcellos, S. Alvares Migos, and the Governor Humphrey Cooke have ordered this instrument to be drawn up, and copies thereof given to parties requiring it, and that the same shall be registered in the book of the Tower of Goa, and in that of the Chamber of the city of Bassein, and of the factory of the said city, and at all other suitable places; and that the necessary declarations shall be recorded in those books, that at all times may appear the manner in which this possession was given and delivery made. And as they thus ordered this public instrument to be prepared, they, the said L. Mendes de Vasconcellos, &c. &c., have put their names thereto in testimony of their having made the said delivery, and the Governor Humphrey Cooke, his, in testimony of his having accepted possession, &c. &c.

(Signed) ANTONIO MONTIERA DE FONCEÇA,
Notary Public of the city of Bassein, &c.

III.—Population of the Islands of Bombay and Salsette in 1826-27.

(Communicated by Major T. B. Jervis, F. R. S.)

No. 1. Census of the Population of the Islands of Bombay and Colabah taken in the months of Aug., Sept., Oct. and Nov. 1826.

Number of Houses.	Districts.	English.	Portuguese.	Parsee.	Jew.	Armenian.	Musulman.	Hindoo.	Mahar.	Chinese.	Total.
1219	Fort	432	359	6303	70	39	1222	5029	142	5	13611
5459	Dungaree	46	1294	1764	1200	"	12888	29654	513	"	47359
4311	Bycullah	51	114	983	"	"	9226	19076	1633	"	31083
894	Mazagon	82	810	304	"	"	302	3056	142	"	4696
361	Malabar Hill, &c.	59	44	119	"	"	51	2180	29	10	2492
2259	Geergaum	61	1448	1074	"	"	519	9698	7	33	13040
4904	Mahim, including Worlee, and all the villages between Sion and Chintzpozgy	32	3539	67	"	"	1399	12341	335	"	17713
520	Colabah	175	412	124	"	"	303	1358	204	"	2276
	Total	838	8020	10738	1270	39	25920	82592	3005	48	132570
	Military	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	10000
	Floating Population	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	20000
	Grand Total	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	162570

W. A. TATE,
Revenue Surveyor.

Bombay, 4th August 1827.

No. 2. Abstract account of the Population of the Island of Salsette for the year 1857.

No. of Districts.	HINDOO.			MUSSULMAN.			PORTUGUESE.			PARSEE.			CHAMBEHAR.			SIDDER.			MAHAR.			Total in each District.						
	Male.	Female.	Children.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Children.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Children.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Children.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Children.	Total.								
1	626	656	705	1987	49	63	46	158	195	204	231	630	5	2	4	4	7	5	16	"	"	"	4	4	3	11	2808	
2	713	713	1002	2428	21	19	31	71	848	925	1213	2986	6	7	9	22	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1	1	"	2	5509
3	2658	2648	2879	8185	148	150	89	387	721	746	746	2213	6	6	12	30	24	22	76	1	1	2	100	113	101	314	11189	
4	711	756	722	2189	108	106	75	289	1478	1451	1345	4274	8	4	20	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	11	10	7	28	6800
5	1218	1282	1027	3527	60	61	54	175	1616	1555	1626	4787	9	8	4	21	5	9	23	"	"	"	104	109	70	283	8886	
6	1097	1121	978	3196	25	33	33	91	520	610	549	1679	4	2	2	9	18	23	60	1	"	"	1	83	96	66	255	5291
7	3477	3038	2544	9059	676	709	584	1969	447	415	250	1112	28	21	12	61	13	3	28	"	"	"	278	162	63	503	12732	
	10500	10216	9657	30573	1087	1141	912	3140	5925	5906	5960	17691	63	54	32	149	70	62	203	2	1	3	591	495	310	1396	53155	
Number of Europeans in Tannah, including the Military in the Garrison and the Civilians at the Zillah Station																					100							
Grand Total of Population on the island of Salsette																					53855							

W. A. TATE,
Revenue Surveyor.

MEETINGS.

June 13th. Present. Captain D. Ross, President in the chair; Col. T. Dickinson; Dr. J. Burnes; R. X. Murphy, Esq.; Lieut. G. Jenkins; Captain W. C. Harris; J. McLeod, Esq.; Lieut. C. W. Montriou; James Bird, Esq.; A. B. Orlebar, Esq.; C. Morehead, Esq.; Lieut. R. Ethersey; J. F. Heddle, Esq.

Member elected. Captain F. Lushington, A. D. C.

Resolved, That the Hon'ble Sir James Rivett Carnac, Bart., F. R. S. Governor of Bombay be respectfully requested to accept the office of Patron.

Resolved, That the President be requested to wait upon His Excellency to communicate the foregoing Resolution.

Captain W. C. Harris then stated to the Meeting that, with reference to his letter submitted to the Society on a former occasion, concerning the inland Lake in central Africa, he had just received a communication from the Cape of Good Hope, mentioning the arrival, at Kuruman, or new Latakoo, upon a visit to the Rev. Mr. Moffat, of a native chief from the banks of the great water.

Captain Harris proceeded to read the extract of the letter as follows:—

Cape of Good Hope, 12th April 1839.

“I annex duplicate of a letter lately addressed to you by the house, and having obtained a few particulars regarding the *Great Lake* which I conceive will be interesting to you, I shall give them just as I have received them; they are as follows.

“The Rev. Mr. Moffat a missionary stationed at Kuruman beyond the Orange river, lately arrived in town and has since gone to England. He states that when he was harnessing and just ready to leave his station, a chief arrived from the bank of the *Great Lake*, and had been thirty days getting from thence to Moffat's station; that he then immediately took out his oxen and waited a day or two in order to collect and take down all the particulars of this hitherto-unknown Lake, and which he has taken home with him. The chief stated that the canoes which were made use of on the Lake are easily overturned, unless they are skilfully used, and that the banks on the opposite side of the Lake are not visible from the extent of the waters. The object of the chief in visiting Moffat, is said to have been for the purpose of getting a missionary sent to their country and Moffat has probably gone home in order to bring it before the Society in London. The cattle of the country are said to be of a very large size.

“The above are all the particulars known here, and I place much credit in them myself, having had them from a very particular friend of Moffat's.

“Moselekatse has not been heard of for a considerable time, and it is supposed he has gone to the banks of this Great Lake.

“You will have been aware that a military post was lately established at Port Natal for the purpose of preventing further bloodshed between the Emigrant

Boors and Dongaan. 'We have received account yesterday that a treaty of peace has been entered into between them and ratified in the presence of the Commanding officer at Port Natal, Captain Jervis of the 22d, so that the Boors will now set themselves down in their new country quietly, and *trekking* will go on at a much greater rate than ever.'

Donation.

6 Volumes Asiatic Researches, presented by Lieut. C. W. Montriou, I. N.

June 26th. Present. The Honorable Sir James Rivett Carnac, Bart., F. R. S. Patron, in the chair; Captain D. Ross, F. R. S. President; Colonel T. Dickinson; Colonel D. Barr; James Bird, Esq.; W. C. Bruce, Esq.; Dr. J. Burnes, K. H.; W. C. Boyd, Esq.; Dr. R. Brown; Peter Ewart, Esq.; Capt. J. Holland; T. W. Henderson, Esq.; C. McLeod, Esq.; John McLeod, Esq.; Dr. C. Morehead; Captain R. Oliver, R. N.; John Skinner, Esq.; J. P. Willoughby, Esq.; A. B. Orlebar, Esq.; R. X. Murphy, Esq.; Lieut. B. Ethersey, I. N.; Captain W. C. Harris; Lieut. H. A. Ormsby, I. N., F. R. S.; Captain F. Lushington, A. D. C.; W. Baxter, Esq.; H. Gordon, Esq.; Lieut. G. Jenkins, I. N.; Lieut. W. Christopher, I. N.; W. Howard, Esq.; J. F. Heddle, Esq., Secretary.

Visitors.

Lieut. H. Barr; Lieut. P. L. Powell, I. N.; Dr. J. E. Brennan; E. Dapvers, Esq.

The Hon'ble the Governor having taken the chair, the Secretary read a statement of the origin and objects of the Society.

The Hon'ble Sir James Rivett Carnac rose, and assured the Meeting that he felt much gratified in assuming the office of Patron of the Society, whose exertions in the cause of Geography he had frequently heard mentioned with approbation by persons interested in the Royal Geographical Society of London.

His Honor admitted, to the fullest extent, the claims of the Society. He could not, he observed, pretend to those habits of scientific investigation which might have enabled him to contribute, personally, towards the excellent objects of the association; but, he should be always most happy to testify his approval of those objects by granting free access to the several public records, and lending every other assistance which his office might enable him to afford. He hoped that the Society would point out to him, whenever it deemed fit to do so, the means by which he could best promote its interests.

Proposed by Captain Holland and seconded by Dr. Burnes, K. H., that the best thanks of the meeting be given to His Excellency, for his acceptance of the office of Patron, and for the handsome manner in which he had guaranteed his support.

Captain W. C. Harris read an account of a visit to Sonmeanee, the seaport of Lus, in May 1839, during an attempt to reach Kelat from Kurachee in the disguise of an Usbec.

Read an extract from Dr. Hardy's private journal, giving an account of a visit, in company with Lieut Carless, I. N., to the Chief of Beila, the capital of Lus.

Members elected. Lieut. Harry Barr ; Captain G. P. LeMessurier.

Donation.

A copy of Captain Back's Journal, presented by Lieut. C. W. Montriau, I. N.

August 1st. James Bird, Esq., in the chair.

Member elected. Lieut. H. Reynolds.

Lieut. Ormsby, I. N., F. R. S., forwarded for inspection four charts of the survey of the coast of Ceylon with a memorandum descriptive of the extent surveyed, and the portion remaining to be surveyed.

Read a letter from T. B. Taylor, Esq., Madras Observatory, dated 29th June 1839, addressed to the Secretary, forwarding an account of some observations which he had made with the Dipping Needle belonging to this Society ; and stating that, he had met with some disappointment by reason of the axes of the needles not being perfectly cylindrical, on which account, recommending that they be sent to England to be reground, "this done, there will be several opportunities of the apparatus being again actively employed, and possibly, the observations which have already been made may be gone over again."

A letter from the Secretary to Government in the Secret Department dated 11th July 1839, presenting by direction of the Hon'ble the Governor in Council, copy of a Topographical Report of the city of Tatta in Scinde and of its environs, drawn up by Assistant Surgeon Winchester.

Donation.

Second Volume, Transactions of the Medical and Physical Society of Bombay, presented by the Society.

The Meeting adjourned.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BOMBAY GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

SEPTEMBER — NOVEMBER, 1839.

I. — *A Pilgrimage to Hinglaj.* By Captain S. V. W. Hart,
2nd (Grenadier) Regiment N. I.

[Communicated by J. P. Willoughby, Esquire.]

* The celebrated temple of Hinglaj is situated at a distance of ten or twelve miles from the sea, in the southern extremity of the great range of the Hara mountains which divides the Province of Lus from Mukran. For many ages it has been considered by the Hindoos as a most holy place of pilgrimage, and the dangers and difficulties which beset the traveller on his way to this shrine, only render a visit to it the more meritorious.

As no accurate information regarding its true locality could be gleaned from the wild tales of those natives who had seen it, I gladly availed myself of an opportunity which offered, of accompanying the Hyderabad agent of a wealthy Hindoo merchant of Kurrachee, who intended paying his devotions there. That my presence might not inconvenience him, I contented myself with taking only a small rowtie and a carpet to sleep on, relying on his servants for attendance and food. At the time of making this arrangement I was not aware that the Agent was a Bhatia, and employed Pakran Bramins as cooks. This latter caste never destroy life in any way, and I discovered, when too late to remedy the evil, that my diet was to be confined to boiled rice and bread, with the occasional addition of a few sweetmeats. The party consisted of Thaomul the agent, his son, a few friends, a Bramin specially invited, and three others who accompanied him of their own accord. Including five Jakeea matchlock-men engaged as guards to the baggage and provisions, we numbered upwards of forty individuals; all but the latter mounted on camels.

Before a Hindoo can set out on this pilgrimage, it is necessary that he should obtain the services of an "Agwa" or spiritual guide,

to instruct him in what manner, and where, he ought to worship. These persons belong to families who have enjoyed the privilege of conducting pilgrims to holy places for many generations. Under their auspices (no matter of what tribe they may be) all the ceremonies are conducted and even Bramins are obliged to obey and see them, although they may accompany the pilgrims, (as is generally the case,) merely for the purpose of investing children with the Jeneoo, (the sacred thread) or to be at hand when it is proper for presents to be made to persons of their tribe. At Hinglaj the Agwas alone officiate in the temple and share the offerings. But to qualify one of them to lead a party, it is necessary for him to have the permission of a person called the "Peer of Hindoos" in Sinde, who furnishes him with a "Cheree" or wand of authority, which he is required to give back on his return. The Cheree is a stick about two feet in length, forked at one end, and painted with red ochre. The Agwa carries it in his waistband on the march, fixes it in the ground whenever a halt is made, and lights a fire near it, with the ashes of which, each pilgrim marks his forehead before it is taken up.

The chief of the Hindoos residing in, or visiting, Sinde, lives at Tatta. The head of this family possesses a Sunud from the Delhi Emperors ordering all of that tribe to obey him and authorizing him to levy certain sums from those visiting Hinglaj. Each Agwa, or pilgrim, pays a fee according to the caste to which he belongs, before setting out on the journey.

As many thousand persons perform the pilgrimage annually he derives a considerable revenue from this source, and enjoys the reputation of being extremely wealthy. He has Agents at Kurrachee to whom he delegates his authority for the convenience of persons not passing through Tatta. One of these persons lately denied his sole authority to give the Cheree, and appealed to the Hakim of Kurrachee against what he styled an assumption of illegal power. At first he was supported, until the Peer showed his warrant, when the Governor declined interfering in the matter.

The Cheree having been obtained, and the requisite fees paid, the pilgrims resign themselves to the guidance of their Agwa. By his directions they put on clothes of a brickdust colour, and provide the necessary articles for the offerings. Men of respectability who pay their own expenses are now termed "Baboo," "Gruhust" and "Sunsaree." The general name given to mendicants of both sexes is "Uteet" and "Nuspuree," but when the males are distinguished, their title is "Maha Pooroos." That of all females is "Mahee." The Agwa invariably leads the party, no one presuming to go a

head of him. When several meet, the highest in rank takes the whole of the Cherees, but all share alike.

These preliminary arrangements having been satisfactorily completed, and the tax of ten annas paid, which is levied by the Ameers from each Agwa, as also two more taken on his own account by the person who collects it, my party left Kurrachee on the morning of the 24th January. I joined them a short distance from Camp equipped in native costume as most convenient for travelling. The Agwa (a tall stout Gosaen with a large black beard which gave him more the appearance of a Belochee soldier than a Hindoo priest) was mounted on the leading camel, vociferating to the extent of his voice, "Bol" (exclaim!) on which his followers rejoined "Hinglaj jee jue" (victory to Hinglaj.) On enquiring the reason for this exclamation, I learnt that it alluded to the victory gained by the Goddess over the Giant King "Muhishu," an exploit which is narrated at length in a work called "Chundee."*

It is there stated that this Giant had overcome the Gods in war, and reduced them to such a state of indigence that they were wandering about the earth as common beggars. She attacked and vanquished the monster, tore out his tongue, and flung it on the rock in front of her temple, where it is said to remain to this day.

The deity worshipped under the appellation of Hinglaj is one of the numerous forms of the goddess Parvutee. She is also styled here Kalee, Devee, Maha Maga or Mata, and Mahee. Under the former names bloody sacrifices are offered to her; as Devee she is looked on as the personification of nature, but as Hinglaj or Maha Maga, kindness and tender mercy are attributed to her. The cause of the celebrity of her shrine at the present time, is the circumstance of Rama Chandra, the 7th incarnation of Vishnoo having performed a pilgrimage to it, in expiation of his offence in killing the Giant Rawun, who was a Brahmin.

The account of Rama's journey is narrated in the "Hingool Pooran," which mentions that shortly after his return from Lunka to Dwarika with the liberated Seeta, he set out on his way to Maha Maga's temple; taking his wife with him, and accompanied by his brothers Luximan, Hunooman and Guneshu, escorted by an army whose numbers amounted to no less than eighteen pudums † of

* Ward's Mythology of the Hindoos, vol. 3rd.

† One hundred lacs are one crore; one hundred crores one Urub; one hundred Urubs one Khurab; one hundred Khurubs one Sunk; one hundred Sunks one Neel; one hundred Neels one Pudum.

men. His first encampment was at the Ram Bagh near the town of Kurrachee whence he proceeded to 'Thonga Bheroo a distance of eight miles and breakfasted ; on the right bank of the Hub river he halted for the night. His next day's journey brought him to a pass in the Pub mountains named the Ungakhera Bherum Luk, where he met with a chokee or guard house of the Hinglaj deity. They refused to allow him to pass with so many followers. A fight ensued, in which after losing many of his men, Rama was forced to retreat. Overcome with grief, he supplicated the Goddess to make known the cause of her anger. She appeared, and told him that he must visit her temple as a humble penitent, not as a king at the head of an army ; but as some consolation to his numerous followers for the disappointment they must experience in not being allowed to accompany him, she decreed that their descendants should all, at some time or other, perform the pilgrimage. Retracing his steps to the Ram Bagh he sent for the pious Lalloo Jesraj, an ascetic who resided in a hermitage near the hot springs now called Peer Moo-gha, and taking him as his Agwa, accompanied only by Seeta, Luximan, Hunooman and Guneshu, again set out on the journey. At the Imlee or Goruk tank, a distance of about four miles on the road, they offered up prayers for the success of their undertaking, and passed the Ungakhera Bherum Luk in safety. A few miles beyond it, Seeta complained of thirst, and Hunooman endeavored to procure water by striking his foot violently on the ground. The dry bed of the Bahur river was formed by the blow, but no water. Proceeding onwards for some distance Luximan drove an arrow against the range of sand hills near the sea, one of which was detached by the shock, but his wish to alleviate the sufferings of their beautiful companion was equally unavailing. Descending to the flat which here extends upwards of a mile between the hills and the beach, in intolerable agony she pressed her spread hand on the ground when five wells, each containing a plentiful supply of the pure element, were instantaneously formed. No further obstacle occurred, and the ceremonies at the temple having been duly performed Rama Chundra painted with red ochre, on a spot inaccessible to mortals on the opposite mountain, the figures of the earth, sun, moon and stars, that all men might know he had paid his devotions there. The party then returned happily to Dwarika.

This abstract of the Hingool Pooran will explain the cause of the various religious rites performed on the journey. Pilgrims ought to set out from the Ram Bagh, but as it is not on the direct road from the town, prayers are offered up at the temple of Kaleekot on

the right bank of the river, beyond it. The first halt is made at the Imlee tank to which Rama returned after his defeat beyond the Hub river, and the Cheree being planted, the Goddess is entreated to afford every facility to her devoted worshippers now on their way to her shrine; offerings of a Dokra, a sooparee nut and other spices are made, which become the perquisite of the Agwa, and the party then proceed a few miles further to "Thonga Bheroo" where Rama broke his fast. This spot is marked by a few painted stones, the site of a ruined temple. Offerings having been made as before, and a short prayer recited, the pilgrims cross the river Hub, and halt for the night under a tree on its right bank. At sunset the same ceremony is gone through, and "Hinglaj jee jue" repeated by all. The next morning the Aghwa nominates certain persons to act as Chawdry, Mookhee, Munt, &c., whose duty it is to see that every one behaves with propriety and decorum, to prevent quarrels, and settle disputes while on the journey.

Owing to a heavy fall of rain a few days previous to our departure a large body of water was running in the river Hub when we reached it, but on our return a month afterwards we found only a small stream, which we were told would continue to flow for a short time, and then water would be found only in pools. No signs of cultivation or inhabitants were seen on this day's march, but a few miles above the ford some Noomreea families with their flocks were located. Before dark upwards of a dozen Gosaens joined our encampment, and the order of march was communicated to me. At break of day our food was to be prepared and as soon as we had eaten our meal the three tents having been struck and packed, all were to start together. The distance of the day's journey was to be regulated by the state of the wells on the road, but if practicable a halt would be made early enough to admit of fuel being collected, and to give time for the camels to graze before night. On this arrangement we broke ground at nine o'clock the following morning, and after crossing a flat of about four miles, reached a pass in the Pub mountains called Gundoba by Mahomedans, and the "Ungakhera Bherum Luk" by Hindoos. It is considered as marking the entrance to the territory of the Goddess Mahamaga, and when once beyond it, the pilgrims imagine that their journey will be happily accomplished. This scene of Rama's defeat is the fourth place of worship, and some stones, coloured as usual, point out the spot where it is to be performed. The ascent to the pass is but trifling, and the descent equally gentle towards a tract full of ravines, extending from the Mor range of mountains (which branch off from the Pub towards Beila) to the sand hills on the sea shore.

Some years ago the Luk was occupied by a party of Noomreeas, who plundered the pilgrims, and eventually stopped all communication, until the Jam of Beila sent troops, and dispersed them. To the left of the road, and a hundred yards distant from it, is the Bhowanee well, said never to be dry, yet travellers alone use it. The face of the country is here sprinkled with patches of milk bush, and low shrubs. On the right bank of the Bahur river (merely one of the larger ravines) a small bush marks the place where Hunooman failed in his endeavour to allay the thirst of Seeta. A few yards of red cloth (Karwa) are spread over, and pieces of rag tied to it to propitiate him. At the Booreed Luk where Luximan shot his arrow, the road leaves the high ground for the beach. This Luk presents a most singular appearance, and is formed by one hill having been detached, by some convulsion of nature, from the range here, about two hundred feet in height. The path runs along the edge of a deep ravine, where the rush of a mountain torrent has cut a channel as even as if excavated by art; and then winding along the back of the hill, slopes to the shore. The descent is gradual, and now that a broken part of the path has been repaired, laden camels pass without difficulty. The sea from this spot is not far distant, but further on the plain gradually widens until an extensive flat is left between the shore and the sand hills, in some parts nearly a mile in width, covered with a low jungle of tamarisk and wild caper bushes. Three miles from the pass is a nulla where travellers usually halt, in which brackish water is procured by digging. It was our intention to have stopped there, but on approaching it, we were greeted with shouts of "Shuru Hinglaj" from upwards of a hundred and fifty pilgrims on their return from the temple, who had taken up their quarters there for the night. We therefore marched on a mile further to where a decayed tree marked the position of the well in which was sufficient water for our small party. As soon as the baggage camels came up, I learnt the cause of our having so many as twelve loaded with provisions, for the other Agwas having been sent for, a seer of rice, some dal and a Dokra * were given to them for each person, as also a present in money for themselves. It is incumbent on all who have the means to supply at least one meal to every pilgrim they may meet on the road, and Thaomul had calculated on seeing at least five hundred during the trip.

The following morning we continued our course along the flat to the "Seeta Koowas," where pooja was performed as usual. They are upwards of twelve in number and appear to have been sunk at different times, but not being lined, many have fallen in, and only two now con-

* Half a pice.

tain water. The ruins of a small temple called "Gopee Chund Raja" by Hindoos, and "Peer Putta" by Mahomedans, were passed without notice. I may here mention that the generality of the places of worship of the idolaters are known to the followers of the prophet as "Peerkee juguh" — The tank of Shah Lall Bag at Sehwan the patron saint of the faithful in Sindh, was the resort of thousands of the Hindoos before the conquest of their country, and was celebrated far and wide as the hermitage of Raja Burtaree, who quitted his throne to lead the life of an ascetic there.

A short distance beyond Peer Putta, the sand hills lose their precipitous appearance and gradually decrease in size, until they sink to the level of the plain. The bed of the bindoor river (a running stream only after heavy rain) is then crossed, the Cheree planted and Sungalaf worshipped. Our Agwa here placed the pilgrims in a line in front of him, and asked them where they had come from, and their reasons for quitting their homes. On Thaomul's replying, from Hyderabad, with the intention of paying their devotions at Shree Mata's temple; he said, he regretted his inability to undertake the perilous task of conducting so many persons to so holy a spot, having enough to do to take care of himself, and turning round, he ran off, of course pursued by all. Being soon caught, he sat down, called for his pipe, and allowed himself to be persuaded to do his best for *a consideration*. As soon as he was satisfied we again mounted, and passing over a barren plain, reached a range of sand banks, ascending which, we found ourselves in sight of the town of Sonmeanee, situated at the extremity of a large but shallow bay, and remarkable only from the absence of all verdure around it. We halted at a ruined Dhurmsalla, a short distance from the two log lined wells which supply the inhabitants with not very sweet water.

Before leaving Kurrachee I thought it best to address the Dewan of the Jam of Beila, informing him of my intention to pass by Sonmeanee. His answer reached me when on the road to it, saying he should be happy to afford me every assistance in his power. At the same time, however, he wrote to one of the Hindoos with me, to inquire my particular reasons for going to Hinglaj; as it was no *teerth* of mine, and he could not understand why I should put myself to all the trouble and expense of visiting it, unless I had some ulterior object in view. To this no reply was sent, but as soon as he heard of my arrival he came to visit me, and said that he was directed by the Jam to obey all my orders, and would if I wished accompany me on my journey. On my declining this mark of attention, he ordered a Noomreea Sepoy of the Jam's to attend me as long as I

remained in the district, warning him that he would be severely punished on any complaint being made by me, of negligence on his part. It was with difficulty I excused myself from complying with his request to feed my party at the Jam's expense, although I particularly explained to him that I was only a traveller. He said, his master wished by his attention to me to show the consideration that every British officer would meet with while in his territory.

We stayed two days at Sonmeanee to replenish our stock of provisions, which was to last till our return, as also to hire fresh camels in place of those brought from Kurrachee as they do not thrive on the forage found in this part of the country, and are less strong and healthy than those bred in the hills. The people crowded out of the town to look at me, but I did not experience any incivility. In the afternoon I strolled into the bazar, which contains only a few date and grain shops. The population does not exceed a thousand souls, mostly Noomreecas and fishermen, with a few Hindoo agents, shopkeepers and artisans. Seedee slaves are in great numbers, and many of them, both girls and boys, begged me to purchase them. So far have some of the Hindoos resident here got over their prejudices, that they employ slaves as household servants to clean their cooking utensils; but others of their caste will not eat with them.

A tax is levied by the Jam on all pilgrims, not beggars, for which protection is supposed to be afforded them while on the journey. In our case this was omitted, in consideration of Thaomul's master being in the habit of sending large investments of merchandise by way of Sonmeanee to Afghanistan. At midday on the 25th we resumed our journey; the Dewan accompanying me some distance. At parting I made him a present of a loongee with which he was much pleased. The direct route being wet, and unsafe for the camels, we kept along the beach until reaching the head of the bay into which the Pooralee river empties itself, we turned north, and keeping close to the edge of the sand hills, which border the mangrove swamp called "Gooroo Chela ka run," reached a pool of fresh water, where we halted.

On the borders of this swamp two small mounds of earth mark the graves of a Priest and his disciple who are said to have perished here about twenty years ago on their way back from Hinglaj. Their story was thus related by the Agwa. "A Chela fainting with thirst begged his Gooroo to give him a draught of water, as his toomree (drinking vessel) had none in it. At this time, that of the Gooroo was full, but thinking he should himself require it, he denied having any, and the unfortunate disciple dropped down dead.

“The false Priest then intended to refresh himself, but on lifting the jar to his mouth, to his horror he found it quite empty; the water having been miraculously dried up by the goddess Mata in punishment for his hard-heartedness. Staggering on a few paces, he also fell to the ground and expired.” It is customary for pilgrims to throw a dry stick on his grave, and water on that of the Chela, but most people do so on both, as their fate was alike.

The salt flat at the head of the run not being passable, was the cause of our making a circuit to Churoo. It is merely a place of encampment, near which a few herds of she camels are seen feeding on the tamarisk jungle which covers the inlets from the swamp. A short distance from our encampment the tomb of Shaik Ali, or Swamee was pointed out to me, built on one of the low ridges of sand which here extend inland as far as the eye can reach, covered with stunted milkbush and tufts of coarse grass. One of my Hindoo companions remarked that I must not be surprised to find “Saints” burried all over the country, for in Sinde, every Mahomedan who travelled on foot called himself a Fukeer; if on horseback a Meer; and when they died were sure to be honored with the title of Peer, if their friends could afford to build a tomb over them.

Next day we crossed the Thura, a flat which extends many miles between Lyaree and Shaik ka raj. Brushwood abounds on it, and both cattle and goats find pasture there. Continuing a westerly course, we came to the Pooralee river, an insignificant stream with a muddy bottom. It rises in the hills north of Beila, and is said always to have water in its bed, but the cultivators of Lyaree raise embankments across it for the purpose of irrigating their fields, so that unless after heavy rain, it cannot be called a running stream below that town. Beyond it a gradual rise brought us to another range of sandy hillocks, in the midst of which we encamped near a small well of brackish water. This is generally the first stage from Sonmeanee. Dambo, likewise, is only a halting place, as are all the stations on the route to Hinglaj, without the sign of a habitation or a human being near them. The few Noomreeas who are scattered over the face of the country keep their flocks at a distance from the high road to avoid being plundered, but whenever they see a kafila, they come with their families to beg for food. It has become an acknowledged custom for all travellers to give it, and even the mendicants themselves spare a portion of their coarse bread for this purpose. Money (save a few Sonmeanee pice to pay for milk when it can be had,) is almost useless, for nothing is to be purchased in this barren waste. A mile beyond Dambo before quitting the sand hills,

a small grove of tamarisk trees is passed, noticed as being of greater size than those met with elsewhere. On descending the ridge the road crosses the heads of a number of inlets running into an extensive back water from the sea. Ascending a gentle rise, we came on a plain covered with a small bush called Lanee or Lanoo, on which the camels fed with great avidity. Of this plant there are two kinds, the male named lanoo, and the female lanee. They are much the same in appearance, excepting that the leaf of the latter is shorter and thicker than the former. Potash is produced by burning the male plant, which is taken to Kurrachee and Sonmeanee, and sells at about four and a half Cassees (100lbs.) per Rupee. This tract is called Chura more particularly that portion of it where low tamarisk bushes flourish, and pools of rain water, with one or two wells are found. The open plain extends to the foot of the lesser range of the Hara mountains and inland to a great distance.

Twelve miles from Damboo we found the wells at Kaltewara, the encamping ground, choked; nor did we discover water until reaching the Haras, when the pool of a waterfall about half a mile up a ravine was pointed out to us by a Beerooee whom we casually fell in with on his way to Sonmeanee to dispose of some camels. This range of mountains although their height is not very great, presents a singularly wild appearance, from their rising at once from the plain at an angle of about forty-five degrees on their eastern sides, with a greater slope to the westward, and being totally bare of all verdure. They are composed of sandstone and their summits are broken into rugged peaks of the most fantastic shapes. Our route the next day ran along their bases, and after passing the beds of many dry nullas, and some heaps of stones marking the last resting places of pilgrims who had died from fatigue, we came to a pass near their south eastern extremity, where they sink into the plain about four miles from the sea. The pass is termed "Googroo Bherum Luk," and a gentle ascent leads to the top of the height, whence a view is obtained of the great range of the Hara, running almost at right angles to the lesser. The Phor river flows between them, through a plain similar to that we had crossed; its banks fringed with a narrow belt of tamarisk jungle. Under a stunted tree in the Luk, from the branches of which thousands of pieces of red rag fluttered in the breeze, pooja was offered up to the guardians of the pass. After crossing the low ridge of the mountains, a number of Mahomedan tombs are seen scattered on each side of the road. On one of these (the burial place of a family with six tombs stones on its platform) a needle and thread were deposited

by each person. They were told of a Moosalmanee being there buried who was a great favorite of "Shree Mata's," in consequence of her visiting the temple of Hinglaj and making some presents of clothes. The Agwa would not touch the offerings made to her, but left them to be carried off by the Noomreeas.

Crossing the Phor river in which water is occasionally found in pools, and can always be procured by digging, we halted at the Tilook Poo-ree wells, where an extensive marsh was formed by the late rain. One koss from them in a westerly direction, three hills of extremely light coloured earth rise abruptly from the plain. That in the centre is about four hundred feet in height, of a conical form with the apex flattened and discoloured; its southern and western sides rather precipitous, but with a more gradual slope on the others. It is connected with a small one of the same form, but not more than half its size, by a causeway some fifty paces in length. The third bears the appearance of the cone having been depressed and broken, and covers a greater extent of ground than the others. All three towards their bases are indented with numerous fissures, and cavities, which run far into their interior. Their sides are streaked with channels as if from water having flowed down them. On ascending to the summit of the highest one, I observed a basin of liquid mud about one hundred paces in circumference, occupying its entire crest. Near the southern edge, at intervals of a quarter of a minute, a few small bubbles appeared on the surface; that part of the mass was then gently heaved up, and a jet of liquid mud, about a foot in diameter, rose to that height. Another heave followed, and three jets rose; but the third time only two. They were not of sufficient magnitude to disturb the whole surface, the mud of which at a distance from the irruption was of a thicker consistency than where it took place. The pathway around the edge was slippery and unsafe, from its being quite saturated with moisture, which gives the top a dark coloured appearance. On the southern side, a channel a few feet in breadth was quite wet from the irruption having recently flowed down it. I was told that every "Monday" the jets rise with greater rapidity than at other times, and then only did any of the mud ooze out of the basin. The entire coating of the hill appears to be composed of this slime baked by the sun to hardness. No stones are to be found on it, but near the base, I picked up a few pieces of quartz.

Crossing the ridge which connects this hill with the least of the three, I climbed up its rather steep side. In height or compass it is not half the magnitude of its neighbour, and its basin, which is full of the same liquid mud, cannot be more than twenty paces in diameter.

The edge is so narrow and broken that I did not attempt to walk round it. One jet only rose on its surface, and it is not more than an inch in height or breadth. But a very small portion of the mass was disturbed by its action, and although the plain below bore evident marks of having been once deluged to a short distance with its stream, no irruption had apparently taken place for some years. At times the surface of this pool sinks almost to the level of the plain; at others it rises so as to overflow its basin, but generally it remains in the quiescent state in which I saw it. Two years ago it was many feet below the edge of the crest.

On my way to the third hill, I passed over a flat of a few hundred yards which divides it from the other two. Its sides are much more furrowed with fissures than theirs are, although their depth is less, and its crest is more extended, and its height about two hundred feet. On reaching the summit I observed a large circular cavity some fifty paces in diameter, in which were two distinct pools of unequal size divided by a mound of earth; one containing liquid mud, and the other *clear* water. The surface of the former was slightly agitated by about a dozen small jets which bubbled up at intervals; but in the latter one alone was occasionally discernible. A space of a few yards extends on three sides from the outer crust to the edge of the cavity, which is about fifty feet above the level of the pools. Their sides are scarped and uneven. On descending the northern face, I remarked a small stream of clear water flowing from one of the fissures into the plain. It had evidently only been running a few hours. The mud and water of all the pools is salt. A fourth hill situated close to the great range of Haras, and distant from the rest upwards of six miles was pointed out as having a similar cavity to that last described. Its colour is the same, and although the surface is more rounded, its summit appears broken. I regretted not having time to visit it.

The name given to these singular productions of nature is the "Koops of Raja Rama Chandra," by which appellation they are known to all tribes. The legend of their formation as recounted by the Agwa is as follows. — "After the abduction of Seeta by Ravan," among others engaged in endeavouring to discover the place of her concealment was Sedasheo (a form of Mahadeo.) For twelve years did he unceasingly prosecute the search without success. Worn out at length by his fruitless exertions and enraged at his unprofitable toil he dashed his "Biboot" (cake made of the fine ashes of cow-dung,* for rubbing on the neck and arms, or marking the

* Ashes are symbolical of Siva or destructive fire. Moor's Hindu Pantheon.

forehead) on the ground. It split into *eighteen pieces*, and formed as many Kooops. Seeta, in the form of Shree Mata instantly appeared, and after chiding him for his passion informed him that she had all the time been his constant companion in the shape of a "Mukee" or fly, seated on his "Biboot." In gratitude for his exertions on her behalf, she ordained that previous to visiting her Temple, every pilgrim should pay his devotions at one of the "Kooops," which Sedasheo named, after her husband "Rama Chandra," and his spirit is supposed to inhabit them. Seven of the Kooops are said to be in this neighbourhood : four have been noticed, but the situation of the others is not known. The remaining eleven are spread over the main land near the island of "Sata Deveep," on the coast of Mukran.

Before visiting these strange looking mounds, it was necessary for our party to bake a cake composed of fine flour, almonds, raisins, sugar, spices, &c. as an appropriate offering to the Great Rama. It is called a "Rot," and was made under the superintendence of the officers named at the Hub river. Each person contributed a portion of the ingredients except the Gosaens, who had nothing to give ; but even they brought in fuel from the jungle. A hole of the size required was first dug in the ground, and partly filled with a layer of hot ashes, on which the "Rot" was placed and covered up. The following morning it was taken out, carefully wrapped in a piece of new cloth, slung on a pole, and carried in turn by the pilgrims, two and two. On our way to the Kooops, shouts of "Chandra Raja jee jue," and "Hinglaj jee jue," were loudly vociferated. The centre and highest one was that to which we bent our steps. On nearing its summit, the Agwa cried out "Bol Rama Chandra jee bol!" (speak O Ram Chundur) and on reaching the crest of the hill my companions saw to their astonishment, the basin of liquid mud in which the jets were rising, apparently at the call of their leader. Ranging the pilgrims on either side of him, the Agwa lighted a fire and scattered some red powder near it, after which he invoked the spirit of the Hill, under the epithets of "Gooroojee Maharaj, Undata" (head giver) said that a "Rot" composed of choice ingredients had been duly prepared, and begged him to partake of it. A piece having been cut out of it was thrown on the mass. The most important part of the ceremony then commenced. Taking a cocoanut from the hands of the Agent, the Agwa held it above his head, and thus exclaimed. "Raja Rama Chandra, Pran Bukhsha (Guardian of our lives) Gooroojee Maharaj, Undata, I offer thee this cocoanut in the name of Thaomul of Hyderabad, who humbly entreats

your intercession on behalf of himself, his forefathers and descendants, say that you receive it, Bol jee bol!" A single jet only rose, and he continued, "Khoob, bol Maharaj!" and when two or three were thrown up, the nut was cast in and Thaomul was highly gratified at the acknowledgement of his offering. The anxious countenances of the spectators strongly marked the deep interest they took in the ceremony. Any interval elapsing between calling the name of a person, and the rising of a jet is considered as most unfortunate; but the Agwa generally timed his address so as to please every one. Poor people who cannot afford a cocoanut, have a little water thrown in for them. One of the females with us, who had frequently sworn she was totally destitute when pressed for fees by the Agwa, was in such extasies of delight when the three jets rose to her name that she put that number of rupees into his hand. The mud was too thick to allow the nuts to sink, and as soon as the pilgrims left, the Noomreeas with us tied sticks together, and soon collected them all. A ball of the mud was carried away by each individual, and I was told Gruhusts used it on particular occasions to mark their foreheads, but Gosaens took it to a temple in Nepal.

The other koops were not visited by the party. The smallest of the three, from its sometimes sinking below the edge of the basin, and at others overflowing, is called the "Deewanu," or distracted. A story is related of a Gosaen who once made an offering to it, yet, notwithstanding the invocation of the Agwa, no jet rose. Being convinced of the enormity of his transgressions he determined to commit suicide by throwing himself into the basin. This first attempt at self destruction was unsuccessful, the upward action of the mud ejecting him to the surface, whence he was dragged by his friends. Once more he threw himself in, and a second time was cast up. A third trial was equally useless, when rendered desperate at the idea of Rama Chandra being so prejudiced against him, he took a fourth determined spring, and the deity overcome by his obstinacy allowed him to sink to rise no more. Fifteen days afterwards his body was found floating on the sea shore. The third Kooop is said to have been ordered by Rama to place itself within the range of the Hara* mountains, but stumbled and fell in on its way; and the fourth which adjoins them was equally unfortunate in that respect although it reached their base.

The Mahomedans with me said they believed the Kooops to be affected by the tide, (the sea is not more than a mile distant from the

* Hara is one of the name of Vishnoo. Moor's Hindu Pantheon.

large one) but this I had reason to doubt as neither they or any of the numerous persons I questioned who had visited them at all times, ever remembered having seen the pools quiescent ; although several had been on the large hill when the mud was trickling over the side of the basin. To endeavour to ascertain when it overflowed, I placed several dry clods of earth in the bed of the channel on a Saturday, as I expected to return by the same route the following week. A range of low hills of irregular form lie to the westward of, and almost close to, the Chundur Koops. I had not time to examine them, but from their appearance imagined they contained sulphur, and on questioning one of the persons with me, he said the taste of the earth was like that of the hot springs near Sehwan, where it is known to abound. A Noomreea present told me that six koss off there was a hill called the " Sulphur mountain" where that mineral was found in large quantities ; and he added that the hills between Lyaree and Beila were a mass of copper ore, but that the Jam would not allow it to be worked.

To the westward of the Chundar Koops, and on the borders of the sea, a low range of hills of almost a quadrangular form are situated. They are called the " Sath Durwazu," being said to contain that number of doors, leading to the private apartments of " Shree Mata." The spot is considered as exclusively her territory, and no Hindoo dares to set foot within its precincts. To spit, or defile in any way so holy a place, would be visited with instant perdition. It is related that an adventurous Agwa once had the hardihood to lead a band of pilgrims there. They passed through three of the doors, and were seen no more. A short distance beyond them is an isolated rock, called the " Goorab-i-sung" or the vessel of stone, of which, as the Agwa pointed it out to our notice, he related the following tale. " A wealthy Shet named Kowaljee freighted a vessel from Hindoostan to carry himself and a large party to Hinglaj. When near this spot he exclaimed from the decks of the boat, " My toils are at an end ; we have reached the holy ground, I see the Hinglaj mountain !" His companions begged him not to be so decided in his language as he might give offence to Shree Mata, the more particularly as he was approaching her domain by an unusual route. No persuasion however could induce him to believe that further perils awaited him, now that the vessel all but touched the shore ; when the Goddess justly indignant at his arrogance and presumption, transformed the boat and every soul on board into stone. He concluded with a warning to the pilgrims to beware of over confidence in their own strength, and added, that although a few years ago,

the figures of both men and women were plainly visible from the shore, at present all but a small part of the stern of the vessel was covered with sand.

Since this catastrophe it is customary never to speak in positive terms of any occurrence taking place either on the journey to, or on the way back from the temple. The distance of the day's march, the chance of finding water, or the probable time of arrival was only alluded to by my companions on "Ugl Punt" or conjecture. The word was in every one's mouth, and used the more frequently from an idea that by doing so, they showed the reliance they placed on the benevolence of their Goddess.

Leaving the Koops on our left, we continued our route towards the Hara mountains, increasing our distance from the sea as we advanced, and crossed the beds of many dry nullas, the banks of which were thickly lined with tamarisk and baubul. This tract is called the "Chota Soongul" and a well in one of its water courses is the usual halting place. We found it quite dry and pushed on three miles further to the "Burra Soongul" where, in a nulla at no great distance from the mountains, we came to another well with sufficient water for us all. Next morning the Agwa divided the pilgrims into pairs, told them they were to consider themselves as brothers and sisters from that hour; made them eat from each others hands; and they then rolled down a sand bank together.

From the Soonguls the road runs nearly parallel to the mountains, which here present the same features as the lesser Haras, decreasing like them in height as they near the sea; but a range towering far above them was pointed out as the spot where the far famed temple of Hinglaj was situated. We passed this day an encampment of Beerooees. About twenty families were pitched on the banks of a ravine where wood and water were found in sufficient quantity to supply their wants. A cloth of camel or goat hair stretched over a pole formed their dwelling, and for their food, the milk of their flocks prepared in various ways with a very small quantity of the coarsest grain, satisfied them. The dress of the men consisted of loose drawers with a cloth thrown over the shoulders; that of the women merely a long garment reaching from the neck to the ankles.

We now skirted the base of the mountains, and passing between them and a low broken range running at right angles, came in sight of the pass leading to the Aghor river. An easy ascent of a few hundred yards led us to the summit, and a gentle slope of half a mile brought us to the banks of the stream, to drink

the water of which, is in itself esteemed a blessing. The view, as we turned up its course was magnificent. The river here flows through a break in the mountains about two hundred yards in width. The faces of the rocks which overhang the current are broken and craggy. Those on the left bank are higher and more scarp'd than the opposite ones. Beyond them in the distance is seen a range of light coloured sand hills having the appearance of a cluster of conical shaped peaks; and towering far above them are the blue mountains of Hinglaj, precipitous and wild. A square peak rising like a pillar among them is pointed out as the "Asun" or throne of the deity, where she seats herself to dry her hair in the wind, after her morning ablutions. "There," said our Agwa pointing to the broken rocks which overhung the banks about half a mile from the pass, "are the mighty hills of Jue and Beejue, the guardians of Shree Mata's sanctuary. Once they were Janitors at the gate of Indra's heaven, but neglecting the duties of their high office were punished by being transformed into hills and placed in front of Hinglaj at a very great distance from each other. Humbly they acknowledged their fault, and on begging to know the term of their release, their appeased master promised that in proportion as the descendants of Rama's army passed between them on their way to Shree Mata's Durshun, so should their distance be gradually lessened, until the time when the pilgrimage had been performed by all, they should meet together, and be released from their thraldóm on earth. Ever since that time they have been drawing nearer to each other."

We encamped above the tamarisk jungle, close under the hill of "Beejue." The width of the stream at this part was about sixty yards. The water like that of the Indus, contains a great quantity of sand. It reaches the sea six miles from the pass, and on ascending an eminence I saw several fishing boats, said to be from Kurachee, Sonmeanee and Oormura, anchored off its mouth. A large party of upwards of fifty Hyderabad Banians with their families had arrived the day before us, and their Agwa settled with ours that the next morning both parties were to proceed into the mountain.

All but the Nuspurees were now directed to shave off every hair from their bodies (save the "Shendee" or lock on the crown of the head) and throw it into the river. Our operator was one of the Jhut camel drivers, not a professed artist, and to judge from the groans of those under his hands, he must have scraped as much skin as hair away. After bathing we commenced our journey on foot, leaving the heavy baggage behind. Keeping along the left bank of the stream

(called the "Hingool" above the gates of Jue and Beejue) for nearly a mile we struck off towards the range of sand hills named "Dowlagurh." They are from three to four hundred feet in height, covered from base to summit with numberless conical shaped, ribbed peaks of a light brown colour. Towards the plain a few are coated with a crust of dark coloured sandstone, with which at one time the entire surface appears to have been covered. Before reaching them, worship was performed to "Guneshu" the decapitated infant, under a tree to which red rags were tied as usual. The path into the hills leads a short way up a ravine, and then over several ascents and descents, of no great height but very winding, to the plain on the opposite side. While in the hills, offerings of needles and thread were made in front of a stone called "Soozun Bherum," and of sooparce nuts, &c. near two others named "Munsha Devee" and "Mumga Devee." I picked up many pieces of mica when in the ravines, which my companions called "Goruk Misree" and "Cheratee." Passing over a plain on the north east side about a mile in length and half that breadth, we reached the river again, and crossed it at a spot where it is divided into two channels by a small island. Many of the pebbles in its bed have a white ring round them, and the pilgrims collect them supposing they represent the God Sedasheeo. A violent north easterly wind, which set in on our return to the camp was attributed to the wrath of the river at some having been carried off, and the Agwas insisted on their being thrown back again. This river is always a running stream; it is said to have a very long course, and fills on the melting of the snows to the northward; or as the natives described it, without rain falling. The mountain, the highest in this part of the range, is remarkable from its face towards the stream rising perpendicularly to nearly a thousand feet. To its right, the pathway turns up the dry bed of a nulla, in which lies a large block of rock split into two parts said by the Mahomedans to have been struck by Huzrut Ali's sword. In a valley beyond it, "Guneshu," the adult is worshipped, and two miles further another stone marks the cell of the Goddess "Assa Poora," through which flows a stream. We here halted for the night.

Next morning at day light I was asked to see the ceremony of cutting off the "Shendee" from the head of Thaumul's son. The pilgrimage had been undertaken for the sole purpose of performing this operation before the effigy of "Assa Poora." Eight years previous, his father had visited the temple, and vowed if the Goddess blessed him with male progeny he would offer the

hair of his offspring at this spot. A twelvemonth afterwards the boy now with us was born. All the party were seated near the ochre coloured stone when I reached it, and a Bramin was reciting a portion of the shastres. A Mahomedan then cut off the Shendee, which being placed near it, Thaomul received the congratulations of his friends, and each person gave a few pice to the barber. We now all rose, and followed the course of the stream along a narrow stony track to a gorge in the mountains, not more than twenty feet in width, and in length about half a mile. On each side perpendicular cliffs almost excluded the light of day, and the bottom was choked up by large fragments of rock, the oleander, and thorny bushes. A short distance from its entrance we reached a low natural cave, some thirty feet in width and ten in depth, in the interior of which a broken part of the rock, a few feet from the ground, was shewn as the effigy of the Goddess "Kalee." Male goats without blemish, (which had been brought for the purpose) were here sacrificed. Those who offered them first carefully washed the animal, and then led it up to the spot. The smell of the blood of former sacrifices caused it to tremble, which was considered as a sign of its being acceptable to the deity; its head was marked with red paint by the Agwa, and a Mahomedan (to whom the carcass was afterwards given) cut its throat. The blood having been collected on a platter was thrown upon the sandy rock, a small quantity only trickling down. Ardent spirits were also dashed against it, and the pilgrims, having each been touched on the forehead with the gore, bathed. Our cooks being Pakran Bramins who never destroy life, only offered cocoanuts. When all was concluded, the Agwa drew our attentions to the fact of the blood having been absorbed by the rock, and informed his followers that "Kalee" was highly gratified with both it and the spirits she had drank. A Nuspuree with the Banians, a hideous looking fellow without a nose, swallowed some of the blood as an inducement for spirits to be given him, in preference to others who were standing by with the same expectations. We all now returned to "Assa Poora" and in the evening proceeded a quarter of a mile beyond the scene of the morning sacrifice, to another cave, similar in shape to, but of larger dimensions than, that of "Kalee," and situated on the same side of the cliff. At its western extremity, a small mud edifice about twenty feet in length and twelve in depth, built under the projecting rock contains the effigy of Hinglaj. A few steps lead up to a doorway on its eastern side, forming the entrance to two rooms, where music and singing are performed. Between them and the rock is another doorway leading to the effigy,

an oblong stone within a railed space, in size and shape like a small Mahomedan tombstone, but raised and hollowed a little at each end for the purposes of holding the sacred fire. At its foot a conical stone * about a feet in height is called Sedasheo. Both are colored with red ochre, as is the arch of the rock above. The whole stands on a raised earthen platform between which and the rock is a narrow passage forming the segment of a circle, barely large enough for a man to enter. It is called the "Shuru," and through it has each pilgrim to crawl on his hands and knees. In front of the cave, the stream forms a small pool, on the other side of which is a large block of rock called the "Chotee Chourassee." Near the summit of the opposite mountain, in a small cave, the figures of the sun, moon and stars, denoted by circular patches of red ochre, said to have been painted by Rama, are seen. The interior of the cave of Hinglaj being occupied by the women and children, the men lay down on the rocks outside. Before night fall another party joined us, so that altogether we numbered upwards of two hundred persons. No one is permitted to remain at the temple more than one night, and a story is told of some wandering Gosaens who once took up their abode in the cave; but their folly in daring to reside in so sanctified a spot was soon punished, for they all sickened and died in less than a fortnight. As it became dark, numerous fires were lighted, and parties seated themselves round them to wile away the time in reciting Mata's praises, for it is not proper to sleep while so near her sanctuary.

As they crowded into the Temple to make their offerings, the men of money, goolal, and spices, and the women of embroidered handkerchiefs, and small chottas of silver, shouts of Jue Hinglaj jee, jue Mata, broke on the stillness of the night. The whole of the "Cherees" (eight in number) were placed at the head of the stone. A small one (called *half* a Cheree) is always kept near it, and the Goddess, is said to have ordered that two more should be placed there by pilgrims daily. The number of persons we met on the road in the short space of a month, from the Punjab, Malwa, Guzerat and the Southern provinces of India (upwards of five hundred) shews that the calculation is not exaggerated. About eleven o'clock when talking to one of the Agwas, I heard that a woman was possessed by the Goddess and went into the cave to look at her. She was seated on the ground near a fire, her hair dishevelled, rocking her head to and fro in a most frantic manner, occasionally shaking it from side to side, with much violence, and then rubbing her face on the

* The Linga, the symbol of the Regenerator Siva.

ground. She appeared to be about thirty years of age, and, to judge from her not having a nose-ring, a widow. For nearly half an hour did she continue these furious gestures, one man beating a drum, and another a pair of cymbals, and singing the praise of Hinglaj. Close to her the blaze of most of the fires had expired; the roof of the cave was blackened with smoke; the startled looks of some of the women, who, fatigued with watching, were roused from their sleep by their companions to witness the sight of the possessed one, as reclining on their arms they looked with terror on the scene; the sound of the rushing stream, mingled with the discordant notes of the music, the crowd who gazed with half averted eyes on what they considered as the manifestation of the presence of their deity, and the chill feelings from the cold damp breeze, all conspired to impress the spectators with awe and anxiety. Worn out by her exertions, the motion of the woman's head became less rapid, and at length she sank on the ground. In a few minutes she recovered her composure. All then turned towards the temple, and joined in a shout of "Jue Hinglaj," "jue Mata; jue Kalee, jue, jee, jee, jec." Some boiled moong, intended as an offering was then handed round, and the lookers on returned to their places. The mind of this female was doubtless wound up to a pitch of high excitement by her unusual situation; the thoughts of her loneliness in the world, the offering of her hair which she was about to make in the temple, and probably the belief that the wrath of the dread Goddess had caused the loss of her husband and consequent deprivation of all rank in life, together with an awe of the ceremonies to be performed before morning, may have caused her to fancy herself visited by her spirit. Neither the Agwas, Brahmins or Nusparees took any notice, as I expected they would, of this occurrence. I have since learnt that it is not an uncommon one in Scinde; females at Kurachee and other towns have been frequently seized in a similar manner.

At midnight all the women and children were directed to bathe in the pool, and keeping on only sufficient clothing for the purpose of decency, went inside the building, from which all but the Agwas were excluded. They were then divested of all ornaments they had been unwise enough to retain on their persons (even the nose-ring was obliged to be ransomed) and sent two by two, the right hand of one sister being placed on the leg of the other, on their hands and knees into the narrow opening in the rock under the platform. On coming out on the opposite side they again bathed, and then resumed their clothes. It was bitterly cold, but they appeared

to tremble as much from dread of the ceremony as from their immersion in the pool. It is supposed that any one with whom the Goddess is displeased would not be able to get through. The screams of the children were most pitiable on being plunged, half asleep, into the water. Some of them were infants, but all shared alike. The men in pairs as brothers followed next with the same ceremonies, and all passed before 4 A. M. This ceremony is called passing the "Shuru of Hinglaj" and is explained thus, — that all persons entering the cavity, consign themselves to the womb of the Goddess where they seek "Shuru" (refuge, protection) from the punishment justly merited by their sins; and on emerging as being reborn, purified from former transgressions. They bathe before going into the dark aperture to cleanse themselves from bodily impurities, and on coming out, because a newly born infant is always washed. The time chosen (the morning watch) is on account of that being the period during which the Goddess visits her temple here. Her arrival is made known by the loud murmuring of the Hingool river expressive of its joy at her presence. The other seven pruhurs* she remains at her favorite residence of Sata Deveep.

As soon as it was day light, the pilgrims crowded into the temple, and repeated certain prayers recited by the Agwas; after which a necklace of Toomra beads was hung round their necks. These necklaces are made of a small white stone, in shape and appearance like a grain of Jowaree seed, found on the hill of Macalla, near Tatta. They are bored and strung for this purpose. The attention of all was now directed to a white streak of stone embedded in the rock near the pool, shaped somewhat like a tongue. It is said to be that of the Giant King Muhishu torn out and placed there by Maha Maga after her victory over him. It was thrice washed by each pilgrim, and stamped upon as often, to shew their detestation of his crime for having warred against their Gods. The rock called the "Chotee Chaurassee" was next climbed up by those unable from weakness or infirmity to ascend the mountains to the holy well, and they walked three times round its summit. The rest of the pilgrims set out for the "Great Chaurassee," over which it is considered necessary to pass, to ensure the full benefit supposed to be derived from performing the pilgrimage. After leaving the Temple the cry of Hinglaj jee jue, is changed to "Bolo Kapreeo" (shout o ye clothed,) given by the Agwa, and "Shuru Hinglaj" (may Hinglaj defend us) echoed by his followers. A short distance beyond the cave on

* प्रहर. A watch of the day; a period of three hours.

reaching the base of the mountains at the head of the gorge, a narrow pathway, marked only by the steps of former visitors, leads along the side of the rock up a defile to the right. Ascending the bed of a torrent with much difficulty over the large blocks of stone, and pausing frequently to take breath, we reached a cave called "Goruk ka Goopha," where a famous ascetic once resided. It is now nearly filled with the sticks of pilgrims; it being customary for each person to leave one there; and a number of Gosaens earthen plates are also collected in it, on which many names are scratched in charcoal. Pooja having been performed, the Agwa told me that whenever the Noomreeas or Beerooees required good wood, they came to this cave for it, which accounted for its not being completely filled. Passing along its front, the path ascends the side of the mountain for a few hundred yards, and then turning up a water course, reaches the summit of the range, over which a winding track of about two miles brought us to a low building of wood, coated with chunam, called "Nanuk ka Dhurumsala." On a square ground in front of it are casts of the soles of a man's feet in chunam. Worship was performed, and sweatmeats distributed by Thaomul. Twenty years ago a Hindoo of Sonmeanee repaired this building, but the roof soon fell in, and it has not been touched since.

Half a mile beyond this a heap of brushwood marks the spot where he resided before retiring to the cave; and at about the same distance, after crossing a ledge of black rock, the "Uteet koond" is seen. It is a pool nearly fifteen yards in diameter, formed by a cascade which falls into it in the rains, and divided into two parts by a wall of rock in which is a natural archway. The sides are perpendicular and the level of the water about twenty feet below the edge of the fall. It is said to be unfathomable, and Goruk for twelve years was engaged in the unprofitable task of twisting a rope to endeavour to ascertain its depth, without success. Each Agwa with his Cheree in his hand jumped into the pool followed by his party. Few of those with me took the leap under the plea of not being able to swim, but bathed with the women below the archway. The nuspurees were not allowed to hesitate, although many evidently feared to jump. The Hyderabad Banians, who had spent a great deal of money on the trip were determined to make the most of it, and plunged in without hesitation. I followed their example, and was surprized to find how rapidly I rose again to the surface after springing from such a height. The water was most unpleasantly cold. Many cocoanut and sooparee nuts were thrown in; the name of a friend or relative being repeat-

ed each time. A small plant which grows in the crevices of the rock round the pool was much sought after by the pilgrims, who stated that it was not found any where else, and attributed to its virtue of a prolific character if placed in an amulet and worn round the neck. It is called "Raj huns" and its leaves must be gathered by the *lips*, or if possible by the *eyelids*. A bed of rushes hides the stream after it leaves the basin, a short distance from which is a perpendicular wall of sandstone marking the limit of the pilgrimage.

After a slight repast we set out on our return. As far as "Nanuk's Dhurumsalla," the route is the same as that leading to the "Uteet koond," but it then turns off to the left, and winds among the hills, until reaching the head of a ravine, where a coloured stone marks the last station for Pooja to be offered, named "Jholee Jhar Bherum." The contents of each Jholee, or bag worn by the pilgrims to carry their offerings in, were here made over to the Agwa, and we then descended to the valley of Assa Poora.

Soon after reaching our encampment a party of armed Beerooes arrived there on their way to Beila, to learn the state of affairs. They requested me to give them tobacco and medicine, said they lived from hand to mouth, and now that their Chief was killed (he had fallen at Kelat) were worse off than before. They imagined I had come to see if the country was worth taking (as indeed did every one I met) and assured me it would never repay the trouble of conquering it. The authority of Mehrab Khan, they said, was acknowledged as far as the borders of Persia, and although his possessions had been encroached on by the Imaum of Muscat, who had seized all the towns along the coast, and the Ameers of Sinda who had taken Kurachee and other places, his territory was still of great extent. Kelat the capital, had been always looked on, as a "maiden city," under the descendant of a line of Kings, who fell as became him on his throne, &c.

This party was merely, I imagine, on the look out for plunder, as a day or two after our return to the banks of the Aghor river, they again passed us without stopping as usual for food, and that same evening one of our camels was missing; stolen no doubt by them.

Having refreshed ourselves with a night's rest, we returned the following morning to our former encampment on the river, and every individual present was fed by Thaomul. Ghee was not spared on this occasion (we had been much stinted on the march) for had not every thing been of the best, it would have been left untouched, to his indelible disgrace. The Nuspurees were first served. Seated

in rows each with his vessel of water by his side. The agent, his son and friends washed the feet of all the Bramins with us, and then distributed the victuals. When all were ready one of the Agwas rose, and three times shouted "Bolo Kapreeo;" the impatient guests replying "Shuru Hinglaj." This was the signal to fall to, and they did ample justice to the meal. When human nature could endure no more, some sooparee was handed round, a pice given to each, and they were dismissed, to make room for the females. The Banyans followed next, and then our party sat down. This night I believe that all were satisfied; as the gratifying thought that nothing had gone wrong in any of the ceremonies, made all happy.

In the morning, Thaomul's son was taken to the river and invested with the Jeneoo or sacred thread; presents were made to the Agwas and Bramins, and the day concluded with another feast in commemoration of this important event. The next two days the assembled party was entertained by the Banyans. Many Noomreeas who came to the camp brought pieces of "Mukee," or zinc (?) which are washed down from the mountains in the rains, to sell to the pilgrims, by whom they are looked on as effigies of their Goddess when she appeared in the shape of a "Mukee" or fly to Seedasheo. Worn around the neck they are supposed to avert evil.

Before leaving the river many persons consider it necessary to bathe in a well, built in the bed of the stream, near the bluff rock on which are the ruins of a small fort, called "Rana-ka-kot." It is said to have been built when the Hindoos held the sovereignty of the country to protect the pilgrims going to Hinglaj from the pirates who used to row up the river to plunder them. It covers the whole face of the rock, and consists of two towers, joined by an embankment, with a well in the centre. The foundations now alone remain. On the left bank, not far from it are the remains of an ancient village, the name of which has been long since forgotten, and on the high ground in its neighbourhood many Mahomedan tombs are scattered. After heavy rain it is said that pieces of silver are occasionally found on the site of the village, but I was not able to obtain any, and imagine, that although some may once have been seen, yet were it now supposed that the most minute search would be rewarded by even a copper coin, the abject poverty of the people would induce them to dig up the whole surface in searching for it.

I made many inquiries regarding the numerous Mahomedan tombs scattered over the face of the country, near many of which not the slightest trace of a habitation remains, and the situation of some is so far from streams or wells, that the cause of their having

been erected in such barren spots, cannot now be accounted for. I imagine that when the Mahomedans had established themselves in Sinde, their detachments were stationed in all parts to keep the inhabitants in check ; and the spirit of conversion being then predominant, they buried their dead with much ceremony, and erected stone tombs over them, to impress the idolators with a high sense of the excellence of that faith which decreed such honours to the departed. On the decline of the Mogul Empire, when the troops were required for the defence of the interior, these detachments were withdrawn ; the mud huts of the camps soon fell to decay ; the population which had been drawn together from the jungle, and derived a subsistence by raising grain for their consumption, again spread over the country, and resumed their pastoral habits, when the demand for the produce of their cultivation ceased. The embankments raised for irrigation were swept away on the flooding of the streams ; the log lined wells soon fell in ; and these monuments of stone alone remained to shew where the camps had existed. The very name of the stations, probably that of the first chief who pitched his standard on the spot, was soon forgotten by the wandering tribes who fed their flocks in the vicinity, when the memorials of his stay had crumbled into dust.

The Aghor river is the boundary between the territory of the Jam of Beila and that of the Khan of Kelat, the chief of the Berooees. They and the Noomreeas do not intermarry, and although at present at peace with each other, have no hesitation in robbing and plundering whenever opportunity offers. The Berooees are usually the aggressors, being better armed, and their places of residence in the mountainous countries of Mukran and Beloochistan, little known. The very day I reached the Aghor, a party of them, under a person named Dad Ruheem, on their way to Beila, took from the huts of two Noomreeas every article they could lay hands on, and levied a contribution of grain from the Hyderabad pilgrims encamped there. They likewise stopped some of the people with whom I was travelling, who were in advance of the baggage, but on learning that a British Officer was of their party, they instantly let them go. At the Berooee encampment also they demanded some sheep as a present, but a Noomreea I had left there to purchase milk, threatened them with my anger if they dared to seize even one. Such is the effect which has been produced on the mind of these lawless men by the capture of Kelat, that they proceeded on their way without enforcing their demand. They were more numerous and better appointed than the armed men with me, and

had they chosen might have robbed my party without much difficulty ; but the very name of an European appeared to frighten them.

In a country so divided into petty tribes as Beloochistan, where the authority of the chief although acknowledged is but little heeded, and where no man's life or property is safe further than he can himself protect it, for a traveller to straggle from his party is of course unsafe, as the wretched state of poverty and starvation, in which the greater portion of the population exist, would induce them to make a dash at him for the sake of his clothes. I was warned of this at Sonmeanee, and could never leave the camp without one of the attendants following me at distance to watch over my security. While encamped at the river, upward of sixty Berooee and Noomreea families collected round us to be fed. In general the milk of their camels, goats and ewes, the dried berry called " Beera," wild herbs, and a small quantity of the coarsest juwaree is what they subsist on. Meat, they seldom touch, as all the male animals are disposed of for clothes or grain, and the females kept for their produce. Dates are considered a luxury ; so much so that when at Sonmeanee I was told of a Noomreea having asked a Banyan, in whose shop he saw a pile of bags of them, — whether he took any rest at night ? On the Hindoo replying, of course he did, the Noomreea expressed his surprize, and said, were he owner, he should be revelling in them day and night. The Berooees all wear the low conical cap which affords even less protection to the head than that of Sinde. All were armed, mostly with a matchlock and long knife. Some had swords. Neither they nor the Noomreeas pay any regular tribute ; but on occasions of festivity the chiefs raise contributions in kind from the heads of families. All are liable to be called on for military service, during which time they receive food and trifling pay. In the Jam's district where cultivation is carried on, one third of the produce goes to the chief, and the remainder is left to the peasant.

The nearest village to Hinglaj is Oormura situated on the coast a distance of two day's march, and said to contain two hundred inhabitants, mostly fishermen. It is described as having a good bay, but my time did not admit of my visiting it.

On our way back, nine days after first seeing them, I again visited the Chunder koos. The appearance of the one which has fallen in was the same in the muddy part ; but that of the water, instead of being *clear* as before, was quite discoloured. The stream also had ceased flowing for some time, as the plain bore no marks of moisture. On reaching the summit of the large one, it was very evident that an irruption had taken place the day before, (Monday) for the chan-

nel on the western side was quite filled with slime, which had trickled down the side of the hill and run some thirty yards into the plain below. The dry clods I had placed when before there were covered, and it was not safe to cross where the mud had found an issue, whereas my whole party had when with me walked round the edge of the basin. The jets rose as usual.

We now followed our former route halting at the Phor river, near a muddy pool and at a brackish well in the Chura. Our next stage was over the plain beyond Dambo, and across the Pooralee river, (now quite dry) to a tank near "Shaik Boolum's tomb." After passing it, we crossed some low sandy ridges, and wound under a range of sand hills, near which is a well close to a few tamarisk trees. We then came to a salt flat called the "Truppa" extending from the Gooroo Chela ka run, to the "Thurra" from which it is distinguished by being totally bare of all shrubs. We rejoined our former road at the grave of the Gooroo and Chela, and then entering the sand hills which encompass Sonmeanee, descended to an amphitheatre of about half a mile in breadth and three in length, covered with the lanoo plant, and dotted here and there with pools of brackish water. This tract is called the "Dotur Put" and it was to avoid it that we kept to the beach road, when on our way to Dambo.

On reaching the Hub river the pilgrims turned off to the hot springs at Peer Moogha, and after three immersions in that called the "kishtee," set out for their respective homes; on reaching which presents were made to the Agwa, the colored clothes they had worn on the journey given to him, Bramins feasted, and pieces of the *rot* distributed among their friends. The amount paid to the Agwa depends on the circumstances of the pilgrims he leads, but the poorest give at least five rupees at the different stations, or clothes of that value; otherwise no invocation could be made at the Chundur kooops in their name, or permission be granted them to pass the Shuru. They generally make an agreement before hand with their guide, as to the amount *in money* he will require. He is also entitled to a portion of food daily from each of his followers. The best part he eats, and distributes the remainder to the Noomreeas. One of them may lead any number, but the parties generally consist of from thirty to fifty persons. It is calculated that from five to six thousand pilgrims visit the temple annually.

The island of Sata Deveep having been mentioned as being the favorite residence of the goddess "Mahamaga;" a short account of it, as given by some Gosaens who had been there a few months

previous, is added. The situation is described as being but a short distance from the coast of Mukran (out of sight of land, however) about midway between Sonmeanee and Guadel.* It is merely a barren uninhabited rock, upwards of a mile in circumference, on which neither water nor wood is to be found. Near the landing place is a spot dedicated to Kalee, where goats are sacrificed. The ascent to its summit is winding and steep. A few streaks of red paint mark the place where Pooja must be performed, but there is not any temple or idol. No Hindoo dares to remain at night on the island, and the few ceremonies are gone through without the attendance of an Agwa. Pilgrims who proceed as near as they can to it by land, go by way of Sonmeanee, Beila, Kelat, Noshky, Sarawan, Punjgoor and Kedge to Guadel, from which town a Hindoo merchant named Hemo sends them at his own expense in boats to it. As this route is extremely dangerous, Gosaens alone frequent it, and even they are obliged to proceed on camels supplied by charitable Hindoos of the towns they pass through. Many persons also visit it from Kurachee, but proceed in the first instance by sea to Guadel, where they pay a tax to the Imaum of Muscat, to whom that Port belongs, and then receive permission to go there. The island marks the limit of the faith of the Hindoo to the westward, yet although the favorite residence of their goddess, it is not considered so holy a *teerth* as Hinglaj, which ranks as the most sacred place of worship beyond the Indus.

* Ashtola is the only island on this coast between Guadel and Sonmeanee, which can correspond in situation to *Sata Deveep* or *Sanga dip*.

II.—*Visit to Port Lloyd, Bonin Islands,* in Her Majesty's Sloop "Larne."* By Captain Blake, R. N.

[Communicated by Col. T. Dickinson.]

Her Majesty's Sloop "Larne" anchored in Port Lloyd, Peel's Island, on 23rd December, 1838, forty-one days from Macao; five of which were spent in touching at Amoy on the north-east coast of China.

I made it a particular point during my stay to inform myself of the state of the island and the settlers generally, their source and origin, their characters, and the amount of produce derived from the cultivation of their land, with the outlet for its disposal: and from all the intelligence I could gather from their statements, as well as from my own observation, I imagine that very little progress has been made within the last three or four years, and no advancement whatever seems to have been effected since the "Raleigh's" visit in August, 1837.

It is evident that want of labour is essentially felt, and to this is attributable, according to the statement of the settlers, the tardy progress made amongst them. Messrs. Mozarro and Millichamp first formed their project of settling here in 1830. They left Woahoo in the Sandwich Islands for that purpose, bringing with them a certain number of Sandwich Islanders bound to them by articles for a specified period, at the expiration of which they for the most part returned, principally because they had not brought their women. Four of these Sandwich Islanders are now in Port Lloyd and one native of the Marquesas, all in the employ of Messrs. Mozarro and Millichamp, on terms which I found were the general custom of the Island.

* It is uncertain whether the *Bo-nin sima* (uninhabited islands) of the Japanese can be referred positively to this group, but the name has been retained by Captain Beechey in addition to that of *Yslas del Arzobispo*, by which they appear to have been known for many years to the Spanish at Manilla. The islands were visited by Captain Beechey in H. M. S. Blossom in June 1827, when he found only two inhabitants, sailors from the crew of a Whaler. The group consists of three clusters lying nearly N. by E. extending from Lat. 27° 44' 37" N. to beyond 26° 30' N. The Harbour of Port Lloyd, so called "out of regard to the late Bishop of Oxford"—is placed by Beechey in Lat. 27° 05' 35" N. and Long. 142° 14' 06" East. S.

These are as follows:— The labourer clears away a piece of land ready for planting, (say one or two acres) the employer finding him maintenance, and seed for planting the land the first year, all the implements for clearing and cultivating, and materials for building his habitation. Of this piece of land so cleared, the labourer receives *half* the profits of its produce, and it is entirely his province to cultivate it, and to gather in the crops; the employer receives the *other half*. As the Sandwich Islanders, as well as the natives of other islands in the Pacific, are mostly of an indolent and reckless disposition, it is not left to *them* to *sell* the produce grown on the land they hold. This is done by the employer, as they would frequently, from mere laziness and indifference in seeking the standard market price, dispose of it for half its value or less. But this plan does not, as it would at first appear, leave a channel open for the employer defrauding the labourer. The latter *must* know the exact amount of the produce of his land, and every article in the island has a general uniform price, on a fixed scale, from which it appears that none of the settlers are inclined to deviate. Therefore the labourer must know the amount due to him, after the sale of his produce is effected. This agreement between the employer and the labourer is known in the island by the term of "*going upon halves.*"

It appears that the principal or indeed the only outlet for the sale of their produce, is the occasional call made by Whalers during what they term the "Japan season," which is comprized between the end of April and the beginning of September. The fear of typhoons, or stormy weather, during the other months deters them from frequenting the neighbourhood of these seas. On the approach of the "Japan season" they repair hither, especially to the north-east coast of Japan, where, I am informed, the most valuable sperm whales are taken.

The rigid exclusion of all foreign intercourse so unrelentingly adhered to by the Japanese, had hitherto left the whale ships without a point to resort to for refreshments; and even lately frightful instances of scurvy and similar diseases have prevailed in some of them on their arrival at Port Lloyd. This voluntary settlement therefore, such as it is, with a very obscure and limited knowledge at present even of its existence, without protection, without recognition, is invaluable to many employed in the precarious and arduous occupation of whaling.

Although its site is subject to the periodical visits of typhoons or hurricanes, which prevail in these latitudes nearly throughout the world, the climate is extremely healthy, and I was informed that

even in the summer months the heat is not oppressive. During our stay from 23d to 30th December, the thermometer ranged from 60° to 70° and the weather was delightful.

The only supplies now to be obtained are sweet potatoes, which are extremely fine, yams, and Indian corn—all of which grow in the greatest abundance. Pigs and ducks are in plenty, but fowls not to be had, since the settlers have nearly destroyed them, as they committed such mischief in their young maize plantations. As the soil seems prolific and exuberant in the extreme, I think there can be little doubt, that if cultivated by persons of some knowledge and experience in such matters, in a climate so well suited, it would be capable of growing other produce than the present.

The sugar-cane and tobacco have thriven to a very promising extent when planted, but as yet of no avail from the entire ignorance, as well as want of means among the existing settlers to manufacture either. Tobacco I myself witnessed of very fine and luxuriant growth, and I was informed that a small quantity of it was cured in leaf by the master of an American whaler, and that it proved extremely good. Therefore as the visits of the whalers are confined to certain months only of the year, the time of the settlers might be profitably occupied in curing and packing, could labour be obtained for clearing and cultivating the soil for other produce. For this purpose I think the easiest and most eligible plan would be to procure Chinese husbandmen with their wives from Macao, or that quarter, bound down by agreement for a certain period. It may be remarked, that supposing the island to be cleared and fully cultivated, the outlet for its produce would be doubtful as the neighbouring people who might be considered in a commercial view, its natural consumers, both Chinese and Japanese, are determined opponents to all foreign intercourse; nevertheless I imagine it would find a market, particularly tobacco, in the Russian settlements to the northward, at Manilla, or New South Wales.

From the prevailing want of labor it would be almost impossible for the settlers to provide supplies even for the number of whalers that call here, comparatively small as it is, did not the soil exhibit great fertility, and the sweet potatoe yield more abundantly than any vegetable known, needing little attention or labor when once planted. Its own exuberance keeps all weeds under, and its plentiful crop only requires to be dug up in about four months. Maize also is equally productive, though the ground requires more labor and attention in clearing it from weeds, &c. Yams are produced also in any quantity. With all this I was rather surprised at the estab-

lished prices of produce as noted in one of the annexed papers,* (No. 1).

I was glad to find that since the period of the "Raleigh's" visit here, some sixteen months ago, no outrages have been committed on the settlers by the crews of whalers, such as those perpetrated on a former occasion by the crews of the English whalers "Cadmus" "Tory" and "Admiral Cockburn," and which were reported to Captain Quin. During the last season about thirteen or fourteen of these ships, English and American, called at Port Lloyd for refreshments. On an average each consumed and took away produce and stock to the amount of from five to six hundred dollars, part of which is generally settled for by barter, more especially in tobacco and spirits, which are apparently both of them much in demand throughout the Pacific. One whaler I was informed took away between sixty and seventy hogs, with a proportionate quantity of maize, sweet potatoes, yams, &c. In addition to those that have entered the harbour (a list of which is noted in the annexed paper, No. 2.*) several have called off and sent in their boats with trusty crews for supplies, which has frequently been done at great hazard from the fear of their crews deserting should they enter the Port; and this it appears is the greatest evil complained of. It is an evil however that it must be admitted is natural, nor do I know how it can be met in the present state of things, where men, ignorant and heedless, of an unsettled disposition, and frequently of every abandoned character embarked as they are in a seafaring life, are excited and led away with the flattering vision of an island of plenty, where no law, no restraint prevails, where all are on an equality, and where they think that law is liberty and liberty is law, in the sense of their own interpretation— and although such visionary ideas, while confined to a few individuals, are unattended with injurious consequences save to themselves, yet when disseminated by evil and designing characters amongst the unwary and well disposed, they become a bane to the community, and obstruct the progress of all honest occupations and industrious pursuits. I am led to this remark from the circumstance of such characters now composing part of the community of Port Lloyd.

It cannot be denied that very extensive commercial interests frequently sustain serious injury from the want of an established legal authority in our commercial marine, to restrain and punish the offences of unruly and licentious characters, and this observation I

* These papers were not communicated.

think applies with peculiar force to ships employed in the foreign whalers, which seem generally to contain among their crews a great proportion of riotous and abandoned characters, and it is lamentable to hear of repeated instances where the master of a whaler has been placed in a state of coercion by his crew, entirely at their mercy, and compelled to yield to their unruly desires, to the manifest detriment of his own hard-earned profit, and the interests of his owners. It is from instances of this description having occurred here and elsewhere, that I have been induced to allude to them, and I may now advert to the state of the settlers generally, their characters, &c. as also that of other chance residents among them.

It may be easily imagined that the present settlers having been, every one of them, heretofore seafaring men for many years, no very great degree of improvement in social or moral habits has been attained to amongst them, and it is painful to remark, that of the two original principal settlers, neither of them can read or write; yet they aver that from the day they commenced carrying into execution their project of settling here from Woahoo in 1830, they have actually disbursed eight thousand dollars. Many of the other settlers are equally void of education, but this is not the least of the evils that exist in this small society, though perhaps somewhat the cause of them.

I found that a violent party had been formed to harass and perplex the original settlers Messrs. Mozarra and Millichamp by every possible means, and to defraud them of the possession of land to which they had the clearest right.

With reference to the general state and condition of the inhabitants, it is evident, that a very malignant enmity exists chiefly with one party against the original settlers.

About five months since a Sandwich Islander, on the occasion of some disagreement, was stabbed severely in the stomach by one of the Portuguese now resident here, from which he is still suffering; and it is said that his life was saved merely from the accidental circumstance of a whaler being then in the Port, whose surgeon rendered him immediate assistance, and subsequently attended him for upwards of three weeks.

It was impossible without much concern to perceive such confirmed and habitual depravity practised with the utmost indifference. A day or two before my departure, I expressed a desire through Millichamp to see all the settlers and residents, and on his proceeding to the other side of the Bay to communicate my wish amongst them, he was assailed with the most violent oaths and the grossest abuse,

which were accompanied with the threat of his life. I had requested the attendance of all the settlers and residents on board the "Larne," with the view of endeavouring to impress upon them the enormity of offences which some of them seemed to look upon with the merest levity and indifference, and to remind them that if such were actually perpetrated retribution most assuredly would, sooner or later, overtake them, and that they would pay the just penalty awarded to such crimes by the laws of the whole civilized world. I moreover on the day of my departure left with them a written document to this effect.

Little I think remains to be added to these details, which perhaps may be already considered superfluous. A list of the settlers and residents now at Port Lloyd* is annexed, with some notes of their individual characters derived from enquiries I made amongst them, and my own observations and opinions which I have plainly and unreservedly stated.

From the whole report, with its annexed documents, some idea, I imagine may be gathered of the character and condition of this extraordinary community.

HER MAJESTY'S SLOOP "LARNE,"

Port Lloyd, Peel Island, December 30th, 1838.

* This port may become of great importance hereafter, as it lies not far from the track which vessels, proceeding from the southward to the north east coast of China, may follow, during the season when the *direct* passage is difficult. On this subject the following note has been communicated to the Society by the President. "With regard to the north east coast of China, the passage from Macao through the Straits of Formosa may be made from April to the end of September, after which, or when the N. E. monsoon is fairly set in, it blows with great violence, so that ships visiting Macao at that season, if they do go up the China sea, are obliged to keep well over on the eastern side in order to fetch Macao with N. E. winds.

"Those ships which go an Eastern passage pass from the Pacific between the south end of Formosa and the Bashee islands to reach Macao. If Chusan is to be kept by us, ships will have, after September, to proceed to the Eastward of Formosa, and have a longer passage than at present. You will find that in former days, ships destined for China were always very particular in not being too late, and when that happened they went to Macao as being more easily accomplished. If I could get hold of a chart which has been lately published of the part to the northward of Formosa, I would give you the Islands near which a ship would have to pass, and I think the Bonin islands are not a great deal out of the route."

It was at one time recommended to Russia to occupy the Bonin islands, and establish there an *entrepot* for trade with China. M. Klaproth, in a paper written in 1823 on the commerce between Russia and China, suggested this es-

III. — *Commercial and Geographical view of Eastern Africa.*

By James Bird, Esq. Read May 2nd, 1839.

The Eastern coast of Africa, from the limits of the tropic of Capricorn to Cape Jirdhafun, in north latitude 12° , is yet a *terra incognita*, excepting such part of it as has been surveyed by Captain Owen and the officers of H. M.'s Navy. The country also from Ras Hafun to Ras Gulwaini, near Burnt Island, extending to the distance of 340 miles, is very little known, and though a survey of it has been completed by Lieutenant Carless, the geographical information obtained, during the voyage to this quarter in October 1837, is still withheld from the public. In this direction therefore there is a wide field open for the labours of this Society, and, interested as are our members and the commercial community of Bombay, in obtaining information regarding the geography of these countries, and the commercial capabilities of their coast, all will aid us I should hope, in awakening attention to this subject. Under present circumstances measures seem necessary for improving an intercourse which has subsisted from the earliest times between the eastern coast of Africa and that of India; and something surely will be done for securing to ourselves a commerce, which if neglected must pass into other hands.

The countries from Delagoa bay to the straits of Bab-al-Mandib, comprise a tract nearly 3000 miles in length, which extending in-

tablishment. He says, "To the south of Japan in Lat. N. 27° . and Long. 138° east of Paris, is a group of fertile uninhabited islands, which the Japanese call *Bonin Sima* or *Moxin Sima*, and are marked in the older charts Archbishop's Isles. The group is distant from China twenty degrees of longitude, and is situated on the line of passage to Kamtchatka, and on that between the north west coast of America and China. The islands possess bays and safe roadsteads — and produce timber fit for building. Without encroaching on the rights of any nation, Russia might occupy them, and establish a colony there, which would become the chief *entrepot* of its trade between Kamtchatka and China. The largest of the islands might be defended by forts and a garrison sufficiently strong to repel the hostile attempts of any foreign power, which however is scarcely to be apprehended. From this point we might attempt a further extension towards the west — and if possible establish a good understanding with the inhabitants of the Great Loo Choo, where it would be necessary to form another *entrepot*, nearer to China." *Annales des Voyages*-Tome 40-1828. S.

land several hundred miles, consists of alluvial plains covered by thick vegetation and magnificent forests. The north eastern portion of it surveyed by Lieutenant Carless is very mountainous, and at two days journey from the sea abounds it is said with elephants, lions, panthers, leopards and ostriches. The hills which are of limestone formation, rising sometimes to 6500 feet in height, are covered with trees and bushes,* from which frankincense, myrrh, and other gums are obtained. The natural geography of the whole of this tract has been little if at all explored, and we are alike ignorant of its botanical productions, and mineral treasures, excepting such as have become familiar to us through their utility in commerce. The valleys in the interior are said by Lieutenant Ethersey to furnish for export, ghee, coffee, gums, gold dust, ivory, rhinoceros horns, and sheep† which were formerly sent to Mocha, but will now it is hoped find their way to the market at Aden, of which we have got possession.

Previous however to any observations on the trade between this quarter and India, it will be well to give a summary of the leading geographical information regarding it, which we have yet obtained ; and to point out some of those more interesting objects of research to which future travellers should direct their attention.

Sumali Coast. — From the straits of Bab-al-mandib to the equator and mouth of the Juba river, the country is inhabited by the tribe of Sumalis, and is divided into the eastern part or that of Burbara, and southern or that of Ajan. The temporary town or village of Burbara, which is situated at the head of a small but secure harbour in latitude $10^{\circ} 26' 50''$ North, and about $45^{\circ} 04'$ East longitude is the principal emporium of the eastern part, and Mukdisha is the chief town of the southern coast. Lieutenant Ethersey informs us that the soil contiguous to the coast affords neither pasturage nor cultivation, and consists of sand or gravel. In the mountainous country, rain falls in large quantities, and the low land is accordingly traversed by beds of rivers, abundantly supplied with excellent water.‡ Mukdisha in latitude $2^{\circ} 1' 8''$ north, Long, $45^{\circ} 19' 5''$ east, is a town of some importance, and has a harbour formed by a long reef, extending eastward several miles, within which the narrow channel has ten to twelve feet water at low spring tides. The

* Lieut. Carless in the report of the Bombay Geographical Society for 1837 and 1838.

† Proceedings of the Bombay Geographical Society 1837.

‡ Lieutenant Carless, Bombay Geographical Society's proceedings.

town contains about a hundred and fifty stone houses built in the Spanish style. Arab dows and boats from Cutch visit this part in their coast navigation, and exchange, according to Captain Owen and Lientenant Postans*, black dungari cloth, sugar, molasses, salt fish &c. for ivory, gums, and other produce of this coast. The agents in these transactions between the traders and Sumalis are Hindoo brookers principally from Surat. Besides Mukdishia, Marka, and Brava, are two places in the coast which keep up a communication with the interior; but Captain Owen states that in the whole country from Ras Hafun to Mukdishia there is not the least appearance of an inhabited spot, and that the commerce appears to be solely directed towards the Red Sea by means of caravans. The Sumalis are described by Lieutenants Ethersey and Carless as mild and friendly in their manners towards strangers, and possess that good faith and generosity in which every confidence may be placed. The Gallas who possess the interior, are a more intractable tribe of savages, whose manners are most uncultivated and ferocious.

Suhaili Coast—From the Juba river, which is navigable in boats for three months, from its mouth to the island of Chuluwan, twenty one degrees south, the coast is inhabited by Mahomedans called Suhailis. The river Juba, known by the Africans as Wowiveenda, is said to rise in Abyssinia; and at Lamoo three degrees southwards, there is much commerce and a population of five thousand souls. Lieut. Emery† describes the Suhailis to be a quiet intelligent race of men, whose complexions are similar to that of the Arabs, changing into black from their marriages with the inland tribes called Whaneekas. Another inland tribe here, called Merremengows, are described as well made, active, perfectly black but without the least appearance of the Negro. Their hair is rather short and curly; and they are very friendly and good humoured. Their dress consists of the skins of wild animals carelessly thrown over their left shoulder, and the chief ornament of the men is brass wire twisted round the arm above the elbow. The women have bead ornaments around their waist, and strings of beads on their hair.

The whole of this shore is said by Captain Owen to present but little variety, being composed of sand cliffs and hills, and as there are many dangerous reefs, ships should not approach nearer than

* See his account of the trade between Mandavee in Cutch and the eastern Coast of Africa B. G. S. 1837.

† Journal of the Royal Geographical Society vol. III.

twenty fathoms without some well defined object as a guide.* The principal towns of the coast are Mombas, Pemba island, Zanzibar, Monfia, and Keelwa or Quiloa, all of which are islands formed of madrepora, and are situated from three to thirty miles from the main land. Zanzibar, which belongs to the Imaum of Muscat, and which is a most valuable possession producing rich crops of grain and sugar, is described by Captain Boteler† to possess harbours of the best kind and perfectly safe, both from the general mildness of the weather and their favourable conformation. The soundings extend from the island to the main. The coast opposite is low, and produces abundance of grain and sugar, but the climate is said to be fatal to Europeans.

Pemba island, northward of Zanzibar, said by Captain Owen to be most fertile, extends thirty miles from north to south, and eleven from east to west. It abounds in excellent ship timber and luxuriant vegetation; and rises two hundred feet above the level of the sea. Excellent timber fit for ship building, &c. is procurable on this coast. The varieties enumerated by Lieutenant Emery are as follow:

“ A CATALOGUE OF WOODS.‡

Sohilie Name.	Diameter, <i>in.</i>	Height. <i>feet.</i>	Use.
Mungorule. . . .	18 . .	19 . .	Bedsteads, boxes, &c.
Mupingo (crooked). . . .	10 . .	13 . .	Bedsteads, &c.
Monyonvouro. . . .	18 . .	19 . .	Ship-building.
Mechano. . . .	19 . .	14 . .	Doors, &c.
Mowoula. . . .	36 . .	60 . .	Ship-building.
Mosendee. . . .	22 . .	50 . .	Masts for dows.
Monamage. . . .	40 . .	26 . .	Ship-building.
Mananingya. . . .	26 . .	30 . .	Ship-building, &c.
Mucongarcharlee. . . .	28 . .	22 . .	Doors, &c.
Mocungue. . . .	24 . .	28 . .	Ship-building.
Mulelana. . . .	7 . .	12 . .	Rafters, &c.”

Monfia is an island nine miles from the main, which here assumes a more hilly appearance. It is of a long narrow form covered with trees, and inhabited. Southwards is Quiloa, called by the Maho-

* Owen vol. I. page 360.

† Botelers voyage vol. II. Page 27.

‡ Journal of the Royal Geographical Society, Vol. III.

medans Keelwa, which is described to be one of the finest ports in the world; but without anchorage outside, as the depth is unfathomable. Previous to the arrival of the Portuguese in 1505 it was one of the most considerable Arab possessions; and in Hej: 304. A. D. 916, is thus mentioned by Masudi, who made a voyage from this place to Oman. "The people who frequent this sea are the inhabitants of Oman, and the Arabs of the tribe of Azd, who go as far as the island of Keelwa, in the province of Sofala, where some noble Ethiopic Mohommedans are living. Sofala is a fortress which terminates Ethiopia interiorly. The mariners of Siraf sail in this sea, and I myself have made several voyages in it; once from the town of Sanjar in the province of Oman, and once from Oman itself; on which occasion, I was accompanied by Nakhudas (Ship masters) of Siraf, such as Mohommed-bin-Alzandum Alsirafi, and Jaohir-bin-Ahmed, commonly called Ibn Sank, who were subsequently drowned in this sea. My last voyage was in Hej: 304. during which I sailed from the island of Keelwa to Oman in the ship of Ahmed-abd-Alsamed, who with his brother Abd-al-Rahim-Sirafi was drowned in this sea."

In this tract near the south point of Mizimbaty, near Cape Delgado is the great river Ravooma, which is said to be next in size to the Zambezi. The latter empties itself by several mouths, of which the principal are the Cuama and Quillimani branches. The town which gives name to the latter branch is included in the Portuguese possessions which form a portion of the ancient kingdom of Monomotapa extending from 15° to 20° south latitude, and from 27° to 37° east longitude or there about.* The river Zambezi which disembogues itself in southern latitude 18° between Mozambique and the Bozurata islands southward, is said to rush so strongly from its various mouths that the water four miles from the land is perfectly fresh, and the interior is an extensive morass. Here from Cape Bajone near Mozambique to the river St. Lucia southwards, the country is a continued tract of sand hills and the interior level, with knots of trees like park land. The bank off Cape Bazurata is the site of the famous pearl fishery of Sofala; but the pearls on this coast have not been fished for several generations, though the oysters are procurable at not more than knee deep. Formerly the trade of Sofala consisted of grain, gold, and silver; but where agriculture and happiness formerly reigned, the Portuguese possessions in the vicinity of the Zambezi do not produce sufficient grain for their own consumption, and

* Botelers Voyage Vol. I, page 240.

the slave trade has turned the tribes from agriculture to war. The country southwards about Delagoa Bay is divided into the Mapoota or oil district, Temby southwest, Mattol north west, Mabota north, and southwards the country of Mapoota the tribe of Zoolas, or the Alzila of the Arab geographers.

Besides the importance of the commerce on this coast, there are several geographical and ethnographical enquiries, connected with it which yet remain for solution by future travellers. The not least important and interesting of these are the situation and extent of lake Maravi, now usually placed between the eighth and tenth degree of Southern latitude, and with great reason supposed to be the source of the rivers Zambezi or Ravooma. Captain Harris who reached the tropic of Capricorn in 29° east longitude, states that it was described to him not more than six weeks or two months journey, from where he then was.

Another question of interest is to ascertain in what direction the mountain chains eastward of lake Tchad, run from the plain of Mandara and its capital Mora. At this place they were seen rising to 2500 feet, but are thought to extend far southward and become more elevated. They are the far famed *Jubal-al-Kamar*, or mountains of the Moon, from which Ptolemy, Masudi and others describe the Nile to rise by ten fountains, which discharge their waters into two large lakes giving rise to a river which runs northward; and to another which flows to the sea of Zanzibar. The former is probably the Bahar-al-Abaiad, and the other may be the Juba river which empties itself near the equator.

A considerable trade is carried on between the port of Mandavie in Cutch and the east coast of Africa; but there is a general complaint among the traders that ivory, the principal article of exchange, is annually becoming more scarce, as the American and French vessels, resorting to Lamoon and Zanzibar, carry away large quantities of this article. The quantity of it however, imported into Bombay during 1838, is nearly double that of any former year from 1821; and for the last five years the value of all imports has been increasing from Rs. 3,22,584. to 6,35,106, while the value of African produce imported from the Arabian Gulph has increased from Rs. 96,236 to 1,67,628. Besides ivory the principal articles imported into Bombay are grain of sorts, gums, horns of the *gynda* shark fins, tortoise shell and wax. These are chiefly brought here in exchange for china ware, glass ware, hard ware, and cutlery, British iron, woollens, piece goods, and sugar. The returns which I now submit were obligingly furnished me by the Collector of Customs, W. C. Bruce, Esq.

Returns shewing the nature and value of the trade between
Bombay and eastern Africa, for a period of eighteen years—from
1821 to 1839.

*Imports of African produce into Bombay from the Arabian Gulph during
a period of ten years from 1821 to 1830.*

Articles.	1820- 21	1821- 22	1822- 23	1823- 24	1824- 25	1825- 26	1826- 27	1827- 28	1828- 29	1829- 30
Horns Gynda.....	248	"	"	161	"	237	"	127	160	522
Ivory-Elephants Teeth	4147	1646	3886	2735	9689	16270	9075	18488	36797	14831
Mother O'Pearl shells	"	312	4312	18818	3955	2291	662	3891	1813	8480
Shark-fins and Fish- maws.....	42631	17998	18795	9505	7635	15841	8748	35701	25672	27253
Tortoise-shell.....	5495	1473	21929	12779	6434	8449	4985	10055	13876	7525

*Imports into Bombay from the Eastern Coast of Africa during a period
of ten years from 1821 to 1830.*

Articles.	1820- 21	1821- 22	1822- 23	1823- 24	1824- 25	1825- 26	1826- 27	1827- 28	1828- 29	1829- 30
Betel-nut.....	"	"	100	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Beads False.....	"	"	"	"	285	"	"	624	171	"
Cassia.....	"	"	"	100	"	"	"	"	"	"
Coir.....	"	"	497	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Cocoanuts.....	1791	1035	3301	"	1425	1148	1522	3401	4322	4473
Cotton.....	3107	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Dates.....	"	469	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Eatables.....	199	"	946	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Ghee.....	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	538
Glassware.....	"	"	"	"	"	"	239	"	"	"
Grain.....	2900	"	568	"	"	10194	2610	"	"	1344
Gums { Animi.....	26401	24215	34296	30079	46703	54574	31102	25988	5317	10678
{ Olibanum.....	"	296	164	"	"	"	"	"	"	1487
{ Other Sorts.....	"	"	"	"	172	"	"	"	"	"
Horns-Gynda.....	3036	4879	6076	8368	8190	7377	26634	8963	18775	12342
Indigo.....	"	"	"	"	"	"	1280	"	"	"
Ivory-Elephant's Teeth	278669	117030	150359	149401	291257	244020	317913	209162	221647	167974
Leather.....	1175	685	1697	361	1017	268	"	"	255	"
Marine Stores.....	"	"	"	"	"	1023	407	"	"	"
Metals { Copper Old.....	141	121	"	"	"	"	385	1052	334	"
{ Iron.....	"	"	"	379	"	"	"	"	"	"
{ Lead red and White.....	"	"	174	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Medicines and Drugs.....	118	"	231	"	4079	2207	194	"	"	1007
Oil.....	131	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Piece Goods of Sorts.....	"	120	"	"	650	"	862	"	1773	"
Cotton yarn.....	"	"	"	"	170	"	"	"	"	"
Sharkfins & Fishmaws.	2228	1760	2333	6833	1305	1794	2980	1025	662	"
Spices { Cloves.....	"	"	"	11248	1363	120	"	15160	7795	"
{ Nutmegs.....	"	"	"	"	221	"	"	"	"	"
{ Cardamoms.....	"	159	"	"	2305	"	"	"	"	"
Stationery.....	"	"	"	"	152	"	"	"	"	"
Sugar.....	"	"	"	"	448	"	"	"	"	"
Sundries.....	4866	3384	13836	6700	6019	9462	10020	3272	3512	3742
Tortoise-shell.....	4401	1430	3482	989	1100	906	5923	1669	1717	948
Wax.....	1529	1559	3356	2731	2944	1558	1934	2275	2561	2179
Wine.....	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3554	"
Wood.....	100	562	1468	509	460	"	888	933	1762	1668
Woolens.....	"	"	"	"	474	"	"	"	"	"
Merchandise.....	330892	157704	228184	217707	370291	335069	404883	273524	274157	208380
Treasure.....	211687	76307	44734	38216	32596	23555	33770	35875	132724	177826
Horses.....	"	"	"	"	4000	"	"	"	"	"
Grand Total Rs.	542579	234011	272918	255922	406887	358654	438653	309399	406881	386206

Imports of African produce into Bombay from the Arabian Gulph during a period of eight years from 1831 to 1838.

Articles.	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838
Horns Gynda	138	"	"	"	"	"	287	95
Ivory-Elephant's Teeth	21097	27844	43785	55182	50617	87266	96566	120972
Mother O'Pearl Shell	13285	9825	19887	11379	6519	10493	17366	23479
Shark-fins and Fish-maws	24137	32676	22410	17050	10865	26595	32775	14801
Tortoise-Shell	9774	12179	6369	12425	12025	9812	19997	8341

Imports into Bombay from the Eastern Coast of Africa during a period of eight years from 1831 to 1838.

Articles.	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838
Betel-nut	201	479	158	2823	6016	8497	1149	62
Cocoanuts	5247	3139	138	138	2942	5332	586	2361
" dry or Copra	"	"	"	"	"	132	"	"
Coffee	"	"	"	"	862	"	"	595
Coral	"	"	"	"	"	2345	"	"
Ghee	"	"	"	"	708	"	"	"
Glass	"	"	415	"	"	"	"	"
Grain of Sorts	120	"	500	"	5374	2425	3700	3920
{ Animi	"	366	"	400	"	"	49601	23638
{ Arabic	516	"	"	"	"	"	"	3568
Gums { Copal	70698	54349	77581	97422	104166	233631	"	"
{ Oilbanum	"	"	"	158	248	752	"	"
{ Other Sorts	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	72106
Hides	"	"	"	"	142	"	"	"
Horns Gynda	10210	2064	3509	2065	1902	1079	5172	2629
Ivory-Elephant's and Sea Horse Teeth	238267	211023	216979	178903	256829	260785	270407	457997
Leather	"	396	"	"	"	"	"	"
Long Pepper	"	424	"	"	"	"	"	"
{ Copper Old	3072	"	217	"	195	"	"	"
{ Tin Plates	"	"	"	"	928	"	"	"
{ Spelter	"	"	"	"	"	"	323	"
Marine Stores	287	"	"	552	226	580	"	308
Medicines and Drugs	8067	3515	14536	5475	21496	3812	"	979
Oil of Sorts	"	"	"	"	161	"	"	"
Piece Goods	"	159	"	624	3600	239	"	"
Shark-fins and Fish-maws	3406	1043	508	2461	15025	1788	1309	2709
Spices-Cloves	"	1881	1425	"	13235	22898	9577	62545
Sundries	13735	1223	2083	1271	3572	2620	642	1379
Stationery	"	"	"	"	356	"	"	"
Tobacco	"	"	"	"	1483	"	"	2442
Tortoise-Shell	"	3603	1530	4297	4582	1823	2439	4128
Wax	5111	2595	124	1503	1380	"	900	2171
Wood of Sorts	177	1064	525	"	232	2263	3733	7369
Woollens	"	"	"	"	274	"	"	"
Eatables	"	"	"	"	2616	"	"	"
Merchandise	359114	287316	320228	298092	448550	551001	349538	631206
Treasure	30850	25265	31982	24492	33225	8000	911	3900
Total Rs.	389964	312581	352210	322584	481775	559091	350449	635106

Exports from Bombay to the Eastern Coast of Africa during a period of ten years from 1821 to 1830.

Articles.	1820-21	1821-22	1822-23	1823-24	1824-25	1825-26	1826-27	1827-28	1828-29	1829-30
Apparel	1429	777	1756	273	4355	1160	1334	2508	1255	•
Beads	6194	9419	22543	4255	6286	670	1100	1525	4005	32975
Betel-nut	191	635	535	632	550	125	•	240	•	•
Cassia	•	•	1221	275	•	455	1215	100	1485	300
China-ware	3213	11835	12255	16550	6333	5183	16922	15555	15395	8125
Cotton	1225	5890	15191	12250	8200	12835	17550	25190	17846	32000
Coir	400	112	•	280	•	•	•	•	•	210
Copra or dry coconuts	300	300	300	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dates	•	1375	•	1150	2130	•	•	•	950	•
Estables and Confectionary	•	525	225	370	633	100	•	690	•	1000
Earthenware	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	100	•
Fire-works	•	•	130	435	•	•	•	223	200	200
Ghee	•	•	•	1000	•	•	•	250	2700	•
Glass-ware	•	725	324	250	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ginger	•	•	•	•	•	102	•	•	561	139
Gunnies	•	•	•	•	150	•	•	•	•	•
Gunpowder	•	362	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Grain of sorts	•	5562	7114	7952	3240	1228	2220	27542	6970	15900
Guns and Pistols	•	•	394	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Gum-Benjamin	1665	305	150	1300	1949	685	325	1045	3900	240
Olibanum	•	170	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Hardware and Cutlery	9041	19327	15849	8736	36299	57985	4715	3922	12541	13175
Marine Stores	150	857	2150	370	•	•	750	175	1682	1600
Medicines and Drugs	7082	5480	635	530	1237	983	2771	2607	4128	1215
Brass Old	450	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Copper, not described	•	1605	190	225	1296	•	•	•	•	•
Iron British	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
" Bar	17050	20190	36625	19020	22131	19816	16640	23725	38350	19441
" Nails	1432	1472	775	1694	960	530	540	1025	2315	2005
Metals { Spelter	•	•	150	•	860	831	1310	1660	1125	122
Steel	390	455	892	•	130	200	•	140	100	2600
Tin	552	3520	1331	1447	230	900	4567	5414	2312	2215
" Plates	•	200	256	146	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lead	120	•	•	•	190	•	•	875	640	1555
Oil of Sorts	1072	326	•	1475	105	1027	210	450	252	530
Pearls, Coral and Corallians, False	•	28622	725	15440	9330	11255	41690	16970	12850	27478
Plate, Plated-ware and Jewellery	•	•	•	•	272	•	•	•	•	•
Piece Goods	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Brit. Printed Cottons	•	196	•	•	•	•	•	135	•	•
" of Sorts	46891	75173	71972	60967	94629	111113	172830	117364	186400	216763
" Yarn	380	725	•	•	400	•	235	•	700	750
Cashmere Shawls	•	•	•	•	•	1350	1100	•	•	•
Pepper	6725	4043	1768	5790	4104	6602	7001	2195	5374	4255
Rattans	•	•	100	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Silk-raw	•	•	14000	•	•	•	•	•	•	1300
Spices-Cardamoms	1807	1691	2435	1170	275	240	660	825	720	780
Spirits	•	260	•	418	•	•	•	•	•	•
Stationery	300	250	430	500	•	100	560	205	•	150
Sugar and Sugar Candy	4175	8232	10083	10539	6941	6353	7702	6864	5576	14660
Sundries	4057	3327	7341	8079	4149	4761	5157	8047	8810	6853
Summerheads or Umbrellas	200	•	656	195	200	665	288	206	190	561
Tobacco	•	•	808	140	730	•	•	•	•	•
Tea	•	505	1455	2350	•	100	100	•	•	300
Wine	•	•	•	•	125	•	•	•	805	•
Wood-Sandal	1535	1275	200	1125	360	1425	•	1195	800	615
Woolens	2900	•	•	•	1236	5375	125	1600	5000	•
Merchandise	176675	217014	249433	183415	221175	252659	309868	271567	346037	381909
Treasure	•	•	7560	3350	•	21525	8560	3100	7700	•
Total Rs.	176675	217014	256993	186765	221175	274184	318428	274667	353737	381909

Exports from Bombay to the Eastern Coast of Africa during a period of eight years from 1831 to 1838.

Articles.	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838
Apparel	3647	1644	2078	2222	3061	8914	8567	7635
Beads	31310	9932	3439	5585	14625	19859	"	"
Betel-nut	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	318
Cassia	482	100	"	324	"	280	139	391
China-Ware	10710	9960	9130	13955	14325	13180	13770	12956
Cotton	1000	6500	"	"	3490	"	1210	9925
Coir	"	280	"	"	"	200	125	1310
Coffee	"	"	"	200	"	"	"	"
Copra or dry Cocoanuts	"	168	126	"	"	"	138	"
Dates	1112	225	"	"	"	"	464	"
Gun Powder	"	"	"	"	1150	"	"	"
Glass-Ware	330	"	"	291	325	"	542	2655
Ginger	150	"	250	"	700	1396	722	279
Grain of Sorts	14638	26273	12400	3600	25468	36270	10130	10200
Gum-Benjamin	280	105	1204	1050	1650	1480	345	1330
Eatables and Confectionary	"	646	110	175	604	1500	1221	"
Fireworks	"	"	110	"	100	"	"	"
Hardware and Cutlery	38771	53457	32131	24974	24375	58101	81680	104531
Leather and Saddlery	"	"	"	"	150	"	"	152
Marine-Stores	2140	445	350	875	601	1300	"	584
Medicines and Drugs	916	650	585	362	1875	1259	1858	2483
Brass Old	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	2400
Copper, not described	"	550	"	"	1225	200	"	"
" Tile	"	"	"	"	"	"	1628	"
Iron Swedish Bar	"	"	"	"	"	"	2000	625
" British—Do	32905	16020	7060	2500	3200	13685	770	12200
" Nails	2575	825	11020	2355	2627	900	250	1655
" Old	"	"	"	320	"	"	"	"
" Rod	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	3500
Spelter	200	735	"	300	120	"	192	540
Steel	455	"	"	"	475	560	504	80
Tin	4830	640	860	200	300	600	"	1350
" Plates	"	"	"	"	"	"	650	"
Lead	405	"	"	100	312	1250	"	"
Oil of Sorts	680	175	"	1000	645	012	100	1646
Plate, Plated Ware and Jewellery	"	"	"	"	3000	"	"	"
British Printed Cotton	"	"	225	360	"	"	"	19395
" White or plain	"	"	"	"	"	"	49626	71962
" Of Sorts	110681	00109	154171	201724	168743	180610	330065	232811
" Yarn	"	11200	"	"	2575	3000	1500	5375
Cashmere Shawls	"	"	"	730	"	"	"	"
Pepper	11940	3229	1800	1285	4266	5967	4426	7032
Silk-raw	300	400	600	600	"	3220	93	"
Spices-Cardamoms	350	215	949	1125	300	"	260	350
Stationery	820	400	320	"	300	450	125	380
Sugar	18430	12417	5859	11190	18090	6565	855	16453
" Candy	"	"	"	"	"	"	2961	3350
Sundries	6809	3472	3311	1909	6150	5285	6069	94484
Summerheads or Umbrellas China	525	110	125	125	362	"	"	695
Tea	"	100	"	"	"	"	"	320
Vermilion	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	70
Wood-Sandal	560	425	"	275	"	250	1255	360
Woolens-British	5400	"	500	3210	4575	2350	5905	4650
Spirits-Brandy	"	277	"	"	"	"	"	"
Tobacco	"	320	350	"	"	"	"	"
Merchandise	302451	252004	248863	282921	312483	368643	593331	637289
Treasure	3000	"	6650	"	5700	6200	25000	8000
Total Rs.	305451	252004	255513	282921	318183	374843	618331	645289

In reference to the preceding tables there will be found an increase in the import of some articles, and a diminution in others; the most remarkable of the former being in the articles of ivory, cloves and

spices. The last are produced in the settlements on this coast belonging to the Imaam of Muscat, and the increase has arisen from the great care he has of late years devoted to the production of these articles. There appears a diminution in the article of gums; while gold dust, coffee, ostrich feathers, and dry hides the products of these countries, do not appear in the returns.

IV.—*Report on the Muncher Lake, Arrul and Narah Rivers.* By Lieutenant Postans.

[Presented by Government.]

During a certain portion of the year the main stream of the Indus from Sehwan to within a few miles below Sukkur, is abandoned by the Indus boatmen, who from April to September invariably pursue the more circuitous, but easier route, by way of the Arrul and Narah Rivers, and the great lake Muncher. As the result of my observations whilst travelling in this direction* leads to the conviction that it offers unusual advantages for steamers of even moderate powers, I have drawn up the following brief notice, with a view to call attention to the subject.

The great stream of the Indus meeting the formidable opposition offered to its current, by the hills which join the river a few miles below Sehwan, throws off a branch in a north-westerly direction, towards that town, and during the height of the inundations and consequent greatest velocity of the current, this branch is continued up the Arrul river, to the distance of nearly twenty miles, until it is lost in the water of the great lake Muncher. The Arrul river may be said to commence immediately above Sehwan; from the main river to the town, it is a broad open channel, but its general width above is probably about forty yards, very uniform; and its depth every where very great. The banks are low, even with the waters edge, with but little cultivation, and are clothed with a thick jungle of the tamarisk bush, which here as elsewhere in Sinde, often attains the size of a jungle tree. The circumstance I have mentioned, of the stream from the main river traversing upwards in the Arrul, as far as its junction with the lake, occurs, I have reason to think, during only a limited period, since a fleet of boats, pursuing this route in the month of May last, found the clear water of the Arrul issuing from the lake,

* Left Sehwan on the 1st. of July 1839.

to within a short distance of Sehwan, where the current from the stream, ceased to be in their favor. In the beginning of July however, which was the period of my journey in this direction, the contrary was the case; we were carried with the stream from the Indus, up the whole distance of the Arrul. The muddy water being observable for some time even after we entered the lake. I mention the above fact, with the view of demonstrating the great increase in the velocity of the main stream, during the height of the inundations. The great lake Muncher, when swelled by the inundations is an enormous expanse of water, said to be twenty miles in length, by some ten in breadth, and covering an area probably of about 180 square miles. It extends from the foot of the hills to the north, and is lost on the low lands to the eastward. The ordinary channel for navigation is nearly in the centre, where the water is beautifully clear, and very deep; it would appear that the same facilities for traversing its waters, which were observable when I crossed the lake would always exist, since its main body is not affected by the inundations; these appear to be spread over the low lands, and leave the centre of the same depth, or nearly so, throughout the whole year. The Arrul and Narah rivers however, are completely dry from November to April; the traffic of boats, occupied in fishing or transporting grain, appearing to be very great.

The surface of the Lake is covered for miles with the lotus plant; it abounds in fish, and whole families as on the great river, find their homes in small craft, and look for subsistence to the produce of their nets.

The Narah has its mouth in about the centre of the northern shore of the Lake. The channel for some distance is confined, and passes through a dense jungle of the tamarisk, but the appearance of the country soon changes, and for the greater part of its course, this stream flows through an open country, which will probably vie with any of the same extent in the East, for richness of soil and capabilities. The general breadth of Narah I shall calculate at from 80 to 100 yards, and the average rate of current probably two miles: its depth close to the banks was generally twenty feet.

The term "Narah" signifying in Sinde a snake,* is well applied to the continued windings of the stream, but these from the dulness of the current, offer no obstacle to navigation; even at the height of the floods a boat of forty khurwahs was tracked by five men, at the average rate of sixteen miles a day. The distance from Sehwan to

* See the paper on the Indus by the late Captain Macmurdo, printed in the present number. He considered this term to be a Sindee corruption of *nala*. S.

where the Narah issues from the main stream, is estimated by the natives at 200 miles, 100 koss, or about double that of the river itself, and I should not think it over-rated.

The general effect of this river is of its being a canal; it is difficult to imagine that its course is not artificial.

The portion of the country lying between the Narah and the main stream, has, of course, a double advantage of irrigation, and as the lands lie generally lower than the Narah, a simple drain suffices to turn the waters upon them, the soil is a rich alluvial, and rice is the principal cultivation, though the cotton plant of the large description peculiar to Sindh, is seen in great perfection on the high banks. This portion of Sindh is thickly populated; villages abound on both sides of the river, many of them composed of huts built of temporary materials, surrounded by numerous flocks of sheep and cattle; the latter of an exceedingly fine description. There are also several towns of size and importance, the principal being Khyrpore. The numerous Government boats laden with grain, which I learned were on their way to Hyderabad, attest the importance of the revenue derived by the Ameers from this rich territory, at the same time their usual system of excessive taxation, is doubtless the cause of the comparatively small portion of land under cultivation in districts which might be made productive to an almost unlimited extent.

As I journeyed by the Narah river during the most favorable season for navigation, I may be overrating the advantages which it presents as a general route. I think there can be little doubt that for six months in the year, it would offer the advantages over the main stream of slow current, an uniform and great depth of water, supplies abundant, not forgetting the important article of fuel, and as such, may perhaps merit a survey and detailed report.

V. — *Observations on the Sindhoo or river Indus.* By the late Captain James Macmurdo.

[Communicated by James Bird, Esquire.]

The present state of the river Indus is unquestionably an object of more real interest than any inquiries regarding its ancient condition. Nevertheless many able pens have been employed in endeavouring to illustrate a subject, which from local and natural circumstances is destined for ever to remain involved in obscurity; and an extraordinary anxiety has been evinced to support theories which are

at best only calculated to exercise the ingenuity of the learned, whilst the actual state of this interesting and celebrated river, its peculiarities and utility, are neglected as considerations of no importance, excepting to that portion of mankind, who are indebted to its beneficent waters for a subsistence.

This river has been said to resemble the Nile more than any other of the same magnitude. The character of the flood is similar, and the inundation of the Delta, and its extraordinary fertility bear a striking resemblance. These remarks have been made both by ancients and moderns who have visited this stream. The Indus, however, is a far inferior river to the Nile, both in respect to size and to the quantity and regularity of its floods. This is perhaps occasioned by the different nature of the countries through which these rivers take their course.

The Indus is called in the saanscrit writings Sindhoo or Syndhoo which is doubtless the original name. Sindhoo signifies the ocean, and is used to the river metaphorically. Mehran and Meetha Mehran-nur are the names by which the Indus is most commonly known in India. These I believe also to be Hindú words significant of the sweet or fresh sea. The Indus from where the Garah unites with it, cannot be said to receive one tributary stream.

I shall not presume to enter on a discussion of the causes of the floods in the Indus. They are by some held to be found in the melting of the snows in the Himalayas; and by others the periodical inundation is attributed to incessant rains in the high latitudes. An investigation of the circumstances might perhaps afford reason for both opinions, but I must leave it for others to decide upon a question on which I confess my information is totally deficient.

The floods usually commence early in May and subside early in September, a period which it may be observed corresponds with the rainy monsoon of western India. They rise with rapidity although they sink and rise frequently before the waters gain their utmost height, after which they gradually abate. The effects of inundation are felt differently at different positions. In the flat countries, the waters spread from six to eight miles, on each bank of the river, and are carried much further by the labour of the people who have made canals, or cuts for the irrigation of soil which would otherwise lie waste and unproductive. The stream of the Indus is subject to great changes more particularly near the Delta, where the seaports vary their positions very frequently. Some years Shahbunder is the principal port, and in others the waters are transferred to Dhar-
raja, or Laribunder; but in attempting to describe the modern

river, I shall for the sake of perspicuity fix upon a point whence I shall proceed from place to place successively, and hope by this plan to make the subject as clear as its natural difficulty will admit.

It is not my intention if I possessed the ability, to treat of the Indus otherwise than as connected with the province of Sinde; and in endeavouring to fulfil this object I shall fix the city of Bhukir, as the point limiting my remarks on the northern boundary. At this city the river according to Mr. Pottinger, is, in the dry season, sixteen hundred yards wide; but, according to my information at the same season the Indus is here nineteen hundred yards of stream in a channel of three thousand yards wide. From Rohri to Sukhir, is reckoned above three miles, but although those places are close to the banks of the river, they stand obliquely to its bed which reduce the straight line considerably.

Rohri, or properly speaking Lohri, is situated on the east bank, which is here precipitous and one entire rock of flint. Opposite Rohri in a direct line is Bhukir, situated on an eminence composed of the same material, and at a distance of twenty-five or twenty-six hundred yards. From Bhukir to the main land forms the rest of the channel; and although in ancient accounts it is said to have been considerable it has now no water, and is only known to exist from the circumstance of some of the superfluous water of the floods finding its way to the westward of Bhukir. The channel from that place to Lohri is one sheet of rock rugged and uneven, over which the stream which is confined in limits extraordinarily narrow flows with a noise heard many miles distant. In the middle are two or three lofty rocks which are never covered in the highest floods, and on one of these is a Mahomedan place of pilgrimage called Khajah Kathawn.

The Indus has the appearance of having forced its way through a rocky mountain; in the westernmost point of which Bhukir stands, but the mountain itself runs in a low range from Lohri to the south east as far as the Poorna, along the west bank of which it is perceptible for nearly sixty miles south of Alore, where the range becomes sandy and in that character is traced as far south as the latitude of Meer Ellah Yar's Tandah at Rohir, where the water is seven fathoms deep, and the houses of the town rise directly from the precipice of the river. This ferry is considered difficult at all seasons, but during the flood it is extremely dangerous, and seldom attempted, owing to the rapidity of the current and the disturbed state of the waters from their confined passage.

About eighteen koss above Bhukir a channel is formed, which receiving its waters from the main stream, flows to the westward of

Shikarpoor as far as the country of Nowshera, where taking a southerly course it runs nearly parallel to the Indus, varying in distance from that river from twenty-five to twenty-six miles, as far as Sehwan where it rejoins the great channel. This stream at first takes the name of *Now Lukhi Sind*; but where it passes the parrallel of Ladkhana, where the canal of that name separates, and where another communication occurs with the Indus, the appellation of Now Lukhi Sind is changed for that of *Narah** which it retains throughout its future course, and by which it is familiarly known to the natives of the country. This *Narah* is navigated during the season of the floods and indeed until January in preference to the main stream, it having much less current and being more convenient for the disposal of goods. At other seasons the *Narah* is dry, here and there presenting pools of water, by means of which irrigation is carried on.

Between Bhukir and Khyrpoor, the space between the *Narah* and the Indus during the floods is entirely covered with water, where elevated ridges occasionally running from one to the other form dhands or lakes. As the inundation subsides, the water is drawn off by both streams, leaving the whole country between with a rich soil ready to receive wheat or barley in October, without any previous preparation.

The crops produced in this tract which consists of part of the Candka, Undersin, Ghar, Tigger, Baghban, and the Khodabad pergunahs, are said to be beyond anything luxuriant, and so extensive that nothing is perceptible for miles, but a vast expanse of grain uninterrupted excepting where the remains of a dhand are visible in sheets of water of several miles in extent. Such is the abundance of the crop and such the want of commerce to confer on it a value, that no boundaries distinguish the property of one cultivator from that of another, each individual scattering and reaping his grain at hazard.

In this tract are the lakes called the Maha and the Muncher. They are nominally distinct, and are separated by the channel of the *Narah* at Khyrpoor. This division is however little else than nominal, for during the season of the floods they form one vast sheet of water from Sehwan to Cheezapoor, in which neither of the lakes in question, the *Narah* nor indeed the Indus itself are perceptible. The Maha and the Muncher are however seldom or never entirely dry although on the floods subsiding, the greatest portion of their waters retreat into the *Narah* and Indus whence they originally came and are carried off by these channels. These lakes are interspersed with hillocks and elevated grounds on which the inhabitants reside, and as the waters everywhere abound in fish, vast numbers of small boats are

* A common Sindî term for a nulah or natural water channel or ravine.

employed by the people for fishing, as well as for the convenience of passing from one hillock to another. They also employ their boats in shooting and snaring the wild fowl with which the Maha and the Muncher are covered throughout the year. I have already mentioned the Ladkhana canal and I shall now describe it as it appertains to this part of the country. Nearly in the parallel of the spot where the Now Lukhi Sind rejoins the Indus, and a few miles after the Narrah strikes out from the river, this canal is cut from the latter, and pursues a westerly direction for nearly sixty miles into the purgunnah of Chandka which takes its name from its inhabitants the Chandia Belooches and in its course sends forth koor, or cuts in every direction north and south, by means of which Chandka is rendered the most fertile district in Sind, yielding with its inferior divisions, Meel Libé, Deria, Dera Kyra, and two others, an annual revenue beyond that of any other.

On reaching the most westerly extent towards the Cacha pergunnah, the Ladkhana canal having taken a turn to the southward, and spread itself into a lake, named Kumbergundie, pursues the same course until it is entirely drained by the canals for irrigation. In the floods, however, the waters even of the Kumbergundie, I am told, find their way into the Bobuck and Maha lakes, which will afford some idea (on reference to the map) of the singular nature of this country and of the vast utility of this noble river.

The Ladkhana canal was cut by Meer Noor Mahomed Kulhora, when he selected Ladkhana as his capital, and it thus is commonly known by the name of the Koorwah. It is generally about thirty yards wide, and from six to twelve feet deep. The Kumbergundie is thickly covered with reeds and marsh, which divides it from the Cacha, or mountainous district, to the westward. The Narrah in some places is sixty yards between the banks, and from six to eighteen feet deep. It is a natural channel and has existed from ancient times.

From the foregoing account it will appear that during the season of the inundation, the space of country extending from Ladkhana on the north, to Sehwan on the south, and from the Indus to Kumbergundie on the west is annually laid under water. No other tract in Sindh is similarly favored to such a degree if we except the Delta, where nevertheless, whether from an inferior soil or some other cause, I know not the benefits derived are in proportion very limited.

On the east bank of the Indus and opposite to Bhukir is situated the town of Lohri extending along the face of a rocky hill for about four miles, down the bank of the river. The mountain on which it is situated has already been noticed to the southward of the town,

gardens and pleasure grounds extend along the bank of the river for fourteen miles. South of the town, there is an artificial cut called the Amercuss, which runs in a S. E. direction to the Pooran, but through which the waters of the Indus cannot rise sufficiently to flow. It receives however a little water from the channel called the Narah, which is at the present day likewise almost above the level of the highest floods.

The course of the Amercuss is generally in a marshy state, and one of the Kulhoras formed a causeway across it, which he named the small Attock. The Amercuss is attributed to the industry and beneficence of Rai-Ameer the father of Dilloo Rai,— from whom it takes the name, and the advocates for this fact state that the waters of the Narah, were conveyed by the Amercuss westward to Lohur-cote. The circumstance appears only to be supported by the height of its level above that of the present Indus which prohibits the idea of its having been intended as a canal from it.

The next canal to the southward on the east bank is known by the name of Meer Sohrabs-wah. This Meer on the division of Sinde fixed his residence at Khyrpoor, to which place he attracted the population of Lohri and it is for the convenience of this city and for fertilizing the Ga-gri and other pergunnahs that this canal has been cut. It is much inferior in dimensions and extent to that of Ladkhana. Throughout the whole line of Sohrabs-wah, there are artificial cuts leading the water into countries which as they lie above the level of the floods, would but for these canals, be nothing better than a desert.

The next canal in regular succession on the east bank, is the Now-Lukhi, which it is necessary to distinguish from the Now-Lukhi Sind already described. The canal in question was made during the Kulhora government and is intended to fertilize the pergunnahs of Kundirra and Samtee. The overplus water of this canal, as indeed, those of most others in these parts, find their way into the Pooran channel, (unless the floods are moderate) where lakes or barrows artificially made, generally suffice to retain them for the use of the vicinage.

A little below this canal a low tract of land to the eastward of the Indus, which is called Rele or Reel receives a portion of water in the floods and taking a circular sweep rejoins the Indus thirty miles lower down near Guehera. The space between the river and the Reel is about ten miles broad, and from its peculiar situation is well peopled and esteemed very fertile. The Reel becomes dry shortly after the floods have subsided.

A short way below where the Reel rejoins the Indus and Meer Syed suffen issues the Dumbrawah, which is artificial, and said to be ancient, but I am somewhat doubtful of the direction which is followed by this canal, and I observe Mr. Pottinger has made what I suppose to be the same cut rejoin the Indus near Meerpoor. I have however in the map been guided by what I conceived to be the fact although perhaps I may be wrong. The Dumbra is succeeded by the Bhumuna or Lohanna Deria which although as I imagine to have been anciently the main channel, now receives a trifling quantity of water from the present river, and ascending the Lohanna but a short way aids in the fertilization of the Shidapoor and Lukawut pergunnahs.

The canals above mentioned are generally from six to ten feet deep, and as many yards broad. The high road from Hyderabad to Bhukir during the latter end of the inundation leads up through this country on the east bank which has water only in canals, while the west bank from Sehwan upwards is entirely under water, and travelling impracticable. The whole course of the river here spoken of is remarkable for its forming a quick succession of reaches which protracts in some degree the progress of vessels. The stream is every where extremely rapid, so much so that when a boat is placed in it, it is impossible to procure sounding unless her way is stopped by some means or other. The depth is no where under three fathoms and in general from five to eight, or upwards, in the dry season.

The next stage of the river is from Sehwan to Hyderabad, which is double the distance by water that it is by land. At Sehwan Mr. Pottinger's information states the Indus to be nine hundred yards broad during the dry season. My informants corroborate the statement as having been correct about twenty years ago, but gives me reason to believe, that since that period it has been reduced to little more than 600 yards. The river formerly approached close to the precipice on which the old castle of Sehwan was situated; and under this rock and fort vessels used to ride. The stream has however of late years followed the eastern side of the channel and the precipice of Sehwan is consequently thrown at some distance from the water.

A few hundred yards below Sehwan on the same side, is a bold rocky precipice which although not the real Lukhi mountain may be considered as a part of it. The river appears to rush against this rock, by which being repelled it takes a gradual course to the south-eastward, so remarkable in the map; and where it joins the rock there is a narrow pass called the Lukhi pass which is of material consequence to an army invading from the north. The mountains pro-

perly speaking are three or four miles from Sehwan and from the river.

About thirty miles below Sehwan, on this west side of the river, a small torrent descends from the mountains, and falls into the Indus near the town of Sum.* Another of the same nature joins near Kotori still further south. These are remarkable as being the only two tributaries to this great river from Bhukir to the sea. The whole of the west bank in this space is rocky partaking of the nature of the hills, from which it is distant from one to five miles. Here are no canals nor irrigation, but in the vicinity of the mountains pasturage is abundant and of an excellent quality.

On the east bank from Shewan to Khodabad in the middle of the river bed there is a country nearly destitute of inhabitants and covered with a jungle of lye and other brushwood.† This tract is a preserve of game for the exclusive amusement of the Ameers, who here as well as in other places, have appropriated to the sole purpose of hunting, rich and fertile tracts of country from which they have expelled the inhabitants. The grounds are surrounded by fences of trees and wicker work which enclose a space of many miles, through which no persons are allowed to pass, and within a certain distance of which no gun is permitted to be fired under severe penalties. Guards permanently reside at certain distances for the protection of the preserve; and the orders of the Ameers are executed with the utmost severity. In these grounds are chiefly preserved vast herds of wild hog. The Ameers and indeed the Sinde noblemen in general take much pleasure in hunting this animal, and hundreds of dogs of a large size, and fierce disposition, are kept by every one on purpose for this diversion. The Boar is also shot by the Ameers, who watch night and day when engaged in this diversion, and are often in extreme danger from accidents consequent to this amusement.

At Khodabad is a ferry, which is convenient for those who travel by land from Hyderabad; as the road on the east of the river is commonly followed thus far, as is that part on the western bank from hence to Sehwan. Near Khodabad are the remains of the Lohanna Deria, where it appears to have turned south, although Dela Rochette continues a river from this spot to Sarusan considerably to the westward

* This probably ought to be written *Sun* or *San* as there is a place of this name near Sehwan. — See Vincent's *Nearchus* p. 129.

† The tamarisk which grows to an uncommon size and is almost the only wild tree in Scinde.

of the present river, and which no doubt formed the stream whose channel is to be seen between Bhumbora and Kurachee, although I have not satisfactory information as to the fact and cannot find the smallest trace of authority for his Sarusan.

Near to Hallcundy is to be seen the channel of another stream, or perhaps a canal. It is now waste and is so little known that both its precise course and name are lost. The east bank between Khodabad and Sukhat has been exposed to great variations, and the sites of the towns have been of late repeatedly changed. The channel about twenty-two years ago, was extremely broad, and had encroached to such a degree, as to destroy much fine land and many villages near Hallcundy, the site of which town was also removed. The river has however once more returned to the west bank, and left a broad sandy plain to the eastward. There appears however to be some confusion regarding the channels hereabout, and which I cannot clear up to my own satisfaction.

At Sukhat is the old channel now called the *Phitta* or destroyed river. It existed when the Khan Khanan invaded Sindh and had for centuries rendered Nusserpore the most fertile and beautiful tract in Sindh. The change is now very great, for with the desertion of the river, Nusserpore has become a heap of ruins, hardly discernable, and though the city and its environs were once so much extolled, they are now a desert without a drop of fresh water. I purposely avoid entering into a discussion of these points, because it is my intention to devote a chapter to a description of the Indus from the earliest times of which we have records, and of its various subsequent changes till the present day.

From Sukhat the river takes a south course, leaving Hyderabad four or five miles to the eastward and pursues its way to the Tricore. After passing Sukhat, where the river is checked on the west side by the hills, it passes the branch on the east bank called the Foolelee, which pursues its course under the walls of Hyderabad, and, ten or twelve miles further south, to the neighbourhood of Mahomed Khan's Tunda where a branch suddenly turns nearly due west and unites with the main river at Tricore; thus forming the pergunnah of Dooba, and fertilizing the possessions of Mahomed Khan Talpoora, and the Soondra district. The channel of the Foolelee is upwards of a mile broad in some places, but in the dry season it has not above two feet water. At other seasons it is navigated by the vessels common to the river, and indeed vessels of some description or other still pass along it by being dragged through the sand, when they have not sufficient water. Within the last fifteen or twenty

years the Föolelee was not fordable during the dry season, but its limits were then more confined than they now are.

When this stream turns west at Mahomed Khan's Tunda, there is still a continuation of it towards the sea, but it here receives the name of Goni, a branch which formerly disembogued into the sea through the easternmost or Lukput branch of the Indus, known by the name of Kori or Loni.

The Talpooras have however erected two dams, one called the *morabund*, which elevating the level draws the water into the Khattee and eastern districts, and another, lower down at Ali bunder, with the same view. The waters do not now find their way to the sea excepting during the floods, and even then in a very trifling quantity. Thus the Lukput river which was perfectly fresh thirty years ago, is now quite salt; and is in fact an arm of the sea, which meeting with no opposition is driven up to the dam of Ali bunder. The mouths are gradually filling up with sand in the absence of the freshes that prevented its accumulation.

From Tricore the Indus pursues generally a S. S. W. course to Thutta, three miles to the eastward of which it continues its course in the same direction to Dharraja. Here it breaks into two streams, the largest of which disembogues into the sea sixteen or eighteen miles lower down in a due west direction. About eight years ago the Indus divided into two branches above Thutta, one of which ran to the westward and the other to the eastward of that capital; but the former has been deserted by the caprice of the river, and the commercial interests of the city have been in consequence much injured.

According to the most authentic accounts that I have been able to collect, the Indus has, properly speaking, ten mouths or channels of communication with the sea. These are all of different sizes and descriptions, various in their facility of access to vessels, and subject to annual and material change. Although the above numbers are well known to sailors, as places where wood and water are to be had, yet there are properly speaking only four seaports connected with this great river. The mouths from Kurachi eastward stand thus:

1st * Phittia, 2nd Khoodia, 3rd Pytiam, 5th Kudeware, 6th Ghura, 7th Kair, 8th Mull, 9th Seer, 10th Kori or Kari.

Of these the four first are entrances leading to Dharraja and Laribunder; the next four are connected more or less with Shahbunder and the two last which are within one entrance lead respectively to

* The term *Bari* ought to be attached to each of these names, as Phittia bari or the Phittia mouth, &c.

Mughrubi (i. e. **Seer Gundha**) and **Lukput**. I shall attempt a short account of each of the mouths drawn up in a great measure from the information of pilots in the coasting trade and in one or two instances from personal inspection. It is proper however to premise that the statements, although they may correspond with the actual situation of the river this last year, may probably be found to differ materially after the floods of the present year shall have subsided.

The **Phittia bari**, or mouth, is situated about twelve or fourteen miles to the eastward and southward of **Kurachi**. This is the most westerly of all the mouths of the Indus, and is the largest and most commodious for the large class of coasting vessels. The entrance is about two miles broad. On the right hand there is a low island covered with tamarisk bushes, and on the left a low strip of hard sand extends for upwards of a mile and a half in length, and somewhat less in breadth. This last which lies close to the entrance shelters the anchorage of large vessels situated close under it.

The **Phittia** has five fathoms water at the bar, and from four to twelve fathoms inside. The channel leading to **Dharraja** runs at first east, afterwards a little southerly, but the former is the general course of the river, which exhibits a succession of short reaches leading in the most opposite directions. From the bar to **Dharraja** is twenty-five miles by the river, and about sixteen by land in a direct line. The stream is reduced in some places to 100 yards breadth and at **Dharraja** is three times that extent. The water is fresh at low tide so near to the bar as six miles, and although the effect of the tides is felt to within a few miles of **Thutta**, the water is never salt further than ten miles from the sea.

From the **Phittia**, and near its mouth, a creek or branch leads up to the northward of east for thirty five miles, to **Garrah** bunder where it terminates in a sandy bed of a river formerly the **Sagora** or **Bhum-bora** branch of the Indus. In this creek vessels of 50 tons are admitted, and lighters deposit their cargoes at **Garrah**, which has of late years been almost deserted. The **Phittia** has for many centuries been a considerable branch of this river, and has been less subject to changes than any other, though from its entrance being so high in the Bay of **Kurachi**, it is not so much resorted to as **Kurachi** itself on the **Pytiam** branch.

I have no doubt that on the **Phittia** was situated the ancient **Dewal** or **Debil**, which town although historians make synonymous with **Laribundér**, I conceive on the authority of oral tradition to have been on the **Sagora** branch, and not far from **Garrah**. It is very

probable however that the site of Debil was frequently changed with the alterations in the river.

[It will be seen that the above communication is unfortunately merely a fragment, the MS. presented to the Society being incomplete. It is hoped that the publication of the first part will induce any Gentlemen who may possess the remainder to produce it. ●

In printing the paper no alteration has been attempted; the orthography and notes are the Author's. S.]

VI. — *Note on some Names of places on the Shores of the Red Sea.* By A. Thompson D'Abbadie, Esq.*

Musawwa', 10th March, 1838.

“The following attempt to correct the orthography of names of places in the Red Sea, is, as yet, partial and incomplete. But my approaching journey to Abyssinia will put it out of my power to follow up any longer a subject which becomes more arduous as it advances toward perfection. It had been my wish to examine how far the nomenclature of the ancients would agree with my present corrected chart; but I am sensible that many travellers have not done their duty in withholding their information with a vain desire to give the last polish to a work which might often be better finished by others. Besides, I have but one manuscript, and the difficulties of my intended tour may deprive me of that.

“I had the good fortune to meet an eminent Oriental scholar at Jiddah, M. Fresnel, who had taken up his quarters there in order to pursue his researches in the elucidation of Arab tradition prior to the age of Mohammed. He kindly laid aside his manuscripts, collected the pilots of the Red Sea, and taught me to distinguish the niceties of Arabic orthography. As it was very often impossible to make the pilots understand the words pronounced, as we supposed them to have been written after the English fashion, it became necessary to perform an imaginary tour from place to place. When among islands we often needed the help of an intelligent pilot from Hadramaut, who, being accustomed to consult maps, could better explain, in sea-terms, the relative positions and distances. Every name when received from the pilot was successively pronounced by each of us, the Arabs present being consulted as to the distinctions

* Reprinted from the Journal of the Royal Geographical Society of London.

between س [s] and س [s] ح [h] and ه etc., which are not always attended to by the lower class of seamen, to which the pilots generally belong. Even with all these precautions I could not avoid such faults as depend on a difference of pronunciation. Thus, I have written *seil* in some places, and *seyyil* in others.

“We have been greatly puzzled by the island of Nahelej, which, in my copy of the chart, is laid down as being totally distinct from Nórah; our Dahlak pilot assured us that there was no large island to the N. E. of Nórah, and that Nahelej, or a name like it, is a spot in the isle of Nórah. He likewise knew nothing of a distinct island called Mahoon, although it was evident that he never hesitated in giving the names in their proper order. This uncertainty prevented us from recognizing several small islands near Nórah.

It may not, perhaps, be uninteresting to communicate the names of the points of the compass, which I also owe to M. Fresnel. They are used by every pilot in the Red Sea.

North	. . . Jah.	E. by S.	. . . —Matla'el jauzá.
N. by E.	. . . Matla'el firkid.	E. S. E.	. . . — el tir.
N. N. E.	. . . — el na'sh.	S. E. by E.	. . . — el iklil.
N. E. by N.	. . . — el nakah.	S. E.	. . . — el 'akrab.
N. E.	. . . — el ayyuk.	S. E. by S.	. . . — el himárein.
N. E. by E.	. . . — el waki'.	S. S. E.	. . . — el soheil.
E. N. E.	. . . — el sumak.	S. by E.	. . . — el sallibár.
E. by N.	. . . — el thurayya	South	. . . — Kotb.
East	. . . — Mtala'.		

“*Maghríb* signifies *West*, and is applied in place of *Matla*, in order to designate the opposite points of the compass: thus, *Maghríb el 'Akrab*, means S. W., &c. These names belong to constellations, but I have not been able to identify more than one or two.*

“As the present mode of sailing in the Red Sea has probably been followed during a long course of ages, I shall give you the names of the spots in which we anchored during our voyage from Jiddah to Musawwa', with a northerly wind. Starting at daybreak, Feb. 8th, we halted near sunset at Mersa Raghwán (Rugguan, Engl. Ch.): Feb. 9th, at Mersa Ibráhím, which is the port N. E. of Líth; Feb. 10th, at Fará (Farrar Islands); on the 11th, after 3 hours' stay at Konfodah, we anchored in Halí; the 12th, after having coasted as far as El Barak (el Burk), we crossed the Sea, passing near Fásiliyyat (Warsaleat Island), and on the 19th our pilot recognised the land near Kandállái (Gandalite). As there is no good anchorage on this coast, we went on to Musawwa', where we arrived on the 16th.

* They are explained in the *Jihán Numá*, p. 61.—F. S.

"I have also written down all the names from Yembo' to Mokhá.

Names of Places in a Coasting Voyage from Sawákin to Mokhá.

<i>According to a Dahlak Pilot, *</i>	<i>English Chart.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
Fejj Rá'i-l-kasab	(Omitted)	{ i.e. valley of the Sugar-cane Shepherd.
Mersá Lekák Hindi	{ Mersa Legakinde Mersa Hadoo	{ Both names are used? *
—— Kiláb 'Alí		
—— Hádhiyû (Hádhihu?)		
—— Hádhinû (Hádhinhu?)		
—— Al Shabak	Al Shubuc	
—— Sheikh Sa'd	Mersa Sheikh Saad	
—— 'Aikah		
—— Lahm		
—— Kofût		
—— Sha'b Sunble		
Jezirat el Amír		
—— el Hádi		
—— Melákiyát		{ Three small islands N. of Ras Mugda.
Rás Mikdam	Ras Mugda	
Mersá Turunj hátet	Trikatatah	
—— Kat'ah Jábinû (já bein-hu?)	{ Guttat Tromba	{ Here follow seven headlands: They have no names.
Rás 'Asis		
Jezérirat Amarat	Amarat	
Rás Shekab		W. of Amarat.
Jezírat Koban		
Rás el Sájj		S. E. of Rás Shekab.
Jezirat el 'akik, or Bahdûr	Aggeeg, or Badour	
—— hajar		
Rás el Debír	Ras deber	
—— el 'abid		
—— Abû Lâbis (-l Abis?)	Aboo Yahbis	
—— or Mersá-lkassár	Ras Casar	Also named Ras Kassár.
Mersá Samad 'Allám		
—— Mandalû (Mandal-hu?)	Mudaloo	
Rás Teraubah	Serabar (probably)	
Mersá Rárat	Rarrat	
—— Kabru-sh-sheikh	Gubroo Sheikh	
—— El berr reyyim		
Karn, or } 'Adaf	Garna Duff	{ This is the general name of this part of the coast; Karn is synonymous with Rás.
Rás } —— Kandelláyí	Gundalite	
Jezirah Difnein	Difhane	
Mersá Mobárák	Mersa Moobaruck	
—— Ibráhim	Mersa Ebrahim	

* It must be borne in mind that in the names taken from the English chart of the Red Sea the vowels are to be sounded as usual in English; in those from the Dahlak pilot, as in Italian, or as in the English words *father, there, fatigue, cold, rude.*—

*According to a Dahlah Pilot.**English Chart.**Remarks.*

Mersá Inte'silah	Indesilee
— Abú Ruba'	Aboo Rubah
— Mahallah	
— Kuba'	Coobach
— Ughayyarú	
Rás Harb	Ras Hurub
— Kurkusum.	
Mersá Dákhiliyyah (Inner Harbour.)	
Rás 'Abd-el-kádir.	
Jezírah Sheik Sa'id	
— el tawálet (Long Island)	
Harkíko, or Arkíko	Argeego
Musawwa'	
Rás Harár, N. of Musawwa'	Massowah
— Modar, N. Musawwa	
Jezírah Desei	Dissee
— Haudhah (Cistern Island)	
Rás Haudhah (Cistern Head)	
Jezírah 'asákir (Army Isles)	
Rás Kúrelah	
— el Dellemah	
Jezírah Umm-en-námús (Mother-of-Law Island)	Larmoosé
Kurún Duluh,	
Ras Horeirah	
Jezírah Delkus (Dhá-íkuss?)	
— Del'id (Dhá-l'id, Festival Island)	
— al'ajúz (Old Woman)	Adjuce
Jebel Hawákil	Howakil
— Derkamán	Delgamna
— Bak'ah	Jibbel Bucker
— Seil Bahar	Sarbo
— Abú 'Okbah, or 'Akabah	
— Omm-es-sabrij	
or Mersá Endeddeh.	
Rás Kurmud kebir	
— Saghír	
— Maurakh Hoyo (Haihu?)	
Jebel Benat (el Wá)	
— Handú	Banat' lar
— Dúrefros	Duroro?
— Hanfilah	Amphila

{ An extensive valley N. of Rás Harb, and which contains fresh water.

{ The headland that projects N. of Musawwa'.

S. of Musawwa'.

S. W. of Musawwa'.

{ Called Dakhanú (Sorghum Dochna) by the Habáb. Called Bati' by the Habáb.

{ Called by the Habáb, Bati' Point of land N. of Musawwa'.

W. point of Musawwa' Island.

Triangular island, N. E. of Desei Island

First headland E. of Desei.

{ Two Islands N. of Rás Hawádet.

Second headland E. of Desei.

Third headland, Ibid.

S. of Umm-en-námús island.

{ This name appears to have been divided and applied to two distinct islands.

{ This name is applied to two capes distinguished from each other by the adjectives Kebrí and Saghír.

*According to a Dahlak Pilot.**English Chart.**Remarks.*

Rásu-r-rá 'atán

Ras Ourata

{ Ras Ará'ta ought to be more northerly ?

Rás Kassár
(Rás er-rebát?)Ras Cussar
Ras Seerboot

Ghubbat Weleleh

{ This name is given to the whole space from Ras Kasear to Kurdúmiyát Islands.

Jezírat Kurdúmiyát
'EidCoordomeat
Edd

Jebel Kudd'Ali

Coordarlee

— Abá 'il

Jibbel Abbelat

Jibál Rakhamah

White Quoin hill(?)

Berr as-súlah, Rás Beilúl
Dahlak Bender Mokh á

“ Berr Asúlah is the name of the coast which lies between Jibál, Rahmet, and Beilúl, the Ras Billool of the English chart. As the Arab vessels sail from Rás Beilul to Bender Mokhá, my Dahlak pilot could not give me any more names on the African coast.

*Dahlak, and the Net of Islands which surround it.*Dahlak
Memlah (Saltern)
Adhal, or EdhelTown
MemlahTown, or village W. of
Memlah.Durbeshah, or Durbeshát
Erwá
Dúbellú
Rás KusumDerboshat
Erwa
Doobelloo
R. Goosum
Goobanee
CumbeeberBetween the sea and Kúg-
bibeh, which ought to be
more to the E.
W. of Sál'eit.I'bárah (Ibárah?)
Sál'eit
Jamheileh
Jeziratu-n-nokhrá

Salat

N. W. of Dúbellú.
Nokhrá island at the en-
trance of the principal bay
of Dahlak.

The preceding belong immediately to Dahlak island.

Jozírat Kádo
Sherm Sáyilah Bádírah
— Hárrah
— El Abú
— Norah (Naúrah so
pronounced)
Rás Kubará (Hubára — Bus-
tard?)
— Dúlbahút
— Berr 'addah
— Dohol
— DahrehKaddo
Sale Badera
Harrat
Laboo
Nora
Dulbahout
Buradoo
Dohul
Dahrel

N. point of Norah island.

CLUSTER OF ISLANDS AROUND DAHLAK.

<i>According to a Dahlak Pilot.</i>	<i>English Chart.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
Omm 'Ali ('Ali's mother)	Ommarlee	Two islands.
Deheris Melek		First island N.W. Omm'Alf.
Antġh		Second ditto.
Abū Sherāyī'at.		Third ditto, or most northerly.
Enta' fūsh	Tookfush	
Turkub		Two islands N. of Enta'fūsh.
Tanan	Tunnum	
Wustah	Wooster	
Esrātau	Suratoo	
'A Wāli Shaġrah	Howallee Shorah	
—— Hutum (Hutub?)	——huttoob	
Enta' sanū	Intensnoo	
Esbāb	Uabob	
Hurmīl	Harmeel	
Hukāleh	Hukally	
Seil 'Anber	Sale Amber	
Ante' untur		E. of Hukāleh.
Ghabbihu		S. of the preceding
Dulhalam (Dhū-l'Helem)	Dulhulum	
Enta'idel	Entadell?	
Tabāniyo		Not identified, N. E. near Dulhulum.
Adāsī	Hadassee	
Dahreh		W. of Adasi.
Adhgher (Azkār?)	Askar	
Dahretu-n-nūreh		S. of Azgher.
Seilu-n-nūreh		S. of the preceding.
Seil Bal'ah		W. of Seil Nūreh.
Durr es-surġm	Durafroos	
Duru'tam	Bettah	
Ento'ghodaf	Entogaeluf	
Dallemet		Near the preceding island — position not identified.
Moseil		
Adbāret	Hadbar	
'Ukūsh		Between the N.W. point of Dahlak Islands and Duhu.
Dulbu'ūd, or Dulkush		Between the same N.W. point and the 'Ukūsh.
Dubinnes		Near the preceding ones.
Derujruj	Derridjeree	
Sarad	Sarod	
Darghelleh	Darghelee	
Durkaham	Durghaum	
Kundābīlū		
Endabir		N. of Ente terra'.
Enterāhiyā		
Enteterra'	Euteurah	
Mandūt		Long sandy island, which terminates the shoal N. of Desei.
Delfidel (Dhū-l fīdal.)		
Muta'dhebn	Mursateban	
Sil Seidthan		Near Muta'dhabn.
Durkamān		Two islands W. of the preceding.
Diladhī 'ah	Dilladeah	
Mahūn	Mahoon	

<i>According to a Dahlah Pi'ot.</i>	<i>English Chart.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
Dehábir		Two islands, one smaller than the other.
Derom	Derome	N. of the following.
Toweirah (Little Bird)		
Dulkus (Dhū-l kūs?)	Dulkoos	
Akrab	Agrub	
Seil 'Arabí	Sale Arabee	
Dunnafarik (Dhū-n nafarik.)		
Gharfb	Garreet	
Dhū-l akl	Dulgold?	
Dhū-l yighaf	Dulgoof?	
Hawátib Kebír	Howatib	
Hawátib Saghir		
Dubí 'ah	Duldeah?	S. of Duldeah of the chart.
Dinísheb		
Yermalko	Jermalho	
Sinna'í	Senach	
Ferj saghálah	Dahret Segarla	
Rajiyum	Rajuma	
Rákah	Rackah	
Musta' milah	Mustarmila	S. of Rajúm.
Weld Muháreb		
Dhauber	Soober	
Salma	Salma	
U'kan	Oucan	
Mojéidí	Moghady	
Durkurúsh (Dhū-l Kurúsh)	Dulgrosa	Dhū-l Kurúsh? i. e. he who has Kurúsh (piastrea.)
Mashúgha.	Mashúgar.	
Belhessú (Bá-l Hasú?)	Bolhessoo	
Hatití	Howate?	
Tehor el jebel	Tor	W. by S. of Tehúr el jebel.
Tahúr el yed (Dhohúrel yed)		
Derakahu-l bahr	Derakah	W. of the preceding.
-----berr		Somewhere near the preceding.
Umm-en-náyim		
Hawít	Howate	Close to Hawít.
Medhbúghah		
Musari'	Moosmaree	
Seil Umm 'An	Sale Amber	

“The first mountain S. W. of Harkíko is named Jebel Kadam: this is, I suppose, the Geedan of the English chart. Several pilots, questioned by me, knew nothing of *Goob Duenuo*. Ansley Bay appears to have no well-known name. A Dankalí pilot born in the Isle of Desei, called this bay Kobb el Kóf, or the Velvet Gulf; but, as it is little frequented by those who trade at Musawwa,' this name is not understood. Those who answer my inquiries here, call it Bahr Búrí. The little headland named *Quoin* in the chart, is called here Maka 'niliyah, from a populous neighbouring village. Somewhere in the south of the bay is Gembúthleh. There are a great many anchorages in the bay: that near Zullah is called Mersá Dólá.

“The insulated rock east of Desei is called Seil kebír ; Seil Saghir is between the preceding one and Desei. In this latter isle are 40 spots bearing names : I have collected only the following :—

“The principal anchorage bears the name of the island ; coasting thence towards the south are Mersá Soránkólah, M. Arakómah Seil Arakómah (insulated rock), Arakómah Kebír (a little headland), M. Kadedheinah, M. Lahóshalítah, Rás Górsétúleh (south point of the island), Seil Górsétúleh, M. Hankil Soghair, M. Hankil Kebír, Rás Hankil : Seil Rokúbeleh, is a small cluster of rocks south of Desei. In the phraseology of the Red Sea, Seil, sometimes pronounced Seyyil, is an insulated rock emerging from the surface of the water. Mersá is an anchorage, *i. e.* a harbour or roadstead. Tahlah is a shoal barely covered : if very extensive, it is named Rokúk. Baháyir is a shoal in deep water.

“[Besides the above list, Mr. D’Abbadie has had the kindness to allow many other names of places on the Society’s copy of the Charts of the Red Sea to be corrected from his own copy of that Chart ; and Mr. Renouard has corrected the rest.

“It is due to Captains Moresby and Elwon of the Indian Navy, who executed this laborious survey of the Red Sea, to state that several names of places mentioned in their “Memoir on the Survey” are unaccountably omitted in the Charts : these names are now being engraved on the plates.

“It is much to be regretted that before publishing such valuable Charts, the orthography of the Arabic words was not corrected and reduced to some standard. To remedy this inconvenience as far as possible, the names of places in Arabic, as written by Mr. Rasam, have been engraved, and are now printed on the Charts ; and it is intended at the close of the Sailing Directions for the Red Sea, now publishing by order of the Court of Directors of the East India Company, to give a list of all the names of places in the Arabic character, also in the Roman character reduced to one standard of orthography, and the corresponding name on the Chart.”—ED.]

BOMBAY GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

November 14th, 1839. Quarterly Meeting.

The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Bombay in the chair.

R. W. Crawford, Esq. is elected a member of the Society.

Correspondence. Read, letter dated June 8th 1839, from the Secretary to the Royal Geographical Society of London, forwarding an account of the recent Arctic discoveries by Messrs. Dease and Simpson, and a copy of the President's anniversary address, delivered at a meeting held 27th May, 1839. Also enclosing a paper by M. D'Abbadie on the names of places on the shores of the Red Sea, and suggesting the utility of this Society directing attention to the orthography of the names of places with a view of promoting the adoption of a more correct and uniform system. On account of the barbarous orthography that disfigures them, the Charts of the Red Sea survey, it is remarked, are held up to derision in Europe; and even the great Indian Atlas is far from being faultless in this respect.

Letter dated July 6th, 1839, from the Secretary Royal Geographical Society, intimating that the council of that Society had decided, upon the recommendation of Major T. B. Jervis, to send a complete set of their Journal to each of the principal public libraries in India; — to Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Hyderabad, Mhow, Cawnpore, Delhi, Meerut, &c. "In the hope that this may induce some young Officers to explore the hitherto unknown parts of Asia." And, adverting to the intelligence received through Captain Haines I. N. of the termination of all maritime surveys on this side of India, expressing great astonishment and regret that, "after all the expenditure of life and treasure in the beautiful surveys of the Persian Gulf, of the Red Sea, and half of the Southern coasts of Arabia, the other half should remain unsurveyed."

Read, Extract of a letter communicated by Major Holland, furnishing information respecting the climate of Powangurh (in Guzerat) during the period the fortress was occupied by the Bombay troops.

Extract of a letter addressed to, and communicated by, J. Vaupell Esq. giving a short narrative of a Journey from Zeila and Tadjourra on the coast of Abyssinia to Ferri on the frontiers of Efat; performed in April and May 1839.

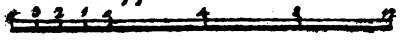
Papers. Short topographical and general description of Cape Aden.* By Captain R. Foster, Engineers. Communicated by Colonel Dickinson.

Observations on Sinde and the River Indus as far up as Bukkur.* By Lieutenant Macgrath, H. M. 3rd Foot. Communicated by Dr. Morehead.

** Printed in a preceding number.



Scale of four miles to an inch



The Number of the Society's Transactions for February 1839-40 was printed and ready for delivery more than a twelve month since: but was kept back, waiting for a map to illustrate a paper on the Nizam's Territories, drawn up by Sir H. Russel and presented by Major Jervis. It is now issued without the Map to prevent further delay, Major Jervis having gone to Europe. Should the document make its appearance, it will be given along with some future number of the Transactions.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BOMBAY GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

DECEMBER—FEBRUARY, 1839—40.

I. — *Journal of a March from Ahmedabad in Guzerat to Sukker in Upper Sinde.* By Captain DelHoste.

[Communicated by the author.]

Adaulij, 17th August, 1840. 7m. 2f. — Arrived here early this morning, and joined the left-wing of the 9th Regiment, N. I. proceeding to Deesa, to relieve the 6th Regiment which I am to conduct, by the route I consider best, to Sukker.

Adaulij is reported on in my memoir of the (Duskroe) purgunnah, in which it is situated — the village is famed for a magnificent bowrie, an account of which is given in the memoir* above alluded to.

Panshur, 18th August. 14m. — Arrived rather late; the road good; but at this season, from the rain that has fallen, the vegetation is very offensive, particularly the wild Indigo: village small.

Jangreiz, 19th August. 11m. — Road to-day heavy, and people very sickly, particularly where we are pitched N. E. of the village. Here the indigo is very offensive, and I fear the sick list will be heavy. Water bad.

Myjanna, 20th August. 12m. 5f. — This is a very large place, but rain has not fallen here, and the tanks are dry; the people are distressed on this account. They inform me that after a heavy monsoon, a disease, which I suppose is spleen, prevails here. They describe it as a swelling in the side† accompanied by fever which lasts eight or nine days, after which the patient either recovers or dies — the former is generally effected by the following remedy. A decoction of crabs (called by them kurchoo‡) is prepared and mixed with

* Volume the 1st. Report on Districts comprized in N. D. A., E. P. D.

† Or rather pit of the stomach. E. P. D.

‡ خرنجک, Pers.

quarter of an ounce of the skins of wild figs, called Goolur*. This the patient drinks, and if on the third day, it acts as a violent purgative the patient generally recovers.

The crabs are brought from the sea shore. One crab is boiled in two seers of water, until a quarter seer only remains.

I leave to the medical men to discover the nature of this disease, as well as the virtues of the remedy.

Oonja, Friday, 21st August. 14m. 2f. — Heavy rain seems to have fallen here; the tanks are full and crops look flourishing. This is a large place, chiefly inhabited by Hindus.

Sidhpoor, 21st August. Evening. 8m. — Arrived here late in the evening as I intend riding on to Deesa to-morrow. This is a large Gosains village or rather town, on the right bank of the Suruswuttee river.

Deesa, 22d August, 7m. 6f. — Started at daylight and reached Deesa at 2 P. M. having halted a few hours at Wussoo; road excellent the whole way to Gudd, where a dense jungle commences and continues to within a few miles of Camp.

I have said little regarding this route as it is well known, and need only remark that considering the season, the men were pretty healthy. September would have been a more trying month to have marched in.

22d to 28th August. — Remained at Deesa making the necessary preparations for our march to Sukker.

Rumpoora, 28th August. 9m. 3f. from Flagstaff, Deesa, general direction W. 10 N. — Left Camp at 7 A. M. arrived here at quarter past nine; the road heavy, cross the Bunass River, deep sand, nearly dry — practicable for carts or guns; latter part of route through thick jungle; cultivation scanty, but little rain having fallen this year. Encamping ground confined; water from *one* well; men much harrassed by the time it takes them to draw water. Rumpoora is an enam to a Gosain called Bugwanpoori. He has three other, villages under him, Poora, Goda, and Assodur. This road during, the hot weather is very heavy, and water is then scarce: it is even so, at this season. Here I received letters.

Jakole, 29th August. 6m. 3f. — I started at 5 and arrived at 7 A. M. The road to-day less heavy than that pursued yesterday. It is, however, still sandy; indeed the appearance of the country leads me to suppose we are traversing the confines of the Thurr, for it is the same kind of soil, and the vegetation is similar; there is a

* *Goolur* is the *Unbr* [बुंदर] of the Mahrattas; *Ficus glomerata*, Roxb.

great deal of low jungle on this march, chiefly babool, kureel or khair; the babool is useful for cart wheels, the others only fit for fire wood.

Jakole is a respectable village, having tiled houses in it, two shops, and one tolerable well, the water in all the others is of inferior quality, being brackish and very unpalatable; had rain fallen, forage would have been abundant; the country is undulating and rather pretty. Jakole is chiefly inhabited by Coolies. Very good water can be had at Kaporie one coss south-east. The camels hired at Deesa, are of the worst description, and it is with difficulty we move even by these short marches.

Sunday, 30th. Halted at Jakole. *Monday 31st. Laknee, 10m.* — The road to-day, similar to that passed on the 29th, but more hilly; cultivation near the villages; soil, light and good. In a fair season abundant crops of bajree are produced. The villages here are generally miserable, and it seems wonderful they should escape the dangers of fire; the huts are constructed of branches, thatched roofs, and the whole village and many of the huts made of it, surrounded by a dry hedge. Were it necessary to attack one, the most effectual method would be to light the hedge, and they must leave the place or be burned. The people are civil but look poor; their whole wealth seems to consist in cattle, and the ghee which they make and export.

The village of Laknee is chiefly inhabited by Rajpoots and Coolies. Water bad; soil deep sand, supplies scarce.

Thurraud, Tuesday, 1st September, 14m. 3f. — Road over numerous sand hills; and through dense and low jungle. This is evidently a portion of the Thurr, hence probably the name *Thurraud* or *abad*. This is a large place; plenty of water and supplies; the people civil and willing to give us every assistance. Water is reported to be very scarce at Bhurrole and Batkee, and it is advised to proceed to Bokney, and across the Runn (which is dry,) by Nurra to Bhurrana.

Bokney, Wednesday, Septr. 2nd. 13m. 4f. — The Corps marched here this morning instead of to Bhurrole, as, by crossing the Runn, three marches will be saved. This is a small village, and the country is quite changed. After leaving Thurraud, the sand hills on this line of route cease, and a fine cultivated plain, studded with low bushes is crossed. Passed a large place called *Wow*. Water here from a tank, a great treat after the disagreeable water we have had. Rain has not fallen here; the crops are dried up and scarcity prevails.

Thursday, 3rd Sept. Halted at Bokney. Regiment marched at night.

Padun, Friday, 4th Sept. 9m. 2f. — The appearance of the weather indicating rain, the Corps marched last night, hoping to reach Nurra-bate, but halted here, as the rain was rather heavy, and had rendered the Runn muddy. It is however merely a partial fall, and I have ascertained that a few miles east, the Runn may be crossed *quite dry*: merely a few huts here. At 1 P. M. we started for Rumosun and Bhurla, whence we descended to the Runn, and finding it very fair, crossed it. Major Farrell, Captain Grant and myself, in advance, rode across at a walk in one hour and forty-eight minutes. When we reached Nurra, we could plainly see the Crops more than half way across. About this time quarter to five P. M. the sky which had become very dark in the north-west, assumed the most threatening and terrific appearance, the most dense black clouds, with *tongues* of white floating on the surface and seeming to descend to the earth *and lick up the dust*, like a water spout. As the storm appeared distant we felt no alarm, but suddenly the wind changed and the whole mass fell down on us with a rapidity that was perfectly frightful, the wind and rain was so severe that the horses could not face it, and with utmost difficulty we reached my tent (which was the only one pitched) although it was not a hundred yards from us. We felt very much distressed for the Corps, for if the direction was lost the men might wander about in this fearful desert until all perished. We assembled the guard that had come with the tents and made them fire repeatedly, at the same time hoisted a lantern as high as we could raise it, on poles, as a beacon to the Corps; these signals were fortunately heard and seen, and about half past seven, the poor fellows arrived dripping wet. The whole force of the storm had fallen on them, and for the last mile they had waded up to their waists in water, on ground where an hour before they had not seen a drop; the doolies and bearers were thrown down by the force of the wind, and it was with the utmost difficulty the corps reached the halting place, which is merely an elevated bank in the Runn, where there are a few brackish wells. Here we all stowed away in my tent, and as my things had arrived safely and dry, I was enabled to dress nearly the whole of the party. The storm still raged without, and within the tent, the water was knee deep; but by getting on the tables and chairs, we managed to pass the night with the usual comforts of the soldier under such circumstances, *viz.* tobacco and grog. The men got up their tents and managed

to get shelter, but I fear the sick list will be heavy to-morrow. No human being would have anticipated any thing so sudden and severe as this storm.

Sooigaum, Saturday, 5th Sept. 13m. 7f. — Early this morning having ascertained that the Runn between this and Burrana, was impassable, we decided in retracing our steps to the east side, and accordingly marched for Sooigaum at 7 A. M. and reached it by half past twelve o'clock, with no small difficulty; in many places the water being up to the waist. However this was mere play to last night's work, and with a bright sun, clear sky, and cheerful set of fellows, we got over pretty well. The difficulty will be recovering the baggage and camels. I may here say, we have had a narrow escape for had the rain continued, we should have found it a difficult matter to have got across either way, I mean as far as the camels and baggage are concerned, the men could at all times have got off.

Sooigaum, Sunday, 6th Sept. — Halted, and shall have to halt to-morrow; slight rain all day and during last night; the weather seems fairly changed, and bears every appearance of the setting in of the monsoon. The fall in the thermometer is great, from 100° to 82° at midday; as yet no sick, and all seem cheerful and happy. We must halt here to-morrow and next day, as there is still a great deal of baggage in the Runn.

Sooigaum, 7th and 8th Sept. — Raining each day; camels could not travel for two reasons, on account of the slippery soil, and increased weight of our baggage by the camp equipage being saturated.

Naysra, Wednesday 9th Sept. 9m. 2f. — Left Sooigaum at five and arrived here at half past seven; road level, with jungle and cultivated fields alternately; a poor village; no supplies. The country would have been deserted, had the rain not fallen. I hope if the weather continues fair, to reach Verawao by the 16th, but we must *not* halt. By a calculation I have made to-day, we ought to reach Sukker, if not impeded, by the 25th October.

Goolgaum, Thursday, 10th September, 11m. — Road to-day level and covered with jungle. Shortly after leaving Naysra enter a plain in which ten thousand men might encamp freely. This is a small village; supplies scarce; water abundant from a tank, about half way between Bokney (which we again passed through) and this. I observed a stone with the figures of two horses carved on it, and was informed by the guide, that last year the Patel of Goolgaum died; that the spot in question marked his grave, and was also intended to shew that he had bequeathed certain lands as a pasture for cattle free to all, with injunctions that they should never be

ploughed. The guide assured me these instructions would be faithfully attended to. I do not remember ever to have heard of a similar act in India.

Joonalli, Friday, September, 11th. 16m. 6f. — Made a long march to this place as it is on the edge of the Neyar, a tract subject to inundation from the Loonee river. When a flood of this kind occurs it is called "Raël" and the country between Joonalli and Kedgereara is under water. One occurred four years ago *in this month*, which makes me anxious to cross the Regiment. Bogatin a large village is situated in the midst of this tract, six miles from hence. Men generally wade across during the inundation, but it is hard work. They are repaid by an abundant harvest of wheat after a Raël. The soil is fat and dark. Cattle of the country of a very fine breed.

Kejnara, Saturday, 12th September, 1840. 12m. 3f. — Crossed the Nayer to-day; the country is level, and the soil rich. Four branches of the Loonee river crossed; they were narrow but their banks steep, and had any one of them been full of water, we should have experienced some difficulty in crossing. At some seasons this plain is covered, except where cultivated, with high grass; and wild animals abound in it. This is a miserable village and a party should not encamp near it, as the ground is swampy, and another small branch of the Loonee runs about half a mile from the village, which at this season it would be adviseable to cross. We halted here in consequence of supplies having been laid in for us. The whole of the march, from Sooigaum to this, has been skirting the N. E. end of the Runn of Cutch; the ground pretty hard: inland a few miles it is sandy.

Taresra, Sunday, Sept. 13th 1840. 12m. 2f. — Although this is Sunday we are compelled to march, owing to the damp and confined ground we are pitched on. Our road ran along the edge of the Runn, which was on our left, with sand hills on the right; part of the real *Thurr* evidently. The last two miles we turned more westerly, directly amongst the sand hills, and reached our ground, a valley containing a fine tank. Merely a few huts at a mile distant. People here are Rajpoots, and consider themselves inhabitants of the *Thurr*, of which this is part of the eastern boundary. They are fine looking men, simple in their habits, and food; buttermilk and bajree bread forming the latter. The cattle seem here very numerous and of a fine breed; the inhabitants seem to move about as water or forage is required — when one spot is exhausted they remove to another: there are however particular places, where wells exist, that are chiefly resorted to.

Monday, 14th September. Halt. — The country hence to Gurra and thence to Sukker, via Balmere and Jysalmere is *all Thurr*, high sand hills, with valleys covered with grass and jungle. Hence to Verawao and thence to Balliaree is the same kind of country. How far the Thurr extends in Sinde west, I have yet to learn. The singularity of so vast a tract of land terminated as it is by the Runn already described, cannot fail to strike us strangers, and to lead to conjecture as to its formation. There can be but one idea on that head, viz. that it is the deserted bed of the ocean. This is confirmed somewhat by the existence of the *null*, a small slip of Runn separating Kattywar from Guzerat, which has evidently formed a part of the great Runn in former years. In the Null, stones have been pointed out of immense size, embedded in the earth, with holes through them, which, the natives assured me, were formerly placed there to moor boats to, &c. that there was then a navigable sea from *Cambay* to the termination of the Null. In my report in the Duskroe and Perantey purgunnahs, mention will be found of a *Bunder* having existed near Sorcagi from whence Indigo was exported to "*Room*," all of which facts seem to confirm the former existence of an inland sea in these parts.

The line of hills commencing near Beyla and running nearly west to Luckput forming the southern boundary of the Runn are also of singular formation bearing the strongest appearance of volcanic formation. Iron ore is abundant in them, and the metal is smelted by the people, but in a very rough way. As the hills approach Luckput, they shew more the effect of the sea, shells and other marine deposits being observed. At Luckput itself and for miles around it, the country is covered with stones of the shape of date stones, and so exactly resembling them that at a short distance it would be impossible to discover the difference. Another fossil, of a circular form* and half an inch in diameter, is equally common; this is probably a nummulite. At Dookerwara north east of Beyla is a hill entirely composed of shells embedded in hardened clay. How much I regret *my* own ignorance of *geology*, and that of the former inhabitants of this country who have left no records to guide one in this intricate and extraordinary country!

Guddera, Tuesday, 15th. 17m. 5f. — We still continue skirting the Runn which is distant about a quarter of a mile on our left; one vast desert over which the eye seeks in vain for any object to

* I have picked some at Sukker and send two or three. — E. P. D.

rest on. The mirage in this tract is perhaps more wonderful than any where else in the world. In 1825 when on outpost duty at Doolee, Lieut. (now Sir A.) Burnes, the late Dr. Martin and myself distinctly saw men galloping towards a large Bore tree, holding spears in their hands; so distinctly was this seen that we did not believe it to be deception, until we had satisfied ourselves no tree could possibly be within ten miles of the spot. I afterwards saw near Munfira, a tree exactly resembling the one we had seen, and according to our position in the Runn it would have stood nearly opposite the place where we saw the *imaginary* tree, distant about fifteen miles, but the reflected image was between *the real* one and the sun. The wild Ass is common here, and to see them in troops dashing across the desert is an interesting sight, still more so when we remember the allusion so truly descriptive of the animal, in Job. xxxix. v. 5, 6, 7.

Nothing can be more strikingly true, than the last verse. An officer of the Regiment to which I belong (Lieut. Landon) caught one of these animals when very young, and completely tamed it, so far that the animal followed him wherever he went, and came to him when called, but no perseverance or pains could induce the beast to carry either a man or a load. He would, although perfectly gentle at other times, on those occasions bite and kick until he threw his rider, or if unsuccessful lie down, and neither good nor ill treatment would induce him to rise. His affection for his master was remarkable. If when tied up he happened to see him at a distance, the noise and struggles he would make to get free, were tremendous. I have known him follow his master to parade and change flanks with him, following him closely, to the no small amusement of the Sepoys.

Guddera is a miserable assemblage of huts with one or two shops, and from its desolate position, looks like the last stage in the habitable world. The sketch can hardly be said to be sufficiently desolate and wild, — the affection for dry thorn hedges around the villages, is still maintained; one would suppose that the danger of fire would strike the inhabitants, but it does not seem to do so.

Verawao, Wednesday, 16th Sept. 1840. 11m. 2f.—My calculations have proved correct, and we now await only the arrival of the Sindian Mehmandar, Dost Mahomed, to proceed towards Omercote. The road to-day skirts the edge of the Runn and Thurr, and latterly the Parkur hills are passed some miles to the left. We have encamped in a magnificent plain which I am given to understand is, after a favorable rainy season, under water.

A Sindian named Nuwaub Ishmael Khan *Khaskhayli*, met us here : it seems he is the Nuwaub of Omercote, the term *Khaskhayli*,* which I believe approaches to that of *Slave*, does not seem to have interfered with his promotion, indeed, some of the most trustworthy people about the Ameers are of this class.

Verawao is a large village of huts, a few pukka houses, and some shops. It is the property of Ladajee Thakur. This part of Sinde (for it is a dependance of that state) Parker, was previous to 1832 the most extensive haunt of thieves that perhaps ever existed. The whole Thurr contained a race of men called *Khos-sas*, whose depredations in Cutch, assisted by the Meyanas, at one time nearly depopulated that province. One of the objects of our measures in 1832, was to put a stop to these acts of aggression.

Thursday 17th. — Halt at Verawao.

Friday 18th. — Still at Verawao procuring carriage and supplies. Our Sindian friend arrived yesterday; he seems intelligent, and well acquainted with the habits of the English; heard to-day that the Loonee came down on the 16th, and the Nyear is totally impassable.

Dudora, Monday, 21st Sept. 8m. 6f. — Immediately after leaving Verawao we entered the sand hills, but many were avoided by following them in the valleys instead of crossing them; the hills are all of loose sand, varying from eighty to hundred yards in height, slightly covered with bushes; the valleys are of harder soil, produce grass, and jungle; here and there are appearances of cultivation; rain seems to have failed; the weather is cloudy and the peculiarity of the country with the variation of light and shade, gives it a pleasing appearance. This a wretched assemblage of huts, *conical* ones formed of branches and covered with grass: they look at a distance like gigantic beehives. I have remarked that the inhabitants are singularly fine men, and that they seem to attain to a hale old age; they all wear gaiters to defend themselves from the spear grass, thorns and snakes, which latter are said to be numerous and venomous: the water here is near the surface. Seven cutcha wells from twelve to eighteen feet deep (below the village) afford but a scanty supply,—rain has failed or the water would be plentiful: this will not do for a Regiment, the water is salt and scarce.

Paniala, 5m. 8f. — At 5 p. m. rode on to Paniala; here water had been drawn from a deep well (108 feet deep) and two large

* From *خاص* royal, and *خیل* a body of men. This term appears to be applied in Sinde to persons employed as stewards, or servants of the chiefs, who are the offspring of their domestic slaves.—S.

mud cisterns filled. Grass also had been procured ; no village ; the wells are singularly constructed with wood and are very narrow, $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter, the labour and *danger* of constructing them is great. The cost is also no trifle, from 700 to 800 Rupees. The water is drawn by buffaloes. We hear favourable reports of the road ; water is what we most require, having our supplies ; and where there is only one *well* at each halting place, it behoves us to be cautious in ascertaining how much water *it holds* previous to bringing the corps there. The road is a mere sheep track, which it would be in vain to attempt to follow without a guide.

Goriar, Tuesday, 22d. 6m. 6f. — A few huts ; one well. Road and country precisely similar to that passed yesterday. This well is 168 feet deep, and seems to be considered a superior one. Our Sindian friend the *Dost* exclaimed “ there’s a well, is it not superb ? look at the water ! Ha, you Kham khan is the water sweet ” ? — Excellent (replied his attendant) sweet, delicious ! The said ‘ delicious ’ water could only be justly compared to a chalybeate, if any thing, a *little* more nauseous : — however every thing in this world is to be judged of by comparison !

It will be seen that with only one well at each halting place, this is rather a dangerous road. Suppose when we have advanced 30 or 40 miles into the Thurr the wells we have passed were to be covered up — and those in advance similarly disposed of ! We should be in a *nice trap*. So careful we have been however, that we should be able to discover the places, and *the water*. It appears to me that notwithstanding the *delicious water* which the people of this part of the country drink, they are a remarkably fine race ; healthy and strong, frank, and manly ; I know nothing I should like better than to organize a body of these people as *irregulars*.

Tariana, 23rd. Wednesday, 8m. 1f. — Road to-day not so heavy as usual ; grass more abundant ; the country populous in one sense, i. e. colonies of rats (the jerboa I believe) have undermined every hill, and the earth looks in many places like a gigantic sponge, rendering the footing unsafe. The water here is a little better ; there is a small tank of rain water three miles east from whence we have been regaled with a supply for drinking. Tariana merely a few huts belonging to a Syud, who like all those of his class gave himself great airs and tried to be as disagreeable as possible, although he was paid for having the water drawn, as indeed we have done at each place.

Rajoora, Thursday 24th 10m. 6f. — Road narrow. Indian file the order of march. Numerous bushes and sand hills ; the same

country road and soil, in fact the Thurr* par excellence. The men bear it all cheerfully, toil up the sand hills and run laughing down the other side. Here we found a small pond of water, a most acceptable treat, to the men in particular; the village is similar to the others passed, a few huts inhabited by Charuns, Rajpoots and one or two Bheels. There is one well at the village 242 feet deep. From hence we dispatched a guide to go direct to Pedjriari, and to send a report. The inhabitants hinted that their love for their Sindian masters, is not *very ardent*: — I begin to suspect that some late taxes imposed on them have caused this disgust; the valleys produce good crops of Badjri in a fair season, and, with milk and ghee, the people contrive to get fat; disease is rare amongst them — and there are many old men.

Cheyha, Friday, 25th Sept. 13m. 1f. — This is merely a tank supplied by late rains. It will last perhaps three weeks. There are a few people here with cattle. They say when the water is expended they will go to Khoodre Shahghur, about eight coss east. The tanks between this and Omercote, are said to be full of water. Road and features of this country the same as usual.

Chachera, Saturday, 26th Sept. 7m. 3f. — The direction to-day due west. Query, have we been brought a detour to increase the difficulties? I sometimes think so — but then, the road that Dost Mahomed came is still more easterly than this, and he says, he prefers taking us by a road he has *seen*, to one he has only *heard* of; it is perhaps true, his general good conduct and correctness in every thing are in favour of the supposition.

We at once observed here, that hitherto we have followed the same direction as the sand hills, and that like the waves of the sea they run in parallel lines from north to south generally. We now cross them over one and up another. They say there are one hundred and forty between this and Omercote. Those passed to-day were higher and more difficult than any we have met with. Rain seems to have fallen plentifully, for the jungle grass is much more abundant during the last two marches.

My expectations of seeing a "Shehr" or city have not been fulfilled. I certainly did anticipate seeing a respectable village. The place however consists of two or three detached patches of conical huts, gigantic beehives; one or two mud edifices: but grain is plentiful, and I am assured generally is so: the water is also better and more abundant. A tank which will last two months and ten wells near it,

* From ^{تل} Arab; a hillock or heap of sand. In the Persian works on Sinde, ^{تھل} is the term applied to this tract. — S.

all fresh now, though not always so they tell me. The wells are near two large neem trees. There are six others in different points below the huts. The people say they have not had such a heavy rain for the last twenty years as has fallen this year.

I confess I like the appearance of these men and their free manners, and should enjoy nothing more than having a body of them under me, with whom I would undertake to guard the posts now held at Balmeer and Kusba and the line of country from Jaysulmeer (if requisite) to Cutch; they have some good horses and mares amongst them, and camels also; the regular monthly pay, and security with which they would live, is an inducement which I feel assured would tempt them; they would require careful treatment at first and some tact.

By meridian observation, this place is in Lat. $25^{\circ} 11' 30''$; but, I am doubtful if quite correct.

Sunday. — Halt at Chachera; gained much information respecting the Thurr and its inhabitants. They are a fine race and in appearance and manners remind me of the pastoral tribes of Scripture. The women I have not seen any peculiarity about, nor, indeed, are many visible.

Banda Tulao, Monday, 28th Sept. 13m. 4f. — Road to-day heavier than usual. Crossed six high sand hills and several small ones: appearance of the country improved; villages appear of a better description; rain has abundantly fallen; but this tank will not last more than one month. No villages here.

Mhodurra, Tuesday, 29th Sept. 10m. 1f. — This was a hard day's march. Crossed nineteen sand hills, some of great height; no road for guns; the cattle would be destroyed by such a continued pull as this would be; no village; jungle and grass in abundance; passed two very respectable looking villages, for the Thurr.

Numar, Wednesday, 30th Sept. 5m. 7f. — Road very heavy; fourteen sand hills crossed; this also is merely a tank. The Dost says our good fortune is remarkable, as it is not usual for these tanks to be so well supplied; water clear and good, will last two months; country as before, sand hills, jungle, and grass; observed several fields of magnificent bajree which shows that in a good year grain is plentiful.

Omercote, 1st Oct. 1840. — First part of the road heavy; remainder hard; soil more gravelly; the approach to Omercote is singular; the sand hills gradually become larger, I mean broader, and lose their arid appearance; the valleys cultivated. At length Omercote appears. With so vast a desert around it, the place has an in-

significant appearance. It is situated to the west of a large straggling village of mud houses. Like all those in Sinde, it is of a regular figure, three hundred and twenty yards long, by three hundred broad, with bastions at the four corners, and a couple of stones to defend the entrance, in front of which is a breast work. A cavalier or large tower stands in the centre, and is, I think, connected with the gateway, the walls about twenty-four feet high. The whole excepting the two bastions near the gate-way, is of pukka brick, daubed over with mud. The place is more remarkable as being the birth place * of the emperor Acbar, than for its strength as a fortification; here again my old Spanish proverb would stand good; it is a strong place by comparison and a rich town also. Supplies abundant; the whole or greater part of the population being Hindú traders. Had I been alone, I should have procured every information from the people and found the extent of their trade, but with a force they are averse to giving information; one hundred and fifty sepoyes, Belooches, occupy the fort. Water from a deep tank called *Sumba* lasts all the year round. By observation I make Omercote in $25^{\circ} 19' 00''$. I may be wrong, as a pocket sextant and false horizon are not easy instruments to use for such observations; the sextant with stand would have given me a true observation, but I have not one.

Gholam Nubbee jo Gote, Monday, 5th Oct. 1840. 19m. 5f. W. 32 N. — Marched to this village to-day expecting to have found it about fourteen miles distant; passed on the road a few huts called *Sahib ke Thurr*; road level and covered with jungle, skirting the *Thurr*, the sand hills of which are visible all the way about two and a half miles on the right. From *Sahib ke Thurr* the road is more sandy; the jungle, tamarisk and kureel.

Gholam Nubbee jo Gote is an enam belonging to a Syud by name *Moortuza Ali Khan*. We found the people very civil and obliging, and I made the acquaintance of a man, named *Peer Khan* or *Peeroo*, who gave me much information. This man had been to *Balmeer* and knew *Captain Malet*, whose kindness to him induced *Peeroo* to give me information on many points. The benefit to be derived from conciliating strangers is thus very apparent. A cossid on a camel started from this some days ago for *Balmeer* to *Captain Malet*, having been sent to examine the road. The heaviest rain ever remembered fell between *Sinde* and *Balmeer* about the 13th of September; most of the tanks have burst their banks, and the whole country is said

* In *Ferishta*, read the accounts of *Humayoon's* retreat in an awful description of the danger of the *Thurr*.
E. P. D.

to have been inundated; this will prove most favorable for parties crossing the desert, should it be requisite to send any: supplies are procurable as far as this village, and water is abundant from wells in the bed of the Nara, and a dund or sheet of water two coss N. E. of the place. I find these dunds are said to continue all the way to Sukker, or rather Roree. The march to-day was across a country where water is scarce except at the place called Sahib ke Thurr, which is in the bed of the Nara river also, and there is abundance of water always found in it by digging ten or twelve, in some places, four or five, feet.

Tuesday, 6th Oct. 1840. — We were obliged to halt here this day, as we could not gain proper intelligence of our road. Two people from Meer Sher Mahomed came to assist us, but beyond being civil, and sending us some milk and fish, they were of no use; indeed they seemed to be jealous of Dost Mahomed, and he evidently wished to make us understand that they were very inferior to himself. After much trouble and enquiry (and no one who has not attempted to obtain information in Sinde can understand how difficult it is) we at length decided on following the Nara to Kepra, where I knew we could, if we found ourselves deceived, cut across to the route followed by Lieut. Curtis, or my former one via Halla. The intermediate stage Diliar being reported as deserted, it became requisite to make one march, having taken the precaution to send on the second guide for information, and received a favorable report.

Kepra Wednesday, 7th Oct. 24m. N. 30 W. — We started at sunset, and reached Kepra at about half past six A. M. The whole road was through jungle, on some places most dense, chiefly tamarisk. Passed Bit-ki-bit a small village; halted at Deliar, for two hours, where we found good water, and then came to this village. The country belonging to Meer Sher Mahomed, ends three coss north of Gholam Nubbee jo Gote. Procured a guide from Peer Buxsh, who led us by a good road, making a sweep to avoid the village of some Belochees, who were said to be very warlike, but whose fears, if I mistake not, were greater than their courage. We expected to have met a vakeel or agent of Meer Soobdar's here, being in his territories, but found none. The chief man of the village was conciliated by promises, and agreed on being paid four rupees a day to accompany us with some of his men to the limit of his master's lands. This I was glad to do, as Mukdoo Dost Mahomed the Mehmandar from Meer Noor Mahomed, assured us his authority was no longer of any value, being out of the district of his master. This we found to be the case, and in consequence gladly

closed with Meer Khan. With much trouble and labour we connected the information received from upwards of a dozen different people, and determined on making our route via the Nara, if possible. I may appear to lay great stress on the difficulties experienced in gaining information, but either from unwillingness, or ignorance, no two accounts coincided. Even Meer Khan himself seemed to know little respecting the road, and the Dost invariably said "he knew *nothing* beyond Omercote."

Our camp was in the bed of the Nara, here running in several different branches in which there are wells. Each branch was about two furlongs broad; water very good, and plentiful, after having paid for cleaning out the wells, which I find must be done at each march.

Thursday, 8th Oct. — Halted at Kepra. This day sent Hunwunt Rao the guide in advance to examine and report on the next stage, to have the wells cleaned, &c. I paid four rupees here for having this done and water drawn; these expenses are absolutely requisite. We were also compelled to pay the guides better than in India, for were the path mistaken, the camels might be lost or stolen perhaps.

Jeemawarie, Friday, 9th Oct. 12m. 2f. N. 48 W. — The road today at first lay in the bed of the river, and ran west, to avoid the dense jungle of tamarisk on the banks. After which we turned more northerly, and pursuing a good foot path reached our ground. Supplies were procured here, but were expensive. The place belongs to a Faquir, who was very civil. A dund one coss long, two hundred yards broad, four coss N. N. E. Paid for drawing water from wells two rupees.

Syud Bukar or Bukarie, Saturday, 10th Oct. 12m. 7f. N. 28 W. — Arrived here this morning; road good, except at one place near Meeta Khan ke Dera, at a crossing of a small nala, part of the Nara. The village is small, and although the wells were cleaned out, they soon dried up. There were however many of them in different parts of the bed of the river, in which we were pitched; I may here remark that up to this, the bed of the Nara is hard and covered with grass, more resembling a dried up water course than a river; grass is said to be scarce, but we found no difficulty in getting it by grass cutters: kurbee is sold in the villages. If any difficulty is experienced at the villages for want of water for the camels or horses, they can always be sent to the dunds, at many of which the water is brackish, but not so bad as that on the Thurr; added to this that fresh water can always be had by digging

small pits near the dunds. Road excellent and practicable for all arms from Omercote to this. The information to-day is most extraordinary, and can scarcely be credited. I note it as given to me as a matter of curiosity. I am told that the Nara is filled every two, three, or four years, that then it overflows its banks, and forms dunds, i. e. the hollows on both sides are filled with water, and remain so; some drying up, others containing water at all times and seasons. If however, beyond two or three years without rain or a fresh, the water becomes salt, but that then if pits six or eight inches deep are dug at the edge of the salt water lakes, or dunds, fresh water is found. Further, that in many places in the bed of the Nara there are deep pools called koonds. As it is curious, I shall give here a copy of a sketch made by a Sinda camel-man for a small consideration. He says, there are three hundred and sixty dunds between the Indus and Omercote. Any person would be surprized by such a sketch, and I hardly know whether to credit the report or not.

The reports received of next stage on the right bank of the Nara are unfavourable. I am told that there is a scarcity of grass and water at Metrao, and advised to go to Ubrow, one of these dunds, but on the left bank of the Nara.

Ubrow, Sunday, 11th Oct. 1840. 7m. N. 27 W. — Having found by sending on the guide that the above report was correct, marched on Ubrow this morning, as the water was scarce at last ground, and our supplies will hardly last. The road was tolerably good but through a dense jungle the whole way, and very difficult to find. Latterly the sand was so heavy and sand hills so numerous that guns could not well be brought by this route. We are now in the territory of Meer Ali Moorad Khan, youngest son of Meer Sohrab, pitched on the bank of the first dund we have seen; the Sindian's report is true, the dund water is salt, but beautifully clear. Fresh water is found by digging near the dund at a depth of eight inches. This place is a valley between sand hills, one mile one furlong long, two hundred yards broad, and from ten to fifteen feet deep. It has been much larger, the southern end having dried and being ploughed up, but I am told that three years have elapsed since the dund was filled from the Nara, otherwise it would not be salt. These dunds are full of immense fish, and the ground around them cultivated. Bajree is grown and a short fine grass is abundant, which when dug up and washed the cattle eat, and thrive on it.

Mukdoom Dost Mahomed left us this day. Meer Khan behaves very well, but he has little power and only one man to enforce his demands for guides, &c. Indeed these latter are very scarce, there

being merely a few miserable huts here and there in the jungle. We are confused by various accounts of bad roads, bad water, no villages, &c. and cannot tell what to believe. The country a round looks like the Thurr, and we are afraid of getting amongst the sand hills.

We crossed the bed of the Nara to-day. It was the most wild looking place, deep sand blown into fantastic shapes. We found it one hundred and fifty yards broad, and crossed it one mile and two furlongs from Ubrow. We sent on for information and feel very anxious; there are so many people to provide with water, and so many animals to feed, that the responsibility is great. The weather has become much hotter, the range of the thermometer being thirty degrees, from seventy to one hundred.

Dadera or Dund-i-Khalifa, Monday, 12th Oct. N. 40 W. — We had a fearful march of it to-day; the guide mistook his road and led us through valleys in which the jungle was so thick, that we could hardly get through it, and over steep hills of sand, which seemed to continue for ever. After an hour we fell in with the path and followed rather the direction we knew we had to go, until we reached the entrance to the sand hills enclosing the dund. There was so little appearance of water being near, that I almost dreaded the guide would be found wrong, but he proceeded on steadily across the Nara bed (one mile broad,) to some bushes and tamarisk trees in a deep valley, after passing which, we were delighted by the sight of our tents. The men were delighted with a another fine dund full of water, and plenty of short grass near it; we halt here to-morrow to recruit a little, and to ascertain where next we go. I am full of confidence now, having been satisfied that this is my river i. e. *the Nara* described by me in 1832 (See *Journal of Sinde Mission and Memoirs on Sinde*) the existence of which was doubted by so many; but more of this when I write my report.

I forgot to state in my memo. of yesterday, that our spirits were by no means raised by the desertion of our Sindian camelman with fifty Sinde camels; fortunately those belonging to Government are available, and must be used now. One thing however, I now discover, that when I asked formerly if there was water in the Nara the answer was that in the dunds there was "Juja," (i. e. abundance.) I judged of the river therefore as of the Indus, where the dunds are canals, and had no idea of any thing so remarkably singular as these dunds look when put on paper. The camels and baggage came by a very tolerable road, as did the guide Essoo who surveyed the road. Another march will bring me on ground I know

better than this. I am consoled by one fact, i. e. that as long as we follow the river we shall find water near it, and be advancing on our course, and with our provisions that are well guarded, there is nothing to fear. There are scarcely any inhabitants in the country, and all those we have met are most civil. I believe money has a stronger effect on the Sindians and Beloches than on many people; they seem as if they never got any, and are miserable creatures.

Tuesday, 13th Oct. 1840. — Halted at Dadera. Meer Khan here informed me he could go no farther, as Meer Ali Moorad's people would not obey him. I was prepared for this, Hunwuntrao having warned me the day before of the fact. I determined therefore to try my hand at catching the first Belochee I could find. To my no small delight I perceived at a distance an individual dressed in a yellow green wngrika, blue pantaloons and dirty red cap. I accordingly advanced in the most affectionate way, and showered down on his head all the Sindian compliments I could remember, after the fashion of the country, and having talked about all my former acquaintances at Khyrpoor, soon had the gratification of finding that I had inspired him with confidence, that his title was Gool Mahomed, and what was better, that he was my man to Roree for three rupees a day. I discovered also that there was a Belochee town called Tagocha one coss off, where resided a petty Officer of Meer Ali Moorad's, and that his name was Allah Buxsh. I laid a plan for securing his attentions, and in the mean time, despatched Gool Mahomed with Hunwuntrao on the camel of the former to seek out the next ground. I now felt more secure, and having called the Moonshee, directed him to write a fine Persian letter to Allah Buxsh expressive of the great friendship which existed between Meer Ali Moorad and myself. This I despatched by the Moonshee and Meer Khan, the former to read the letter (as Allah Buxsh being a Belochee and warrior was above the vulgarity of being able to read himself,) and the latter to give such an account of our generosity and justice, as would, I hoped, seduce the Buxsh into my service. At night the Moonshee returned to say, the Belochee would wait on me next day. This he accordingly did, and I had no difficulty in persuading him to accept four rupees a day and his food for his services; with four of his sepoy's, to escort us to Roree. Here I consider our troubles end.

By a series of double and single observations of the sun I make the latitude of Dadera $26^{\circ} 2' 00''$.

Phoogan-garra Koond, Wednesday, 14th Oct. 13m. 3f. N. 36. W. The road to-day was better than that traversed yesterday, but

still desert and jungle, with high sand hills to cross occasionally ; passed Dade shehr of Tagocha, about 29 miserable huts with a fine piece of water near. This halting place with the extraordinary name is merely a pool of water in the bed of the Nara ; no village. Our troubles are by no means over, nor are they likely to end until we reach Sukker. We have many different accounts of the road and its difficulties. I do not apprehend any injury from the inhabitants, but what is to be done if after advancing in this fearful desert, water fails and we have to retrace our steps ; a halt is not advisable as the provisions will be expended ; and so we must trust in Providence and our own ingenuity.

I find the road via Mitrao, Sumatu, Suckrow, &c. is on the opposite side of the river. Koond or khoomb, means a pool of water in the river bed ; dund or dhundh is a lake between sand hills. We have fortunately just met a Hindoo who assures us he came from Roree only eight days ago by Mitrao. I have engaged him to conduct the guide Hunwuntrao on in advance, and hired a tattoo from one of the camp followers for the guide.

We passed several dunds on our right to-day. One was very offensive and attracted my attention, although out of sight. I find it is called Kharie* and produces the earth of that name, (query fuller's earth,) used to dye and clean cloth : it is sent in great quantities to Sinde, and sells for two rupees a maund.

By observation at midday, we are in lat. $26^{\circ} 12' 28''$. Since the arrival of Allah Buxsh, Gool Mahomed has refused to go on, so we have paid him three rupees and discharged him. Allah Buxsh is to get four rupees a day, and food for his men ; they are all mounted.

Keyvarrie, Thursday, 15th Oct. 10m. 2f. N. 12 W. — By the advice of our new friend the Hindu, we moved on Keyvarrie this morning. This is merely a pool of water in the bed of the river ; no village, but one or two Banians have been attracted by our wealth, and followed us with a small quantity of gram for sale. We had to cross the river one mile broad ; the bed dry, but filled with low sand hills of all shapes and sizes ; here and there immense long islands where the water has passed with force.

I find that the best road, when there is water and grass, is by Mitrao ; the latter part of the road to-day was distinguishable as a foot path and not bad ; the rest heavy sand. Each day convinces me that my former report of the Nara river was correct ; the guide to-day tells

* खार Any saline substance : — the above is probably an impure carbonate of soda. — S.

me, that nine years ago the Nara river was full from bank to bank, nearly two coss here, from the hills on each side. Lient Creed mentions that Oodur ka kilah was destroyed by the inundations that year. It was the year following I was in Sinde, Feb. 1832, and then there was water in the Nara. Met a cossid to-day five days from Roree. He said he had travelled by night chiefly, and that the distance was 50 pukka coss. He mentions that he had heard at Sukkur that Dost Mohamed had been killed, and the Murree Belochee dispersed; abundance of water and grass here. A mean of three observations gives the latitude $26^{\circ} 23' 33''$ or about $78\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Bukkur in a direct line. I begin to feel more and more certain of success attending our journey; the men are cheerful and happy, and enjoy the fine large sheets of water. I very much fear, however, we must put them on short allowance of rations for two or three days.

Marrija, Friday, 16th Oct. 18m. 2f. N. — Marched over a very heavy road to day to this place which is a dund, the last of five on the road; see Survey. We must have made a long march either to-day or tomorrow, and it is best to advance; road very heavy; passed several branches of the Nara dry called "Sanges." Lat. by double observations $26^{\circ} 41' 23''$ which leaves us somehow about 60 miles from Bukkur in Lat. $27^{\circ} 40'$. No village.

Katur, Saturday, 17th Oct. 1840. 14m. N. — Road sandy and heavy, still a desert with jungle, a pool of fresh water in the river; and a few huts half a coss west; no supplies, but what we bring with us. Two friendly Banians have brought some grain from a Belochee village, three coss off. I long to get over the next march, but we halt here tomorrow being Sunday. The camels and people are also very tired.

Sunday, 18th Oct. Halted at Katur.

Phariaro, Monday, 19th Oct. 16m. 7f. N. — Reached our ground pretty early, the last four miles over heavy sand; traversed an extensive jungle, but the country is more open than usual; passed two tolerable villages, Sorah and Chonki: halting place to-day two miles east of village, which is a pukka one of forty houses, and has fifteen shops. We are encamped on the edge of the Nara which has water in deep pools; it is quite fresh, having come from the Indus last July, when there was a slight fresh. Heard firing on the road: it must be at Beeja ka kote, Meer Ali Morad's fort, but the sound I thought too regular and continued for Sindian's; it cannot however be at Sukkur as it sounded about twenty four miles off, which Beeja is. Lat. by double observations $27^{\circ} 4' 44''$. By single at noon $27^{\circ} 5' 14''$.

Guggera, Tuesday, 20th Oct. 14m. N. — The road to-day

was though dense jungle ; the path scarcely visible, but the soil was hard, and we arrived in good time. This is another encampment on the right bank of the Nara which is now a river with plenty of water in it ; we crossed it twice. Heard to-day from a Syud that a " great Sahib had been to see Meer Ali Moorad yesterday, and that the firing yesterday was the salute ; the great Sahib having guns and a fouj (army) with him. " Merely a few huts ; tomorrow we march to Tremore and next day to Roree. Latitude by meridian observation $27^{\circ} 18' 08''$ which is correct.

Tremore, Wednesday, 21st Oct. 1840. 14m. 5f. N. — Left our last ground at 2 A. M. and arrived here at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 ; road at first through dense jungle ; then cross the low range of hills, from whence to this village over a cultivated plain. Yesterday evening we had a specimen of what the people would have done had we not taken the precaution of having an officer of the Government with us. Having discharged Allah Buxsh, and sent notice of our being here to Wuzzeer Futteh Mahomed Khan Goree, we did not anticipate any trouble in procuring four or five guides. However, when they were sent for, a Belochee in the village refused to give them, as, he said, we had no right to march on this side the Indus. The man behaved most insolently, drew his sword half from the scabbard and said he would cut down the 2d guide, Essoo, if he came near him. When this was reported we sent to say, that we should halt until the Ameer's officers arrived. In the mean time an officer of some consequence happening to pass and overhear the business, came at once and offered us all assistance ; this was gladly accepted, and he conducted us here, promising us four or five guides. On reaching this village I found two respectable officers from the Khyrpoor durbar ready to receive us with a most friendly letter from the Wuzzeer, telling us that officers had been sent on the Nowshare road, fifteen days ago to meet us.

It is now only fourteen miles to Roree, where we proceed this evening. The conduct of the men has been most praiseworthy. Not one complaint has been made in Sinde. They marched actively and cheerfully through the most difficult country I have ever seen (not the less so from being totally unknown to them) at a rate of nine miles per day for 56 days, halts included, or, deducting twenty halts, at fourteen miles per day : part of this hard work on half rations.

Report. — The portion of Sinde to be reported on extends from Lat. north $27^{\circ} 42' 00''$ to $25^{\circ} 19' 00''$ in which latter parallel I make Omercote ; and longitude 69° to near 70° degrees East. The

journal will shew each day's progress: this report is intended to contain a general description of the country.

Nara River. — I find in my journal of the 25th February, 1832, dated Kotree, the first notice of there being a branch of the Indus of this name: my subsequent enquiries led me to believe the report correct, and the river being represented as full of water, with many bunds, I inserted it in my map of the Sinde river. [See the memoir on Sinde sent to Government in 1832.] I now find the reason of the report respecting the abundance of water to have been, that in 1831 the Nara was filled from sand hill to sand hill on each side; this would give a breadth of three miles inundated that year, and in February 1832, there would have been a great quantity of water in the dunds and koonds, in the river. This I have heard from many natives on the road, chiefly the guides. It is also confirmed by a remark in Lieutenant Creed's route, where he says, speaking of Oodur, "The fort was destroyed by a flood nine years ago, a small mound with trees is all that remains of it." That officer crossed the Nara and describes it much as I did in 1832. In that year I obtained routes along the river, but as many were so positive that the river did not exist, I did not give them, and unfortunately have not brought them with me on this march.

Course of Nara River. — The Nara River leaves the Indus twelve coss above Roree. It runs down to the Arrore bund, which obstructs the waters, and thereby causes the bed to be dry, except during the period that the Indus rises, on which occasions, and during an unusual flood, the river is filled from the Indus to near Omercote, and from thence by Nabbeseer to Roarra-ka-bazar, extending its waters on each side, so that the dunds are filled. This will be better understood by a reference to the Survey, where, from the breadth of the river bed, in many places one and quarter miles, it will be seen whether or not this branch of the Indus deserves the name of a river.

Dunds. — Between the Indus and Omercote there are no less than 360 dunds, most of which always contain water, if the inundations have been extensive. Each year they are replenished, but if the inundations do not occur for two or three years, still the water remains in the dunds, but becomes brackish. On digging small pits near the edge of the salt water, fresh water is procured; this may appear singular, but it is to be accounted for in this way: — the soil of Sinde is all saline; water thrown on any part of it will, after a few days, evaporate, and salt is formed. Thus as the dunds dry up, the edges produce the salt, and the water gradually becomes brackish.

On the earth being removed six or eight inches near the edge, the sweet water oozes from below and remains so, till partial evaporation occurs. This was remarked by me on entering Sinda at Láh in 1832, where the water when first taken out of the wells was sweet, but on being exposed to the air, became salt. The wells contained very little, and the cause of the change must have been as above described.

I am assured that there is at all seasons on this line of route abundance of water, and I am satisfied from experience that such is the case, but from what I shall hereafter say regarding the country, I do not think it would be adviseable for any large party of men to travel by this route between the end of February and the commencement of October; indeed, if after a heavy inundation, not until the middle of November. My reasons for saying this are, that the whole extent of the country between Syud Bukar and Phariaro, is covered with loose sand, and the halting places below, are amongst sand hills, where the heat is excessive. During the march we experienced a daily variation of 30 or 40 degrees in the temperature; the nights being excessively cold, whilst the days were the contrary; 60° to 65° in the morning and 104° to 107° in the middle of the day, is trying both to Europeans and Natives, and from this I judge that in the hot months, the heat and dust would be insupportable.

Again during the rains, the chances of an inundation are always great, and if sudden, might be destructive. After the rains, malaria is to be dreaded, for although the soil is sandy, the jungle is so dense in many places as to render the formation of miasma certain.

The word dund means literally a lake, for as I have said, there are many that never dry — this of course depends upon their situation and depth; they vary much in size, some are two or three miles long, but in breadth seldom exceed 200 or 300 yards. Almost all the dunds contain fish, and from some, fuller's earth, or kharie is produced, and sells for two rupees a maund. Dund also means a canal, across which an embankment or *bund*, is thrown to retain the water. Koond means a pool of water in the bed of a river, there are many of them in the Nara; indeed in any part of the bed of this river where the sand is not very deep, water can be procured by digging a few feet. The koonds abound with fish; as far as I can judge, all are common in the rivers of India, roach, parhí, lady fish, eels, shrimps, &c. were daily procured at the dunds and koonds, and at the former, fish weighing from 10 to 20lbs. of excellent flavour. The revenue derived from this country consists chiefly in the taxes laid on the fishermen that reside near the dunds.

As the dunds dry, the valleys are cultivated, and yield large crops of bajree, moong and wheat. Grass of a very good kind is also found in abundance at the koonds and dunds; but grass cutters must be provided, as the people do not procure it. Kurbee can be purchased at most of the dunds.

Face of the Country. — The appearance of the country is most wild and extraordinary. On each side of the river bed, are ranges of sand hills from two to three hundred yards high, of a bright yellow colour covered with small bushes, a kind of camel thorn. The valleys contain dense jungles chiefly tamarisk, peloo and sundur; the former is called ley or joh. The peloo, (*Salvadora persica*) is a dark green bush producing a small berry of a dark color, which the natives eat; the sundur is a tree of the genus acacia, producing strong thorns; the average height of the two latter seldom exceed fifteen or twenty feet. The tamarisk however is here a tree sometimes thirty feet high and two to four in circumference. The path in the valleys is strewn with fallen and decayed trees, which added to the desolate appearance of the hills, conveys the idea of a country abandoned by man; indeed it may be generally said to be so, the inhabitants being few and their habitations scattered over the hills and formed of the most wretched materials. The Mohanas or fishermen (Mahomedans) reside near the dunds, a few Beelochees reside here and there, and if a village possesses one Banian's shop, it is designated "shehr" or city. Supplies can only be procured from Omercote as far as Chotiari, and from Roree as far as Phariaro.

Wild Animals. — The wild ass, hog, and deer, are numerous: jackals appear also to abound, but neither tiger nor any other destructive animals are known here.

Roads. — In many places no road exists, the line of route being a mere foot path through dense jungle or over sand hills, the latter, although not high, render the journey tedious and unpleasant.

II. — *Some account of the present state of the Trade, between the Port of Mandavie in Cutch, and the Eastern Coast of Africa.* By Lieut. T. Postans.

[Communicated by the Author.]

Before entering upon a description of the state of this trade as it at present exists, inclination would lead me to say a few words respecting its early history ; but I regret to say, all my efforts to that end have hitherto proved unproductive of any thing satisfactory.

A brief description of the Port of Mandavie may not be out of place. It is an open roadstead situated on the northern shore, and nearly at the entrance, of the Gulf of Cutch, in Latitude $22^{\circ} 50'$ N. and Longitude $69^{\circ} 34'$ E. A large creek runs directly inland, in nearly a due northerly direction, skirting the city to the east. It is affected by the tides, and allows of boats unloading close to the walls of the place. The mouth of this creek is for the greater part of the year, much obstructed with sand banks, allowing only a small passage for boats of moderate burden, which are obliged to wait for high tides to pass it. These banks are generally much reduced by freshes from the interior, whose violence during seasons when rain is abundant, tends much to remedy an evil, which might otherwise prove detrimental to the trade of the place ; there is good anchorage in the offing, at about half a mile from the shore, where boats generally lie. Mandavie is a very opulent and busy port, carrying on considerable trade ; inland, with Palee and other places in Marwar, Sinde, Goojerat, Jaisalmeer, &c ; and by sea, with nearly all the ports of Western India, the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, Eastern Coast of Africa, and occasionally as far as Mosambique. The revenues of Mandavie, *pugwut* and *julwut*, (land and sea duties) are farmed annually, at about nine and a half lakhs of Coories*. Of the nature of the duties so levied, their justness or otherwise, it will not be my province to treat, but merely to detail those which appertain to the trade treated of.

1st. The number of boats which leave Mandavie for the Eastern coast of Africa, average about twenty annually ; their size varies from 150 to about 200 candies. There are two belonging to the port of about 800 candies each, one of which is owned by the once opulent family of the Sunderjees. The crews are sometimes Mussulman, at others Hindus, but principally the latter. I have seen a boat, the crew of which from the tindal downwards were Rajputs. They are

* Or two and a half lakhs rupees 2,50,659.

the best sailors, and Rajput *muallims*, or pilots of Cutch, are a caste deservedly famous for their skill and daring. The season for sailing commences about the beginning of October, and the trade is open during the whole of the fair season; the greatest number of boats arrive from Zanzibar just before the setting in of the south west monsoon, at the latter end of the month of May. Three or four Arab boats from those which visit Mandavie annually, are taken up for the African trade; but the greatest part is carried on by Cutch boats, and Cutchee crews.

2nd. The places visited by Mandavie boats, in the prosecution of the trade on the eastern coast of Africa, are *Burburra*, *Mugdasir*, *Murka*, *Burawen*, *Lamoon*, *Moombassa* and *Zanzibar*, sometimes but rarely the *Mosambique*. The three first of these ports are situated on the part of the coast known as the *Buradur*; the others are styled the *Suwallee*.* It is under this latter title that the whole of the trade is known in Cutch, and the fleet of boats which annually makes its appearance in May (as before mentioned) are called the *Suwallee* boats.

3rd. It appears, that all the trade in the *Buradur* is carried on by *Somalies*, who find their market again in the interior. They are however the people treated with in all transactions of purchase, exchange, &c., they are described as fair dealers, but merciless in case of shipwreck or misfortune. A boat touching at any of the three ports under this denomination, does not pay a regulated tax or duty on its cargo, but a present is given to the *Sulateen* or rulers of the place.

Hindu brokers, principally from *Surat*, are the mediators between the *tindals* and the *Somalee*; their commission is two per cent. In the part of the coast called *Suwallee*, the ports are well supplied with *Banians* and *Battias*, many of whom are from *Mandavie*. These on the part of their correspondents carry on all the trade; thus at *Lamoon* and *Moombassa* there are about fifty, and at *Zanzibar* two hundred of these people. Here an *ad valorem* impost duty of six and a half per cent for *Hindus*, and five per cent for *Mahomedans* is levied. The principal article of exchange is *Ivory*, but it is becoming a source of complaint, that owing to the *American* and *French* vessels which now frequent *Lamoon* and *Zanzibar*, the *Cutch* boats find it scarce. Still the quantity imported annually, is as will be hereafter seen, very considerable.

* From سواحل sea coasts. — The inhabitants of this part are known as سواحلي. — S.

Exports. The exports from Mandavie consist of cotton cloths, cotton, and brass in wire and rods, the former are however the staple commodities, and require particular description. Those of the coarsest kind *pankoras* (unbleached) are manufactured in *Mawar*, and those under the denomination of *Seeah Kupra*, or black cloths, of which there are about twenty different kinds, are woven at Mandavie with English thread. We will take them in succession. I have endeavoured in this list to embody all the information I could collect, and which may prove useful; for any defects, the novelty of the subject treated of must plead as my apology.

I may observe, that I spared no pains or exertion to make my account a satisfactory one, and that I derive my information from the best sources; the measure used is the guz of 33·5125 inches,* to one guz, and the tussoo, 24 to 1 guz. The current coin of the country is the coorie: exchange as established by government, 379 coories per 100 Bombay Rupees. This exchange, however, is not recognized by the native merchants, and the trade is calculated in Reals (dollars) and venetians (either Mughrubis or Seetranis.)

No. 1. *Pankoras*, unbleached plain coarse cotton cloths from Marwar, width 1 guz, 12 guz in one piece, price 20 coories per *Udha* or 100 guz; sells at Zanzibar for from 7 to 12 dollars per *Kodie* or 240 guz. Amount of export in the year, 750 *Weettas* (rolls) of 1800 guz each: export duty 60 coories per roll.

No. 2. *Seeah Kupra* black cloths, before mentioned, manufactured at Mandavie from English thread. There are about 20 different species of this fabric, all distinguished from each other by their colour, and the number of threads in the warp. Whence their name of "black cloths," it would be difficult to determine, except that their general colours are certainly dark; they appear to be produced by different shades of Indigo with bright borders. Some patterns may prove useful, and supersede a lengthened description, they are the grand articles of export in this trade, are all more or less highly prized, and procure a ready market.

No. 3. List of (*Seeah Kuprahs*) black cloths, manufactured at Mandavie, the whole woven with English thread.

* See Jervis' Metrology.

Names and Description.	Whole width	Length of piece.	Number of threads in the warp.	Breadth of border.	Market price at Mandavie.	Price* in Africa.	Export duty.
1 <i>Bissotah</i> , blue and white, close stripe, border, red and blue.....	1 guz	7 guz	1600	13 tussoos	80 coories per 100 guz	20 to 25 dollars per 20 cloths of 7 guz each.	
2 <i>Billie</i> same as above, but texture fine.....	"	"	4000	"	150 "	30 35 do.	
3 <i>Ismaïl Potah</i> , blue and white close stripe, with silk border.....	22 tussoos	"	1600	2 "	80 "	20 25 "	
4 <i>Toujeree</i> , alternate dark and light blue stripes, with border of yellow, red, green, blue and white.....	1½ guz	"	2000	7 "	90 "	25 30 "	
5 <i>Kess</i> , plaid pattern, dark blue, light blue and white, with red border.....	22 tussoos	"	800	1½ "	60 "	15 20 "	
6 <i>Chocaree</i> , close plaid, blue and white, with blue, red and yellow border.....	1½ guz	"	1200	9 "	80 "	20 25 "	
7 <i>Bayootia</i> , close blue, and white stripe, with yellow border.....	13 tussoos	6½ guz	1200	6 "	60 "	15 20 "	
8 <i>Panchputty</i>	1½ guz	7 "	1200	8 "	60 100	15 20 "	
9 <i>Bhorah</i> , coarse red and white stripe, border red.....	1 guz	7 "	1000	1 "	60 100	15 20 "	
10 <i>Robawee</i> , very close blue and white stripe, border red, green and yellow, also red and white.....	1 "	7 "	2000	6 "	100 "	25 30 "	
11 <i>Sabbayeh</i> , alternate stripes of blue and red and yellow; border of yellow, green, blue and white; close textured.....	3½ "	7 "	4000	15 "	100 "	" "	
12 <i>Kikooee</i> , fine white cloth, with borders of red, blue and yellow; in alternate stripes.	21 "	3½ "	1700	10 "	" "	" "	10 Coories per Bale.

* These prices are not much to be depended upon; these articles are seldom sold, but principally given in exchange for ivory; bona fide sales not generally effected. The value of the dollar about 8 coories; this value is therefore nominal.

I have given in the above an account of 12 descriptions of these cloths ; there are others but they vary only in texture and colour of the borders so immaterially, as not to be worthy of notice. The annual exports amount to about 950 *bales* of ordinary size, export duty 10 coories per bale. There is another texture called *Burane*, also manufactured at Mandavie. It is a very thick cotton fabric used for sails, is sold by weight, of one coorie per lb. ; pays an export duty of 12 coories per roll of ordinary size, and is sold in Africa for 6 dollars per taka of 20 guz.

No. 4. The *Kuneekee* is a narrow coarse cotton cloth from Marwar, width 15 tussoo, 3 guz in a piece. It is dyed black at Mandavie : about 60 bales exported annually ; duty per bale 7 coories. The above with occasionally coarse cotton bed covers, called chintzes, compose the whole of the manufactured exports.

No. 5. *Cotton* the produce of Cutch and Kattywar, but principally the former, from the portion of the country called the *Kanta* or sea coast, 150 bags annually, 72 maund, duty 6 coories per maund.

No. 6. *Brass wire and Brass rods*, about 300 maunds annually : price at Mandavie is 50 coories per maund ; duty 3 coories per maund. This is a very inferior article, produced at Mandavie. The above completes the exports.

Imports. 1st. Of these the staple commodity is *ivory*, the amount of imports annually is about four hundred and fifty *candies*. It forms the great article in this trade, and is received in return for the cloths exported. It finds its principal market in *Marwar*, where it is transported on bullocks by the *Charuns*, in return for grain and coarse cloths. The teeth pay an import duty of two hundred and fifty coories per candy. It is purchased on the coast by the *franslah* of about sixty pounds English, and varies in price according to quality ; from thirty to thirty-six dollars per *franslah*. Market price at Mandavie from four to five thousand coories per candy, of twenty maunds ; twenty-five pounds English per maund. Some small quantity is used at Mandavie, and worked into women's ornaments, &c. Its quality is I believe admitted to be of an inferior description, to that which comes from Ceylon.

2nd. A very clear description of gum called *Chund Roz*, used in dyeing and varnishing : amount of imports annually, sixty-five maunds. Price at Mandavie forty coories per maund ; purchased on the coast from three to four dollars.

3rd. *Rhinoceros hides and horns*. From the former are manufactured the shields worn by the Rajputs of the province. The horn is manufactured at Mandavie into snuff boxes, knife and sword han-

dles, ornaments, &c. The Banians thinking it contrary to their tenets to trade in the skins of animals, do not patronise these articles. The quantity imported is insignificant ; — Cocoanuts in great abundance (one lakh per annum) for oil ; Beetlenuts forty bags ; at times Juwaree, Mung, and the Sesamum * seed (also for oil.) The above with gold in dust and ingots ; dollars and venetians, comprise the whole of the imports and exports for one year ; and as the trade is pretty steady, it may be taken as a fair average for any given number of years.

Remarks. — My object when I commenced this enquiry, was not merely to confine myself to the particulars herein set forth, but I had hoped to be able to gather from conversations with intelligent *Nakhodas* and influential men, some interesting particulars with respect to the various tribes inhabiting the different places along the coast, with whom in the course of traffic the Cutchees might be brought into contact ; nor did I spare any exertion to accomplish this object. — The *Somalees* and *Bagoonees* however are the only people they appear to know any thing of, and that very superficially ; these people speak a language the Cutchees do not understand, and all the transactions being carried on through the interference of brokers, their sales or exchange effected, they concern or interest themselves no farther about them.

I have been at Mandavie during the arrival of the Suwalee fleet, and therefore the most favourable season for personally observing the boats as they arrived ; but beyond the common class of Sedees, who seek employment as sailors, few of the other African tribes frequent the port of Mandavie.

The system of dealing pursued on the coast, appears to be a very fair one, and the risks beyond those of storm and wreck, are not great. The toleration allowed to the Hindu traders who reside on the coast, is a subject of commendation ; they are permitted to burn their dead, and possess privileges which those of the same class resident in Mocha do not enjoy. The difference in the duties however, of one and a half per cent between the two castes, will be observed.

Mandavie is principally indebted to its *Seeah Kupras*, for the vigour with which the trade is carried on. It is an article which meets with ready sale, although, there can be no doubt, much inferior to our own manufactures ; still it is adapted to the taste of the people traded with ; most of the weavers of the finer description of these cloths, are Sindians, located at Mandavie.

The profits derived from this trade must be considerable, but as the outlay is great (a boat being often absent during the whole of the season from October to May,) it is entirely confined to wealthy merchants. Some of the boats employed in this and the Mocha trade, are of the largest and best description; many are decked and some carry four carronades, with which they do not fail to announce their arrival when near the Port.* The enterprise of the merchants and the skill of the Pilots of Mandavie, "who with their rude instruments fearlessly stretch out into the Indian Ocean," have procured them, and deservedly, a great name amongst Asiatics. These Muallims (Pilots) are a most intelligent and communicative class of men. My friend *Veerjee* for instance, to whom I am indebted for much of the information contained in this paper, would with greater advantages of education have proved himself a second Anson. He shews you his nautical tables (rude though they be) in his own tongue; his log is as strictly kept as an Indiaman's; he can determine latitude, and, by dead reckoning, his longitude. As he unrolls, an antiquated chart of the world on Mercator's projection, he exultingly points to England, and offers to pilot you there. Amongst his books (for he has a library on nautical subjects) is an ancient tome entitled "The English Pilot" describing "the sea coasts, capes, headlands, straights, soundings, sands, shoals, rocks and dangers; the bays, roads, harbours and ports in the oriental navigation; shewing the property and nature of the winds, and monsoons in those seas, with the courses and distances from one place to another; the setting of the tides and currents, the ebbing and flowing of the sea: with many other things necessary to be known:" dated London 1755. I have prefixed to this paper for the curious in such matters, a compass card, with the native names for the various points.

This is a digression, but as I may have occasion to say more on the subject of the trade of Mandavie, I could not omit a passing word to my friends the Pilots, a most useful and deserving race of people,

* So great is the excitement amongst the merchants on the arrival of the Suwallee boats, that an owner will liberally fee the messenger who first brings him intelligence of the arrival of his boat. For this purpose, the western bastion of the city wall is generally occupied by some dozen possessors of telescopes of all sizes and denominations, who by long practice, are enabled to distinguish the various boats at a great distance. Bets are also offered to considerable amounts, indeed this and other species of gambling at Mandavie, form a part of the revenues of the Rao.

whose names are so essentially identified with the mercantile prosperity of the place. *

III. — *Extracts from Sir H. Russel's report on the Nizam's territories.* Communicated by Major, T. B. Jervis, F.R.S.

In extent the Nizam's territories from north to south is about three hundred and eighty miles, measuring from the hills above Ellichpoor to the Toombuddra below Rachosa, and about three hundred and twenty from east to west, measuring from the boundary near Parinda to Badrachallum on the Godavery. The soil in general is extremely rich and fertile, and except where the tanks have been allowed to fall into decay, the country is well watered. In favorable situations two crops of rice are produced within the year from the same ground; jowaree, bajree, wheat, barley, and chenna are the principal produce of the country. Rice is grown in particular parts only, and in sufficient quantities for the consumption of the inhabitants. The poorer classes subsist chiefly on jowaree and bajree; the higher classes eat rice and wheat.

The population of Hyderabad is supposed to be about 2,50,000, of which perhaps 1,50,000 may be within the walls, and 1,00,000 in the suburbs. Of the population within the walls, the Hindus are perhaps about 40,000 the remainder being Mahomedans: in the suburbs about 60,000 may be Hindus, and 40,000 Mahomedans. There are no means of computing the whole of the Nizam's population with any certain approach to accuracy. In estimating the proportion which the capital bears to the rest of the country, if the comparatively small number of inhabitants in a city which has no trade or manufactures, be allowed to counterbalance the reduction made by bad Government in the number of the inhabitants of the country, the population of Hyderabad may be about a tenth of the whole population of the Nizam's Territories, which will give a total of two millions and a half. At the capital the Mahomedans have been computed at 1,50,000, and the Hindus at 1,00,000. In the country the Mahomedans are not perhaps above a tenth of the population. This therefore will give exclusive of the capital 20,25,000 Hindus, and 2,25,000 Mahomedans, or altogether 21,25,000 Hindus and 3,75,000 Mahomedans.

* All *laws* with respect to this as well as other trades may be comprized in the term "payment of dues and duties."

There is but little commerce in the Nizam's Territories, and of what there is the balance is very much against them. From the Company's country they import copper, broad cloth, velvet, silk, muslins, chintz, calicoes, ornamented cloths, sugar, spices, sandal wood, and salt. From Cashmere they import shawls; from Malwa, opium; from Marwar, camels and blankets, and a good deal of salt is also imported from the Paishwa's districts in the Konkan. They export wheat, steel, cotton, and a considerable quantity of excellent teak timber, which grows on the banks of the Godavery below Nirmul, and is conveyed down the river to Coringa. The principal marts in the Nizam's country are, Omrauty and Oomnabad near Beder. The usual interest of money at Hyderabad is from 2 to 3 per cent per month. The lowest rate at which the Minister negotiates loans for the Government, even when the amount is secured by assignments on the Revenues of the country, is 18 per cent per annum. He generally pays 24 per cent.

The Nizam's country did produce in considerable numbers the finest horses in the Deccan. The breed still exists, but the produce is very much diminished. Before the year 1800 an officer was stationed at Hyderabad to purchase horses for the Madras Cavalry, and they were procured in considerable numbers. An officer of the Commissariat is now employed to purchase them for the same purpose. The number purchased by him during the year 1815 was 354. The Horses are produced chiefly in the western districts bordering on the Beema. An annual fair is held for the sale of them at Maligong in the Naudair district.

The original provisions for the administration of justice are fair and rational under the Nizam's, as they are under most of the governments. At Hyderabad the Soubah is the chief civil magistrate, and the Cutwall the chief criminal magistrate. Their duty is to receive and investigate all complaints. They refer the result of their inquiries to the chief Cauzee of the city, who pronounces the law, and his decrees are again applied and executed by the magistrates respectively. In all criminal cases the Mahomedan law prevails. In civil cases the Mahomedan law is administered to Mahomedans only: in disputes between Hindus the matter is referred to a Puchayut of Hindus to decide according to their law or practice, and, except in cases of manifest injustice, the Soubah is bound to adopt their award. When the Nizam takes the field, he is attended by a separate Cauzee and Cutwall, who are called the Cauzee and Cutwall of the army. The Nizam himself or his minister acts as civil Magistrate in the camp. In the country the administration of both civil

and criminal justice is in the hands of the Aumil or manager of the district, whether he be a farmer on his own account, or a collector appointed by the government. There is however a Cauzee in each district to whom the Aumil ought to refer in cases relating to Mahomedans : in those relating to Hindus he ought to refer to a Punchayut. But as the office of Cauzee in the country is mostly hereditary, it seldom happens that the person who holds it is qualified to exercise the duties, and he is scarcely ever employed but to perform marriages, or to authenticate documents with his seal. All these provisions however have fallen into total disuse. Both at the capital and in the country disputes are settled by force or favor, and even the forms of justice are openly neglected and defied. Until the Resident interfered in 1814 to procure the infliction of a capital punishment in cases of murder, not a single reference had been made to the chief Cauzee of the city in a criminal matter for ten years. The office of the Soubah has fallen into total disuse, and the Cutwall acts only as the head of an inefficient and oppressive Police.

Golconda is a place of considerable antiquity. Before the building of Hyderabad it was the seat of Government under the Kootab Shae Kings, and it has ever since been considered as the barrier of the capital. It is about six miles west of Hyderabad on the high road leading to Poona. The inner fort which is on a hill about two hundred and fifty feet high, is now entirely abandoned and appears to have no strength either natural or artificial. The outer fort is on the plain. It is about six miles in circumference, and consists of a single wall flanked by bastions. The rampart of the wall is very narrow. There are altogether eighty four bastions, on the larger of which there are two or three guns, and on the smaller only one. The ditch is seldom deep or wide. It is double on a part of the south face, and single every where else. There is a glacis. The fort is by no means strong, and with European troops might probably be taken by escalade. There are still the remains of two stone barriers on the high road to the west-ward within two miles of the walls. The Garrison consists nominally of one thousand and two hundred men, but there are not probably above eight hundred or nine hundred ; and a party of six hundred and fifty men under the command of an officer named Hafiz yar Jung, an adherent of the late Azim ool Oomrah, is now stationed there for the custody of the Princes who are confined in the lower fort. The Killadar is appointed immediately by the Nizam, and receives his orders from him alone. The name of the present Killadar is Abdool Raheem Khan. He is the son of a personal favorite of the late Nizam, and has held his

office for about 15 years. The tombs of the Kootub Shae Kings are within six hundred yards of the wall and would afford cover for at least 10,000 men. They were occupied by Aurungzebe when he beseiged Golconda. The Nizam and several of his principal Ameers have still houses in the lower Fort.

The diamond mines of Golconda derived their names from being in the kingdom of Golconda and not from being near the Fort. They are at the village of Purteeal near Condapilly about one hundred and fifty miles from Hyderabad on the road to Masulapatam. The property of them was reserved by the late Nizam when he ceded the Northern Circars to the Company. They are superficial excavations not exceeding ten or twelve feet deep in any part. For some years past the working of them has been discontinued, and there is no tradition of their having ever produced any valuable stones.

Beder is eighty miles N. W. from Hyderabad on the high road to Jalnah. It is said to have been founded by a Hindu Prince of the same name, who lived at the time of Alexander's invasion. The ninth of the Bahmenee kings removed the seat of Government there from Culburgah in 1434 and it continued to be the Capital until the termination of the Dynasty, and the division of their dominions. Beder did not preserve its independence above forty years. Its territories being swallowed up by its more powerful neighbour. It has since followed the destiny of Hyderabad. The remains of the city are still very fine. The walls are about four miles in circumference. They are of stone massy and well flanked, and in some parts there are three or four distinct line of works. The ditch is deep and wide, and there is a glacis. If it were in good repair and well garrisoned it would be one of the strongest places in the Nizam's country.

Ellichpoor is about three hundred miles to the northward of Hyderabad, and about one hundred and forty to the westward of Nagpore. It is built between two rivers the Buchun and Surpun which unite below the town, and after joining the Chundabonga fall into the Pooma a little below Derriapoer. The fort, which is small and very much out of repair, is situated within the town or rather the village, for it is little better. Salabut Khan who holds the neighbouring districts in Jagheer, resides in the town which is surrounded by a single wall. Ellichpoor was the capital of the kingdom of Berar which began in 1489 and ended in 1574 when it was absorbed into the kingdom of Ahmednuggur.

Warrangole, properly Warrungul the ancient Hindu city of Telingana now belongs to the Nizam. It is about one hundred miles N.

E. of Hyderabad. It was founded in 1067 and continued to be the seat of the Rajas of Telingana until it was finally reduced in 1333 by an army sent from Delhi by the Emperor Toghlucluck Shah. The city and suburbs were contained within three enclosures, of which the ruins only can now be traced. Their extent is considerable, but they have not been accurately measured. The only striking remains in their present condition are the four Gate-ways of the Palace, which are of grey granite, highly carved and polished ; but the extent of the ruins and the magnitude of their dimensions denote a capital of the first class.

Aurungabad the modern capital of the Nizam's dominions, north of the Godavery was founded by Aurungzebe in 1657 on the site of a village called Kurkee. It is surrounded by a single wall measuring six miles, exclusive of two enclosed suburbs immediately adjoining and forming in fact a part of the city, of which therefore the external circumference is upwards of ten miles. The present population of Aurungabad is about 100,000. Near a thousand looms are employed there in the manufacture of silks and brocades, of which the quantity annually fabricated is estimated at about three lakhs of rupees.

Dowlutabad, a place of great celebrity, is eight miles to the westward of Aurungabad. Its original Hindu name is Deogir, and it is conjectured to be the Tagara of Ptolemy. It was reduced by the Mahomedans just before Warrungole, and appears at that time to have been the capital of the old Mahratta Country, of the extent of which, or of Telingana we have now no means of judging, unless we take the limits within which the Mahratta and Telinga languages respectively are spoken. The Mahratta language now extends from the Injadry or Sautpoora mountains, which form the northern boundary of Candeish nearly to the Kistna, and from the sea on the west to a waving frontier on the east, of which the general direction is indicated by a line drawn from Goa to the Wurda near Chanda, and from thence along the River to the Sautpoora mountains. The Telinga, vulgarly called the Gentoo languages, from a corruption of the word Gentile, occupies the space to the eastward of the Mahrattas from near Chiccacole its northern, to within a few miles of Pulicat its southern, boundary. Early in the 14th century the Emperor Toghlucluck Shah removed the seat of Government from Delhi to Deogir, to which he gave the Mahomedan name of Dowlutabad. The fortress is a stupendous work, but its strength is an object rather curious than useful. The principal fortress is on a rock about six hundred feet high, the edge of which has been scarpd away, so as

to leave a precipice all round, one thousand five hundred yards in length, and varying from two hundred and fifty to three hundred feet in perpendicular height. At the foot of the scarping there is a ditch near fifty feet wide and forty five deep. The entrance is from the inner of four forts that are built, one within the other, upon the plain, and lies over a narrow bridge across the ditch into a small door, from which a shaft ascends spirally through the heart of the rock, and issues by an iron trap door in the centre of the work above. This shaft is about three hundred yards long, and about seven feet high, and ten wide. The lower forts consist of stone walls flanked by bastions. They have little strength, and even the upper works which are confined, and have not much cover might perhaps be bombarded.

The celebrated excavations of Ellora are six miles from Dowlutabad, and are evidently the work of the same age. Considered as the production of mere labor, they are perhaps the most striking objects in the world. They consist of a considerable number of temples, cut out of the living rock, on the face of a range of hills of which they occupy an extent of about two miles. The temples in the centre are unquestionably Braminical. Those at the extremities belong either to the Jains or Boudists, two religions of which the temples are not easily discriminated by any marks of distinction hitherto discovered. The temples at Ellora are worthy of the devotion of those Sovereigns who held their court at Dowlutabad.

There are several other places in the Nizam's Territory, which are celebrated on account of their antiquity or former importance, although we know as yet but little of the particular history of the Deckan, before the invasion of the Mahomedans.

Moongyputtun called also Pytun, and supposed to be the Pytana of the great geographers is situated on the Godavery thirty-six miles S. by E. from Aurungabad. Although it has much declined it still contains a population of about 30,000. It has a peculiar manufacture of embroidered cloths in which near six-hundred looms are employed. The annual value of the commodity fabricated is about two lakhs of rupees.

Culliany, a place about one hundred and thirty miles W. N. W. from Hyderabad on the road to Poona, was once the seat of a Hindu Dynasty. But of the age in which it flourished, or of the extent of its dominions, little or nothing is known. The present fort of Culliany in which the Nizam's cousin Moostauz ool Oomrah has resided since his banishment for political intrigues, in the beginning of 1800, is a Mahomedan structure of comparatively modern date.

Culburgah properly Goolburgah, was the capital of the whole of

the Mahomedan possessions in the Deckan, under the Bahminee Kings, from the establishment of the dynasty in 1347, and continued so until 1434 when the seat of Government was transferred to Beder. It is about one hundred and twenty miles west of Hyderabad, and fifteen east from the Beema. The town has fallen into decay, but the fort which is extensive, is still in tolerable repair. The tomb of Syud Bunda Newaz, who lived in the beginning of the 15th century, and is still worshipped by both Hindús and the Mahomedans as the tutelar saint of the Deckan, is at Culburgah.

The only independent chieftains, whose possessions are generally comprehended within the Nizam's territories, are those of Shorapore and Gudwall.

The district of Shorapore is situated between the Kistna and the Beema, immediately above their junction and forms nearly an equilateral triangle, of which each side measures about sixty miles.

It derives this name, by which it is commonly known, from the town of Shorapore, the old residence of the Rajah's family, which is about eight miles north of the Kistna, and about thirty west of the Beema. Its designation in the revenue records in the Suggur Circar of which the principal town about eight miles N. N. E. from Shorapore bears the same name. It originally formed a part of the kingdom of Beejapoor, and a person named Chup Naik, the ancestor of the present Rajah, who was a collector of the revenue, availed himself of the confusion occasioned by Aurungzebe's invasion of the Deckan, to establish an independent authority. He joined Aurungzebe on his first expedition, and was then made a royal Munsudbar of 5,000, and received the Mahomedan titles of Bubber ool Moolk, Mootuhwir ood Dowlah, Raab Jung. The District of Shorapore, from its local situation, was frequently attacked by the Nizam and the Mahrattas, and the Rajah purchased a nominal independence by consenting to pay an annual tribute to both the Nizam and the Paishwa. This tribute to the Nizam when a detachment from the subsidiary force was employed against him in 1802 was admitted on both sides to be 1,45,000 rupees. The Paishwa claimed 85,000 rupees as the tribute payable to him.

The present Rajah's name is Pia Naik. He succeeded Inkuppa Naik in 1803. His family and the families of all his principal dependents are Dhairs, the Kelotes of the peninsula. The revenue of Shorapore formerly amounted to eight lakhs of rupees, but they do not now exceed six. In 1802 the troops which the Rajah had collected to resist the Nizam's force were estimated at four thousand cavalry, eight thousand infantry of different kinds, and four thousand

Beydur peons, composing a sort of local militia. He probably has not now above two thousand men altogether in regular pay. The fort of Suggur was held by the Rajah, but it was given up by him in 1802, and it is now in the Nizam's possession.

The district of Gudwall which is composed of the two purgunnas of Durroor and Aij, is situated in that part of the Nizam's possessions between the Kistna and the Toombuddra, which is called the Dooab, and measures in its greatest extent thirty miles from north to south, and about the same from east of west. It has the Kistna for its northern, and the Toombuddra for its southern, limit; and is bounded on the east by a line running nearly north and south about twenty miles above the junction of those rivers, and on the west, by a similar line about fifty miles above the same point. The town of Gudwall, where the Rajah resides, is about four miles south of the Kistna. The district was occupied by the ancestors of the present Rajah under circumstances similar to the occupation of Shorapore, and its relative situation towards the Nizam and the Paishwa appears also to be the same. The revenues may be about four lakhs of rupees a year. The tribute which the Nizam claims from Gudwall is one lakh and twenty thousand rupees. The Rajah is a Munsubdar of five thousand, and he holds a party of fifty horse and four hundred foot in the Nizam's Army. He is of the koombee cast.

IV — *Notice on the Curia Muria Islands.* By the late J. G. Hulton, Esquire, Assistant Surgeon.

[Communicated by Rear Admiral Sir C. Malcolm, Hon. Pres.]

In presenting this brief notice, I must crave every indulgence, since the subject may be considered by many so unimportant, as scarcely to merit a separate consideration; but when I reflect how very deficient our knowledge is of this part of the globe, and the condition of its singular inhabitants, I am emboldened to draw the present imperfect sketch of that group of small islands, which in modern maps are known under the name of the Curia Murias. As only one of these is now inhabited, and consequently the one to which the chief degree of interest attaches, I shall be more particular in my description of this, still offering a few remarks on the others, as illustrative more especially of the geological character of the group at large.

The earliest author who notices the Curia Muria Islands is Arrian, who speaks of them as the Islands of Zenobius. There is a strik-

ing coincidence between this name, and that of the tribe who now inhabit that part of the Arabian coast, which is opposite to the islands. The whole country stretching between Ras ul Hud to the north east, and Cape Hasec to the westward is in the occupation of the "Beit Jenûbi." A branch of this tribe inhabits the island of Maceira which is their principal place of trade, where some of them subsist by their flocks, and wander about from one place to another as the deficiency or abundance of the pasturage, and the supply of water, may prompt. The rest live near the sea, and subsist almost entirely upon fish. They are a wretched and ignorant race of beings, with caves for their dwellings, and poverty for their protection. The low state of their trade would strongly argue the unproductiveness of their territory, and unless the face of the country has greatly deteriorated, this circumstance would in former times, have been the best security against the invasion of any foreign power, and they might have remained unmolested for ages, and the original name never have undergone any material alteration. At present the inhabitants can hardly be said to possess any regular form of Government, and sensible of their weakness, they naturally look for protection to a stronger power, and are now entirely under the dominion of the Imaum of Muskat, who however has no further intercourse with them than to receive annually a small tribute, and occasionally to settle a personal dispute.

The next notice we have of these islands is under the name of Khartan Martan, under which they are mentioned by Edrisi.

In an account of the wars of Solyman Pasha against the Portuguese, written by a Venetian officer, who accompanied the expedition, it is stated that on their return from India, after the attack on Diu, they stopped a day at the Curia Muria Islands for the purpose of taking in water. The author merely observes that "they were very desert and thinly inhabited." This was written about the year 1540, nearly three hundred years ago*; since, they have generally been known to navigators as the Curia Muria Islands.

Among the people on the Southern coast of Arabia, they are usually spoken of as the Juzair ul Ghulfan — called so from an enterprising family belonging to the great Mahara tribe. The head of this family, Said bin Oomar bin Haat bin Ghulfan, possessed a small property in the neighbourhood of Morbaat, called Howeeya. Being of an active commercial turn, he amassed considerable wealth, and having drawn together a numerous party of adherents, he made

* Mr. Hulton visited these islands in H. C. S. Palinurus with Captain Haines, in 1835.

a vigorous attempt to possess himself of the government of Morbaat. In this however he failed, and was compelled to seek refuge in the island of Helarnea. When affairs had become more settled, he returned to Howeeya reserving to himself and heirs the right of possession in all the islands. His two sons and nephews, regarding the islands as hereditary property, still visit them occasionally for the purpose of collecting any money the natives may have received for watering foreign vessels, and bugalabs. These visits are always hailed with pleasure by their poor subjects, as they seldom fail to supply them with a few dates and other necessaries.

Helarnea is the only island in the group which is now inhabited. Its present population consists of twenty-three individuals, who differ nothing in form and complexion from the Arab. They are perhaps somewhat degenerated from their forefathers in strength and bodily vigour, but this may be explained by their extreme poverty and wretched mode of living. The soil of the island is quite incapable of being cultivated in any part, whatever industry or care might be bestowed in the attempt; there is indeed barely sufficient vegetation for support of a few straggling wild goats, which the sterility of the plains and growing neglect of their former possessors, have driven to the hills and vallies: necessity has compelled the inhabitants to look to the sea alone for means of subsistence; in fact they may be classed with perfect propriety as Ichthyophagi; but in any one previously acquainted with their mode of existence, the comparatively healthy aspect of these islanders, cannot but excite a certain degree of astonishment. They catch their fish by the hook and basket; and, as they have neither boats nor catamarans, they take up their station on some ledge of rocks conveniently projecting into the sea; when the baskets are used, the fishermen swim out with them into water about a fathom deep, and diving down, secure them at the bottom by means of large stones. To allure the fish a small quantity of fine sea weed is laid at the mouth of basket. I have seen some of these baskets drawn on shore with from twenty to thirty fish of various kinds in each of them. The most common kind is the beautiful parrot fish, which they invariably reject; and many other fish, which in my opinion had not a fault to condemn them, were carelessly tossed upon the beach, and on my expressing some surprise at the apparent waste, I was answered that they were dry and on that account totally unfit for food. Their exclusively fish diet obliges them, they say, to be very particular in their choice, and even when those of the most approved description are lean and out of condition, for instance the rock cod, of which there is great abundance, they also share the

same fate as the parrot fish. To ascertain this point, the belly is torn open, and by inspection of the mesentery they infer the condition of the fish.

Their habitations are formed of a few loose stones, heaped up in the form of a semicircular wall, with half a dozen dried sticks or fish-bones extended across, over which a little sea weed is lightly spread. In some instances, a loose wall is thrown up opposite to a natural excavation in the rock, by which they economise their labour and ensure better protection against the weather. In front of these wretched domiciles, there is generally a shed formed by extending a mat upon four sticks stuck into the ground, where the family spend most of their time, seated together, during the hottest part of the day; and here is suspended the chief portion of their fishing tackle. Although so destitute, they cannot be accused of being an indolent race of people, as their existence depends solely upon their own exertions. The men have often to walk a considerable distance to the most eligible fishing stations: their choice of these is regulated by the prevailing wind, as fishing is practicable only on the lee-side of the island. The women attend to the wants of their families, collect fuel and carry water. There is abundance of water on the island, but all of it more or less brackish. The best is found on the eastern end of the island, in a well which the natives informed us, was sunk many years ago by the crew of an European vessel; this too is slightly brackish.

It might appear strange, how on an island composed of the hardest rock and gravel, and in situations considerably elevated above the level of the sea, the water could acquire its brackish quality; but it may be caused by the tremendous violence with which the surf lashes the shore during the southwest monsoon, by which the spray is carried up on the highest hills. We frequently saw a small pool of salt water among the hills, four or five hundred feet above the level of the ocean.

Wood is very scarce in every part of the island, and barely suffices to meet the wants of the inhabitants, and perhaps of two or three boats that may touch here during the season. There are a few tamarisk trees in the island, but they are never cut down for fuel, as the smaller branches, when cut into slips, answer pretty well for manufacturing their fishing baskets; though they prefer for this purpose the twigs of the summa tree, which grows in Morbaat and the opposite coast.

In times of difficulty the islanders look for advice to a man named Juman bin Saad, but with true republican spirit, he modestly dis-

claims all titles, and however desirous his friends appeared of dignifying him in our presence with the appellation of Sheikh, he was equally pertinacious in refusing the honour. He has obtained this distinction chiefly by acknowledged superiority of intellect; but the performance of a voyage to Muskat and Mocha has tended in no small degree to enhance his importance in the eyes of his untravelled companions. The little community appears happy and perfectly satisfied with the condition which providence has allotted them; and the barren and unproductive nature of their island does not prevent an uncommon attachment to their country. This spirit is fostered by the representations of the manifold distresses of a life in Mocha or Muskat, which their prudent Sheikh seldom omits to make.

During the trading season, Muskat boats in the voyage to and from Zanzibar sometimes touch at Helarnea; seldom however unless they have an insufficient supply of water to carry them on to their destination. Boats also in their passage along the coast find it convenient to seek shelter here, from the strong southerly wind which at times prevail during the period of the northeast monsoon, and the facility of procuring water may prove a further inducement, as the Bedouins on the Arabian coast are generally but too ready to make the necessities of the poor boatmen a ground for the most shameful extortion. Here they can obtain water unmolested, and with little trouble, as the islanders being too weak to exact any demand, even if they were willing to do so, are always found prompt to offer their assistance for a very trifling remuneration. Some of the more enterprising islanders occasionally avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by these boats to visit the Arab towns on the coast. On such occasions they take with them a supply of dried fish, in exchange for which they bring back a small quantity of cloth, tobacco, and dates. During our stay on the island one of the Natives returned from Maculla amidst the wondering acclamations of his delighted companions; and although he seemed evidently rejoiced to revisit his home, it was equally apparent there was a little alloy of pride and self-conceit as he walked up to his friends in a bright coloured turban, and a chased dagger in his girdle, an individious contrast to the simple apparel of his neighbours. In former times so rich a dress would only have marked him out as an object of rapine to the first boat which arrived at the island.

To this day, the older portion of the natives have a most sensitive recollection of the Wahabis, who before they received their death-blow from the British at Ras ul Kheimah paid them one of their cruel visits. The houses were thrown down, their scanty clothing forcibly

taken from them :—their goats, of which at that time, they appeared to have possessed a few, were most of them killed ; and some of their children were torn from their homes without mercy, and consigned to a life of perpetual slavery. This calamity befell them about seventeen years ago.

By this visitation the population of the island is said to have been greatly reduced ; but independent of this, other causes appear to have operated in bringing the population down to its present low standard. At the eastern end of the island more especially, we found a vast number of remains, which would indicate that many years ago the inhabitants must have been much more numerous. We also constantly found skeletons deposited in caves, and either quite exposed or protected only by a slight wall built of loose stones. In one instance a hand was observed protruded above the sand, and on gently pulling it upwards the entire skeleton of a young female was disclosed to view. Other skeletons in similar situations were very frequent. The present race of inhabitants do not display this shocking neglect, neither does it appear that in former times, it was always the case ; for burial-grounds, disposed in an orderly manner, and having marks of antiquity, are by no means uncommon in this as well as in other parts of the island. Appearances are in favour of the opinion that at some distant period, but which it would be difficult precisely to determine, a disease of a contagious nature has visited the island, and swept off the greater part of its population.

A favourite story prevails among the Arabs, by which it is attempted to explain the origin of these people, which I relate as I heard it.

Prior to the Mahomedan era, the islands were peopled by the descendants of the rebellions tribe of Aad, whose transgressions were punished by the most tremendous and awful visitations ; and even after the greatest portion of Arabia had embraced the doctrines of the Prophet, these islanders still remained obstinate in their ancient faith, and being regarded by all true believes as infidels and idolaters, they were religiously avoided. But they were afflicted by a mortal scourge, which destroyed every soul on the Island with the exception of one young woman, who dragged through a miserable and solitary existence. An Arab boat drifting by accident near the islands was descried by this solitary inhabitant, who, seeking out the most conspicuous situation, made every sign to attract the attention of the crew. Her motions were soon observed, but the nakodah had been warned against the contamination of infidelity, and steeling his heart to more generous feelings, he endeavoured to put to sea. One of the sailors however, with more humanity and tenderness, requested

permission to land on the island, and afford what succour might be necessary, then to return to his vessel. His request was refused; but determined not to be defeated in his purpose, he allowed his turban to fall overboard as if by accident, and made the recovery of it a plea for leaving the vessel; swimming beyond its reach, he continued his course through the water. He arrived at the beach in a state of insensibility, overcome with his exertions, but the attentions of the Maid speedily revived him, and he thus became the founder of the present race of inhabitants.

The people themselves assert that their ancestors came originally from the neighbourhood of Hasec and Morbaat, from whence they were driven by the internal discords of the Bedouin tribes, but on this point, as on all others, which do not concern their immediate interests, they are profoundly ignorant, and indeed affect a perfect indifference. Many of them can trace their forefathers back to the fourth or fifth generation, and they assert that long before their time, their ancestors inhabited the island. There is a fair degree of consistency however in their own story, as the language which they now use is almost identical with the Shehree, or that spoken by the tribe surrounding Morbaat, and this again differs, I understand, but in a very trifling degree from the Mahara dialect. I was forcibly struck with the resemblance it bore to the language of Socotra, especially in the pronunciation of one or two letters which foreigners can rarely imitate. Our pilot who belongs to their neighbours attempted in vain to do so, and excited the merriment of the bystanders by the contortion of his features. I have subjoined a vocabulary of their language which may be regarded as a fair specimen of the Shehree also. To point out its further peculiarity, I have contrasted it with the Arabic in common use along the coast. By reference to the vocabulary of the Socotran language, which Capt. Haines procured during his laborious and detailed survey of that island, and which is now in the possession of Government, it may be ascertained what affinity exists between them. In both, considerable allowances must be made for the difficulty of finding letters to correspond with the sounds of the respective syllables. There are some which no characters will represent.

In an island so entirely bare of vegetable matter, and containing no stagnant collections of water, we might reasonably presuppose, that there were few diseases of any malignity among its inhabitants. This is strikingly the case, and the natives are sensible of the greater salubrity of their climate over that of the opposite coast of Arabia. There are one or two instances of great longevity even

among the limited number who now occupy the island; and the rest look tolerably healthy and vigorous, considering their very impoverished mode of living. — By long experience they have acquired a correct knowledge of the various kinds of fish, so as to discriminate between those which are more and those which are less wholesome. There is a large species of mullet which is very palatable, but is found highly pernicious as food. Some of our party, before the natives had an opportunity to warn them, suffered considerably from indulging in this fish.

For obvious reasons we experienced little of the effects of the southwest monsoon, but, uninfluenced as it must be, by the contiguity of any land to windward of the islands, it may be presumed that it follows pretty closely the same laws which characterize it to the southward; and brings up with it the tremendous swell of the open ocean. This accords with the description of the natives, who told us that heavy showers of rain accompany the approach of it. In the north east monsoon, we have a different phenomenon; here the vicinity of the continent of Arabia appears to disturb the usual laws, for although a tendency to blow from the north east prevails, still the winds vary to every other point of the compass. From the month of December up to the middle of March we possess data to show, that there is a pretty regular succession of northerly and southerly winds, the former inclining to the westward the latter to the east. They continue to blow with extreme violence for three or four days, when their strength becomes exhausted, they quietly yield to the north east monsoon; only, however, to undergo a similar succession in a few days, the wind thus performing a complete revolution of the compass. These changes are decidedly influenced by the age of the moon, and the barometer foretells with accuracy by its fall, the approach of a south, and by its rise, that of a north wind. The thermometer is affected nearly in an equal degree; when the wind is from the south the air becoming more replete with moisture, it feels milder, and the thermometer averages during these months from 65° to 70° in the morning and from 75° to 80° at noon; a copious deposit of dew takes place at night. When the north wind sets in, there is sudden reduction of temperature sometimes of upwards of fifteen or twenty degrees, the thermometer falling down to 50° at sunrise; the atmosphere becomes dry and parching. Among the Natives this wind is known under the name of Belatt, and to a certain extent is dreaded for its insalubrity. It is the sudden vicissitude, more than any intrinsically bad quality which has acquired for it this reputation, and the sickness which

it is said to occasion, resembles pretty closely the well known effects of the land wind in India. During Captain Owen's surveying operations on this part of the coast, he suffered from the effects of the Belatt, probably by an incautions exposure of himself. When the northerly and southerly winds set in, the atmosphere grows thick and hazy, but when they subside these vapours are dissipated, and it again becomes beautifully clear and transparent, showing the most remote objects with uncommon distinctness. A few showers of rain generally usher in the north east monsoon. I have here spoken of the weather from personal observation up to the month of March only, but there is good reason to think, that similar phenomena are subsequently presented until the northerly winds becoming less frequent and gradually dying away, the southerly winds uninterruptedly prevail until nearly the commencement of the south west monsoon. We have a distinct account of the Belatt so late as the month of May. In the year 1503, in the historical accounts of the Portuguese in the East it is recorded that Vincente de Soldre, after a most successful cruize, during which he had captured five or six large prizes containing in gold and money alone upwards of 200,000 Ducats, was unfortunately shipwrecked on the Curia Muria Islands. The inhabitants, although Mohamedans, entertained them with every attention and respect, and afforded them the most timely assistance by a reciprocal exchange of their cattle for merchandize. Previous to their taking leave they were warned to prepare themselves against the northerly winds which were represented to blow with violence in the month of May. Regardless however of this salutary caution, and contrary to the advice of his captains, who had separated from him, he made no provision to encounter the weather, and his brother and himself perished in a gale of wind. (*Histoire des Decouvertes et Conquestes des Portugais.*)

With respect to the general appearance of Helarnea, the first impression which strikes the eye of an observer is the irregularity of the outline, and its perfect sterility. With the exception of a few salt water shrubs, which usually fringe the small sandy bays, not a tree is visible above the coarse sand and gravel which lie at the foot of the hills: these are distributed in various proportions over the whole face of the Island. The declivities of the mountains are even more naked than the valleys. About the centre of the island, the hills rise into a cluster of pointed spires, the highest of which was computed by trigonometrical measurement at 1510 ft. above the level of the sea, and from these, smaller hills run in all directions, preserv-

ing in most cases the form of interrupted ridges. At the eastern extreme, the land assumes a different shape; a perpendicular headland 1645 ft, in height, boldly projects into the ocean, and for some distance to the westward appears a continued mass of table land accidentally heaved up, as it were, at the end of the island. With the exception of this highland, the rest of the island is chiefly composed of granite, varying somewhat in its structure, and the proportion of its fundamental ingredients, upon which also depends a variety in its colours.— The most interesting geological feature of the granite, is the manner in which most of its ridges are surmounted by a dark coloured rock allied in its characters to those of the trap order, more especially to greenstone. This is found passing through the body of the hills in the form of dykes. The same rock is observed abundantly in the shape of veins and seams traversing the granite in all directions. It would appear as though by some powerful internal impulse, this substance had been injected into fissures in the granite produced by the same violent action. To a person viewing it from a moderate distance this distribution gives rise to an appearance of an unusually dark shade running along the summits of the hills, as most of our party at first fancied. These dykes and seams do not follow any general rule in regard to their direction, but are entirely influenced in this respect by the disposition of the granite, which follows no particular course. They vary from a fine vein of a few inches to a stratum of eighteen or twenty feet in breadth. In mineral composition, too, they differ no less materially. Most of it, I have stated to resemble greenstone in the compactness and simplicity of its structure, and hornblende appears to be the preponderating ingredient; but by the intermixture of felspar and quartz in greater or less quantity, rocks of a very different nature result, still occupying the same relative situation. In some instances, the felspar is disseminated in the form of distinct crystals, communicating a porphyritic structure; in others quartz is abundantly intermingled, giving it more of a granitic aspect. In the latter case, there is a tendency in the compound to diffuse itself more extensively through the granite bed, losing its character as a stratum and entering largely into the formation of the hill itself. In fact it appears to undergo by this accession of felspar and quartz a regular transition to granite itself, and merely differs as far as the eye can judge in its colour, which from the presence of hornblende as a subordinate mineral becomes of a dark speckled hue. In both this and the prevailing kind of granite, mica if not altogether wanting, is

a very scarce ingredient, and is found chiefly in the light coloured veins of granite intersecting the granite mountains.

The eastern end of the island is that which attains the highest point of elevation and is composed of a secondary limestone pretty regularly stratified towards the sea. It contains in its substance a few fossil shells, but is not remarkable for any thing further than its proximity to the granite, its greater elevation above the sea, and its insulated situation. It is nowhere intersected by veins of either granite or greenstone.

“Gurzowt,” “Agareezowt” or as it is usually called by European navigators “Rodondo” is a small rocky island, situated about six miles to the north eastward of Helarnea. It is formed of a greater and lesser cone, the greater reaching a height of about two hundred feet above the sea. Its composition is exclusively granite of a reddish colour, and a fine crystalline structure.

Soda, which ranks next to Helarnea in point of size and elevation, is situated about six miles to the westward. It has formerly been inhabited by a few families, and that at no very distant period as the remains of their habitations and a well are still in a fair state of preservation, although the water is brackish and of inferior quality. They appear to have enjoyed fully as many comforts as their neighbours of Helarnea, as we discovered the traces of their having possessed a few goats and poultry. We were told that this island had also suffered from the rapacity of the Joasmee Pirates, who carried off more than half their population. The remainder being too few to exist by their own resources, and the inhabitants of Helarnea being distressed in a similar manner, though not to the same degree, it was deemed prudent and advantageous to both parties to unite.

The general aspect of this island is barren and forbidding. It is formed of a collection of separate hills — a distribution which affords a gleam of hope at least, that a little verdure might possibly exist among the sheltered valleys, but here a huge shapless mass rises up to an elevation of one thousand three hundred and ten feet. There are a few bushes of the tamarisk tree growing near the ruined village, but with the exception of one or two small plants of *Zygophyllum*, which spreads itself over any sandy spot, the rack shrub, a species of plumbago, all is a wilderness of stone and gravel. The composition of the hills is granitic with the same distribution, of the dark coloured strata, which I have noticed on Helarnea, though here it is not quite so conspicuous. The granite on the eastern end and the central part, is of a dark gray colour, with extensive veins of a light colour traversing it in various directions. That on the

western end is a mixture of red and gray granite in varying proportions, the red preponderating in most localities and of a fine texture similar to that of Rodondo.

Jibleea, the most eastern island of the group, appears at a distance as a small collection of roundish hills, somewhat pointed and of a white colour. The highest of these attains an elevation of about five hundred and sixty feet, and is placed pretty nearly in the centre of the island. On closer approach two or three detached islands of bare rock present themselves, and numerous small patches, scarcely emerging above the surface of the sea. The whole island is perfectly barren and not a drop of fresh water to be procured in any part. This barrenness rendering it altogether unfit for the habitation of man has made it a favourite resort for a variety of sea birds. The *Gannet* predominates over all, and when we first visited the Island, they appeared almost inclined to dispute the ground with us. They lay one or two eggs, which are of a light blueish colour, upon the bare ground, merely clearing away the larger stones, and collecting together a quantity of small gravel. The obstinacy with which they defended their nest, and the difficulty of effecting a retreat when they became alarmed, made them an easy prey, and some of the crew pronounced them, when dressed, to be excellent food. We found their eggs palatable enough. When suddenly surprised it was not uncommon for these birds to disgorge a half digested fish from eight to ten inches in length, in order to facilitate their escape. Their usual prey is the flying fish. We found a few snakes, but not of a venomous description, but were sadly disturbed at night time by hordes of rats. These do not differ from the common rat, and in all probability were left here with the wreck of some bugalah. The natives of Helarnea told us that many years ago two native boats were cast upon the island, the crews of which all perished. In corroboration of this, we discovered five or six graves close to each other and the skeletons of two persons who appeared never to have undergone the rites of sepulture; one of them we found lying in a small sheltered cave completely exposed to view—a scene which strongly suggested the melancholy reflection how fearfully painful must have been his latter moments, after having outlived his wretched companions in misfortune.

The Geological structure of Jibleea is essentially primitive, but with a greater variety in the appearance of the rocks than we found at Helarnea. The outer detached rocks are of similar composition being formed of a species of dark coloured granite, into which hornblende appears to enter largely. The island itself is composed of porphyry and a species of porphyritic syenite, the colours of some specimens affording a rich and diversified appearance.

Haski the most western island is situated about thirteen miles from Soda, and twenty from the Arabian coast. It forms in one or two peaked hills, of an elevation of about four hundred feet, from which runs off towards the north a succession of low hills and valleys, presenting the appearance from a distance of being one belt of low land. In the most essential particulars, it strongly resembles Jibleea. It is likewise covered with birds. No fresh water, and scarcely a stick can be found in any part of it. In its geological characters too it is nearly similar, though the reddish coloured granite which is common in Soda, is here found to constitute the greater proportion of the island, the remainder being composed of a species of variegated granite and porphyry. This appears to undergo decomposition much more rapidly than the former, weathering down into small angular fragments.

Vocabulary of the Language spoken on Helarnea.

ENGLISH.	ARABIC.	CURIA MURIA.
A man	Rajool	Gheg
A Woman	Hurma	Yeth
A Child	Wulud	Bairuh
The Head	Ras	Eresh
Hand	Yud	Yedesh
Foot	Rijl	Airkoth
Leg	Sak	Faam
Hair	Shar	Thluf
Fire	Nar	Shot
Water	Mae	Emee /
Milk	Haleeb	Nusb
Butter	Zúbd	Ghutmun-khuzur
A Cow	Bakarah	Elhootee
Goat	Ghunum	Airoon
Fish	Samak	Soot
A Tree	Shujur	Aafur
The Sun	Shums	Yeom
Moon	Kumur	Aireth
A Star	Nujm	Kubkob
A Ship	Murkub	Juhaz /
The Eye	Aeen	Aaen
Ear	Uthn	Eezen
Nose	Unf	Mukhureer
A Camel	Jumul	Goul
Horse	Hisán	Hasson
Bread	Khúbz	Khubzat

ENGLISH.	ARABIC.	CURIA MURIA.
Dates	Tamur	Tor ✓
Salt	Melih	Eelzthaat
A Gun	Bundók	Endick ✓
Spear	Rumh	Rumah X
Sword	Saif	Shoh
Gold	Dthahub	Taib ✓
Silver	Fidthuh	Fudthat
Copper	Sifr	Sifr
A Stone	Hajur	Fú dun
Mountain	Jubul	Hart
Valley	Wadee	Nuhúr
Book	Kitab	Kitab
Bed	Fursh	Inthaf
Knife	Sekkeen	Sekin ✓
Sand	Ruml	Hashie
Cloth	Thaub	Khadik ✓
A Fowl	Dujáj	Digugut
Bird	Tayr	Inkairuth
An Egg	Baidath	Kalenth
A River	Shut	Khor
Turban	Amama	Ajsot
Lead	Rusas	Kaidut
Iron	Hudíd	Hudíd
Blood	Dum	Dthor
Breath	Nufus	Sherain
Flesh	Lahm	Tehh
Skin	Jild	Gutsh
A House	Beit	Oot ✓
Wine	Khumr	Khert
A Box	Sundúk	Sundúk
A Wound	Jurh	Seemh
Year	Sunuh	Urnoot
Month	Shahr	Orukh
To-day	Yeom	Sher ✓
Good	Zain	Kehaim
Bad.	Buttal	Daifur ✓
Much	Kithír	Meken ✓
Little	Gulíl	Kheirain
Upon	Foug	Baathuf
Beneath	Taht	Baaghalah
News	Khubur	Kelathun

ENGLISH.	ARABIC.	CURIA MURIA.
To-morrow	Búkra	Keraith
Large	Kubeer	Aib
Small	Sugheer	Naisan ✕
Sick	Murídh	Degil : Dogee
Rain	Mutur	Ooseh
Wet	Mublúb	Theeree
Dry	Yabis	Kuthoom
Black	Uswud	How
White	Abyudth	Loon
Red European complexion	Ahmur	Afur
Come	Taal	Inkaloo
Go away	Roh	Ghaat
See	Shúf	Daiegelk ✕
Hear	Ismah	Deehoak
Die	Mút	Kheirok
Kill	Uktul	Iltakh
Give	Ate	Ezumsh
Take	Yukídh	Subatainee
Walk	Ems hú	Dugulugat
Eat	Yakúl	Dukhalut
Drink	Shúrb	Ishteekh
Buy and sell	Ishteree wo bel	Yuhareethem
Want	Abgha	Yuhareeth ✕
Sit down	Ijliss	Thkol

Numerals.

ENGLISH.	ARABIC.	CURIA MURIA.
1	Wohid	Tat
2	Thenain	Thuroh
3	Thelathuh	Thlathet
4	Urbah	Urbout
5	Khumsuh	Khurish
6	Settuh	Shteth
7	Subah	Shibait
8	Themanea	Thunet
9	Tisuh	Sact
10	Asharuh	Athired
20	Ishureen	Aither
100	Múyah	Mot

V. — *A Topographical Description of the Table Land on the Cullery Mountains.** Communicated by Major T. B. Jervis, F.R.S.

History. — Much uncertainty remains as to the period when the people settled on this Alpine State; but if tradition among them be admitted, it would appear they were originally inhabitants of Canjeveram of the Cárál, a section of the Vellal Cast, and had about the 16th century emigrated to this spot with their titular deity Kurry Ramen, and taken possession of these hills from a tribe called Baders, a race of Hindus who were necessitated soon after to abandon them. From this time they were considered to form a distinct body, being strangers to the internal commotions engaged in by their neighbours of the plains, and were in consequence left undisturbed, maintaining their own laws, customs and usages, and exempt from all taxation during the successive Governments under which they lived, and which they continue to enjoy to the present day. They are called Mullyálies — a term signifying Mountaineers, who have always acknowledged a chief, bearing the title of Pery Cullery Gound, whose rank is equivalent to that of a Zemindar, or land holder, having similar marks of honour and respect paid to him; but whatever may have been his early greatness, there are now but few traces of it. This chief preserves his ascendancy by entering into all stipulations, in which the local authorities of the district engage, for which he is entitled to a competent provision from his people; but from the spirit in which this claim has been exercised of late years, there is little reason to suppose that the system can be tolerated without being disputed. The Mallyalies of this tract are permanent inhabitants, and not a migratory tribe, similar to those on the great western range of mountains in Travancore. The manner, and habits of these people offer no distinct peculiarities from those of the low country; they marry when young, and do not admit of polygamy; but when the husband is dead the wife is betrothed to another. The law of inheritance is the same, that is, the son is the heir, but when there is no issue, nepotism is substituted. They bury their dead invariably, and observe superstitious formalities to their manes.

Situation, extent and capability. — The portion of high land dependant on the collectorate of Salem, denominated the Cullery Hills, and subordinate on the Ahtoor Talook, is situate in latitude

* Surveyed in the years 1836 and 37; by F. Boyne, Sub-Assistant Surveyor.

11° 40' 15'' north; and longitude 78° 39' 36'' east of Greenwich is bounded on the north and east by a mass of mountains called the Coormbanad and Juddiagoundun hills of South Arcot; to the south by the fertile plains of Ahtoor, which station is not above six miles from the bases, and to the west partly by the Salem and Tengericottah Talooks, by plains, and bold elevations of hills descending from the main ridge, and branching into several minor ridges, projections, and spurs. The elevation of this *terra incognita* by estimation may be said to be about three thousand six hundred feet above the level of the sea, containing a superficies of two hundred and ninety square miles, more than one half of which is marked by dense jungle and plains, and the remainder under cultivation of various dry grains: bearing an insular character, consisting of forty-six hamlets, with a total population of 1,000, including men, women and children, giving to each hamlet an average of twenty-two persons. Its capability in an agricultural view is tolerably great, as the soil is extremely fertile and susceptible of growing several species of dry grains, and productive trees, and the climate highly favorable for the introduction of many useful European vegetables, legumes and esculents. But the natural indolence, or the aversion of the people towards any attempt to improvement seem evidently the causes of such experiments being put out of their reach.

Divisions and Sub-divisions.—It is divided into two Nauds or subdivisions, viz. Perry Cullery and Chinna Cullery, having twenty-seven villages subordinate to the former and seventeen to the latter; the whole being open and straggling, and exclusively peopled by Mallyalies.

Cusbahs, Forts, and other principal places.—The principal places here are the two Nauds, or subdivisions mentioned above, but these names are merely given to mark a geographical extent of territory. The villages of these subdivisions are generally of an ordinary and straggling character, neither conspicuous for neatness, nor noted for any object of consequence—being confined to from twenty to thirty houses, built of common and rude materials, and invariably covered with the high grass. The only remarkable spot here is a celebrated Pagoda dedicated to Kurry Ramen in the Perry Cullery Naud, which owes more to its sanctity, than to magnificence of structure. It is much attended to by the people of the hills at the several festivals, and at the dragging of the Car, when much ceremony occurs in consequence of its being the primitive sanctuary established by them, and coeval with their refuge to these parts.

Rivers, and Tanks. — The almost countless rivulets which rise from these hills contribute to form a few powerful streams, which after devious windings and confined by steep banks, fall into the low country over abrupt and magnificent cataracts, before uniting with the Parar or Ahtoor River. It does not appear from the rocky beds they form, that the rich timber and bamboo grown on the hills could be floated down with any benefit, nor is it likely from the absence of artificial works and a review of the track they traverse to possess any capability of being turned to the advantage of much wet-land culture. Those which are available for this object are insignificant for purposes of irrigation, which by the accounts give fourteen, and ponds twenty-eight, the latter being confined to cattle, and for domestic use.

Mountains, Hills and Jungle. — The fall of the hills to the south and west which forms the limit of the Table-land is very precipitous, exhibiting all the varied and grotesque shapes of mountain scenery, with bold denticulated outlines thrown confusedly together in the greatest irregularity; some part of it being smooth and naked having tabular masses of granite resting upon them, as if these were ready to slide down to the plains. The slopes descending from the summits consist of a succession of bold and narrow ridges enclosing valleys running parallel to each other, and thickly covered with bamboo jungle, and stately trees, copse, and underwood.

The composition of the rock forming this range is chiefly granite, and hornblende slate, and the most remarkable elevations on it are the Avearmullay and Nawallur peaks, which are the trigonometrical stations of this portion of the survey; but there are several other eminences of equal magnitude. Although the face of the country on this elevated tract may be considered level, still no part of it could be denominated strictly plain, as it consists of a series of low ridges, heights and inequalities, with narrow valleys, which give rise to numerous tributary rivulets, having water in them throughout the year.

It has been said, that the sides and summits of the Culleries are densely covered with jungle, some of which is of superior growth. On the table-land itself, a large extent is overrun with extensive wood, affording some valuable timber, such as the teak, black and other sizeable trees which are well adapted for purposes of building and for implements of husbandry. A pretty good quantity of Sandalwood is also produced on these hills, which is greatly prized by the people, and conveyed to the markets, together with bamboos, which grow in great abundance chiefly about the declivities and

deep recesses. Over the more even surfaces, the ground is free of jungle, affording excellent cleared spots, but the margin of the nullahs and the gentle slopes are fringed with a thick low jungle of inferior kinds of trees preserving a permanent foliage, which gives an invariable external character and aspect to them. Of the numerous plants with which these hills abound, little or nothing is as yet known respecting their order and qualities; but it is probable that a wide field is open here to compensate the researches of the Botanist.

Mines and Minerals. — Of these there are none.

Imports, Exports and Manufactures. — Every species of clothing, and articles of luxury, not excepting condiments and drugs are imported, and for which the people barter their dry grains, and other productions of the hills, viz. honey, wax, fruit, teak and sandal wood. Their manufacture is limited to a little wicker work.

Roads, Passes and Defiles. — There are four good communications leading to the Culleries; of these two only are commonly frequented by the men of the plain country, and by laden bullocks. The other two are used by the hill people in their intercourse with the principal markets and villages of the country. The most easy of access is the approach leading from Toommull — a village on a secondary road from Salem, and a market station. After winding for the first part across plains, it continues to run through a deep valley intersected by numerous streams, in the midst of dark jungle, ascends the Toommull Ghaut or pass, over which the road is carried, rather circuitously, till it gradually gains the crest of the Table height — the whole being estimated at fifteen road miles. From this spot it passes over gentle acclivities, and meets the hamlets of the Chinna Cullery Naud. Secondly the other road from Ahtoor winds east by the Juddia Gounden villages, viâ Chinna Tripitty, where a Pagoda stands. Although much more circuitous than the Toommull road, it is of greater practicability. The communications from one to another village on the summit of the hills, are tolerable, and adapted for both riding and foot-passengers.

Pagodas, Religious Establishments, and Jagheers. — The total number of Pagodas, including those of all the minor divinities, is two hundred and twenty-eight, most of which are scattered apart from the residence of the people, and generally considered to be merely noticed on account of their names — the only one of celebrity is that of Kurry Ramen in the Perry Cullery Nād, the presiding deity on these hills — a few temples of Shiva and Vishnu of less note, are held in estimation in the order of sanctity each is sup-

posed to possess. The funds possessed by these places of worship arise from gratuitous donations, and contributions of individuals, which may be estimated at one tenth of the gross produce in kind; but there are no establishments or endowments made from lands, or any particular institution for the accommodation of Bramins or travellers. The Pujarry or officiating priest is a person selected from their own order.

Remarkable buildings.—With the exception of two choultries or places for transacting business, one at each nād or subdivision, there are no buildings of note on the Culleries

Tenure of land.—The inhabitants on this mountain have at no time been subject to any assessment on their cultivated lands, and they are in consequence perfectly exempt from the payment of any tax whatever at present to the Circar — holding these hills under the tenure of a free grant in perpetuity.

Cattle and wild animals.—The amount of stock including buffaloes by a census received on these hills, is one thousand three hundred and seven, giving something less than sixteen to the square mile; but abstracting the wild parts, the estimate will greatly exceed that number. Pasturage is rich and plentiful for a great part of the year on the elevated tracts, and the cultivated portion is thrown open to the cattle when the crop is reaped. Of goats there are three hundred and seventeen, and it is not improbable that sheep of the red kind might thrive well. The cattle are superior to those of the low lands, particularly the buffaloes, and should a few foreign steers from Mysore be introduced, great advantage it is presumed would attend the experiment. The bullocks are chiefly yoked to the plough, and used for all the purposes of agriculture. The cows although diminutive, yield rich and abundant milk.

Of the predatory kinds of animals, there are bysons, tigers and bears: those of the chase, wild hog, elk, and deer of several species; the people hunt them at certain seasons of the year, and when they become destructive to their grounds. The wild elephant is not a frequenter of this region. Pea and wild fowl in great plenty.

Soil, Productions, and mode of Husbandry.—The soil of the Cullery hills chiefly consists of a deep red loam, with a mixture of sand and in some parts it inclines to a red coarse earth mixed with pebble stone peculiarly adapted for the growth of the several dry grains and pulses cultivated on them. Deposits of a black alluvial clay are met with in a few insulated spots. The peculiarities of climate on high isolated tracts, compared to that of the plains necessarily occasion some di-

versity in their agricultural character ; the former having a moist climate, the cultivation is highly fertile, and the returns heavy, with less chance of failure. Almost every portion of level ground about the vicinity of the habitations is brought under the plough, and in many places on the sides and inequalities of the hills, the culture is extremely luxuriant. Of the dry grains most productive and extensively cultivated, and forming the principal diet of the people on the culleries, are the following species : Ragghy (*Cynosurus coracanus*) Tinay (*Panicum Italicum*) Shamay (*Panicum Miliaceum*)

The Jowarree Cholum (*Holcus Sorghum*) and the Mukka Cholum, (zea mais) are sown in very sparing quantities. Whilst mustard, and a few other grains are also grown in small proportions. The toor dhall gram (*Cytisus Cajan*) is sown in drills among other grains, and produces very largely, and a few other pulses, condiments, and garden vegetables, grown barely enough for consumption. The castor oil nut (*Ricinus communis*) also forms a good produce on these hills, but the gingilly seed (*sesamum orientale*) forms a mere scanty culture. The production of dry grain lands is more than is necessary for the wants of the inhabitants, who export a considerable share of it to the low country, as about one thousand and two hundred acres are devoted to its culture—a coarse paddy is grown about the low marshes, but the extent is very inconsiderable. There are about one hundred and seventy Jack (*Artocarpus integrifolia*) trees, with which the tamarind (*tamarindus indica*) comprize about one half that number, and coëoanut something more than one eighth of the whole. The mode of husbandry is almost the same as that observed in the low lands, with this exception that the hand hoe is greatly used, in substitute for the plough on the terraces.

Population.—The population of the Cullery hills is unequally distributed, being more dense in the Perry Cullery nād, or eastern parts. The total on the whole extent gives something less than twelve persons to the square mile ; but deducting the mountainous and uninhabited part the estimate may be increased to triple that density. The population is confined to only one cast. The number of houses which is two hundred and eighty-five, gives one to nearly four persons, and the amount of cultivated land and stock would give to every family of four persons, about six acres of dry grain land, not quite six head of cattle, and a little more than one productive tree.

(Signed) C. R. McMAHON.

8th January, 1837.

February, 6th, 1840, Quarterly Meeting.

Captain D. Ross, F. R. S. President, in the Chair.

Members elected. Lieut. W. J. Eastwick, Major H. Rawlinson, Rev. W. K. Fletcher, H. Fawcett, Esquire, Ball Gungadhur Shastree, T. Cardwell, Esquire, W. H. Harrison, Esquire.

Correspondence. Read letter from Captain Boyd on the Lead Ore found near Beyla, as follows :

“ Kurrachee, November 10th, 1839.

“ My Dear Sir, — I have much pleasure in sending you some specimens of Lead and Antimony found in the mountains and beds of rivers about one hundred miles north of this. From the accounts I received from the natives of the country, I was led to believe there were several large mines of both, but the person whom I sent to examine them, reports the ore is washed from the Pubb and Mhor mountains into the different streams running through the country, and is collected after the rains have receded and left the beds dry ; but that in former years large quantities were collected in the hills, which is probable, from the Mhor mountains being covered with mounds of dross— (some of which I send). The largest quantity is at present found at a place called Kote Jam ke got, forty miles west of Beyla, but I have no doubt were the country examined, most valuable mines of Lead, Antimony, and Copper would be found in the Pubb mountains. This range runs north from Cape Monge dividing Scinde from Beloochistan, and rises to a height of from 1500 to 2000 feet.—These mountains are rugged and barren, without a vestige of vegetation and are inhabited by tribes of Brahocees who nominally owe allegiance to the Kelaat and Beila chiefs. The Hubb river which rises about 140 miles north of this, falls into the Sea west of Cape Monge, runs close along the western base of the Pubb mountains, and is inhabited by tribes of Chata and Noomree Scindians under the sway of a celebrated robber chief called Sahib Khan, who disclaims allegiance to either the Ameers of Scinde or the Beloochee chief of Kelaat. He is held in terror by the tribes who reside in the low lands of Scinde.—Numerous flocks of sheep are fed in the mountains and which produce large quantities of a superior wool, bought up by the Hindoo merchants of Kurrachee and transported to Bombay. — It is sold from 2 to 3 rpees per seer. The pieces of stone and rock which I send are found in the Damba hills near this—on shewing them to the natives here they instantly stated where they came from.

&c. &c.

“ GEORGE BOYD.”

A letter from R. Behan, Esquire, transmitting a Meteorological Register kept at Port Arthur near Hobart Town, Van Diemens Land; and requesting the favour of its being printed with the Society's proceedings.

Major T. B. Jervis then exhibited to the meeting a collection of Maps, Charts, and Plans of the great National surveys executed

in England, France, Italy, Germany and Russia ; and presented a set of Tables by the Rev. Temple Chevallier of Durham, for calculating heights by the Barometer.

Papers. I. Extracts from a report on the River Indus, by Lieut. John Wood, I. N. presented by Government.

2d. An account of the Turkanamby district in the Mysore territory, by the assistants under Captain (now Colonel) Morrison, C. B. ; presented by Major T. B. Jervis, F. R. S.

Library. Donations. Alf Leila, with an English translation, by H. Torrens, Esquire, Bengal Civil Service ; presented by Government.

Examination, and analysis of Colonel Mackenzie's manuscripts ; by the Rev. Mr. Taylor ; presented by Government.

Address delivered at the meeting of the British Association held at Newcastle, in illustration of the progress made in the survey of India. By Major T. B. Jervis, F. R. S. ; presented by the author.

Report of the Chamber of Commerce for the first Quarter of 1839—40 ; by the Chamber.

*Meteorological Register kept at Port Arthur, Van Diemen's Land, By D. A. Commissary Genl. Lempriere.**

[The observations are taken at 8 A. M. 2 and 8 P. M.]

Month.	Barometer.		Thermo- meter at- tached.		Thermo- meter ex- ternal.		Rain. in. dec.	Prevailing Weather.	Prevailing Winds, Number of days of each.	Range of Tide. ft. in	Remarks.
	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.					
1837											
June	30.378	28.996	57.0	40.0	60.0	32.0	3 = 9	Frost, snow & rain	N. 8; S. 2; E. 1; W. 6; N.E. 2; S.E. 0; N. W. 6; S. W. 4; Calm 1;	3 = 8	Thunderstorm on the 21st.
July	30.079	28.796	56.5	39.5	57.5	34.	5 = 7	Frost & Rain.	N. 3; S. 1; E. 2; W. 5; N.E. 2; S. E. 1; NW. 8; SW. 7; Calm 2;	3 = 2	Ice $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick.
August	30.238	29.032	65.7	42.5	64.	36.	1 = 52	Frost & Fine.	N. 9; S. 3; E. 1; W. 3; N.E. 2; SE. 1; NW. 6; SW. 3; Calm 3;	2 = 7	Heavy winds. Thunder on 2nd.
	30.092	29.980	63.5	43.5	66.6	38.	2 = 02	Rain. A little frost & fine.	N. 4; S. 8; E. 1; W. 3; N.E. 3; SE. 1; NW. 5; SW. 3; Calm. 2;	2 = 0	Hot winds on the 25th.
	29.980	29.070	63.7	51.	69.2	45.3	2 = 20	Fine & a little Rain.	N. 7; S. 6; E. 2; W. 5; N.E. 4; SE. 1; NW. 2; SW. 3; Calm. 1;	3	Thunderstorm on the 21st.
	29.950	28.950	66.3	50.	74.9	45.7	1 = 25	Fine.	N. 2; S. 10; W. 7; E. 3; N.E. 1; SE. 2; NW. 1; SW. 3; Calm 1;	3 = 3	At 10 A. M. on the 27th Ext. Thermo- meter 78.
	29.952	29.144	68.5	55.5	103	50.5	2 = 45	Fine but squally.	N. 5; S. 6; E. 2; W. 5; N.E. 1; SE; 4; NW. 5; SW. 3.	3 = 6	Hot winds on the 5th and 22nd, and thunder on the 10th, 16th, and 25th
1838											
January	29.960	29.250	77.	55.5	79.5	51.	4	Rainy.	N. 6; S. 11; E. 1; W. 5; N.R. 3; 1; NW. 2; SW. 2;	3 = 5	Thunder on the 5th and 29th.
Feb.	30.324	29.312	76.5	51.5	85.2	48.2	6 = 65	Variable.	N. 6; S. 7; E. 3; W. 3; N.E. 3; SE. 1; NW. 2; SW. 3.	3	
March	30.094	29.380	69.2	51.5	76.7	45.8	5 = 95	Fine & Rain.	N. 6; S. 7; E. 2; W. 6; N.E. 3; SE. 3; NW. 0; SW. 3; Calm 2	2 = 7	Thunder on the 24th and 26th.
April	30.334	29.236	63.5	50.5	82.6	45.2	0 = 95	Very fine.	N. 13; S. 4; E. 2; W. 3; N.E. 1; SE 0; SW. 1; NW. 4; Calm 2;	3	A Hail storm on the 29th.
May	30.092	29.200	69.	45.	79.5	41.	3 = 4	Fine but squally.	N. 14; S. 1; E. 1; W. 4; N.E. 2; SE. 1; NW. 4; SW. 2; Calm 2;	3 = 4	Thunder Lightning and Hail on the 24th.
June	30.200	29.000	65.5	37.3	65.5	37.3	6 = 35	Squally & a little frost.	N. 12; S. 2; E. 2; W. 2; N.E. 3; S E. 0; NW. 2; SW. 2; Calm. 4.	3 = 3	39 Inches Rain in twelve months. Average Range of tide 3 ft. $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

* Height of instruments above the level of the Sea, 57 7-12ths feet.

Meteorological Register kept at Port Arthur, Van Diemen's Land, by Deputy Assistant Commissary General Lempriere, from 1st January to 30th September, 1839, inclusive. Height of instruments above the level of the Sea 3 feet, till 9th September; after that date 52 ft. 3 in

Month	Maximum & Minimum.	Barometer.	Thermo- meter.		Rain.	Prevailing Weather.	Winds.	Remarks.
			Attachd.	Exter.				
Jan.	max	29.850	67.5	71.	in. dl.		N. 2; S. 8; E. 3; W. 7; NE. 2; SE. 2; SW. 2; NW. 5.	Heavy hail storm 21st. Range of Tide 3 ft. 7 in.
	min	28.750	49.5	43.	1.37	Variable		
Feb.	max	29.950	69.8	75.8		Mostly fine.	N. 1; S. 8; E. 3; W. 1; NE. 1; SE. 2; SW. 5; NW. 7.	Hot winds on 7th, 8th, 9th. Range of Tide 3 ft. 6 in.
	min	29.180	52.5	51.8	1.05			
March	max	29.932	65.5	67.5		Rain at first, fine to the end.	N. 3; S. 10; E. 3; W. 2; N. 8; SE. 3; SW. 6; NW. 2.	Heavy rain thunder and Lightning 29th. Range of Tide 3 ft. 9 in.
	min	29.050	50.	46.5	3.5			
April,	max	29.990	62.5	63.5			N. 4; S. 4; E. 3; W. 4; NE. 2; SE. 2; SW. 2; NW. 5, Calm 3.	Range of Tide 3 ft. 3 in.
	min	29.100	49.5	43.5	.5	Fine.		
May,	max	30.100	60.5	62.			N. 3; S. 1; E. 1; W. 4; NE. 4; SE. 3; SW. 5; NW. 8; Calm 2.	Range of Tide 3 ft.
	min	28.830	43.5	38.4	.626	Fine.		
June,	max	30.100	61.	55.6		Rain first and lat- ter end. Fine in the mid- dle.	N. 9; S. 0; E. 0; W. 3; NE. 1; SE. 1; SW. 8; NW. 7; Calm 1.	Heavy gale from south- ward & estward 7th, Range of Tide 3 ft.
	min	29.160	43.	39.	3.675	Variable.		
July,	max	30.250	54.3	53.			N. 7; S. 2; E. 2; W. 2; NE. 7; SE. 2; S W. 3; NW. 6.	Heavy gale on 22d and 23d. Range of Tide 3 ft. 1 in.
	min	29.300	44.8	36.2	4.16			
Aug.	max	30.010	67.	63.5			N. 8; S. 2; E. 0; W. 5; NE. 6; SE. 1; SW. 7; NW. 0; Calm 2.	Hail. Storm. Thunder and lightning on 11th. Range of Tide 2 ft. 9 in.
	min	29.145	43.2	30.5	5	Rainy.		
Sept.	max	31.034	66.	68.1			N. 2; S. 2; E. 3; W. 2; NE. 6; SE. 3; SW. 5; NW. 5; Calm 2.	First Swallow seen 15th, 11 days later than 1838. Lightning 21st and 24th. Range of Tide 2 ft. 6 in.
	min	28.900	45.5	42.5	1.18	Mostly fine.		

AUG 26 1966



