

ESSAY

ON THE

COLONIZATION OF HINDOOSTHAN

BY FRASER HINDS.



WITH

AN APPENDIX,

ON THE PRESENT MODE OF AGRICULTURE AMONG
THE ABORIGINES.

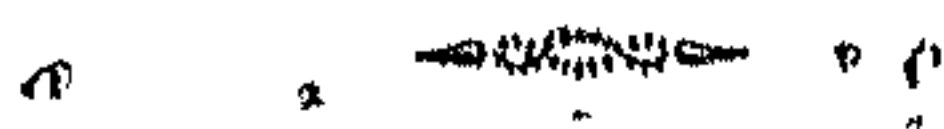


BY

C. A. FENWICK.

PRINTED AT THE BAPTIST MISSION PRESS, CIRCULAR ROAD; AND SOLD
BY MESSRS. THACKER AND CO. AND MR. J. V. KILBURN.
1878.

P R E F A C E.



THE Author's distance from the press having obliged him to transfer the supervision of the publication to the Editor, he feels himself called upon, in sending the ensuing Essay into the world, to annex a few remarks, by way of explanation of certain points connected with it.

It is now more or less two years since the intention of publishing the Essay in question was announced—a delay which may seem to some to render an apology indispensable; but the Editor is sorry that he has none in his power to offer, but what will appear to some unnecessary, and to others unsatisfactory. All that he has to say on this head may be summarily expressed in the few words,—that the circumstances which occasioned the delay were such as

were not either in his own power or that of the Author to control. He may however, be permitted to assure the reader, that this long lapse of time has not been altogether unserviceable to the Essay, as it has enabled the Author to make some valuable additions to it.

As Mr. Ricketts, has anticipated, or rather, to use a familiar phrase, has stumbled upon, several ideas contained in the Essay above mentioned, it may not be improper to state, that the similarity in question has originated, not from plagiarism, but simply from the nature of the subjects handled by the Author and Mr. R. ; and it will be remarked, that the plans delineated in the two pamphlets essentially differ from each other. In fact, it is difficult to say what Mr. R.'s plan is. The Editor cannot see but what after all it may end in a matter of "private enterprise."

If the Editor of the Bengal Hurkaru is right in the explanation he has given of Mr.

R.'s plan in the following passage, whether it is likely in any material manner to benefit the body of East Indians, it certainly is not what is advocated in the succeeding Essay; and which of the two plans is the most patriotic, philanthropic, desirable, or feasible, it is submitted to the judgment of the discerning and candid reader. Speaking of Mr. R.'s scheme, the Editor of the Bengal Hurkaru says: "It is, in so far as we can understand it, to establish a joint stock association, composed of twenty, fifty, a hundred or more share-holders, and with the joint capital to carry on some extensive joint concern in the Mofussil, *as an example to East Indians of what may be done in the interior, and by way of exciting them to turn their steps to the paths of industry in that quarter, instead of confining themselves to the narrow sphere of Calcutta.*" If this, I say, be a correct statement of Mr. R.'s plan, it will at once be seen, that it differs from the one recom-

mended in the succeeding Essay! But Mr. R. rejects the explanation, as giving his plan too much the character of a *private enterprise*, and insists on the patriotism of it, which, he is pleased to think, gives it all its value. No doubt it would have done, could the patriotism of his plan be discovered; but we have searched for it in vain in his pamphlet, unless, which is rather problematical, it be the case that it is intended by Mr. R. and his associates to afford, with the lack of rupees which is to be raised, the means of independent employment to a number of East Indians in the Mofussil: but then it must be in a less precarious line than commerce, otherwise there is very little reason to believe that it will succeed.

The main object with the East Indians should be, to devise some means which will embrace the benefit of the largest number possible of their community, and give them a permanency of footing in the country. The Editor cannot see how this can be

done, but by acquiring a permanent interest in the soil, by the acquisition of landed property, and its improvement by the cultivation of such things as will be a source of present maintenance and ultimate opulence. This must be the foundation of East Indian prosperity; and this he knows to be the opinion of some Europeans of long standing in the country, whose names, were he permitted to mention, would impart all the weight desirable to the suggestion. Mr. Ricketts, the Editor is sure, deserves well of his countrymen for having their welfare so much at heart; but until he lay more distinctly down his plan, it cannot, of course, with propriety, be recommended for adoption. The Editor of the *Bengal Hurkaru* has also recommended a scheme for the amelioration of East Indians, which, with Mr. Kyd's suggestions, deserve consideration; but the Editor has no room to spare for the purpose.

Should another edition of the *Essay* be called for, the Editor is permitted to assure

the public, that no pains will be spared to add to its value, by more information respecting the localities, and agricultural and commercial facilities of the country. It is earnestly hoped, that the Essay, in its present form, will not be found undeserving of the attention of East Indians; and that it will not fail, in some measure, to conduce to the end aimed at in it, viz. of turning the close, serious, earnest, and candid attention of the East Indians to the necessity, practicability, and advantages of the colonization of Hindobsthan by them.

THE EDITOR.

N. B. Communications on the subject, addressed to the Author at Sylhet, will be thankfully received.

AN ESSAY, &c,

It should appear reasonable to suppose, that the affairs of India ought to occupy the minds, and have a prominent place in the hearts of those, who, next to the aborigines, have the strongest claims to the benefits so largely derivable from its soil and articles of trade and manufacture ; but serious must the disappointment of the lover of his country be, who, when he comes to enquire into the thing, finds, that instead of it, a most culpable indifference manifestly prevails, nearly throughout the whole body of the East Indians ; and that so few know any thing of a country in which they were born and brought up, and in which alone all their future hopes as a numerous people centre !

It is to be feared, that few of them could satisfactorily answer the question, What is there in the chief concerns of India, that ought to interest them most, and call forth their best energies into exercise ? It cannot be denied, that various things of considerable importance engage the attention of

some of them, and to accomplish and further which, commensurate efforts are made by them; but it may be questioned, whether those things have a tendency to promote their future welfare as a people. To notice but one instance. The existence of the “Oriental Literary Society” is well known. Its plan, as far as I can learn from its proceedings, is to meet together once a week for the purpose of discussing extemporaneously the subject previously given out; from which, if I may be permitted to conjecture, its object would appear to be, to form either private or public speakers. As far as it regards intellectual improvement, it must be admitted to possess some importance; but circumstanced as the East Indians are, eligible only to inferior offices under Government, and those requiring no oratorical talents to fill them with credit, whatever importance may be allowed to it, it is far from being equal in importance to those of a nature tending to promote their domestic comforts, and extend their national rights*.

* The Society before whom I had the honour of laying this Essay, and through whose persuasion, as well as those of other friends, it now appears before the public, had also been noticed; but as it now no longer exists, the remarks have been since omitted.

India has from time immemorial been looked upon as valuable and inexhaustible mines of wealth. From the earliest periods, she has been the great resort of various nations, for almost all the most valuable commodities. In more modern times, Portugal, Holland, France, and England, have successively participated, in no common degree, in the benefits of the fruits of her bowels, and made no small struggles to maintain their respective preponderance of power therein ; but especially, the last of them. Her capabilities of conferring benefit, however, have not yet been altogether exhausted, nor have they all been explored. Daily experience shows, that she has yet enough within herself to enrich many more nations. How much is it to be regretted, that whilst foreign nations are enriching themselves through her means, and at the same time expressing a just and

I would here beg leave to add a few words respecting the Theatre, which some of my young countrymen have lately opened. I am quite at a loss to conceive, of what utility it can be to them. They cannot have forgotten the remark of the father of modern philosophy, that "the stage is more beholden to love, than to the life of men." No one who has with any degree of attention watched his feelings, whilst attending to a love-scene, will deny the truth of this observation. In these trifles, not to say worse, how much money is expended, is inconceivable !

highly commendable sense of gratitude by disseminating among them the knowledge of their arts and sciences, and of the only true religion, a great part of her own children are doing, neither the one, nor the other. Can the East Indians claim any merits in the prosperity of the only country they call their own? What have they done, or what are they doing for her weal?

Most of them call Hindoostan their own; lay no small stress upon their right to certain privileges, which they either enjoy but partially, or are denied from motives which are best known to their rulers; and mourn because they are not every thing in it; but alas! that it must be said, they are their own enemies. They dream of and sigh for every thing but what is really accessible to them, and what would alone do them essential good. We readily admit, that there are some among them, who, by their respectable commercial undertakings, indicate a just sense of the capabilities of the country to enrich them; but how few are these! and how confined are their views! There are others again, who, by diligently cultivating their minds, endeavour to become ornaments to their nation; and we cannot but

wish that there were more of both these. We are constrained, however, to say, that whilst they apply themselves to these objects with other aims than that with which every reflecting mind would think, they ought to do, they can never hope to obtain the praise of having been fathers and benefactors of an infant nation,—an honour which every East Indian ought above all other things to be ambitious of acquiring. Who amongst them can pretend, that, when East Indian society has advanced a few paces nearer its meridian, on monuments betokening their disinterested worth, their patriotic zeal, and their self-denial in assisting the aggrandizement of their fellow-citizens, will be engraved in golden characters, “ These were the corner stones of the people ? ”

It is high time, I think, that they should bestir themselves, and use every means in their power to wipe away the impressions that their indifference to their best interests have created in the minds of their foreign spectators, and the stains they have thereby entailed upon their own character.

If the above observations be correct, which they will be allowed to be by every unprejudiced mind, they evidently imply the neces-

sity of a change in the present pursuits and habits of living of the East Indians ;—and it becomes an inquiry of no small moment, ~~what~~ are the means best calculated to improve the present condition of the East Indians, and to raise them to that standing in the scale of society, from which they are at present at so great a distance ?

I need scarcely answer, Colonization appears to be the only feasible and effectual means of encompassing this grand object ; of accelerating the march of their prosperity, and of advancing their importance in the world.

I propose, therefore, to offer a few suggestions on the colonization of Hindoos—than by East Indians, in which it is my object to show its *necessity, practicability, and advantages.*

I cannot but suppose, that with the views contained in the following pages, some will not agree ; but I feel convinced, that those who consider the subject maturely, will see reason to coincide with them. I may also add, that, having been myself some years back engaged in similar pursuits, which circumstances over which I had no control obliged me to relinquish : and having li-

ed much among the aborigines, and seen a great part of Hindoosthan, I cannot but hope, that in general, my plan will prove satisfactory.

THE
NECESSITY OF COLONIZATION.

It has added not a little to my determination to lay down a few thoughts on this interesting subject, that few have been inconsiderate enough to question the necessity of East Indians colonizing the country. That such should be the case, it is reasonable to suppose, after the experience of a sufficient length of time has evinced the hopes of Government's providing for such a numerous and daily increasing body as that of the East Indians to be vain presumptions. It is nevertheless evident, that the necessity is more *acknowledged than felt*.

Upon the agitation of the intentions of those generous individuals who were instrumental in establishing THE CALCUTTA APPRENTICING SOCIETY, it afforded me no little pleasure to recognize some indications of a conviction of the necessity of the East Indians colonizing the country; but I was not a little chagrined to find afterwards, that those generous individuals were chiefly Europeans,—another proof that the East Indians themselves are doing little or

- nothing to promote their future permanent prosperity ; and my disappointment was greatly augmented to learn more subsequently, that the most successful, though not the most useful, branch of its operations has for some time past been principally supported by the Insurance Societies of Calcutta.

The necessity there exists for the East Indians' colonizing Hindoostan may be evinced by a variety of considerations : a few of these we shall touch upon. The more translucent this can be made, the easier it will be for them to perceive the peculiarity of their case, and the desire to remedy it will naturally be created.

- In the first place, then, I would direct their attention to the circumstance, that India is their *home* the only spot upon earth to which they can with any degree of propriety naturally lay claim as their own. Here it is that they first draw their breath, and spend their juvenile years, than which nothing endears a place more to men. It is this which makes a man a lion, when there is danger of his early haunts being invaded. It is this that glows like a perpetual flame in the bosom of our transmarine friends, who

wish to enjoy no other happiness on this side the grave so much, as to be able to return to the land of their youth, and lay their bones in the tombs of their forefathers! This feeling does not more actuate the natives of a civilized country than the inhabitants of the barren wastes of Africa, or those of the snowy Andes. It operates with such force at times as to render life a burthen, when the hope of returning to the land of one's nativity is cut off; and it is worthy of remark, that this attachment is strongest in those who have spent their earliest years among rural scenes. Nature seems to have been so ordered, as to impart a more lasting impression of things with which people become familiar in the country than those in towns. It would not, perhaps, be very difficult to trace the cause of this; but as that would lead me to digress from the subject more immediately under my consideration, I waive the inquiry. My argument demanded some hints on the subject, as they lead us to conclude, that so long as the East Indians love to dwell in the metropolis, and seem to dislike an abode in the interior, they are actually removed far from the scenes and circumstances, which attach us most strongly

to our country. By taking up their abode in the interior, and thereby acquiring a natural attachment to the soil, they would be able to set a legitimate value on it, and thenceforward deem an alienation from it, a calamity of immense magnitude. Unless such a temper is produced in the sympathies of the East Indians, they will never be able to perceive the extent of the claims they have in the soil; and the soil on them. Every country has necessarily a strong hold on the regards of its children, and it is the duty of the latter to manifest it upon all occasions. The East Indians, on the contrary, seem to take pains to show, that they are the only people in the world who are indifferent to this virtuous feeling. Their own country has no manner of charms for them. The richest soil—a country where nature yields her bounties almost spontaneously, is unaccountably despised by her own sons! I have not seldom been entertained by hearing several East Indians speaking in most enthusiastic strains of the country where they had resided only for a short time to acquire an education, which, it is believed, their own does not afford. It has proved to them a kind of nursery, but to give the preference

to a foreign land, and depreciate one's mother country, is just like loving school better than home, or the embraces of a mercenary nurse than the lap of a mother. That man's heart must be a strange thing indeed, who can wink at the ties of nature, and loathe his mother because she is not so comely as his nurse, and because it is *his own* fault that she has not those attractions which would command his esteem! We shall touch upon this point again, when we come to discuss the nature of the impediments which, it is supposed, the East Indians will have to combat in attempting to colonize the country. What has been briefly said of the necessity there is of the East Indians residing in the interior, and their pursuing agriculture, under the persuasion that the soil is their own, will not, it is hoped, be deemed unimportant. For where is that man who makes the most distant pretension to patriotism, and does not love his own country better than any others, whatever be the local advantages in their favour? How soon would that country be desolated whose people were disposed like the East Indians! Some of them most unnaturally designate England their *home*, and express

an undue eagerness *to return to it*, as they phrase it. Supposing that all those East Indians who have been educated in England had the means to go back to it for the purpose of terminating their existence there, and supposing that these are looked upon as the most creditable of the whole body, who would be left to show, that India was a desirable residence? And who would be found so capable of contributing to her prosperity? They must be permitted to make choice of their *homes*; but it is impossible to commend the disposition.

The prosperous condition of the aborigines brings another necessity to light in support of the plan of colonization I am recommending. The aborigines cannot surely be allowed to have a greater interest in the soil of Hindoostan than the East Indians. To the former it belongs from time immemorial; to the latter by the intervention of a series of circumstances, from the time when the Europeans first commenced their commercial intercourse with it. The East Indians seem to have been thrown into the country by an inscrutable Providence, as it were, to teach the aborigines the art of turning to account those advantages of which

their ignorance precluded them from availing themselves. Or it may be considered as the display of the judgment of the Supreme Disposer of the earth on the aborigines, for their gross abuses of the innumerable blessings which they have all along enjoyed. How bountiful has the Almighty been to them, in spite of their aggravated crimes! The fatness of the land was given to them; but instead of serving their Donor with their substance, they have devoted themselves to the worship of the work of their own hands! Let not these remarks, however, be construed into a supposition, that I entertain the slightest idea of the East Indians ultimately supplanting the aborigines, so far as to rule over them, or to turn them out of the country, or even to maintain any great preponderance of advantages over them: far from it. The most circumscribed insight into the rise and progress of nations must convince any one, that such a supposition, under the existing peculiar circumstances, would be truly preposterous. It would be no small absurdity to conceive, that while the aborigines are being progressively enlightened, they will retrograde back into their former, or even their pre-

sent comparative pusillanimity. We have, on the contrary, every reason to believe, that in time they will become a most interesting people in the universe, and that they are designed to cut a conspicuous figure on the stage, which, by the allotment of Providence, has become, and will probably continue, always theirs. Their present prosperity is no mean intimation of what, I am firmly persuaded, they will arrive at in due time. All that is meant by these remarks is, that a body of men being raised up in this country, under circumstances which equally entitle them to share with the aborigines in the benefits derivable from it, it would lead us to suppose, that Providence either intended to bless the latter in some peculiar manner through the instrumentality of the former, or to punish the one for their ingratitude, by making the other take away from them so much of those benefits, which they will in fact do, if they also do not forfeit them by *their* ingratitude.

So long, however, as the East Indians view themselves as strangers in their own country, and act accordingly, keeping aloof from those pursuits which mainly render the aborigines a prosperous people,

they must of a certainty prepare for being lorded over by those upon whom they now look down with contempt. I repeat, that if the East Indians fail to found their hopes of prosperity as a people upon the circumstances which *now* help forward the aborigines, the time will be rapidly advancing, when, instead of the latter emulating the example of the former, the former will be driven to the necessity of striving to vie with the latter, for advantages which, by timely consideration and activity on their part, might have equipoised between them. But very inopportunately for the existing state of the East Indians' mind, the aborigines have begun to open their long closed eyes. The Brahmun has ere this resorted to the humble plough and the shop, to be found at which would formerly have attached an indelible stigma to his character. I do not mean to extenuate the many notable foul practices in the commission of which they are daily detected to acquire an iniquitous independence, which, much as it is to be deplored, many of them have secured. Their matchless duplicity and unparalleled dishonesty are proverbial. This is freely admitted; but yet, a closer view would convince any

body, that the real cause of their prosperity, I mean of the aborigines in general, lies independent of their dishonesty and duplicity, and rather in their well known attachment to the places of their nativity, than in any thing else. Many of them have drawn their breath in forbidding parts of the country, such as are subject to annual inundations, or to periodical or perpetual prevalence of malignant disease. To these, they almost invariably return from the metropolis or popular towns, (whither they had conveyed themselves in order to earn something over and above what the partial cultivations they are wont to carry on in their places of nativity are capable of yielding,) as soon as they have accomplished their object; and there they spend their infirm days. If they prosper in their town undertakings, they return to their native villages, in which the first thing they do is, to extend their cultivations, purchase landed property, and build snug brickdwelling-houses. By these and other infallible methods, many of them are now the holders of extensive farms, and possess a degree of respectability and local influence, of which the most favoured and successful East Indians of the metropolis

cannot boast. If the East Indians would prosper too, need it be recommended, that they should not feel it beneath them to tread in the footsteps of the more discerning aborigines? If ocular demonstration is convincing, need we fear to say, that the aborigines are prospering, and that by the means here recommended.

The state of the country, in other points of view likewise, shows the necessity of colonizing it by East Indians. The construction of the British Indian community, comprehending Europeans, East Indians, and aborigines is a very peculiar one, and places the East Indians, as colonists, in a field of action totally different from that in which the Americans had to commence their career. The circumstances connected with the colonists sent out by the Romans into various parts, do not correspond with the state of things in India. They themselves were the colonists, but the British are not; so that it leaves the case of the East Indians without a parallel in the pages of history. In India, the Europeans are not suffered to colonize; in America, the colonists drove back the aborigines into the interior, to make room for themselves, had not which

been the case, their colonization would have been placed on an exact footing with that of the Romans. The East Indians are to effect it by a fair competition with the aborigines. The Romans doubtless acquired access to the countries to which they emigrated by coercive measures, in the same manner as the British have gained their possessions in India; but they, as well as these, did not extirpate the aborigines, who though they were subjugated by strangers, were left at liberty to pursue their usual occupations, as far as they comported with the laws and political arrangements of their conquerors. The East Indians will not have to endure the fatigues of long military journies, or the inconveniencies of endless voyages, to carry their point *vi et armis*. This their ancestors have already done for them, and they have nothing more to do than to put their shoulder to the wheel of colonization immediately, and set it in motion. It is of no use to call Hercules with his ponderous bludgeon to become their champion. They have a better protector in the sceptre of Britain.

The fact, that whilst the natives are in reality the sole, or nearly the sole occupants

of the soil of India, and are discerning enough to perceive the importance which the smallest patch of ground attaches to its possessor, they will do, as indeed they are doing, every thing to secure it more effectually to themselves,—calls for the immediate attention of the East Indians to colonization. The consequences resulting from this circumstance must be obvious to every one. It is enhancing, and has done so for some time past, the value of lands to an extent of which none but those can form an adequate idea, who have taken the trouble to dive into the state of things in the interior. They are endeavouring to engross all those tracts of country which have hitherto been left to run waste, or to turn into impenetrable jungles:—woods are being cleared away, and the alluvial places are attempted to be improved. It is not meant to infer from this, that they have brought their newly acquired possessions into a prosperous state of cultivation. No, the poor simpletons are yet either too wary of their purses, or lack that spirit of enterprise without which no country can promise rapid improvement. It is to be remembered, however, that so long as they secure to

themselves a proprietary right in the soil, which, as it were, already belongs to them, and begin to perceive the East Indians trying to make room for themselves, (which will soon be the case,) they will of course be at liberty to set such a valuation upon them as their avarice will readily suggest ; so that what may *now* be obtained for 8 annas per beeghat, will not *then* be procurable for less than 2 rupees. When this takes place, how mortifying must it prove to an industrious individual, to be forced to take up lands which will require a double portion of labour to enable him to keep clear of involvements ! It falls to my happy lot to inform the East Indians, that there are yet immense portions of the country in an uncultivated state, which could very easily be procured, either by purchase or on long or permanent leases. Some of these lie as naked as they came out of the waters of the deluge, but might with very little labour be brought to a successful culture : others exhibit a partial improvement, and are never made to yield more than one solitary crop in the year. I have examined the properties of several such spots myself, and may safely give it as my decided opinion, that they

might be made to repay labour with at least two, if not three, crops in the year. The natives could never satisfactorily inform me of the cause of such waste of land. Some said, the soil was not good, and others pleaded want of time or hands; but I attribute it to their indolence, the lower class having a strange propensity to servitude. Some of them will forsake their best field to be employed as a *chuprasee* or *durwan* in a lucrative house. They cannot yet comprehend what it is to live out of service, though from the very insignificant labour they bestow upon their cultivations, they might have been expected to have been pretty well convinced, that they need not to look for lucrative employment beyond the precincts of their fields. It is not improbable, that one of the causes of the neglect of their lands is the very little pains required to secure the usual crop. And what is very characteristic of the indolence of the aborigines is, that when a field has repeatedly failed to produce the expected crop, in consequence of inundations or droughts, it never strikes them, that these evils might be remedied by sinking wells in their fields. I do not refer to *the annual inundations* to which

parts of some of the lower districts are subject. It might, without much difficulty, be made to appear, that so far from these proving pernicious to the prospects of the farmers, they ought, on the contrary, to be welcomed. The coat of earth acquired in the lands might in some instances prove unfriendly to paddy, and the continuance of the water beyond the seed-time may put that article completely out of their list; nevertheless other things might be made to yield a better reward*. The destructive inundations alluded to, are unusual quantities of rain, which as they are always uncertain, the hope, that it will not be so the next season, easily deceives the poor fellows into indifference about its temporary consequences. On the other hand, when a want of a proper quantity of rain for two or three successive years, occasions a failure, it as little strikes them to contrive means to irrigate their lands. In general, however, the cause of so much country running waste and wild, is certainly the want of activity and enterprise. If they can make a shift to live upon one or two paltry crops, they care very little about what their lands

* See Appendix, for further remarks on this head.

might be made to produce by a small portion of additional labour. Thus the richness of the land is left to go a begging. But why should it be suffered to be so, as long as there are East Indians capable of placing a more reasonable value on the capabilities of the soil? Does not this circumstance imply a necessity of their colonizing it? Is it right to suffer their own country to remain a manger, wherein they must ere long seek access, but probably be refused admittance? But I shall waive this argument for the present, as some might be disposed to regard it as maintaining an advantage rather than a necessity.

From these general considerations, I descend to a few particular ones, from which, I trust, the necessity of what I am speaking, will be more evident. Before, however, proceeding to do this, I think it necessary, to prevent misapprehension, to explain the sense in which I use the term colonization. The term is derived from the Latin word *colonia*, signifying, “ a company of people transplanted from one place to another ;” or “ a body of people drawn from their mother country to inhabit some distant place.” There are some, however, who give it a

somewhat different meaning, i. e. "the country planted, or a plantation." Something similar to this is the sense in which I have used, and will use the term throughout the Essay, and if I mistake not, I have of late generally seen it used in the same sense. I am sensible, that it does not exactly convey the idea I intend, and some may be disposed to think, that *agriculture* or *husbandry* would have been a fitter word; but that would have been too limited a designation to express the nature of my plan, which, it will be seen by and by, does not simply comprehend agricultural pursuits, but a variety of such other manual arts, and handicraft and scientific works, as in colonizing a country are simultaneously carried on. I do not, therefore, know that I could have fixed upon any other term that would have answered my purpose better than the one I have adopted. The East Indians, at least the best part of them, at present, reside in the metropolis. Should they at any time be induced to attempt colonization, it will be necessary for them to emigrate in bodies into the interior, to the remoter parts of which they are such strangers, that their removal from Calcutta

would certainly appear to them as removing from one region to another. Hence it will be seen, that my meaning of the word is, after all, not so foreign to some of the meanings given above as some might be inclined to suppose*.

The rapid multiplication of the numbers of the East Indians, is another and a most powerful reason for their colonizing the country. By residing and multiplying in the metropolis, the East Indians will shortly baffle all the wishes of Government to make provision for them, in such of its services as the nature of them will allow. No state in the world can possibly find the means of affording food and raiment for those who render themselves incapable of providing for themselves through the medium of any thing else but servitude. A hundred thousand could at once be supported by Government in the military service, but its peculiar policy precludes the possibility of it. And this circumstance probably, under the existing state of things, is most favourable to the East Indians. War, foreign

* The reader had not been troubled with these remarks, but for some objections which were made to the word, as used here, by some to whom the writer had shown the manuscript essay. He takes this opportunity of returning his thanks to those and other individuals for some other valuable remarks of theirs, which have enabled him to improve these pages since they were first written.

war especially, usually draws away the attention of people from evils that prevail within doors. Most politicians have made good use of this method in times of domestic turbulence. It is also a capital plan to thin the population, when it begins to be overgrown, from which many sore vicissitudes have happened to the state. But I must say no more on this delicate subject, and will only bid the East Indians be exceedingly glad that it is what it is. It is to be hoped, that the soldier's ardour has not yet been communicated to them, and leaves room for a very different species of enthusiasm. It is well that they are not perpetually haunted with dreams of cannonading and carnage, prize-money, or any sort of booty earned by "hairbreadth 'scares i' the imminent' deadly breach." By all means, let the aboriginal Oshellos have it; but let the East Indians do something which savours more of "home-spun." Let them have a field of honour, but not strowed with the dead and dying,—a campaign, but not where people get more broken heads than they can well afford to spare; where more widows and orphans are created than society knows well what to do with; and where

more blood is spilt, in one day than a whole age in a country can raise! But supposing it were desirable, where is the possibility of accomplishing it? It must long be a hopeless case. The other service (the civil) is likewise not accessible. We shall, therefore, say nothing further about it, but proceed to show what may be more deserving the attention of East Indians, the necessity which arises for their colonizing the country from a view of their present peculiar situation, in many respects gloomy and unfavourable to their future welfare.

I have said, they cannot be provided for either in the civil or military service. Thus circumstanced, they willingly avail themselves of what comes next within their notions of gentlemanly employment; but these, unfortunately happen to be of so limited a nature, and attended with such a variety of unpleasant circumstances, that, though they are at present apparently unconcerned about other things more likely to ensure their permanent prosperity, they will soon be obliged to attend to them, and see the necessity of striking into something that is capable of giving the present aspect of things a more promising turn.

The rapid increase of their numbers demands a proportionable extension of their resources. The field which they occupy now, with a very few exceptions, is the metropolis of India. In the absence of the services already noticed, the public offices of Government are open for their reception, in which only a few, comparatively speaking, earn their livelihood. These offices cannot be multiplied *ad infinitum*, nor the salary of those who are employed in them be augmented, without surmounting an impossibility. On the contrary, it is plain, that in consequence of the multiplication of hands, the admission of additional ones into them, is under very unfavourable circumstances, if we except that they must otherwise go a begging; and the time is drawing nigh when the pay of writers must be reduced, to make room for such as will be found unprovided for by the growth of idle hands. Besides this, the aborigines are making such rapid progress in the acquisition of the English language, and the inconceivable perseverance with which they make themselves dextrous in handling the pen, added to the small wages for which they let themselves

out, will soon overstock the transcribing market, if such a thing has not already taken place. The East Indians, I know, begin to feel themselves pinched for room. There are hundreds who would thankfully serve for the salaries now allowed to the aborigines, 20 or 30 rupees per month, and perhaps for less, and have effectually ceased to dream of hundreds. Many of the offices of authority begin to teem with Hindoo writers, as also all the mercantile concerns.

It might be said, that the East Indians ought to resort to mechanical arts, which are plentifully in their way in such a city as Calcutta. The fact, however, must be published, that there are scarcely half a dozen mechanics who think it worth their while to receive apprentices of this denomination of the liege subjects of his Majesty. The cause of this remains to be found out. Allowing this to pass, and supposing the present number of the East Indians (of such as want employment) were to make themselves adepts in some of the mechanical arts, they might probably do well enough; and, as it is believed that they could do more and better work than the aboriginal mechanics, these last, it may

be imagined, would, in a very short time, be brought to make sad shifts for want of work. Were this, however, possible, and did the present high notions of the East Indians permit them to adopt the extremely economical habits of the aborigines, yet the rising and the next generation after it could not all become mechanics too, without serious consequences to the prosperity of the latter description of mechanics. To stretch a point, I will even make a concession of this argument, and grant that the second and third generations could *earn their bread* without injury to the prospects of the aboriginal artisans. What will that prove? Why, nothing more, than that while the aborigines not only keep pace with the East Indians in such professions, and at the same time prosper in every thing else, the East Indians, after excepting the small section employed as writers, will be confined simply to the former: —a pretty alternative this, to be sure, for nearly a whole people! No other parts of Hindoosthan saving Calcutta, are accessible to East Indians. In Calcutta they must live, and in Calcutta they must die. The necessity of this must be questioned. It must be denied, that

handicrafts *alone* ever had a tendency to promote the general welfare of an infant people. This may be a very good plan to enable foreigners to escape being perpetually imposed upon by native artisans, and thereby secure a more rapid independence, and retire from business ; but it cannot otherwise be effected than at the expense of the East Indians.

Calcutta is a place of trade, and the minds of its inhabitants are full of it ; hence it is not to be wondered at, that trades, and chiefly the mechanical arts, will be recommended in preference to any thing else. I do not lay stress upon the mere supplying the means of common subsistence : begging would do that. But I ask, why must it be indispensable for the East Indians to bury themselves within the metropolis ? Do not the large tracts of country, most of which are almost uninhabited and uncultivated, throw open their arms, and promise far easier and far more independent remuneration of labour than any of the occupations in which the East Indians are at present engaged, or could engage, in the metropolis ? If they must be placed on the same footing with the aborigines, (which, I readily grant, it would

not be disgraceful,) why not allow the interior of the country to be the sphere of their respective undertakings as well as the city? Must the East Indians be made the instruments in the hands of merchants and mechanics, and these chiefly foreigners, who have no manner of claim in the soil, for the purpose of enriching them, and enabling them to carry away the fatness of it? If such a thing cannot be helped, let the ~~aborigines~~ ^{foreigners} by all means be permitted to engross to themselves the servile credit of auxiliaries. The miseries that threaten the growing population of the East Indians should not be proposed to be ameliorated by things which, (putting the best construction on the motives of those that suggest them) are by no means calculated to better their condition.

Let it be considered also, whether the numbers of the East Indians who are almost in a state of starvation, do not more forcibly suggest the necessity of their colonizing the country than words can express. In the nature of things, it is literally impossible, whatever we have said for the sake of argument, that Government can provide for the whole body of existing and

increasing East Indians, and their present resources are confessedly inadequate to meet the wants of them all. The very circumstance of numbers strolling about the streets of the city of palaces, burdens upon their helpless parents for want of employment, is an indisputable proof of this assertion. Hence they must turn their thoughts, their ingenuity, and their means, immediately to something else. But to what else will they resort? Will they become mechanics? Will they become tradesmen? Will they become seamen? The first of these, we presume, we have shown would but scantily provide for a part of them. Some may, indeed, become mechanics; and, we may add, some may become tradesmen too, though it is too evident to need to be shown, that but a very few, in their present penurious state as a body, could enter upon any speculation, on a scale sufficiently extensive to render it worth their while to undertake it. Seamen they need not become, however easy it may be of access; neither ought it to be thought a desirable life, when they can be any thing else preferable. Had there been much necessity for foreign trade, they might then become seamen; but there is

none, at least not at present. What then remains that they can become? Yes, and if some of them choose, they may become drummers and fifers too. Let me not be supposed to intend to insult their feelings. Far be it from me! It is my professed object to render them a respectable body of men hereafter, if they will but follow the steps I have taken the liberty to recommend. While I am on this point, let ~~me not~~ leave it without calling the attention of my countrymen to the lamentable fact, that many of them are actually no better employed, though not from choice. If the thing itself, I admit, there is no disgrace; but certainly there is in the circumstances connected with their being employed in those lines of profession. If it is a disgrace, to whom do they owe their being thus singled out for drummers and fifers? Is it not to the inattention of those who are capable of taking the lead in promoting the welfare, the respectability, and the independence* of their countrymen? Is it not to their self-will - their pride, which, though it affect to despise the peace-

* I would just desire the reader to bear in mind, that the sense in which I use the word *independence*, is simply opposed to the present dependant state of the East Indians, in reference to the means of getting their livelihood.

ful and useful employment of a farmer, can yet bear to think, that a part of their countrymen are in a far worse situation?

It is in vain to conceal, that they will in a short time be driven to the necessity of abandoning the metropolis; but it would be wiser to be regulated by choice. The present moment is available, and colonization would be attended with far less difficulty and toil-~~now~~, than at a time when circumstances would oblige them to make very mortifying stretches. Let them bestow a legitimate reflection on the subject, and *the necessity* of colonizing the country will not require to be farther urged.

THE
PRACTICABILITY OF COLONIZATION.

Having, as I trust, shown the necessity of the East Indians' colonizing the country, I proceed next to consider, as proposed, the *practicability* of it, which, I am sorry, though not surprised, to find has been more than once questioned by different persons: some of these persons seem to have paid some attention to the subject; the rest, I am fully confident, have never bestowed a single thought upon it, at least not one that could deserve that name. Were I ever so much inclined to put a favourable construction upon the motives that dictated their hostility (I cannot call it by a better name) to the undertaking, which, it is the design of this essay to recommend strongly and earnestly, I should yet be extremely at a loss to account for it, so devoid of all rationality, and even common sense is it; and, certainly, without the least shadow of fact to countenance it. This I hope to prove in the course of the succeeding strictures. I do not, however, mean to deny, that the East Indians will have to overcome any ob-

stacles whatever in their attempt to colonize the country. Doubtless, they will have to combat with several and great difficulties; but they are by no means such as to be insurmountable. If undertakings of less importance and magnitude are not unattended with impediments and toils, it is most reasonable to expect, that an undertaking of such immense importance and extent as the ~~colonization~~ of Hindoostan by East Indians must be accompanied with much more toil and difficulty. If, however, they must colonize the country, that is, if the necessity of their doing it has been sufficiently and satisfactorily evinced, I would beg leave to ask, when and how, then, are these impediments to be removed? Is it when the country will be thrown open to foreign colonization? Can nothing be done unless foreigners have a finger in the pie? Or will it be said, that the aid of foreigners must be waited for? That such ideas are chimerical, may be easily proved. In the first place, our wise politicians are well aware, that there are no prospects of the country's being thrown open to immigration. In the next place, the existing impediments must be removed before the influx of foreign co-

lonies can prosper. If *they* are to remove them, the East Indians can likewise do it for themselves. Should this not be admitted, it would then follow, that all things must be previously set in order in such a manner as to enable the emigrants, on their arrival, to prosecute their labours successfully, otherwise they must be foiled, and prepared to retrace their footsteps to their respective countries. But where was such a thing ever known as attempts to clear away the obstacles to colonization ere the arrival of the colonists? The Romans were not thus favoured; the Americans less; and the recent enterprisers in Africa least of all. The Romans, it might be said, removed the impediments which obstructed their way at the point of the sword; and the same will, perhaps, be said of what the Americans did in some instances? But those were obstacles of a different nature from what the East Indians will have to contend with. They had to make room for themselves in the country to which they immigrated, to subdue the original possessors of those countries, and to combat with various other such difficulties. The East Indians will have no

such thing to do. Their way is comparatively smooth before them ; they live under powerful protection ; they have only to put their hands to the plough, and prosper. Let us again, for a moment, advert to the facts connected with the different attempts to colonize the countries already once or twice mentioned.

When the first settlers in America immigrated to the country which now gives them a name, was it previously prepared for their reception ? or rather, were they not sensible that they would be obliged to do it themselves ? And did they not, by steadiness and perseverance, secure prosperity ? That the East Indians should be able to do less, after the state of things has been brought to that train which the Americans had to labour through incredible hardships in order to effect, must be regarded as frivolous talk. Again, the African colonists entered upon the work under far less favourable circumstances than the Americans. Who can help being struck with astonishment at the detail of the singular trials which they had to endure, and are still groaning under ? Who can help admiring the perseverance of spirit

actuates them in their praiseworthy object? Their sufferings are exquisite; but let them not faint, for a sweet reward awaits the progress of their magnanimous career. If, under such circumstances, *they* have prospered, and are prospering; the East Indians, who have no reason to apprehend the immense obstructions which opposed the progress of the American colonists, and much less those which the African settlers had to contend with, cannot but succeed in their attempts to colonize the country. They are firmly and peaceably established in the country which their ancestors have obtained for them, a country, which is not only the richest in the world, but in which the earth almost spontaneously yields her fruits to the touch of her children. A large portion of it has been all along kept in a state of tolerable cultivation, and they will have perfect security in forwarding their no less praiseworthy undertaking. A variety of impediments have been mentioned, which, it is supposed, render the practicability of East Indians colonizing the country, doubtful: we shall examine the most important of them.

And first of all; it is said, the climate of India presents a formidable barrier to the realization of the hope of East Indian colonists. I am at loss to conceive what could induce any one who had the smallest experience or knowledge of the real nature of the climate of this country, to suggest such a *sad* impediment to its colonization by means of East Indians! They ought to be fully aware, that the complaints we are daily doomed to hear about the insalubrity of the climate, do not spring from the aborigines, and certainly from only a few of the East Indians. If foreigners feel the effects of the climate to which they have not been inured by length of residence, are we to admit their claims, and condemn it? Ganjam and other parts of India are said to be the graves of Europeans. Well, and so it may be, without its having any thing to do with the nature of the climate of India in general; otherwise, we might with as much propriety tax England for being a worse climate than India, because some East Indians have, during their residence there, been completely crippled. If the heat and vapour of Hindoosthan have proved destructive to Europeans, the cold, fog, &c. of England

have slain their hundreds of India. How can a place at one extremity of the globe, be possibly expected to prove friendly to the constitution of one who comes all of a sudden to reside in it, from a place where the seasons, scenes, and manner of life of the people are diametrically opposite to those of it? Yet, is it not a fact, that only a few, comparatively speaking, of such Europeans as lead sober lives, have fallen the victims of the climate of India? The raging of the cholera must not be mentioned, since we are pretty certain, that there is scarcely a country in the world to which it has not extended its dreadful ravages. In other respects, the natives and East Indians do not feel more from the effects of the climate of India than the Europeans do in their respective countries. If they too are heard to complain at times, it must be more from *imitation* than any *real* cause. We are satisfied, however, that the aborigines have no manner of objection to be allowed to remain in the country of their forefathers. They love it passing well; yes, even as well as those love theirs, who claim the fairest spot in the universe as their own. This impediment, therefore, lies more in the *delicate con-*

struction of the constitution of foreigners, than in the *climate* of India itself. If this be allowed, then the colonization of India by means of Europeans must be viewed as a somewhat preposterous project, and those who recommend it must bear the imputation of cruelty. There cannot exist any very material difference in the constitution of the aborigines and East Indians, but what arises from the difference in the nature of the exercises to which their bodies have been subjected from early life ; in other respects they are the same. If the birth and the constant residence of the former have inured them to the climate, the similarity of those circumstances places the East Indians in precisely the same condition : with this in their favour, that the food to which they have been accustomed from their infancy has a greater tendency to form a more active and robust constitution than that of the generality of the aborigines, which commonly is rice, and vegetables, and pure water. And yet, wonderful to conceive, they live nearly as long as the inhabitants of Europe, who fare better in many respects ! *It must be a bad climate indeed to do so much with such insignificant means of forming the constitution !*

It is feared, that the heat of the sun would prevent the East Indians from working in their fields at mid-day. This must first be set beyond a doubt, ere it can be enumerated along with the variety of other impediments that are, I am convinced, too hastily supposed to threaten failure in the attempt to colonize. What say the East Indians themselves? Are they such milksops as to revolt at the idea of exposing themselves to the effects of the sun, and ready to cry out that they have made the experiment, and are obliged to confess that they are terribly afraid of being scorched? To give these scarecrow-manufacturers a chance of establishing their ill-omened position, I will beg leave to request answers to the following few plain questions, viz. Are not hundreds of East Indians daily seen strolling through the streets of the city, without the accommodation of *chata-burdars*? Are these burnt by the fervent rays of Phœbus, and reduced to cinders? Are there not others of them in the habits of encountering all the hardships of a seafaring life, amidst the uproar of jarring elements, the streams of scorching sunbeams, and the floods of inundating rain, storms, and tempests; heat and

cold, wet and dry? Do they not all prove equally ineffectual in deterring them from again venturing themselves near the yawning gulf and on the faithless waves? How many of these, may it not be asked, have there been struck to death by *coup de soleil*, or blown to atoms by the infuriated winds? Ask the laskar, whether he ever put an East Indian's fortitude to the blush? Have the latter run up the shrouds with less agility, or reefed the bursting topsails with less placidity of countenance? Have they shrunk with cowardice, when their captain, pointing to the yard-arm dropping at every roll into the foaming deep, bade them take their station there? Are the miserable Hindoos capable of doing these things? If not, and they experience no harm from the effects of the climate, I ask, is there not every likelihood of the East Indians pursuing the peaceful occupation of farmers with every prospect of success? Moreover, was it never known, that some of them getting astride of dromedaries, traversed the banks of the Nurbuda beneath the killing beams of a vertical sun, amidst clouds of suffocating dust? Were they never seen manfully fighting against the disaffected Bhounsals

warlike legions, and braving the fiery weapons that flew big with destruction out of the thundering jaws of his artillery? Let the intrepid Goorkha say, whether the death-dealing arms of the East Indians lost their executive powers in the *imminent fields* under the melting effects of the sun; or were they enervated by the pernicious tendency of the climate? Let these questions be plainly answered, and it will at once be proved, that the impediments in reference to climate are imaginary. I am persuaded, as well as they must be, who are able to speak from experience, that though the lot of the East Indians were cast in the hottest part of Hindoosthan, it would not in the least prove an obstacle to a successful prosecution of the pursuits recommended here.

But how poor will the arguments in favour of the impediment under consideration appear, when we call to mind, that European mariners bear the utmost brunt of the climate, as well as, if not in many instances better than, the hardiest *laskar* that ever crossed the line! If the inhabitants of a region, above whose horizon the sun, as it were, just peeps, and causes his limbs to shiver into a mortification in the

removes of his genial rays, can contrive to support existence, and earn an honest livelihood, without complaining half so much as our metropolitan friends, is it not fair to admit, that the East Indian, whose birthplace and habitation lie beneath the torrid zone, would be able to endure his own climate with a far better grace? It would reflect no little shame, were it otherwise.* Further, look at the European soldiers, combating with a climate to which they have not been accustomed. Look at the European indigo planters: are they not generally a healthy class of people, in spite of the supposed deadliness of the effects of the said-to-be bad climate? What an effeminate race of people would they not make of the East Indians? I beg permission to ask the East Indians, does it not behoove them to endeavour to silence our impediment-makers, by proving beyond a doubt, that there is no foundation for the ill-acquired impression that has gone abroad concerning their incapability to undertake any thing that is praiseworthy? Is not the time yet come to show, that they only require to have the way to seek their best interests pointed out? Is it necessary, that others must

think for them, and teach them what they are to do in order to secure to themselves a field of action, which, every thing, that is connected with their present and future welfare as a people, imperiously calls upon them to occupy? No; I think I shall be borne out in saying, that they have only waited for an opportunity to exert their dormant energies; and that their peculiar condition has hitherto precluded their attending to the most important step they should take; that their minds were till now completely engrossed with attending to the acquisition of those things which the support of existence immediately required; and as these necessarily placed them in a quarter where it was not only to be attended to, but where they could not properly acquire that information regarding the facilities of the interior to ensure them better livelihoods, without which prudence demanded that they should be cautious in their movements. I need not make any apology for this digression, if so it should be considered by any one.

It is true, we hear them, as well as the Europeans, complaining of heat under toil; we see them sweating beneath the pressure

of fatigue and exhaustion, in common with Europeans ; but does not every Hindoo or Musulman complain likewise, under similar circumstances ? There is not an individual among them, who, after returning from following his team, will not cry out *Kee-rod!* or *Bura-dhoop!* and so forth. So long as the East Indians are formed of flesh and blood, they must in an equal degree with others, be subject to these minor but common effects of all climates. These are effects not alone of climate, but the concomitants of labour and industry, and to avoid which, we must leave this world in search of another where men do not live “ by the sweat of their brow,” and where there is no sun.

With respect to the aborigines in India, a Hindoo or Musulman lad of 10 or 12 years of age, will tend the flocks and herds of his parents all the day long ; but be it remembered, that when he begins to find the sun too powerful, he makes no objection to betake himself to the shelter of some neighbouring friendly trees. If this privilege is conceded to the East Indian, what is there in the nature of things to prevent his regarding such a thing in any other light than

as an impediment to his undertakings ? Many of them are aware, that with all their parental injunctions, advice and admonition, they cannot restrain their boys, and, not unusually, their girls, also, from running and romping about in the sun during the hottest part of the day. Let a set of trap-bats and balls be thrown in their way, with liberty to knock about the balls when, where, and how they please, and I have reason to be persuaded, that they would so little mind the sun, that they would rather forego their ordinary meals than not be on the greens. A cricket match at twelve would do no more harm to their constitution than the lolling of our milksops beneath the refreshing gusts of the pendulating *punkha*. No greater evils would befall our East Indian youths, from sporting in the sun, than those which happen to the skaters in the serpentine canal in St. James' Park. *They* are able to decide this question, whose children *are* nearly the whole of the day in the open air and sun, at some allowed or forbidden play ; but withal are the healthiest, strongest, and cheerfullest children in the city. If the skins and complexions of the youngsters are not cared much about, the sun would

not prove inimical to their health. Give an East Indian lad a *tuttoo*, and he would kill it outright in the space of a week, by galloping him all day long in the sun. Could he not as well follow and tend a flock of sheep, or a herd of cows, with the help of shady trees to afford him a refreshing refuge from the heat of the sun when it becomes overpowering? I am of opinion, however, that the East Indian colonists need not absolutely to labour in the heat of the day out of doors, as the aborigines are most inconsiderately wont to do. If the colonists could prevail upon themselves to turn out of bed at 5 (it would not be requiring too much to suggest their rising even earlier) in the morning, and proceed to their fields forthwith, with their breakfast in their pockets, they would be able by 8, to go through more work than the aborigines, who seldom begin theirs till long after sunrise. They could then fall to their breakfast, and despatching it without unnecessary delay, resume their occupation at the team or hoe till 10: by which time they would have pushed through more business than they would, were they to toil at mid-day. Such a plan would preserve

them from unnecessary exhaustion, and enable them to return to their fields in the cool of the afternoon, with more vigour than they would otherwise do. During the interval thus secured, they could advantageously employ themselves within doors, or under shady topes, in some mechanical work or manufacture. This plan would also prevent their cattle from being pulled down so soon as the poor beasts that are used by the aborigines. Our East Indian scribes seldom go to their office before 10, where they usually remain till four. The colonists would have finished the most interesting part of their employment before the office hour of the former. They would, moreover, have the best part of the day to attend to a variety of such things as would procure them considerable sums of ready money. Besides which, since they would not have to plough every day in the year, what a deal of time could they command for other useful purposes ! By devoting their mornings, and part of their evenings to agriculture, they would realize more than sufficient to maintain themselves and families, and their manufactures, &c. would yield them the means of growing into respectability.

The most ostensible argument respecting the impracticability of colonization I have yet heard, is, that the East Indians will never be able to reduce their economy to that scale, which is a striking feature in the affairs of the lower orders of the aborigines. If the economy of the latter is to be viewed in the light of virtue, I would ask, Does not the argument go to prove, that the East Indians are not capable of exercising it? If imperious necessity be assigned as the cause, would not the same cause have a corresponding effect, as it respects the East Indians? To such a pass, alas! are the East Indians brought, that none are inclined to allow, that they are fit, or can be made fit, to order their affairs according to the extent of their resources, whether the motives arise out of necessity or virtue! This sounds very bad indeed. O! that it should be insinuated, that the people of all other countries in the universe can suit themselves to their circumstances, except the East Indians! Were the surmise correct, I would not hesitate a single moment to pronounce the aborigines of Hindoosthan to be superior in every respect to the East Indians. But it becomes us to examine into

the matter a little more, carefully, and to find out the real fact, before we can fancy ourselves at liberty to frame such unnatural imputations.

The objection seems to be founded upon the assertion, that the aborigines live upon three rupees per month, to which rate of economy, it is presumed, the East Indians will never be able to reduce themselves ; so that their plan of colonization must, of course, prove abortive, and they must continue as they are, and look fearfully forward for the approach of the eventful era which must needs entail indescribable misery upon their progeny. If by the assertion, that the natives live upon three rupees per month, is meant that each individual of the aborigines *can* live upon that sum per mensem, it is allowed to be possible ; but if thereby it is intended to affirm, that each aboriginal family, of whatever extent, lives upon it, I would beg leave to give it a flat denial.

Did the East Indians indeed expect nothing more than the insignificant monthly income that rewards the labours of the aborigines, an insuperable bar would at once be thrown in the way of colonization, and my endeavours to recommend it should

merit laughter; but fortunately for the East Indians, their case is not yet grown so desperate as all that, as I trust to be able to show in the course of this essay.

Money is looked upon as the only procuring cause of the support of existence—money is the infallible pivot on which all success turns—money is the thing that rouses the energies of all classes of men—there is none who thinks it worth his while to start any plan, without making money the hook of success—in short, every thing is made to hang upon money;—which has now, what music was long ago said by a celebrated dramatist to possess,

—Charms to soothe the savage breast,
To soften rocks, and bend the knotted oak.

“ Money makes the mare to go,” and, therefore, the East Indians must be made to go about the most important business (next to the concerns of a future world) he has yet to set himself to, with a silver goad! The aborigines, it is allowed by all parties, *naturally* require such an impetus to their lethargic movements, and *therefore*, the East Indians have a formidable stumbling-block in the path by which they hope to arrive at the smallest portion of independence! I

do not mean to say, that considering the present state of Asiatic society, money is not in some measure necessary to the attainment of any object no ; I only object to the stress that is so much laid upon it, as if without it *nothing* could be done. Is there nothing in the world, that will be allowed to be the procuring cause of money itself ? What can money do without labour, without industry, without enterprise ?

The aboriginal farmers live upon the produce of their fields during several months in the year, and afterwards have recourse to their Muhajuns, who supply them with corn, I allow, at an exorbitant valuation. This debt is liquidated in kind at the time of ingathering ; but a surplus is almost always in the barns of the cultivators, upon which they live till the month of May or June, when they once more apply to their Muhajuns both for seed and food, which are supplied at the current price. This Muhajunee system invariably leaves the poor cultivators entirely at the mercy of their corn creditors ; but the latter are interested in continuing their dealings with them, though an unsuccessful season or two should preclude the possibility of their realizing the

value of their advances immediately. They must advance on, or they must wash their hands of outstanding balances. Rigorous methods would drive the farmers to the necessity of absconding; and if they are prosecuted in a court of justice when found, the process is attended with more expense than the sum proposed to be realized. They, therefore, adopt the wiser plan of repeating their advances, which gives them the only chance of recovering their dues. After the last crop of rice has been gathered, and the accounts settled between the debtor and creditor, most of the poorest classes resort to the neighbouring towns and cities in order to gain a livelihood, and before the time of sowing arrives, to save, if possible, enough to pay the rent of the land they occupy, which, if they are not able to do, their Muhajuns enable them to do, that is, pay it on their part. Thus it will be perceived, that the farmers support themselves and their families during several months in the year without handling a single rupee. They obtain various articles of domestic use, such as oil, salt, fish, &c. by bartering paddy for them. In general, the cultivations are carried on by some of the members

of the family, the father, brother, son, or nephew, while at the same time, one or two go to the towns to earn ready money. It is the latter who usually receive not more than three rupees per month, which circumstance would appear to have given rise to the opinion, that *the natives live only upon three rupees per month*, while in reality it is no such thing. It is overlooked, that while those individuals are earning that amount abroad, the hands at home are carrying on a variety of cultivations, besides rice, to add to the means of support. When an individual has none besides himself to manage his affairs in the country, he seldom or never ventures abroad in quest of three rupees per month.

To decide the matter of the support afforded by three rupees per month, we need only make a small calculation. Suppose an individual to have a wife, and only two children : what quantity of rice per diem would suffice to keep them alive ? We cannot allow them less than one seer and a half for both meals, which would make 45 seers per month, and which, at the rate of two rupees per maund, (it is cheaper in some places, and dearer at others : we take the average,)

comes to two rupees four annas, the balance in his favour is 12 annas. Now I demand, by what sort of calculation can it be made out, that oil, salt, firewood, vegetables or fish, (one or other of these two last articles he must have to make rice eatable,) house-rent, clothing, washing, shaving; pots and pans, baskets and brooms; the defraying of holiday expenses, and a variety of other minor charges, are to be provided for at the cost of only 12 annas? Our *meturs* and *mushalchees*, it will be said, are not farmers; how do they contrive to maintain themselves for four or five rupees per month? I am glad the income of our native domestics are beginning to advance from three to four rupees. It sounds well: we must nevertheless pursue our investigation, and it will not be my fault if I cannot give it a higher lift. Well, then, the *mushalchees* and *meturs* live upon four or five rupees per month. But are not the *Metranees*, *Meturs* too? Do they not usually earn better wages than their good husbands? If the man happens to be a *dooriya*, the woman is profitably employed as sweeper. Here is cent per cent. The five rupees have all at once swelled up to ten rupees per month! They are, however,

the most shabby and beggarly set of people in town. This is not the fault of the 10 rupees per month; but lie on them, and all "licensed retailers of wines and other spirituous liquors," they are such incorrigible toppers! And our Mushalchees, are they Hindoos or Mussulmeens? If Hindoos, they are invariably of the *Bowree* or *Kaora* caste, which does not prevent their females from serving our ladies as *dyees*; going into the jungles and gathering bundles of sticks for the markets; employing themselves as beaters of the roofs of new houses; or procuring the leaves of the date tree, and therewith making mats for sale. By any of these methods they usually contrive to gain nearly as much as their husbands. We may in like manner go through the whole train of our domestics, and, at least, double the amount of their inadequate gleanings in our services. Does not this detail of facts startle our impediment-hawkers? And will it still be maintained, that the natives are in the habits of supporting themselves for three rupees per month? If any credit would be given to my stating a fact, I could name an East Indian who once made the experiment (*by necessity*), whose table did not

cost him more than nine rupees per month, though he had four bellies to feed besides his own, and who acknowledges to the present day, that he enjoyed more real comfort then, than when he afterwards was in the receipt of 300 rupees per month ! But more than a hundred such instances, with the exception of the comfortable part of it, could be adduced, and which would satisfactorily go to establish the point, that the circumstances of the East Indians may be, and in many cases are brought almost on a level with those of the aborigines*.

* Since writing the above, I have had a sight of an article in the Quarterly Series of the Friend of India, No. 12, on the colonization of India by Europeans, and find, that instead of three, they allow four rupees per month, on an average, for the support of a native, his wife and family, (see p. 38.) This does not, however, materially alter the case. If my remarks on this point be correct, they apply with nearly, if not entirely the same force to the assertion here alluded to. The writer of the article mentioned, further observes, in the same page, that " a European would be miserable with ten times that sum: it would scarcely purchase for his family the common necessities of life, leaving nothing for old age, and allow of no provision for the education of his children, who must gradually lose the peculiarities of the European, and imbibe the vices of the Asiatic character." Although what I have said in the body of the Essay obviates the necessity of taking any notice of the objections here stated, yet I may be permitted to add a very few words by way of note. If this remark, which is evidently founded upon an erroneous calculation, be just, the objection may apply to the colonization of India by Europeans, but cannot apply to the colonization of Hindoosthan by East Indians, who, upon my plan, need not fear the consequences apprehended by the writer of the remark in question. They may, without hesitation, set it down as a thing quite possible, that ere they become superannuated, and therefore helpless, their children will be

Although it is not necessary to carry this part of the question any farther, yet in order

old enough to maintain and comfort them, by carrying on their business. If they have no sons, they may adopt into their family orphan and other indigent boys, whose parents would perhaps be glad to part with them for such a purpose; or, as hereafter recommended, they may receive apprentices; and if they cannot themselves educate their children in their leisure hours, of which, I have already shown, they will command many, several of them may join together, and employ a qualified European or East Indian to do it, who may be paid for his labour as *Ichabod Crane* was, who, we are told by *Geoffrey Crayon* in his '*Legend of the Sleepy Hollow*,' "was according to country custom in those parts, boarded and lodged at the houses of the farmers whose children he instructed: with these (adds the author) he lived successively a week at a time; thus going the rounds of the neighbourhood, with all his worldly effects tied up in a cotton handkerchief." Without recommending exactly the system of *Ichabod*, we may say, some such plan, which will readily suggest itself to our colonists, might easily be adopted to secure a *decent education* for their children. We cannot advert to the concluding part of the objection without great surprise. Whatever be the *peculiarities of the European character*, to us it matters little, if the absence of them does not amount to a necessary exchange for the *vices of the Asiatic*. That it does not, we readily avow as our decided opinion. We do not believe, that there is such a necessary connection between the two, or that by a European's merely setting up as a farmer, or in any other capacity in Asia, (for they need not neglect the education of their children wherever they are,) they will, without any possibility of avoiding, catch the infectious wicked habits of its inhabitants; nor do we believe that the soil, air, and education of the labouring class of people of Europe, are so superior as to place them beyond the reach of all those vices which prevail amongst the Asiatics, except it be that of idolatry, which, however much it is to be regretted, exists in every Christian country, - in some, in the worst sense of the word, and in others, in a more refined shape! Although I differ in some points with the writer of the article already alluded to, I have much pleasure in recommending it to the perusal of my readers, for its just exposure of the injustice and impolicy of Mr. Wheatley's plan, of which it is a review, and the judicious replies to the objection he has thrown out against Christianity, which I have been not a little surprised to find in a pamphlet, the subject of which has not the most distant connection with the *truth or falsehood, or the principles of the Christian system*.

that the East Indians might have a comprehensive detail of the circumstances of the farmers, and thereby be enabled to form a correct estimate of the facilities and difficulties they would meet with in the event of their making up their minds to colonise the country, I feel myself called upon to make a few additional remarks.

In most of the districts in the Lower Provinces, the native farmers usually procure fish, oil, salt, and many other necessaries of life, as I have already stated, by bartering rice for them; but the produce of the paddy fields is not the only thing they have to depend upon for the support of their families. In addition to this, they have their sugar-cane, mustard, sesamum, pease, pulse, potatoes of sorts, gram, plantains, bulbous roots, and vegetables of various descriptions; melons, barley, ginger, turmeric, onions, garlic, chillies, cotton, &c. All these, with the exception of the first and last articles, they convey to market, and dispose of for ready money, by which means, they are enabled to bring home such articles of domestic need or agricultural utility, as they require to supply themselves with immediately. In this instance, it appears that labour in the

procuring cause of money. It would now seem to be a fit opportunity for their ridding themselves from the endless grasps of their Muhajuns; but superstitious rites are so dreadfully in their way, that on them they must lay out the best part of their extra earnings, through dread of disgrace and infamy, which leaves their Muhajuns as much their lords as ever.

The sugar-cane is manufactured into sugar by a remarkably cheap and easy process; but as the manufacturers receive advances for this article likewise, the Muhajuns usually make away with the most part of it, though it is true they advance ready money for it. The cotton shares a similar fate, and leaves the cultivators under the necessity of procuring cotton from the bazar for the use of the spinners at home, who spin it into thread. The thread thus obtained, is woven for *them* into cloth by the weavers, who are not seldom paid with paddy for their trouble. It will be observed, that I have confined my notices to the inhabitants of the poorest part of the country. I have done this purposely to show, that with all the consequence and value, we are in the habits of ascribing to the shining power of things, there

are men, and those of the agricultural denomination too, who do certainly contrive to secure support for themselves and families without having much to do with cash, and who yet virtually lay out considerably more than three rupees per month. It is worthy of particular remark here, that notwithstanding their notorious indolence of character, the aborigines are able to furnish themselves with the necessaries of life, which, such as they are, could not be procured for three rupees per month in hard cash. If such is the case with the despised aborigines, it must be granted, that the East Indians would be able to surpass them in every respect, and that there can be nothing in the nature of things to prevent their deriving better support from the adoption of the means recommended to them than the former with their celebrated economy. Where then are the impediments which prevent their cheerfully, vigorously, and successfully entering upon the plan of colonization?

Thus far, I have, I trust, fairly removed every objection which has been urged to the colonization of Hindoosthan by East Indians. I shall now consider what appear

to me something like obstacles. The most formidable of these, is the peculiar turn of mind and feelings of the East, Indians themselves. I verily believe, that scarcely a single individual of that body would hesitate a moment to colonize the country, if they could command the means of purchasing estates, that would yield such sums, as would place it in their power to maintain the rank of gentlemen-farmers, whilst scarcely fifty would step forward, in the absence of that ability, to enter upon the occupation of downright farmers ; drive their oxen before them ; dig their land ; manufacture their indispensable furniture ; churn their butter, &c. Circumstances, in some measure, it is allowed, oblige them to choose the employment of the copyist. The laborious, though variegated and independent, life of the farmer, does not seem to hold forth such allurements to their confined views, as driving their goose-quills eternally in the capacity of mercenaries. They are not, it is to be feared, given to meditate upon the circumstance, that the occupation of a sedentary transcriber, has, more than any things else, a direct tendency to undermine a man's valuable constitution, an

effect, which, though it be not immediately perceptible to himself, is most certainly seen by others, and felt by his offspring, who are, therefore, progressively degenerating in those active qualities, the absence of which so prominently strikes our notice in the characters of the pusillanimous aborigines. Our *writers* ought to be well aware, that they, by no means, escape reaping the *fruits* of a field ploughed with goose-quills. Will they not admit, that they have found themselves more pulled down by labour at the desk of only a few hours in a day, than when they have occupied themselves in a more robust or active work? Let them only take the trouble to trace the present effects of the inactive and dull lives they lead, and they will find it an easy matter to detect the causes, not only of their being obliged to use spectacles before they regard themselves old men, but of all that debility of their system which reduces them to the unpleasant alternative of applying for pensions. Of what use are they to society afterwards? Instead of flourishing in the meridian of their powers, at forty, behold them creeping through life, as if fit for nothing but to be shortly tumbled into their ready

graves, and all further remembrance of them obliterated by a premature tomb ! An individual of this description, has the whole of his energies exercised, or rather bartered, for a scanty pension. Society has nothing more to do with him, and he is a living monument of the unwholesome propensity to scribbling for money ! After his departure from a world of so much folly, what becomes of those who have been committed to his care, not to be prematurely abandoned to inevitable wretchedness, but to be put in the way of proving serviceable to the community, and along with that, to themselves ? What a killing reflection must there not be produced in the minds of those who have wasted their time in an occupation to which they had no other reasons to devote themselves but what consist in the turn of their feelings, and the nature of their sentiments respecting those pursuits and vocations of life, which, by other nations are thought to be most desirable and honourable, when they come to be laid on the bed of death, surrounded by those inoffending creatures whom they had been the instruments of bringing into the world, and are about to

leave, the deserted victims of pitiable pride, and indolence, in a place, of which the doors to prosperity are barred against them, and beyond which there is indeed nothing more than a *probable* pension of a paltry pittance! Is not such a spectacle almost daily witnessed in the metropolis of Bengal? Is not the prospect getting more gloomy apace? And who can sum up the approaching evil?

The farmer draws his nourishment from the very bosom of nature, and not after her fruits have undergone changes by passing through fifty different channels. In plainer language,—the nature of the circumstances connected with his industrious line of life is such, that it not only preserves his constitution from untimely decay, but removes him at a comfortable distance from those scenes and localities which are impregnated with chagrin, and a thousand perplexities to which the powers of the copyist unduly fall a sacrifice. His field-labours tend to promote health, to which the salubrious air of the country, and the absence of a host of jarring emotions which exist in the city, combine to contribute. While the emaciated, spectro-like copyist of a teeming

city, at forty, totters through existence in quest of a precarious maintenance, and a scanty pension at last, the hale and sturdy farmer, at double that age seems to bloom; whom, while the snow of longevity marks out as a traveller to another world, the tokens of his being the initiated child of nature play upon his cheerful visage; his firm gait indicates further laborious properties, and his unclouded countenance exhibits the badge which independence loves to bestow upon those who court her influence, while his bony members declare that they could yet make the earth yield her increase, and the fleecy flocks their tribute! Far removed from the contaminating effects of the haunts of those who infect even the air with discontent, and who dissipate their lives for they know not what, he inhales the salubrious breeze of the enlivening fields, which, as they shake the golden harvest that his hands have reared around his rural abode, waft serenity towards his breast, and the smile of satisfaction plays on every dear face that surrounds him. This our bards knew, and made their ready muses to pour forth their enraptured lays in the celebration of it;—but when and where have they

thought it worth their pains to sing an ode to the scribe*? There must be something at the bottom of the propensity to scribbling for money, which we find so universally carrying every thing before it in the metropolis of British India. My singular business is to endeavour to clear the way of colonization; and as the East Indians' gaining their precarious morsel chiefly by following the profession of clerks, appears to be a serious impediment to it, every means must be used to remove it. I will therefore trace it to its very source, and point out how it originates, and how it eventually, and almost irresistibly destroys the common impulse which every man receives from nature to

* It seems this assertion must be retracted; for at length, some friends of the *writer casto*, named William and Mary Howitt, (which by the way, is somewhat awkward; for if our Marys, and Anns, and Kittys turn advocates for the pen against us, we must soon give up our cause as hopeless,) have thought proper to honour the eternally scribbling instrument of our worthy tribe of writers with—shall we call it an ode, or elegy, or what? for we confess ourselves to be so little versed in the art of manufacturing 'airy nothings' into 'local habitations', that we might as well attempt to trace their lineal descent from 'the man in the moon,' as to tell what this exquisite piece of homage to THE PEN is—After all, it may not be improperly called, *merely a few stanzas*; but whatever it is, and such as it is, the reader may see it in the *Eclectic Review* for July 1827; and those who think themselves honoured by this signalization of the 'arrow of their secret will' are quite welcome to triumph at it: for our parts, we would have thought it a greater service done to us, if it had been altogether withheld from the public.

help himself. But perhaps this superior satisfaction is reserved for some one more potent in talents, and possessing withal more genuine philanthropy, more persuasive command of words and wisdom, more fertility of thought, and purity of diction, than Addison himself possessed, who by means of black and white secured the merit of having reformed an age of folly. So be it. My object will be answered thereby; and when it is accomplished, whoever may be the favoured instrument, the devoted friend to colonization might well clap his hands for joy, even then when India shall no longer blush for the children of *her old age*!

• It can hardly have failed to strike the attentive mind, that the disposition to which I allude, seems to originate in the circumstances of the birth of the East Indians, their parentage and education, and the sphere in which they move, and the singular constitution of the government under the sway of which they have been placed. The majority of the present generation are either the immediate offspring of Europeans, or of their children. The chief, and probably, the only object of the peregrination of Europeans in this prolific country, is, with a

solitary exception or two, the acquisition of fortunes, with a view to its enjoyment on their return to their native land. All their pursuits are confined within this contracted bound. Every undertaking has direct reference to this; and every faculty, fully and most actively, is exercised to attain it. India is not their birthplace, its genuine sons are not their kindred, and its graves (if such a supposition will be allowed) are not to be opened for the reception of their bodies. What is India to them, and they to India, beyond the securing of pecuniary independence, or more than a counting-house? what more than a mart of lucre, to which they resort, acquire their darling lacks, and anon spread out the sails, and turn the helms of their Arguses towards their respective transatlantic regions, which, most fortunately for India, rejoice in their successful returning people. But when the shores of this country are distanced, the good of the land, with all its wonders, is consigned to forgetfulness!

The illegitimate children of these, are necessarily abandoned to their doubtful fortunes, in the country which was the fruitful soil of their parents' prosperity. It would

appear, that they could not have been committed to a better place; but they are left with their hands and feet manacled. They do not perish, it is true; and many of them are helped to find their way to England to receive an English education, where they not only receive that, but over and above acquire a set of thoughts (their nursery having had the effect of purgatory to destroy Asiatic ones) more congenial to occidental than oriental affairs. There, as they secure the rudiments of learning, and associate with beings who are not in the slightest degree interested in the concerns of that country to which our education-hunters must inevitably return, and which will be the only place of their future abode and field of labour;—there, I say, by a common operation of sentiments and adventitious circumstances, they imbibe a censurable indifference for the place of their nativity. On their return to India, they find the tone of public feeling so very heterogeneous, and the state of things so very different from that which they had lately quitted, and their prospects of temporal prosperity so beclouded, that the first springs of youthful ardour receive a blow so irrecoverable, though not fatal, as checks

and damps, and effectually cripples the energies of their minds. They seem to be petrified with the sudden turn given to their ideas and feelings : their plans and pursuits all at once become so different from what they had been habituated to, that they must instantaneously look upon themselves as greater strangers in their own country than where they went to have their minds enlightened, and their principles qualified. As they are not by degrees prepared for the unavoidable transition, they are plunged in the midst of insurmountable obstacles to whatever they propose to adopt and pursue, on the violent spur of the moment, as a means of gaining a livelihood, and ultimately of securing a fortune. If they have the boast of competency, they for a time maintain that independence of spirit which has been implanted in their minds, in a land where liberty floats in the ambient air ; but as money thus wasted makes daily a wider and wider rent in their purses, the remainder soon makes wings to itself, and flies past recall. Penury and disgrace now begin to make their unpleasant appearance, and haunt their confused minds almost to desperation ; and though with a nameless im-

prudence, they launch into debt, and thereby contrive to sport out a retrograding character. a little longer, the period at length arrives when all is at an end, and they are at a dead stand. Now conceive what they can do in such a critical juncture. At whichever door they knock, the echo of disappointment causes their fainting bosom to thrill with woes. In some this naturally enough proves a fatal overthrow of hope, and with it a total wreck of probity and honesty ! Their perturbed minds wander away from the pleasant and safe path of rectitude. We have watched their footsteps, and found them drowning their woes in the pernicious bowl. The last stage of their wretched progress is an untimely grave, which (awful thought !) completes the loss of both worlds. Others retain their notions of honour, which enables them to take a somewhat more steady survey of the appalling scene. They find it necessary to come to the determination of turning scribes, or perish through hunger, or rot in the big depôt of misery which lies at the end of the gay Course at the southern extremity of the city. Principle actuates them to resort to the public offices, in which they remain

swelling, with vexation, racked perpetually with disappointed hopes, baffled schemes, and thwarted purposes; exposed to the piercing contumely of the great; harassed with fears; while their heart-strings are ready to break to pieces at the forebodings of what will ere long come upon their poor unoffending and unprovided-for families, when the king of terrors shall knock at their doors, and call the *hope* of their dear ones to the burying-ground! If “care” will “make a young man grow gray,” here is more than sufficient to produce such an effect, and, I add, to “turn him ere long into clay” likewise. But I have run through the tragedy a little too rapidly; for it should have been related, that long before so doleful a termination of their mortal career, they perceive themselves the members of a society totally unlike the one in which they had very probably fondly cherished a hope of having abundant opportunities of moving, and perhaps cutting a conspicuous figure, on their arrival in the country. In this curious circle they encounter opinions, that partake of a ridiculous admixture of half European and half Asiatic; dissipation without genuine cordiality; ostentation without re-

putation ; emulation without capacity ; plans without resources ; and assumption without gentility. They must, notwithstanding all these, take up with it, or become exiles in the heart of an overflowing metropolis ; or they must prepare to return to the country from which they had a little while ago embarked with all the pride of an English education. This, however, they no longer can command the means of doing, and there, according to the Indian proverb, “ a blind uncle is better than no uncle at all,” they must prefer that which they cannot help choosing. What creates that unhappy state of mind, which prevents the introduction of nobler sentiments is, as has been very properly observed by some, the society individuals move in, or the books they are wont to pore over. Every street is beset with crowds of writers, and there is scarcely a house one goes to, but where one, or two, or more, are to be seen ; and probably talking about the events transpiring in the offices, which is their most usual topic of conversation ; and otherwise their conversation consists of nothing but writing and writers, desks and drawers, half margins and whole margins, sections and selections, salaries and

pensions, in so much that one would imagine our East Indians to have got into an element totally impregnated with pen, ink, and paper ; and that they are become their meat and drink, and comfort too. I do not mean to say, that such a thing is an anomaly ; for it is certain, that in like manner, the followers of every other profession are wont to have their minds engrossed with the things and circumstances most familiar to them. In process of time, their habits grow upon them, especially where necessity cuts off every chance of a successful result to their pursuits. They have not the privilege of choosing their associates. The higher circles are not accessible to them, and when they are, it is attended with circumstances which in a very short time compel them to shun them with feelings of utter dissatisfaction and mortification. On the other hand, their ideas of superiority over the aborigines, whose mean practices, and vulgar, not to say obscene deportment, cause them to shrink away with disgust from their company. They retain the remnant of independence of mind, while the natives glory in despicable subserviency ; they stifle the groan of dependence, but these thrive in servitude.

Such of the East Indians as never left their native country, enter the world with a somewhat different feeling: they have from their earliest infancy, been familiarized with the circumstances that strike the comers from abroad with embarrassing novelty, and are not, consequently, affected in the same proportion. They are, in some degree, reconciled to their condition; yet I cannot, on the whole, pronounce their case to be very different from that of the others. Both feel in an equal degree what it is to be a mere cipher in their own country; to be curbed in their career, to be circumscribed in their wishes, and to suffer indescribable hardships, which are produced by various inauspicious circumstances. Their minds being enervated in the very dawn of reason, and resisted in their native scope, are so effectually unhinged as to render it problematical, whether they can be restored to that tone which is requisite to enable them to endeavour to appear in a more hopeful character than their present exhibits to our view.

Giving due weight to these considerations, it will be allowed, that the propensity I have been describing, or rather have

been endeavouring to account for, originates in the circumstances mentioned ; in their birth, parentage, and education ; the sphere in which they move, and the peculiar constitution of the government under the sway of which they are placed. The fact, that the East Indians have not been able to go beyond the metropolis, demands pity rather than censure ; for what could they do otherwise ? They were, and thousands of them to this very moment are, in every respect, ignorant of the resources of the interior. They had none who thought it worth his while, or to whom it ever occurred, to prevail upon them to spread themselves to the right and left ; none to show them the facilities they could command to secure independence. They never imagined they could do without Calcutta, and pen, ink, and paper. It never entered into their heads, that colonization could be effected, or that the effecting of it would do them any real good : nay, to such a degree had their minds been, and are even now, wedded to the affairs of the city, and to such an extent did, and does, their false notions of respectability and degradation prevail, that it would perhaps have been

looked upon as an unpardonable affront to have advised them to attempt any thing that would have placed them on a level with the aborigines, and on which they could not enter but as common labourers, though it would most assuredly have been attended with beneficial consequences. They were in the dark respecting the fascinations of a rural life: how then could they love a thing which they were never afforded the means of beholding even in prospect? How could they perceive that there was any thing desirable in colonization? The present moment, and the present moment only, was sought to be provided for. Lulled to repose in the arms of ignorance, they suffered their best energies to be sapped, and their brightest prospects to be marred. Held under its firm grasp, they suffered themselves to be led to the refuse of all things, and were made to gnaw the husks of their transcribing trough. In this they not only centred the hopes of their future prosperity, but thought there was nothing else, to all appearance, besides what *that* could promise. To this they likewise taught, and to this hour teach, their little ones to aspire. In short (with a very few exceptions) this

is the *pleasant* line of demarkation, beyond which they *cannot*, y^ay, they *will not pass*. This is the maximum of their best wishes; and it is worthy of observation, with what intense emulation the present and the rising generation press on to come within this confined latitude! The bruit of a vacancy flashes forward like the coruscations of the Aurora Borealis,—is reiterated by a thousand voices, and vibrates through a thousand bosoms. Scarcely has the vacating scribe breathed his last, and a hundred hungry candidates are in active motion; and applications for his *place* are peppered upon him at whose disposal it happens to be. A hundred offices are troubled at the sound, and the inmates use their diligence to pop into a snug birth, as it is called. A vacancy! The hum of a bee could not convey a sweeter hope. To such a pass (*O tempora!*), have things been brought,—and what lies beyond it ought to be seriously pondered by the East Indians. But for all this, the East Indians, I say again, are more to be pitied than censured; but it will be their fault if they any longer confine themselves within their present narrow limits. It is my earnest advice, that they should betake

themselves to colonization, forsaking their desks for ploughs, and the city for the country.

The peculiarities of the regulations of the British India Government, cannot justly be termed an impediment to the colonization of the country by East Indians. It is not my province, nor is it necessary, to depreciate or extol them; but it must be mentioned, that those laws, most fortunately, do not provide against the plan I have proposed for the amelioration of the cheerless prospects of the East Indians. Those laws place them nearly on an equal footing with the aborigines, which is nothing more than perfect justice. It is worthy of the exalted name of Englishmen. It might be made to appear, that in some very minor points, they lean towards the aborigines; but on the whole, the scales will evidently preponderate in favour of the East Indians, if the subject be maturely considered*. The

* There is a remark in the 1st No. of the Quarterly Series of the *Friend of India* (p. 68) on this subject, which must have appeared somewhat curious to its readers, coming, as it does, from a quarter where it could have least been expected: we refer to the following. "It is a fact, that, in case of intrigue or injury, it is in most cases easier for a native to obtain justice against a European, than a European to obtain redress, if insulted or wronged by a native. This circumstance, attended as it may be with some inconvenience, reflects

summum bonum, however, is left without flaw or fetter. The regulations do not prohibit the East Indians' cultivating their native soil; and the East Indians, it seems, are little aware of the gratitude which such a circumstance should produce in their minds, and of which the best proof they can afford is the availing themselves of the opening left them for the exercise of their energies to the advancement of their highest interest. They should lift up their eyes to heaven, and bless the overruling power of the Almighty! It is a precious boon: yes, far more so than the late concession made as to their eligibility to sit on juries. So far, therefore, from considering the existing enactments as detriments, they ought to be hailed as the most valuable auxiliaries to colonization.

the highest honour on the British name." Ergo, *the difficulty which an Englishman experiences in obtaining redress against a native, when insulted or wronged, reflects the highest honour on the British name!*—and "a fact, of which," it is added, "India affords almost the first instance on record in the annals of history;" and of which, we may further add, the Editors of the *Friend of India* are the first recorders! Be it so. The reader will perceive, that the writer of this Essay only says, that the Government's placing the East Indians on the same footing with the aborigines, is worthy of the exalted name of Englishmen. The inequalities or political partialities, if they will be so called, to which the writer alludes, it is hoped, will, in time, be removed.—Editor.

The placing of the East Indians on an equality with the aborigines, cannot, in any point of view, be construed as an impediment to the execution of the plan proposed for their adoption. If it be granted, that there are defects in the administration of the laws, it must, at the same time, be allowed, that the aborigines are by no means exempt from the effects of them. But they are defects which are not peculiar to the judicial administration of India. They are easily described, but never remedied ; and as the governing men are not angels in India, they are naturally expected here as well as any where else. We should not hope for purer men here than we meet with in other more civilized countries. Time only can and may mend the defects ; but there is not the slightest reason why the East Indians should wait for such a reformation, and not immediately undertake what, as we have already observed, is left unhindered by the laws of the country.

We have in a former part of this Essay observed, that although the aborigines are endeavouring to engross all yet unoccupied lands, cultivated or uncultivated, there are still immense tracts untouched, and easily

procurable, either by purchase or on long leases. Any objections, therefore, on this score, need scarcely be further noticed. We may, however, add, with a view of setting forth the subject in the clearest light possible, that several East Indians are the avowed and legitimate proprietors of extensive Talooks or Zumeendarees. Others again have large Indigo Concerns ; and many more have ample means of becoming respectable landholders. Were they to lay out a few thousands towards the purchase of immovable property in the Mofussil, how easily, and at what an insignificant price, could they put it within the reach of their less favoured fellow countrymen to enter upon agricultural pursuits, and, at the same time, be the greatest gainers by it themselves ! What praise would be theirs ! But I am certain, that lands to almost any extent could be obtained from the native Zumeendars in any part of Hindoosthan, into which immigration or ingress is not expressly interdicted. A commencement would, at any rate, be immediately made. I could point out vast portions of uncultivated land, which invite trial ; and the tilling of which, whilst it would answer the purposes of the colonists, would

tend to the benefit of the proprietors, as well as to bring in considerable revenue to Government in process of time. It is not to be expected, (nor would it be at all prudent,) that the East Indians should rise up in a body, pack up their moveables, and immigrate into the interior. The work must be gradual. Indeed I have much reason to fear, that a very few of them only would be able to exercise self-denial enough to put up with the occupation of downright farmers immediately; yet one or two hundred families might come forward, who could be forthwith accommodated with a sufficiency of lands in any part of Bengal, and the central provinces. One question would still, however, remain to be decided. Supposing a hundred candidates for colonization started up at once, what would be the best mode of commencing the prosecution of their design? I shall throw out a few hints, by way of developing a plan, which, I think, might be adopted with success; but let the reader judge for himself how far it is practicable.

In the first place, a meeting of those East Indians whose minds may be impressed with the utility of affording facility to the

plan of colonization should be convened. I do not think it would be taking too much upon myself to say, that many will be found who would embrace the object with cordiality: Every thing else of a temporary nature might be treated with indifference by East Indians, but *this* could not. The first object of the meeting should be to select a number of proper persons, to form a Committee of Management, whose business, in the first instance, would be, to raise about 8 or 10 thousand rupees or more, which, I have every reason to believe, they could with very little difficulty, accomplish. Objects of much less moment meet with the readiest encouragement, and will one of such consequence be slighted? Foreigners and the aborigines *may* not be found amongst the foremost to aid the cause, but doubtless there will be found East Indians who would most cheerfully bestow their assistance to the utmost of their power. This I am naturally led to hope, not only from the circumstance of their best interest being intimately associated with the success of the objects of the Committee who may be appointed; but from conversations, which I

have had with several persons, both East Indians* and Europeans, who have expressed their earnest wish, that the East Indians would turn their attention to agricultural and such other pursuits. Every motive that is interesting and powerful calls upon them to appear now, in order to promote the welfare of their countrymen. The next business of the Committee should be to collect information on every point connected with the future work of the colonists, which may suggest itself to them; and to invite those who may be disposed to enter upon it. Supposing that only 20 candidates for colonization were to offer themselves, though it is possible more would come forward, it will be then necessary for the Committee to look out for a sufficient quantity of land to set them up. If the mere matter of support be considered, 30 beeghas would be more than enough for each; but as my plan embraces a wider latitude, it would be requisite to allow them 100 beeghas each; so that 2000

* I take this opportunity to acknowledge my gratitude to several persons who have interested themselves much in the publication of this Essay; but especially to the gentleman at Ferookhabad, who has exceeded my expectation, and by whose remarks on the subject I was extremely gratified. I hope he will not fail to make his suggestions on the plan of this Essay, when he reads it, and send them to me through the same channel through which I received his first communication.

beeghas should be taken up at the very onset. And supposing that adequate means could not be immediately realized for the purchase of an estate of that extent, however small the amount of purchase might be, it may be *rented*, and in that case, the annual *juma* per beegha should not exceed one rupee*, which would render the Committee answerable (they would not have to pay more than six months rent, as I shall presently show) for the payment of 2000 rupees at the end of the year. The support of the 20 individuals will in the next place require to be attended to. Supposing we allow six months to enable them to settle themselves. During these six months they could not only put their lands in a proper train of cultivation, but the first crop of rice would be by that time in a state of forwardness. If they entered upon their labours in the month of February, we might allow two months for the constructing of comfortable houses for themselves. While this was going on, they could plough up a bee-

* I could point out certain parts of the country where two or three beeghas could be had for 1 Rupee. Should my hopes be realized and a Committee formed for the purpose of setting on foot colonization, I shall be happy to furnish them with every information in my power, on such points as they may wish to know.

gha of ground each, and get up a variety of vegetables for immediate use ; but as they could not very likely make a shift to live under temporary sheds, while their houses are building, (though it is not impossible,) we shall allow the two months to expire without any other sort of work : during this time, however, as the buildings would be raised under the direction of the Committee, they would not of course require to be supported by them. The Committee might depute one of their own number, or one of the candidates who is a single man, and might be willing to superintend the erections personally, or a native under security, to do it. - He should be an active man, and recommended by some gentleman well acquainted with him. This would not, however, be an object of much difficulty to accomplish. As soon as the houses are ready, which ought to be before the 1st of April, the colonists should enter upon their labours, and proceed to cultivate such things as relate to immediate convenience, as observed above ;—sow their vegetables, and make themselves in other respects comfortable. The getting up of one or two beeghas of vegetables need not take

up more than ten days at the farthest ; but we will allow a whole month for that purpose. After this, they should throw out their energies to prepare their lands against the season of sowing rice (paddy). The lands should be ploughed over and over again, and manured plentifully. The dung of the cattle they should be furnished with, will suffice for that purpose. The first crop of rice would be gathered in September ; by which time their poultry, &c. will have swelled up to a multitude by proper management, which they need not touch before that period, as I would propose that the Committee afford them the means of sustenance*. After their first crop has been barned, further support from the Committee should cease altogether ; in case of failure, the Committee might furnish them with rice sufficient to last till the ingathering of the first crop of the next year, which, if any surplus be left from the sum collected in the first instance, they might purchase with it : should none be left, they might make a fresh

* To prevent the invasion of jackalls, and other destructive animals, sufficient ground should be surrounded with *Kunchees*, limbs of bamboos, or some such material, for the poultry, &c. to remain confined there during the day, and covered with the same materials, to secure the chickens, goslings, &c. from kites.

application to the friends of colonization for further assistance, of which a very trifling portion would now be required from each individual to meet the exigency. They might either do this, or allow the colonists three or four rupees more in addition to what I shall presently recommend to be granted to them per month. I am decidedly of opinion, that each individual farmer, with a moderate family, could be comfortably supported by an allowance of 16 rupees per month; but they may be allowed 20 rupees each. Let not the small sum, as it is in appearance, have any discouraging or dissuading effects on the minds of the candidates; for let them remember, that though they might earn more than double that amount in Calcutta, yet if they sit down and make a calculation, they will find, that their residence in it runs away with the best part of their salaries, and that they really do not consume more food than would amply be procured for 12 rupees per month. House-rent, servants' wages, doctor's bills, vegetables, fish, poultry, mutton, beef or pork, fruits, and a variety of other useful nick-nacks, taken together, make such a rent in their salaries as

to ensure the expenditure of the whole and more per month. But if they become farmers, all those articles would be provided for by 16 rupees, in a line of life where the labour of their hands would prevent their laying out ready money on almost any thing, if they are industrious. But more of this in its proper place.

To carry on my calculation. It is plain the colonists would require to be supported for six months; allowing, therefore, 20 rupees to each, it would come to 2,400 rupees. The erection of comfortable houses (which should have mud walls) at 100 rupees each, would cost 2000 rupees more. We must make a further allowance for the purchase of cattle, poultry, &c. Each colonist may have one pair of plough oxen, one ox for the oil-mill, and two milch cows; all which I reckon at 680 rupees; add to which rupees 1120 for the purchase of poultry, pigs, sheep, and farming utensils, making a total of rupees 2400, and a grand total of 6800 rupees. The following table will exhibit the matter of expenses more clearly.

TABLE OF EXPENDITURE.

Erection of 20 Houses at 100 Rs. each,	2000
Provisions for 6 months for the Colonists, at 20 Rupees per month,	2400
40 Pairs of Plough Oxen at 16 Rs. per pair,	640
20 Oxen for Oil-Mills, at 12 Rs. each,	240
40 Milch Cows, at 10 Rs. each,	400
Poultry, &c. 56 Rs. to each colonist,	1120
	———— 2400
<hr/>	
Total, Sa. Rs. 6800	
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If 10,000 rupees could be raised, it would not only meet the above expenses, but every other expense which it might be necessary to incur at the outset. I shall be permitted to repeat my conviction, that an object like this would meet with much more encouragement, than I have thought it requisite to assume, for the sake of instituting a probable calculation of the expenditure that might be incurred in the attempt to put in execution the plan of colonization I have recommended.

It will probably be asked, How will it be possible for one individual to manage 100 beeghas of ground single handed, and that

with only two pairs of oxen? In order to obviate this difficulty, I must introduce the second part of my plan, which is, that each individual should be allowed the assistance of three or four apprentice-boys, and as many girls, for a period not exceeding seven years, and not less than six. By the help of these, he could very well manage 100 beeghas of land. As to the ploughing of that extent of land with only two pairs of oxen, it would not be deemed preposterous, if the colonists were to form themselves into five parties: each party could plough the land of each individual, compassing it alternately, very successfully. This, and also planting and weeding, are very frequently effected by the natives in a similar manner. Before the expiration of the term for which the apprentices may be bound, others might be procured. The first batch having been brought up as farmers, and having become adepts in the details of the agricultural life, and become acquainted with the state of the neighbouring country, could easily procure lands for themselves. If they have recommended themselves to their employers, it would not be a difficult matter to prevail upon them to advance them a small sum of money to build habitations,

and purchase a small stock for themselves. It would be as well for the Committee to make an agreement previously with the colonists, to furnish their apprentices with plough-oxen and a sufficient stock of poultry, &c. gratuitously, at the time of their discharge. This is, however, a by-the-way suggestion, which the Committee may or may not adopt, as they please: at least, they will be able to improve upon these scattered hints, and shape out for their management a plan more perfect in every respect—a thing which it would be impossible for me to attempt just now, without more time and consideration. But I must pass on to observe:—The necessity of uniting female apprentices with male ones will appear evident when we come to consider, that the latter will require partners when they set up for themselves; and where should they go for them? Very few indeed could be found who would even make tolerable wives for farmers, and fewer still would be willing to become such. But six or seven years apprenticeship will not only have accustomed them to such a life, but will have made them mistresses of the art of managing such branches of a farmer's do-

mestic affairs, as in a particular manner belong to the female sex*.

It is true, that besides the first outlay, as we have already stated, the Committee will be answerable for the rent of the lands; but they will only be obliged to pay for two quarters, which would be refunded by the colonists when their first crop was gathered. Moreover, the colonists should be bound to discharge the whole amount expended in establishing them; but of course convenient time should be allowed for the purpose.

In a foregoing place I have remarked, that there would be no necessity for the East Indian colonists to labour in the open air during the heat of the day. This arrangement would give them the command of a very valuable portion of their time. They could employ themselves with their apprentices in weaving, and manufacturing various articles, such as oil, sugar, tobacco, candles, cheese, shoes, ropes, &c. &c.; but chiefly those, the materials of which they

* It would not be undesirable for our colonists to take in one or two fresh apprentices every year, and as they worked out their time, there would be a constant succession of cultivators thrown into the country, who receiving apprentices or coadjutors, would contribute to the speedy formation of little villages, and thus colonization would be carried on expeditiously.

shall have reared on their own lands. Surely it would not be too much to expect, that they could discharge the Committee's debt from emoluments acquired by attending to these and various other handicrafts during the hours of relaxation from the more sturdy labours of the field. If their fields, kitchen-gardens, ponds, poultry, and cattle yielded them a sufficiency, and more than a sufficiency, of means of independent support, what else they earned by their manufactures, would enable them to testify their gratitude to their benefactors by the tender, at least, of what had been expended to lay the foundation of their future prosperity. But this is a circumstance on which I would not lay much stress; the state of things, as it may turn out, when they have actually set about to operate—the conditions on which they might possibly be able to procure persons to commence the work of colonization—and various other considerations, render it impossible to decide this point just now with precision. Supposing, however, it were found possible to recover the money originally laid out by the Committee, it could be laid out again, in making six months provision, as before, for the apprentices who may have

served out their time under the colonists, and wish to set up for themselves, as well as in helping fresh colonists. Measures might be adopted to receive, and dispose of the articles manufactured by the colonists, under the direction of the Committee, towards the liquidation of their respective debts. Each colonist would have to discharge a debt of only little more than 250 rupees, which they ought very conveniently to be able to do in the space of three years, which would only be 32 rupees odd annas per annum. But I am of opinion, that they could pay the whole off in the second year. I may observe here, that though the plan I have suggested requires the outlay of some money, it will be found in the end that success will have depended on the labours of the colonists, to the great honour and rejoicing of their benefactors, and the incalculable good of the East Indians.

It will be readily asked, But where are the apprentices to come from? I would reply, even thence, whence the colonists would be forthcoming. If these could be found, we may not despair of meeting with more apprentices than we could know what to do with. The Charity Schools teem with

youngsters, who I imagine, would not be
 reluctantly made over to our Committee.
 But I will not be such a dotard as to call
 my plan an infallible one, or suppose that
 it is not susceptible of improvement. Let
 our Committee once be embodied, and fea-
 sible plans will not be long in coming for-
 ward. It is a scheme, and will require
 proper deliberation before it be acted upon ;
 but it would border on folly to say, that co-
 lonization could not be effected at all. If
 the *Calcutta Apprenticing Society* has met
 with success, though the present features
 of their plans do not appear very conducive
 to it, the plan of colonization cannot possi-
 bly fail. If things have been brought to such
 an extremity, that people give their children
 to be brought up to the seafaring life — a life
 which in addition to the hazards to which it
 exposes those who enter it, cannot be pro-
 nounced to be the most cleanly in its subor-
 dinate branches, and beyond which, the
 marine apprentices have very little ground
 to hope to aspire, would there, under such
 circumstances, be less than the highest de-
 gree of probability to affirm, that coloniza-
 tion only needs to be proposed in order to
 be embraced ? But it will, it must succeed,

if the attention of the East Indians be once faithfully and seriously directed to it. The philanthropic motives of the Apprenticing Society must be justly applauded, and in the absence of any more promising field, its objects should be cordially promoted ; and, as I have reasons to believe it would not be disinclined to help colonization, especially as the plan here proposed embraces the trades likewise, its co-operation should be cultivated. The Agricultural Society too would be a valuable auxiliary, and to which I would humbly beg leave to propose the introduction of hops and tea into this country, if practicable, in preference to *fruits*. Their patronizing the improvement of European culinary vegetables is worthy of their benevolent views, and will succeed to a very great extent. I have some doubts, however, as to the success of the fruits they are cultivating, because the lower parts of Bengal will prove uncongenial to their improvement, if they produce tolerable fruits at all. In the *higher* parts, most European fruits are to be plentifully met with. I have partaken of as good *peaches*, and *golden-pippin apples* in the Dukkhu as any European could wish to masticate. In

Lucknow and other places higher, a variety of excellent European fruits are to be met with in abundance. But their introduction into Bengal has invariably failed. It appears to me, that it would be well worth the Society's attention to endeavour to improve some of the indigenous fruits and vegetables of India; such as the mango (than which there is not, I suppose, a better fruit in the universe,) the pineapple, plantain, &c. I should recommend the mangoes to be imported from Goa—those which are called the 'Alphonso mangoes:' mangosteens should not be forgotten.

I cannot leave this part of the subject without expressing the hope, that I have said enough to convince the most fastidious caviller, that most of the objections stated and reiterated against colonization are groundless; and that those which may be considered obstacles, are not such as are insurmountable. I have shown that the climate of India is no objection to it; that a competition, a successful competition, with the aborigines is perfectly feasible*; that the regulations of the British Indian Govern-

* What I have to say more on this subject, I have reserved for another chapter.

ment do not prohibit it; that sufficient ground could be obtained for the purpose; and that the only hinderance to it lies in the present disposition of the East Indians, the origin and progress of which I have briefly attempted to trace, and of the ultimate consequences of which I would warn them. I am not aware of any other objections of sufficient weight which require answer. I shall, therefore, dismiss this part of my essay with one word of advice to those who may be impressed with the necessity of undertaking colonization;—that they should lose no time to set about it. The prospects before them are of the most cheering nature. They should call to mind the time which has been suffered to pass away without any such efforts to ameliorate their present condition, which requires to be redeemed; and the time that is before them *may* not (though I do not say it will not) admit of sufficient trial. The time *may* come soon, when they will perhaps see the country wrested (which God forbid!) from the hands of the present powers, when they (the East Indians) being unpossessed of the only sufficient motive to rise in their defence, it may be lost for ever to all the best of purposes!

THE ADVANTAGES OF COLONIZATION.



AFTER pointing out the *necessity* and *practicability* of the colonization of Hindoostan by East Indians, I proposed to exhibit the advantages of it; but after what has been already said in the preceding pages, much of which must naturally have borne on the point now under consideration, and suggested many ideas of advantages to the reader's mind, little needs to be said further. In this chapter, therefore, after evincing, as briefly as possible, a very few of the numerous advantages which will result from the undertaking here recommended, I design showing somewhat more largely the advantages which the East Indians will be able to command over their aboriginal competitors. This point, it may be thought by some, ought to have most properly come under the preceding chapter, where I have attempted, in a few words, to show the possibility of the East Indians reducing their expenses to the extreme economical principles of the aborigines. It will be recollected by the attentive reader, that there I en-

deavoured to present him with some account of the manner in which the lower classes of the aboriginal agriculturists managed their affairs, and to expose the unfounded nature of the assertion, that they live upon three rûpçes per month. What I mean to advance, under the head here specified, will chiefly embrace such considerations as tend to demonstrate the perfect feasibility of the East Indians, not only maintaining a successful competition with the aborigines, but also commanding a variety of advantages, which will place them on a superior footing. More of this, however, in its proper place.

The true nature of education is strangely misconceived by many : some have no idea of it, but what consists only in mental qualifications ; others only in moral ; whilst others again, only in the initiation into some of the useful or ornamental arts. It never occurs to them, that it might, perhaps, be an improvement upon their notion, to attempt a combination, in the nearest possible proportion of which the subject of it might be capable, of each of them, although the defects so palpably observable in the case of those unhappy individuals, upon whom

their different systems have been tried, might have been expected to have taught them better. It seldom seems to enter into the views of these men, that man is a compound of physical, mental, and moral parts ; that each of these parts severally and collectively stands in need of much improvement, and constant employment through life, to keep them in due order and temperament, and to conduce to that state, which, next to the higher end of his being, “ the glory of his Maker,” claims most properly his greatest attention ; and that unless each of these parts is disciplined by proper and useful exercises from the earliest stage of their existence which will admit of them, they will degenerate, by taking their natural course. The impolicy, not to use any harsher term, of confining the attention to any one of these component parts of man, to the neglect of the rest, must be obvious to those who have at all studied human nature. Our constitution is such, as to be susceptible, on the one hand, of improvement, by instruction, discipline, and exercise, and, on the other, of degeneracy, imbecility, and enervation, by neglect and idleness ; like iron, which by being cleaned shines more and

more ; but being neglected, become rusty, The mind, the heart, and the body, are all the subjects of these different properties ; each requires to be always exercised and kept in order, and each, in proportion as it is attended to or neglected, adds to or detracts from the enjoyments of life.

It was a useful maxim among the Jews, whose canons required, that all parents should teach their children some trade, that he who did not instruct his son in one made him a rogue. Hence it is well known, that the education of their children always included the knowledge of one or more of the arts. Of our Saviour the Jews relate that he made *rakes* and *yokes* ; of Paul we know from the New Testament that he made tents ; and the same we learn from very good authorities, of several of their rabbies, who were surnamed shoemakers, bakers, &c. The Grand Seignior, to whom Paul Recaut was ambassador, was taught to make wooden spoons. On the benefits of such a plan of education it is necessary to enlarge here : something like this seems to be called for in the case of the East Indians, and we are glad to see exertions made to supply the deficiency ; witness the *Calcutta Ap-*

prenticing Society. We hope the highly commendable spirit of enterprise and benevolence, which combined to call it forth into existence, and has hitherto countenanced and aided its useful operations, will be carried out beyond the limits of one single institution, and be displayed in the accomplishment of some such plan of ameliorating the condition of the East Indians, and making them more useful to the community to which they belong, to the country, and to the world at large, as is illustrated in these pages, which, by aiming to point out the advantages of pursuing agricultural and other mechanical arts, without excluding the sciences, may be allowed to be, in a great degree, calculated to ensure that end. It is not for a moment supposed, by me, that a man entering on the occupation of a downright farmer, will be able to become a learned scholar; he must, of course, be contented with a limited education. What, however, may it not be asked, is the present depth and extent of the learning of the body of East Indians? Surely, it measures very low and little; but it is not absolutely necessary that our colonists should prescribe any given limits to

the literary acquirements of their children; they may allow it as wide a range as their own leisure and the children's capacities and inclinations will suffer, without apprehending to make them worse workmen thereby*.

In a former part of this essay, I said something of the healthful and delightful nature of a farmer's occupation, and also of the injurious tendency of a mere copyist's avocation. In general, it may be remarked, that whatever employment places the body in a quiescent, or in any great degree, and for any length of time, in an inactive situation, has a tendency to affect the health. Physicians for this reason, have usually recommended to students much manual or bodily exercise; and we read of Milton and others, who indulged themselves in various recreations by way of exercise to their bodies. One of them, if I recollect right, is said to have himself declared, when much advanced in age, and suffering the consequence of extreme studious habits, that he would gladly part with all the learning he had acquired in early life, by sitting

* For a more extended view of the subject, the reader is referred to Mr. Foster's valuable Essay on the Evils of Popular Ignorance.---Ed.

up late at study, if he could but recover his health. When the mind is intensely occupied with any thing, it causes a suspension of the animal functions, which weakens or relaxes their powers of action, and throws the system into disorder. Whilst this has been the case with almost every student of every country, it has been far otherwise with the farmers of every country. They are, according to universal acknowledgment, generally the most healthy, and, certainly, not the least useful, people of the countries to which they belong. “Luxury, avarice, injustice, violence, and ambition,” says Dr. Johnson, “take up their ordinary residence in populous cities ; while the hard and laborious life of the husbandman will not admit of these vices. The honest farmer lives in a wise and happy state, which inclines him to justice, temperance, sobriety, sincerity, and every virtue that can dignify human nature.” These thoughts might be carried out to a great extent; but it would ill suit the limits of an essay, and considerations of another nature invite our attention. I proceed, therefore, to take a more general view of the question regarding the advantages of colonization.

The present feature of the country, in spite of its original inhabitants, is strangely barren, owing partly to mismanagement, and partly to the characteristic sluggishness of the people,—a people that will put their hands to nothing but what is immediately before them, and who labour without giving themselves the least trouble to think, whether any thing else might not be made to contribute more largely to their own benefit, and the improvement of the country. True, they are prospering, but it is at the expense of agriculture, which will sooner or later recoil upon them with interest. The rent of lands, on the other hand, is increasing astonishingly quick, while there is not a commensurate progression of improvement to counterbalance the inroads that are made upon their industry, miserable as it is. Forty years ago, the best lands did not pay for one beegha more than 8 or 12 annas *jumma* per annum, whereas these very lands now pay from three to four rupees for the same quantity; and, what is a notorious fact, they do not by any means yield so much as they did before. It may be affirmed with truth, that those of the aborigines who are prospering are a tax upon the rest: the rich are getting richer;

the poor turning poorer. In some districts, chiefly those of the eastern, there are hundreds of thousands of landed proprietors, who are, of course, independent, and not subject to increase of ground rent. This pleasing order of things, generally affects the tranquillity of the poorer orders of people. Provisions there are not by far so dear as in other districts not thus circumstanced; and though the inhabitants are not prospering, the few who are prospering, are not prospering, as in other quarters, at the expense of the poor. It could be no difficult matter to conceive here, that the body of the people would certainly prosper, if they could be prevailed upon to admit improvements in their present modes and implements of agriculture, which, as before shown, are extremely defective. These appear to be so urgently called for, that before their introduction, very little, if any, improvement can be hoped for; and I am of opinion, that for this purpose, unless East Indian energy and intelligence are brought to bear upon the capabilities of the soil, neither the exigencies of the one will be met, nor the progressive improvement of the other description of districts,

ensured to any satisfactory degree, before a very long period. In spite of the restrictions imposed upon them by wicked and demoralizing customs, what the East Indians will do for their own benefit in their own premises, more conducive to the prosperity of agriculture and the useful arts in general, and, therefore holding out to them larger worldly emoluments, they, already become by experience somewhat deaf to the voice of their spiritual “charmer, charming ever so wisely,” will not fail to adopt, at first, no doubt, cautiously, but ultimately, without scruple. To suppose, that those who have never yet been able to resist the fascination, in whatever minute degree it might have been presented to them, will, at any time hereafter, have acquired so much cynical indifference to gold, as to spurn its stronger, and, therefore, more irresistible enticements, when presented to their avaricious minds in larger shapes, would betray no small want of knowledge of their real character. Hence it is easy to imagine, that when they see the East Indians prospering by means of superior modes and implements, which they may introduce, the aborigines will not hesitate to substitute the

same, in the room of their present clumsy ones. Hence also, it is only necessary to scatter the East Indians over the country, which their present number would easily admit of, to give the first shock to the indifference of natives, and excite a spirit of emulation and industry in them. The country would soon present in every place a delightful and picturesque appearance,—a circumstance this which would have no little influence in refining and softening their present stoical feelings, and thereby making them more averse from those inhuman and horrid practices which now stain their character, in other respects tolerably fair; and it is unnecessary to add, it would augment our own domestic comforts. The country would not only be agreeably studded with a body of teachers of agricultural improvements; but a moral renovation would commence along with it. The people would soon begin to tax themselves with folly for their shameful supineness, and readily copy the examples in full operation before their view.

Besides the above interesting particulars, it is to be observed, that the country is spotted with numerous civil and military

stations, which are doomed to this way, to undergo the monstrous expense of procuring a variety of the necessaries of civilized life from the distance of some hundred miles; and what amazes one most, is, that they have not conducted a jot to the prosperity of the circumadjacent places. The only reason that can be assigned with safety to the philanthropic reputation of those who preside over, and those who fill them, is, that the absence of a superior order of agriculturists and mechanics, has been very much felt in those places hitherto, and will continue to be felt, so long as the East Indians, (since Europeans will not be permitted) do not take the field, armed with ploughs and tools, and such other instruments of agriculture and mechanism as would be somewhat more promising than those antique and unwieldy ones, which may answer the jog-trot manœuvres of the natives; but which, if a better state of things be aimed at, in the introduction of East Indian energy and skill into the field of manurance and other useful arts, must sooner or later be set aside as relics of antiquity, fit to be viewed as curiosities a century hence, but not used. The

locality of the supplies that would be raised by the industry of the colonist would, in a short time, put an effectual period to the waste (as it must be called) of cash above mentioned,--cash, frequently purchased at the mouth of cannons, and with the terrors of the deadly breach. Would not these individuals hail the day of the good things of colonization? And may not every friend to colonization be assured, that it would be encouraged by those who would feel it their interest to have those things, for which they pay so dearly now, at their beck? Nay more, our epîcureans would thereby have within reach several of the delectable morceaus to which their wide removes from the emporium of trade makes them strangers, and which they would have no objection to obtain from the farms near at hand.

Moreover, it is customary with Christians, as things now stand, to travel up and down the country chiefly in boats, at an amazing expenditure of cash. One of the reasons for it is, that no manner of accommodations of even a tolerably comfortable nature is procurable. The *suracees*, the only accommodations on the land routes, the usual filthiness of which, added to the wondering gaze

of the unceremonious mob, as if a monster was passing through the country ; the only species of eatables, coarse rice and indifferent dal, rank ghee and muddy salt ; with the not less remarkable part of these *agreeable* circumstances, the impudence of master *Choukeedar* ; present so repulsive an appearance to intending travellers by land, that they prefer going by water, though very heavily expensive. A person cannot travel with his needful comforts upon his back, like a pedlar with his nick-nacks. To set things to rights, let the high roads be lined with East Indian farmers, a few miles apart from each other, and hard by regular staging villages ; and would it be too much to say, that many of those who would not at present venture on a journey by land, would prefer it to proceeding by water, under the assurance of finding Christian accommodation in the way ? They would no longer dread the idea of transporting themselves through a country, where sickening fare, lousy mattress, and abashing gaze, must be expected. But by travelling by water carriage, which they are now obliged to do for want of cheaper modes of performing journies, they require

to carry every necessary along with them wherever they are bound to. This places them, I might say, so much at the mercy of a parcel of domestics, that they frequently do not fail to avail themselves of the ignorance of their masters, to impose upon them, by representing every article of necessary consumption at 200 per cent. above the real market-price. Expeditions travelling, in a great degree, if not altogether, precludes the possibility of detection ; but if you detect them, you cannot turn them out for fear of being obliged to act the part of your own cook ; nor may you inflict corporal punishment with impunity on the boatmen, as they will either revenge themselves by retaliation, or, if they cannot pluck up audacity enough to proceed to such lengths, they will abandon the boat, abscond, and leave you to make your way to your destination as well as you can. At times, however, they will avoid both these methods of reprisal, with a view to commit you to the first police *thanna* you reach, where you will continue fast, unless you can demean yourself so far as to purchase the good will of the *courteous gentlemen* who preside over those posts with a round sum of money?

by way of *boaxis*; and then you may go about your business, with the best face you can put upon the *droll* affair*. It not unfrequently happens, that our travellers do not carry more ready money with them than they suppose will suffice to answer all the expenses of a tedious journey; so that, sometimes, when a circumstance like that above-mentioned takes place, they are constrained to give up the only means of support they have, on a trip through a country where it would be a miracle to encounter a friend of any kind. Some have been obliged to give a watch, a *lookka*, surpos, or spoons, to avoid a dangerous starvation; and then to prosecute their journey with the best grace they can, in company with, or rather in the power of those who will then have known how to deal with you, in the event of being provoked to punish them for filching from you. For the future, they will do it in a more barefaced manner, and, by sad expe-

* That circumstances like those here mentioned are, at present, of rare occurrence, is indisputable; but whether it be owing to the increased vigilance of the police, or to the diffusion of knowledge and European manners,—a question lately agitated, but very unsatisfactorily debated,—I cannot say. It is however far from being uncommon, even at this day, that the boatmen often desert their charge on the way, especially if the way of the traveller should include their country, and that, very frequently, without sufficient cause.

rience taught to smother irritation, you end your journey, with feelings which are not to be coveted. Again, how many are there who, because a journey on foot is intolerable, prefer joining their stations, or going to meet their friends, or transacting their business, on boats! In the first case, a couple or three months salary is swallowed up by boat expenses, so that when they reach their stations, they must immediately hit upon some means of prevailing upon utter strangers to lend them money for barely preserving their lives*. The debt is most frequently not liquidated for months to come. In the next case, the heavy charge of boat conveyance is so serious an impediment to

* The allusion here is to the plan of Government, of making an advance of a couple months' salary to their *uncondemned servants* to join distant stations, in which they may have obtained appointments. A person obtaining a situation in one of the central provinces, say *Dhaka*, or *Teppira*, of 150 Rs. per month, gets an advance of 300 Rs. with which he must pay the hire of a tolerably comfortable *pulhwar*, or *pulhalee* (a *budgerow* must be left out of the question), a cooking boat, servant's wages, or *khorahee* in advance, buy provisions for the journey of one month, and perhaps more, &c. All this, it would be easy to conceive, would more than run away with the 300 Rs. But this is not all: he has to support himself and family for two months and more, after his arrival at his station and taking charge of his situation; but how he is to do it, it would be difficult to say, unless he has money of his own, or the civilians of the place (as it has not unfrequently happened) assist him.

occasional interviews with dear relatives and friends, that it often puts a termination to good will among them. In the last case, the drawback upon the profits of a merchant thus obliged to waste his money, often occasions failure. I am not here alluding to opulent tradesmen, but those of the second or third class. These are things which loudly call for an end; but which must be remediless, unless we attempt to make travelling by land tolerable, (some would like to have it pleasant too,) and safe and cheap, by placing our colonists on the main roads and elsewhere. These remarks are the suggestions of one who has travelled nearly over a moiety of Hindoosthan in every possible shape, but who is constrained to avow, that he would sooner travel on foot, or on a *tattoo*, were such establishments as this essay proposes to intersperse through the country available, than by dawk, on elephants, or in boats. He once had to walk the distance of 200 miles, along a road the most beautiful and grand in point of scenery, but the most wretched in point of accommodations, having sometimes been obliged to be satisfied with tamarind for sauce, and brackish water for drink. He

was once or twice also necessitated to put up at one of the *suracees* above mentioned, in company with a parcel of miserable people, infected with an epidemic which at that time raged in the place, and from which they were flying for safety, elsewhere! All this would have been avoided, if he could have met with East Indians' farms on the way.

By the establishment of farms, as suggested above, many of our East Indians who are brought up to trades, but who are masters of very small capitals, would be induced to undertake long journies in the interior, as travelling petty dealers of tea, spices, Europe stationary, such tools as are not yet manufactured in this country, medicines and cordials, warm clothes, trinkets, wines, &c. &c. for all which they would find a ready vend at the several stations, and also among the people at large. The periodical visits of travelling tradesmen would be as acceptable to the East Indian farmers, as the arrivals of the Indiamen are at present to the shopkeepers of Calcutta, especially as these very merchants would readily take off their hands such articles as they shall have manufactured for city and town mar-

kets. Thus a perpetual intercourse of a most interesting nature, embracing mutual and general advantages, would be established throughout the country. An individual possessing a small sum of money, perhaps not more than two or three hundred rupees, would be a total loser, if he were to attempt a travelling traffic by means of boat conveyance. Would it be unreasonable to suppose, that hundreds of such persons would in process of time be provided for by their meeting with facilities to proceed to the interior for the purpose mentioned? They could carry their few goods in two or more *petaras*, or light boxes, made for the purpose, on one or more bullocks or ponies*.

It may also be observed, that ere long medical assistance will be required in the interior, where, at present, professional men are to be met with only in the civil and military stations. With all the good will and humanity which they generally possess, the small number of these at each station, renders their aid available to but a few of the inhabitants. Much good may be done, and is done by some of them, to the aborigines

* This feature of colonization will necessarily add to the revenues of the state, by the duties levied on the goods carried into the interior, and brought from thence into the cities and towns.

that surround them, to a greater or less extent ; but still, it may easily be conceived that all that they can do, must be comparatively little. They may attend to the cases of many, yet they must necessarily neglect the cases of many more.* They are Europeans, and the impossibility of enduring much fatigue, in a climate so unsuited to their constitution, must be taken into consideration. The dignity of their character too, which has been better calculated to direct “ Asiatic labour, than any constant personal labour at the plough or the anvil,” or, we may add, at the sick mattress of a poor native, must not be omitted. They are the servants of Government, and their power and means of enlarging their sphere of usefulness must in a good measure depend on the facilities afforded to them for such a purpose. These, and other equally obvious considerations, would induce many of the East Indians to apply themselves to the study and practice of medicine, which they might be able to do, either at the Serampore College, supposing that it forms a branch of the instructions communicated there, or at the different dispensaries of Calcutta, the superintendents of which are at present in the

habits of taking one or two apprentices from time to time. In these dispensaries, I am aware they would not acquire a knowledge of anatomy, yet what they would learn would not be useless knowledge; and may I not express a hope, that our munificent Government, if applied to, would suffer them to acquire this part of professional knowledge at their different hospitals? Government need not support these apprentices; the Committee of Management of the East Indian colonization could do it at a small expense; or the *Calcutta Apprenticing Society* might be solicited to apprentice them out to Government; but it would not be too much to presume, that the co-operation of Government itself in these respects would not be withheld, considering the advantages held out by the establishment of a system like the one delineated in these pages. The formation of East Indian villages would afford ample means of sustenance to their brethren of the faculty, whilst kindred feelings would render their services, when experience and time shall have matured their knowledge of the science in question, doubly pleasing and acceptable. These doctors, or whatever they be called, would not,

of course, confine the benefits of their knowledge in this particular to their countrymen alone; but like benevolent parents, whilst they cannot neglect the wants of their family, they will make all comfortable around them; and thus Indo-British humanity and generosity will be resounded for and wide, next to that of those from whom they are descended. The aborigines would, therefore, share in their valuable services, and, induced by such acts of kindness, would endeavour not to forfeit their profitable friendship by attempts at hostility.

But I open the field wider yet, by remarking, that the increase of East Indian population would probably, and perhaps reasonably, render the revision of the existing regulations of Government necessary, and call for fresh enactments. The present provisions confine the very respectable office of *mohunsif*, or commissioner, to Hindoos and Moosulmans, for the obvious reason, that the litigating parties are, at present, of one or other of these two persuasions. But the establishment of East Indian farms, and the consequent possession of land by them, will require, and it would be but equity to grant, that the

East Indians be placed on a footing similar to that on which the others stand, which would make way for the appointment of Christian commissioners. This may be done without expense to Government, as, indeed, is the case, with the native *moonsifs*, who receive no salary from the state, but are compensated with the price of stamps disposed of at their respective courts. Christian commissioners could be provided for in the same manner. The additional sale of stamps which would be occasioned by the formation of the establishments here recommended, would add to the revenues of Government.

As a political question, colonization will equally well bear examination. It will not be difficult for the reader to fancy himself surrounded by a dense population, kept under subjection, as, if we consider the subject attentively, we shall admit, by comparatively slender power; or in other words, the British possessions in India rest upon very uncertain and problematical grounds. At present, there is nothing but the awe of a standing army, to suppress any future internal commotion. Should such a circumstance take place, the army (if then to

be depended upon) will be required on the frontiers, whence the invasion of our most formidable enemies is justly dreaded; but the removal of them thither, would be attended with circumstances not less fearful than those which they would thereby be intended to guard against. The native powers, by whom we are almost on all sides surrounded, having the only indispensable check upon their movements taken away, would, it is not improbable, come forward to the aid of the malecontents in the heart of the country. Local corps would then be dangerous to maintain, much more to augment their numbers by volunteers from the disaffected multitude. Lord Bacon has said, that knowledge is power; and Johnson has added, that, "we have always regarded *letters* as great obstructions to our scheme of subordination." If these sentiments be correct, the present attempts to enlighten the minds of the natives, must be looked upon as sowing the dangerous seeds of sedition, unless other circumstances grow up with them simultaneously to counterbalance their effects. These are plainly two, the communication of the gospel to the natives, and the facilitation of East Indian colonization. To say that

knowledge unfettered by the salutary chains of kindred feelings, or untempered by Christian sympathy, love and forbearance, would not be a suspicious weapon in the hands of those who do not require to be told that their country has been taken away fairly from them, would be to say, that when a people come to comprehend the unreasonableness of subjection to a foreign yoke, however mild it may be, and are conscious of their superior power, (I am here supposing them to have advanced in civilization, and especially to have increased in number considerably, and acquired a familiarity with European tactics,) they will still prefer it to the possession of those powers which they once enjoyed. It may not be an improbable conjecture, that the strong degree of attachment which the natives at present display for their protectors, is not the fruit of any effort of their judgment; but the experience of the wide difference of treatment from the Government under which they were last, and from that under which they are now. Human nature, however, is capricious. Where no other motive but that of the lenity of treatment which we enjoy exists, we soon show how little it

is to be depended on. Freedom, of which few men take the trouble to acquire a definite and rational idea, floats so loosely in our imagination, and dances before our eyes in so many different phrensy-working forms, that we are not unfrequently apt to make a wanton display of power against all motives of gratitude, except where religion has buried all recollections of the loss of primeval greatness and liberty, in her broader and more influential principles of action. But it is said, all knowledge is not power,—that literary and religious knowledge is not power; but the correctness of this may be denied. All knowledge, in its nature, is expansive; it opens the mind to take in more extended and accurate views of things, and enables it to argue from causes to effects, from things to their consequences. The thirst for knowledge, when it once seizes the mind, is not to be easily checked. He that can read a tale, will in time be able to read history; and he that can read one history, can read all histories; and what must be the consequence, when the mind has thus far gone, is not difficult to foretell: But I forbear to go more deeply into the subject. I hope the remarks I have

freely made, will not be construed into hostility against communicating knowledge to the native subjects of the British Government in India. I am no advocate for an illiberal system of government, or of despotism ; on the contrary, I maintain, that it is no good reason, that because the possession of knowledge by the natives may prove detrimental to the continued prosperity of British power in India, it should be withheld from them. Give them, therefore, knowledge, useful knowledge ; but with it give them religious knowledge, and if any thing can authorize us to defy the wish of wresting the country from the hands of the English, it is this, unless the will of Providence be otherwise. Between religious knowledge and other knowledge, there is this difference, that while there is little or nothing to temper the passions and views of men, but every thing to inflame them on various accounts and occasions in the latter, there is a kind of compound property in the former, which, whilst it enlarges the mind, calms the passions at the same time. Great Britain was never, perhaps, blessed with such dutiful subjects as her present ones ; and to what is it owing ? Doubtless to

the considerable degree of real piety which exists in her. That religion which teaches obedience and subjection to rulers, when properly understood, cordially received, and faithfully adhered to, cannot be dangerous for any kingdom;—that religion which professes to teach the dispositions of the citizens of the kingdom of heaven itself, cannot be unfriendly to the wellbeing of the kingdoms of the earth.

The other effectual means to counteract any future convulsion, is the facilitation of colonization. It may be doubted, as it has been, whether it would be safe to permit European colonization here. The recent conduct of the British colonists who now form the United States of North America, may seem to afford some countenance to the suspicion; but it is to be feared, that those who indulge such doubt, do not carry their examination of the subject beyond the pale of the single instance of misfortune (if it may be so called) just mentioned. The situation of the Anglo-American colonists at the time referred to, was very different from what can possibly be the case in India, should it ever be colonized by Europeans. What was there in the case of the

Americans to prevent their taking the step they have taken? Nothing that I can see, unless it be the forbearance of the attempt to tax them without their consent, either of their representatives in parliament, or their own immediately? But in India, the thick population of natives would for centuries prove effectual checks to the British colonists throwing off their allegiance to Britain. In America, the natives were so few and so barbarous, that the British colonists found it the easiest matter to make room for themselves, by driving them into the interior. Should Europeans be permitted to colonize this country, they will be obliged to scatter themselves almost throughout it, a circumstance which must alone disqualify them for copying the example of the British North American colonists. I am of opinion, therefore, that Europeans may be permitted to colonize the country, not only with safety, but with great advantage to the interests of Britain.

But whatever might be said as to the safety and propriety of permitting Europeans to colonize the country, there can be no doubt as to the advantages that would be derived to the British Government in India

by the colonization of it by East Indians.

East Indian towns and villages all over the country would be salutary preventives of the springs of rebellion. If any such thing should ever take place, their all would be at stake, for the preservation of which, they would feel it their best interest to side with the State. Any thing brooding against the Government would be as dangerous to themselves. And what Christian is there who would not take up arms in support of a Christian Government,—a Government that allows perfect liberty of conscience, and protects it too? Is there an East Indian who would not do this? He dislikes to be placed under the galling shackles of a Hindoo or a Turkish government; and self-interest should induce him to be faithful to the Government, under which he enjoys security of property, person, and conscience. He may, therefore, be depended on to assist in preventing any turmoils on the part of the natives. What might take place two or three hundred years hence, in consequence of an overgrown population of East Indians, it would be improper to surmise; for if any such thing should take

place, will it be less possible to prevent it, because they have colonized the country, than if they grew up to a large body, without sufficient employment to divert their attention from foolish and hopeless projects of rescuing the reins of government from the hands of a power, with whom it would be rank folly to think to cope successfully, at any, the longest given period? To prevent their increasing is almost absolutely impossible; oppression would only have an effect the very opposite of that which it was intended to produce. Hence the only alternative left to prevent the increase of East Indians, is to exterminate them altogether from the face of the earth; but whether it would be a more prudent policy to do this, or to suffer their growth, and by extending their privileges, and permitting them to acquire a stronger attachment to, and permanent interest in the soil, let those who are concerned in the question, decide: but we repeat, that it is improper to surmise that the East Indians will at any future period, near or distant, turn traitors to their king and country, even though they should propagate themselves into an irresistible multitude. Is not the country wide enough for

a couple hundred millions of additional inhabitants? Let us cast our eyes on the vast tract of country lying between Bengal and Behar, and even to Nagpoor, covered with impenetrable forests,—how easily might room be made for them there! The eastern territories no less afford ample space for some millions to the south and north. With so much room at command, it would be uncharitable to entertain the opinion, that the liege subjects of his Majesty would notwithstanding revolt. It should not be forgotten, however, that so long as the aborigines continue to exhibit a progressive propensity to become enlightened, they will always prove checks sufficient to crush the buds of the political ambition of the East Indians. A mutual restraint is necessary, and such a restraint East Indian colonization abundantly promises. So that, instead of three or four hundred years of brilliant reign, our Government may hope to subsist for ever.—
GOD SAVE THE KING !

A Christian will be allowed to say a few words respecting an opinion he entertains of the propagation of the faith, which, he trusts, is dearer to him than existence itself, by the aid of colonization. It is his opi-

nion, that colonization by means of East Indians, would be a valuable auxiliary to the spread of the gospel. In proportion as the East Indians increase in number, and distribute themselves into separate bodies in different parts of the country, as farmers, &c. which they must in process of time do for want of room, it is fondly to be hoped, that they will feel the need of spiritual teachers. Ministers will be necessarily called for, and will be readily supplied by the Serampoor or the Bishop's College, or by the several Societies in operation. If these ministers be evangelic and zealous, so far from burying their talents within the circumference of their respective *parishes*, e. i. East Indian farms, they will endeavour to extend their sphere of usefulness by introducing the gospel among the surrounding heathen. Such a measure would afford an abundant prospect of success; and what more than *prospects* do we need entertain, under the assurance, that *the increase* is the exclusive prerogative of our adorable Saviour, whose power is irresistible, and whose grace is inexhaustible? What a small field is at present occupied by the missionaries of the gospel, compared with the

incalculable miles of country, the untold numbers of idolaters, that present themselves, to our view! The resources of the societies engaged in the work of missions, are not equal to universal effort. Supposing, then, each village to have one minister, who should, if possible, support himself in the same way as those to whom he would preach statedly, there would be as many preachers as villages. What extensive scope would be afforded to missionary zeal! But supposing that the colonists did not immediately call for ministers, if they would only give them a welcome whenever they itinerated towards the way of their farms, as missionary sojourners, for short seasons, there is scarce a doubt but that many of them would repeatedly visit their establishments. It would contribute not a little to cheer the colonists, thus to fall in with good Christians now and then. If churches be organized among them, the ordinances of religion also would in time be administered to them; and thus, with industry prospering their temporal matters, and the travelling missionaries establishing them in the more important concerns of a future world, surely nothing

more could be left for mortal probationers to desire!

As to the advantages the East Indians would command over the aborigines, I shall in the first place mention the pitiful condition of the Hindoos, who, through dread of the destruction of their caste, which would be the utter downfall of their respectability in the eyes of their countrymen, and would at once estrange them from the endearments and kind offices of their dearest relatives, dare not so much as apply a razor to their chins, or drive a needle through a piece of cloth! The East Indians are not thus circumscribed, and in a general point of view, would be able to compete with the natives in the acquisition of the comforts of life. But to particularize. The Hindoo dares not feed his own poultry, in consequence of which he is driven to the necessity of living upon fish and vegetables; but even in these, he finds he cannot have his choice. A Hindoo must not eat turtle, crabs, salt fish of any kind, &c. Considering the vast demand there is of poultry, could the poor creatures be permitted merely to rear live stock for sale, what a great acquisition would it not prove to the poor

Hindoo farmer! This, then, is one important branch of domestic comfort effectually wiped off from his books, and the space will be left blank as long as Brahminic superstition preponderates. It is not easy to conceive how men can submit to be thus fooled. To the East Indians, who do not only not scruple to touch and feed poultry, but also take very good care to make hearty meals on their flesh, this would be a complete advantage. How many of the comforts of life would they not secure to themselves by feeding their own poultry! The eggs would both afford them nutritive food, and the means of increasing their stock. In what a variety of ways are eggs served up at our tables! It would be almost a task to enumerate them; yet not one of them is known to the Hindoos. A common omelet has frequently sufficed to furnish an acceptable meal to less scrupulous people. It is true, that many Hindoos are seen devouring a huge heap of rice, with nothing else to make it palatable but a piece of tamarind, cooked or burned in the hearth. The advantage is evidently in favour of the former, on the score of cleanliness and delicacy. Besides which, such articles of

food as tamarind, acid-balls, &c. are not usually to be had without being paid for, unless begging were resorted to ; but where is the necessity of either, when by feeding a few fowls, fresh eggs will be at hand at any time ? Successive and regular propagation of poultry would supply our East Indians with the most wholesome animal food ; and if they could contrive to raise more than would suffice for their own use, the remainder could advantageously be disposed of for ready money. Observe here, that in the mere feeding and using of poultry, the advantages the East Indians would gain over the Hindoos are four or five fold, viz. they would have eggs and flesh for food, eggs for propagation, the sale of superfluous stock, and the value of the stock itself.

Over their Moosulman competitors the East Indians would command many advantages, by feeding pigs, and having a pigsty. These the Moosulmans must never hope to be able to do, without the destruction of their caste, and exposure to those misfortunes which the Hindoos would be thrown into by turning poulterers. In this article of the comforts of European life, the

East Indians would have the following advantages over the Moosulmans, and of course over the majority of Hindoos likewise. 1. Pigs breed faster than any other domesticated quadruped, to a proverb; so that it would secure to the East Indians a speedy accumulation of valuable stock, and a progressive emolument in consequence of it. 2. A hog or pig slaughtered now and then, would afford substantial food for days together to a numerous family. 3. A hog previously fattened for the purpose, could be killed to make hams and sausages of all kinds, which, after keeping^e enough for home consumption, could be disposed of for cash. 4. The lard^e also would be an article of gain, and at the same time answer all the purposes to which ghee (clarified butter) is applied by the Hindoos and Moosulmans. 5. The milk of cows, of which ghee is made, thus saved, could very profitably be applied to the manufacture of cheese, which the ingenuity of our East Indians would enable them to make a little more durable and delectable than those that go by the name of Bandel and Dhaka cheese, and which they could of course turn to better account. 6. Superfluous stock could be

disposed of. And 7. The value of the stock in hand would always be considerable. These two articles would give the East Indians a twelvefold advantage over the Hindoos, and sevenfold over the Moosulmans! If the East Indians chose a suitable site for their habitations, the feeding of poultry and swine would be attended with no expense whatsoever.

In the next place, by having their own fleecy flock to a certain extent, (or to an indefinite extent, if desired,) the East Indians would secure some farther advantages over the Hindoos, to whom, (in the lower provinces,) I fancy, a sheep is as great an abomination as a hog is to a Moosulman. It would procure a variety of food, whether it be in the shape of a lamb or mutton. Their wool could either be sold unwrought, or spun yarn or worsted. But it could be manufactured into blankets, if the East Indians could but take the pains to learn how to do it. The skins would always fetch money, so long as shoes remained in fashion. If they could contrive to make their own shoes, (and nothing in the trades is so easy,) what an advantage would it not afford them! At any rate, the skins could be sold for

ready money, or ready made shoes could be procured by bartering skins for them. Nor needs the fat of sheep to be thrown away, as it could be appropriated to several useful purposes. We have frequently seen butchers feeding their lamps with the fat of mutton, instead of oil. If mixed up with a proper quantity of hog's lard, it would be very serviceable in preserving Bologna sausages, &c.; besides which, if the East Indians made their own wooden household furniture, an excellent polish might be made of the fat of mutton mixed up with sundry other ingredients. Moreover, a superabundance of stock needs not to be kept up, so that a portion might be got rid of in the market, or to travelling dealers in live stock. And in the same manner with the other articles, the stock in hand would be worth money. Let the reader add these advantages to those noticed in the two foregoing articles, and say on which side the advantages lie.

Another wholesome article to which society is accustomed, is fish, which most of the Hindoos who are not downright fishermen are under the necessity of buying. This being the only animal food allowed

them, next to rice constitutes their principal dish. The East Indians could supply themselves with it, by casting their net or drawing their seine in the tank, lake, or river, on the bank or in the neighbourhood of which they might erect their habitations. It is not necessary that they should turn regular fishermen; nevertheless, by handling their own nets, they would avoid the necessity of depending upon the natives for supplying them with fish. It is the easiest thing in the world to make nets. I recollect, that at a certain time, I and three others took in hand and finished a large net, of several feet in length and breadth, in the course of 15 hours, for the purpose of catching flying foxes. We commenced in the morning, and caught our game at night the same day. The Hindoos, with the exception of the Muchhooa caste, must not venture to dry their fish; so that if one of them should by angling take up a large fish, he must either throw away the best part of it, distribute it among his neighbours, (by which he makes a virtue of necessity,) or eat the whole before morning, and the next morning die of a surfeit. I have witnessed several instances of their falling seriously ill

by gormandizing on fishes which have by some fortunate accident been thrown in their way. It is not commonly known how many of them die by eating immoderately of the sable-fish. Had they the option of either drying a part of it, or making what is called " tamarind fish," there would be a variety of food at their command, as well a saving of money, leaving the circumstance of dying by eating fish out of the question. But since the East Indians are at liberty to make what use they please of fish, they would gain farther decided advantages over their qualmish competitors of the Hindoo caste.

I have *en passant* mentioned the consequences the Hindoos, and I will add, the Moosulmans are subject to, from their adherence to a system of harassing superstition and idolatry, by which the Brahmins have acquired an unlimited and irresistible dominion over them. I will endeavour to throw further light on the subject, with a view to illustrate the advantages the East Indians could command, in carrying on a competition with the aborigines.

If either of the abovementioned classes of people have to celebrate a marriage, they must indispensably invite all their neigh-

bours to partake of a feast. If they fail to do it, they are forthwith ejected from every circle, are thenceforward regarded as infamous, and become a byword in the place of their abode; and to such an extent is ill-will carried towards them, that the poor outcasts cannot prevail upon their neighbours to come and bury their dead for them. In short, they must undergo the expense of feasting them, or be a solitary thing in "the world's wide common." In order to escape all this, the Moosulmans are obliged to give a dinner as often as they have a child to circumcise, on every marriage that takes place in their house, and twice at least, if a death occurs, after four, and again after forty days. The expenditure of money falls heaviest on the poor Hindoos, who in addition to regaling their neighbours on every ceremonial occasion, have to make munificent presents to their Gooroos and other Brakmins. In addition to these, all their religious observances or poojahs make a continual breach in their hard-earned cash. To enable them to defray such absurd expenses, they are obliged to borrow money at an exorbitant rate of interest, (not at any time less than two pice per rupee monthly,) which they frequently have it not

in their power to liquidate during the rest of their lives. . Hence we often hear them complain, that they are obliged to pay eight or twelve annas per month out of their income to their ready-money Muhajuns, by way of interest. To these galling fetters, thanks to Christianity, the East Indians will never consent to submit: hence an incalculable advantage is past dispute within their reach. Simply from not having the best portion of their gains swallowed up by vain ceremonies and unnecessary feastings, the advantages will be found to be effectually on the side of the East Indian colonists; who will, in process of time, be by far the most successful cultivators of the soil, and in a condition to vie with the most respectable landholders among their silly, priest-ridden competitors.

* Again, excepting the weaver caste, who are generally confined to their looms, (though some of them cultivate lands,) the Hindoos would be excluded from society, if they got up their own wearing apparel. The Moosulmans are not a whit better off. If the female members of an East Indian's family were to undertake the weaving of cloth for the use of their families, another great ad-

vantage would be gained by them over his circumscribed competitors. . And why may they not do it? Why should not the females of the East Indian colonist's family be capable of engaging in an occupation which is not less honorable than the art of weaving? They would not surely like it to be said of them, that the wives of the native farmers were more useful than they. In Ireland and Scotland, in general, the fair sex have this indispensable work to perform; and were it not for their laudable industry in this branch of the comforts of civilized life, *we* should probably never have come to the sight of the Irish linen, or plaid of the prettiest hues and finest textures, that are annually imported into this country. It is one of the easiest arts, and a child of eight or ten years of age is equal to undertake it; it seems therefore well adapted to the delicate system of females. Excepting the stretching out the warp in the first instance, the whole of the details of weaving is performed within doors. How truly gratifying to the feelings of an industrious female would it be, to behold her dear family decently clothed by the labour of her *own* hands! What a genuine cause for her husband to set a due value on the pos-

session of such a treasure ! And would not this naturally win his heart to be more attached to her ? Her children, or others connected with her, would doubtless venerate her interesting character, and imperceptibly learn to imitate her virtues. In life she would be a blessing to all around her, and death would not be able to blot out the grateful remembrance of self-denial and industry from the minds of the survivors. Who would not admire such a person ? Beauty leaves not a vestige of its existence, after the departure of the possessor of it ; but industry leaves trophies behind. There are some amongst the East Indian females who take no small pains to excel in the art of making carpets. Now were they to take half the pains thus bestowed upon a piece of work which is not by half so useful as weaving cloth for home use, they would soon find the blessings that go along with choosing serviceable, rather than ornamental work. An industrious disposition in a wife is the most powerful encouragement to promote a corresponding temper in the husband ; but an indolent one will clothe her husband with rags, to the great discomfort of her own life. A man may love an indolent wife, but he cannot admire her. He

should not be credited if he said so, as it is certain he does not speak what he thinks and feels. But the character of an industrious female of the weaving class, above all other secular artists, is of such an interesting nature, that the pages of inspiration have not failed to make the most respectable mention of it. "Other daughters have done well, but thou excellest them all!"

Another advantage in favour of the East Indian colonists would be their undertaking the cultivation of all sorts of grain and vegetables. This the aborigines are not permitted to do. There are certain articles which every Hindoo or Moosulman farmer must not attempt to cultivate, either from the fear of expulsion from society, or because they have not obtained in his family from the time of his ancestors; as the betel, for instance, which is confined altogether to the Pantee caste. It is true, the aborigines are not prohibited from cultivating mustard seed, sesamum, castor, &c. but the advantage to the East Indians would lie in the manufacturing of them into oil, which the former dare not do, unless they be of the Koloo caste, and even a Koloo is never a cultivator of the materials he uses to promote his trade. The me-

thod of making oil is remarkably simple. The mill, which is made of wood at a very small expense, is turned by only one ox. The presence of the miller is not indispensable at the mill; he may come to it now and then for the purpose of putting a fresh quantity of seed into the funnel. The mustard seed would yield him oil for culinary purposes, and the sediment (called Khullee by the natives) would afford a necessary article of food for his cattle. The sesamum likewise yields oil, which is applied to various uses by the natives, to whom therefore it could be sold for ready money. These two articles do not require the appropriation of exclusive spots of ground. The early rice, or *ousdhan*, being reaped in September, makes room for various articles, amongst which are mustard and sesamum. The castor is frequently sown on the banks of tanks, and in spots where nothing else could be profitably cultivated, though more pains are taken with it in the upper provinces. A similar practice could be resorted to by the East Indians. He could manufacture it into what is called "cold-drawn castor oil," and sell it as a medicine, or make it in the common way, by frying the seed before it is put

into the mill, which would make it a very good substitute for mustard oil to feed his lamps with. The mustard oil thus saved could be sold to the aborigines to great advantage. It is true, that such an extent of land could not be spared for these articles of cultivation as to enable the East Indian colonists to keep their mills constantly going from the produce of them. But rather than let them stand still, they could purchase the seed from the natives, and manufacture oil, which would both pay the expense of buying it, leave the Khullee for the use of the cattle, and yield some profit by the sale of the oil. In like manner, coconut could be procured, which of itself would keep several hands pretty well employed. The oil would be extracted; the shell would be cleaned for making "hobble-bobbles" for the use of the natives; and the coir could be manufactured into rope or cables. Moreover, the remains of the mill afford a very fattening article of food for swine.

It would be indispensable for the East Indians to cultivate their own cotton like the aborigines. The mere cultivation of it puts them on an equal footing with the latter;

but there are other circumstances connected with it, which would give the decided advantage to the colonists. They should not sell the cotton, but get the thread spun out of it at home. I do not conceive that the whole of the cotton produced in the fields of the colonists could be spun within doors. The surplus could be given to the native spinners in the neighbourhood, who would give thread in exchange, according to the respective valuation of each. The advantage lies in this, that whereas the native weavers are invariably obliged to buy their thread in the markets for ready money, the East Indian colonist would have it for barter; and as the cotton would be the price of the stipulated quantum of thread *advanced*, the thread would bear a less value than it does at the market. It is well worthy of remark, that a single female spinner of thread in a native farmer's family, spins sufficient, and more than sufficient for clothing the whole family, besides procuring various domestic articles by the sale of superfluous quantities. So far as this, I trust, the East Indian female might be allowed to be capable of doing: but in order to surpass the natives, they should have nothing more to do than weave

their own cloth. If thread could, however, be obtained from their neighbours in exchange for cotton, it would be more advisable to supersede the spinning department by engaging exclusively in the weaving one.

We must not forget to notice some other things, which at first sight might appear unimportant, but which would not prove to be such to our colonists ; for by overlooking or neglecting to attend to them, because they appeared trifling, they would constantly be subject to annoyance from their native neighbours, on whom they would thereby be obliged to depend. In the first place, though the purchase of ploughs, and all the component parts of its furniture, might be effected by small sums of money, and the work of carpenter and smith obtained for a few annas, yet much time is lost by dancing attendance on those artists for the construction of a single plough or plough-share ; and after all, a day or two is to be spent probably at their shops, to get them made *soon*. Now, as to the wooden part of the work, if the colonists could acquire the commonest use of the adze, they would not only make their own ploughs and rakes, but could cause the

native farmers to depend upon them. Many other little things could be mentioned, which could be done at leisure, both to the saving of small sums of money, and the riddance of obligation to the aboriginal artists.

In addition to all these, *they* have the advantage of having excellent publications on improved methods of cultivation, the rearing of cattle, &c. respecting which the natives must yet for a long while remain in the dark. They are in this one respect, at least a century behind the East Indians. A gradual introduction of improvements would no doubt cause the scales to *bend* very much in favour of our colonists. These improvements would as a necessary consequence be borrowed by the aborigines, who would perceive the superiority of science over old jog-trot custom, and readily adopt the methods practised among them. Before, however, such a disposition is produced in the minds of the natives, the East Indians will have established themselves properly in their business ; and if not arrived at a condition to preclude the possibility of all manner of competition with them, they will have been placed on a footing in which they need not fear any thing from the natives.

The East Indians ought not any longer to suffer themselves to be deceived by the false appearances of things—they ought to be well assured, that the road to their prosperity lies in the cultivation of the soil—they ought to see the imprudence of centring their hopes in one point—they ought to give up their false notions—they ought to despise the foolish insinuations of pride—they ought to consider what indignities they suffer—what miseries await neglect—what motives address them—what fields invite them.

Arise, then, my countrymen—“up and be doing.” Let not another moment be lost—apply with prudence, with resolution, with ardour, and apply yourself immediately to the work of colonization—for *there* your honour, your wealth, your happiness lie.

APPENDIX.



Remarks on the present Mode of Agriculture among the Aborigines.

INDIA, excepting that tract of country which extends from the Jungul Muhal to the sea south, and as far as Sreehut (or Sylhet) east, exhibits the most diversified prospects. Beyond the extent of country mentioned, there are all the varieties of scenery and soil which form the characteristics of a beautiful and interesting country. The lower parts of Bengal, however, present a sameness of scenery almost throughout : its soil is notwithstanding so very fertile, that a very small portion of trouble and expense would render a person's residence, in certain parts of it, charming. The banks of the Ganges, or those of any other of the rivers with which it abounds, afford very picturesque sites for a person's habitation. The western parts, owing to the paucity of hands devoted to agriculture, are overgrown with brushwood ; while the eastern parts, with some exceptions, are overrun with reeds and high grass, and, during three or four months in the year, are under water. The Jyntea mountains, as well as those which are situate further south, pour down a vast body of water into the low countries, and deluge them to a very great extent. In consequence of this, the villages in those parts are built upon high spots of ground raised for the purpose ; and hence there, as well as in the district of Lador, communication is cut off, as it respects travelling on foot. The people go in boats from one place to another, which have the appearance of islands in the midst of an ocean. This sort of scenery is peculiar to the eastern parts of Bengal. The western parts, again, rise gradually, and end in lofty mountains, a little beyond Bankoora. India, to the south, has much the same appearance as the neighbourhood of Calcutta, with the only difference, that it is beautified with the towering aspect of the Neelgires and other hills. The soil, in many places, is extremely luxuriant. I have passed through paddy-fields in which my

palanquin has been almost hid. The soil of this place appears to me richer than any I have yet noticed. Some parts of it are liable to inundation, but such a circumstance is of rare occurrence. As the traveller proceeds further west, he is charmed with a delightful grandeur of scenery, both during his ascent up the table land of Huzareebagh, and in his descent down Sherghatee, where it is especially so. Excepting this portion, and certain other smaller ones, which it does not fall under my present province to describe, India presents an endless forest to view, teeming, as will be readily supposed, with wild beasts of all sorts. As the traveller descends from the Sherghatee heights, and proceeds, the forests gradually lessen, and extensive plains open to view on all sides, which continuously prevail until the approach to a vast range of hills, which I perceived to take its rise from the great river Son (Sone), and pass in its progress at the back of Mirzapoor, beyond which I have not been, and, probably, colonization, by means of East Indians, would not be allowed.

Having visited many places in the Dukkun, I could enlarge considerably on the chorographical peculiarities of them; but, as, I think, the East Indians would not be permitted to establish themselves within the dominions of the native princes that govern them, it would be unimportant to do so. I cannot help mentioning, however, that circumstances of the most interesting and encouraging nature are to be met with throughout the Dukkun; and if colonization were sanctioned, it would, I have no doubt, prosper. There is probably not another portion of Hindoosthan which betrays such signs of the absence of agricultural hands as this. Whole towns and villages have been abandoned, in consequence of which, the circumjacent country is necessarily reduced to desolation. This cannot be owing to the soil; for it appeared to me to possess not only variety, but luxuriance, to the full extent of a person's wishes. I have also visited some parts of Ourissa, which, excepting the sea coast, in general, or rather, all that part which lies between the sea coast and the hills, corresponds in its chorography with Midnapore. Much useful information respecting this interesting portion of Hindoosthan has been offered to the public by Mr. Sterling, in his excellent work*. It is well worthy of perusal. There are one or two particulars on which I entertain

* A Geographical, Statistical, and Historical Sketch of Oorisa Proper.

a different opinion, especially respecting the soil of certain parts of it where I have been, and took down notes of a variety of local and other circumstances. In short, all that tract which comprises, or did once comprise, the territories of the rajas of Khoorda, has been very scandalously neglected; and what might with proper management be made to yield a full remuneration of the labours of the cultivator, now scarcely produces sufficient to cover the expense of cultivation. There are, however, creditable exceptions. Ourissa contains every thing almost of which any society can stand in need. Some parts of its scenery are truly sublime. Colonization would probably succeed as well here, if not better, than in any other part of Hindoosthan comprised within the British territories, taken either in a commercial or agricultural point of view.

No country in the world has so many large rivers, and which are so admirably calculated to convey to the sea the mighty torrents that roll down the numerous chains of mountains which line its northern and western boundaries, as Hindoosthan, which otherwise would be uninhabitable. The eastern parts are very low, and though there are immense rivers which run through them, yet they are subject to annual inundations, which raise the water, in some places, twenty feet above the earth. On the contrary, the western parts, though they are watered by the Damoodur, Sone, Ganges, Jumna, and a multitude of other rivers of a lesser magnitude, are very frequently parched for want of sufficiency of water. The wisdom of Providence appears conspicuously in this arrangement; since, had there been as much water in the higher parts as is met with in the nether, the consequence would be, that wheat, one of the natural productions of those parts, and in which these inhabitants have been, from their first immigration into them, accustomed to live, would fail, and thus oblige them to abandon them. Rice, which is easier of digestion than wheat,—some may not agree in this opinion,—on the other hand, is properly placed in abundance in a part of the country which is much hotter. Here, therefore, is an abundance of water to assist its growth and fruitfulness. Wheat, which does not require so much moisture as rice, is, therefore, with propriety most attended to in the western parts. In the southern parts, it is very remarkable that there is not even an equal proportion

of rice and wheat cultivated. The latter would certainly seem to be more congenial to them, from the scarcity of water in it ; but why the preference is given to the former, I do not feel myself competent to hazard an opinion.

There is not a river in the Dukkhan which can be compared to the Ganges. Most of the rivers have scarcely any water during the hot season. This local incapacity (if I may be allowed the use of the expression) of the Dukkhan, as well as of the western parts of Hindoosthan, is, however, partly remedied by large sheets of water, which may be called lakes, which collect in different places, and by the deep pits or wells which are dug for the purpose of supplying the requisite irrigation. The multitude of small rivers, in Bengal, which never dry up, save all that trouble to its inhabitants which those of the other parts already mentioned have. In many places of it, however, much injury is done to the crops for want of water. If proprietors of extensive estates were to cause large tanks or canals to be dug at proper distances all over such parts as are subject to drought, the evils sustained from it would be avoided. It is true, that many of them are in the habits of getting tanks dug ; but they are usually intended to supply the need of pilgrims : hence they are mostly found by the sides of high-roads. A multiplicity of tanks would have the advantage of concentrating the water in the event of inundations, and thereby in a great measure of preventing the interruptions to which, from this cause, the cultivators are usually subject, and also afford a ready supply when drought may prevail. Lacks and lacks of rupees have been expended in making banks on the sides of rivers, in order to prevent inundation. Had these vast sums been appropriated to the digging of large tanks or canals, it would certainly have been attended with better results. What, on this plan, would be lost in ground, which these tanks would occupy, would be more than covered by rescuing large crops from total failure, owing to the present inundations on the one hand, and droughts on the other. These reservoirs might be so situated as to have communications with the small rivers, in order to provide against the insalubrious effects of stagnant waters. There are extensive Jheels, or Julas, all over the country, which occupy more land than they ought to be suffered to do. The middle part of them should be dug deeper,

which would prevent swamps, and much land would be recovered by their respective owners by this means.

Lamentably deficient as the state of things is, and considering also the inadequate pains they take to improve their lands, the people contrive to manage their cultivations well enough. In the western provinces, and in the Dukkhun, generally, the farmers sink deep pits or wells, some of which are fifty or sixty feet deep, from which they draw up water, either in iron vessels or leathern bags, for the purpose of irrigation. I have not seen the former used in the western provinces. Two oxen or bullocks are indispensable at each of these wells, according to the native method, when they wish to take up water. The leathern bags, or the pukhalees (the name of the iron vessels), are lowered down into the wells by means of a rope, which passes over a small wheel, supported either on two posts or earthen pillars, which is turned by the oxen, and draws up the vessel again : by this means one pair of cattle are able to irrigate about three beeghas of land a day. This, however, is the highest rate of the powers of the native cattle, owing to the little care taken of them, and the little food they get to eat. Our East Indians, if they could not pitch upon more favourable sites, could outdo the natives in the irrigation of their lands by the use of tread-wheels, to be turned byattoos thrown into them, or by weights on the principles of clock-work. The application of the latter to a variety of other uses would save no little expense and labour ; and as they are simple in their construction, they could be done for a trifle, and expeditiously. I would recommend that every two beeghas of land be furnished with a deep well. In some places, it would be necessary to have one for each beegha ; and even should the ground be ever so low, they should still have wells, unless large tanks could be dug at certain distances, in which case, the water should be carefully preserved, and not suffered, as is commonly the case, to run out through wide openings left at two ends, where there are ghats for the accommodation of travellers. These tanks, cleared out every third year, would have their depths, and the purity of their water preserved ; and the corrupt or putrid earth accumulated during that time, being thrown into the field in proper quantities, would enrich the soil for two or three years. Such a sort of manure is far superior to the dung of animals, or of any thing

else that I am acquainted with. These tanks should be kept clear of weeds, and well stocked with fish, which, while they would afford the colonists very excellent food, would by their movements prevent the water from stagnating. Each tank thus taken care of would supply a plentiful irrigation to 100 beeghas of land, provided it be made of a suitable size.

I have already hinted, that the country, and, indeed, almost every district, affords a variety of soils. It comprises loam, sand, chalk, and different degrees of admixture of each. There are certain, and some of them extensive, spots, which are impregnated with iron ore, and other mineral substances that are inimical to the growth of certain articles. The only way, of course, to turn them to account, would be to allot them to such things as are suited to their nature, that is, such things as may possibly grow upon such ground. Simple as this advice may appear, it never occurs to the poor natives. Each tribe is allowed to cultivate certain things only; and as they can thrive on certain soils only, the lands in which they fail are forthwith abandoned as useless. Hence the many uncultivated tracts of country called *na layug outcet*, which we behold. If wheat, rice, or sugar-cane will not grow there, the farmers are quite nonplussed, and take no further pains with them. There was a spot of ground at Hooglee which nobody would take up, on account of the soil, which was sandy. I took it up, and with very little trouble made it to yield almost every thing that is cultivated in the country, to the great surprise of my neighbours. In the district of Burdwan, I observed that the natives manured their paddy fields with big clods of hardened clay, which they bring from the beds of shallow ponds, and which, as they laid them under no necessity of digging them up, being naturally cracked into large cakes (so to speak) by the heat of the sun, and being very loose, they had only to take up, and carry them wherever they pleased. In every other place that I am acquainted with, the farmers cast a few baskets of decomposed dung, mixed with ashes, and a variety of such rubbish as they daily sweep into a place hollowed for their reception, close to their habitations. The quantity is, however, very inadequate; for I seldom saw more than twenty baskets full thrown into each beegha of land, and even this had more of rubbish than dung in it. The scantiness of the latter is owing to the large quantities which are

reserved for fuel, which they make into small round cakes, and stick up on the mud walls or tatees which surround their dwellings, or on the ground, for the purpose of drying ; after which, they either take them to the market to sell, or keep them for their own use, to cook their victuals with. Much dung is also lost by their neglecting to collect them soon enough, which is thus suffered to be destroyed by worms and white ants. Hence they are never able to manure a piece of ground afresh for every expected crop. They have scarcely any idea of improving the soil, and if they had, their well known indolence would prevent their doing it. " If the ground will yield by mere ploughing and sowing, well, —if not, we cannot help it," would appear to be the maxim of every native farmer with respect to agriculture.

Their implements of husbandry are of the same fashion as existed a couple of thousand years ago, and uniform all over those parts of the country which I have visited. Their ploughs are so very small and rickety, that one would suppose they could not turn up a dozen yards of earth ; but their cattle, being inured to the drudgery, enable them to do more with them than their feebleness would promise. As they usually commence ploughing when the ground has become hard, all that they can do, at the first ploughing, is to drag the plough along almost over the surface of the earth,—an inconvenience which could easily be avoided, by going to the field a few days before the earth is hardened too much. The present mode of ploughing involves a deal of unnecessary labour, both to men and beasts, and verifies the adage, " Lazy folks take the most pains." If you ask them, " Why have you not commenced ploughing sooner ?" the answer is, " I waited for the rain to soften the ground." " And why," if you rejoin, " did you not do it before it became so hard ?" " Nobody else did it," is the answer. Now if our East Indian colonists would but just do what nobody else does, in addition to what they do, is there a shadow of doubt that they would do better than the aborigines ?

The time thus lost, would almost suffice for an extraordinary crop. But, as I was observing, the plough does not penetrate the earth more than three inches. If they attempted to elevate the shaft a couple inches higher than usual at the first ploughing, the share would become a little more perpendicular, and run two

or three inches deeper into the ground ; but then the plough would go to pieces, or the oxen would fall down. According to the present mode, therefore, a piece of ground is not fit for sowing before it has been run through by inches in depth, at least five or six times, backwards and forwards, and transversely or crossways. It frequently happens, that they are obliged to wait for rain so long, that when it at length comes, such torrents are poured down, that the water is knee deep in the fields ere they have been once ploughed. Now if they wait till the waters are dried up, it would probably be the loss of one season, as successive showers might make things only worse. They are, therefore, obliged to subject their poor cattle and themselves to the inconvenience of ploughing in the water. When the lands have been properly puddled, they transplant the young rice plants there from a bed in which they have been previously reared for this purpose. This process is observed in reference to the *Amun dhan*. As to the *Doos dhan*, this crop must be lost if there is not rain, as they seldom or never take the trouble to irrigate their lands. I have frequently remarked, that the cattle of the natives are pulled down the third year.

Their ploughs are made of the *babla*, or acacia tree, and costs about eight annas, including the ploughshare, and the rest of the furniture belonging to it. The share is about six inches in length, and two inches in breadth, and as thin almost as a wafer. When much work is to be accomplished, it requires to be taken to the blacksmith once a week. The other parts of the plough are of wood, and, as I have before observed, very slender. The cattle are so much used to this machine, that they creep along very much at their ease, insomuch that a lad of 10 years of age is frequently seen managing them with much convenience. Notwithstanding all this, a pair of good cattle are able to plough at one time from 10 to 12 beeghas of land with ease. They might be made to do more, and with less fatigue, were they not ploughed with at midday*.

After two or three days, they very properly repeat the ploughing of each spot, during which interval they go to such as are yet unploughed. By this method time is allowed for the last plough-

* See for further remarks on this point, the body of the *Essay*, p. 52.

ed spots to evaporate, and the moisture of their clods to be absorbed by the air; but they return ere the clods are rendered too hard to be reduced to dust. They, however, usually commence so late, that they have not time sufficient to break the clods, either because the rains have made them too soft, or the drought too hard. In either case, it hurts the cattle much. If the ground is moist, it galls their shoulders; if too hard, it injures their hoofs, and does not fail to make the men smart considerably. Some articles of cultivation, such as tobacco, radish, &c. require much ploughing; but were they to commence it immediately after the last crop of rice has been reaped, and if an intermediate one could not be gained beside, the turning up of the earth betimes, would have the effect of exhausting the soil of all its evil qualities, and render successive ploughings easy.

The harrows which they use are of a piece with their ploughs. These are nothing more than small bamboo ladders, constructed, like all their other useful implements, in the simplest and rudest manner. They are of various lengths; a piece of bamboo being split in two, four or five thinner pieces, of the length of a cubit or so each, are infixed into them cross ways, and made fast at the ends by ropes. The ladder thus prepared is united to the yoke by means of another rope of the length of five, six, or seven feet, and dragged by a couple of oxen, while a man stands on it, both with a view of giving weight to, and guiding it. The use of this machine is too well known to need to be mentioned: it is several times, for successive days, carried backwards and forwards over the ploughed ground before the clods are reduced to dust; nor even then, for very frequently a great many of them are observed lying unbroken all over the field. If the spiky roller were introduced into the country, what a deal of time and labour might be saved! This boon is probably reserved for the East Indians. The harrows intended for smoothing gardens, and spaces under tops of trees, are smaller, which is frequently the case, as ginger and turmeric are commonly planted in the latter of those descriptions of ground, where they not only thrive best, but the earth about the roots of trees, being in consequence of their being planted there, loosened, tends to accelerate their growth, and

make them fruitful. A new harrow is usually made once every year, at a very trifling expense.

I need not take up the reader's time with descriptions of the other few implements of husbandry in use among the natives, such as the hoe, scythe, &c. as they are to be seen in the possession of every Malee in town. They may be mentioned, should the various articles of cultivation to be treated of require it. I cannot, however, omit inviting the attention of the East Indians, in this place, to the fact of the richness of the soil of India, which, with such imperfect tools and such insufficient labour, enables its inhabitants, where other local circumstances do not prove detrimental, to live comfortably.

The following are some among the articles which occupy, in their cultivation, the principal attention of the agriculturists of this country.

Rice or Paddy, of which there are innumerable species, is the grand staple commodity of Bengal, Ourissa, and the Dukkhan, as wheat is of the western provinces. The cultivation of this article may be divided into three crops, i. e. the *aman*, the *aos*, and the *boro*. The *aos* is uniformly cultivated, in Bengal, the western provinces, Ourissa, and the Dukkhan, first. Its cultivation commences in the months of April and May. I have already noticed the method of ploughing adopted for the rearing of this article. The next thing attended to is the scattering of the seed, after which nothing further is done until the growth of grass, &c. renders weeding necessary. This is effected either by employing day labourers, or by forming a compact amongst themselves, the cultivators, to weed each other's fields jointly by turns. The *aos* crop is reaped in August and September. The straw, obtained from this crop is reckoned to be gross, and, notwithstanding it is supposed to be injurious to the cattle which are fed with it, it is nevertheless done; and the sale induced, by purchases for this purpose, goes a great way to pay the ground rent. This crop never falls into the hands of the Muhajun, according to a stipulation previously made: the rest share a different fate*, and usually suffices to afford the farmers food until the *aman* crop is gathered. Of late, great quantities of *aos* land is appropriated to the cultivation of indigo, which, however it may contribute to enrich the individual and promote

* See body of the Essay, chap. Practicability of Colonization.

foreign commerce, has had the effect of raising the price of corn to a rate extremely prejudicial to the comforts of the community. This opinion might be established by the fact, that rice is cheapest where the cultivation of indigo has not been attempted. In some places, sesamum, cotton, and some other articles are cultivated in the *aoos* lands; but this is not the general practice.

After the *aoos*, the *amun* is most frequently sown, which yields the crop that constitutes the stay of the people, and a general failure of which inevitably produces a famine. This was the case, it will be fresh in the memory of many, in the year 1808, or thereabouts, when the rice, in general use among the natives, was sold at 10 seers for the rupee. The best crops are obtained in the lowest lands, shallows or jullas, which retain their moisture longest;—where, however, this disadvantage is felt, that they cannot be appropriated to the cultivation of any thing else, after the rice has been gathered; and when, as they are very subject to it, a greater quantity of water than usual collects in them, that it does not dry up in time, it destroys the crop. It has been calculated that only one crop in three years is realized from them. When it does succeed, I have known instances when each *beegha* of land has yielded upwards of sixteen maunds of rice.

After the lands have been sufficiently ploughed, they are suffered to lie in that state until the rains have left several inches of water in the beds, which have little banks raised on all sides of them to prevent the water from running out. When the earth is become quite soaked, the beds are puddled by another ploughing, and the harrow drawn over them to level them, the water still continuing, as before, a few inches high. Now the paddy plants are removed from the higher beds, where the seed had been sown, to them. They are planted in tufts of two or three, at small distances apart from each other. Some species of the *amun* rice plants, when they are grown to a certain height, are mowed, or cropped, almost down to the roots, with a view to thicken the bushes, and thereby to secure a richer crop. To effect this, the farmers drive their cattle into the field, by whom the requisite operation is soon accomplished, and more; for they tread down many of the plants so much, that they never revive again. The greatest part, however, answer their expectations. The other species of this rice are not suffered to be thus exposed to the teeth of the

cattle. The *amun* does not require weeding, in such places where the water is suffered to continue on the beds throughout the season. The husbandmen commence reaping in October, and finish in December. After the paddy has been cut, it is left on the beds, if there is no water, for some time ; if there is, it is removed to higher spots, and ere long conveyed to the threshing-floors, where the grain is either beaten out of the straw by being dashed against planks, or trodden out by cattle, which though it is the easiest method, injures the straw more than the other, by rendering them unfit for covering the roofs of houses. They answer for feeding cattle ; in a country, however, where there is no lack of pasturage, such a use of the straw is a material loss to the husbandmen ; for, could the separation be effected without hurting the straw, it might be carried to the towns, and sold for good sums of ready money. By calculation, it appears to me, that the straw produce of one beegha of tolerable land, would more than discharge one whole year's rent of it. In fact, there is not any thing in their agriculture which falls under observation, that does not carry with it some proofs of the want of energy and judicious management among the natives.

In some places, before the *amun* arrives at perfection, pease, &c. are sown on the fields, without ploughing, of course, which grow up simultaneously with the paddy, and which, after the latter has been reaped, affords a most useful crop to the husbandman. They are not injured in the least by being trod upon during the time the paddy is cut, and they neither require weeding, nor any other process attendant on the cultivation of other things. They are plucked up when they have reached perfection, and the grain separated by being trod under foot of cattle. The most useful crop, however, next to the rice, is mustard, an article of great consumption, which in many places, succeeds the rice, both *aoos* and *amun* ; most commonly the former, and the latter only when the crop is earlier than usual, the earth moist enough to admit of an easy ploughing, and water sufficiently near and abundant to afford plentiful irrigation.

It is worthy of remark, that though the lands in the eastern parts of Bengal are lowest, and subject to regular annual inundations, and though, in general, only one crop of any kind of grain is obtained from them, yet rice is cheaper there by far than else-

where*. In consequence of there being only one crop, the rent of ground there is also much less than any where else ; and in some of the districts, the *Zamcendars* charge no rent for a piece of ground which has never been cultivated, until it has been brought into a cultivable state : after which, for the first year, one or two annas is charged per beegha, per annum. A land under the circumstances to which it has now been brought, goes, in different districts, by different names. The second year the rent is doubled ; and the third year, which establishes the future rate, an amount seldom exceeding 8 ans. per beegha is levied. Towards the Jungul Muhals, Midnapoor, some parts of Oorissa, and nearly throughout the Dukkhun, the average amount of juma cannot be said to be more. Towards Poorneea, Deenajpoor, Rungpoor, Latoor, it is much the same. In Burdwan, Hooglee, Choubees Purgunah, Nudca, Moorshedabad, and other contiguous districts, the juma per beegha is seldom less than 1 rupee, in general 2 rupees, and very frequently 3 and 4 rupees per annum. Of course, the East Indian colonists should avoid these places. p

With the process of cultivation and its circumstances, connected with the *boro*, which is the last crop of rice, I am not thoroughly acquainted, and will therefore pass over it with only one remark, the result of the only particular which has fallen under my observation ; viz. in some of the more eastern districts, this rice is planted in the latter end of December, usually on the shallow banks of rivers. I saw them in many places on both banks of the rivers, Megna, and Bruhmapootra. It is reaped in these places, and must be the case, in other places also, in May and June.

* The article that, next to rice, occupies the principal share of the native husbandman's attention, is the *Cupas* or cotton. The lands appropriated to it need more ploughing than those in which paddy is sown. The seed is scattered without any aim at regularity or order, in consequence of which, the plants in some places grow too thick together, whilst in others very thin. In such places as they are too thick, they are thinned by plucking out some of the plants. This inconvenience is, indeed, felt in the cultivation of all the smaller grains which do not require transplantation ; and if the instrument or machine which is used in England, and in va-

* All the three kinds of rice mentioned above, are cultivated there.—Ed. *

rious parts of the continent of Europe, for the purpose of scattering seeds, was introduced here, it would be avoided, and much advantage experienced. May not this boon also have been reserved for the East Indians* ?

Much injury is sustained by the cotton, from want of sufficient rain on the one hand, and excess of hail on the other. When the latter is too abundant, the cotton crop totally fails. The cotton is sown in September, immediately after the *soos* crop, and is fit to be gathered about April, which is generally done by women and children. The seeds are disengaged from the cotton by means of a pair of rollers turning in opposite directions; after which it is marketable.

There are two sorts of cotton, *Dasee* and *Soortee*. The latter, a few of which I once planted along a hedge, is perennial. They attained to the height of 10 feet; and each bush, which consisted of three or four plants, yielded about a pound of very superior cotton. It seems unaccountable, unless it be with a view to gain a crop of rice before it, why, of the two descriptions of cotton, the latter should be chiefly cultivated by the farmers of this country. After my plants had ceased to bear, I cut them down to the ground; but ere long fresh plants shot up from the roots, and bore cotton which was not inferior to the first crop. I followed up this plan for three successive years, with similar result. In the fourth year they bore less, which I attribute to the little attention I had paid to them; and, indeed, they ultimately died away, as I had ceased to take any further trouble about them.

— The sugar-cane is another article, which may be included in the staple commodities of Hindoosthan, that partakes a portion of the prime attention of the native cultivator, according to whose practice, the land, on which it is reared, does not require more ploughing than the lands of the articles of which I have already spoken. The upper end, or the most leafy part of the plants, having been lopped off the foregoing year, and having been preserved fresh in wet beds or excavations, either on the banks of ponds or other moist places, are taken up in the month of March following,

* Dr. Carey, in his judicious address on the subject of this Appendix, published in the 1st No. of the *Quarterly Series of the Friend of India*, strongly recommends improvement in the implements of the husbandry of this country, and the introduction of European ones.—Ed.

and cut into pieces of about the length of six inches, each of which usually contains four or five eyes or embryos of the future stalks and, in that state, obliquely planted, closed together, in other moist beds, and covered over with straw or some such thing, to shelter them from the heat of the sun. When the eyes begin to send forth stalks, and the cuts to take root, they are removed into the fields prepared for their reception, where they are planted in rows three feet apart from each other, and, to prevent failure, in pairs. At the roots of the plants, or about them, some of the sediments of the oil mill, which they suppose to possess the property of preventing white ants destroying them, are scattered. The spaces between the plants, which by this time are a couple feet high, are twice ploughed up without doing them any harm : after this the lands are occasionally irrigated ; and as the plants grow higher and higher, the lowest leaves, which begin to decay, are wrapped round the bushes to which they belong, with a view to prevent them from falling down, and to keep off insects. The sugar-cane is fit to be reaped in September : only those, however, cut it so early who take the canes for sale to the bazar ; those who manufacture sugar, leave the canes standing till November. It has been calculated, that a *beegha* of sugar-cane, cultivated by means of day-labourers, costs from 50 to 60 rupees, which, we may reasonably suppose, is nearly the amount realized by the farmer, when he cultivates and manufactures the sugar himself.

The indigenous cane is of two sorts, the green and the purple. The former has more juice, but the latter is sweeter, and valued more than the former. Of late, a gigantic species of the purple sugar-cane has been introduced, probably from the Carnatic, which is cultivated chiefly on the eastern banks of the Hoogles, in the neighbourhood of the metropolis. This species yields, comparatively, less juice than either of the others ; but its magnitude would demand the preference. As yet, I am not aware that a sufficient quantity of it is cultivated to admit of manufacturing sugar out of it : if it were, I have no reason to doubt that it would yield as good sugar as any of the others. They are brought to the bazars and markets of Calcutta, and sold in their natural state. Moist lands invariably create worms in the sugar-cane. High spots, therefore, are usually selected for their cultivation ; not however too high, for that again prevents their arriving at a tolerable height, though they are

not the less sweet or delicate for being shorter than they would otherwise be. The *urhar*, to which they ascribe the virtue of keeping out vermin, is generally sown round the sugar-cane fields. Jackalls, foxes, hares, and porcupines do considerable damage, in some parts of the country, in the cane fields.

To the above may be added, the plantain, a very useful article, and the cultivation of which deservedly occupies much of the care and attention of the farmer. The following are the different species which are cultivated of this fruit. The *chumpu*, the *cheence-chumpu*, the *murtwan*, the *chatganee*, or, as it is called by the Bengalees, *chatim*, the *ramkela*, the *kuchkela*, the *kuthalee*, and the *beejakela*, which derives its nomenclature from the great quantity of stones, of the size of a peppercorn, that are in them, and for which reason it is not only reckoned to be indifferent, but cultivated to a very small extent; in general only a few bushes are planted in each field, and that not so much on account of the fruit as the leaves of it. The *ramkela*, the prettiest and best flavoured, is never cultivated by the farmers: those that are to be met with are found in the gardens of respectable individuals. Its not being cultivated by the farmers is owing to superstition, it being one of those things, the cultivation of which has never obtained among their ancestors; and the departure, therefore, from this ancestral practice, or rather, non-practice, would involve a direct violation of one of the maxims which has received credit among them, that they must do nothing, or it is dangerous to do any thing, which their ancestors have not done. It is obvious, however, that this superstition is wearing away fast; and many things which have been introduced by foreigners into the country, and which the natives have not scrupled to adopt, might be mentioned in confirmation of this assertion; but I conceive it is unnecessary. A single bunch of the *ramkela*, fetches more in the bazaar than half a dozen of any other species.

The *murtwan* is generally believed to be the native of Dhaka; but there is reason to suspect it is not the case; it is more probable that it comes from a country of its own name, Martaban. The shell of this plantain, which is very thick, retains a considerable portion of the green colour, even when quite ripe: if, however, they are kept in straw, which is sometimes done for the purpose of ripening them, they become perfectly yellow. The flavour of it

approaches much to that of the *ramkela*. When it is ripe, it becomes too soft, and when not quite ripe it is very astringent: these defects, if they will be so called, however, are compensated for by the agreeableness of its taste. It is not cultivated in the interior of the country: the few bushes of it which we see, are in the gardens and fields, in the immediate vicinities of Calcutta, usually on both banks of the river. It is rarely to be met with in the bazar, though not so scarce as the *ramkela*.

The *chumpā*, of both species, is very common; the bazars teem with it. I have seen bunches of it so very large, as to require two coolies to carry one of them. When ripe, it has a very agreeable yellow colour, and pleasant flavour. This, as well as the *beejakela*, will grow and thrive any where, and that almost without any manner of culture. The *chumpā* is also not cultivated in the interior. The *chatgānee* is yellow when ripe, and much larger than any of the species yet noticed, excepting the *beejukela*. It is cheap, and probably on that account the natives give it the preference to those already mentioned. In some respects, I am inclined to think, it is better than the *chumpā*; but then it requires a longer time to ripen, and very often, though the shell is quite yellow, the pulp is disagreeably astringent. In the cold season, the pulp is full of lumps of a hard consistence, which render it both uneatable and unwholesome: it is best during the hot season. The *kuthalee* (so termed from the fancy of the natives, which resembles its taste to that of the *kathal*, jack,) is cultivated all over the country, and in the largest quantities, but very unaccountably; for the *chumpā* is far superior, and bears an equal, and more than equal number of fruits. The *kuthalee*, in consequence of its abundance, is the cheapest. I have often seen upwards of twenty sell for one pie. When it is suffered to arrive at perfection, it might be allowed to possess as rich a flavour as either the *chumpā* or *chatgānee kōla*: some give it the preference. The great mart for this, as well as several other species of the plantain, is Bydabatee. The multitudes of boats that are laden with it for the Calcutta markets would scarcely appear credible. These are generally green, but they are afterwards ripened by artificial means. Great quantities are also exported to the above-mentioned markets from Chakda and Sookh Sagur.

The *kuchkela*, which is never suffered to get ripe, is most prized by the natives, on account of its being adapted for use as a cu-

linary vegetable. The fields exhibit this and the last mentioned species in the greatest abundance. The *kuchkela* is of two species, the triangular, which, though less in size, and containing less edible substance, is better in quality than the other, which is pentangular in shape. The *kuchkela* is one of those few articles of food which their circumscribing religion allows the Hindoos the use of. I am of opinion that it is a very valuable fruit, as it may be used in lieu of bread, if properly prepared; though where wheat is procurable, I would give bread the preference. They taste well, both when fried and dressed up with fish curries, or in other such shapes: in short, it is a very wholesome vegetable. The bunches these trees bear are by no means so large as those which those of any of the other species bear; but the fruits are larger: the largest ones I have seen, measured nearly a foot in length, and two inches in diameter.

The grounds selected for the cultivation of the article, the different species of which I have just been briefly describing, are rather elevated, and such as have lain waste for some time, or have had a deep coat of earth, dug out of old tanks, spread over them. I have not known a single instance of land, intended for it, manured by any other means: and unless a fresh coat of earth is thrown in the field, it never thrives more than four years on the same spot. After the ground has been indifferently ploughed a couple times, the young plants are set in regular rows, at the distance of eight or nine feet from each other, which is done between the months of May and September, but chiefly in the last month, because at that time the superfluous upsets are dug up to make room for those which are to remain about the parent tree. If too many sprouts are permitted to remain about the parent, they never acquire a proper size, and consequently bear but indifferent fruit: moreover, the parent tree is considerably injured. Only two of the upsets, one on each side of the parent, are therefore suffered to remain. As one tree never bears fruit more than once, it is cut down after the fruits have come to perfection. Of the four years in which the plantain is cultivated on one spot, the products of the second and third years are best: in the fourth year its quality begins to decline. After the tree that has borne fruit is cut down, the root of it is suffered to remain in the ground till the month of October, when the earth is ploughed up, and the roots dug

up. In the month of August, the earth is scraped away, by means of a hoe or *kodalee*, from about the foot of the plant, and placed in mounds in the middle of the space between each row, and replaced in its former position some time afterwards.

There is scarcely a part of this plant which is not turned to some useful purpose or other by the natives. 1. The fruit; the uses of which need no mention. 2. The green leaves; which supply the place, first, of plates and dishes:—hence plates and dishes, and even cups and saucers, of all descriptions, whether made of stone, metal, earth, or wood, are called *pottro*, which is the name, in the native language, of leaves in general. Secondly, of paper, as the papyrus which grew on the banks of the Nile supplied the place of it to the Egyptians, &c.—hence letters, &c. are called *pottro*. At present, the use of it for the purposes of writing is confined to schools; but it is not at all unlikely, that before the invention of paper it was more general. And thirdly, of covering or envelope to various articles, such as sugar, salt, betel, flowers, &c. for which purpose it is brought into the market longitudinally divided, and rolled up in bundles containing twenty pieces each. On this head it may be remarked, that the practice of divesting the trees of their uppermost leaves, which the natives indulge in, is detrimental to their growth. 3. The dry leaves which hang down about the trunk, are cut off, and sold in bundles at the bazar for fuel. 4. The pith, which is used as vegetable for food. 5. The fructification, or *mocha*, which is likewise used as vegetable. And 6. The roots, or rather the bulbous parts of the trees which have been cut down, and which, as observed before, remain in the earth till October, are burnt, after being dried in the sun, and the ashes sold to the washermen, who use it in bleaching clothes. The roots of the *kuthalee*, *kuchkela*, and *chatgance*, are reckoned to be best for this purpose, on account of their possessing a greater degree of astringency than the rest.

A more useful tree than the plantain can scarcely be conceived. To what a variety of purposes the different parts of it are applied. But equal to its utility, are the profits derivable from it. A field of plantains of the extent of 8 or 10 beeghas, affords ample means of support to the cultivator. The daily vend of the several parts above enumerated fetches eight annas: to the correctness of this, I can vouch my own experience.

It is not, however, exempt from misfortunes. A heavy shower of hail destroys the prospects of the cultivator for a couple years. The East Indian colonists should not exclusively appropriate any spot to the cultivation of this article : any small waste patch of ground would answer well, and perhaps best. The high banks of tanks, which are entirely neglected by the natives, would afford superior crops of plantains. Every creek and cranny should be planted with it.

The last of those articles which occupy the chief attention of the native farmer, which I shall mention, is the tobacco, the amazing consumption of which, all over the world, is incredible. I am aware that East India is not the only place where it is produced, and that in America, as well as in other quarters of the globe, great quantities of it are also cultivated ; but I refer to the curious fact of its having become, in a short time, such a favourite of the world. In Europe, the use of tobacco was unknown before the discovery of the new world, where, we are told by Robertson, the credulity of the people not only ascribed a thousand imaginary virtues to the use of it, " but their superstition considered the plant itself as a gracious gift of the gods, for the solace of human kind, and the most acceptable offering which man can present to heaven." Lane and his associates introduced it in England. In India, but particularly in Bengal, an acquaintance with the use of it is acquired from childhood by the natives; and it is a luxury without which they cannot absolutely do. That under such circumstances, even if the use of it by Europeans here and abroad did not superinduce the necessity of a more extensive cultivation, it should attract much of the native farmer's attention, is not a matter of surprise.

It is said, that nothing else of consequence will arrive at perfection in tobacco lands. However this be, the preparing of the land is attended with unusual labour. It must be dug or ploughed deeper for it than for any other article of cultivation, and must be literally reduced to dust. The ploughing commences in July, and is not finished before the end of August. Between those months, the seed is cast in a small elevated bed, after which the surface of the earth is beat down. When the plants have arrived at the height of four or five inches, they are removed to the fields, and planted at a short distance from each other in rows. When the plants are about

one foot high, the tender stalks are nipped off between the nails, with a view to cause all the moisture which the plants draw from the earth to flow into the leaves, which are left on the stem, and which are seldom more than six. This nipping off of the stalks or scions is repeated as often as they make their appearance ; at the same time the lands are kept clear of weeds, and plentifully irrigated. In such spots where the water lodges for any length of time, or such as are more moist than others, the tobacco leaves become shrivelled, and acquire a pale green colour, both which are symptoms of inferiority of crop. On the contrary, when the leaves are broad, thick, of a dark green colour, and the spaces between the veins considerably swollen, they are signs of a good crop. The leaves are fit for being removed when they become crisp, and break with a noise when doubled close. The first crop consists of the lowest leaves, which are broken off as they begin to change colour, and are suffered to lie on the ground for two or three days, and then removed to be dried in the sun. This mode of drying the leaves is prejudicial to their quality, and hence the first crop is always very indifferent. The second crop is reaped in January. The plants are cut down, and undergo a similar process of curing as the leaves of the first crop, which, therefore, is not much superior to it. The tobacco of Bengal is not so good as that of the Upper Provinces. The best tobacco in India is produced at Chupar, or rather Chundal or Choomargurh ; as in America, the best tobacco is produced at Cuba. There is another sample of equally good quality, and, perhaps, superior, found on the coast of Coromandel, called *bundamoor-lunka*. There is another very curious species of tobacco, partially cultivated, at Jusur*, the leaves of which are round, and the flowers more abundant and larger : it is ten times stronger than any I am acquainted with, and not subjected by its cultivators to the process of treatment which the tobacco of other parts undergoes, nor are the scions taken away as in them.

It would prove an endless task to treat individually of the various articles which are cultivated by the native farmers : it is not necessary ; nor would the limits I have been under the necessity of prescribing to this portion of my task admit of it. Some of the articles which share the principal attention of the farmer in their cultivation, I have, as far as my knowledge of them went,

* It is also cultivated farther eastward.—Ed.

submitted to the notice of the reader. It is upon these especially, that the East Indian colonists will have to depend, next to their live stock, for the comfortable support of themselves and families.

A variety of other things of less value is cultivated by the native farmers; but these generally comprise the second and third crops, and are very carelessly attended to. They would undoubtedly thrive better under the care of the East Indian colonists. Some of them we may just run over. Ginger, garlic, onions, turmeric, and chillies, may be mentioned together, as nearly the same mode of cultivation is observed in reference to them. The two former, according to the plan of the natives, only require to be committed to the ground, to secure a crop of each. After the ground has been moderately ploughed, trenches of the depth of three inches are dug, in which, in the month of August, the roots are laid, and covered over with a couple hands-full of dust. As the plants grow up, the earth raised from the trenches are replaced with some additional earth from the space between the rows. This treatment is also observed with respect to potatoes of both sorts, with several species of the *arum* (*kuchchoo*,) &c. I met with considerable success in rearing the chilly in a similar manner. The melons, cucumbers, and all other creepers undergo the treatment observed with regard to the corn, &c. of cultivation, which are comprised in the second and third crops. As they are sown and then watered, and the earth about their roots kept loose, such is the native richness of the soil, that they are generally turned to very good account. One species of the onion, however, requires a little more than ordinary labour. After the land has undergone the process of ploughing, it is divided into beds of ten feet square, into which, after having been sufficiently puddled with plenty of water, the plants are removed from the nursery. Hereafter the earth is kept well weeded and loosened, and now and then irrigated. This onion is the best, being more full-bodied and richer in quality than others.

The *sun* and *pat*, from which rope, twine, &c. are manufactured, require simply the seed to be thickly scattered; and the closer the plants are to each other, the more delicate is their bark. The flower of the former, and the leaves of the latter, make very good curry. The *sun* is cut down while in blossom, as the fibres then

are tender, and will admit of fine twine being spun out of them. Only so much is left standing as will yield a sufficiency of seed. After the plants are cut down, they are tied into bundles of ~~one~~ ^{one} foot in diameter, and planted in ponds with their heads a little above water. After a couple days they are turned upside down. In the space of four days they are taken out, and the fibres separated, either by being beaten with the stock of a coconut leaf, ~~on~~ on the surface of the water, and put in the sun to dry. They are then packed up in bales, for sale, &c.

From the above detail of facts, the following conclusions are warranted. 1st. That the natives are very indolent. This remark has been more than once anticipated before; but there is no objection to repeating it here. It is difficult to say what may have contributed to form this feature of the native character, unless the hint ~~thrown~~ ^{thrown} out in a previous part of the essay be admitted, that such is the rich luxuriance of the soil of the country, that little labour is necessary to secure a sufficiency of means for the support of life. To this may be added another reason, that there is little incentive to industry under the indolent and injurious system adopted by *zameendars*, of renting their *talooks* to a second person, and that second to a third, and so on; which, while each but the last never makes the transfer without an ~~excessively~~ ^{excessively} exorbitant profit, renders it necessary that the last should look to ~~the whole of the means of~~ ^{the whole of the means of} the profit of so many must be derived besides his own. The consequences are high rent and oppressive exactions; and it is impossible that under such circumstances there can be any motive to activity. 2. That great improvements are necessary, both in the implements and modes of cultivation in vogue among the natives. And 3, and lastly, That if the East Indian colonists are industrious, and will adopt improved methods and implements of culture, there is no reason why they should not prosper.

THE END.

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