



JOURNAL  
OF  
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## A TOUR DOWN THE DAMOODAH,

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*August 17th, 1858.*—Left Burdwan by Railway for Bood-Bood, via Mancoor. Left Bood-Bood at half-past 5 p. m., struck the Damoodah embankments at Sillea on the left bank, and reached Gobogram bungalow at 10 p. m. The journey was principally over paddy fields, but occasionally over pieces of catcha roads, or through waste ground, bearing only a small prickly bush, until we reached the Bund, when, though slippery, the travelling for palanquins or on horse-back was sufficiently good. About 3 p. m. the largest flood of the season, up to the present time, commenced, and by 6 p. m. the river had risen five feet, and when the flood ceased in the morning the total rise had been thirteen feet. Some time before reaching Sillea, we could distinctly hear the growl of the floods, not at all an unpleasant sound when you are safe from them. Mr. Smith, the Executive Engineer, (who accompanied me,) and I were in luck, so far as the object of our tour was concerned; which was to discover to what extent the country on the right bank of the Damoodah was injured by the periodical floods in consequence of the removal of the right embankments in 1856-57.

*August 18th.*—We had been hitherto travelling in Thanaah Champagnogoree, but this morning we walked two miles along the Bund from Gobogram to Seondah, a considerable village in Thanaah Begha. To

the south of this, and west of the line of Bund, is a large quantity of *char* lands, accretions to several neighboring mehals; but none of the land is under cultivation, and, although it is only during very occasional extraordinary floods\* subject to immersion, it is still not fit for any cultivation, only coarse short sparse grass growing upon it. We here crossed the river to Saneeghat-Golah on the right bank, whence the removal of the former right embankments begins. The full stream of the Damoodah falls upon Saneeghat, and the embankment formerly

\* Vide Plate at the end of the Book, Figure No. 1. protected the village in this way:— At

A the ground is low, and was very much, though not completely, flooded, when we were there this morning, and must be completely so during the heaviest floods. The river therefore rushes in at A in great force into the khal, and at C there is a back-water into the same khal, and all the low ground of Saneeghat, Golah, Nobogram, Mateparah, and Beachparah, is deeply flooded, but from the evidence of crowds of people and of the talookdars or monduls or gomashas of all the neighbouring villages or lots, I ascertained that the injury apparent would not have occurred, (except in unusual high floods, such as there have not been for the last two years,) if it were not for a private bund erected by the talookdar of Radhakristopore, a village to the south of Kandar Khal. This bund runs between Radhakristopore and the khal, and while it protects the lands of Radhakristopore, it injures those of all the other villages in my sketch, by narrowing the channel of the khal, and deepening the waters, which thus destroy the crops they might otherwise only duly irrigate.

We examined this private bund carefully, and although the ryots of Radhakristopore declared it to have been in existence since 1210 B. S., we tested their consciences by pole and minute inspection, and found that not above two feet of foundation were of any old structure, and that the rest had only recently been erected, the turf being quite loose and lately laid down, the mud soft and in some places not turfed at all. We were quite agreed therefore that the bund was a recent structure and the Executive Officer will take measures to remove it, under Act 32, 1855, as a work benefiting one village at the expence of many. From Nobogram we recrossed the river to Tarpore, the flood having already subsided some nine inches, and thence travelled along the left bank to Jojootes bungalow, where we arrived about 11, having been out since half-past 5 a. m. We could clearly see the right bank of the river, and that it had not by some feet been flooded during this, the highest flood of the season. The Damoodah is diverted from Saneeghat

to the opposite bank, against which the stream presses, close up to the embankment at this time of the year, with considerable force as far as Jojootee.

Our boat disappointed us at Jojootee, and we could not get another in which to cross the river, and we were therefore compelled to get the best

N. B.—I have since ascertained that there is a serious breach at Roopahoo, vide page of this Journal. On the left bank, along which we were travelling, the stream of the river bears from Boharpore to below Kunchunnogore, where we struck inland to return for the night to Burdwan. The whole way from Jojootee to Kunchunnogore is a strip of land through which runs a deep khal at this season, averaging perhaps a mile broad, and covered with the long grass used for thatching, with only here and there a patch of paddy or other such cultivation.

information our eyes could give us of the state of the opposite bank of the river, and to rely on any statements of the condition of the lands on the right bank which occasional passers-by could afford to us. From Jojootee to Boharpore the strength of the stream is against the right bank, but that bank is naturally high the whole way along from opposite Jojootee to Kamalpore, and we could not hear of any breaches or damage done.

This first day of work during our tour we travelled, I suppose, over upwards of 26 miles of ground, and the result of our investigations was this:—that, although in the villages of Saneeghat, Golah, Nobogram, Mateaparah, and Beuchparah, and especially in the two first and last, perhaps some 500 beeghas have been thrown out of paddy cultivation, yet not above 40 or 50 beeghas have been so through the action of the Damoodah in consequence of the removal of the right embankments; the rest being paddy fields submerged, and their crops destroyed or damaged in consequence of the private embankment of Radhakristopore, a work which the Executive Engineer will make it his business to remove with as little delay as possible.

*August 19th.*—We crossed the river this morning at Sudderghat, and moved along the line of the old right embankments in the following order:

1st.—Jamnah. The natural bank is here high, and the land rises slopingly inland from the bank. The country is all about here well cultivated,—paddy, plantains, and such like, being in the villages, and the land around, as far as we could see, (being perhaps an horizon of two to three miles' radius) covered with paddy crops.

Some little time after leaving Jamnah, the river bank becomes lower, but the country still rises from it. The river stream bears upon the bank, and there is much sand on the surface of the neighbouring lands, and much is uncultivated; and the paddy and *kulai* (peas) crops are thin,

partly because of this admixture of too much sand in the lands, but partly also from the general scarcity of rain this season.

2nd.—Bangatcha. In and about the village there are plantations of bamboos, plantains, mangoes, and the like, and the bank of the river becomes higher, although the stream still bears upon it; the crops of paddy and *kulai* (peas) are scanty and thin. Immediately after passing the village the lands appear for some way inland to be as yet uncultivated, but we counted no less than twenty ploughs at work close at hand. Here there is a small khal leading out of the Damoodah, the waters of which have been attempted to be shut out by the vil-

N. B.—I passed over this land again in December. It had not been cultivated; but this was, I think, in consequence of the general dearth of the season:—there were no complaints this time here of injuries from inundations, but the land has evidently suffered from them—but not specially, I am inclined to believe, in consequence of the removal of the embankments.

lagers by a short bund, lately erected. The evidence of ryots of the neighbouring villages went to shew that about 100 beeghas of land hereabouts had always since 1230 B. S., been more or less injured by deposits of sand, left by the floods of the Damoodah, but that since the destruction of the right embankments, some 500 beeghas had been more permanently injured. There is a chur here which seems to act as a kind of break-water, otherwise the rush of flood-water into this khal would be much greater and more disastrous.

3rd.—Jaktah. Joykissen Mookerjee, Talookdar. An extremely pretty village situated in the midst of bamboo plantations, growing on a fine hard turf, evidently long formed, although the grass on it is coarse and short; there is a chur forming to the south-east of the village, there are fine crops of *kulai* (peas) and *kochoo* (a sort of yam), and such like, in and near the village, and inland there is a good shew of paddy, and plentiful cultivation generally.

4th.—Bamunniah. Chuckor Singh, the Zemindar. The approaches to the village, and the village itself, seem protected and flourishing, the banks being rather low but quite sound, and the ground rising towards the village in which are plantations of mangoes, cocoanuts, &c., situate on a firm coarse turf; but between this village and Hijulnah has occurred the most real and greatest amount of injury we have yet observed. In front of both the above villages churs have formed, which hold the stream of the Damoodah in a sort of funnel, through which it pours into a khal situate

vide Plate at the end of the Book, Figure No. 2. between the two villages. This khal apparently communicates with a large piece of water called the Kankor Bheel, but as the width at its mouth is 800 feet

so large a body of water rushing into it cannot be contained in its channel, or in the Bheel with which it communicates, but is said by all the neighbouring ryots to spread over the whole country south, to Rynah and Amptah, where it is said to rejoin the Damoodah. The deposit of sand left in its course is said to vary from one to six feet, and so great has been the quantity of land thus said to have been thrown out of cultivation, that, as the ryots expressed it, "10 annas" of the villagers had left the villages of Bamuniah and Hijulnah alone. Doubtless there is much exaggeration in their accounts, but they each and all as they joined our party told the same story; and of this main fact Mr. Smith and I were quite convinced,—that a flood 800 feet wide rushing through this khal would certainly spread over miles of country in the directions named, and cause immense damage. For two years after the removal of the right embankments the ryots remained passive, but their landlords refusing to remit any revenue, they had this year erected a private embankment of 800 feet across the mouth of the khal, and protected by this, have cultivated what appear to be good crops of paddy in all directions, only about 150 to 200 beeghas in the immediate neighbourhood of the river being left uncultivated. The ryots do not deny that much injury was always done through the medium of breaches of the embankments at this place, but the breaches only happened very occasionally, they allege, the spread of water was not so extensive, and the deposit of sand was proportionately small. With the consent of their landlords, they profess to be desirous to pay for the expence of maintaining such a bund at this point as the Executive Engineer shall direct. Mr. Smith, the Executive Engineer, here adds a note, that he doubts their willingness to incur further expence on this dam, and that in its present state it would not stand a high flood, and he adds that if Government should approve of the closing of the khal, it must be prepared to bear the expence, as the destruction of the dam by the floods would do more damage than the leaving the mouth of the khal open.

Bamuniah, Hijulnah,\* Hurreerampore, Bonteer, Hongram, Raipore, Teandool, Wuzerpore, Kyrapore, Seebpore, Chota-Kyrapore, Jotsadih, Bookoor, Boliarpore, Asajyopore, Modhoochun, Gopalnoggur, Duriapore, Damash, Baro, Ongoonah, were some of the villages mentioned as much injured. The right embankment still exists as a protection to the front of the village of Hijulnah, and the cultivation immediately, behind this is plentiful and forward. Between Hijulnah and Horreopore is a bund of which Government has permitted the erection to protect land which would otherwise be injured by the flood rushing into a khal

smaller than, but similar to, the one above mentioned; which khal communicates with the other, and as it were isolates the village of Hijiunah, to the south of which the floods, entering these two khals, spread. From Hurreepore we crossed over to Dadpore, and thence proceeded down the left embankment to Gopalpore bungalow, where we stayed the heat of the day. About half-past 3, we started again, crossing over to Jamdohoh, Chuck Kristopore, where two serious breaches of the bank have lately been stopped by permission of Government. For the two years previous to this, i. e., since the removal of the right embankments, the country in the neighbourhood of these breaches has been laid under water, and some 200 or 300 beeghas, including part of a village, have been put out of cultivation, that were represented to have been always up to that time cultivated. Now, however, that the ryots have been permitted to stop the breaches, they do not complain so much of the injury done, as of the necessity they are under to build the new embankment according to the directions of the Executive Engineer, a matter which no doubt he will satisfactorily settle with them.

Shortly after leaving Jamdohoh two other breaches are observable, the water pouring through which was asserted to spread to the south and to have put out of cultivation a large quantity of the lands of Hybutpore, which have as a consequence for the last three years been waste.

Beyond these breaches is another at Hybutpore, through which the floods spread as far as the eye can reach to Kistopore, a distance of perhaps four miles. Close to the river bank we observed much waste land, but we could not learn that it had not always been so, and although the floods appear to leave a small deposit of sand, yet the paddy crops were plentiful, and the best and forwardest we had yet seen inland, and, except where a narrow stream of water ran, the cultivation generally seemed unusually good. We passed some mile or two over the paddy fields, through a village called Chulbunpore, in order ourselves to judge of the state of the country. Sugar-cane, hemp, and paddy crops, all in good condition were observable in Chulbunpore, which is a talook of Hurrokristo Mittra. Hence we passed still inland, through Puttee Kantikpara to Kistopore and Shadeepore, the talooks of Kalachund Singh and Nobinchund Bosoo respectively. There were good crops of paddy apparent on churs formed between the river and the village above-mentioned, but above Kistopore there is a vent-channel, through which the floods enter and spread over the whole country, until they fall into the Bachooqa Khal, about four miles distant. The waters which enter through this channel meet those entering at Hybutpore, and the

two channels unite in the country behind Shadeepore, which is protected in front by the old embankment, and by the fact that the stream bears from Hybutpore and Dadpore below Shadeepore on the opposite bank.

The scene of devastation apparent from the top of the Kistopore vent-channel was most striking in its desolation, the former village of Kistopore has all but fallen under the influence of successive floods, only a few houses being left, to which, with their usual tenacity to home, some families still cling, and the whole country, as far as the eye could reach to the south, being completely under water, only clumps of long thatch grass being apparent, in places where, if the ryots are to be believed, (and their stories are evidently to a great extent true,) paddy crops formerly grew in abundance. It was almost dark when we recrossed the river, and proceeded down to Jamalpore to pass the night. We had been out nearly the whole day, and did not reach Jamalpore till late at night, having passed over perhaps 24 miles of country, including the four river-crossings of about one mile each time. Our conclusions were that great damages had been done at and in the neighbourhood of Bamuniah, Hijulnah and Jamdohoh in former years, much of them by the removal of the right embankments, but none this year of any consequence or extent, and that still greater damages had been done, as well this year as in other years, on the river banks between Hybutpore and Jamdohoh, and on the country to the south-west of Shadeepore and Kistopore, by the opening of the vent-channel at the latter place some four years back.

*August 20th.*—We left Jamalpore this morning to proceed to Mohunpore, the last bungalow along the left embankments within this district. We did not purpose crossing the river, as there was only one place

N. B. I have since seen a cutting between the two stations at which the right embankment had been cut. This cutting is between Jote Sreeram and Jote-Dukkin, where the bank we had observed was very low, and a narrow khal, with apparently a good deal of water in it, ran up as far as we could see inland: the country all around the khal was however well cultivated with paddy. At Dapdarali, on the left bank, the line of embankment is being raised and further curved to meet the heavy body of water, passing through a very narrow channel, falling upon it with the full force of the stream from the opposite bank. Hurrakisto Baboo is the zemindar of the village, and, I am told, has been petitioning for compensation for land thrown out of cultivation by the digging of earth from it to form the improved embankment. His petition does not represent the whole truth. The ground is being dug out close upon the



river margin, so as to slope this margin off, the better to meet the flood, and the land from which the diggings are made is too close to the stream to admit of any cultivation upon it at this season, and will be the better fitted for cultivation after the rains, in consequence of the very diggings complained of, the diggings removing the upper crust of sand and bringing into use the lower stratum of good soil. There is not only therefore not any loss incurred at present, but if there were a loss at present it would be amply compensated for by the future gain to the land, arising from the digging away the upper crust of sand on it, and by the benefit which the improvement of the Bund must be, in the way of greater security against floods, to the village of Dapdarah generally.

A little beyond Dapdarah is the village of Sonaghurrie, belonging to Brindabon Behary Mittra, talookdar, on account of which there is, a case pending before me for compensation for land taken for a cross embankment, and for twenty-five beeghas of other land, said to have been put out of cultivation by the digging-out of land for the construction of this cross line. I ascertained beyond a doubt that not twenty-two beeghas but at most one hoegha, seventeen cottas, eight chittacks, being strips on either side the Bund, 450 feet long by 30 feet broad on an average, had been used for digging out ground for the embankment, and further that the land dug out was but waste land, rendered so by the flooding of the Damoodah through the breach, which it was the object of this cross line of embankment to ease off. In fact, formerly the line of embankment, after leaving Dapdarah, took a turn to the right; but at this turn the river made a tremendous breach, some eight or ten years back, inundating the village of Sonaghurrie, and then rendering waste the lands in dispute. The floods at present have not done any additional damage to

N. B. This case of Sonaghurrie has been fully reported upon to the Commissioner, and, under my recommendation, and his orders, compensation has been refused. See also page

Sonaghurrie, as they turn off just before reaching the village, round the point of the new cross line of embankment, into a channel which issues out into the Damoodah again at Mohunpore.

At Mohunpore, I took the opportunity of settling the boundaries and arranging for the compensation to be paid for certain lands on which the embankment bungalow and out-houses have for some years stood, and of taking preliminary steps towards obtaining, under Act 32 of 1855, certain further lands for which the Executive Engineer is about to apply, for the purpose of making a road to and fro the bungalow and the embankments. I returned alone to Kamalpoore in the afternoon, to endeavour to settle these amicable terms in the matter of certain lands

taken some years back, without any sanction of competent authorities, for a vent-channel at Halara on the left bank of the river. Investigations had already been made upon the spot in the presence of my Nazir, but terms have not as yet been come to, so I took this opportunity of visiting the scene of dispute.

It proved to be a piece of land of some 90 beeghas to the south of a sort of bay formed at the mouth of the Kana Nuddee. Formerly the flood into this Nuddee was so great as to render this vent-channel at Halara necessary, but since then the bank has silted up, and the flood waters never enter the Kana Nuddee, nor, as a consequence, pass through the Halara vent-channel except in high floods. During the recent flood of thirteen feet, the Executive Engineer informs me a discharge of two feet of water passed through the vent-channel. The land taken was to form a retired embankment, to conduct the flood waters through a breach, which the river itself made, in the first instance, circuitously into the old bed of the Kana Nuddee at the back of the present embankments. Land was formerly taken for a similar purpose at the Kistopore vent-channel, and has lately been taken at Sonaghurrie close to Mohunpore, and unless the Government are prepared to give compensation for all lands taken for embankment purposes, no compensation, in the opinion of the Executive Engineer and myself, should be given for this land at Halara. I was unable to arrange amicably any terms on which the lands, in the event of compensation being allowed at all, should

N. B. The case has been reported on fully to the Commissioner, and under his orders has been referred in the first instance for any remarks to the Superintendent of Embankments, Lower Provinces. See also page

be rated, the majority of the villagers asserting that some 25 to 30, out of the 90 beeghas, were always waste, and the rest *saili awul* at Rs. 5-8, and *saili soona* at Rs. 4-8 per beegha, and being content to get 4 Rs. on 60 beeghas at 20 years' purchase; but one of the parties interested asserted that none of the land was formerly waste, but that all was rateable at the highest price named.

The whole distance travelled this day was about 16 miles.

August 21st.—This morning we commenced our return to Burdwan, travelling up the left bank. From Chundepore to Kolopore on the right bank, the embankments have been allowed to stand, but from Kolopore to above Kanadohob they have been removed.\* The banks are however naturally of an average height between this breach, and although a small part of the stream seems to bear on the country between Nusheepore and Kolopore, by means of a channel which isolates Chuck Kalerah, yet it would not seem to flood the country injuriously, for I

N. B. This was an error, much injury is done to the lands below Nussheepore, see page 30

observed plantains on Chuck Kalerah in large quantities; and on the main land were fine crops; and no water, as far as

the eye could reach, was apparent.

From south the vent-channel at Kistopore to north of Kanadohoh the old embankments remain, and the natural banks are high, and the stream bears invariably on the left bank, which is naturally low, and is in a much-broken condition.

From north of Kistopore vent-channel to south of Goalparah, the right embankments remain, thence viâ Goalparah, Chundulparah, Chulbunpore, and Hybutpore, to south of Jaundohoh, they have been removed, but in front of all these villages large churs are formed, and the stream bears from Hybutpore downwards on the left bank. Plentiful crops of paddy and plantations of plantains are apparent all along to the edge of the churs. In the bend of the river opposite Hybutpore, and on the left bank, an enormous chur has formed; the upper part of this is well cultivated with plantains and paddy, and the ground of the chur here is high and not liable to floods; the lower part of it is also well cultivated generally, but the water seems to lie more here, and the land, being lower, is more liable to floods, and is partially broken. On the right of the left embankments the land is generally well cultivated, but here and there it is waste, being covered but lightly with coarse grass, or with the long thatching grass, indications of former floods.

From north of Jaundohoh to south of Buhrapore on the right bank, the embankments remain, but thence to a village north of Moocheeparah, they have been removed, the natural banks however between this breach appear to be high, and a chur protects them, and the stream bears upon the left bank, and there is no appearance of injury done.

From north of Moocheeparah to Hurreepore, the right embankments remain, and the rest of the country on the right bank up to Saneegbat has already been described. At Gopalpore I had a visit from the putneedar, Monigobun Baboo, quite a young man, and although he has not received any English education, very intelligent and pleasing. At present he seems to know very little of his zemindares affairs, (and he has a zemindares paying a jumma of some 15,000 Rupees to the Maharajah) entrusting them to the Naib, who accompanied him in his visit; but his countenance would seem to shew that he has not yet been brought wholly under senana influences, and he appears anxious to look after his estates and the ryots on them, and has promised me to travel about amongst them more than he has hitherto done, and to do any thing

in his power to better their condition. He maintains an English school, he tells me, at his own expense at Borsol, where he lives, at which there are some 15 to 20 scholars. His brother, now a minor, and who, when of age, will succeed to an 8 annas-share of the puttee, is reading at the Hindoo College, Calcutta. Like most zemindars that I have met, he seems at present to look upon his estates and tenants as *things* from which so much rent per annum is to be squeezed, and nothing more; but he is young, and seemed open to the conviction that the ryots might be looked on as something better than mere rent-paying machines, and that estates might be improved by more attention, both for his and his ryots' benefit.

After leaving Gopalpore, and passing through Kallinoggur, Jaffirabad, Manigattee, Dabdah, Ameerpore, and Chatpore, the lands inside the embankment are very poor, and much is waste. This, I was told, was a consequence of a great inundation which occurred in this part of the country some thirty years back, and has more lately occurred more than once at a breach at the village of Dahdah. At present there is a large char formed before a bend in the embankment, on which I observed plantains, paddy, *mooserry* (a sort of pulse) in abundance, and good crops apparently. The stream bears upon this char still, but the land of it is high, in some places higher than the embankment, and the kind of crops grown would argue general freedom from floods. The embankment is in this bend formed principally of sand, which will not bind, no turf forming upon it, and it has been from this fact that so many breaches have been made in it. The Executive Engineer has an idea of running a new embankment, formed of stonter materials, from point to point of the bend in the old embankment, and it seems certain that some such work would give greater security to the country hereabouts on the left bank.

The distance travelled this day was about 21 miles.

There have not been any high floods this season, but we visited the scenes of them for three successive days after the highest flood of the season had occurred, and the general result of what we saw and heard was, that the main injuries that have occurred to the lands in this district, on the right bank of the Damoodah, have occurred in three different places: First at the breach made between Bamuniah\* and Hijulnah; secondly, at that made between Jamdohoh and Hybutpore; thirdly, at the vent-channel made between Shadeepore and Kistopore. The first two are natural flood-gates made by the action of the river itself, since, and in consequence of, the removal of the embankments, the last is an

artificial floodgate, built by the Executive Engineer, at a place where natural breaches had more than once been previously made, to ease off the rush of the floods through the breach, and to protect the left bank from the effects of a rush upon it of large bodies of flood waters in a narrow channel. The only apparent injuries at the two natural breaches are (comparatively) no very large quantities of broken uncultivated ground near the river banks, and a channel of water of considerable depth, no great width, but stretching as far as the eye could reach inland, which, we were told, was, before the removal of the embankments, under paddy cultivation, and which is not so cultivated now. At the vent-channel of Kistopore the injuries done are unquestionable. The country for miles long and broad was under water, and only occupied by waste lands, on which grew here and there only a species of long grass used for thatching. Wherever we went, the country-people assured us that it was here the principal injuries had been done, and this was our own conviction, and we believe that the greatest part of the injuries have been caused in the first instance by natural breaches, and now more permanently by keeping open the vent-channel, and both here and at the two breaches mentioned, the expression of all classes was, that where there had been one yard deep of sand before, there were now two and three yards, since the removal of the embankments, and in consequence of it.

The extent of land travelled over by us on the Right Bank country was about 22 miles.

I cannot conclude this part of my Journal without remarking on the excellent state of the embankments that have been allowed to remain, and of all the bungalows that we stayed at along the line of them.

*October 9th to 25th.*—Mungulpore, near Raneeunge. The Doorgah Poojah holidays occupied the greater part of this period; during the few working days I was employed principally in endeavouring to conclude amicably the long-pending and much-disputed case of the Post-office and Hotel lands. I was not successful in concluding the case amicably, but, what I hope will be a final report upon it, I despatched to the Commissioner of Revenue in letter No. 12 of the 21st October.

The part of this country, which goes by the general name of Raneeunge, but which is in reality composed of the villages of Kourbazar, Katrolie, Poreahunge, Searsole, and Raneeunge, will, I believe, in process of time, become a flourishing manufacturing town. It is in the heart of a mineral district, the value of which is only beginning to be appreciated; it borders upon the Damoudah, and is at no great distance

from the Adjai, and the Burakur, and I am told that it is not only a feasible, but at this time a contemplated plan, to connect it by a canal with the Damoodah at Aumtah, whence navigation for loaded boats of considerable burden is at all times of the year open into the Hooghly. The railway, even at the present time, approaches within a few miles (at the furthest) all the important collieries now at work; and a branch line, presenting no engineering difficulties, would not only embrace them all, but would encourage the opening of many more, and all these circumstances combined must lead to the creation of a large town. In the first place, there will be the European society located at the different collieries, there will be the workmen in these collieries, principally Baoris and Sonthals, who have no caste, and eat and drink any thing, and there is the fact that the country is not self-supporting even now, and will be still less so as more and more of it is taken up by collieries, and as larger bodies of manufacturers are congregated, who have to be fed in it. Rice alone is almost as dear here as in Calcutta, and has been every year becoming gradually more dear.

But coal is not the only mineral to be found here. There is *kunkur* in abundance, and to be obtained at the price of only the land's rental, of labour, and of carriage; also a good limestone; and iron ore, I believe, in considerable quantities; and at Gopinathpore, not far from here, an excellent clay for brick-making.

And if all these favorable circumstances should lead, as I believe they will, to the erection of a large manufacturing town at Raneegunge, should not every care be taken from the commencement to make that town something worthy of British civilization?

Should there not be a Magistrate empowered to take care that the roadways are broad, and so planned as to ensure the best ventilation possible, and to leave space for a time when *gas* may be introduced, that a drainage may hereafter be effected in the most complete manner into the most appropriate place, and that an efficient police system may be originated as soon as needed, which may only require to be increased in numbers as the town itself increases in size. That some such system is partially wanted already there is little doubt, for, during the few times I have visited Raneegunge, I have heard more than once of the recruits having "*looted*" the bazaar, and I believe that the Government would not find the railway and the various coal Companies at all backward in aiding to carry out any system (worthy the name) of establishing, as best may be, the future town. No considerable expenditure would be required at present, but a few simple municipal

regulations, with a Magistrate competent, and empowered by law, to carry them out, and backed by an efficient police force:—the regulations having for their aim the future possible spread of the town, and the sanitary and police arrangements thereupon necessary. There would probably be few difficulties in carrying out these arrangements now; a short time hence there might be troublesome vested interests to be considered and satisfied. (Since writing the above, in Notification No. 3900 in *Government Gazette*, 29th October, 1858, Ranegunge has been sought to be brought under the provisions of Act XXVI, 1850.) On the 25th October, I went to see the school of Gobind Prosand Pundit at Searsole, an Anglo-vernacular establishment supported by a grant-in-aid of Government, the house and the other school expenses being supplied by the Pundit. The house is an excellent one, pukka, and with four rooms of various sizes, and stands in its own garden, just outside the village and colliery of Searsole, and commands perhaps the prettiest view to be obtained hereabouts. The school had only just re-opened after the holidays, and the work of it could scarcely be said to have recommenced, but there was a fair attendance of scholars, and the second master, as well as the vernacular master, were present. The number of scholars was said to be 75, and the average attendance 60. The second master seemed to be a most intelligent man, and most interested and anxious for the progress of the scholars. I first examined 2 boys of the 1st, and 3 boys of the 2nd English classes, and then perhaps 20 boys of the vernacular class. I had not time, neither were the maps, nor slates, nor other means at hand, for more than an examination in reading, grammar, and spelling. The reading of all the classes, especially of the vernacular class, was fluent and intelligible, and the boys in the English classes explained very fairly the meaning of what they read. The grammar in the English classes (I did not pay attention to it in the vernacular) was not so satisfactory, the boys knew it in parts by rote, but not in practice. The spelling was particularly accurate in the vernacular, in the English I did not so carefully test it, but I remarked that the boys were not sufficiently instructed to spell their words rightly when they could not read them off at once. I brought this to the notice of the second master, who acknowledged the failing, and promised reform. The English pronunciation was very good. Of the discipline I could not satisfactorily judge, but it seemed to me better in the English than in the vernacular department. On the whole, there was an air of cleanliness and order about the school, and of intelligence and aptitude about the scholars; which left a very favorable impression upon me. The Pundit is building a large school-house to the north

of the Cantonments, which promises well; it will scarcely however be so conveniently situated as the present school for the villagers.

After visiting the school, I descended into the Pandit's coal mines, which are well worth seeing. The galleries run in all directions, and the coal seems to be of a fine quality, and most abundant.

*October 26th.*—Mungulpore to Bograh 7 miles. At Bograh there is an encamping ground for troops on the march up the Grand Trunk Road. This ground was examined and measured by Mr. Collector Pearson in 1854-55, and reported on in his letter to the Commissioner, No. 6, January 6th, 1855. My object in visiting it was to see that it answered to the latest conditions required by Government in the military department for the keeping up of such grounds. These conditions are that the ground should be at least 300×200 yards in extent, that it should be level, free from cultivation, and well-drained, that good wells or tanks for drinking water should be in its vicinity, and that it should be demarcated by unmistakeable boundary marks. There are two wells within at the most a quarter of a mile, and a tank bordering upon the ground in question, all containing an abundance of good drinking water. The tank was formed by Baboo Gohind Prosand Pandit, who has embellished it by a ghat and garden. The ground stands high and has a naturally good drainage, and it is quite sufficiently level for encampment purposes. It is quite free from cultivation, but its extent and boundaries were not at all well defined. I therefore had a piece measured off, which from local information I found to have been always occupied by troops encamping, and made a scientific plan of it, and directed the erection of four brick-pillars at a cost of 12 ans. each, to serve as boundary marks, the space so demarcated being 290×213 yards, or 38 beeghas, 14 cottahs.

*October 27th to 28th.*—Boghra to Undal 12 miles. At Undal the object of my visit was another encamping ground, and the purpose of it the same as at Bograh.

Here the work to be performed was demarcation and measurement as at Bograh, and this was done, and a scientific plan made, and five brick boundary marks ordered to be erected. In other particulars the ground was in the condition required by Government. It stands high, and there is naturally good drainage to it; it is sufficiently level, it is free from cultivation, all but a few cottahs, which will not be again ploughed up; it has one well inside and another just outside, and a tank called Ranees Sair, all producing good drinking water; it stands partly in the village of Undal, and partly in that of Dubeburria. The result of the plan and measurements showed it to contain an area of 39 beeghas, 6 cottahs,



and 9 chittacks, being by conversion into yards in excess of the minimum required.

On the 27th October I made local investigation into certain matters connected with the settlement of Mehal Dabepore, the result of which will, I hope, have been communicated to the Commissioner in a letter, that I will enter marginally before the submission of this Journal.

October 29th to November 2nd.—Undal viâ Gopalpore and Panagbur to Mancoor 24 miles. At Gopalpore there is a third encamping ground. It has two capital pukka wells in good condition, and with a plentiful supply of excellent drinking water in them. The ground is sufficiently level, and falls gradually on all sides from about the centre, a good natural drainage being thus effected. It is waste land, entirely free from cultivation, though probably capable of it in seasons of very heavy rain. There is only one distinct boundary mark, an *oomlik* tree at the north-east corner, and I directed five other boundary marks of brick, that were necessary, to be erected. A scientific plan and measurement of the land produced an area of 26 beeghas, 19 cottahs, 10 chittacks, an area less than the minimum required, but quite sufficient for any use now made of the land, and more land of suitable nature was not procurable in the neighbourhood. The jemadar in charge of the neighbouring *marhulla* was directed to erect the boundary marks, and to take care that the land was kept free from cultivation.

Panagbur is a large village and a railway station, and here the direct road from Bancoorah to Soorie, which may be said to connect the rivers Damoodah and Adjai at, I believe, Selimpore on the one river and Elanbazar on the other, cuts the Grand Trunk Road. There had been, I was told by the railway station master, at Panagbur, considerable trade, which found its way to Calcutta from Panagbur, in shell-lac, lac-dyes, hides, and grain from Soorie and Elambazar, but the trade in the three first commodities was put a stop to by the general stagnation of trade caused by the mutinies, and has not been resumed, and the general scarcity of the crops this season has for the last three months completely stopped the trade in grain, so much so, that not a bag of grain has been despatched to Calcutta within that period from Panagbur, whence before from two to three hundred bags were despatched daily. I am not aware whether or not the above trade may yet have found its way down to Cutwa on the Bhagirathce, viâ the Adjai, and so down to Calcutta, but the water in the Adjai has been unusually low this season, and it is, at the best of times, an uncertain river for carriage. I should fear therefore that the trade was stopped for the time altogether. The rice crops on the road side, and as far

inland as could be seen from Gopalpore north to Mancoor south, seemed plentiful and thick, but I was told there was a general failure of them in a large tract of country beginning some eight miles south-east of Mancoor. The connection between famine and a comet seems to possess the minds of the vulgar in this country, as at all times it has possessed the minds of the vulgar in other countries, and I understand that much grain is being hoarded in anticipation of a famine during the ensuing hot season.

At Mancoor my business was to inspect the office of the Ahkarree Darogah. My visit was entirely unexpected, and I was much pleased to find all the books brought up to date, and great credit is due to the Ahkarree Darogah, Hurranondo Rai, both on this account and for the general good order in which I found his office and records. Many of these latter have been most uselessly preserved, and I propose submitting to the Commissioner a list of them, requesting his sanction for their destruction. A considerable number of the Puchooee-vendors in this Ahkarree Darogahship have lately been resigning their shops on account of the scarcity of rice, now selling at 20 kutchas seers the rupee, where before it was selling at 30 or 32 seers; but the shops are not numerous, and a slight reduction of rates having been allowed to the vendors, in consideration of the scarcity, they have resumed business, and the loss to the Government revenue will not, I believe, be of any great moment.

There is a vernacular school at Mancoor, the current expenses of which are supported entirely by a grant-in-aid from Government, the buildings having been gifted by the putneedar of Mancoor, Heeraloll Miaree. The school was not to be opened until after the Queen's Holidays, and I had therefore no opportunity of inspecting it, but I was told it gave instruction to some 100 children, and had a daily attendance of from 60 to 70. Up to the time of this poojah there had been an English teacher at the school, but partly because the putneedar had, on the death of his son, withdrawn his subscription towards the salary of this teacher, and partly because of a real or pretended vulgar fear of the introduction of Christianity by means of teaching English, inducing others to withdraw their subscriptions, the English teacher had lately left the place. I spoke to the talookdar, and to others, with a view to restoring him, and having offered a slight monthly aid myself towards that end, I hope it may be accomplished.

Heeraloll Miaree seems an intelligent well intentioned man, and the village, and the inhabitants of Mancoor, had the air of being under a mild landlord, who as he resides on the spot almost throughout the year, and

seems quite acquainted with the affairs of his estate, is himself probably the main spring of their well-being. He has made, he told me, and I saw some signs of it, a good pukka road, connecting Mancoor with the Grand Trunk Road, and the office of the Deputy-Magistrate at Bood-Bood, and he possesses a capital house and very pretty garden called the Lall Bagh, at Mancoor, where I hope some day to make a better acquaintance with him.

*November 2nd and 3rd.*—Mancoor to Burdwan 24 miles, via Bood-Bood and Sarool. At Urjunpore, two miles north of Bood-Bood, there is a dāk-bungalow, which, as being no longer used, the post-office authorities are desirous of selling. It is a capital bungalow, built entirely of brick some five years ago, I was told, by Executive Engineer Rooke; and is in perfect condition, as also are two pukka out-houses, and a pukka well. It stands on about two beegahs of land, which, I believe, are Government property.\* I sent messages, and, if I

\* N. B. This is not the case. I do not receive answers to these, I shall send purwannahs to the neighbouring zemindars, to know if they desire to purchase the bungalow; and if they do not, I scarcely know who will; and I do not think they will purchase, for the bungalow does not stand in any sufficient proximity to any considerable village of theirs, to enable them to turn it to any use. Perhaps the Joint-Magistrate of Bood-Bood might be able, by the exercise of legitimate influence, to convert it into a school for the neighbouring villages,—the Government presenting the bungalow for so long as the school might be kept up, on condition of those who benefit by it, paying for the teachers, &c., and keeping the bungalow and its out-houses, &c. in repair? There is a difficulty however in creating a school in the fact, above stated, of the distance of the bungalow from any considerable village, and in that of there being already a large school at Mancoor, three or four miles distant, maintained in great part by Heeraloll Misree, the principal landholder thereabouts.

At Bood-Bood I had an encamping ground to inspect. It had been at least twice or perhaps three times measured before. Once by Mr. Collector Pearson in 1854-55, once by Deputy-Collector Golam Ashruff in about 1856, and once by Deputy-Collector Poorno Chunder Banerjya in the survey time. But none of these measurements were correctly recorded any where, so as to be traceable on local investigation. That however of Golam Ashruff presented two mounds of earth which the villagers declared to be boundaries, and it seemed likely best to fulfil, as to extent of ground, the Government requirements. I therefore measured and mapped scientifically, and demarcated with bamboo posts.

to be hereafter replaced by brick pillars, the encamping ground as nearly as could be in accordance with these mounds, and found an area of beeghas 38 being somewhat in excess of the minimum space required. There is one pukka well inside, and another just outside this area, and both were said to give a plentiful supply of good drinking water. The ground is level, but neither raised nor drained, and at least one half of it has been under cultivation this season, and more than that is said always to have been brought under cultivation in seasons with an average supply of rain. Mr. Pearson estimated the cost of only raising this ground, (which he measured to contain an area of but 14 beeghas, 13 cottahs, 4 chittacks,) to the extent of 3 feet, at Rupees 890-12-1. At this rate the cost of raising the present area of 38 beeghas would be about Rupees 2,400; if it were raised with a slope on all sides from the centre, sufficient drainage would be effected by the act of raising. And then occurs the question, is the land to be kept wholly free from cultivation in future? A portion of it, probably the 14 beeghas, 13 cottahs, 4 chittacks measured by Mr. Pearson, has been purchased by Government, I understand, and about that portion is free from cultivation, and can of course be kept so; but Government has no title that would stand a lawsuit to the rest, and it is not equitable to the ryots in occupation, to direct them to desist from cultivating land for which they pay rent to the landholder, without giving them an equivalent in some shape, and I propose to address the Commissioner in order to obtaining orders

Letter No. 1197 - of Jan 88 of Government on the subject. At Sarool there is another encamping ground. It lies low, and must be very damp, but is not, I should think, for any length of time under water in the rainy season. It is level, but has no drainage. The cost of raising it a foot, (the area then measured being 18 beeghas, 13 cottahs, 8 chittacks) was estimated by Mr. Collector Pearson at Rs. 310-14-10. The area now found is beeghas 24-12, or  $242 \times 160$  yards, and at the above rate the cost of raising it would be Rupees 466; the drainage might be effected sufficiently in the process of raising it, and without much extra expense, I should suppose. There is a capital pukka well, furnishing abundance of good drinking water, on the ground, and it is quite free from cultivation. It was measured and demarcated about two years ago by Deputy-Collector Poorno Chunder Banerjya, and a map was then made, but all the demarcation-marks could not be traced, and the map was manifestly erroneous; new measurements and a new map were therefore made, and demarcation mounds erected. Compensation has, I F. B. Bill not yet submitted. understand, been sanctioned for this ground.

I have therefore directed the Police at the *markalla* of Sarool to take care that no cultivation is carried on within the boundaries.

There is a *dāk* bungalow at Sarool, now no longer used, which the Post Office authorities desire to sell. I have sent messages, and, if these are not responded to, shall send *purwannahs* to the neighbouring landholders, desiring to know if they are disposed to buy this. The roof of it requires to be renewed; but otherwise itself and its two *pukha* out-houses and a *pucka* well are in fair repair and are substantial buildings. It lies perhaps equidistant from the villages of Sarool, Kanoor, and Oorah or Goneshbattee. Koonjobehary Baboo, a nephew of Heeraloll Misree, of Mancoor, is talookdar of the first; Oomesh Chundra Laha, lakhirajdar of the second; and Dwarkanath Halder, talookdar of the third village, and the brother of the latter, and other respectable villagers of Oorah, told me that it was their desire to establish an Anglo-vernacular school in these parts, and asked if Government would be disposed to give the bungalow at Sarool as a school-house. I said I could not tell, but that if they and the other neighbouring landholders, or men of respectability, would send in a petition to me, stating their wishes about the school, and would accompany it by an agreement first to put and keep the bungalow in a state of repair; and, secondly, to maintain whatever staff of school-masters might be required, and to meet all other current expenses, I would recommend their petition for the favorable consideration of Government. The question about the school appeared to spring from the people's own minds, for I myself had not given any hint about it, although it will be observed that a similar scheme had crossed my mind in regard to the bungalow at Urjunpore; but I cannot say that there was any convincing urgency in the manner of the proposers of the scheme, and, on the other hand, they did not give me the idea of men of substance to fulfil, or enlightenment to desire, such a scheme. Any thing more that may take place in the matter will of course be communicated to the Commissioner.

*November 27th to 29th.*—Burdwan to Baneeghat Gohah, 12 miles.

The object of this part of my tour was to endeavour to discover, whilst the crops were still on the ground, whether any and what damage had been permanently inflicted on the country on the right bank of the Damoodah, by the removal of the embankments in 1856-57.

In August previous I had made a somewhat similar tour which fortunately occurred on the very day of the highest flood of the season, and

I was then accompanied by the Executive Engineer of the Division, and an account of this tour has appeared earlier in my journal, but we could not at that season proceed across country as I am now doing. It had been arranged that Captain Beadle, the Superintendent of Embankments, and Mr. Smith, the Executive Engineer, should accompany me in this present tour, but the former has not been able to keep to his engagements, and I am consequently deprived of the very great assistance which both he and Mr. Smith would have rendered me in my investigations. Saneeghat-Golah is the starting point, whence the removal of the Embankments commences. The only patches of waste land in its neighbourhood are a large patch to the east and a very small one to the west of the village towards Nobogram and Bonomalipore respectively. The patch to the east is admitted to have been always waste, and to have produced only the long thatch grass now upon it; the land of which lets from 2 to 8 annas a beegha. The patch to the west has apparently been produced by the incursion of the river since the removal of the embankments, but so far from being permanently or to any extent waste, there has already sprung up a mangoe garden on the greater portion of it, the village rate of which is Rs. 2-8 a beegha. There is a khal called the Kandar Khal to the east of Saneeghat-Golah and the waters of the Damoodah which pour into this khal meet those which pour in through the new breach to the west of the village. At the point of meeting the land in the back ground is high, and as a consequence the water accumulates to a great depth at this point, and would possibly, on the occasion of a very high flood, be forced back over some portion of the village of Golah; but, the flood over, it would not rest there, and, on the other hand, in dry seasons like this last year's, the presence of the waters is a positive benefit, as the luxuriance of the crops now on the ground indicates, and even in the seasons of heaviest floods and rains, the loss that might fall on some part of the villages of Saneeghat and Golah would bring a corresponding gain to the high lands of those and of the neighboring villages of Bonomalipore and Khundoghose.

The talookdars of these villages were with me on the spot, and whilst they could not point out any considerable deposits of sand or any other permanent injuries to their lands, they were obliged to admit that in dry seasons, like the past, they benefitted, to the same extent that in seasons of heavy floods and rains they lost, by the waters let in from the Damoodah since the removal of the embankments.

November 30th, December 1st and 2nd.—Saneeghat-Golah via Khundoghose to Naroecha; 7 miles.

The cultivation, on the road between Saneeghat and Khundoghose, was very thin and poor, the lands being high, and the rain having been scarce; that between Khundoghose and Nareecha was better generally, and in parts very good, but the scarcity of rain was the only and universal cause assigned. Whilst at Khundoghose I visited the Moonsiff there, and endeavoured, through him, and through the influence of some three or four talookdars whom I saw, to revive the school from which the Government grant-in-aid had about a year ago been withdrawn, in consequence of the failure of the villagers to pay their *quela* towards the school. The former school was vernacular only, to revive this there was no anxiety expressed; but to open an Anglo-vernacular school all appeared desirous. The school-room is available, and could at a slight expense be repaired, and as the village is a very large one, and there seemed a great number of people who could and would give from 4 annas to 2 Rupees a month for the maintenance of a school, and the Moonsiff and three talookdars I saw promised to use their influence for an object which they said all desired, and I myself offered a small subscription to help it on, I hope an Anglo-vernacular school may be established.\*

Khundoghose is a large scattered village with a considerable population, partly Mussulman and partly Hindu, and several wealthy families.

*December 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.*—From Nareecha north to Roopsho and thence south via Chundeeppore, Nowparah, and Gowtumpore to Kamal-pore, 9 miles. Being told that there was a bad breach at Roopsho, I went back a couple of miles in order to see it, but it was still as it ever had been  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile distant, and there were no signs of it, and as the evening was closing in, and I had to ride some 7 miles over paddy fields to my encampment, I did not arrive at the breach, but from the villagers' own accounts, it is only injurious in bad floods, and from the general waste appearance of the country between Nareecha and Roopsho, confessedly representing the condition of the lands for years, it must always have been more or less subject to injury from floods. The natural bank of the river is low, and the soil is a hard compact sand, covered with coarse thin grass, on which principally thatch grass, but here and there winter crops or mango or jack trees, alone appear to grow. Between Nareecha and Chundeeppore there appears a patch of land more or less waste, on the river banks of perhaps 300 beeghas.

\* Subscriptions to the extent of Rs 34 a month have since been promised and paid for January, and a school with an English master was opened on the 1st January, 1859.

One account made out that some 250 out of these 300 beeghas had been laid waste since the removal of the Government embankments, but the condition of the land forbade the idea that the flood of but two successive years could have rendered it so hard and waste, and the authors of this account were servants of the neighbouring talookdars. Another account made out that the whole land had been in its present condition since the great flood of 1824, (1230 B.S.), and another that it had been so since 14 years back when a talookdaree embankment was breached by the floods; this embankment was replaced by a Government one, which was removed under the general order in 1856-57. These last two accounts can of course be reconciled, and they rest partly on the evidence of the native inspector of embankments, and partly on that of the ryots I met and questioned; and under these circumstances I am inclined to conclude, that the waste land in question has always been more or less in its present condition, and that whatever Government embankments existed previous to 1856-57, could not have contributed any thing material to the improvement of the land. More sand may have been deposited by the letting in of the flood waters, but on the other hand the greater spread of those waters may have brought more land into cultivation, but the change either way has not been material.

At Nowparah there is a breach, perhaps 20 feet wide, and 3 feet deep, opening into a kbal which crosses the Bancoorah road at a broken bridge near the Bagha Bheel. The bank is high and the breach comparatively small, and only flooded by very high tides, and even then the water seems to be carried into the kbal, and the villagers did not complain of the breach as injurious; and it seems probable it is not so; for, except in its immediate neighbourhood, the lands were high and good, and exhibited fine crops of sugar-cane and *groor* (dhal).

From Amdoulah viâ Goutumpore to opposite Edilpore, the right bank is very high, and an immense chur has formed in front of it, diverting the force of the stream to the left bank; as a consequence, there are no breaches.

I may mention as a lamentable fact, and with a hope of its ultimate remedy, that from this side the river, *i. e.*, from Kainalpore to Khundoghose, a distance of 9 miles or more, the old Bancoorah road was, even so late in the season, and after a remarkably scant rainy season, in many places only a water-course, isolated bridges, still in excellent condition, appearing here and there in the midst of the streams we had to cross, as if lamenting over the degradation of having become things to be avoided, instead of to be made use of.



I had a visit from the zemindar, Tarrucknauth Bose, of Kamalpoore, and others of his family and following. Their grievances in so far as the embankments were concerned, resolved themselves into two ; First, that a zemindaree embankment, which was said to have efficiently protected the lands in front of the village, had been removed, and compensation for such removal had been refused, as it had been under orders of the Board of Revenue, (vide Commissioner's letter No 453 of date 11/10/59) ; and, secondly, that the waters of the Damoodah entering the breach between Beechkarah and Saneeghat-Golah, and passing through Koomar Dhihee and Boro Bheels into the Oochah nullah and receiving in their course additional waters from the Kandar Kbal, and from breaches at Boopsho and Nowparah, form at Kamalpoore, where the Oochah nullah falls into the Damoodah, a body of water which in high floods spreads all over the Kamalpoore zemindaree, and either carries off or destroys the year's crops, and leaves a deposit of sand which injures the zemindaree land permanently. That there are some hundreds (four or five) of beeghas of very poor and partly waste lands behind where the zemindaree embankment once ran, is a fact ; but it is also a fact, that there are very fair winter crops on the greater part of these lands, and unless the zemindaree embankment, that formerly ran here, was better than most of such works, I doubt the lands having been better protected or having been thereby in a better condition formerly than now, especially as there are other lands in the neighbourhood in the same predicament, which are not asserted to have been injured by the removal of the embankments ; but I have no means of forming a reliable judgment. I suppose the truth to be that some injury has been done, probably a general, but not great deterioration of soil has taken place through deeper deposits of sand, but to what extent it is impossible now to say.

So far as regards the first grievance, the second is one on the cause of which an Engineer alone is competent to give a judgment. If the land slopes gradually from Saneeghat-Golah to Kamalpoore, it is likely enough that a large body of water finds its way, in the manner indicated, in high floods, into the country in this neighbourhood, and there spreads ; but I doubt its having caused any permanent mischief, for the crops around are particularly fine. On the other hand, in seasons of high floods, I can understand much temporary mischief in the shape of crops carried off by the rush, or rotted by the settlement of large bodies of water in particular localities ; but then again, the people admit that in 1230 and 1240, before the removal of the embankments at Saneeghat-Golah, similar floods occurred, and in seasons like the last of small floods, there is no

inundation. There was a very swift small stream running through the Ochuah nullah, when I passed it, at the place where it falls into the Damoodah, but this was owing to three days' rain we had had, and I am told it is usually dry at this season.

*December 3rd to 4th.*—Kamalpore to Bamuniah 6 miles. There are some 200 or 300 beeghas of very poor land between Jamnah and Bamuniah, where there has been a breach, very ineffectually patched up by the villagers; but this land has always been very much in its present condition I was told, and there were no complaints on account of the removal of embankments. The fact seems to be, that although the bank is low, there is a chur, rising to within a few inches of it, and stretching almost across the river, which diverts the force of the stream to the left bank, and prevents any injurious rush of water over the country on the right bank. I crossed the Midnapore road between Kamalpore and Jamnah, and was very much struck by the fine avenue of trees which shaded the road for about a mile, and by the width of the road itself: and the people told me that every four or five coss or so tanks and serais had formerly been erected, and some still remained. This road ran formerly, I fancy, from Moorshedabad to Cuttack, and was the work of the Nawabs of the former place. When our era has passed away, there will be the Railroads and the Grand Trunk Road and the Ganges Canal, and perhaps some other such great works to attest our power and the beneficence of our rule, but these are late creations, and it cannot but have injured us by contrast in the eyes of our native subjects, that we should have permitted public works like this road to Cuttack to have died from mere inanition. The grand avenues, the frequent tanks and serais, and the broad road, all decaying and becoming every year less useful, must have given rise to contrasts in the eyes of the country between the "Nawabi Ammul" and that of the Company Bahadur, little favorable to the vaunted paternal administration of the latter.

*December 5th to 9th.*—Bamuniah via Hijulnah, Hurrpore, Raipore, Bongram, Gopalnagpur, Teandool, Dukkinkool, and Boro to Shaddepore, 16 miles. I had visited Bamuniah last year, and have now accomplished, what I then determined, a visit to the villages above mentioned, which were (in August last) said to be those most injured by the waters rushing in through the breaches caused by the removal of the embankments. Those breaches are three in number: viz. first between Banisulah and Hijulnah; secondly, between Hijulnah and Hurrpore; and lastly, between Jamdohoh and Hybutpore.

The waters of the first and second breaches unite at the back of the village of Hijulnah, and then spread over the lands of the villages I have mentioned, and others which shall be duly noticed. The waters of the last breach spread over the lands of the villages of Jamdohoh, Hybulpore, Jote Bobain, and Chulhunpore; and then, passing between the villages of Boro and Shadeepore, unite south of the latter, with the waters passing in through the Kistopore vent-channel, and afterwards take a southerly course to be mentioned hereafter.

There are, I should say, certainly 2,000 beeghas, lying to the south-east of Bamuniah, the south of Hijulnah, the south-west of Hurrypore, and the north of Raipore and Bongram laid waste by the waters since the removal of the embankments. Of these, 1500 beeghas are utterly waste, covered only by sand recently deposited, and perhaps 500 beeghas bear exceedingly thin and scattered autumn or winter crops.

This waste has occurred where the floods have rested. In some few places, where they have simply washed, and not rested, the lands (but not of the above-mentioned villages) have been avowedly benefitted, what is called *poli* soil having been washed up and deposited, a benefit so great as to have produced this year 20 maunds to the beegha I was told in part of the village of Bonteer.

Then to the south and west of the villages of Bongram and Raipore, and to the east of Bonteer, perhaps some 500 beeghas have been much injured. Of these 100 beeghas certainly are utterly waste, and the rest bore a thin poor crop of paddy. The village of Bonteer however has, on the whole, I understand, received more benefit from *poli* deposit than loss from lands rendered waste and injured. The villages of Raipore and Bongram have suffered the most of those as yet mentioned, and bear, in the wretched look of the inhabitants, and in the number of untenanted roofless houses, unmistakable signs of such sufferings.

Commencing from the north, and passing round the west and south-west of Bongram, there is and always has been a khal, which evidently gives a direction to the flood-waters. This khal, after so dry a season as that of last year, had three feet of water, where I crossed it at the ford to the west of Gopalnuggur; on either side of it I observed patches, but not large, of waste land. The waste however appeared to me of older date than the removal of the embankments, and the crops in the neighbourhood, especially towards Sooderonpore on the north, were very fine.

Just above Teandool, this khal, which the people called the Oochab nullah, and which may be a continuation of that nullah through the Kenkor Bheel to the south of Bamuniah, unites with the Mateer khal, which seems to take its rise some eight or ten miles nearly due west, and then, passing between Damash, Boro and Shadeepore on the north, and Teandool, Dukkinkool and Dureepore on the South, and assuming the name of the Mukteal Tearee khal, unites with the waters of the Hybutpore breach north, and of the Kistopore vent north-east by east, below the latter village.

But the floods pass to the west and south of Teandool, to the north of Sookoor, and then round by the west of Dukkinkool into the khal again. Just close up to the village of Teandool, there were some fair winter crops, and a very few thin crops of autumn paddy, but otherwise the lands of that village are waste and uncultivated, as are those to the north of the village of Sookoor, and probably half the houses of the former village are uninhabited. I should say the waste here was 2,000 beeghas.

The lands to the west of Dukkinkool are in better condition, but the ryots complained that too much sand had been deposited since the removal of the embankments, and the crops themselves bore evidence of a too sandy soil. I had been told to look for much injury to the lands of Damash and Boro, but the crops this year were remarkably fine and thick near those villages, and although it may be true, as asserted by the people, that this is owing to the late dry season, (good floods,) yet it also proves that the floods have not done any permanent injury to the lands. The greatest individual sufferer by the incursion of the floods in these parts, is I think, Monmohinge Bahoo, talookdar of Shadeepore, Jote Bobain, Kistopore, and Dureepore. His villages of Jote Bobain and Shadeepore are inundated by the floods of the Hybutpore breach, and the lands to the south of Shadeepore, of Kistopore, and Dureepore are inundated by the floods of the Kistopore vent-channel.

The Hybutpore breach is a result of the removal of the embankments, and whilst considerable permanent injury has been done thereby to the lands about Jamdohoh and Hybutpore, I was told, that, except in seasons like the last, the crops were yearly rotted by the floods to the south of Jote Bobain and west of Shadeepore. A deep khal had been cut by the floods from Hybutpore south-east to Kistopore, and this when I crossed it had even then three or four feet of water in the deepest part. Besides this, the flood marks are almost every where apparent in the village of Shadeepore.

The history of the Kistopore vent-channel seems briefly this. Some six, or eight, or ten years back, the floods made a tremendous breach at Kistopore, whereupon the Engineer, instead of completely restoring the embankments, left a permanent vent-channel. The merits of this as an engineering work I do not pretend to discuss, but the result of it I saw last year, after no remarkably high flood, in the shape of a strong current of deep water rushing through a narrow vent-channel, and inundating the country as far as the eye, from the elevation of a high embankment, could reach.

Monmohinee Baboo is quite a young man, and it is very likely he has been misinformed by others, when he says that this tract so inundated was formerly extremely valuable land, but he spoke out so unusually strong, that he certainly gave the idea of one who was speaking feelingly, more in the real heat of one who was telling of his own losses, than in the feigned heat of one who was trying to create compassion, and he told me, and I know it to be a fact, that he had already been obliged to sell one of his villages, and could with difficulty retain the rest, and the waste condition of the lands, and of the other villages, speaks for itself. Shadeepore is at least half in ruins, and Kistopore, once a flourishing town, is now a few tumbling down mud huts on an isolated mound of earth, "like a lodge in a garden of cucumbers." I propose accompanying the Baboo over his lands to-day (9th).

Yesterday I held an examination at the grant-in-aid vernacular school at Shadeepore. For this Government provide one master on a salary of Rupees 15, and Monmohinee Baboo provides another on a salary of Rupees 12 a month and a house. The house is *kutchi-pucks*, and stands high above the floods.

The number of boys is 62, of whom I was told there was generally a fair attendance, and of whom 52 were actually present yesterday. There are 5 classes in the school. The first contains 9 boys of ages from 15 to 18. The second 12 boys from 13 to 8 years. The third 13 boys from 12 to 7 years, and the rest younger boys in their spelling.—The castes principally Brahmins and Kayasths.—I examined the three first classes in reading, (Translations of Andersen's "Swans", "Tinder Box" and "Ugly Duckling", not at all easy) writing from dictation out of these books, spelling, explanations (the two first classes) of what each one had read, simple geography, with maps of Asia and Europe the two first, and Asia only the third classes, and simple arithmetic.

The examination reflected the very highest credit on the teachers, Madub Chander Ghosal in charge of the two first, and Ramtaruck

Bhattacharjya in charge of the three last classes, the last two of which I examined in spelling only.

The reading was clear, and of sufficient slowness, and the stops well-marked, and the sense was almost universally well-explained. The writing and arithmetic were rapidly and well-executed. The spelling was almost universally and without hesitation correct. The geography with corresponding indications on the map was in the upper classes good, but the questions I asked were perhaps too simple. I presented the three best boys for good conduct, regularity of attendance, and acquirements with the three books they had been reading, and the presents seemed gratifying to them, and may be stimulating to others.

*December 9th.*—From Shadeepore via Kistopore, Beergaon, Buhampore and Nusheepore to Jamalpore 6 miles.

I had seen something of the spread and effect of the floods passing through the Kistopore vent-channel in August last, but I was not prepared for the scene of desolation which presented itself on mounting the embankments to the left, i. e., to the east of the remains of the village of Kistopore. From that spot the course of the waters of the vent-channel can be clearly traced by the ruin they have carried with them. Standing there you can see that the floods spread over a kind of semi-circle of land, of which the embankment forms the base, and the villages of Balagor, Ongoonah, Buhampore, and part of Beergaon, the outer edges, the villages of Kistopore and Deereapore being included within the semicircle. The area of land within this semi-circle must be 4000 beeghas or more, and two-thirds of this are certainly completely waste, marked by hillocks of sand, or only the long coarse thatching grass. The greatest injury has of course befallen the lands of Kistopore and Deereapore, the floods passing all round these two villages, but Shadeepore, Balagor, and Ongoonah, must also have suffered severely and Beergaon and Bulrampore to some extent. The floods, I was told, found a vent in a direct southerly direction, and the following villages were mentioned as sustaining injury from them: Uchhitpore, Ramdehbattee, Adumpore, Kurraguria, Peepuldoh, Dulleakalpe, Shrubuldoh, Boro-Boinan, Sealee, and Nursinghpore in this district, and Wuzerpore, Kushigunge, Shualdo, Keshubgunge, which must I think be in the district of Hooghly, and looking at the map I find a succession of khals, running due south, and becoming quite a net work the more southing is made, into which it is very likely the floods empty themselves, and in the neighbourhood of which are the succession of

villages above mentioned, and others which are likely to have been equally injured.

At Buhampore there is a trifling breach, and another more considerable one at Nusheepore, and 400 beeghas was said to be the quantity of land injured at the latter place, I think as much as that may be covered by the flood-waters on occasions of very high floods but not otherwise, for the land is high, and the bank is protected by an island called Chuck Kalerah, which divides the river in front of it, and must considerably check the force and volume of the floods, for it is high land with a village and fine crops upon it. The lands about Nusheepore, *i. e.*, those said to be injured, were covered with winter crops, but there was much sand in the soil, and the crops were thin and poor, compared with similar ones in the same villages out of reach of the flood-waters.

The amount of lands injured in other places mentioned was said to be as follows:—

	beeghas.
Shadeepore, .. .. .	200
Deereapore, .. .. .	600
Kistopore, .. .. .	600
Balagor, .. .. .	400
Ongoonah, .. .. .	400
Nusheepore, .. .. .	400

At Beergaon, I visited a Government vernacular grant-in-aid school, originated by Kisto Ghose, talookdar of the place. It had 60 scholars, of whom 48 were present. The examination was of the same nature as that held at Shadeepore, but the result was by no means so satisfactory. It must be said however that the school was only established on the 1st April last. There were six classes: 5 boys in the first class of from 12 to 15 years of age; 5 boys in the second of from 12 to 14 years; 16 boys in the third class of from 9 to 12 years; 6 boys in the fourth-class also from 9 to 12 years; 6 boys in the fifth class of from 7 to 10 years; and 10 in the sixth class of from 7 to 9 years of age. The head-master, Moheuderam Mookerjya, held the Government salary, of 18 Rupees a month; the second-master Benodbehary Ghose held a salary of 8 Rupees from the zemindar Kisto Ghose, who also was to give a school-house, not yet even commenced upon.

The qualifications of the boys of the two first classes were about equal; they read distinctly, but not with a sufficient observance of sentences. Very few could explain what they read. They wrote rapidly and fairly, but here again there was no distinction of sentences or stops.

They could indicate on the map the principal countries of Asia but only one or two could indicate towns. They were a long time over a simple division sum, and after all only one half of them divided rightly. Their spelling and explanation of individual words were universally good. I gave the best boy in general conduct and attendance, who was also the best in acquirements, a present of Andersen's "Swans". The third-class I examined only in spelling and explanation of words spelt, a point on which they had been universally well taught, in reading, in which they exhibited the same faults and goodesses as the two first classes, and in writing to which the same remark applies. The three other classes I examined only in spelling, their only qualification, and in this all but the very young boys were well taught. I gave to the best boy for attention and good conduct, and not deficient in acquirements, as a prize, Andersen's "Tinder Box," but I was not satisfied with the manner of the master in proclaiming him the best boy on the whole, the prize boy being a Brahmin, and another boy a Bose being very much his superior in acquirements. The prize boy of the 1st and 2nd Classes was a Brahmin also, and it occurred to me, from the master's manner, that he was afraid to offend the Brahmin supporters of the School by recommending other than boys of that caste for prizes.

*December 11th.*—Across the Damoodah via Ramdehbattee, Uchhitpore, Goonor and Adumpore to Jote Dukkin and back to Jamalpore via Jote Sreeram, Sreekistopore, Hunashool, and Chundapore, 10 miles.

My object this day was to strike and march down the line of country said to be subject to the inundations, from the place, Nusheepore, where I had quitted it the previous day. I therefore crossed the Damoodah just below that village, and, turning my back upon it, proceeded in a direction almost due south as far as Jote Dukkin. I passed through the very heart of the inundated land, and found it a piece of uncultivated grass land, covered with a coarse pasturage, of an average breadth of perhaps  $\frac{1}{2}$  a mile, and perhaps 3 miles in length, from Nusheepore to Jote Dukkin; not less I feel sure.

That this tract of land has been cultivated, the field boundaries still existing are alone sufficient to shew; that it is not now cultivated is owing to the fact that the ryots fear the destruction of their seeds by the yearly floods, that it is not as yet rendered totally unculturable I have little doubt, for the grass on it gives very fair pasturage, and has not the rank appearance of that on the lands above Nusheepore, and there are no noticeable deposits of sand to any very injurious extent.



The people told me that the lands were first inundated by a great flood some ten years back, then subsequently that the breach at Kistopore was repaired, and after that the vent-channel opened, and that since then, some five to seven years, the lands have remained continually uncultivated. The principal cause of the inundation has been the vent-channel at Kistopore, but breaches at Nushesopore and Jote Dukkin, caused by the removal of embankments below and above those villages respectively, are stated to have had considerable influence in adding to the force and volume of the floods, and in consequence to the injuries done by them.

The following is a list of some of the villages east and west between which the inundations pass, and a memorandum of the injuries stated to be done:—

East.	Injury done.	West.	Injury done.
Kalerah, &c., ..	Bs. 700	Goonoor, ..	Bs. 200
Danga, Furreepore and		Ucchitpore, ..	100
2 Puttees, ..	650	Ramdebhattee, ..	400
Chandeeppore, ..	100	Adumpore, ..	1100
Hunashool, ..	300	Peepuldoho, ..	400
Rajarampore, ..	870		
Sreekistopor, ..	700		
Jote Sreeram, ..	150		
„ Dukkin, ..	450†		

At Jote Sreeram, I paid a visit to the model vernacular school of Sreekistopore, which has lately been removed to a house vacated by the embankment officers. There are some 70 boys in the school, principally Brahmins and Kayasts, but a few also of such castes as the *Kamars* and *Tanties*, of whom 56 were present. The Government grant-in-aid is I believe 64 Rupees a month, and several talookdars unite to give the school-house. The establishment is a head-master Madub Chunder Banerjya, on Rs. 25, a second-master, Bogooram Banerjya, on Rs. 20, and a third master Sayaram Banerjya on Rs. 16 a month. There are six classes and several divisions of them. The school is not in a sufficiently advanced state for such distinctions neither does the difference in the qualifications of individual scholars call for them. I advised therefore, with submission of course to the educational authorities, their discontinuance, as useless and involving pretensions to which the school could not at present lay just claim.

\* Branch here.

† But this winter crops on the ground.

The reading throughout the school was universally unsatisfactory,—hurried, and indistinct, and no attention paid to stops, and as a consequence scarce one boy could explain what he had been reading. I pointed out this defect, and its remedy was promised. The first-class were a long time over a short sum in division, and only 4 out of 7 divided correctly. The spelling and explanation of words spelt was throughout the school very satisfactory. The writing from dictation of the first-class, the only one I so examined, was rapid and clear. The geography of the first-class, with corresponding indications on the maps of Europe and Asia, was not generally satisfactory, that of the second-class was accurate and ready. There was the air rather of a want of discipline in the school, shown by the absence of that respectful and ready manner of address which I was so pleased to remark at Shadeepore. The school has however only been instituted six months, and has not as yet fairly settled down in its new school-house, which by the bye was kept unnecessarily dirty, and as I frankly pointed out the defects I noticed, not only to the masters, but to Dolgobindo Mittra, Nursinglall Mittra, Kangali Kisto Mittra, and Brindaban Behary Mittra, talookdars of the neighbouring estate of Rajarampora, Sreekistopore, Jote Sreeram, and Jote Dukkin, and patrons of the School, who were present, I should hope they would be remedied.

*December 12th.*—Jamalpoore to Chuckdiggee, and back, 9 miles. At Chuckdiggee there is an Anglo-vernacular grant-in-aid school, towards which Government gives 65 Rupees a month, and the zemindar of the place, Saroda Persaud Rai, a house, and other necessities.

I regret much that, through an error as to distance, I arrived too late in the day to see as much of the working of the school, and of Chuckdiggee and its zemindar, as I could have desired.

There are some 70 scholars I was told, of whom the average daily attendance is 60. There are 5 classes, and English is taught throughout.

The school-house is placed in what was probably a *zenana* of the zemindar's ancestors, and each class has its appropriate room. The manners and discipline of the scholars seemed excellent, and there was an air of intelligence mixed with respectfulness in their countenances, which seemed to shew rather the desire to learn than, as is only too observable in Bengal, with any education, the consciousness of being or thinking themselves wiser than others. I made the first-class read and parse Gray's *Elegy*. There was no poetry, but there was distinctness and sense in their reading; their parsing was however very imperfect.

I made them also write the last verse of the Elegy on Sir J. Moore, putting in their own stops. The writing was universally bad, and there was not the least notion of stopping, but the spelling was good. A simple multiplication sum in English figures was done correctly by three boys out of five. Four boys out of five had a competent knowledge of the geography of the principal countries, towns, and rivers, with corresponding indications on a map (in English) of Europe and Asia, but the map itself was not a correct one. The spelling in English and Bengalli, and explanation of words spelt, was ready and accurate, and three out of five boys read and explained Robinson Crusoe in Bengalli clearly and well. I just heard the second and fourth classes read and parse a little, but so hastily that I will not venture any opinion. Saroda Persaud Rai is a most intelligent person, and evidently takes a real interest in the school; what is better, he is every where well-spoken of throughout the district, and as he is both wealthy and influential in rank and family, his means of doing substantial good are perhaps greater than those of any other landlord in the district. He has a very pretty garden-house in the English style, and a hospital, I fancy; both of which I should have liked to see more at leisure.

*December 12th to 17th.*—The 12th was a Sunday, and from the 13th to the 17th I was unable from an injury to move off my bed; but I was not sorry for the enforced rest, giving me the opportunity of working off arrears of office correspondence and civil suits to be prepared.

*December 18th.*—From Jamalpore south to Atapore on the right bank and back *viâ* Sonaghurrie on the left bank of the Damoodah about 20 miles.

Having examined the inundated lands as far as Peepuldoh on the west and Jote Dukkin on the east, my object now was to follow the course of the inundations from these points on either hand down to the extreme south of the district, and this I have accomplished. The following is a list of some of the villages, the lands of which are affected by the inundations, and a memo. of the extent of the injury said to be done:—

East	Beeghas.	West.	Beeghas.
Koonch, .. ..	..	Dhamuarree, .. ..	300
Shahossinapore, &c. ..	350	Kumulgirih, .. ..	400
Futtehpore, .. ..	150	Neeloot, .. ..	250
Moodeepore, .. ..	300	Shoobaldoh, .. ..	500
Rusulnulpore, .. ..	200	Chabukpore, .. ..	100
Carried forward, 900		1,550	

East.	Beegha.	West.	Beegha.
Brought forward, ..	900		1,550
Seelce (the whole,) ..	400	Boro-Boinan, ..	600
Wuzeerpore, ..	200	Singarpore, ..	200
Korah, ..	350	Nursingpore, ..	400
	—	Atarpore, ..	750
Beeghas 1,850		Kote Simool, ..	350

Beeghas 3,850

The story as to the causes of the inundations is everywhere the same. Great floods in 1280—1241 B. S. and 1852, causing temporary injury, and then the opening of the Kistopore vent-channel converting that temporary into permanent injury, and, finally, the removal of the right embankments leading to an increase of that permanent injury, by letting in larger bodies of flood waters through the various breaches, at Bamuniah, Hurrypore, Hybutpore, Nusheepore and Jote-Dukkin.

The land is higher on the east than on the west side of the channel of the inundations; hence the greater injury done to villages on the west; and this channel is so narrow between the villages of Futtehpoore on the east and Boro-Boinan on the west, that the lands there are broken up and covered with sand mounds in a way which would indicate the injury done thereabouts to be irreparable. Immediately before entering this narrow channel, and after leaving it, the greatest spreads of the inundations are, I should say, naturally, observable, viz., between the villages of Shoobuldoho and Chabukpore on the north-west, and that of Shahoseinpore on the south-east of this channel, and between the villages of Singarpore, Nursingpore and Atapore on the south-west, and those of Moodeepore, Rusalutpore, Sealee and Wuzeerpore on the south-east of the channel.

In the Appendix will be found a condensed report of my investigations into the injuries done on the right bank of the Damoodah, in a letter to the Superintendent of Embankments, and his reply to the letter.

I returned to Jumulpore via Sooghurrie to inspect some land said to be injured by a cross embankment lately erected there. It was made quite clear to me, that the land had not been injured by the construction of this embankment, but rather by an alteration in the course of the great left embankment made some 8 years back to meet a natural breach in the old line of embankment; but on this subject I shall soon,

Letter to Commissioner  
No. 115 of 1884 and his  
reply No. 561.

I hope, have made a special report to the  
Commissioner.

*December 18th.*—I was employed to-day in inspecting the books and office of Poorno Chunder Doss, Darogah of the Jamalpore Abkaree Division. The office and the neighbouring distillery, both built of mud and thatch only, had lately been blown in by a storm, and were in a very tumble-down condition; and as it appeared to me that mud buildings must every year lead to expense for repairs, and must otherwise be very insecure repositories for office records and distillery purposes, I directed the Darogah to furnish me with an estimate of the expense of erecting *pucka* buildings, built to last, say, 20 years, without any necessity for repairs, and, on the other hand, to furnish me with the annual cost of repairs actually done to the present mud buildings for the last 20 years, and should the result shew *pucka* buildings to be in the long run not much more expensive than the present mud buildings, I shall forward, for the Commissioner's consideration and orders, a proposition to substitute the former for the latter.

I found the Darogah's books and office records in good order and entered well up to date, and he seems an intelligent person.

After this inspection I went to the Jamalpore embankment bungalow, and measured off and planned the land in occupation by it, with a view to an amicable settlement of a claim for back and future rental made by the proprietor. I found him very impracticable, and as usual not over truthful in stating his claims; but if, as the Superintendent of Embankments tells me, the Public Works Department are willing to pay the rents claimed at the rates justly claimable, I have, I think, ascertained these latter, and shall be able to arrange the business amicably.

*December 19th.*—*Sunday.*

*December 20th.*—I made a local investigation this day in the matter of some lands that have become waste by the diversion of the bed of the Kana Nuddee into a new bed called the Halara vent-channel. There is no doubt but that some 80 beghas of land have been laid waste; but, on the other hand, some 200 beghas of the former bed of the Kana

Nuddes are being brought every year under better cultivation. I shall however report made No 181 of the *Superintendent of Embankments* for any remarks under Commissioner's order, No 553 dated 19 Dec/59 *Original Re- port to Comr. 1831-21 Feb. 1859* make a separate report on the subject to the Commissioner of Revenue, for his consideration and instructions.

I had intended this day inspecting the books of the Ferooh Ameen of Selimabad, but I find he does not keep office at Selimabad, but in his own house; and to-day he was absent from his house conducting a local sale.

The Ameen has just come in with his books, and having examined them and him, I find things satisfactory. The books are clearly and to date written up, and the man knows his work, and he has satisfactorily explained to me that his house is not above two miles from Selimabad, and that it is no injury to the public service that he should hold his office there, whilst the obliging him to hold it at Selimabad would put him to an expense for which he would not be receiving any sufficient official remuneration.

I have held an investigation into a claim for compensation on account of lands taken for an embankment bungalow at Mobunpore, 6 miles hence. There has been rather more than the usual amount of falsehood told in the matter, but I still hope to settle it amicably between the claimants and the Embankment Department, and if not,

Pending a reply from the Executive Engineer, Burdwan Division. I shall report it fully to the Commissioner for orders.

December 21st—Jamalpore viâ Mosagon to Tatarpore and Mymaree. 12 miles.

At Mosagon there is a Government grant-in-aid vernacular school, maintained partly by the grant, and partly by subscriptions and school fees. The school-house is an open *patshala* within an enclosed courtyard, an arrangement much better suited I think to the habits of the people and the climate of the country, and much more economical than that of a house and bungalow. The registered number of scholars was 60, and the average attendance about 40.

The result of my examination of the school was as follows. :

1st Class of 5 boys reading too fast, but fluent.

Understanding of ditto sufficiently good.

Writing good (from dictation.)

Arithmetic correct, and rapid.

Geography of Asia and Europe, principal cities, rivers, &c. indicated on the map, and by the points of the Compass, without the map, generally correct.

2nd Class consisting of 5 boys :

Reading fair.

Understanding very indifferent.

Arithmetic and spelling correct, and rapid.

Geography of Europe and Asia middling.

3rd Class consisting of 16 Boys :

Reading too fast, and understanding middling.

Writing from dictation, rapid and good.

Simple Arithmetic and Spelling, ready and correct.

Geography of Asia, very little knowledge.

4th Class consisting of 6 boys :—

Writing and Simple Arithmetic and Spelling ready and correct.

No knowledge of Geography.

Reading and understanding of it very middling.

5th Class consisting of 10 boys :—

Reading fair, unable to explain it.

Spelling ready and correct.

Simple Arithmetic middling.

6th Class consisting of 14 boys :—

All very young, and only knowing the Alphabet.

There was a want of discipline, I think, and the manners of both masters and boys were disrespectful, and on my first entry into the school almost insolent, especially those of the Head-Master, Omesh Chunder Chatterjee, and when I asked the names of the 3 boys in the school whose general conduct was the best, whose attendance was regular, and whose application to lessons was the stendiest, I was not satisfied with those selected, and almost forbore from giving the prize books I had with me. The boys selected were all of the Brahmin caste, and the selection seemed to be dictated by a wealthy zemindar, who was present, and whose manners were throughout particularly offensive. There were no low caste boys in the school, and Brahminical influence was certainly supreme, and the absence of discipline, and respectfulness above remarked, was, I think, a consequence of that supremacy.

The zemindars present petitioned me to help them to an English master, but I impressed upon them that they must help themselves. I offered however as a private individual Rs. 5 a month as a subscription.

*December 22nd to 24th.*—Mymaree to Tatarpore and Dulloo Bazaar and back 8 miles.

I have visited the Jamalpore Abkaree Division Mohurri's office and distillery at Tatarpore, and held a local investigation into the state of the Dulloo Bazaar encamping ground, and dāk bungalow, the latter of which is for sale.

The Mohurri's office and the distillery are in a wretched state of disrepair, but the former seems of little use as the Mohurri has scarcely any office to hold, in fact has only a registry book to keep up, and has a house of his own close at hand; the distillery is about to be repaired, but unless there is any chance of its being removed from Tatarpore to any more convenient place, as circumstances may require, I should

have thought, as in the case of Jamalpore, that it would be for the better interests of Government, to build at once a *pucka* distillery, rather than incur the annual expense of repairing this mud building, in which there is no security against theft of the liquors distilled in it, but I shall

N. B. I have not as yet had the opportunity of enquiring into this question of *pucka* *corras* mud buildings for *abkaree* offices, &c.

enquire more particularly into the matter when I next see the Deputy-Collector in charge of the *Abkaree* Mehal.

The *dāk* bungalow at Dulloo Bazar is a capital *pucka* building, with a *pucka* well and 2 *pucka* outhouses in the enclosure, and all in good repair, except the roof, which is of thatch. I have issued notices calling on the neighbouring landlords to know if they are willing to purchase, but I fear they do not require such a building, for it is not in a situation in which they could put it to any use.\*

The encamping ground at Dulloo Bazar is below the level of the Grand Trunk Road, but the land is hard and dry, and is free from cultivation, with exception to a few cottahs in very low swampy ground, which could not be put to any use in an encampment

The land is not so well defined naturally but that encroachments might be made upon it, in addition therefore to making a scientific plan with chain measurement of the ground, I have directed eight brick boundaries to be erected on it. There are two *pucka* wells upon the ground, which has never been purchased by Government.

The area is beeghas 89-12-12 or somewhat in excess of the minimum of 200×300 yards required by Government. One of the original boundary marks of this ground was a high conical mound, which attracted my attention by its curious shape, and then by the unwillingness of the measuring peon (a Mussulman oddly enough) to ascend it in order to taking the measurement sight. It was called a *muntra* and was held sacred to some Hindu deity or other. A friend has since suggested it might be one of the ancient Buddhist mounds.

December 24th to 30th.—Mymaree. The 25th and 26th were holidays, and during the greater part of the other days I was fully employed in disposing of routine office work, but on the 30th I found time for a hasty inspection of a Government grant-in-aid model vernacular school at Amadpore, distant some 2 miles.

The school is numerically the largest that I have as yet seen, the registered number of scholars being 105, and the average daily attendance being asserted to be proportionately large also. The numbers in each class are as follows:—

\* Since sold.



1st Class,	..	..	20	5th Class,	..	..	10
2nd "	..	..	10	6th "	..	..	14
3rd "	..	..	15	7th "	..	..	21
4th "	..	..	15				

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The school-house is built of mud, with a thatched roof, and is divided off into several compartments, opening out into one another, an excellent arrangement in order both to maintaining the distinction of classes, and to preserving a better discipline.

I had only leisure to examine the 1st and 2nd classes, and to ask a few questions of the masters regarding the School generally. The boys are principally of a caste called *Baroois*, or Traders, the Brahmins and Kayasts come (about equally) next in numbers, and there have been castes as low as the *Kāmārs* and *Tantis* in the School. I suspect that below the 5th Class only the simplest reading and spelling, and that in the 7th Class only the alphabet were known. The average ages of the boys seemed to me to run between 8 and 12, but there were some very "old" boys indeed, and some quite children again.

In the first class the reading was distinct, the stops being well marked but only two out of 19 boys present at all understood what they read (*Robinson Crusoe* in Bengali). In the second class the reading was indifferent, the understanding nil. In both classes the spelling was ready and correct, and the explanation of words generally right. Writing from dictation was also very clear and rapid, especially in the second class. Simple arithmetic was correctly but not rapidly summed in both classes.

The Geography, with corresponding indications on the maps of Europe in the first, and of Asia in the second classes, was generally correct and ready, in the cases of principal towns, rivers, and so on.

There was no knowledge of History.

The inhabitants of Amadpore and other neighbouring places have joined in making a very fair road of about two miles in length between Amadpore and Mymares; it is not quite finished, but when it is so, they told me they would have expended about 1300 Rupees upon it. Their petition now was, that I should move Government to consent to keep it in repairs. I explained that in the first place it was no concern of mine, but that the Magistrate was the proper authority to whom to address themselves, and that moreover there could not be much public spirit or private enterprise amongst them if they could not supply the annual funds to keep a road in repair, which they had found funds to

make in the first instance. I have mentioned the subject however in my journal for the information of the Commissioner of the Division.

On the 31st, I inspected the Office of the Sale-Commissioner of Gan-gooriah, and examined the officer himself in his knowledge of his duties. The result was very satisfactory, his papers were in good order, and kept up to date, and he himself, by name Attawal Huk, and appointed 26th October, 1854, had a competent knowledge of his duties, extending even to quoting the words of the Regulations.

*January 1st to 5th, 1859.*—Mymaree via Buhar to Culna 20 miles. I had to inspect here the offices of an Abkaree Darogah and a Sale-Commissioner, and I took the opportunity of visiting an English school (towards the erection of the school-house of which the Maharajah of Burdwan gave Rupees 200,) maintained by the assistance principally of Mr. Sawyers, the Honorary-Magistrate, who assisted to build the school-house, and subscribes monthly, and of the Moonsiff of Culna, Ramtaruck Rai.

The books, office, and building of the Abkaree Darogah, Babonessor Rai, were in excellent order, and I was much pleased with the intelligence of the Darogah himself, and with his general manner, which was respectful, without being servile.

I was not so well satisfied with the knowledge of his duties shewn by the Sale-Commissioner, Sreenauth Rai. The emoluments of this class of officers are however so very small, that one cannot expect them to be possessed of much knowledge or intelligence, and I think this particular man has sufficient for the general work thrown into his hands. His books were in good order, and their contents were well known to him.

Mr. Sawyer's school is by far the best I have as yet inspected. It numbers 40 scholars subscribing a minimum of 8 annas a month in the English, and I think 10 annas in the Bengalli department, of whom the greater number are regular attendants. The chief part of the scholars are Bralimina, but all castes, even to the Moochees, are freely admitted, and as low as the Bagdahs are at present actually represented in the school.

There are two English and I think Bengalli masters, and the knowledge of the boys in English grammar, etymology, rudiments of history, and of geography, was extremely creditable, and their intelligence and apparent desire for knowledge very remarkable.

The boys' manners too, and their discipline were alike good, and the mode of teaching of the head-master, and his own acquirements and

intelligence, shewed that he was the person to whom the chief credit of the school was due. The school-house is a most substantial building, and admirably clean and neat.

*January 6th to 8th.*—Culus to Dhoba 5 miles. I had not intended making any stay having no particular business here, but an accident to my baggage in crossing the Khurrih Nuddee unavoidably detained me, and I was afterwards glad of the opportunity of getting through an accumulation of civil suit pleadings.

Here was once the celebrated Dhoba sugar factory, which employed upwards of 1000 skilled labourers, was worked by steam, and covered a large area of land with buildings, comprising one three-storied, and three two-storied houses, and upwards of 50 pukka store-houses. Of these, which were all in existence, and in full use not more than 11 years back, only two houses, one of them quite out of repair, and both fast disappearing, and the factory chimney remain to tell of the colonization and industry that once flourished. The history of their decay seems to be, that the original founder and sole proprietor retired with a fortune, selling his property to a number of persons or to the firm of Alexander and Co., and that after the failure of this latter house, no one was found with capital or will to carry on the factory.

It is not promising for the future of European colonization in India to have to mourn, like sentimental tourists in this early stage of it, over ruins, instead of having to retreat in disgust before the "*fumum et opes strepitumque*" of factory chimneys, just commencing to smoke, or bricks and mortar in London suburban freshness; but I imagine that the downfall of the Dhoba concern was owing chiefly to the sudden fall in the price of sugar generally, which occurred some 10 or 12 years back, rendering the returns from its manufacture in this country insufficient to give any profit on the outlay, and not to any want of energy or carefulness or capital on the part of the last proprietors of the concern.

*January 9th to 10th.*—Dhoba to Poorbootallee 11 miles. At Poorbootallee I had to inspect the books of a Sale-Commissioner, Bannessur Banerjya. He has been 10 years in office, and I found his books in good order, and entered up to date, and himself to be well acquainted with his business, and generally intelligent.

At this place there is a Missionary school, under charge of Mr. Hasell, of the Church Missionary Society, at Kishnagore. It has been established 8 years, but comparing it with the Government grant-in-aid schools that I have inspected elsewhere, I cannot say that the progress

of the boys is rendered favorable by the contrast, but the school has only lately had the benefit of more than one master, and the number of boys had always been very great, and now amounts to 129, with an average daily attendance of 104, and is increasing. All castes, as low as the Tantias, are plentifully represented, and there does not appear to be any unwillingness on the part of boys of higher caste to be brought in contact with those of lower castes, and the fact of the former description of boys being permitted to attend the school involves the consent of their parents to their being treated only on an equality with lower caste boys.

In more than one of the Government grant-in-aid schools, that I have visited, I have observed the influence of caste, and the evident desire and power of the higher castes to exclude the lower. The desire is easily accounted for, the power lies in the comparatively greater wealth of the higher caste families, enabling them first by the institution and principal support of the schools, to influence, if not to direct, their management, and, secondly, to furnish the great majority of scholars. Families below the rank of Kayasts have rarely the means to pay even the few annas required per month for their children's schooling. At schools such as that established by the Church Missionary Society at Poorbostullee no schooling fees are required, and boys of all castes are admitted freely.\* There is one Christian and one Heathen teacher, and no distinctions, that I could observe or hear of, are made between the castes. They sit side by side, and the best and most intelligent boys are those who receive the most distinction.

It seems to me that a very severe blow is thus being inflicted upon caste distinctions. Boys of all castes are hereby taught, that the only distinctions between them are those of good conduct and superior application or intelligence, as opposed to the opposite qualities, and it must tend to destroy mere birthright distinctions when boys are brought in the habit of considering other and better distinctions superior to them.

*January 11th to 15th.*—Poorbostullee to Gopeepore 8 miles. Whilst encamped here, I was engaged in the settlement of Chur-Kastosal, Tonjee mehal, No.

The real name of the chur I found to be Kantalipaka and the name erroneously assigned to it put me to great inconvenience, by causing me to pitch my tents near the village of Kastosallee, or Coriallee, which I found to be at least 3 miles across the old bed of the Bhagiruttee from the chur in question.

I should not mention this fact, if it were not for the circumstance that in this and in the only other settlement in which I have this season engaged, I have been misled by a misnomer given to the settlement, and I therefore think the fact deserving of being brought to the notice of the Board and the Commissioner. In proceeding to revise the settlement of Davespore in November last, I literally had the the greatest difficulty in finding the settlement lands when within only four miles of them, because the name of Dabespore was only an ancient alias to one, and that not the most important, of the villages included in the settlement.

I had some difficulty at first in tracing the chur lands, in consequence of encroachments of the river at the point where the former measurements commenced. I succeeded however at last in tracing the boundaries, and having made a scientific tracing and ascertained the rates of the different description of the lands of the settlements, I left my assistant Mr. Ouseley, whom I had been directed by the Commissioner to employ in some sort of Moffusil work which would teach him Collectorate business, to conclude the testing of the Ameen's dags. of measurement, which was all that remained to be done.

The settlement will be very shortly entirely completed, for although N. B. It is pending a *caboolcut* of considerable extent in point of quantity from the Maharajah of Burdwan. of lands, it is not at all complicated.

Whilst at Coxiallee I endeavoured to arrange amicably several long standing disputes and suits between M. Liotard, the present proprietor of the Coxiallee indigo factory, and the talookdars of a neighbouring place, Meertolla. I did not succeed in making any present amicable arrangement, but I believe that I laid the foundation of something of the sort.

January 16th to 17th.—Gopeepore to Majdeah 6 miles. At Majdeah I had to investigate into the fact of additional lands ready for settlement, which I had reason to suppose had accreted to the chur of that name, settled permanently in the year 1288.

I found that perhaps 100 beeghas had been added to the chur, but it was all at present covered with sand, or patches of long reed grass, and not fit for cultivation or assessment; it was represented to me also by the zemindar of Majdeah, that other churs included in the same lot as this one had lost even more land than this chur has gained; it did not appear to me necessary just at present to enquire into this fact, the accretion of chur Majdeah not being at present fit for settlement, I therefore propose simply to hold a *robookaree*, recording that there are

accretions to chūr Majdeah, and directing that after an interval of two years these accretions shall be again inspected, and that if they are then ready for settlement, any objections to their being settled may then be heard and decided.

It appeared to me that it would be waste of time and money to entertain and investigate objections having reference to land from which no revenue could now or might ever be payable to Government.

*January 18th to 20th.*—Majdeah viā Bhowsing Factory to Cutwa, 16 miles. At Bhowsing, there is a capital two storied pukka house, which was the residence of the former proprietors of the Bhowsing sugar works. The general depreciation in the price of the sugar, which I understand took place 10 or 12 years ago, led to the abandonment of these, together with other sugar works, and the proprietor's house is now forlorn and tumble-down, and the works converted to the use of a native indigo factory. Having reached Cutwa I may here mention that there is the making of a very good road between Culna and Cutwa, a distance of perhaps 40 miles, principally along the banks of the Bhagiruttee. Only one bridge requiring any considerable outlay, that across the Kurrih Nuddee, seemed to me requisite, and the road generally seemed hard and firm, and not subject to inundation. There seemed to be considerable traffic upon it, and the river traffic, except in the rainy season, is so much longer, and so tedious and uncertain on account of shallows, and perhaps so comparatively unsafe from plunderers, that probably the existence of a good road would to a great extent replace the river by a land traffic, and there are a great many factories and considerable villages on the road.

At Cutwa, I visited the school and the town, and inspected the offices of the Deputy-Collector Koar Hurrendra Krisna, the Abkaree Darogah, Radhamadub Dutt, and the Sale-Commissioner, Thakoor Doss Sain.

The school has been established, and a capital pukka bungalow, well furnished, and kept exquisitely neat and orderly, for it built, at an expense, I was told, of some 4000 Rupees, entirely by the inhabitants of Cutwa, and within the last two years the excellent Deputy-Magistrate originating and principally sustaining the Institution. English and the Vernacular are both taught.

There are 82 scholars, and a daily attendance of about 72. The school is kept up by subscriptions and school fees. About one-half the boys are of the Brahmin caste, the rest are principally Kayasta and Buncachs, but there are a few of a caste as low as the Tantias. There are three

English teachers and one pundit, on salaries of Rupees 25, 12, 6 and 8 a month respectively.

I examined the first class thoroughly in reading, grammar, spelling, explanation of reading, and the rudiments of geography in English. The result was most satisfactory, especially, and more so than I have seen it elsewhere, in the explanation of what was read, the boys having evidently been taught to think and recollect what they read.

The town of Cutwa is becoming under the care of the Deputy-Magistrate, aided by the members of the Panchayet, under the Chowkeedaree Tax Act, quite a model town. The chief street of the town has an admirable pukka road and pukka drains throughout, and these improvements are being extended throughout all the town, and to the roads in the immediate neighbourhood of it. They have even lamps in the town, not many it is true, but enough to be the first step to more, especially if those in existence are lighted at the private expense of individuals. There is a very efficient looking Police, in an uniform of red turbans and sashes, and armed all with a police truncheon of one make and form. They are under a sort of drill too, a tremendous swell of a jemadar pronouncing words of command in a new version of the English language, which however answers its end, quite as well as any words that an Englishman would recognize as belonging to his language.

I dare say under all this *parade*, the individual hearts of the police are not more courageous in these than in other policemen of the same genus, but discipline of any sort must, I think, be admitted to supply to some not inconsiderable extent at once the place of courage in the discipline and the idea of prowess in those again whom they may be called to act, and, as the Deputy Magistrate remarked to me, I dare say his police are not individually more courageous than others in Lower Bengal, but their red caps and sashes, and model truncheons, inspire more fear than the slatternly attire of most policemen. The Deputy-Magistrate tells me that the better discipline and dress of his police, the pukka drainage and roads of his town, the school and school-house, and other such improvements have been made almost solely at the expense of the inhabitants of Cutwa, and that to meet these expenses upwards of 9000 Rs. have been raised by subscriptions only, and the Chowkeedaree Tax has been increased from 55 to above 200 Rs. a month within the last two years. These facts seem to me to reflect almost equal credit on the Deputy-Magistrate and on the town's people of Cutwa, and though it is out of my province, I

hope I shall, on this account, be excused for entering them in my journal.

The office of the Abkaree Darogah of the Cutwa division, Radhamadub Dutt, was in excellent order, and this officer seems to have so far redeemed the negligence on account of which he was removed from the Burdwan to the Cutwa division, as a punishment, involving a reduction of 10 Rs. a month of pay, that I shall consult, with the Deputy-Collector in charge of the Abkarree mehal, on the point of restoring him to his former situation, and this the more especially that his successor, Bonomallee Mookerjee, has not, I understand, given entire satisfaction.\*

The books of the Sale-Commissioner, Thakoordass Sain, were in good order, and he showed himself well acquainted with their contents, and the nature of his duties generally. He is an officer of 16 years' standing.

*January 21st.*—Cutwa along the banks of the Adjai to Shambazar, 8 miles.

One of the objects with which I am visiting this part of the district, is to endeavour to discover any spots at which works of irrigation, such as those successfully carried out by Mr. Grose on the Damoodah, may be practicable. As far as I have yet seen, any such works do not seem to be at all generally needed along the Adjai.

\*The banks of this river are usually very high on both sides, the river itself does not bring down nor consequently deposit such masses of sand as the Damoodah, and along the banks the lands having given their autumn crops of paddy are now clothed with spring crops of mustard oil, linseed, or barley. At one place only did I observe any native irrigation going on, viz., near the villages of Shahpore and Sreesooroorah on the right bank, and here it so happened that the bank was low, and the country sloped inland, so that possibly a dam across the Adjai might at very little expense create the irrigation required, but the river is very shallow here, and indeed everywhere at this season, not much above one foot at two fords which I crossed. It does not however become much more, so I was told, at any time throughout the year.

\* (The case of this Darogah has been reported fully to the Commissioner, and under his sanction in letter No. 603 of 10 Feb/89 para 5, I propose to restore the Darogah to the Burdwan division from the 1st May, 1889.)



*January to 22nd 24th.*—Shambazaar viâ Camarpore, Ichapore, and Kankorah, to Notongaon and Mungulkote, 14 miles.

I struck the river bank again at Kamarpore, and proceeded along it by the route indicated above. It was a long ride however, and I had not time to cross to the left bank at any place. This left bank appears to me to be nearly every where higher than the right bank, and the country inland seems to rise from the bank.

Between the villages of Bonpara and Ichapore, and again between Ichapore and Kankorah, there appeared to be a country requiring, and perhaps capable of, irrigation from the river, but I write with diffidence. I took the opportunity of being at Kankorah to hold a local inquiry as to any rights of one Shoybhagyabuttee Dabee, the putneedar of Kankorah, to be included in the settlement of Chur Kankorah which has lately been before me judicially. I found that she had not, and never had had possession, nor any other rights on the Chur.

There are the ruins of a mosque between the villages of Nyahat and Muugulkote which are well worth seeing. It was one of many, tradition said, built by Shahdad Hossein or by Gouri Shah, on a road which ran through this part of the country to Midnapore. There was a similar one at Kurjunnah, I was told, 12 miles hence, and another at Burdwan, and at other places on the old Midnapore road, and near each mosque had been a tank, and a serai. One cannot but think more favorably of the rule of our predecessors in this country when we find them thus munificently providing at once for the religious and physical wants of that large portion, the travelling portion, of their subjects. And, on the other hand, I suppose all impartial thinkers must admit that it does not reflect honor upon us that since our rule, these tanks and serais at least, not to say the mosques and the roads, have been suffered to go to decay.

The shape of the mosque would almost incline one at first to think that it had been modelled on a Christian church of the middle ages; for east and west it had on either side five, and north and south it had at either end two, corresponding arches of Gothic architecture, exquisitely light and well-shaped, and at the south end there is a niche like a piscina, and on the west side there is another niche, like those formed to hold figures of saints in Roman Catholic churches, but when you come to examine the building more closely, the imagined resemblance vanishes. There are the octagonal towers at the four corners, and the three shrines on the west side, and the entrances from the east, and the embossing of the rose and pomegranate, all proclaiming

the pure Mahomedan style of building. The whole building outside and inside was originally covered with embossed tiles let into the masonry, the greater part of which are still perfect and in their places, and the columns were all relieved on the inside by ornamental slabs of black granite let into them. The same granite was used in the alcoves in which were I suppose the three shrines on the west side. Time and the weather have had little or no effect upon this granite, the ornamental part and the edgings being still sharp and uncorroded. It is consolatory, as evidencing the decadence of effective Mahomedanism, to observe that whilst this beautiful and costly mosque is allowed to decay unnoticed, the neighbouring *Asthan* or shrine (square, vulgar and hideous as a barrack,) of a saint whose very name is forgotten, is still the resort of pilgrims, as evidenced by the numerous votive offerings of the usual clay representatives of horses.

I had a visit from Kasee Khuda Nuwaz, the zemindar of the place, who was anxious I should see the injury said to have been done to his lands on the right bank of the Adjai, by the failure on the part of Government to repair the embankments, the line of railway at the same time making a new embankment at right angles to the river, and thus adding to the injuries done, by confining the flood-waters to particular localities, instead of their being allowed to spread as heretofore. I answered that I had no objection, provided I had the leisure, to see anything he wished to shew me, but I reminded him, when he spoke of the presence of the railway as an additional cause of injury to his lands, that almost in every place to which the railway had hitherto extended itself in active work, the value of land had risen at least a hundred per cent. Land at Raneegunge which to my knowledge was selling in 1854 at five rupees, can only be had at all on compulsion (Act VI, of 1857,) and then at fifty to sixty rupees a beegha, and it is rumoured with much probability that there are coal and other minerals on the Adjai also.

I examined the books of Indronarain Doss, the Sale-Commissioner at Mungulkote, and himself personally in the matter of his work. His books were in good order, and he himself was well acquainted with their contents, and with the law and general nature of his work. He has been a Sale-Commissioner for fifteen years.

January 25th.—Mungulkote via banks of the Adjai to Jehanabad, 8 miles.

I struck the banks of the river at Raneebazaar, and travelled more or less along them on the left bank to Jehanabad. At Mungulpore the embankments commence, but they are frequently interrupted, and are

rarely of any height until you get to Sindilpore, whence to Jehanabad more care seems to have been bestowed upon them.

There was but one place, viz., between Mungulpore and Tikoorie where works of irrigation seemed feasible, the left bank being low, and the country sloping inland. The ryots here and at Koorgong complained of injuries to their lands from the inundations, but I cannot say I saw signs of such to any great or permanent degree; and, on the other hand, the banks were high and good crops of linseed, mustard oil, and such like, and even of sugar-cane, were growing, and there had been in many places crops of paddy.

I demarcated and ascertained the rates of the lands occupied by an embankment hungalow here at Jehanabad, and obtained the written consent of the ryots in occupation to the rental of the land at Rs. 2 a beegha per annum from the year 1261, for as long as the land may be required by Government. The amount of land occupied was found to be beeghas 8.3.8, and it has been in Government occupation at least since May, 1854, corresponding to Bysack 1261.

*January 26th to 27th.*—Jehanabad via Mustulla, Madobpore, Etundia, Harripore, Bhedeas and Malocha, to Maliara and back from Maliara via Shagorpootool, and the river banks to Bhedeas—23 miles.

Except at the breach above Shagorpootool I did not observe any places where irrigation might be carried on. There was however the usual want of water there.

At Maliara I demarcated, measured, and mapped the lands occupied by an embankment hungalow. The lands were taken in 1854, and an alleged lakhirajdar had petitioned before me for compensation upon them. The Embankment Department are however willing to pay rent for them, and so I went to ascertain the rates, &c. I found two claimants to the lands, the lakhirajdar above-mentioned, and the proprietor of the *mal-talook* of Maliara. The extent of land occupied by the hungalow was found to be beeghas 8.18, and the land was waste, and so no rate had been fixed upon it. I ascertained however, that the rate of similar grass lands was from 2 to 4 annas a beegha, and I shall advise the Embankment Department to offer to pay rent at 4 annas a beegha to whomever may prove himself the proprietor of the lands.

At Shagorpootool on the right bank of the Adjai, I had to investigate into the matter of a petition for compensation on account lands laid waste by the floods pouring in through a breach in the embankments.

The facts appear to be these. There were not originally any embankments below the lands of the village of Malocha until the year

1262 B. S. In that year, however, the line of embankments was carried on from Malocha to beyond Shagorpootool, and in the same year a severe flood caused a large breach just above and west of Shagorpootool. The waters through this breach swept, and still each year sweep the lands at the back of Shagorpootool, and thence pass down through the villages below mentioned, as low as Mungulkote, being joined in their course by the waters of the Kandar Khal, which flows into the Adjai opposite Hurripore, and by those of the Koonoo Nuddee which joins the Adjai above Mungulkote. Before this breach was made in 1262, the country indicated was always subject to floods, but the formation of the breach at Shagorpootool has made them more destructive by confining their course, whereas before they spread pretty equally over the whole country. In 1262 a small breach was also made in the embankments at Buxybazar, but this has since been repaired by the zemindars, and they now pray that the breach at Shagorpootool may be repaired, and that the repairs to the embankment at Buxybazar may be rendered effectual. The following is a list of some of the villages of which the lands are said to have been injured, together with the names of talookdars, and about the amount of injury done :

Shagorpootool,—Okhoy Chunder Dutt,	.. ..	Beeghas	300
Reorn, .. .. .	.. ..	„	200
Nursingpore, Okhoy Chunder Dutt, .. ..	.. ..	„	100
Orgaon, .. .. .	.. ..	not stated	
Bbedeah, .. .. .	.. ..		200
Budra, .. .. .	.. ..	not stated	
Cullianpore, .. .. .	.. ..		
Pooroocha, Dwarkanauth Chunder, .. ..	.. ..		100
Beelsouda, .. .. .	.. ..		100
Buxybazar, Bundali Shah, .. ..	.. ..		200
Poogaon, .. .. .	.. ..	not stated	

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Total Beeghas 1,200

In obedience to late orders of the Commissioner, I shall report the Reported No. ~~104~~ dated 2 Feb 69 matter in the first instance for the consideration and opinion of the Superintendent of Embankments. Anunda-prasad and Okhoy Chunder Dutt, called upon me on the 27th, and offered to pay a part of the expense in repairing the breach at Shagorpootool if it were deemed necessary.

Their explanation of the matter of the breach corresponded with that given above.

The Feroosh-Ameen of Aosgaoon attended with his books, and I examined them and him as to their good order and his qualifications. Mr. Cockerell, Deputy-Collector at Bood-Bood, had reported in December, 1858, that, this officer could only read his own books with difficulty, and knew little of their contents or of his duties generally, that he wrote imperfectly, and that his books were not written in his own hand.

The Feroosh-Ameen admits, in his written defence, that the books are not written up by himself, the reason being that his mohurrir, a private servant of his, writes a better hand.

He also admitted to me in verbal examination, that he was not in December last well acquainted with his duties, but had since made himself so; but when I caused his defence to be written down, he denied that he had ever admitted the above, alleging that I had misunderstood him, and asserted that Mr. Cockerell had not in December examined him as to his knowledge of his duties, and had only just looked at his books and signed them. He also denied having ever received any orders from me, forbidding a practice he admitted that he still continued, of deducting his commission on sales before receiving my

Other circumstances have since arisen in the case of this man, and I am suspending judgment pending the result of a criminal suit.

permission so to do. I shall suspend judgment on his case, pending further enquiries.

I held on the 29th a cursory examination of the Government grant-in-aid vernacular school at Bhedeah. There were 31 out of 48 registered scholars present.

There are two masters in the school, on Rs. 20 and Rs. 5 a month only, and the school was established in June, 1858. The head-master is a very intelligent man, but the school seems rather to languish. The boys generally did not shew much intelligence or desire to learn, and the school building was very much out of repair and inferior of its kind. The explanation I believe to be that there are no talookdars of any wealth or influence in the neighbourhood, and something too must be allowed for the recent establishment of the school. The castes of Brahmins, Sudgopes, Kayasts, and Buneahs seemed about equally represented in the school. The reading, writing, and simple arithmetic of the scholars were very creditable, considering the recent establishment of the school. It is worthy of remark I think, as evidencing the independence of the schools of the district generally, that, here for the first time I was directly asked to contribute

to the maintenance of one. I was very glad to do so in this case, for it seemed to me one in which pecuniary aid was really required from without, but as a rule I feel convinced it is best for the people of the country to endeavour to make them self-reliant. A sort of habit seems to have been engendered in the country of looking up to Government both for the institution and maintenance of all beneficial works, it is full time that the natives should learn, that even had Government more means than it has at its disposal, still it must be by individual exertions and private enterprise principally that personal interests and individual benefits are secured. As this is the last of the Government grant-in-aid schools that I shall visit during this tour, I take the occasion to make a few general remarks, shewing the result of my impressions of such schools in this district.

And I have no hesitation in saying that I think education generally by means of Government schools has made, and is making rapid and sure strides, and those in the most needed direction, viz., in the reading and writing of the vernacular, and in simple arithmetic, and I do not recollect one Government school, however lately established, in which the majority of the scholars, did not read, write, spell, and do simple arithmetic rapidly, accurately, and distinctly; and it is almost a truism to add, that there was almost every where exhibited amongst the scholars, the utmost eagerness to learn, and especially to learn the English language.

In detail, I think the schools were wanting in attention to the point of making the scholars comprehend what they read, and in the elements of learning they are wanting in the points of discipline and of right moral training. Self-interest, almost universally taking the form of Government employ, is considered and is allowed to be considered the chief aim of learning, and the scholars are never seemingly taught the principle that the true end of learning is the better moral conduct of their own lives, both in their families and in their relations with others.

And the want of strict physical discipline is also I think very crying. As a general rule the scholars seemed to attend or not at their own pleasure, or that of their parents, and even during my examinations, where some sort of respect might have been expected to have been inspired, there was much noise, talking and laughing, and very little respect for the masters observable amongst the scholars.

I don't say that this state of things is not in great part unavoidable in the present state of social life in Bengal, and in the present embryonic condition of the Government schools generally, but I think it is the

state of things, and is to be noted and lamented, and I believe it is not altogether irremediable.

When one man or one class of men maintains chiefly a system of schools, it is self-evident that the school-masters cannot be as independent as they should be, but it seems to me that the Inspectors of Schools might enlist this class of men on the side of discipline and order, by pointing out to them that the maintenance of such discipline is for their own benefit in the persons of their children, whose better moral education is involved in it, and perhaps the Inspectors might, with this end in view, ask the principal persons, by whom any school is maintained, to be present at the periodical inspections of such school, and might take these opportunities of interesting them in the maintenance of better discipline amongst the scholars, and in the support of school-masters' authority generally.

In the present social condition of the natives of Bengal generally, one must almost despair of any practical appreciation amongst any classes, and consequently of any systematic teaching of the true end of learning. Constant intercourse between Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and School-masters, will effect some thing towards this desirable end, but so long as there is no stability of right moral principle in the people taught, and in their more immediate Instructors, there cannot be any effective right moral instruction.

And it is in this point of moral instruction that the Missionary schools, that I have seen, seem to have the superiority over the Government schools. In point of mere acquirement of knowledge the Government schools seem to me to have the advantage, and this because they offer better salaries, and thereby secure better instructed men in the scholars' immediate Teachers.

All of us, officers of Government, if we made it a point during our district tours to visit, with real interest and a desire for their improvement, any Government Schools that we might come across, might help much to their improvement in moral instruction and better discipline.

Whilst I have been here I have taken the opportunity of a day's leisure to pay a visit to the railway works as far as Sarool. They are well advanced, and the Divisional Engineer, Mr. Wilson, is confident of being able to open the line to Soynthea by June next. It was interesting and instructive of the nature and progress of our rule in this country, to see the ruins of the former Residency at Sarool side by side with the railway workshops, and one could contrast the degree of

possession of the country indicated by the solitary walled Residency of 1800 on the one hand, and by the steam-saws and such like of the Railway station of 1858, with the mixed colony of Europeans and natives to work them, on the other hand. We found here great quantities of petrified wood, shewing, I should suppose, iron in the soil.

*January 31st to February 1st.*—Bhedeah to Satconeh 15 miles. At Satconeh there is an embankment bungalow, and my business was to measure, demarcate, and map the land on which it stands, and to endeavour to arrange the terms of its rental. After some trouble the terms were settled, and the rest of the business was soon performed. The land occupied was beeghas 6-17-8, and the terms settled were at the rate of Rs. 2 per beegha.

*February 2nd and 3rd.*—Satconeh to Betta, 8 miles. At Betta is another embankment bungalow, and my business there was as above at Satconeh. After measurement, demarcation, planning and arrangement of terms, the land was found to be beeghas 4-6-8 in extent, and the terms were Rs. 3 per beegha, to commence from Bysack 1262.

I took the opportunity of being at Betta to cross the Adjai to Kendoolee in the Beerbhoom district, where an annual fair was being held. Brass lotahs, silver bangles, English, French and Indian calicoes and cotton stuffs, earthenware pots and pans, grains of all sorts, and children's and women's ornaments, were almost the sole goods for sale at the fair, and the stalls and numbers of people in attendance were not numerous, but they tell me that the fair has much fallen off of late years. The sight was so far pleasing, that there was an air of business and stir in it which was a relief to the appearance of indolence and idleness one usually meets with in Indian villages, but otherwise there was little to notice, much less to admire.

*February 4th.*—Betta via Kalkapore and Mancoor to Burdwan, 44 miles.

We returned from Betta to Kalkapore, and spent a night with the Rai family at this latter place. They are most respectable people and own the greatest part of all the jungle lands hereabouts. I took the opportunity of examining a private school the family have established for their own children. There were about 15 boys, and some very intelligent, but, as might be expected from the circumstances of the case, the boys were very backward in consequence of their being allowed by their parents to be absent from school almost at their own will.

I find I have forgotten to mention that by desire of the Commissioner my Assistant Mr. Lane was present with me from Bhedeah to Betta, in order to gaining a little mofussil experience.



From a few miles above Maliara the jungle commences, and it is unbroken the whole way up to, and for as far as could be seen beyond Betta. The soil is red and white *kunkur*, intermixed with burnt up rock, and I found many pieces of stone full of iron ore. The Kalkapore people, who own the best part of the land hereabout, told me that they had sunk shafts all over their lands to the depth of 200 feet, and had only in one place found coal, but I suspect from the similarity of the soil to that at Raneegunge, that there is coal every where, and that the Kalkapore people have only not found it more generally because they have not sunk their shafts to sufficient depths.

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## APPENDIX.

No. 1203.

BURDWAN COLLECTORATE:

January. 17th, 1859.

To Captain J. P. BEADLE,

*Superintendent of Embankments, Lower Provinces.*

SIR,—In your letter No. 603 of the 23rd June last, to the address of the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, you proposed that a Collectorate officer should be deputed to accompany you on an inspection you had been desired to make, in November following, into the condition of the country on the right bank of the Damoodah.

2nd. The Commissioner having deputed me for this inspection, it was arranged by you to commence on the 8th November last. This date was subsequently altered by you to the 26th November, and on that date again you finally told me I had best make the inspection alone, as you had already visited the chief part of the country in question, and could not say exactly when you would be at leisure to accompany me over the rest of it.

3rd. According, on the 29th November, I commenced my tour of inspection, and between that date and the 18th December following, I traversed the whole of the inundated country, from Saneeghal-Golah north to Kote-Simool south, within my jurisdiction.

4th. The object of my inspection I understood to be this: viz., to endeavour to discover, as required in the Senior Secretary to the Government of Bengal's letter, No. 1498, 19th May, 1858, by local investigation and enquiry, the present condition of the tract of country inundated, as compared with its condition previous to the removal of the right embankments.

5th. I must premise that I was not able to find any "official records or other sources" from which I could gather in detail the condition of the inundated tract of country previous to the removal of the embankments, and that being unfortunately deprived of the local and scientific knowledge and experience which you would have afforded me, my only means of comparing the past and present condition of the country were the result of my own observations, and a comparison of the depositions of villagers taken every where *en route*.

6th. My own observations were mainly directed to the point of discovering whether or not the condition of the particular lands inspected showed recent or

long standing injury, a point on which it seems to me that the eye is soon able to discern with considerable accuracy.

7th. The comparison of the depositions of witnesses was conducted in this way. The depositions were taken on four main points: first, the amount of land injured or destroyed in the particular village inspected; secondly, the amount of the same lands in neighbouring villages; thirdly, the general direction of the inundations; fourthly, the period from which the injuries dated.

8th. Now villagers may be expected to exaggerate injuries sustained by themselves, and to falsify circumstances in connection therewith; but the hope of benefit to themselves will lead them even to depreciate injuries done to their neighbours, with whom they have no proprietary connection, and when a succession of villagers, miles apart, and acquainted often only by report with the lands of which they are speaking, unite in telling the same story, varying only as much as was natural in detail, and verified by subsequent or previous local investigation and observations, that story seems to me worthy of notice.

9th. I had intended giving notice of my proposed inspection to the different talookdars and others interested, in order to their meeting me at the different villages, and pointing out to me any injury done therein; but on reflection I abandoned this intention, as likely to lead to the cooking up of false and exaggerated statements, and I pursued in preference the plan of proceeding without any notice given to villages in which there was evidence that injuries had been done, and this plan rendered I think the information I obtained more accurate.

10th. Having now as briefly as possible stated the mode, I proceed to give you the result of my inspection.

11th. From Saneeghat Golah west to Bamuniah east, a distance of perhaps 15 miles, little injury has, I think, been done, that little appears to have occurred, first at Roopsho, where there is a breach; secondly, between Nareecha and Chundeeopore, where perhaps 300 beeghas of marginal lands, injured before by breaches, have still more deteriorated; and, thirdly, below Kamalpore, where the removal of a zemindaree embankment has deteriorated perhaps 500 beeghas.

12th. It has been from below Bamuniah west to below Shadeepore south-east, that the greatest injury has been done. There are three chief breaches: first between Bamuniah and Hijulnah; secondly, between Hijulnah and Hurrypore; thirdly, between Jandoboh and Hybutpore.

13th. The first two breaches have been repaired, the first only this last year and very insecurely by the zemindars without consent obtained; the second the year before last, and more securely, and, if I remember right, with the aid and consent of the Executive Engineer, but when open, the floods passing through these breaches appear to have united in the rear of the village of Hijulnah, and thence to have taken a course first directly south, and subsequently south-east, until they effected a junction with the flood-waters of the Kintopore vent-channel below the village of Shadeepore.

14th. The lands of the following villages seen to be more or less injured by the floods, and the testimony I gathered was throughout conclusive and unvarying, that although on two previous occasions, in 1230 and 1241 B. S. I think, the floods had come in and had done temporary injury, yet the main and permanent injuries done were subsequent to and in consequence of the removal of the embankments.

Bamuniah,	Lands south and east of the village,				} Perhaps 1,600 Bs. waste, and 900 Bs. injured.
Hijulnah	"	"	and west	" "	
Hurrypore	"	"	west and south	" "	
Bonteer	"	"	north and east	" "	
Raipore	"	"	all sides	" "	
Bongram	"	"	"	" "	} Perhaps 2,000 Bs. waste.
Gopainagore,	"	"	west and south	" "	
Teandool,	"	"	and south-east	" "	
Sookoor,	"	"	north	" "	
Damash,	Lands on the south of the village,				} No specific quantity ascertained.
Boro,	"	"	"	" "	
Dukkinkool,	"	"	"	west and north.	

15th. The state of the lands in these villages confirms the story told of them. In some few spots, of no great extent, there is hard sandy soil covered by a *firm turf*, of coarse reedy grass telling of former inundations, but generally the lands are only just covered by loose sand a few inches thick, on which here and there thin crops of autumn rice or winter rubbee, shew that the injuries are recent, and not yet irremediable, and that the villagers have not yet given up all hopes and endeavours.

16th. The villagers every where told me they would be perfectly content were only the breaches at Bamuniah and Hurrypore repaired effectively, and they would be willing I think to contribute rateably to such an object.

17th. Part of the third breach, the part below Jamdohoh, has been repaired by the villagers, with the consent I believe of the Engineer's department, the part above Hybutpore is still open.

18th. The waters passing in here unite with those of a khal to the west of the village of Shadeepore, and thence again with the flood-waters of the Kistopore vent-channel.

19th. The following are the villages the lands of which are injured by the flood-waters through this breach, and there is no doubt but that the injuries have occurred subsequent to, and in consequence of the removal of the embankments here, however the injuries seem to be of even more recent and less permanent character than those caused by the two first breaches mentioned, and in seasons like that of last year, when the floods do not rise higher than 13 or 15 feet, very fine crops of paddy are raised on the lands hereabouts.

Hybutpore, lands on the west of the village.

Jamdohoh,	"	east	"	200 Bs.	Exact quantity of land waste or injured not ascertained, but much waste and injured lands apparent.
Chulbumpore,	"	west	"		
Shadeepore,	"	"	"		
Damash,	"	east	"		
Boro,	"	north	"	400 Bs.	
Balagorree,	"	"	"		

20th. From Kistopore north to Kote-Simool, the most southerly village within my jurisdiction, the inundations ran almost due north and south. In fact the embankments have often been breached here, and a distinctly marked watercourse, of an average breadth of a quarter of a mile, and a length of 12 to 15 miles, exists.

21st. The principal cause of the inundations here, is the pouring in of the floods through the Kistopore vent-channel, but there are embankments breached at Nusheepore and Jote Dukkin through which the floods find their way and aid in the work of desolation and destruction.

22nd. Throughout this water-course that I have mentioned, although the boundary marks still remain of what once were cultivated plots, and although there is fair pasturage, there are not 500 beeghas of cultivated land, and even this small quantity is covered only by thin rubber crops.

23rd. The places where most permanent injury has been done are these. First and greatest at Kistopore. Here, in a sort of semi-circle, embracing the villages of Kistopore and Dereapore, and touching as outer lines, on the villages of Shadeepore, Balagorree, Dereapore, Ongoona, Buhampore and Beerghon, the desolation is very striking and painful. The two villages of Kistopore and Dereapore can hardly be said to exist, and the lands within the semi-circle are almost entirely sand-heaps covered with thatch grass, the sparse cultivation here and there apparent only serving to mark still more the general desolation.

24th. This desolation has been caused principally by the floods let in through the Kistopore vent-channel, but it has been added to by the floods let in consequent on the removal of the embankments, through the breaches above detailed.

25th. The village of Nusheepore presents the next most serious scene of injury. To the west of this village the lands had previously been injured by the floods from Kistopore, but the injuries now apparent on the lands to the south of this village are certainly recent, and have been caused by the breach made in the embankments. The floods through this breach of course add force and volume to those coming down from Kistopore.

26th. The next remarkable injury occurs at Jote Dukkin, where another and the last breach has been made in the embankments. The lands here however are high, and the injury done, being both recent and slight, has not prevented the cultivation of fair rubber crops. The floods let in here also join those from Kistopore above.

27th. I beg to subjoin a list of the villages, east and west through which the floods pass from Kistopore southward.

East.		West.	
Kistopore entirely,	Bs. 600 waste.	Balagorree, . . .	Bs. 400 waste.
Beergaon, {	not much injured.	Dereaspore, . . .	600 "
Buhampore, }		Ongoonah, . . .	400 "
Nusheepore, . . .	400 "	Goonoor or Goojar, . . .	200 "
Kalarah, . . .	700 "	Ucchitpore, . . .	100 "
Dangah, Furreedpore, and		Randeabbattee, . . .	400 "
2 puttees, . . .	650 "	Adumpore, . . .	1100 "
Chundeeppore, . . .	100 "	Peepuldohoh, . . .	400 "
Hunashool, . . .	300 "	Dhamnaree, . . .	300 "
Rajarampore, . . .	370 "	Kumulgirih, . . .	400 "
Sreekistopore, . . .	700 "	Neeloot, . . .	250 "
Jote Sreeram, . . .	150 "	Chabukpore, . . .	100 "
Jote Dukkin, . . .	450 "	Shoobuldohoh, . . .	500 "
Koonch, (not ascertained.)		Boro-Boinan, . . .	600 "
Shaharunpore, . . .	350 "	Singarpore, . . .	200 "
Futtehpore, . . .	150 "	Nursingpore, . . .	400 "
Moedeeppore, . . .	200 "	Atarpore, . . .	750 "
Resalutpore, . . .	200 "	Kote-Simool, . . .	350 "
Wuzeerpore, . . .	200 "		
Sealce village, disappear-			
ed, . . .	400 "		
Korab, . . .	350 "		

28th. I have noticed more distinctly and minutely in a daily journal the whole of the above facts; but I believe that I have now told you the chief result of my inspection; it may be briefly summed up thus. That from Saneeghat-Golah to Bamuniah a little but not much injury has been done by the removal of embankments. That from Bamuniah to Hybutpore a very great deal of injury has been done from the same cause. That from Kistopore to Kote-Simool an immense deal of injury has been done by the flood waters let in through the Kistopore vent-channel as a chief cause, and that this injury has been added to by the removal of the embankments, floods being thus let in which have added force and volume to those before prevailing. That the injuries done are not, except perhaps in places like the semi-circle of waste land, described in my 23rd paragraph, generally of a permanent nature, the condition of the lands shews, the villagers usually admitting that cultivation could immediately be resumed, and would shortly be restored to its former prosperous state, were the different breaches and the vent-channel named once closed.

29th. I do not pretend to look at the case in an engineering point of view, I endeavour to represent facts as I believe them to be, and I may state my conviction

that, if on other grounds it were a step advisable, it would be one acceptable and satisfactory to the whole country on the right bank of the Damoodah, to close effectively the breaches at Bamuniah, Hurrypore, Hybutpore, Nusheepore, and Jote Dukkin, and the vent-channel at Kistopore.

30th. I should mention that I have been very much assisted in the judgment I have expressed above, by a visit I made in August last, just after the highest flood of the season, in company with Mr. Executive Engineer Smith, to those parts of the inundated country situate on the river banks.

31st. I should also mention that I have been delayed sending you this report by the receipt late last month of a pamphlet of papers of 1856, 1857, and 1858, on the removal of the Damoodah Embankments, which I desired to read carefully. Having so read them, my opinion remains unchanged, the more so that I gather from these papers that the country I have inspected, and have endeavoured to describe, has never before been examined in the same detail as I have now examined it.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) CHARLES HOBHOUSE,  
Offg. Collector.

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No. 3204.

*From the SUPERINTENDENT OF EMBANKMENTS, L. P.*

*To the COLLECTOR OF BURDWAN.*

MIDNAPORE :

24th February, 1859.

SIR,—Your letter No. 1203 of the 17th January, 1859, has remained a long time unacknowledged, but you will have seen from the copy of my report to the Chief Engineer, forwarded through the Executive Engineer, Mr. Smith, for your perusal, that I have been absent in Orissa, and I hope you will now allow me to thank you for the information afforded in your despatch. I have also to request you to attribute the apparent strangeness of my conduct narrated in the first two paragraphs of the letter, to the facts of no great flood having occurred to make the examination of decided importance, and of my other duties having so gained head upon me, that I was obliged to give up a second inspection with the Collector, after I had examined the lower portion in the Hooghly division and the margin of the river with the Executive Engineer, which it was necessary to do, particularly for the special purpose of deciding upon the further removals, to make up 20 miles of free ventage proposed for the river floods.

2nd. I am conscious that my conduct in this matter (in your letter) appears hardly courteous, and I am therefore anxious to place the above brief explanation on record, unsatisfactory though it may appear.

3rd. I will ask the Executive Engineer to mark down on the Map, and to scale as nearly as he can do it, without taking more trouble in the field, the areas which have been damaged by inundation, as detailed in your Note Book, and letter, in order that these may be compared at a glance with the land under flood range on the right bank. The Map Plan which has been published with the last selection of the Damoodah papers, will enable Mr. Smith to do this, and if you will kindly countersign the Plan, I will forward it to the Chief Engineer, with your despatch, which will then be more explanatory.

4th. The plan of procedure as stated in the 3rd and the 4th following paras., appears to me to have been a fair and satisfactory one.

5th. The 11th para. states the places where the lands have been damaged, but it does not allude to the good done by the waters; the fertilizing flow is not taken into account, whilst the sandy deposits are noted, the crops on the land included in this paragraph were magnificent, and the soil was wonderfully rich. It is not, and never has been, a good area for rice crops, but the vegetables grown are of first quality, and nowhere are the sugar-cane fields so productive. There has always been a great deal of sand about the margin of the river in this portion, covered with *surpust* grass, and the bank is evidently of modern formation, and at Kamalpore, opposite to Burdwan, where the drainage discharges by a nullah into the river, the bank has always been open and low, with a backwater from the floods depositing sand on it.

6th. The breaches in the bank noticed in the 12th paragraph, are the evil consequences of breaches in the embankments made before these were removed, and the floods working upon the torn-up ground, have cut channels for the waters leading into the rear khal.

7th. I shall for the present offer no opposition to the villagers running dams across these channels, provided the ground surface is not embanked on either sides.

8th. Some of the land on the right bank of the river is not good for rice cultivation, the soil is too hard and stiff, and in some places the land is too high and drains too rapidly, and you may perhaps have seen that the best, and sometimes the only rice grown, is that sown in the protected channels of old breaches.

9th. I have read over attentively the 14th and 15th paras. and the 19th and 20th paras., and shall be better able to follow them when I have the Map Plan before me, which Mr. Smith will prepare from your more detailed notes.

10th. In 1856 I found that for the length of two miles on the Calcutta and Bancoorah road, which embraces the water courses that run nearly parallel to the Damoodah, carrying off the land inundations of that river, there was no cultivation whatever, the reason being that the soil is a very stiff clay, and is too hard; if it had a few inches of sand on it, the vegetable crops might be cultivated.

11th. Concerning Moodeepore which is in your district, I find in my note book the following entry: "The Moodeepore bank has been reformed, and is perfectly sound and firm, walked to the rear khal, which has gooting in its banks; all the land



here is too high, and too hard for cultivation." I may be wrong, but I am impressed with the idea, that this is the case with a good deal of land about this part.

12th. In respect to the 22nd para I would observe that the Hon'ble E. Drummond, in his report of 1852, made the same remark two years before the Kistopore breaches had occurred, and six years before the embankments were removed. I cannot therefore connect the uncultivated state of this strip of land with the removal of the embankment in 1856.

13th. The desolation at Kistopore is striking, but infinitely less so than it was before I closed the great breach. If you had seen this place when the floods were allowed to pour directly into the country through an opening 1500 feet wide, with the bank, which has now reformed, furrowed, and torn up into deep holes, the river rapidly eating its way into the land, and only stayed in its process by the tenacity and resistance of the hard clay soil, you would acknowledge the improvement that has taken place. I was almost surprised to find this year, immediately in the rear of the embankment, and were the floods had poured with the greatest forces, that there were small fields of rice, the recommencement of cultivation, half hidden and partially protected by the high grass, which still marks the track of the inundating column; but this desolation must not be set down to the removal of the embankments. The map of the levels of this tract drawn from the information gained from the survey of Lieuts. P. Stewart and De Bourbell in 1852, shews all this land from Jotechun southward to be waste, and covered with tufts of long grass. The land however is not wholly unproductive, the grass sells for thatching and the pasturage sustains the cattle.

14th. The summary in your 28th para. seems to me a fair one, taken as an account of injury only, the benefits derived from the action of the floods by which the soil has been renewed and made rich, and the crops generally more valuable, should also be taken into consideration.

15th. I would however again remark, that it is not the vent-channel at Kistopore that has caused the devastation. The Collector's report of 1852 shews that the quarter of a mile strip was then uncultivated, and the great Kistopore breach which

The two sketches, vide Plate at the end of the Book, Fig. No. 2, shew Kistopore as it was, and as it is. A M is the vent-channel I left open, through which only a back water can pass, the water losing all its velocity, and acquiring a different direction.

occurred it 1853, and was closed in 1856, with what has been since called a vent-channel, when the embankments in the upper portion were removed, caused the devastation, and when the whole area under flood range is considered, and the extent of lands injured is compared with it, it will be seen that less harm has been done by

the removal of the embankments than could have reasonably been expected.

16th. I entirely concur in the 29th para., and only regret that it is not practicable to pass the Damoodah floods, without affording a very considerable ventage for surplus waters somewhere between Bardwan and Culna, but the determination to open the right bank has been made after long consideration and

discussion, and it was never supposed that the measure would be productive only of good, and I must persevere in carrying it out to completion, as the remedy causing the least of evil.

17th. In deference to your views, and the statement of the people of Shadeepore, I will endeavour to close the vent-channel at Kistopore, opening up the balance of the 20 miles in other places above this point, and, as I have before said, the people may do their best to close the channels which the river is cutting into the westward drainage khal, provided they do not embank the lands.

18th. I trust that the different ways we naturally have of viewing this matter, may tend to elucidate more fully the real facts. As Collector inquiring into the truth of the alleged losses of the cultivators, you bring to notice the damage done to the lands, and, read by itself, the list appears a long one. I have however to take another view of the question, I compare the richly cultivated areas with the portions not cultivated, and do not attribute the non-cultivation always to the effect of inundations. The rent of the land also should be considered, and the value of crops reared. I observed on the right bank,—

Mustard.

Majoor katee, in small patches, but where  
the flood had been over the bank.

Teesee.

Sugar-cane.

Pawn.

Vegetable crops.

Mulberry.

Plantains, with vegetables sown between the  
trees.

These are all very valuable and highly paying crops, and the paddy this year on the right bank was very rich. In the presence of so much prosperity, the small areas placed under sand and out of cultivation seem insignificant; they are not so however to the ryots immediately possessing these portions of land, and I am well aware that this was an extraordinary season, very advantageous for the cultivation, and that we cannot expect to have such rice crops as a rule. The rice crops must in seasons of heavy flood be destroyed in certain portions, but I maintain that has always been the case below the bend, and the destruction is neither certain nor total over the area flooded.

I have, &c,

(Signed,) J. P. BRADLE, *Captain,*  
*Superintendent of Embankments, L. P.*

No. 1558.

BURDWAN COLLECTORATE :

21st March, 1859.

To The OFFICIATING CHIEF ENGINEER,  
Lower Provinces.

SIR,--I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3201 of the 12th instant, enclosing a tracing of the Damoodah valley, and calling upon me for any personal or other reliable information in regard to villages and cultivation in the above valley not mentioned by me in my report to the Superintendent of Embankments, Lower Provinces, No. 1203, 17th January last, and for any observation I may have to make on the Superintendent's reply to my above letter, especially with reference to paras. 5, 11, 14, and 18 of that reply.

2nd. I would observe in the first place that the tracing you have sent does not appear to me to represent, in the yellow colouring given for that purpose, the extent of country visited by me, for if I had only penetrated inland as far as the tracing would indicate, I should not have visited at all, as however in fact I did thoroughly, nearly the whole of the country most injured by the inundations. I have however prepared a sketch of the inundated country from a purgunnah survey map, and this will accompany a journal of my visits, which I hope very shortly to be able to send you.

3rd. I think, that with exception to a part of the Damoodah valley from two to three miles inland, in the direction of the Midnapore Road (No. 4 in your tracing) which I have since heard has been much damaged by the floods. I have inspected all the country that suffers the most from inundations, and I do not know that I have much to add about the country visited that I have not related in my letter to the Superintendent of Embankments, and in the journal which I hope to send you, but I will ask you to append the accompanying additional particulars to paras. 14, 19 and 27 of my above letter to the Superintendent.

4th. And I have to make a few remarks upon the Superintendent's letter to me, No. 3204, paras. 1 to 5. The Superintendent here alludes to the tract of country lying between Saneeghat-Golah and Kamalpore. I have already said that in my opinion very little damage has been done to this tract of country by the removal of the right embankments, and I concur with the Superintendent in the probable existence at all times of low sandy lands about Kamalpore, but although I visited the country about Saneeghat-Golah in August last, and traversed that country between that place and Kamalpore backwards and forwards, inland, and on the river bank in November last, I cannot say that I saw the magnificent crops and "wonderfully rich soil" spoken of by the Superintendent, nor, as a general rule, any but thin crops and poor soil. The unusual drought of the last rainy season would account to some extent for thinness of crops and apparent poverty of soil, but, on the other hand, in seasons of heavy rains and consequent heavy floods, the crops hereabouts are liable to be as much injured by the rush of flood-waters,

as in seasons of drought they are injured by want of water. Secondly, para. 11, the Superintendent remarks that the land about Moodeepore is too high and hard for "cultivation." This may be so near the river banks, but the floods pass to the rear of this, and other villages above and below it, on the right bank, and it is there that one should go to ascertain the effects of the floods, and there the Superintendent would have found fine culturable land, useful now only as a grazing ground, and former rice field boundaries still remaining, to prove the sort of cultivation that had been, the ryots now refusing to sow on the improbability of their crops being spared by the rush of flood-water. Thirdly, para. 18 the cultivation specified is on the banks of the river, if the Superintendent had travelled more inland, he would have had to notice either no cultivation at all, or only such thin crops as could scarcely have repaid the labor of their culture.

5th. And as regards the Superintendent's general remarks, such as in para. 14. I can truly say that my object and endeavour during my inspection, were to discover not alone the damage, but also the good effected by the letting in of the flood waters, but I could only hear of one place, and I did not observe any in which the flood waters had produced a beneficial effect. They might do so in two obvious ways, either by leaving behind them deposits of *poli*, or black earth, or by light and gentle irrigation. *Poli* had been deposited, I heard, to a very beneficial extent in a village of the name of Bonteer, situate about the termination inland of Section No. 5 in your tracing, but in this same village the floods had in another direction done almost proportionate damage, and I could not hear of or see sign of light and gentle irrigation any where.

6th. The explanation seems to me that the floods do not spread gradually and generally, but pass into various channels less in breadth than the Damoodah River banks themselves, and course down in them, with greater velocity, because in a narrower bed, through the interior of the country, depositing comparatively little sand and less *poli* earth, but sweeping away, or submerging, so as to rot and destroy, the crops they encounter; and in proof of this, the lands are generally injured, not ruined irretrievably, and the crops are not on the lands, not because they would not flourish there in so far as soil is concerned, but because if sown they would be swept away or rotted.

7th. I may mention in conclusion a further proof of the general deterioration of the lands on the right bank of the Damoodah, that in adjudging the distribution of villages in estates in which separation of proprietary interests is petitioned for, I have had to observe that none of the shareholders have been willing to have the villages on the right bank of the Damoodah adjudged to them, and that as a consequence I have been compelled in equity to direct joint possession to be given of such villages.

8th. I return your tracing.—Below are the additions referred to in para. 3rd.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,) CHARLES HOSHOUSE,  
Collector.

*Statement of Visits made by the Collector in the interior of the District in the year 1858-59.*

District.	Name of the Officer.	Parts of the District visited.	Time occupied in the visit.	Miles travelled.	Remarks shewing how the Officer employed himself.
Burdwan.	Collector.	Chur Khorgeshur, Raneegunge,	1 day. 4 days.	6 112	Settlement. Measurement of Cantonment and Commissariat cattle land.
"	"	Hajeedanga, Gopeenauthpoor,...	1 day. 2 days.	6 80	Settlement. Measurements of lands to be made over to the Railway Company.
"	"	Gohogram via Bood. Bood, ...	1 day.	38	Visit in company with the Executive Engineer.
"	"	Gohogram to Sane-ghat-Golah, and via Joojootes to Kistonogur, ...	1 day.	26	To observe the state of the lands inundated by the removal of the Damo-dah right embankment.
"	"	Kistonogur via Suddergbat, Jamdohoh, Hamuniah, Sha deepore, &c., to Jamal-pore, ...	1 day.	24	Ditto, Ditto.
"	"	Jamal-pore to Mohun-pore and back.	1 day.	14	Measurement of an Embankment bungalow, and inspection of a disputed case of land at Sonaghurrie.
"	"	Jamal-pore via Gopaul-pore to Hurdwan, ...	1 day.	21	Embankment bungalow inspection.
"	"	Burdwan to Edil-pore and back, ...	1 day.	6	Case of disputed land of an Embankment bungalow.
"	"	Burdwan to Raneegunge and back,	2 days.	123	Disputed Hotel and Post-office lands.
"	"	Burdwan to Raneegunge, ...	16 (12 holi days.)	58	Final settlement of above, with measurement and visit to Govt. school and the coal mines.
		Carried forward...	32 days	513	

*Statement of Visits made by the Collector in the interior of the District in the year 1858-59.—(Continued.)*

District.	Name of the Officer.	Parts of the District visited.	Time occupied in the visit.	Miles travelled.	Remarks shewing how the Officer employed himself.
BURDWAN.	Collector.	Brought forward, ..	32 days.	513	
		Raneegunge to Bograh and back, ..	1 day.	14	Measurement, &c., of encamping ground.
"	"	Raneegunge to Undall, ..	1 day.	6	Ditto.
"	"	Undall to Dakeepore, &c., and back, ..	1 day.	8	Settlement.
"	"	Undall to Gopalpore, ..	1 day.	12	Measurement, &c., of encamping ground.
"	"	Gopalpore to Mancoor and back, ..	1 day.	32	Inspection of an Abkaree Darogah's Office.
"	"	Gopalpore to Bood-Bood, ..	2 days.	12	Measurement, &c., of encamping ground and inspection of dāk bungalow for sale.
"	"	Bood-Bood to Sarool and Burdwan, ..	1 day.	22	Ditto. Ditto.
"	"	Burdwan to Saneeghat-Golah, ..	2 days.	12	Visit of inspection of injuries done to lands on the right bank of the Damoodah by reason of removal of the embankment.
"	"	Saneeghat-Golah to Nareecha via Khundoghose, ..	1 day.	7	Ditto. Ditto.
"	"	Nareecha to Kamal-pore, ..	3 days.	9	Ditto. Ditto.
"	"	Bamuniah, ..	2 days.	6	Ditto. Ditto.
"	"	Hijulnah and 7 or 8 other villages to Shadeepore, ..	5 days.	6	Ditto, and visit of inspection to a Government school.
"	"	Kistopore and 4 or 5 other villages to Jamalpore, ..	1 day.	6	Visit of inspection of injuries done to lands on the right bank of the Damoodah, by reason of removal of the embankments, and
		Carried forward, ..	54 days.	663	

*Statement of Visits made by the Collector in the interior of the District in the year 1858-59 — (Continued.)*

District.	Name of the Officer.	Parts of the District visited.	Time occupied in the visit.	Miles travelled.	Remarks shewing how the Officer employed himself.
BURDWAN.	Collector.	Brought forward...	54 days.	663	visit of inspection to a Government school.
		Jamalpoore to Ramdebhatta & 8 other villages and back,	1 day.	10	ditto, ditto.
		Jamalpoore to Chukdiggee and back,...	1 day.	9	Visit to Government grant-in-aid School, &c.
		Jamalpoore,	6 days.	0	Employed in bringing up office work, and part of the time sick.
		Jamalpoore to Atarpore, and a number of other villages and back,	1 day.	20	Inundation investigation, and case of disputed embankment lands at Sonaghurrie.
		Jamalpoore,	2 days.	0	Measurement and, &c., of an embankment bungalow, and investigation into certain lands at Hylarn, taken for embankment purposes, and inspection of Abkaree Daroga and Feroosh Ameen's offices.
		Jamalpoore via Mossa-goon to Mymaree,	1 day.	12	Visit to a Government school.
		Mymaree to Amedpore and back, ...	1 day.	4	Inspection of Government school, and of Feroosh Ameen's office.
		Mymaree to Patarpoore and Dulloobazar, ...	12 (3 holidays.)	8	Inspection of an Abkaree distillery, measurement of Cantonment lands, and inspection of dak bungalow for sale.
		Carried forward,...	79 days.	726	

*Statement of Visits made by the Collector in the interior of the District in year 1858-59.—(Continued.)*

District.	Name of the Officer.	Parts of the District visited.	Time occupied in the visit.	Miles travelled.	Remarks shewing how the Officer employed himself.
BURDWAN.	Collector.	Brought forward, ... Mymaree to Culna.	79 days. 5 days.	726 90	Inspection of Abkaree Darogah and Feroosh Ameen's offices and private school.
"	"	Culna to Dhoba,	3 days.	5	Bringing up office work, being detained by an accident to baggage in Khurriah river.
"	"	Dhoba to Poorboostullee, ...	2 days.	11	Inspection of Feroosh Ameen's office and of Government school.
"	"	Poorboostullee to Go-peepore, ...	5 days.	3	Settlement.
"	"	Majdeah, ...	2 days.	6	Investigation into supposed accretion of chur lands.
"	"	Cutwa, ...	3 days.	16	Inspection of Deputy-Collector Feroosh Ameen's, and Abkaree Darogah's offices, and of private school, and visit to the town.
"	"	" via Adjai bank to Shambazar, ...	1 day.	8	Inspection of the Adjai, with a view to any possible works of irrigation.
"	"	Mungulkote, ...	3 days.	14	Inspection of Feroosh Ameen's office.
"	"	Jehanabad, ...	1 day.	8	Inspection of Adjai and measurement, &c., of embankment bungalow.
"	"	Mahara, ...	2 days.	23	Ditto Inspection of Feroosh Ameen's office and of Government school, and enquiring into land said to be injured by inundation.
"	" & Mr. Asst. Coll. Lane.	Bhede, ...	6 days.		
"	"	Satcone, ...	1 day.	18	Measurement &c., of embankment bungalow.
"	"	Betta, ...	1 day.	8	
"	"	Kalkapore, ...	1 day.	10	Visit to a private school.
"	"	Burdwan, ...		34	
		Grand Total, ...	115 days.	907	



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Fig. N<sup>o</sup> 1.

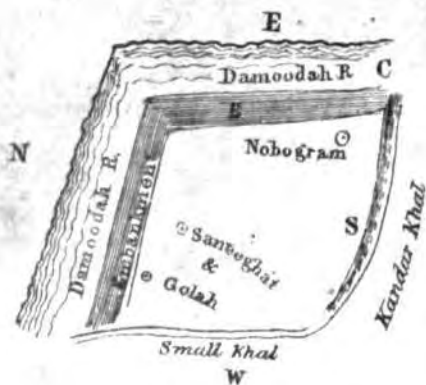


Fig. N<sup>o</sup> 3.

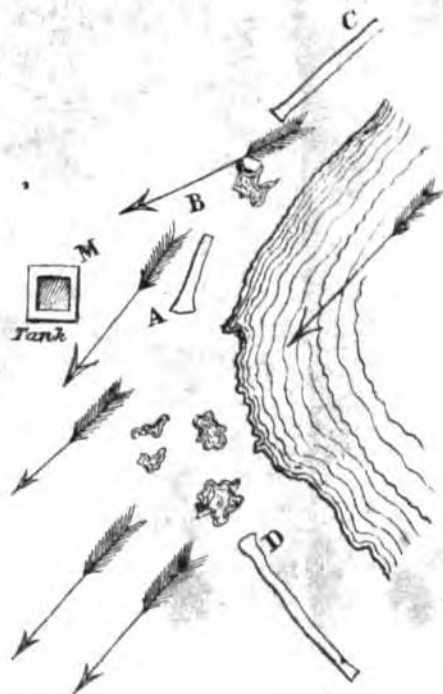


Fig. N<sup>o</sup> 2.

