

Hand, to write and send me the Particulars of this Day's Action, and a Return (which I yet expect to give me some Pain) of your Killed and Wounded. Once more I give you Joy, and add my most hearty Thanks; and I beg that you will present these in the strongest Terms (they cannot exceed my Feelings) to the Officers and Men of your Army.

I am, &c.

Past Eleven 20th September 1781.

Warren Hastings.

Num. 98.

To Edward Wheler Esquire.

Sir,

I most heartily congratulate you on the Success of our Arms in the Conquest of Pateeta, for the Particulars of which I refer you to the inclosed Letter from Major Popham. I understand that large Reinforcements, both from Lutteefpoor and Ramnagur, opposed him in the Field. It was intended to attack both Pateeta and Lutteefpoor at the same Time, and the former by an instant Assault. Major Crabb, with a strong Detachment appointed for the latter Service, marched on the Night of the 15th by a large, and, as it has since appeared, scarce practicable Circuit, towards a Pass which lies behind, or to the South of Lutteefpoor. A Letter received this Morning mentions his Arrival on the Plain which adjoins to the Pass, after a March of Three Days, instead of One, as was expected. It is the Road to Bidjeygur, and said to be the Repository of all the Rajah's Ammunition. Major Popham marched at Two of the same Night, nor did he reach his Ground with his whole Line until Ten, and then found the Place too strong to attempt it, without a regular Approach and battering Cannon. It fell at Six this Morning. I regard this Victory as a decisive Turn of our public Influence; but the greatest Proportion of my Joy is derived from the Consideration that it was gained with little Bloodshed, an Advantage which I attribute, as I expected it, to the superior Skill and known Composure, nor less Humanity, of Major Popham. Major Crawford arrived here Yesterday Morning, much harassed, but without Loss or Impediment on his Way.

Chunargur,

20th September 1781.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

Warren Hastings.

Num. 99:

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, Governor General, &c.

Honourable Sir,

As my Answer to your Favour of the 16th, which I did not receive until the 23d, the Day I wrote the Reply, and also my Answer to Major Palmer's Letter, dated the 17th, which I received the 21st in the Morning, and answered it directly, are stopped at Buxar with the other Letters, I have engaged two People, to whom I am to give One thousand Rupees, to deliver this, and bring an Answer from Chunargur. Should they get safe, you may, Sir, intrust them with any Letters, and I will forward them. Major Crawford's 2d Battalion, together with the Major, marched from hence the 22d in the Morning. I immediately sent Orders to Captain Maxwell to cross over from Manjee, and join Major Crawford at Buxar, which he accomplished. I have acquainted General Stibbert with what I have done, and the Necessity of ordering up immediately another Regiment and Four Six Pounders as soon as possible. I have acquainted him with the melancholy Accounts I have heard of your Situation, losing your Boats, and Major Popham's Regiment being almost destroyed. You may rest assured, Sir, there shall not be any Thing left undone by me for your Service, that I will not do. I have ordered Captain Salt's Troop to march to join Major Crawford as soon as possible, Mrs. Hastings having signified to me that she would send the Fifty Body Guard to join them. I hope you will approve of this, as it cannot be attended with any bad Consequence, whatever good so small a Body of Cavalry may do. I have got out One Six Pounder from the Magazine, the only one serviceable there, and am training up some of the Sepoys to work it, Two from each Company, not having any other People here. Our Arms are very bad, but I am in Hopes the Boats will arrive with the new Arms in a few Days. Every Thing at present is quiet in these Parts. Mr. Graeme made a Requisition the 24th Instant for a Battalion, but I was obliged to refuse him on account of this Regiment having unserviceable Arms and Accoutrements, and also as it has been so short a Time incorporated. This I flatter myself you will approve of.

Dinapoor,

August 26 1781.

I have the Honour to remain, &c.

A. Ahmuty.

Num. 100.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire.

Dear Sir,

I have the Happiness to inform you we are in Possession of Pateeta, and I believe with little Loss. When the Enemy heard our Attack, a large Body posted on the Hills to the Left of our Rear, made for the Camp; but the European Grenadiers and Light Infantry, whom I had kept

PART II.

as a Corps de Reserve, moved towards and totally routed them. Their Cavalry at the same Time made a Motion, with some Infantry, towards the Right of our Camp, on which a Gun was sent through some high Grass to an Out Post, and by firing Two or Three Rounds, obliged them to fly. Could I have afforded a few Sepoys from the Camp, or had the Cavalry done any Thing, Numbers of the Runaways must have been destroyed. I just hear very few of our Sepoys have been killed, and not an Officer hurt. The Enemy has sustained great Loss. Had you not better, Sir, dispatch Major Crawford's Corps to relieve Major Roberts's?

I am, &c.

W. Popham.

Camp, 20th September 1781.

NUM. 101.

Journal of a March over the Binde Hills from Chunargur to Lutteefpoor; delivered to the Governor General by Major Crabb, who conducted it.

Saturday, 15th September 1781. The following Extract of Orders, issued by Major Popham, received from the Brigade Major's Office at Half past Five in the Afternoon.

"The 1st Battalion of the 6th Regiment, the 7th Regiment with 4 Guns and 1 Howitzer, Lieutenant Polhill's Corps and his Two Guns, to march this Evening at 7 o'Clock; the Ammunition for the Guns to be carried on Bullocks. This Detachment to be commanded by Major Crabb, who will receive his Orders from the Commanding Officer at 6 o'Clock."

The Ammunition and Stores being ready at Ten, the Detachment marched by the Right, over broken Ground, to the Bank of a Nullah; the Water too deep to admit of the Guns crossing without taking off the Limber Boxes, which were carried on the Lascars Heads: this occasioned a Delay of Two Hours.

Sunday 16th. The Rear Guard being crossed, I moved on over a Plain with low Jungle about one Cofs, with a Hill on the Right, to the Foot of a very steep and rugged Pass, with deep Gullies and thick Jungle on each Side: Near the Top were two sharp Turnings, which increased the Difficulty, and added so much to the Delay, that the Sun was rising by the Time the Guns had gained the Top; the Jungle continuing very thick, but low, for near a Cofs, which opened an extensive Plain, tolerably well cultivated, and Two inconsiderable Villages in it. About a Cofs from the Entrance on this Plain, a very narrow but deep Nullah delayed us for Two Hours. About ½ths of a Cofs further on, met with a River, the Bed and Banks of it exceedingly rocky; upwards of an Hour and Half was employed in crossing it; moved along the Bank under a steep Hill about a Mile, the Road full of Rock and large Stones; re-crossed the River, which was more difficult than before, the Bed of it full of very large Rocks, and the Bank very high, through which it was necessary to cut a Road for the Guns. About 2 o'Clock, every Thing being crossed, the Detachment moved forward through a thick Jungle, with broken Ground and Hills on each Side, to the Bed of a small River full of Rocks; on the opposite Side a steep Pass, which with much Labour we got through. The Cattle being much fatigued, the Sepoys were put to the Drag Ropes, to get on the Guns, which delayed us until near 4 o'Clock. A great Scarcity of Water prevailed; Hircarrahs were sent out in Search, but none was to be found nearer than Three Miles in our Front, where they discovered a Lake; a thick Jungle between Two high Hills all the Way to the Water, where it became more open. The Cattle being so much spent with getting up the Hills, it was Sun-set before we got near enough the Lake to halt, which I did, with it on my left, and a very high Hill on my right Flank, having been upwards of 20 Hours on the March; and the Distance from Chunar I judged to be about Six Cofs.

Monday 17th. The Detachment got under Arms at 4 o'Clock, and marched through a thick Jungle; crossed the Bed of a small River, the Banks somewhat steep, the Road narrow, but tolerably good, to the Foot of a long and steep Pass, with a very deep Gully close on the Right; the Ascent very difficult, from the Number of large, flat, smooth Stones, where the Cattle could not hold with their Feet. With the Assistance of the Sepoys, about Ten o'Clock we gained the Top, and moved on over a Plain with large Trees, the Ground in many Places rocky, but level. About a Mile from the Top of the Hill came to a River, the Bed of it full of very large Rocks, over which, with much Labour, we got the Guns. At 1 o'Clock moved on over rocky Ground, the Country opening. About One Cofs from the River entered an extensive Plain, near the Village of Koradee. Several Villages appeared on the Plain, the Inhabitants whereof fled on our Approach. The Country appeared to be well cultivated; the Road over the Plain led through Rice Fields. At Sun-set encamped. The Distance this Day about Six Cofs.

Tuesday 18th. At Three o'Clock put the Detachment in Motion, and marched for the first Part over a Plain full of small deep Holes, which rendered it difficult and dangerous for the Cattle until Day-light, when we entered a thick Jungle, with many deep dry Nullahs, which retarded us very much, being obliged to cut Roads for the Guns, there not appearing the least

Trace of a Road. About 2 o'Clock entered a very large Plain, with several small Villages on it; the Inhabitants fled to the Jungle on our Approach. About 3 o'Clock encamped near a large Lake, and employed the Smiths and Carpenters in repairing the Bullock Yokes, and the Pintles of Two Guns. This Day's March about Five Cofs.

Wednesday 19th. Got under Arms at 4 o'Clock, and marched over a Plain, the Road leading through Swamps and Rice Fields, with high Banks, which retarded us much. Passed through the Village of Muddoopoor, a large Village, which seemed to have been a Place of some Note, but deserted. Here the Hircarrahs brought Intelligence, that a large Body of the Rajah's Troops were encamped about 3 Cofs in our Front, near the Village of Lora, with some Guns. The Road between us for a Cofs was a very thick Jungle. I moved on and took post near the Jungle, with a large Lake on my right Flank, and a rising Ground and Village on the Left; from hence I saw the Fortrels of Bidjeygur, which appeared very high, and above 8 Cofs distant. The Day's March above Five Cofs.

Thursday 20th. At Daylight the Detachment marched, entered the Jungle, which continued for a Cofs in some Parts very thick, where I expected to be annoyed by the Enemy. At Sunrise the Advance Guard got clear of the Jungle, when I discovered the Enemy, about 2,000, drawn up in a good Situation, with their Guns on the Right (immediately opposite the Road out of the Jungle) on a rising Ground, and a small Bank thrown up in their Front; a Tope, and the Village of Lora, on their Left; a deep Morass in their Front. They began to cannonade on the Approach of the Troops on the Plain, and continued it briskly, until the whole had cleared the Jungle, and formed the Advance Guard. Returning in with One Gun as soon as the Line was formed, I advanced as briskly as the Ground would admit, firing the Six Pounders, until I had got near enough for the small Arms to do Execution; at the same Time I directed Lieutenant Polhill from the Right to advance Two Companies, and secure the Guns of the Enemy; but before he could execute the Order, they retreated, leaving their Guns, Ammunition, and about 150 dead, and about 20 wounded, through a Jungle, to Lutteefpoor, about Four Cofs. Having no Means of carrying away the Guns and Ammunition, I destroyed it, rendering the Guns useless, and burying them. The Road to Lutteefpoor led through a Jungle, and over a very steep and rugged Hill, where no Water could be got, prevented me from pursuing further than Suckroot, an inconsiderable Village, about a Cofs from Lora, on a small Plain, where I encamped to bury the Dead, and collect the Wounded, amounting to 34, of every Denomination. This Day's Distance about Two and Half Cofs.

Friday 21st. At 4 o'Clock the Detachment marched over a good Road, but jungly for about 2 Cofs, when we got to a dry Nullah, the Descent very rugged, the Ascent still more so; the Road very narrow and winding, and full of very large Stones and Rocks, over which the Guns were lifted; with much Labour and Time we gained the Summit, from whence we saw the Fort, distant about Three Miles. The Side of the Hill leading to the Town was yet worse than what we had passed; the Road from the Foot of the Hill to the Fort was very narrow, with a thick Jungle on each Side, but pretty level. At Noon I entered the Town of Lutteefpoor, which had been evacuated while the Troops were getting down the Hill; about 800 of the Rajah's People having been all the preceding Night plundering it. They left behind them Six Pieces of Cannon, and a great Quantity of Ammunition and Stores; Three Pieces of Cannon were found on the Hills, intended to defend the Entrance from Pateeta. The Fort stands in a Bottom, with high steep Hills on Three Sides, with thick Jungle all round close to the Ditch, which is deep on the Pateeta Side, where the Wall is of Stone: the other Sides of the Wall are composed of Part Stone and Part Mud, with Loop Holes. The Guns were mounted on wooden Swivels in the Centre of the Bastions. The Citadel has a deep Ditch and a high Stone Wall (with Loop Holes) in many Places much cracked almost from Top to Bottom, and very wide.

NUM. 102.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire.

Honourable Sir,

I should do great Injustice in not acknowledging how much I am indebted to the Officers and Troops of the Detachment, for the Steadiness they observed in the Action of the 20th, as well as the Readiness they shewed in assisting to surmount the Difficulties on the March.

Lieutenant Fireworker Baillie of the Artillery in particular I beg Leave to recommend to your Notice for the very great Attention he shewed in his particular Department.

Lutteefpoor,
25th September 1781.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

J. W. Crabb, Major ad Brigade.

PART II.

NUM. 103.

Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing in the Attack of the Fort at Pateeta, the 20th of September 1781.

Corps.	Commanding Officers.	Killed.	Wounded.
Grenadier Corps,	Major Lane —	6 Sepoys	—
19th Regiment,	Major Balfour —	2 Ditto	5 Sepoys
30th Regiment,	Major Roberts —	2 Ditto	4 Ditto
35th Regiment,	Major Humphries —	1 Ditto	1 Ditto
Total		11	10

NUM. 104.

To Edward Wheler Esquire.

Sir,

On the 20th Major Crabb defeated and routed a Body of the Enemy on the Plain above the Pass of Suckroot; their Loss was 150 Men and 3 Guns, and much Ammunition: Ours small. The Rajah that Evening fled from Lutteefpoor: His Men followed his Example; and Yesterday at Noon Major Crabb took Possession, the Place being totally deserted. I was Yesterday in Major Popham's Camp, and visited the Fort of Pateeta and its Intrenchment. They are both contemptible, but in their actual State absolutely impregnable against an Attack, had they made any Resistance. The Fort, though small, is of Stone, with 4 Towers, a parallel Rampart, and Towers, and a Ditch of great Depth surrounding these, and the Town itself guarded by an Intrenchment extending far beyond it; and the Space between, Hills, Rocks, and Jungle almost impenetrable. At One o'Clock we had the Satisfaction to receive, by a regular Salute of 21 Guns, the instant Information of the Possession of Lutteefpoor by Major Crabb. I have taken upon me to grant a Brevet Commission of Major to Captain Lane, who commanded the Grenadiers of the Army, and performed distinguished Service. I this Instant receive an authentic Confirmation of the above Intelligence from Major Crabb.

I am, Sir, &c.

Chunargur, 22d September 1781.

Warren Hastings.

NUM. 105.

To Lieutenant Colonel Blair.

My dear Colonel,

It is with much Satisfaction that I now give you an Account of our Arrival at Lutteefpoor; after a most fatiguing March as ever Troops experienced, over Hills, Rocks, Rivers, and through Jungles. It does much Credit to the Abilities and Knowledge of Bundoo Khan, his being able to conduct us by such a Road without losing our Way. The only Circumstance is, that he has been deceived in the Length of the Cores, each of which are at least 4 Miles. We yesterday were opposed at Lora Suckroot by a Body of the Rajah's Troops, something less than 2000 Men in Number, and Three Pieces of Ordnance, which we dispersed and took. Their Guns, Tumbrils, and Ammunition, for want of Means to bring with us, were destroyed. One small Gun and Limber we have now with us. The Quantity of Ammunition found in Lutteefpoor is considerable. The Place, in consequence of our Success Yesterday, was evacuated by the Rajah in the Evening. The People who did not attend him remained only to plunder his House, which they have done, and destroyed what was valuable, and of no Use to them. I do not believe there was one Man in the Fort when Major Crabb marched in. The Intention of our March, in the main Point, has, I hope, answered the Governor's Expectation—the expelling the Rajah from a Place of Strength, and preventing his taking Possession of the Ghauts leading to Bidjeygur. Under his present Alarm, it appears to me, that if Measures are speedily taken to invest that Place, little Resistance will be made. I was, during the whole March, under much Concern for the Success of the Expedition, as I considered myself partly answerable for the Consequences, though I had not the Command; and I shall be much pleased to find it has met with the Approbation of the Governor, who, I hope, will do me the Justice to believe I have done all in my Power to forward the Expedition. I have to request you will mention Bundoo Khan to the Governor. I am much fatigued, and have hurt my Foot a good deal by walking, otherwise in perfect Health. I will refer you to Bundoo Khan for the Particulars of our Expedition, till I have the Pleasure of seeing you.

Dear Colonel, &c.

Camp at Lutteefpoor,
21st September 1781, at Night.

Thomas Blair.

NUM. 106.

To Major James Crawford.

Sir,

If you have not already detached any Part of your Battalion to Patna, I desire that you will not, but keep your Corps entire, and station it near the Frontier of Bidjeygur; obeying such Orders as you shall receive from Major Popham, who will soon be in that Quarter. If you weaken your Corps, you will be exposed to an unequal Contest with Cheit Sing's whole Force, which will now be assembled there. I will be accountable to the General and to the Board for the Deviation from their Orders.

Chunar,
22d September 1781.

I am, Sir, &c.
Warren Hastings.

NUM. 107.

To Lieutenant Colonel Ahmuty.

Sir,

I have received your Three Letters. I have the highest Sense of the Zeal which you have shewn for the Service, in the Orders given for the Reinforcement of Major Crawford's Regiment, and of the Cavalry, and for their speedy Dispatch; and I beg you will accept my particular and most hearty Thanks for your personal Attention to myself. The Hircarrah to whom you promised a Reward of 1000 Rupees deserves as many Lashes; he accompanied Major Crawford, and was exactly Three Weeks on the Way. Major Popham took the Field on the 16th. The Forts of Pateeta and Lutteespoor are in our Possession, the Enemy routed, and the Rajah fled to Bidjeygur. I request that you will instantly remand the Detachment from Major James Crawford's Battalion, as he will be else in Danger from the Rajah's whole Force assembled in his Neighbourhood, and his Corps united will be essentially necessary for co-operating with Major Popham in the Reduction of Bidjeygur.

Chunar,
22d September 1781.

I am, Sir, &c.
Warren Hastings.

NUM. 108.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

The following Troops, Major Crabb's Regiment of Sepoys, Captain Thomas Blair's Battalion, Lieutenant Polhill's Corps, being Part of the Vizeer's Body Guard, in all about Seventeen Hundred Sepoys, Six Guns, Two Tumbrils, and One Howitz, being ordered on Detachment under the Command of Major Crabb, to attack the Fort of Lutteespoor from the Hills and Pass to the Eastward of it, we began our March from the Encampment in the Neighbourhood of Chunar about 10 o'Clock in the Evening of the 15th Instant; crossed the Jurgar Nullah, in which there was Three Feet Water, the Banks of that Part steep, which detained the Troops till past Eleven before the whole crossed. From thence the Detachment proceeded to Foolwaurce Ghaut, which is over the Hill. The Ascent over the Hill is not very steep, but the large Stones in the Way, and the Want of a sufficient Number of Bildars, retarded the Guns exceedingly. With the Assistance of the Officers and Sepoys, the whole of the Ordnance and Tumbrils were got to the Top of the Hill by Daylight. The Descent to the Plain is very little; for some Distance the Road level, small Villages at a Distance from each other, the Inhabitants of which fled, on our Approach, to the Hills. Passed the Village of Dowau on our left, which is about Two Coss from Chunar; some small Jungles and broken Ground. Proceeded on to Byrah, about One Coss. It is a small Village, with a little round Brick Tower on the Bank of the Goordowr River, where the Troops should have crossed; but on Examination finding it unfordable at that Part, turned to the Left through a Tope, and marched to Putpur Ghaut, the Road Part of the Way very bad; the Passage might be defended by a few Men against the whole Detachment. The Guns were obliged to be unlimbered, and the Tumbrils unloaded, to bring them over the River; the Rocks at the Bottom of it very large; from the East Side of it, thick Jungles for Two Miles. When the Troops came opposite to Byrah Village, the Distance round to cross at Putpur-Ghaut about Two Coss out of the direct Road. Encamped about Five o'Clock in the Afternoon at Bulleeah-Ghaut, below Surteesgur Hills, on a Spot pretty clear of Jungle, distant from Chunar about Fourteen Miles.

17th September. At Daylight marched by the right; tolerable Road; a small Nullah now and then; no Villages to be seen for Two Coss—Ponfillah-Ghaut; the Hill neither high nor difficult to ascend; a small Village to the right, named Nicaraw; all the Way Jungle, not very thick; Distance Three Coss: Came upon the Plains, passed Koradee, which is Two Coss; marched to Cersee Village, which is about Two Coss, and encamped at 6 o'Clock in the Evening. Left Simraw, a large Village, on the right; the Country flat and well cultivated. From Bulleeah-Ghaut to Cersee is about Eight Coss.

PART II.

18th September. At Day-light crossed the Field, and entered the Borriah Jungle; several Nullahs and broken Ground; some small Villages; the Road bad till out of the Jungles; near to Borriah, where the Country is open and cultivated: At the Edge of the Jungle surprised Sobau Sing, a Relation to Cheit Sing; encamped for the Day: Distance from Cerfee Two Cols.

19th September. Marched at Daylight; to avoid some Water and bad Ground went out of the direct Road Two Cols; encamped in the Afternoon in a clear Spot of Ground, at a small Village named Butt, Distance in a direct Road from Borriah about Three Cols. The Troops marched about Six Cols this Day. In the Evening saw several of the Enemy's Horsemen mounted as our Troopers; from my Hircarrahs received Intelligence of the Enemy being at Lora, with Three Guns and about 2000 Men.

20th September. Marched by the right; Two Guns in Front of the Body Guard, One in Front of the 7th Regiment, One Gun and One Howitz in the Center, One Gun in the Rear of it, One Gun in the Rear of the 1st Battalion 6th Regiment. The Enemy were drawn up on a Piece of Ground free from Jungle, but divided by some Ditches. The Cannonade commenced on their Side. The Detachment formed in their Front in the same Order as they marched: the Guns as they came up returned the Fire. Soon after the whole was formed, we advanced on the Enemy, who fired smartly from their Guns and small Arms, till the Line was within Twenty or Thirty Paces of their Guns, when they ran away. Their Guns were immediately taken. Three Companies of the Rajah's Sepoys, and some Matchlock Men, retreated behind a Tank opposite the Center of Captain Blair's Battalion, who opened and marched round Two Sides of it, and gave their Fire, which did great Execution, and totally dispersed the Enemy, who no longer made any Stand, but ran as fast as possible; the Troops pursued the Enemy some Way. Halted to collect the Dead and Wounded; the latter were provided with Pallankeens, Dooleys, &c. when we marched on to Suckroot, about One and Half Miles from the Field of Battle, and encamped for the Day. The Rajah's Troops were commanded by Myher, the Commandant of his Sepoys, and Sewpurfaud Sing. The former rode to Lutteefpoor in great Haste, threw himself at his Master's Feet, and entreated him to make his Escape immediately; that a very large Force, with Artillery, was close in his Rear, and would inevitably take him alive. He at the same Time accused the Rajah of having deceived him, or being so himself, respecting the English Force which he went against. It appears the Rajah's People had no certain Information of the Destination of the Detachment prior to its Arrival at Koradee, or of its Strength till the Engagement commenced. Their Hircarrahs seeing the advanced Guard followed by Two Guns, concluded it was the whole Force, and the Followers of the Camp were taken for some of Owfan Sing's People, whose Head the Rajah had ordered to be brought to him, and the others to be killed and left, as if of no Consequence. The Rajah received the melancholy Account of the Defeat of his Troops before Noon, and evacuated the Fort before Three. He was followed by Numbers; some continued all Night to plunder, and left the Place the next Morning.

21st September. Major Crabb marched with his Regiment, Three Guns, and the Howitz, at Four o'Clock; at Six o'Clock Captain Blair's Battalion, Lieutenant Polhill's Corps, with the remaining Guns, Tumbrils, &c. followed; the Road good till we came to Tarrapatill, where there are large Stones and broken Ground, from thence the Road very good through Trees, till we come to Supdur-Ghaut, which, from the Slope and large Stones, is exceedingly difficult for Guns to pass. Came to a small Village of about Ten Huts; crossed the Gurriah Nullah; no Water in it. The Road to the Fort through Bamboos and other thick Jungles. Arrived at Lutteefpoor. The Gate being open, and the Place evacuated, Major Crabb took Possession of it about Ten o'Clock. The Remainder of the Detachment arrived soon after, when Two of our Guns were brought into the Fort, and light Cartridges taken out of the Rajah's Magazine, a royal Salute was fired, and the Union Flag hoisted on the highest Part of the Works. Three Guns were fired on the Hill which overlooks the Fort, and had been placed there to prevent an Enemy from possessing themselves of a Spot which gives them every Advantage over the Fort, which is commanded from it. Several Pieces of Ordnance, and a very considerable Quantity of Powder and Ammunition ready made up, were found in the Place.

I shall be glad if the foregoing Account of our March is sufficiently correct to convey a general Idea of the Roads, Rivers, and Passes. The Distances are right, so far as I am able to judge without having measured them. Troops marching by that Route without Guns would find the Distances probably less than I have made them, as we were frequently obliged to leave the direct Road to avoid Stones, broken Ground, and other Impediments to Artillery.

Lutteefpoor,
29th September 1781.

I have the Honour to be, &c.
Thomas Blair.

NUM. 109.

GENERAL ORDERS.

The Governor General having himself had an Opportunity of surveying the Fort and Intrenchments of Pateta, desires to publish to the Army the Sense which he entertains of the great Zeal and Abilities of Major Popham, in planning so difficult an Attack; and of the great good Conduct of Majors Roberts and Gardiner, and of the Officers of the Detachment, for their Assistance in the Execution of it. The Governor General expresses his particular Satisfaction at the firm and intrepid Behaviour of the Grenadiers under the Command of Captain Lane; to whose gallant Example, followed and supported by the steady Courage and Discipline of the rest of the Troops, it may principally be attributed that a Place of such great Strength has been reduced, and almost without Loss.

The Governor General, in Testimony of the Merit and Conduct of Captain Lane, promotes him to the Rank of Major by Brevet.

Chunargur, 22d September 1781.

NUM. 110.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire.

Honourable Sir,

It is with reflective Satisfaction I acquaint you that our Endeavours to reduce this Place, and disperse the Army of the Rajah Cheit Sing, have been attended with complete Success.

My Intention was to have assaulted the Town on my Arrival before it the 16th Instant; but I had certain Intelligence that a considerable Body of the Enemy, with some Cannon, were within the Place, strongly intrenched. I judged it proper to encamp till I could gain proper Information of the Strength of the Works, more especially as great Part of the Artillery and one Regiment were far in the Rear, and not likely to reach me till late in the Day. About two Hours after the Camp was pitched, the Enemy began a Cannonade from the Town, which obliged us to file off to the left, out of the Range of their Shot. This done, we received no further Molestation during the Day. In the Course of the Night I meditated an Attack with the whole Line on their Works; but my Hircarrahs brought Accounts that the Town was defended by a deep Trench and high Parapet, flanked with Towers, on which there were Guns mounted, and the Jungle behind very thick, with a Number of Troops; which obliged me to lay aside hazarding such an Undertaking till better acquainted with the Place. I now gave Orders for a Battery, and Major Gardiner fixed on a Spot about a thousand Yards from the Works; but soon after, on a nearer Observation, he judged proper to take Possession of a Tank, the Banks of which would prove an excellent Shelter for the Troops, and effectually command the S. E. Face of the Town, distant between Eight and Nine hundred Yards. This Post being gained with little Opposition, a Battery was formed, and the Eighteen pounders carried down. On the 19th a smart Cannonade was begun, which continued at Intervals during the Day; some Shells were also thrown; however, it was impossible we could know what Execution was done, as the Thickness of the Jungles obstructed the View; yet it being observed that our Fire obliged the Enemy for the most part to quit their Intrenchments and retire further into the Woods, it was judged by Major Gardiner and myself, that an early Assault next Morning, just before the Dawn of Day, might be attended with immediate Success, and though not complete, would gain us a Lodgement within the Works, from whence the Fort might with Ease be battered.

This being determined, and Captain Lane's Corps of Grenadiers already at the Battery, at Ten o'Clock at Night the following Orders were issued:

"The native Grenadiers of the Line, with the 1st Battalion of the 19th, 2d Battalions of the 30th and 35th Regiments, to assemble at the Southermost Battery at Twelve o'Clock To-night: Major Roberts to command this Detachment, and regulate it as he shall judge necessary for the Attack of the Town a little before Break of Day To-morrow Morning: The remaining Corps of the Line to close the Center (leaving their Quarter and Rear Guards standing) as soon as the above Detachment marches off, and there lay on their Arms. The Piquets of the Battalion ordered for the Attack, to be relieved immediately by the remaining Battalions. Major Balfour to relieve Major Roberts immediately, and Major Roberts to wait on the Commanding Officer for his further Instructions."

Major Roberts, agreeable to Orders, began the Attack just before the first Dawn; at the same Time a heavy Fire was kept up by Captain Hill, from Major Gardiner's Southermost Battery, which secured the Jungles to the left of the Attack, and added to that Panic which seized the Enemy immediately on the Entrance of the Grenadiers, who, with the rest of the Troops, rushed on, and soon made the Victory complete.

While those successful Approaches were making on the Town, a Party of the Enemy sallied from behind the Hill in the Rear of the Battery with Two small Guns, in Hopes that by employing our Attention that Way, the Assault on the Town would be disturbed; but they were soon routed by the cool Intrepidity of a Serjeant and One Company of Sepoys. Foiled here, they moved

PART II.

moved round the Hills till they came round the left of our Encampment, where they seemed to meditate an Attack. On their Motions being observed, the European Grenadiers and Light Infantry were ordered, if possible, to throw themselves in the Rear and cut them off. This Measure was too soon noticed by the Enemy, who immediately run away in great Confusion.

By this Time Major Roberts had driven the Enemy from the Town and every Post, so that they had now nothing left but to move with their Baggage and Cannon without the Place towards Ramnagur; which they effected as to the first Object; but the only Piece of Ordnance they had saved from the Town, was taken by Lieutenant Hamilton, who had Advice, and was long in Pursuit of it; for they had the Folly to fire it from a Distance at the Line as they were gaining the Ramnagur Road, which led Lieutenant Hamilton to it.

Had Almaus's Cavalry obeyed Orders, the Enemy's Baggage must have also been taken; but not a Man of them would move 500 Yards from the Camp.

The Returns of the Killed and Wounded on our Side, with those of the Cannon, &c. taken, will shew how fortunate we were on this Service; during which the Behaviour of both Officers and Men was such as merits the most sincere Acknowledgments.

Majors Roberts and Gardiner, Captains Lane and Hill, were particularly active, and I feel a real Pleasure in doing them the Justice to recommend them to your particular Attention.

Camp at Pateeta,
22d September 1781.

I am, &c.

W. Popham, Major.

NUM. III.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, Governor General, &c.

Honourable Sir,

Enclosed I have the Pleasure to transmit a Copy of a Letter I have received from Captain Maxwell, commanding the Battalion at Burragong, with which he has sent me Copies of the Letters written by Baun Sing Roy and Shew Perhaud Roy, to Futteh Saw. These contain ample Proofs of their Guilt; one of them is a direct Information to him of the March of the Troops from Burragong, and an Invitation to avail himself of the defenceless State of Hussy-poor, by coming to that District.

I have, in consequence of these undoubted Testimonies, written Captain Maxwell to seize the Persons of Baun Sing Roy and Shew Perhaud Roy, and keep them in close Confinement.

I have not complied with Captain Maxwell's Proposal for disarming the Country People, as such a Measure could not be put in Execution without causing a general Alarm throughout the District, and greatly obstructing the Cultivation; besides which, as no Crime is alledged against any other Person, I conceive there is no Necessity for acting with so much Rigour which would involve the Innocent with the Guilty, and still leave it doubtful on whom Punishment ought to be inflicted. Though I have deemed it improper to authorize Captain Maxwell to disarm the People, in which I hope for your Approval, I have recommended to him to use every Endeavour to discover if any other Persons, and who, were concerned with Baun Sing Roy and Shew Perhaud Roy, in their villainous Attempts.

The Punishment of Futteh Saw's Abettors, within the District of Hussy-poor, will doubtless be productive of good Consequences, by awing those who are secretly attached to him; but it is in vain to expect his Apprehension whilst he receives Protection in a neighbouring Country. I am well informed, that he is now in the Dominions of Rajah Cheit Sing, and that he has been there ever since he was driven out of Hussy-poor by Lieutenant Hutchinson, in the Month of February last.

Chuprah,
19th August 1781.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

Charles Græme.

To Charles Græme Esquire.

Sir,

In consequence of your polite Attention to my Representation, respecting the Treachery and traiterous Correspondence of Baun Sing Roy and Shew Perhaud Roy with our declared Enemy Rajah Futteh Saw; of their having given him the most perfect Intelligence of every Movement or Step taken to entrap him from this Station; of their having supplied him with Money, and your turning them out of every Employment, I was further induced to attempt the obtaining the clearest Proof of their Guilt, as I could not deem the Punishment already inflicted on them (although the most in your Power) by any means adequate to their Crimes.

Some Time ago, when I had the Honour of mentioning this Subject, and acquainted you with the Hopes I had of obtaining the original Letters from those Men to Rajah Futteh Saw, you was pleased to express your Satisfaction thereat, and offered your Assistance, if this could be effected, of laying the whole before the Honourable the Governor General and Council for their Decision. I have now the Pleasure to acquaint you, that the Enclosed are exact Copies of the original Letters, attested upon Oath, at this Time in my Possession. Should further Proof of their Guilt be deemed necessary, I can take upon me to promise, that the Man employed in carrying Money from Baun Sing Roy to Rajah Futteh Saw shall be produced.

I must

I must further beg Leave to lay before you, that while the Country People, so entirely attached to the Interests of Rajah Futteh Saw, are permitted to keep Possession of Quantities of Arms, which I have the most certain Information is the Case, he can never be at any Loss for an armed Force to enter and plunder the Country with. For this Reason I would humbly propose my being authorized to disarm every Man in the Country, as the only Destruction to his Hopes, and Means of fulfilling the Intentions of the Honourable Board, in his present Situation, protected and countenanced as he is by Rajah Cheit Sing in his Country, where he now watches for the first favourable Opportunity of returning to his old Practices.

I have to request you will be so obliging as to lay these Circumstances before the Board, accompanied by this Letter; but should that prove inconvenient, that you will be pleased to acquaint me so, and I will then do it myself through the Commander in Chief.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

Burracong,
17th August 1781.

Robert Maxwell,
Captain commanding at Burracong.

NUM. 112.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire.

Honourable Sir,

Bundoo Khan, who conducted me through the Hills, has requested from me a Certificate of his Conduct; I do myself the Honour to recommend him to your Notice, as a Person whom I have every Reason to believe well affected to Government.

I have the Honour to subscribe myself, with Respect,
Honourable Sir, &c.

Lutteeppoor,
21st September 1781.

J. W. Crabb, Major.

NUM. 113.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire.

Honourable Sir,

I had the Honour to address you Yesterday from Lora, and I now advise you of my having this Morning taken Possession of the Fort of Lutteeppoor, the Rajah having evacuated it Yesterday Afternoon, and pushed across the Hills to Bidjeygur with most Part of his Followers; those remaining, amounting to about Seven or Eight hundred, followed his Example. At my Approach I found one of the French Soldiers, who informs me, the rest were inhumanly massacred about the 4th Instant; that he received a Wound and pretended to be dead, until the barbarous Rascals had quitted the Place, and then he crawled out to the Hills, where he lay concealed for several Days. It was unfortunate for me the Rajah escaped; but the many Difficulties I had to encounter rendered it impossible to reach this earlier. The Roads, from their Badness, have shaken all my Gun Carriages so much, that it is necessary for them to be taken to Pieces, and have a thorough Repair, before they can leave this. I have given the necessary Orders respecting it. I found here Four Guns of different Calibres. There appear to be a good many Stores; Particulars of them shall be taken, and forwarded with all Expedition. I have also found a Cohorn here, which was I believe taken from Mirzapoor; it seems in good Order. Your Letter of the 17th is just arrived, brought by the Bearer. Bundoo Khan has behaved much to my Satisfaction in conducting the Detachment. He was mistaken respecting the Distance, as also the Situation of this Place from the Pass mentioned; but I beg leave to recommend him to your Notice. I hope the Roads will be opened between this and Chunargur.

Lutteeppoor,
21st September 1781.

I have the Honour to be, &c.
J. W. Crabb.

NUM. 114.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire.

Honourable Sir,

I had the Honour to inform you of the Evacuation of this Place, and my taking Possession the Morning of the 21st. At that Time I could only find four Guns, but since have discovered Five more, together with a large Quantity of Stores and Ammunition; every House almost produces Stores, or Materials for making them. I have the Honour to present you enclosed a Return of the Killed and Wounded of my Detachment, on the Morning of the 20th, near Lora, in an Action with a Party of the Rajah's Troops, to the Number of about 2000 of all Sorts, with their Guns. Their Loss amounted in Killed and Wounded to near 300. The Guns fell into my Hands, together with the Stores attached to them, which for want of Carriage I was necessitated to destroy, having rendered useless and buried them.

Yesterday Morning I received Orders from Major Popham to send the 1st Battalion of the 6th Regiment and the Vizeer's Body Guard to join him at Patetta, and remain here with my Regiment, the Four Guns and Howitz, till further Orders.

PART II.

I have great Satisfaction in informing you, that Half an Hour ago Contoo Bauboo and Mr. Barnet applied for and received Admission into the Fort, having Yesterday Morning been dismissed from Bidjeygur by the Rajah. These Two Gentlemen are, from Fatigue of Travelling, and Joy at their Escape, incapable of proceeding further before To-morrow, when I shall give them all the Assistance in my Power towards forwarding them to Chunar.

The accompanying Letters were found in an old House Yesterday.

The Difficulties the Detachment has experienced on the March from Chunar to this Place, were such as induced me to form a Narrative, which I shall beg Leave to offer for your Perusal in Two or Three Days Time. I have the Honour to be, &c.

Lutteeppoor,
23d September 1781.

J. W. Crabb,
Major commanding a Detachment.

NUM. 115.

Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing, of the Detachment, commanded by Major Crabb, in the Action of the 20th of September 1781.

					Subadars.	Jemmadars.	Havildars.	Naicks.	Sepoys.
1st Battalion, 6th Regiment									
— { Killed					—	—	—	—	3
— { Wounded					—	—	—	—	6
— { Missing					—	—	—	—	1
7th Regiment	1st Battalion	—	— { Killed	—	—	—	—	—	2
				— { Wounded	—	—	—	—	5
				— { Missing	—	—	—	—	—
	2d Battalion	—	— { Killed	—	—	—	—	—	1
— { Wounded					—	—	—	—	7
— { Missing					—	—	—	—	—
Vizeer's Body Guard					—	—	—	—	1
— { Killed					—	—	—	—	—
— { Wounded					—	—	—	—	—
— { Missing					—	—	—	—	—

Artillery—1 Lashcar killed, 1 wounded; 1 Bullock Driver, and 2 Bullocks, killed.
N. B. One Beasty killed.

A B S T R A C T.

	Subadars.	Jemmadars.	Havildars.	Naicks.	Sepoys.	Lashcars.	Bullock Drivers.	Beasties.
Killed	—	—	—	—	7	1	1	1
Wounded	—	—	—	—	18	1	1	—
Missing	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

NUM. 116.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire.

Honourable Sir,

At the Desire of the Rannee, who represented Cheit Sing's People having entirely deserted Banaris, and which was confirmed by my own Intelligence, I have sent an Officer with a Company of Sepoys along with some People of hers to proclaim the Restoration of her Authority, and give Confidence to those who are well inclined to our Government; as also to take charge of the Gentlemen's Effects, the greatest Part of which I understand to be still there. The Officer is also particularly instructed to assist the Rannee's People in apprehending the Aumeen Dyaram, who it is said is still lurking in the Town. Though this Step exceeds my Orders, I flatter myself it will meet with your Approbation, as the delaying it till I could have received your Orders might have proved fatal to the Tranquillity of the Town, which seemed to require the immediate Appearance of some Person on the Part of Government. The Inhabitants of this Place are returning fast, and the Rannee acquaints me, that the People whose Names I trouble you with in the enclosed List, have all sent Offers to her of coming in immediately; and she requests me to beg you will be pleased to let her know whom you would chuse her to receive, as she will not venture to give any of them Assurances of her Protection without your previous Approbation. I request to be favoured with your Commands on this Head, and will now only take the Liberty of adding, that I think the People in general seem to be sensible of their Error, and that the Tranquillity of the Country may soon be restored.

Ramnagur,
23d September 1781.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

A. Balfour.

P. S. There are many Things found here which I suppose belong to the Gentlemen with you, but I cannot ascertain exactly to whom; I shall collect them all in the Fort, and take care of them till they can be claimed.

NUM. 117.

GENERAL ORDERS.

The Governor General returns his Thanks to Major Crabb, for the Spirit and good Conduct with which he has executed the Service committed to his Charge, and expresses his entire Approbation of the Behaviour of the Officers and Troops under Major Crabb's Command.

Chunargur, September 24th 1781.

[NUM. 118.

Translation from the Persian of a Proclamation issued by the Governor General the 25th of September 1781.

Be it known to the Zemcedars, Aumils, Reyots, and all the Inhabitants of the Zemcedary of Banaris, &c. That whereas Rajah Cheit Sing, by many Acts of Rebellion and Perfidy, and the Murder of a Number of English Officers, Sepoys, and other Dependants of the Government of the Company, who were unarmed, has totally forfeited his Right to the Zemcedary of Banaris, &c. and become amenable to the Justice of the Company; it is therefore made known and proclaimed, that Cheit Sing, and his Brother Soojaun Sing, and their Dependants, have, from this Period, no further Right or Interest in the Zemcedary of the said Province; and all the Zemcedars and Reyots are required to withhold their Obedience and Submission from him, otherwise they will be punished accordingly.—And whereas, by the Sedition of Cheit Sing, the Country has fallen into Confusion and Alarms, Assurances of Protection are hereby given to the Zemcedars, and other Inhabitants of this Country; and they are hereby invited to repair to their former Places of Residence, and resume their usual Occupations in perfect Security: And, lest any should entertain Apprehensions on account of their Misdeemeanors, it is declared, that the past Offences of all the Inhabitants of this Country who shall conform to this Order, are pardoned: And further, every Zemcedar and Aumil who shall, within the Space of One Month, repair to the Presence of the Governor General, or to Major William Popham, Commander of the Forces in the Field, and make their Submission, shall be pardoned; and such as, on account of the Distance of the Road, or any other valid Reason, cannot attend in Person, must send their Vakils for this Purpose with proper Credentials. But be it known that the Person of Cheit Sing and his Brother Soojaun Sing are excepted from this Pardon; and the Town of Gopergunge, the Inhabitants of which have been particularly active in this Rebellion, and have committed many Acts of Sedition and even Bloodshed on many of the Dependants of the Government, shall be destroyed, and the Inhabitants thereof punished, on a due Enquiry into their Crimes.—Such Persons as, availing themselves of these Troubles, shall have plundered and oppressed the Inhabitants of the City of Banaris, and such as shall have committed Murder on peaceable Passengers, shall be rendered accountable for the same in the due Course of Justice.]

PART II.

NUM. 119.

To Major Crabb:

Sir,

I duly received your Letter, informing me of the Success of your Expedition; and return you my warmest Thanks for the Spirit and Judgment which you exerted in the Conduct of it.

Captain Blair and Bundoo Khan have given me a minute Detail of the Difficulties and Fatigues which you encountered in your March; and I am truly sensible of the Zeal and Perseverance which you have shewn in surmounting them.

The Defeat of the Rajah's Troops at Lora, besides the immediate Consequence of the Evacuation of Luttrepsoor, is likely to be productive of the good Effect of speedily terminating the Disturbances occasioned by the Defection of the Rajah Cheit Sing.

Be assured that I shall always retain a proper Sense of, and desire to acknowledge, the Service you have performed.

Chunargur,
25th September 1781.

I am, Sir, &c.

Warren Hastings.

NUM. 120.

To Colonel Morgan.

Sir,

In my Letter to you, dated the 24th Instant, I acquainted you, that as the Nabob expected his Return to his Capital would put a Stop to the Disturbances which have lately arisen in his Country, it was unnecessary for you to proceed to Lucknow with your Brigade, as I at first directed. From a subsequent Conversation with the Minister, I find there is a Probability that the Nabob may be deceived in his Expectations, and still require your Assistance; I have therefore directed Mr. Middleton, on the Nabob's Application to him in Writing for that Purpose, to apply to you for the Aid of such a Force as the Nabob may require; which I request you will be pleased to furnish on Mr. Middleton's Requisition.

Ramnagur,
27th September 1781.

I am, Sir, &c.

Warren Hastings.

NUM. 121.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire.

Honourable Sir,

I was honoured last Night with your Letters of the 24th Instant; and beg leave to assure you, it is the Summit of my Ambition to merit your Approbation of my Conduct; and the Compliment you paid the Troops which I sent you heightened my Satisfaction with additional Pleasure. In consequence of your Letter of the 19th, desiring me to halt at this Place, I immediately ordered that Part of my Brigade that had crossed over the Jossy, to recross; but in order to lose no Time, I shall directly march towards Lucknow, and agreeable to your Directions shall direct Colonel Sir John Cumming to cross immediately at Khaunpoor, and proceed to Lucknow with Two Regiments and Four Guns, and to comply with such Requisitions as the Nabob or the Resident make to him for Assistance to establish Tranquillity in his Excellency's Dominions. But I have the Pleasure to inform you, that I learn, both by Letters written by Gentlemen at Lucknow, and from my Intelligence Writer there, that the Commotions have subsided, and they entertained no Alarm but from the Situation of Chunar; and I am ready to conclude, that the Brigade's halting here operated in some measure to produce that good Effect; and I am now concerned I sent to you that Extract from Mr. Blane's Letter, as I apprehend it was written without a right Consideration of Circumstances, and caused you some unnecessary Alarm. Captain Law will cross the River To-morrow Morning with all the Cavalry fit to serve on active Service, and I have given him Instructions to use all Expedition on his Way down to Chunar. I shall march on this Side the Water up to Khaunpoor. I will write to Mr. Middleton to let me know if the Assistance of my Troops is wanted, and shall be prepared to afford him any Aid, either with my whole Force or any Part of it, should the Detachment with Colonel Sir John Cumming not prove sufficient for quelling any Disturbances in the Nabob's Country; but in the present State of the Country I make no doubt of Colonel Cumming's Force being enough. As the Exigence of Affairs does not seem now to be pressing, I have left it to Colonel Cumming's Option, either to proceed with the Detachment, or to go and command at the Station of Futteh Ghur with the Two Regiments he has left there, till further Orders from me.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

J. Morgan.

Camp near Illahabad,
27th September 1781.

NUM. 122.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire.

Honourable Sir,

I have the Honour to enclose a Copy of a Second Letter received from Major Lucas, since the Action of the 17th with Futeh Saw; by which you will see that he narrowly escaped being taken Prisoner. Wishing to reduce as soon as possible the increased Expence attending the keeping in Pay the Body of Burkandazes raised for the Defence of these Districts, I had written to Govindram Misser to send them in here to receive the Arrears that were due to them; but previous to the Receipt of my Letter, a Plan for attacking Futeh Saw's Intrenchments had been formed. They accompanied the Battalion, and did not disappoint the general Expectation of their being serviceable on the Occasion; for they distinguished themselves greatly. I received this Morning another Letter from Major Lucas, wherein he says, "Don't determine any Thing about the Peons till you hear from me again; there is something in Agitation that may require their further Services." In consequence of this I have resolved not to recal them immediately, and hope you will approve of it.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

Charles Græme.

Chuprah,
21st October 1781.

NUM. 123.

To Mr. Charles Græme.

Dear Sir,

I have been favoured with your's of the 16th. By this, Chuprah must be relieved from their Fears of Futeh Saw, who I now find has got a most complete Drubbing, and had a very narrow Escape himself; for, contrary to Custom, he was in his Trenches, but walked off on seeing us advance so firmly. When he arrived on the Banks of the Jerry, he mounted a favourite Horse, who was alarmed at the Fire, and had nearly thrown his Master into the River, who was obliged to dismount, and get upon an Elephant, and had just got clear, with about Twenty or Thirty Favourites, when my Grenadiers and some of Durjoo Sing's People arrived at the River, whose Depth or Rapidity did not prevent their following immediately; and had they known the short Distance the Rajah had got in proper Time, it is more than probable he would have fallen into our Hands. His Loss in killed and wounded, from every Account, seems to be nearly 300. Most of his principal Men fell in the Trenches; Sittabarie, and a Commandant formerly in the Nedjeeb Battalion, said to be sent here by Cheit Sing, and his Colours taken, besides several others whose Names I do not recollect. From the Number of Matchlocks, Tulwars, &c. &c. picked up by our Followers in the Jungles about and in the River (which is confirmed by some Fakeers who stood on the Banks), many of them must have perished therein, as it was barely fordable in a particular Spot, and very rapid. It is supposed he had 3000 Men in the Trenches, and that he has not been able yet to collect 300; so that his Overthrow must, I hope, be now completed. The Lines we attacked must not be deemed common temporary Intrenchments; the Rampart at the Bastion was about 14 Feet high from the Outside, and it is very evident the whole was intended as a Fort, which in a little Time would have proved very troublesome. His Headmen often urged a Night Attack, which we expected for some Time, and have not been able to strip since we left Suvan; so that it became absolutely necessary to disturb this troublesome Neighbour, which I had determined should take place on the Arrival of the Gun. Enclosed is a small Sketch; I had proceeded with my Battalion to s. d. where we received a severe Fire, which neither the Gun nor Platoons could slacken. Here I was joined by the Aumil, who pointed out the Ford j., on which I formed the Plan of attacking the Bastion with the Gun and Durjoo Sing, while Captain Bruce advanced with his Battalion through the Jungle; so that the Trenches were stormed at each End with equal Success, and at the same Instant. Poverty seemed to reign among them, for I saw nothing but a few temporary Huts; and nothing worth mentioning has been picked up.

To-morrow I march about 5 Cos N. E. to a suspected Place, and hope to be enabled to return to Burrangong in a few Days. The Aumil has behaved very well on every Occasion.

I hope you are truly sensible of the essential Service performed by the Burkandazes, who have suffered exceedingly, and hope they may receive some Mark of Favour.

Hircarrahs are sent to all Quarters; no Intelligence of the Enemy as yet, nor do I suppose they will be easily found.

I find our Sepoys have not suffered as much as I expected; only Twenty wounded, One face dead, and Two or Three in Danger.

Camp Hussypoor,
18th October 1781.

Your's &c.
Richard Lucas.

Translation of a Letter found in Lutteefpoor the 6th of October, and forwarded to the Governor General by Captain Thomas Blair.

On Thursday, after my Arrival at Banaris from Buxar, I went to Shewallah-Ghaut with a View of representing to you several Circumstances which I had learned concerning the opposite Party; but as they had got in before me, I was deprived of an Opportunity of seeing you. I was present at the Place where your Friends and People were sitting, and where they assembled together; and when you went into the Boat, notwithstanding it was my earnest Desire to have accompanied you, yet I had no Opportunity of doing it. The ensuing Day, the Passage of Boats to and fro was entirely obstructed, and I was afraid to send you Intelligence from this Place, lest the Letter should have fallen into the Hands of the Enemy. They remained afterwards Four Days at this Place with a few Men, and if you had then attempted to retaliate on them, you would certainly have taken Two Pigeons in One Trap; but as all your Actions are accompanied with good Fortune, there is no Doubt but the Enemy will be soon overcome. For Two Days the Hircarrahs of the opposite Party came to my House to make Enquiries; but, by the Blessing of God, no ill Consequence ensued. Now that you have taken this heavy Burthen upon yourself, you must trust entirely in God, and shew, on all Occasions, the utmost Fortitude. The Alliance of several Chiefs, at a Time like this, is very necessary, and may be easily accomplished; yet you must avoid forming any Connection with a Chief of such Consequence as may afterwards himself attempt an Interference in your Affairs. Whatever Orders you give, must proceed from your own Deliberation. I am at present perfectly idle here, and I am very solicitous of an Interview with you, that I may in Person communicate to you my Opinions on several Points which have occurred to me. By a Letter from Bulwunt Row, I understand that you wish me to inform myself concerning the Arrival of Hyder Beg, and to write you on the Subject.

I will assuredly make every necessary Enquiry, both about Hyder Beg and the Nabob Asof-ud Dowlah, and communicate to you the Result. I have already sent confidential Persons to both, and whatever I may in consequence learn, shall be communicated to you hereafter. Meanwhile the Matter is briefly this: You must never entertain Hopes of the Attachment of Hyder Beg; his whole Strength and Power depend on the opposite Party; yet it is proper you should attempt to conciliate the Favour of the Vizeer, by telling him, that you are desirous of representing several Circumstances to him; that you wish to persuade him to detach himself from the opposite Party, and to resume his former Authority over you. Without knowing your Sentiments on this Subject, it is not in my Power to act so of myself.

It is however at all Events advisable, that if the Vizeer should entirely embrace the other Party, you should nevertheless wait upon him personally, and represent to him whatever you may deem advisable. I beg you will believe me to be in every Respect firmly attached to you. Major Hannay with One Battalion has left Gooruckpoor, and Letters have been sent to Khaunpoor for Troops from thence; you should therefore retaliate on them as soon as possible. If Hyder Beg, without your Consent, should attempt to join the opposite Party, it is proper you should station a suitable Force on this Side of the Fort of Chunar, to prevent his crossing the River. Yesterday Rajah Gobind Ram and Lalla Bucheraje went and had an Interview with Hyder Beg. What more shall I say? The Object of Hyder Beg is certainly to manifest his Attachment to the opposite Party.

To Edward Wheler, Esquire.

Sir,

My Continuance in this Quarter, and the Events which have happened, have given me an Opportunity of becoming acquainted with the Situation of the Troops beyond the Provinces; and I am concerned to say, that in their Equipment they are extremely defective, particularly in small Arms and Accoutrements; the last Supplies sent from Fort William to Chunar are entirely expended; the Indents from the Board upon the Magazine there having exceeded the whole Quantity originally supplied. Major Popham's Detachment is indeed amply furnished; but those under Colonels Cumming and Muir are very deficient. I have not been informed of the Condition of Colonel Morgan's Brigade, but am afraid it is not much superior to that of the others.

I cannot ascertain the precise Quantity of Arms and Artillery which may be required, nor is it material; but the Necessity of having in Store at Chunar such a Supply as may be equal to the Demands of any probable Service on this Side of the Caramnassa is evident, and the immediate Want of them is pressing: I therefore earnestly intreat your immediate Orders for transporting such a Proportion of small Arms and Accoutrements, and of Field Artillery, 12 and 6 Pounders, as may be adapted to this Service, and can be spared from Fort William and the Provinces, by Water, before the Swelling of the River subsides.

Banaris,

7th October 1781.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

Warren Hastings.

NUM. 126.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, Governor General, &c.

Sir,

I was only Yesterday favoured by the Receipt of your Letter of the 3d Instant. I have for some Days past been collecting the Papers which have been thrown out in the Streets and Houses in this Place.

I have the Pleasure to assure you, that the Trouble I have taken to collect the Reyots of the Pergunnahs of Lutteespoor and Pateeta has been attended with Success. In most of the Villages I have distributed small Flags, and given them Beetle and a Hircarrah, and to some a Sepoy to protect and encourage them. The Reyots are again employed in their Fields; but few or none of the Zemeedars or Aumils have yet come in. I expect the late Rain which we have had will, with the favourable Report of the Reyots, induce them to return to their former Habitations. You may be assured, that nothing shall be wanting on my Part to protect and encourage them. The Aumils of Lutteespoor and Pateeta shall have every Assistance which I can possibly give them. In the Jungles a little Distance from this, I have discovered a small fortified Place, in which, it appears to me, the Europeans were put to Death: Some of their Hats, Shoe-brushes, and Pieces of their Coats, were found in it. I have not been able to discover any Remains of their Bodies.

I send you Shujah ud Dowlah's Agreement with the Rajah, which was found Yesterday. I am collecting all the Papers into One Room. Two Moonshes, who take Bauboo Owsan Sing's Name, came to take all the Papers with them. As they had no Letter with them, I desired they would get a proper Authority for taking Possession of them, before I could deliver them: I shall be glad to be favoured with your Directions respecting them.

Lutteespoor,
8th October 1781.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

Thomas Blair.

NUM. 127.

To Edward Wheler, Esquire.

Sir,

I beg Leave to introduce, through you, to the Notice of the Board, an Instance of Zeal and Attachment to our Government, which, from the peculiar Circumstances under which it was exhibited, merits both a Place in our Records, and a public and warm Acknowledgement.

It will be remembered, that a principal Object of my Journey to these Provinces was to obtain and facilitate an Interview at Banaris with Dewaugur Pundit, the Minister of Rajah Moodajee Booslah, for the Purpose of effecting a final Adjustment of the political Concerns of our Government, and that of Berar. The Death of Dewaugur Pundit, the News of which reached me Two Days before my Arrival at Banaris, and which I regret with the most sensible Concern, disappointed all the Hopes which I had conceived of forming by his Means a solid and lasting Alliance with the Court of Berar.

I was attended in my Journey from Calcutta by Beneram Pundir, the Vakeel of Moodajee Booslah, with his Brother Bissumber Pundit. The Vakeel, during his long Residence with me in that Capacity, had given me constant Proofs of a sincere Disposition to promote the Interests of our Government, whilst he exerted himself to advance those of his Master.

When I retreated from Banaris, Beneram Pundit and his Brother, on the first Intelligence of my Departure, followed, and, unattended by a single Servant, joined me in the March, resisting all my Intreaties, and even Injunctions, to return to Banaris, where their whole Family resided, and where they might have remained in perfect Ease and Security.

On my Arrival at Chunar I found myself in great and irremediable Distress for want of Money. The Troops were some Four, and others Five Months in Arrears, and as Cheit Sing had the Country on all Sides at his Devotion, I had not the smallest Prospect of obtaining Supplies, until the Motion of our Troops from different Quarters should open a Communication. It was with Difficulty that I found Means to raise so small a Sum as 2500 Rupees, to distribute among the Sepoys for their pressing Necessities. I must add, though foreign from my immediate Subject, that the Sepoys bore their Distresses without expressing the least Impatience under them.

Being accustomed, from my Experience of the Interest which Beneram Pundit had always taken in the Success of our Affairs, and as a kind of Acknowledgment of it, to treat him with a greater Freedom of Communication than other Persons in his Situation, I occasionally mentioned to him, without any Expectation or Thought of obtaining any Relief from him, the Difficulties under which I laboured for the Want of present Subsistence. He instantly, and with some Eagerness, replied, That his Family at Banaris were in Possession of a Lack of Rupees, collected in Specie, of which he made me the instant Offer, proposing that a Battalion of Sepoys should be sent to bring it away; his Brother at the same Time offering to accompany the Escort, and to deliver the Money. I thankfully accepted the Offer, and should have adopted the Mode they recommended for bringing away the Money, had I not been fearful of exposing their

Family

PART II.

Family to the Vengeance of Cheit Sing; and as my Dewan had been left at Banaris, I hoped by his Means to procure the Treasure to be transported to Chunar, and I received their Orders for the Delivery of it to him. But in this Expedient I was disappointed, for the Dewan was so concealed, that my Letter could not reach him, and Gopaul Doss, the Banker, through whose Agency the intended Plan was to be effected, was about the same Time apprehended and carried a Prisoner to Lutteespoor, where the Rajah resided; neither could I at that Time devise any other Contrivance to avail myself of the Assistance which had been thus generously pressed upon me. When I returned to Banaris, Beneram Pundit renewed the same Tender; and although my Distress for Money was not then equal in any Degree to that which had before prompted him to make it, I agreed to accept it, willing to furnish an incontrovertible Proof of his Sincerity in the First Offer, and strengthen the Testimony which I have herein given of his steady Attachment to our Government. The whole Sum, amounting to One Lack of Banaris Sicca Rupees, was received between the 30th of September and 1st of October: I have granted to Beneram Pundit a Bond for the same, at the usual Rate of Interest, and in the usual Form, except that it has only my Signature to it. I hope and request that the Board will be pleased to confirm it.

Banaris,
13th October 1781.

I have the Honour to be, &c.
Warren Hastings.

NUM. 128.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire.

Honourable Sir,

I do myself the Pleasure to acquaint you with my Progress since I left Khaunpoor.

You no doubt heard of my sudden March from thence for the Safety of Lucknow, and a few Days afterwards of my hasty unexpected March for the Relief of Lieutenant Colonel Hannay, whose Situation, from his Letters to me and Mr. Middleton, was beyond Description, and which authorized the March immediately necessary. He was stationed at Sakrora, about 30 Cos from Lucknow; and to get to him I had Four unfordable Rivers or Nullahs to cross, and all the Country almost between the Goompy and Gogra had mostly revolted, and were assembled in a very considerable Body, headed by many of the disaffected Rajahs, which I had to remove before I could possibly attempt to cross the Gogra; in all which I was very successful, and relieved Lieutenant Colonel Hannay the 6th in the Morning. The Rebels who had occasioned such Commotion in that Country, and had occasioned him calling for Assistance, were then assembled at Bopaul Ghaut, on the Banks of the Teerah Nullah, which I was informed was fordable; and that they were determined to maintain their Ground. I halted a Day, and got an Addition of Two 6 Pounders and Two hundred of the disaffected Horse. I marched, and found them posted as described, across the Nullah, with Two Guns well stationed for their Defence, which they had taken somewhere or other. In this Situation, I advanced the Grenadier Companies with the Four Guns immediately to the Banks of the Nullah, with an Intention to have ordered the Grenadiers and Two Guns over; but I found the Intelligence which I had received, of its being fordable, premature, and it might have been attended with that Consequence that I might have suffered exceedingly. This was an Accident I could not foresee, and which took me nearly Half an Hour to correct in finding out a Place where there was the least Probability of fording, and at this Place the tallest Men could only get through. I then ordered the Grenadiers with Two Guns down to the Ford (having previously provided long and thick Ropes to enable me to drag the Guns through any Nullah where I might not meet with Boats), while the other Two Guns were covering their Crossing. This obliged the whole to give way, leaving their Guns and Two Tumbrils, with near 100 shotted Cartridges, &c. &c. From the first of my Arrival at the Ghaut, until they gave way, was near an Hour. I had only Two Men killed and Four wounded; of the Enemy, I found on the Spot between 60 and 70 killed, and many more lay scattered about at a Distance, which they had endeavoured to carry off; the greater Part of their Wounded were likewise moved away, owing to the Difficulty and Delay that I met with in getting across the Nullah. They are a Set of the most obstinate People I ever met with; for such of the Wounded as were not taken away refused the Assistance which I offered them. Could I have possibly got across sooner, and the Horsemen had recovered from their Panic, there must have been very great Carnage.

It is impossible to ascertain their Numbers; it was supposed they consisted of Ten thousand and upwards, Horse and Foot; but the irregular Manner in which they were drawn up, prevents my forming any Judgment.

This Circumstance of the Intelligence respecting the Ford was unfortunate; however, I have taken care in providing such People as will inevitably prevent the like happening again. They were Natives of this Country; and I am almost certain it was done on Purpose, for the Hircarrahs that carried me to the Ghaut I have not seen since.

To describe to you the Situation of Colonel Hannay's own Sepoys, and which called me to his Relief and Assistance, I suppose you will be acquainted with, either by himself, or from Mr. Middleton; and as I have entered upon the restoring this Country, and a Regiment will be necessary, I beg the Favour I may not be relieved.

Camp near Goonda,
October 13th, 1781.

I have the Honour to be, &c.
F. Naylor.

NUM. 129.

General Orders issued by the Governor General at Banaris the 19th October 1781.

The Governor General having received a minute Detail from Major Crabb, of the March and Occurrences of the Detachment lately under his Command, in an Enterprize against Lutteespoor, (which Detail has been hitherto delayed by the Indisposition of Major Crabb) repeats, in a particular Manner, the general Thanks which he gave to the Detachment on the first imperfect Account of their Success.

It is with extreme Satisfaction that the Governor General observes the Spirit and Perseverance with which the Troops surmounted the many and great Obstacles which opposed their Progress through the Mountains, and the Gallantry with which they attacked and defeated a strong Detachment of the Enemy after a most fatiguing March.

The Governor General entertains the highest Sense of the Zeal and Abilities with which Major Crabb has conducted successfully an Expedition attended with uncommon Difficulties from Nul-lahs, Jungles, and other Impediments.

The greatest Commendations are also due to the Officers of the Detachment, for their able and active Assistance in this arduous Expedition.

The strong Recommendations which Major Crabb has given of Lieutenant Fireworker Baillie, for his distinguished Attention and Activity in the Management of the Artillery under his Charge, affords the Governor General the Pleasure of a Second Occasion of acknowledging the Services of that Officer in the same Campaign, and publishing his Thanks for them.

NUM. 130.

General Orders, November 8th, 1781.

The Stations of Futtehghur and Daranagur to be immediately and totally withdrawn, and the Troops from both to proceed immediately to Khaunpoor, where they are to remain under the Command of Colonel Morgan until further Orders.

The Detachment, commanded by Colonel Muir, to encamp at Etaya until further Orders.

All Recruiting for any of the Corps beyond the Provinces, to be immediately suspended.

A Regiment of Sepoys from the Station of Khaunpoor to be stationed at Lucknow, under the Orders of the Resident, and relieved every Three Months.

All British Officers holding Commands, or employed in the Service of his Excellency the Nabob Vizeer, are hereby recalled to their Duty in the Company's Troops; they are first to repair with their Corps to Lucknow, where they are to discharge all Arrears due to the Troops under their respective Commands, and settle their Accounts with the Paymaster General of the Vizeer's Establishment under British Officers, after which they are immediately to proceed to the nearest Station of the Company's Forces, and wait there until they receive the Orders of the Commander in Chief respecting their future Destination in the Corps of the Army.

NUM. 131.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire.

Honourable Sir,

The Mutineers came to Terms with the Rajah the Day before Yesterday; they receive Four Lacks and quit the Service.

Yesterday a Letter from Cheit Sing came to the Rajah, requesting his Assistance; on its being read, the Rajah expressed his Attachment to you.

The Rajah is in good Health.

Naugpoor,
18th October 1781.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

F. B. Thomas.

The Papers that form this Appendix are true Copies of the Original; or, where there are Translations inserted of Persian Letters, true Copies of these Translations.

E. HAY,

Sub. Sec. to the Honourable Governor General and Council.

A P P E N D I X.

P A R T III.

Containing A F F I D A V I T S.

F I R S T P A R C E L.

NUM. I. A.

Affidavit of Major Eaton, *commanding the Fort of Buxar.*

Isaac Eaton, Major of Infantry, in the Service of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies, maketh Oath and faith, That the annexed Papers, respectively marked * N^o 1. B, C, D, E, and F, are, as they purport to be, Copies of Letters respectively written and received by this Deponent; and that he did believe, from the best Information which he had received at the Time of writing the Letters purporting to be written by him this Deponent, that the Subject Matter thereof was true, and still believes the same to be true. And this Deponent further faith, That he hath at diverse Times written several Persian Letters to the Rajah Cheit Sing, containing Complaints of a like Nature; and that he hath not to this Hour been able to procure Redress from the said Rajah, either on account of the Complaints contained in the annexed Letters, or in the said Persian Letters; that the said Rajah had at different Times inveigled the Sepoys under the Command of this Deponent to desert and enter into his Service; and that, from the general Conduct of the said Rajah and his People, this Deponent verily believes the said Rajah was disaffected to the English Government, and wished the Subversion of the same. And further this Deponent faith, that he hath commanded the Fort or Garrison of Buxar, on the Frontiers of the Company's Possessions, and next adjoining to those of the Zemedyary of the said Rajah Cheit Sing, for the Space of Three Years and Half, and, from his Office and Situation, had frequent Experience of the Disposition of the said Rajah, and of his People.

Sworn this 9th Day of December
in the Year 1781, before me
E. Impey.

Isaac Eaton.

NUM. I. B.

To Thomas Graham Esq, Company's Resident at Banaris.

Sir,

From the many contemptuous and disrespectful Letters and Messages received in answer to the different Applications made by me to the Fougedars, Aumils, Zemeedars, &c. of Cheit Sing's Country, on various Subjects, I find myself obliged to address you in this public Manner, in Hopes of Redress from your Representation to the Rajah; and in order to shew you their Disinclination to assist the Company, or oblige me, I shall here mention the Heads of two or three Circumstances as I have had occasion to write to them upon. About Sixteen or Eighteen Months ago, a Boat with Two Twenty-four Pounders, belonging to the Honourable Company going to Chunar, was sunk a little above Beerpoor on the Ground belonging to the Village of Seerpoor: In consequence I applied to the Zemeedar of Beerpoor to assist me in endeavouring to weigh the Boat, at the same Time promising a Reward to such People as he could let me have. Instead of complying with my Request, he returned me an insolent Answer, saying, *He had seen many Fringees, who was he? (meaning me); that he was Rajah Babadre's Servant, not mine, and would therefore give me no Assistance without his Orders.*

I then wrote to the Fougedar of Imaumabad; who made a Shew of Assistance, by sending Thirty or Forty Men. As they could be of little or no Use, I collected together, from Buxar and Bowjpoor, as many as I possibly could, with whom I went and examined the Spot, and found it impracticable, from the Rapidity of the River, at that Time to weigh the Guns, had I been supplied with the Number of People required. On my making known to the Board the Impossibility of their then being got at, I was ordered to fix a Buoy to the Boat, and post a Guard on the Banks nearest to the Place, in order to prevent its being cut away, in Hopes the Course of the River might alter sufficiently this Season to admit of their being taken up. I gave the Command of the Guard to a Naick, who formerly resided at the Village of Seerpoor, as I thought him the likeliest Person to get the Assistance of the Country People when I might want them. The Naick came to me about a Month or Six Weeks ago, and informed me the Buoy and Mast were cut away in the Night by some of the Mullahs either of Seerpoor, Beerpoor, or Barrow; that if I would permit him to go and reside amongst those People for a Week or a Fortnight, he would find out who cut it away, and by what Authority, as he had Reason to suspect the different Zemeedars, having previously heard that such a Thing was in Agitation. I permitted him to go; and in Ten Days he returned, and informed me, Two Mullahs belonging to one of the Villages

* N. B. The Marks of Reference are different from those of the original Manuscript.

told him, they knew the People, but it was as much as their own and their Families Lives were worth to divulge it, as the Zemeedars had threatened the Life of any Person who should inform the Fringeers, adding, the Guns would be useful to themselves, as the English would not possess the Country long. I wrote to the Fougedar Buckt Sing Toukaury, of Serinja Pergunnah, and Meer Auffin Ally of Imaumabad Pergunnah, to deliver up the Mullahs of the different Villages, at least those who had cut away the Buoys. In consequence I obtained an Order on the Zemeedars and Cutwalls for their being delivered up; but the Cutwall of Imaumabad refused, saying, He did not know me; that if I wanted them, or any Thing else, I should fight him for it before I should have it; at the same Time collecting a Mob, he drew his Sword, and made a Cut at one of my People, which he defended with his Firelock, or would most probably have been killed. Upon this being reported to me, I sent a Party of Sepoys, with Orders not to make any Disturbance, but if any Resistance was made, to bring the Cutwall a Prisoner to me. Before the Sepoys could get there, the Mullahs were sent; but those who gave the Information to the Naick, and which were the People I wanted, were not among the Number; upon my inquiring where they were, I was told that one was dead, and the other gone to Calcutta.

The Practice of drawing their Swords upon my People is very frequent. Whenever I have occasion to send them into the Country, either for Provisions, Bamboos, Straw, or any other Article I may want for my Garrison, or the Troops under my Command, although I write to them in the most polite and civil Manner for the smallest Article, and never suffer any Person under me to take the Value of a Straw without paying for it; notwithstanding which, they will not supply me with any Thing by Consent, but, on the contrary, abuse my People in the most gross Manner; and frequently, when the Gentlemen belonging to this Station have sent their Servants to purchase Things, they have been beat in a most cruel Manner.

The Zemeedars of Narainpoor, Beerpoor, and Chousah, make a common Practice of stopping Boats, although they have regular Rowannahs and Passports from Government. On my sending to know the Reasons for their detaining them, they make use of the most disrespectful Invektives against the Company and me; particularly the Zemeedar of Narainpoor, who not long ago confined one of the Chowdries of Buxar for Nineteen Days in Irons, and made him pay for another Man Fifty-three Rupees. Upon my writing him on the Subject, to know why he confined him, he drew his Sword on the Sepoy I sent, and returned a verbal Answer, that if the Chowdry came on his Side the River, he would cut his Nose and Ears off, and make him pay as much more.

Indeed, from the many Instances I have experienced of the Insolence of the several Zemeedars, and the many Complaints I have made to their different Fougedars of them, I have every Reason to believe they are encouraged by them. I shall therefore consider myself obliged by your procuring for me from the Rajah, an Order for such Articles as I may have occasion for, on my paying the customary Price, as by that means it will prevent any further Trouble.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

Buxar,
23d May 1779.

Isaac Eaton, Capt. commanding.

NUM. I. C.

To Francis Fowke Esq; Company's Resident at Banaris.

Sir,

On the 27th August I did myself the Pleasure of addressing you on a Subject, which I conceived of great Moment to the Company, or at least to me, as it struck at their Authority as well as mine; but it not being taken notice of by you, I should suppose it had not come to hand, and therefore I enclose a Copy, and beg you will on Receipt hereof interest yourself with the Rajah, to give me ample Satisfaction for such Behaviour, otherwise, in Support of my own Consequence, I shall be obliged to apply to the Board for Redress, or for Leave to do myself Justice; for at present the Inhabitants of this Country are in such a rebellious State, that within a Mile of me they refuse to sell the smallest Article wanting either for myself or for the Troops under my Command, notwithstanding I address them in the most polite Manner, by Letter, for the most trifling Thing. It is but Yesterday the Zemeedar of Narainpoor treated me with the greatest Contempt, by throwing a Letter I sent him on the Ground, and treading on it. The Contents were to request he would send Two or Three Dookaundars with Grain, &c. &c. for the Use of Captain Crawford's Detachment. The Zemeedar at the same Time made use of the grossest Abuse against me and the People I sent, telling them *he could raise Four hundred men; that if the Fringeers wanted any Thing, they should fight for it.* This Kind of Conduct, if not soon put an End to, will be productive of Bloodshed; for it is impossible in my Situation, let what will be the Consequence, to suffer it, or the People under my Command will be spit at as they pass through the Country, and myself insulted at my Fort Gates. Your speedy Reply will much oblige.

Sir, &c.

Buxar,
3d November 1780.

Isaac Eaton, Captain commanding.

NUM. 1. D.

To Captain I. Eaton, commanding the Fort of Buxar.

Sir,

I have but this Moment received your Favour of the 3d Instant. I am ashamed to say, that the Original of the Copy which you inclosed, came to hand in due Time. All I can say in Excuse for my Inattention, is a bilious Fever, from which I am now only recovering, and which, during its Continuance, totally incapacitated me for any Kind of Business.

I will immediately apply to the Rajah in the Manner you desire, and represent to him the Propriety of punishing and repressing the Insolence of his Servants, and the Necessity of their assisting the Commander in obtaining Supplies for his Garrison: However, I think I can venture to predict, that a Recrimination is all the Redress I shall be able to procure; and I am convinced that the Interference of the Supreme Council is become absolutely necessary to put a Stop to these Enormities. The Moment I receive the Rajah's Answer, I will give you the Substance of it.

The Inclosed will inform you of what has already passed upon this Subject.

As I have heard nothing from the Board upon this Subject, I conclude that my Letter has been passed over amidst the Multiplicity of Business in which the General must have found himself involved on his Arrival at the Presidency. I remain,

Sir, &c.

Banaris,
8th November 1780.

F. Fowke,
Resident.

NUM. 1. E.

To Francis Fowke Esq;

Sir,

I have received your different Favours, and have seen the Perwannah, which I am afraid will have little or no Effect, as the whole Country seems to be in a State of Ferment. So lately ago as the 14th Instant, Three Gentlemen, who were proceeding to join the Army, were insulted by the Zemcedar of Beerpoor, who not only beat and bruised their Servants, and afterwards robbed them, but cut one of the Gentlemen with a Tulwar across the Forehead, and other Parts of the Body, in so dangerous a Manner, that he was sent off from Buxar Yesterday Morning, to have the Assistance of the Medical Gentlemen at Patna; but as there is every Appearance of a Fracture, I am much afraid he will not recover. The other Two Gentlemen, after this shocking Accident, returned here, and propose remaining with me until they hear of Mr. Basset (the Gentleman wounded) whether he recovers.

Both the Gentlemen say, the Stroke was made by the Zemcedar himself; upon which I immediately dispatched a Serjeant and Thirty Sepoys, who are just now returned, having brought along with them a Parcel of Black Fellows from Beerpoor; but as I have not as yet had Time to enquire into the Particulars, I am uncertain whether the Scrutiny will be attended with the desired Success: I am however resolved to keep the People I already have in Confinement, Prisoners, until I am able to get to the Bottom of this infamous Affair. I request you will inform the Rajah of my Resolution, that he may take the proper Steps to have it cleared up; as this is not the only Instance of the daring and rebellious Spirit of the Natives in Cheit Sing's Districts. The Inclosed will shew you a new Species of Fraud and Extortion, committed by Myup Sing, the Paranparaha Zemcedar, who takes upon himself the Collection of Duties on Boats passing his Station. The Serang, from whom he squeezed Money, has given me the inclosed Account of the Matter, drawn up by himself, and to which I refer you; and am,

Sir, &c.

Buxar,
17th November 1780.

Isaac Eaton,
Captain Commanding.

NUM. 1. F.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, Governor General, &c. Council.

Gentlemen,

As I have ever considered it as an essential Duty incumbent on me, as commanding at this Station, to give every Information in my Power, respecting the proper and regular Manner of distributing Justice, and preventing oppressive Acts and Irregularities, to the Honourable Board; I have embraced this Opportunity of communicating a Piece of Intelligence, which, from the flagrant Circumstances and daring Spirit of the Natives in this Part of the World, requires the most serious Attention of the Honourable Board.

So very lately as the 14th of the current Month, Three Gentlemen, viz. Ensigns Irvine, Horne, and Basset, being on their Way to join the Army, were stopped by these Freebooters at Beerpoor, a Village distant from Buxar only Three Cos. The Zemcedar, at the Head of a numerous Gang, endeavoured and was very assiduous in picking a Quarrel with the Gentlemen's

Servants,

Servants, Two or Three of whom they cut down with Tulwars, and afterwards robbed a Baggage Boat. Not yet satisfied with such cruel and barbarous Treatment, the Zemcedar (as Two of the Gentlemen inform me) made a Stroke at Mr. Basset with a Tulwar, and cut him so desperately across the Forehead and other Parts of the Body, that he was brought back to Buxar, and immediately sent away to Patna to have the Assistance of the Medical Gentlemen at the Station, though with very little Hopes of Recovery. The other Gentlemen are at present with me waiting the Issue. Immediately on receiving the above shocking Account, I dispatched a Serjeant and Thirty Sepoys in Quest of the Offenders; and Yesterday the Detachment returned, and brought a Number of People Prisoners along with them, which I will lose no Time in examining, and taking every other Step necessary to get to the Bottom of so daring an Insult. So soon as I am able to investigate the Matter thoroughly, I will take the earliest Opportunity of addressing the Honourable Board with the Result of my Enquiry.

As this is not the only Instance of the daring and insolent, I may almost say, rebellious Spirit of the Natives in almost every District of Cheit Sing's Country, I have officially made repeated Applications to Mr. Fowke, the Resident at Banaris, to represent those Grievances to the Rajah, but hitherto without Effect.

General Coote likewise addressed Mr. Fowke, in consequence of my Complaint, a Copy of which I send inclosed; also Mr. Fowke's Answer to the General. Some short Time afterwards, I had a Second Occasion to address Mr. Fowke on a Second Insult; a Copy of which I likewise inclose you, with his Reply.

Since writing the above, I have just had a Third Complaint preferred to me against these People, by a Serang that was stopped by Myup Sing, the Paranpara Zemcedar, who threatened to murder him, if he did not immediately pay 100 Rupees Duty on a Boat belonging to Major Duff, which he at that Time had charge of, and was conducting to the Presidency. The Account, as wrote by the Serang himself, and delivered by him to me, I have inclosed for your Perusal.

All these Circumstances, properly considered, will evidently shew the great Necessity there is of speedily falling upon some Means to put a Stop to such outrageous Conduct, as at present there is no Safety for the Traveller either by Land or Water.

I have the Honour to remain, &c.

Isaac Eaton.

[SECOND PARCEL.]

NUM. 2. A.

Affidavit of Major Palmer.

William Palmer, Major in the Service of the Honourable the East India Company in Bengal, maketh Oath, and saith, That about the latter End of the Month of June last, the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, Governor General of Bengal, discoursing with this Deponent on the Subject of his intended Journey to Banaris and Lucknow, declared one of the principal Objects of it to be to exact from Rajah Cheit Sing a Fine or Contribution of Fifty Lacks of Rupees, as a Punishment for Breach of Engagements with the Government of Bengal, and for Acts of Misconduct in his Zemcedary. The Governor General further declared to this Deponent, That he knew the Ability of the Rajah to contribute such a Sum to the Exigencies of Government, and that he the Governor General was determined to convert the Faults committed by the Rajah into a public Benefit. The Governor General further declared to this Deponent, in the same Conversation, That an Offer from the Rajah, but indirectly, had been made to him of Twenty Lacks of Rupees for the public Service, as a Retribution for his Failure of Engagements; but that he the Governor General was resolved to insist upon the first-mentioned Sum of Fifty Lacks of Rupees; and if the Rajah should absolutely refuse the Demand, that he the Governor General would deprive him of his Zemcedary, or transfer the Sovereignty thereof to the Nabob Vizeer.

Sworn before me this
4th Day of December 1781.

W. Palmer.]

E. Impey.

[NUM. 2. B.]

Attestation of David Anderson Esquire.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire.

Honourable Sir,

In obedience to your Commands, conveyed to me through Major Palmer, I shall endeavour to repeat, as well as I can remember, the Purport of what you were pleased to inform me before your Departure from Calcutra, of your Intentions regarding Cheit Sing; but as so long an Interval has since elapsed, my Recollection, which has never been strengthened by a Communication, must necessarily be somewhat imperfect.

After enumerating some of the Resources which you expected to find up the Country for the Relief of the Company's Exigencies, you mentioned to me the Conduct of Cheit Sing.

You

PART III.

You observed, that he owed his Elevation to the Company; that he was allowed to enjoy a very considerable Income, the Revenue exacted from him being much inferior to the Produce of his Districts, and that his Territories were maintained and defended by the English Army: That on those Considerations, it had been reckoned equitable that he should contribute on an Emergency to the Support of Wars carried on by that Government under which he held his Zemeedary, and to which he was indebted for its Protection. Accordingly you mentioned, that a Sum had been demanded from him; that, after some Difficulties, he had agreed to pay it at a certain Period; that, trusting to his Promises, you had made an Assignment on him for the Use of Colonel Camac's Detachment; and that Colonel Camac, relying on his Punctuality, had returned a Bill for a less Sum, which had been sent to him by Mr. Middleton; but that this Confidence had nearly proved fatal to the Detachment, and actually did prove the Cause of retarding the Expedition: That Cheit Sing, in spite of all the Representations which were made to him, delayed so long the promised Payment, that the Officers of the Detachment were reduced to the Necessity of selling their Plate: That you therefore determined to call him to an Account, and oblige him to make an Atonement for his Conduct in this Instance, and the Want of Attachment he had in general shewn to our Government, by paying a considerable Sum of Money to the Relief of the Company's Exigencies; that if he consented, you were desirous of establishing his Possession on the most permanent and eligible Footing; but if he refused, you had in your Power to raise a large Sum for the Company, by accepting of an Offer which had been made for his District by the Vizeer. You minuted the Particulars of Cheit Sing's Conduct in an Account which you drew up in Calcutta, of the State of the different Powers of Hindostan; though I do not believe that in that Paper you expressed the Intentions you had formed; and I remember you told me, that you had communicated to Mr. Wheler your Intentions regarding Cheit Sing; and I believe (though I cannot positively recollect) you said he had concurred in them.

I am, with the greatest Respect, &c.

Mahdajee Sindia's Camp, near Dutteah,
the 14th January 1782.

D. Anderson.] 

T H I R D P A R C E L.

NUM. 3. A.

Affidavit of Captain Davy.

Captain William Davy, private Persian Translator to the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, Governor General of Bengal, &c. maketh Oath, and saith, That he understands the Persian Language, and that the English Papers marked Num. 3. B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, hereunto annexed, are respectively true and faithful Translates of the several Persian Papers, marked, 1 A, 2 A, 3 A, 4 A, 5 A, 6 A, 7 A, 8 A, 9 A, 10 A, 11 A, 12 A, 13 A, 14 A, 15 A, 16 A, 17 A, 18 A, 19 A, likewise hereunto annexed, according to the best of this Deponent's Skill and Belief.

Sworn before me this 12th
Day of December 1781.

William Davy.

E. Impey.

NUM. 3. B.

Translation of the Declaration of Hyder Beg Khan, attested before Chief Justice Sir Elijah Impey,
November 26th 1781.

When I arrived at the Seray of Saumee, the Gov. General, Mr. Hastings, was in the Fort of Chunar. I was detained at the Seray by the Swelling of the River Burnau. The Vakeel of the Rajah Cheit Sing came to me, and delivered to me thus the Message of the said Rajah.—“I [Cheit Sing] have not been in any Manner deficient in my Obedience to the Gentlemen of high Rank [the English].—The Governor General arrived at Banaris.—At the Instigation of Owfan Sing, Mr. Markham brought Two Companies, and put me in Arrest.

About Twelve o'Clock my People, stretching forth their Hands, brought me out from thence—For the Safety of my Life I came to Ramnagur, and from thence to Lutteeepoor.—After that, a Force came from Chunar to Ramnagur.—Owfan Sing wanted to seize upon Ramnagur. My People stood upon their Defence; an Engagement followed, and the Troops of the Governor General were cut off. I am now determined not to pass by aught which may be in my Power to execute. Do you (i. e. this Deponent) write thus to the Vizeer of the Empire, “That if Support is given to me, I will collect together an Hundred thousand Men, I will go even to Calcutta, and I will totally annihilate the English Government.” I replied to the Vakeel, “that this Conduct, and these Declarations, would be productive of Evil to the Rajah.—When the Companies came to confine the Rajah, he should have gone that Moment to the Governor General.—People say that he hesitated whether he should, or not, attend the Governor. If the Governor General had had any ill Intentions towards him, he would have called together the Company's Forces, who were stationed in different Parts—To what Purpose was it to come alone to Banaris? Or he

would have seized him upon the Road. Such Intentions on the Part of the Governor General, from this Retrospection, are not to be conceived. If a Master and a Ruler exerts his Authority, still there is no Cause for Fear and Apprehension. On these Subjects, with which you are unacquainted, I will communicate Circumstances as they are. His Highness is, in his Life and in his Fortune, joined and united with the Company, and the English Gentlemen. The whole of his Dominions is from them (or is theirs), nor does he wish that there should be any Distinction between his and theirs. Such Regard more especially does he pay to the firm and perfect Friendship which always subsisted between the Governor General and his Highness the late Nabob, that he never will be led to deviate, even the Point of a Hair, from the Sentiments and Wishes of the Governor. As soon as his Highness hears these Things, he will march immediately with his Forces to meet Mr. Hastings. Notwithstanding the Governor General has repeatedly written to the Vizeer to forbid him, yet his Highness will now come on his own Determination. The English Forces too are near at hand, they will speedily arrive, and the Punishment will be severe. It is not well for the Rajah; he will be torn up by the very Roots.—To threaten more than which is out of his Power to execute, is improper; the Rank of the Rajah is nothing more than that of a Zemeeदार; no one will pay regard to his Attempts, and a small Force will be sufficient to chastise him. Far better will it be for him to lay aside such Thoughts as these, to implore Pardon of the Governor General, to give up his Forts, and send back to him the Boats and the whole of the Baggage; or rather, it would be better that he himself should go alone, and with his Hands bound, into the Presence of the Governor.'

Again he brought this Message from the Rajah: "I can no longer rely with Safety on the English. If you say thus, do you interpose, obtain Pardon for my Faults, and take upon yourself to settle the Subsidy." I said in Reply, 'Your Crimes have been too great; you have attacked the Troops of the Company. I cannot presume to take upon myself to settle your Affairs, and to obtain Pardon for your Crimes. If you have actually resolved on a Change of Conduct, return the Boats and the Baggage, and give up Ramnagar, Lutteefpoor, and Pateeta. Supported by such Proofs, I will once endeavour to obtain a Pardon for you; to grant or to refuse will rest with the Governor General.' The Person who brought the Message said in Answer, 'The Intentions of the Rajah are to seize upon the Fort of Chunar, and to extend his Government as far as Calcutta, and you tell him to deliver up Ramnagar, Lutteefpoor, and Pateeta!' I said, 'Then the Rajah, it appears, aspires to the Empire, yet his Rank is only that of a Zemeeदार! these Attempts will draw down Destruction upon him; he will be extirpated in a Moment.' After this Conversation, he promised to return the Boats, but he never performed his Promise. An Animosity to all the English, plainly and evidently appeared from the Language of the Rajah's Vakeel; he repeatedly said, that he would go even to Calcutta, and that he would expel the English, nor would he be deficient in aught which he had the Power to execute. When he found that he had nothing to hope from my Interposition, he began to act hostilely towards me also. He denied me Boats to cross the Burna, and he directed the Tribe of Gurkbunsee to attack me in the Night. During the few Days that I continued there, we were obliged to keep ourselves ready for Action, and be upon our guard Day and Night. In the Neighbourhood of Jounpoor, the People of the Rajah wounded several of the Stragglers belonging to the Cavalry in his Highness's Service, who were coming to join me, and carried off some Horses. And the People stationed at Azumgur, who came in to me, set forth, That Nadir Shah, the Son of Azum Shah, Zemeeदार of Azumgur, which was formerly under the Government of Cheit Sing, had, by Directions from the Rajah, gone to Azumgur and raised Disturbances. And the Vakeel of Cheit Sing, in the Course of his Conversation, said, that the Rajah had sent Forces towards the Carramnassa, and even to the Walls of Patna; and that Letters were gone to the King, to Nujuf Khan, and to Sindiah. Zaulim Sing, formerly expelled from Amurdeh, was at Budlapoor, in the Government of Cheit Sing: He also went to Amurdeh, in the Territories of the Nabob, and raised Disturbances. It appears that the People of Budlapoor accompanied Zaulim Sing. Such were the Reports communicated to me by the People of that Place. Finding it impracticable to cross the Burna, where I was, without Boats, I marched from thence, and crossing higher up, where the River was fordable, I proceeded to join the Governor General.

This Account of what I heard, and of what I saw, I have truly and faithfully related. There may be a Difference between the Idioms of the Hindoostan and Persian Languages, but there is none in the Sense. I swear by the Almighty, that I have truly wrote, without Diminution or Addition, all that I heard and all that I saw, and nothing but the Truth.

Hyder Beg. That which is written is true.
Sealed with his Seal.

NUM. 3. C.

Translation of the Deposition of the Moonshy Gore Pershaud.—The Deposition taken before Chief Justice Sir Elijah Impey, December 2d 1781.

Without the Means of Escape, I was obliged to put on the Habit of a Fakcer, and with my Brother take shelter in the Hindoo Temple Arneepooma, where I continued undiscovered for
Eight

PART III.

Eight Days. At length a Fakeer, for the sake of the Reward, went to Girdhauree Laul, the Brother of Diaram, Aumeen of Banaris, and said, that for a Recompenſe he would ſeize and deliver me up. The ſaid Girdhauree Laul gave Five Rupees to the Fakeer, and ſent Five-and-twenty Peadahs along with him, who took me from the Temple, and confined me for twenty-two Days in the Aumeen's Kutcherree. My Pen is unable to deſcribe the Ignominy, and the Severities which they inflicted upon me. After that, I was confined for Four Days at Ramnagur, and at length, on the 27th of Ramzan, in the Twenty-third Year of the Reign, I was tied Hand and Foot and thrown upon a Dooly, and ſent away from Ramnagur to Lutteeſpoor. On the Road, near to the Houſe of the Chowdry Sewan, I ſaw a Number of Ladders made of Wood and Bamboos (about Forty or Fifty) lying on the Ground. I enquired of the Peadahs who guarded me, what thoſe Ladders were intended for. They replied, that they had been intended for the Garden of Mehadow Dofs, but it was ordained, that the Engliſh Gentlemen ſhould live: They made their Eſcape, otherwiſe Bauboo Soojaun Sing would not have left one of them alive. Having heard this Reply, I remained ſilent.

Moonſhy Gore Perſhau.

NUM. 3. D.

Translation of the Depoſition of Hurry Ram Pundit.—*The Deponent ſworn before Chief Juſtice Sir Elijah Impey, December 2d 1781.*

The Rajah Cheit Sing, having reflected on his Conduct, determined with his confidential People, that it was neceſſary he himſelf ſhould go to meet Mr. Haſtings, but that he ſhould go from the Place where he was, with ſuch a Force, and with ſuch Preparations, as would enable him to act both by Land and by Water, and impreſs the above-mentioned Gentleman with an Idea of his ſuperior Strength; for that Mr. Haſtings had with him but a ſmall Number of Troops, and if he ſhould have entertained any ill Intentions toward him, on obſerving the Number and Force of his Followers, he would be led to reflect, that nothing could be effected, and conſequently be deterred from making the Attempt; therefore he gave Information and particular Directions to all his Soldiers and Attendants, that he was going to meet Mr. Haſtings, and that they ſhould hold themſelves in Readineſs to proceed: That he ſhould go by Water, for which Purpoſe, a Fleet of Boats was prepared; for the before-mentioned Gentleman (the Governor General) would come by Water, and conſequently his Fleet of Boats would come with him; therefore it was neceſſary, that he (the Rajah) ſhould have a Fleet of Boats alſo, that his People might always be near at hand: That a Body of Cavalry moreover ſhould proceed by Land, and Tents be pitched at Two Places between Ramnagur and Buxar; for at all Events he muſt meet the Governor General. Accordingly, on the 16th of Shaubaun, the Rajah ſet out from Ramnagur, by Water, to meet Mr. Haſtings. The Jemmadars and Huzzarries, Jaafir Khan, Dillal Khan, Juttoo Khan, Zubburdut Khan, Lulloo the Son of Kauna Mull, Rambukſh, Baulkiſhen, &c. all together near Five hundred Horſe; alſo Jemmadars of Foot, with Matchlock Men, &c. near Two thouſand, proceeded along the Southern Bank of the Ganges. And by Water, the Rajah was attended by a Fleet of Boats, in Number about a hundred and Forty, in which were embarked Suddanund Buxey, Golaum Hooſſein Tay, Mirza Fyz-ullah Beg, Bauboo Doorgbijey Sing, Munnear Sing, Portaub Roodur Sing, Doond Bahadre Sing, Ahlaud Miſſur, Meer Hooſſein Ally, &c. Sheakh Mahommed Aumeen, Commandant of the Sepoy Battalions, Dabee Sing, Mahommed Moraud, Dhun Sing, and Hukkoomut Sing, Subadars, with Two Companies of Sepoys, Huzzoorree Peadahs, and Matchlocks, in all about 2000 Men. Godur Mull and Bullum Dafs, who were ſtationed at Ghauzipoor, joined by Orders from the Rajah, who afterwards arrived at Buxar, and had an Interview with Mr. Haſtings.

Written by Hurry Ram Pundit.

[NUM. 3. E.

Translation of the Depoſition of Jewan Ram Moonſhy, in the Service of the late Lieutenant Stalker.—*The Deponent ſworn before Chief Juſtice Sir Elijah Impey, December 2d 1781.*

After the Arrival of Mr. Markham at Shewallah, I went in and paid my Reſpects to my Maſter, who asked me, if I knew whether Mr. Markham would come there or not? I replied, It was reported ſo, but that it depended on his Inclinations. Mr. Stalker then told me, I might go, but afterwards ordered me to ſtay. I continued there, and ſaw Doorgbijey Sing ſitting with the Rajah in the center Apartment, and Suddanund Buxey and others whiſpering to the Rajah. Shortly after, News was brought to the Three Gentlemen ſitting in the adjoining Room, that there were Diſputes without. Mr. Stalker went without the Jauli (or Firſt Wall) and asked the Subadar Biſhun Sing, why he had ordered the Bayonets to be fixed? The Subadar replied, that Numbers of the Rajah's armed Servants had come in, and that they paid no regard to the Company's Orders. After which, Mr. Stalker advanced further out, and asked of the younger Mowllavy and me, who amongſt thoſe People was the Chief? I answered Bauboo Munnear Sing. Mr. Stalker ſent for Munnear Sing, and ſtrongly enjoined him to appeaſe his People, and enquire, why they attempted to diſpute and fight with his Sepoys. Munnear Sing replied, "What Power have they, that any one of them ſhould preſume to fight? We Two, Father

Father and Son, are desirous to go to the Rajah." Mr. Stalker answered, "Very well, but you must stay here between your People and mine, that they may not come to Blows." After that a Letter arrived from the Governor to the Rajah, which Mr. Stalker, having quieted and soothed the People, presented to him: The Rajah then got up, and went out of the Burradurri to the adjacent Bastion, to perform his Devotions.

At this Time Information was brought to Mr. Stalker, that the Rajah's People opposed and refused Admittance to another Company of Sepoys who had brought Provisions, a Table, &c. for the Gentlemen. Mr. Stalker again went out, and calling to Suddanund Buxey, asked the Cause of this Opposition; and told him to send Directions (to the Rajah's People). Suddanund said he would go himself. Mr. Stalker replied, "No, send One of your Servants." While the Man was going out to silence the People, Mr. Stalker returned within the Jauli. Doorgbijey Sing was gone from thence no one knew whither. Cheit Ram, Mr. Markham's Chubdar, informed Mr. Stalker, that he had a Message to deliver to the Rajah from the Governor General. Mr. Stalker said, "Deliver it." He, the Chubdar, said, "At the Place where the Rajah was at his Devotions, the Governor says your People want to quarrel and fight; it will be better if you forbid them, for every Sepoy is as an European, and every European is as a (or the) Company; if a Drop of their Blood is shed, you shall be plundered and destroyed." At this Period, there was a Report of Guns at the Gate of Shewallah; the Action was commenced. At this Time, Mr. Stalker and Cheit Ram went towards the Rajah. Munnear Sing and others cut down Cheit Ram, pulled Mr. Stalker back, and pushing him on one Side, began the Slaughter. The Rajah escaped through a Window by a Rope made of Turbans, got into a Boat, and went off. His People, by the same Means, drew up Swords and Shields as a Bucket is drawn up from a Well, and began to engage. I stood near the Jauli behind my Master; when my Master was killed, I fled toward the Place where the Rajah's Victuals was dressed. I continued there a short Time, and saw the Rajah's People jump from the Walls and the Trees with their Shields and Swords, and advance. After this I assumed the Character of one of Cheit Sing's Servants, fled with his People, and came to the Presence. The Gentlemen after this went to Chunar, and I should have arrived the next Day, but I was plundered on the Road and confined in the Fort of Pindersa. Diaram took away from my House Two Tangon Horses, and placed his Seal and a Guard upon the Door. After the Flight of the Rajah, the Zemcedar of the before-mentioned Fort set me at Liberty. Without a Master, every way disconsolate, to whom can I communicate my Distress? I now hope for Favour and Support from the Almighty, and from you.

Jewan Ram.] 

NUM. 3. F.

Translation of the Deposition of Bishen Sing.—The Deponent sworn before Chief Justice Sir Elijah Impey, December 2d 1781.

I had Two Locks of Muskets fixed on my Ears. Bauboo Soojaun Sing sent for me by Ram Kishen Hircarrah to come into his Presence.—He said, "Deliver up the Trunks of Gold Mohurs which the Governor delivered over to your Care when he went to Chunar." I set forth, That I did not know any thing about such Trunks. He then gave Orders to the Sepoys to press the Locks hard, (saying) that without Severity I would not be prevailed upon to give them up; and then the Blood ran from both my Ears.

Written by Bishen Sing,
the 4th of the Month Ramzan, Year 23d.

NUM. 3. G.

Translation of the Deposition of the Moonshy Patnimul.—The Deponent sworn before Chief Justice Sir Elijah Impey, 2d December 1781.

The Deposition of Patnimul Moonshy. On the last Day of the Month of Ramzan, in the Year of the Reign Twenty-three, the Gentlemen went to Chunar. I was unable to accompany them for want of a Conveyance. Without Remedy, I remained in the House of one of the Inhabitants for Eight Days. The Aumeen Diaram daily caused a Proclamation, to this Purport, to be made through the City; "In the House of whomsoever a Person belonging to the English Gentlemen may be secreted, let the Owner bring him to the Aumeen's Kucherry and deliver him up; otherwise, (upon Proof) in the House of whomsoever a Person belonging to the English shall be found, the Owner thereof shall be (considered) as a Criminal to the Government of the Rajah, his House and Property shall be destroyed, and his Belly shall be ript open."

NUM. 3. H.

Translation of the Deposition of the Moonshy Gore Pershaud.—*The Deponent sworn before Chief Justice Sir Elijah Impey, 2d December 1781.*

When the Gentlemen marched for Chunar I was not informed of it. I knew it about Four Gurries after. In Terror for my Life, I secreted myself in the House of Bauboo; Duffan Ram, I continued undiscovered for One Day, the next Day the said Bauboo Duffan Ram said to me, "To-day there has been a Proclamation through the City to this Purport, *Whoever has secreted a Follower of the English in his House, let him produce and deliver him up, otherwise, on Discovery, his House shall be seized, and he himself shall be severely punished.* I cannot keep you in my House, go from my House to some other Place." Without Remedy, I put on the Habit of a Fakeer, and took shelter in the Temple of Arnapoorna.

Gore Pershaud.

NUM. 3. I.

Translation of the Deposition of Doond Sing, Commandant.—*The Deponent sworn before Chief Justice Sir Elijah Impey, November 26th 1781.*

In the Month Phagun a Jemadar and a Havildar, in the Service of Soojaun Sing, the Brother of Rajah Cheit Sing, came to me, and said, "Soojaun Sing has sent for you." I asked, "On what Account has he sent for me?"—they replied, "We do not know."—I said, "I am a Servant to the English, I will not go to him." They [then] said, "He has sent for you, to take you into his Service."—I answered, "From my Youth to this Day I have been the Servant of the English; I have never gone to any Rajahs or Bauboo's, nor will I go to them." When those People returned to Soojaun Sing, they said, "Doond Sing, the Commandant (i. e. this Depo-
nent), refuses to come." The Rajah Futteh Saw also wrote to the Rajah Cheit Sing, to place a Guard over my House at Banaris, in which Case I should (be obliged to) join him with my Sepoys and Guns. This Information was given to me by the Jemadar Chaint Sing. I said, "My House, and my Wife, and my Children, may be destroyed.—Still I am the Servant of the English, and I am faithful and loyal. By the Blessing of God, in a short Time we also shall go to Banaris and plunder that Rajah, and we will spoil the Rajah Futteh Saw also." At Sukroreh I was informed that a Guard was placed at my House.

The Commandant Doond Sing not being able to write, either in Persian or Hindee, has made his Mark.

NUM. 3. K.

Translation of the Deposition of the Moonshy Mahommed Moraud.—*The Deponent sworn before Chief Justice Sir Elijah Impey, Nov. 26th 1781.*

On the 19th of Ramzan the Captain* issued Orders to all the Subadars for marching towards Banaris, and directed them to get in Readiness. The next Day we marched to Burrangong. The Captain had mounted his Horse to proceed, and I was in the Rear in Search of a Conveyance for my Baggage, when Five or Six Sepoy Grenadiers and others came and surrounded me, and demanded their Pay, in consequence of which a great many more of the Sepoys came and clamoured for their Pay, and ill used me; and they brought me down from the Bungala, and beat me severely with the Butt-ends of their Pieces, and charged Bayonets even to my Breast, so that my Life was in Danger. A Hircarrah carried Information of this Affair to the Captain, who, on receiving it, turned back and arrived immediately. All the Sepoys then turned their Clamours against the Captain, using insulting Language; and they surrounded him and said that unless they received their Pay they would not set him at Liberty—that if I should pay them, well; if not, they would carry me to Baunfy, which is near to Kunkooa; and that, when they should receive the Whole of their Pay from me, they would set me free.—They moreover placed a Guard with fixed Bayonets over the Captain, and pointed Bayonets to his Breast to stab him; and they rushed upon us several Times, so that we gave up ourselves for lost. In this Situation the Captain ordered them back, and gave them Three Months Pay; and then proposed to them to march with him to Banaris. The Sepoys answered insolently, that they would not on any Account go to Banaris. Without Remedy, the Captain marched from thence with the Battalion, and arrived at Gooruckpoor. He halted there a few Days, purchased Grain for the Sepoys, and marched from thence by the Way of Baunfy. We halted Six Days at Baunfy on account of the heavy Rains; we afterwards marched from thence, and after encountering a thousand Distresses arrived at Buskoreh. The past Events, which are known to every one, I have thus related.

Mahommed Moraud,
and sealed with his Seal.

* Captain Williams.

NUM. 3. L.

Translation of the Deposition of Doond Sing, Commandant.—The Deponent sworn before Chief Justice Sir Elijah Impey, November 26th 1781.

It appears from the Letter of Ram Sing Jemmadar, stationed at Mutcholi, that the Rajah Ajeet Mull, the Rajah Futteh Saw, and Genoo Roy, had engaged themselves to each other by Oath to cross the Rivers Gogra and Surjoo, for as much as they had received a Letter from the Rajah Cheit Sing, and the Sum of Fifteen thousand Rupees, to cut off the English in the District of Surwur, and drive them out; and Letters have arrived from Futteh Saw, to all the Zemeeendars, great and small, to withhold the Collections, and not to pay a single Daum to the English; and the said Futteh Saw sent near Two hundred Men, with Matchlocks, into the Jungle of Burragong, and near to Kunkooa. After Three Days, the Three Rajahs crossed the River, and encamped in the Jungle; and it was reported from all Quarters, that the Zemeeendars had shut up all the Ghauts on the Rivers, and sunk all the Boats; and I wrote an Account of these Things to Major Macdonald and Captain Williams, and told them that there were great Disturbances in the Country, and that there were Reports also that the Rajahs would cross the River. And I wrote these Things to Major Macdonald, that he might inform the Colonel that the Road to Banaris was shut up, for fear the Captain should march from that Quarter towards Banaris; it was also reported among the People, that Three Gentlemen had been killed at Banaris. After some Days the Captain arrived at Kunkooa, and after a Halt of Three Days, gave Orders for marching, and directed all the Sepoys to get ready, and about Nine o'Clock in the Morning on the Sixth of September, he marched, and came to the Bank of the River Khaukhi; it then rained excessively. When we arrived at the Khaukhi, the Captain ordered the Troops to be crossed over the River; agreeable to Orders, I crossed them over. When, after a thousand Distresses, we had crossed the River, the Captain said that there were many Rivers in the Road, and no Boats on any of them; that the Ghauts were shut up, and no Grain to be procured on the March for the People; how then would it be possible to pass the Guns and Troops through such a Country? It would be better, he said, to go to Banaris by Way of Buxar; therefore we again crossed the River Khaukhi, and encamped after marching Half a Cos from it. He (then) gave Orders for marching toward Khunkooa. Moving from the Khaukhi the Captain with the Troops arrived at Khunkooa; he then told all the Subadars and Jemmadars, that the Rajah Futteh Saw, with his Force, was posted on the Road, and that it was necessary to attack and drive him from thence; that he would halt a few Days at Nuddy Kaunoon, and then march toward Banaris. It was now known that the Sepoys of the Battalion had said, "Let them give us our Pay, and wherever they go, we will go with them;" to which the Subadars replied, "they might take it wherever they found it." The said Subadars neither confined those Sepoys, nor informed me of the Circumstance. I received the Information from Chaint Sing Jemmadar. The Subadar of Grenadiers stationed a Sepoy behind his Hackery, and told him, he might either protect and convey it to his (the Subadar's) House, or he might leave it to be plundered by the Country People. The Sepoy told him to set his Mind at rest, for that he would convey it safe to his Dwelling. At Night, after Twelve o'Clock, I made my Report to the Captain, who ordered me to go with Bukhtawur Sing, Subadar to the Sepoys, to satisfy and explain to them, that he would give them their Pay when they arrived at Burragong. In the Morning we marched a small Distance toward Burragong. First, a Sepoy pulled off his Coat, and drew his Bayonet on the Captain; the Subadars and Jemmadars did not interpose or check him; the Captain said, "I will pay this Sepoy and dismiss him—do you march on." I obeyed his Orders, and marched; but the Sepoys quitted their Colours and their Guns, and assembled at Khunkooa. The Subadars and Jemmadars said nothing (to prevent them). Seeing the Situation of Things, I directed the Jemmadar Kihaul Sing to take with him Twelve Sepoys, and go to the Captain, that he might know how Things were. After which, Orders from the Captain came, to return back and join him; I went back, and saw that the Sepoys had mutinied violently; that they had drawn their Bayonets, and were threatening the Captain; moreover, Three of the Sepoys loaded their Pieces to fire at him, and they demanded Four Months Pay; and most of the Sepoys said, "Let him pay us all our Arrears, and he may go where he pleases;" when the Sepoys had received their Pay, they said, one and all, "We will not go to Burragong; we will go to the Begum at Fyzabad; if she will retain us, we will stay; if not, we will carry the Gun (or Guns) to the Rajah Cheit Sing, and Saadut Ally Khan." The Sepoys, after this, directed the Subadars to tell the Captain to march; the Captain replied, That the Two Companies and the Gun stationed at Nuchole were coming; he would march as soon as they had joined; the Sepoys said, "Let the Captain march, we shall meet the Companies on the Road;" however, the Captain halted till the Two Companies arrived; he then sent Hurdeaul Sing, Commandant, to the Sepoys, to tell them that the People (i. e. the Two Companies) were fatigued; that they should halt One Day, that those People might receive their Pay also; and then he would march. The Sepoys refused to listen to Hurdeaul Sing. The Captain then sent for the Two Subadars, and told them to go and persuade the Sepoys to make one Halt, that he might give the Two Companies their Pay. The Sepoys were prevailed upon to halt by the Subadars, and the Captain paid the People.

The

PART III.

The next Morning the Captain sent a Man to the Chucklahdar, and directed him to march also. He sent Word, that he was collecting Cattle for the Baggage, and that he would march as soon as he had got them; it was afterwards heard, that the Chucklahdar had given Twelve thousand Rupees to Futteh Saw—the said Rajah demanded Twenty thousand from the Chucklahdar, promising to protect him—And it was currently reported through the Country, that Saadut Ally Khan was the Nabob, and that the English Government was overthrown. After this we marched from Kunkooa; the Captain purchased Grain for the Sepoys; the Waters were out from the heavy Rain; and whoever loitered behind was plundered by the Villagers. When we arrived at Baunfy, we were obliged to halt Six Days on account of the Rains; after that we marched and arrived at Buskroreh, but there were many Rivers and Nullahs in the Road.

Deond Sing, Commandant, not knowing to write either Persian or Hindoo, has made his Mark.

NUM. 3. M.

Translation of the Deposition of Ahlaud Sing, Subadar, stationed in the Fort of Gooruckpoor. —The Deponent sworn before Chief Justice Sir Elijah Impey, 26th November 1781.

I had confined under my Guard, in the Fort of Gooruckpoor, One hundred and Fifteen Burgomauls, Inhabitants of Surwaur. On the 15th of Ramzan, the Rajah of Gooruckpoor, the Zameedars of Ouloolah, Beehouly, &c. &c. great and small, likewise all the Inhabitants of Gooruckpoor, with Six thousand Matchlocks, and great Numbers of Country People, armed with Clubs, at Four Gurries of the Night surrounded the Fort, and made an Attack by Surprise; but the Sepoys on Guard at the Bastions were awake; they began to fire, and an Action immediately followed. Seeing that the Country People were in great Numbers, I went to each of the Bastions, and encouraged the Sepoys, and called them to me into the Body of the Place, and formed them together. I left a Havildar and Ten Sepoys at the Rung Mahul, to protect the Baggage; but it was Night Time; the Country People made an Assault with Ladders, and entered the Fort, and both Parties fought resolutely. At this Time they placed Ladders against the Inner Fort, toward the South, and entered upon the Bastion: I seized an advantageous Opportunity (attacked) and killed Seventeen of the Enemy on the Bastion, and wounded several others. About Half after Ten at Night they made an Attack upon the Western Bastion: As there was a Straw Chupper on that Bastion, I took Shelter under it, and threw down, with all my Force, a Part of the Brick Battlement on the Enemy, by which Four of them were killed; One other fell by a Musquet Ball; and they retreated. A Third Time, about Three o'Clock in the Morning, the Country People raised a great Shout, and attacked us again: I was then engaged on the Inner Fort Bastion: Seubunse Havildar was posted, with Twelve Sepoys, to guard the Burgomauls; they rushed upon him in a Body, and Seubunse called out to me, with a loud Voice, that the Burgomauls had attacked him: I gave him Orders to put them all to the Sword; he instantly struck off the Heads of Eighteen Burgomauls, and threw them out, and he wounded several others. The Morning now broke, and I entertained a Hope that the Enemy would fly, and that the People of the Town would certainly join me; but the Country People, the Fougedar, &c. were all united with the Rajah; they lifted up their Arms, and said, *The Doway** of the Nabob Saadut Ally Khan, and the Begum, has spread through the Country; for the Rajah Cheit Sing has destroyed all the English, and Letters have come to the Rajahs to put the Dependants of the English to the Sword, wherever they may be found: And he said, "Where will they go? the Country is mine; I am a Bhonear Rajah, how long will they (be able to) oppose me?" In such Discourse Two Gurries of the Morning had passed away. From the Eastern to the Western Gate, within the Mahul, they surrounded the Inner Fort on all Sides, and the Action was renewed. We continued engaged for Five Pahr (Fifteen Hours) with the Enemy, without taking either Food or Water. At this Time, Furhaud Beg came from the Rajah Bhonear to make Proposals, of which he informed me by One of my People. The Havildar Supersaud said, "Perhaps the Rajah has sent him to support us; no Matter, let him be called;" so I sent for him, and he came up to the Gate of the Inner Fort, and when he saw me, he said to me, "You have no Masters; the English are all killed, and the Colonel and Mr. Gordon are confined by the Begum." I gave him insulting Language in Reply to this, and told him to tell this Story to the Sepoys who were with me; and he did repeat it, with a loud Voice, to the Sepoys; and said to them, "You have no Masters; give up the Burgomauls, that they may enter into the Rajah's Service, or go where they think proper." In Reply we said, "The good Fortune of our Masters is on our Side, and while we have Life we will fight; and we will not give up the Burgomauls." At this Juncture Selamut Khan Jemadar of Grenadiers, with Nine Sepoys, unexpectedly arrived in the Town from Nerownah: My People from the Inner Fort saw that a Company had arrived near to the Cutwall's Chubbootre; they gave a loud Shout, and said, "A Company of Grenadiers is arrived from Kunkooa;" and their Spirits were raised; and we opened the Gate of the Fort, and Selamut Khan joined us. The Bravery and Resolution of Selamut

* The Acclamation of Appeal to the Sovereign Power.

Khan are not to be described. When the Enemy beheld the Arrival of Selamut Khan Jemmadar, they turned their Faces to Flight: I pursued them with my People through the Western Gate, and many of the Enemy were killed and wounded, and Numbers were killed and Numbers were drowned in the River; and, by the Blessing of God, we obtained the Victory. I returned into the Fort, and immediately secured Perhaud Beg and Fyz-oolla Beg, who had come to make Proposals about the Burgomauls; I wrote an Account of the Whole of this Affair to the Colonel, and to the Captain*. After a few Days, an Order came from the Colonel to Munnowur Khan, directing, that if the Rajah Mustapha Khan had been put to Death, well; if not, strike off his Head. Munnowur Khan shewed me the Order. I said, "The Order is not written to me; I will write to the Colonel on the Subject." And it was understood from the Country People, that the Captain was marching towards Banaris, (but) that the Grenadier Sepoys had mutinied, and demanded their Pay; that the Captain gave them Three Months Pay, and proposed to them to march with him to Banaris: The Sepoys all answered, that they would go to Bungulla, and deliver up their Arms at the Gate of the Begum; in consequence of which, the Captain was obliged to give up his Intentions of going to Banaris, and return to Gooruckpoor; and he gave Orders, that the Head of Mustapha Khan should be struck off; and he was beheaded accordingly; and a Proclamation was made through the Town, that those who were guilty of such Crimes would meet with the same Punishment. The Captain halted for some Days, and brought up Grain for the Sepoys. At this Time, the Brother of Soobaun Sing, Pulwaun Sing, with a thousand Matchlocks, and others, Country People, was at Gooruckpoor; and they raised an Outcry, and said that the English should not remain in the Town, and they prepared for Action; so the Captain crossed the Raubry. A Bullock Man belonging to the Artillery, who returned into the Town to buy Fodder, they put to Death. Marching from thence, in Four Days the Captain arrived at Baunsi. The Ranny of Baunsi came to see him, but her Son prepared for Hostilities; he said, "They have struck off the Head of our Rajah at Gooruckpoor, and I will be revenged." We marched from thence; and the Rajah of Bulrampoor, with his People, had thrown up an Intrenchment across the Road; and he said, "It is the Begum's Orders, that you shall not march by this Road." With the greatest Hazard and Caution we marched from thence, and arrived at Koonda, and the Country People retired into the Fort.

This is a true Account which I have set forth.

Ahlaud Sing.

NUM. 3. N.

Translation of the Deposition of Denoo Sing, Subadar.—*The Deponent sworn before Chief Justice Sir Elijah Impey, November 26th 1781.*

On the 16th of Ramzan, an Order came to me from the Commander of the Battalion, that a Jemmadar and Sepoys belonging to the Company of Dut Sing were coming to me; that I should deliver over to him the Fort and the Gun, and the Burgomauls, and that I myself should march and join Mr. Gordon at Taundeh. On the 13th the said Jemmadar and Sepoys joined me at Dummooreah Gunge; and, being relieved on the same Day, on the 14th of the said Month I marched towards Taundeh. The Zemcedars and Villagers surrounded us all the Way from Dummooreah Gunge to Ruddouly, and they said, "The Government of the Colonel is at an End;" but they had not the Resolution to attack us. They also said, "The Rajah Cheit Sing has cut off the English Forces at Banaris; deliver up your Baggage, it is the Order of the Begum." In this Situation I replied, "The Baggage belongs to us, and we have Ammunition to defend it; if any one chooses to attack it, let him come." We lay the whole Night on our Arms at Ruddouly. We marched the next Morning, and arrived at Bussy; but got no Intelligence of Mr. Gordon to enable us to join him. Ghuffoor Beg, Subadar of the Nabob's Artillery, told me that Bauboo Dhun Sing, with a thousand Matchlocks, had taken Post in the Jungle of Bussy, and that he had moreover sunk all the Boats on the River. I halted Six Hours at Bussy, searching after Boats; at last I procured a very small one, and when I was about to cross, the Subadar Bejy Sing arrived, after a March of Twenty Cos, in which March a Sepoy and Three Horses were killed, and Four Sepoys wounded. Bejy Sing desired I would stop for Two or Three Gurry, till his People had ate their Victuals, for they had marched Twenty Cos. At the Time that Bejy Sing's Sepoys had untied their Commurbunds [laid aside their Arms], the Country People, with Bauboo Dhun Sing, came and surrounded us in the Village of Bussy; in consequence of which, I resolved to seize upon the Fort of Bussy, and take Post there. The Subadar of the Artillery before mentioned, and others of the People, said, "Accounts have arrived from the Begum that all the English are cut off: Why will you seize upon the Fort and take possession of it?"—I desired the said Subadar to join and support me; he replied, "Whoever is appointed Amil of the Pergunnah I will join him, I will not go with you." At this Time a Man arrived, and brought News, that Mr. Gordon was at Sunjur Ghaut, in the Pergunnah of Ruddouly, so I marched to Meer Gunge, intending to go from thence to the said Ghaut, and I sent a Sepoy, naked, to obtain Intelligence of Mr. Gordon. The said Sepoy returned, and brought Word that Mr. Gordon and the Subadar and Jeon-

* Captain Gordon.

PART III.

madars were imprisoned at Taundeh by Orders from the Begum ; that many of the Sepoys had deserted, and several had been killed : When I heard this News, and that the Ghauts on the River were shut, and that the Rajahs, with Six thousand Matchlocks, had surrounded Ahlaud Sing in the Fort of Gooruckpoor, with an Intention to set the Burgomauls at Liberty ; I determined to march to Gooruckpoor : On the Road, News arrived that through the good Fortune of our Masters, all the Country People had been put to Flight, and that Ahlaud Sing had obtained the Victory ; in consequence of which I went to Mukhur, and there I saw that all the Pergunnah Aumils of that Country had taken shelter in the Monument of Kubbeer Daus ; from them I learned, that it was the Begum's Orders to cut off all those who were connected with the English in Surwar, wherever they might be found. I also heard that the Rajah Cheit Sing had destroyed all the English Troops, and that Three of the English had been killed ; it was also reported, that the Authority of the Nabob Saadut Ally Khan and the Begum was established throughout all the Country. I marched from Mukhur, and arrived at the Fort of Gooruckpoor. After this a Letter came from Bauboo Ajeet Sing to Ahlaud Sing, to this Purport, " Deliver over the Burgomauls to me, and I will cause you to be conducted wherever you think proper to go ; or (if you think proper) enter into my Service, for you have no Master ; why will you give yourselves up to Destruction ?" We and Ahlaud Sing sent a verbal Answer, That the Fortune of our Masters was on our Side ; if he thought proper he might come ; that while we had Life we would not give up the Burgomauls, but that we would put them all to the Sword. We wrote an Account of these Things to the Colonel, and received the following Answer, that we should maintain our Post in the Fort, and that we should march toward him with the Captain (when he arrived). It was now known that the Captain intended to march to Banaris by the Road of Nuddi Kaunoon ; but that the Grenadiers had mutinied, and obliged him to return. It was also heard that Futteh Saw, and Genoo Roy, and Rajah Ajeet Mull, &c. had resolved to attack the Captain, because Letters had come from the Rajah Cheit Sing to all the Zemeedars, to this Purport, " Wherever there are Dependants of the English, kill and drive them out." It was moreover reported, that when the Captain marched to Kunkooa, on his Way to Banaris, the Grenadiers made a Disturbance, and demanded their Pay : That he gave Three Months Pay to the Sepoys, to prevail upon them to march with him to Banaris, but that those Cowards would not consent ; they said, " We will not go to Banaris : We are the Servants of the Begum and Saadut Ally Khan ; we will deliver up our Guns and our Arms at the Gate of the Begum."—Without Remedy, the Captain was obliged, by the Disobedience of his Troops, to march to Gooruckpoor, where we joined him ; moreover Pulwaun Sing, the Brother of the Rajah Soobaun Sing, came with a thousand Matchlocks, and he and the Inhabitants of Gooruckpoor raised a Clamour, demanding that the Captain should march from thence, and they killed the Brother of the Chowdry of the Bullock Men, who went into the Town to buy Fodder. At this Time Half the Troops had crossed the Raubty, when the foregoing Accident happened ; the Captain marched by the Way of Baunfy. After our Arrival at Baunfy it rained Six Days without Intermission. The Ranny of Baunfy came to see the Captain, but her Son stood prepared for Hostilities. After Six Days, we marched from thence to Portaul Buckra, from thence to Dummoorea Gunge ; marching from thence, we halted at Chunderdeep for Two Days ; when we marched from thence the Captain went on in Front ; Hurdeaul, Commandant, was in the Rear ; a Skirmish ensued between him and the Country People ; Two of them were taken Prisoners, and One was killed by a Musket Shot. We marched from that Place to the Nullah of Attroleh, Three Cofs to the Westward ; we marched from Attroleh, and were opposed, near Bulrampoor, by about Two thousand Country People ; but when the Battalion and Gun were drawn up fronting them, they gave way and fled ; the Road cleared, we marched, and encamped at the Nuddy Koaubeh ; we continued there One Night, and marched to Gonedeh. When we arrived at Gonedeh, the Country People quitted our Rear. This is a true Account which is written.

Denoo Sing.

NUM. 3. O.

Translation of the Deposition of Ram Sing, Jemmadar.—*The Deponent sworn before Chief Justice Sir Elijah Impey, November 26th 1781.*

The Rajah Futteh Saw, and Genoo Roy, and Ajeet Mull, united themselves all Three together, and bound themselves by Oath ; and these were the improper Resolutions which they had agreed to ; that they would cross the River Gograh, and establish their own Authority there, for Letters had arrived from the Rajah Cheit Sing at Banaris, in which he said, " All the English are cut off ; the Government of the English is overturned ; I have taken Possession of the Country ; do you, the Zemeedars, establish your Authority also in those Districts."—It was likewise publicly reported, that the Rajah Cheit Sing had sent Fifteen thousand Rupees in Specie to the said Zemeedars, to raise Men, and kill and drive out the Dependants of the English wherever they might be. It was also reported that Colonel Hannay and Captain Williams were in Confinement ; the Rajah Futteh Saw came to inform himself of this ; but not obtaining any certain Intelligence, returned, and determined to go to Kunkooa, to cut off the People and plunder the Place. At this Time the Captain returned from Lucknow, and arrived at Kunkooa. I also arrived at Kunkooa agreeably to Orders. In the Evening he informed all the Subadars and Jemmadars and Sepoys, that

they were to march towards Banaris the next Day. In consequence of which the Sepoys went to the Subadars and said, that they had no Money. The Subadars replied, their Pay was in the Sirkar, if they could get it they might take it. Early the next Morning we marched, the Companies faced to the Right. Four or Five of the foremost Grenadiers stepped out, surrounded the Captain, and said, "Give us our Pay and we will go with you;" the Captain replied, "You are only Four or Five Men, take (your Pay) and I will pay the Battalion when we arrive at Burragong," which is only Eight Cofs from Kunkooa. The Battalion had gone on about a Cofs. On hearing the above, Numbers of Sepoys returned, and loaded their Pieces, and fixed their Bayonets, and pointed them at the Captain; in consequence of which, he recalled the whole Battalion, and told them to take their Pay and march with him to Banaris; to which they all agreed; but when the Captain had given them Three Months Pay, the Men who were the Mutineers raised a Clamour, (and said) "we will take our Arms and the Gun to the Chuckladar, and receive our Pay from him, for the Chuckladar is a Servant of the Begum's, and we also are the Begum's Servants, and Saadut Ally's." The Captain said to the Commandant and the Subadars, "I have paid them all, what then is the Cause of this improper Behaviour?" but what he said had no Effect upon them; however much he urged them to march to Banaris, they still refused, and only said, that they would go to Bungulla, and attend the Begum and Saadut Ally Khan; and that if the Captain attempted to escape, they would put a Guard over him, and deliver him up there. Without Remedy, the Captain marched this Way. That which was true has been written.

Ram Sing.

NUM. 3. P.

Translation of the Deposition of Hurdeal Sing, Commandant.—The Deponent sworn before Chief Justice Sir Elijah Impey, November 26th 1781.

The Servant Hurdeal Sing, Commandant of Major Macdonald's Battalion, gives the following Account. I was stationed in the Pergumnah of Beelpoor, in the District of Narrain Buttool, with Two Companies of Sepoys of Captain Williams's Battalion, Three hundred and Fifty Nejeeb and Sehbundy Men, and One Gun, and acted in the Business of the Sirkar agreeably to my Orders. From the 15th of Ramzan I received several Letters from Mahommed Shuffee Khan, the Chuckladar, and from the Captain, who were then at Kunkooa, to march speedily with my Force and join them, for that the Power of the turbulent Country People and Rajahs was become excessive. At this Time I collected together the People who were stationed at different Places; and on the 19th of the said Month, notwithstanding the Waters were very much out in the Road, I marched toward Kunkooa. When I arrived at Ram Kolah, which is about Fifteen Cofs from my Situation, I heard, from the general Reports of the People, that the Rajahs Ajeet Mull, and Futteeh Saw, and Genoo Roy, who had been expelled from their Zemeedaries, and resided with the Rajah Cheit Sing in the Country of Banaris, had all Three, by Orders from Saadut Ally Khan and Rajah Cheit Sing, marched from thence, and crossed the Gograh, and taken Possession of their Lands; and that the Rajah Cheit Sing had assisted the said Rajahs with Five and twenty thousand Rupees to drive out the English, [directing] that they should drive them and all their Dependants out of their Districts. When I came to the next Stage, I heard that the Grenadiers, who were with Captain Williams at Kunkooa, had mutinied, and confined the Captain, and cruelly beat his Moonshy; that they had got their Pay, and intended to go off to the Vizeer; and that no one attended to the Orders of the Captain. As the Companies with me had been informed of these Circumstances, I soothed and persuaded them not to think of acting in such a Manner; that Pay was never withheld or lost in the English Service; that they would receive every Daum of that which was due to them; but that it would be improper for them, at that Time, to act as others had done. The Sepoys assented to what I had said, and, notwithstanding the Opposition of the Country People on the Road, we arrived in Safety, and with the greatest Expedition, at Kunkooa, and attended the Captain and the Chuckladar, and I then saw with my own Eyes what I had before heard on the Road. The Captain said, when I went to him, "You have without Doubt heard how Things are here; what are the Intentions of the People with you?" I said in Reply, that the People along with me, both the Sepoys, the Nujjeeb, and the Sehbundy Men, had no other Intentions but those of obeying his Orders; and that he might, at all Events, make himself easy as to those Men. The Captain then said, "It was my Intention to have taken the Grenadier Companies, and the Two Guns, and to have marched to Banaris, and joined the Governor, by the Way of the Nuddy Kauboon; and to have chastised the Three Rajahs, with whom we should have fallen in on the Road; but the Grenadiers would not consent to this; do you inquire of them what their Intentions are." Agreeably to the Orders of the Captain, I went at Night to the Line to the Subadars and Jemmadars and Sepoy Grenadiers, and asked what they wished for and intended. The Sepoys all replied, "If the Captain resolves to march to the Eastward, not one of us will go with him; moreover, we will march early To-morrow Morning to the Westward, to the Vizeer, whoever chuses to go that Way may accompany us." The Two Grenadier Subadars then told me to go to my Tent, for that these Matters the Two Companies had already talked upon with the Captain. I again endeavoured to prevail upon the Sepoys and Subadars, and told them to continue, and set their

Minds

PART III.

Minds at Rest; that I would go and speak to the Captain; that, if he approved of it, he would take them with him, and march to the Westward; that at all Events, it would be better to obey him. At last I soothed and appeased them, and went to the Captain and told him what had passed. After this, the Captain ordered me to go to Mahommed Shuffee Khan the Chuckladar, and tell him to prepare to march. I went to the Chuckladar, and delivered the Message; in answer, the Chuckladar, who had sent a Person named Munthan Ram, on his Part, to the Rajahs Ajeet Mull, Futteh Saw, and Genoo Roy, before mentioned, on a private Business, made the Want of Cattle for his Baggage an Excuse; and desired that we would halt Two or Three Days longer, and that he would then collect Beasts of Burden, and march. The said Chuckladar told me the next Day, and told the Captain also, that a Man of his was returned, and had brought Information, that Four Companies of Sepoys and Four Guns were come from the Rajah Cheir Sing, to the Assistance of the Rajahs Ajeet Mull, Futteh Saw, and Genoo Roy; and moreover, that they would cross the Gograh and join them that Day. At length, Two Days after my Arrival, our whole Force marched toward Gooruckpoor; and, notwithstanding the Rajahs and the Country People molested us on all Sides on the March, and the Waters and Nullahs were out, yet in Six Days we arrived in Safety at Gooruckpoor.—There I heard from the People, that Orders from the Begum had arrived to all the Rajahs of Pergunnahs, not to permit any English Gentlemen, or any of their Dependants, to pass in Safety through their separate Districts; and that they had surrounded Ahlaud Sing, Subadar, who was stationed with a few Sepoys in the Fort of Gooruckpoor; but that, through the good Fortune of our Masters, the Enemy was repulsed, and obliged to retire; that no English Letters, or others, or Hircarrahs, were permitted to pass; and that, if the Country People discovered any English Letters or others in the Hands of Hircarrahs, they scourged them with the greatest Severity. In consequence of these (Accounts) the Captain sent for me, and said, “The People have raised great Disturbances in the Country; beyond this no Grain will arrive, therefore we must buy Grain here, and carry it with us.” In the Space of Eight Days Grain was procured for the March, and Bullocks got together, and in Four Days, notwithstanding the heavy Rains, we crossed the Raubty, and marched towards Sukroreh: From the Day that we arrived at Baunfy, for Six Days, such heavy Rains fell, both Day and Night, that no one had the Power to stir from his Place. Without Remedy, we halted during that Time, and on the first Day that the Rain subsided we marched, and in Two Days arrived at Dummoorea Gunge. At that Place there was a Nullah in the Road, which was overflowed by the Rains and stopt our Progress; and we were at last obliged to halt there One Day to make a Bridge, over which the Troops were passed. While we were crossing, the Country People showed themselves, but were repulsed and obliged to retreat. We proceeded from thence the next Day, and March after March to Bulrampoor. As the River Kuwannah crossed our Way at that Place, we were obliged to halt there for One Day; at last we passed that River in Safety, and by repeated Marches arrived at Sukroreh. This Account, knowing it proper, is written according to the Truth.

Hurdeaul Sing,
sealed with his Seal.

NUM. 3. Q.

Translation of the Deposition of Bejy Sing, Subadar.—*The Deponent sworn before Chief Justice Sir Elijah Impey, November 26th 1781.*

On the 13th of Ramzan I received Orders from Mr. Williams to join Mr. Gordon at Taundeh, and to deliver over the Gun and the Burgomauls to Kaumdar Beg. Agreeably to Orders I delivered over the Gun and the Burgomauls to Kaumdar Beg, and set out. When I arrived at Naurood the Hooly Rejoicings had commenced; and the Country People gathered together on all Sides, and surrounded me. Making an Effort, I pushed on from thence about a Cofs; but the Enemy were now increased to a prodigious Number. Till Nine o’Clock at Night they continued to insult us; and when the Moon got up they began to fire with Matchlocks; and they said, “You have struck off the Head of the Rajah Juggut Sing; where will you go?—we will strike off your Heads in Return. It is the Orders of the Begum, that whoever strikes off and brings in the Head of an Englishman, shall receive a Reward of a Thousand Rupees; and for the Head of a Subadar or Jemmadar a Hundred Rupees; and for every Sepoy’s Head struck off and brought, that a Reward of Ten Rupees shall be given.”—The Attack continued through the Night; One Sepoy was killed, and Seven Men and Three Horses wounded, of my Party. The Country People said, “Give up your Baggage, and Arms, and Coats, and go naked where you please.” But I stood firm, and we fought with them, and marched on, Night by Night, to Baunfy, where we were quitted by the Enemy. Having joined Dhoon Sing Subadar at Baunfy, we marched from thence with him. This which is related is true.

Bejy Sing,
and sealed with his Seal.

NUM. 3. R.

Translation of the Deposition of Merun Moonshy to Mr. Gordon.—*The Deponent sworn before Chief Justice Sir Elijah Impey, November 16th 1781.*

I Merun, &c. considering God and the Prophet of God as present, do swear upon the sacred Koraun to the following Facts which I give in Writing:—That on the 7th of the Month of September, Mr. Gordon, with Four Companies of Sepoys, and a hundred Horse of the Ruffauleh of Ruzza Beg Khan, did march from the Ghaut Jehoora for Taundeh; and at that Time, from our setting out till our Arrival at Taundeh, Thousands of Country People assembled together, and attempted to cut off the Troops and the Baggage; so that there was a continued Action, both with Swords and Musketry, all the Way.—But as the Order of March was well regulated, and the Sepoys were not deficient in Firmness and Resolution, many of the Enemy were killed; and on this Side, not a single Article of the Property of any one was plundered; Mr. Gordon conducting them all, together with the whole of the Baggage, in perfect Safety to the Nullah of Teerah, which runs beneath Taundeh. On our Arrival there he intended to cross the Nullah, and encamp at Taundeh; and he gave Directions for the Troops to pass over. When they were about to cross, (it appeared that) all the Boats were on the opposite Side of the Nullah; and the People of the Taundeh Fougedar, whose Name is Shumsheer Khan, stood Guard over the Boats, and said, “It is the Orders of the Fougedar, that the Boats shall not pass over to that Side.”—When Mr. Gordon heard of this, he wrote a Letter to the Fougedar, and sent it by a Hircarrah. The Contents of the Letter were: “I am a Servant of the Nabob, and am going to join the Army by his Orders; where is the Propriety of shutting up the Ghaut, and refusing to permit People to pass?”—The said Hircarrah took the Letter, and went to the Ghaut, and endeavoured to get over, but the Fougedar's People would not allow him to cross.—When I saw that they would not permit the Hircarrah to pass over, I gave Mr. Gordon's Letter to a Servant of the Fougedar's, who had swam over to our Side of the Nullah to see one of his Friends; and I told him to convey it, by some Means or other, to the Fougedar. He put the Letter in his Turban, and swam back across the Nullah, and delivered it to the Fougedar, who read the Contents, but returned no Sort of Answer. At the Time when the Letter arrived, Mirza Ruzza Beg Khan, Ruffaulehdar, who by chance had arrived alone on some Business, and had crossed over before this Affair, was sitting by Shumsheer Khan, and is an Evidence that the Letter arrived. The said Mirza declared to me, and confirmed it by Oaths, that the Letter came to the Fougedar when he was present; and that, although he endeavoured to persuade him, it was to no Purpose. At last he sent for Three Guns, and some Tomuns of Matchlock-Men, who were stationed at Taundeh; and he pointed the Guns across the Nullah at the Troops, and stationed the Men at the Ghaut, and ordered them not to permit a single Person to cross. In consequence thereof the Fougedar's People stood at the Ghaut, and used insulting Language; and said, that if any one attempted to cross the River, they would fire upon him. When Mr. Gordon saw this, that no Answer to his Letter had come from the Fougedar, and that his People were inclined to Hostilities, he directed me to go and explain Things to Shumsheer Khan, and persuade him to desist from such improper Conduct. According to the Orders I had received, I went to the Ghaut, and demanded a Boat, and said that I was sent by Mr. Gordon to the Fougedar on Business, and desired that they would allow me to cross over alone; but they would not listen to me, or send a Boat to carry me over. Without Remedy, I returned to Mr. Gordon, and informed him of the Behaviour of the People at the Ghaut. He said, “If they will not give you a Boat, it is no Matter; mount an Elephant, and swim him over.”—I obeyed, and mounted an Elephant, and went and endeavoured to push the Elephant into the Nullah. The Fougedar's People at once levelled their Pieces at me, and said, “Beware—if you drive the Elephant into the Nullah, we will fire upon you, and kill you.” Per Force I returned to Mr. Gordon: It was now almost Sunset. When the Country People saw this Affair, that the Fougedar of Taundeh was our Enemy also; that he had shut up the Ghaut, and would not permit us to pass, they charged us on all Sides. Our Sepoys seeing Thousands of the Country People assembled on one Side, the Ghaut shut up, and Shumsheer Khan disposed to Hostilities on the other; and being also much exhausted by the Skirmishing and Labour on the March, gave up their Resolution and Firmness at once; and throwing aside their Arms and their Coats, disposed themselves to Flight; and notwithstanding Mr. Gordon used every Means of Persuasion, both to the Sepoys and the Officers, no one either heard or obeyed him, until Mr. Gordon was left with only Ten Men and the Baggage; all the rest were fled. At this Time Cally Pershaud, a Bengaly of Mr. Scott's, who was stationed at the Kooty, by a thousand Intreaties and Supplications, obtained an Order to send One Boat from the Fougedar, and sent it over. Mr. Gordon then saw that none of his People had remained with him; that continuing there alone was to no Purpose, and therefore was obliged to cross over. All his Baggage, and the Baggage of his Servants and Followers, was plundered; that which they carried over with them when they crossed, and delivered into the Hands of the Fougedar's People, who promised to protect it, was afterwards taken by them, and never returned. Some Days

PART III.

Days after, some Firelocks were produced from the House of the Fougedar; and many of the People's Effects were seen there; but the Fougedar's Men did not deliver them up. In short, this is the Substance of the Affair which happened at Taundeh; and I have wrote this Account upon Oath, that whoever reads it may know it to be true. Written with my own Hand.

Moonthy Merun.

NUM. 3. S.

Translation of the Depositions of Meer Ahmud Ally, Subadar in the Battalion of Captain Williams, and Doond Sing, Subadar.—The Deponents sworn before Chief Justice Sir Elijah Impey, November 26th 1781.

We, Meer Ahmud Ally, Subadar in the Battalion of Captain Williams, and Doond Sing, Subadar of Grenadiers in the Battalion of Major Macdonald, do swear (one) upon the sacred Koran, and (the other) by the Ganges, &c. to the (Truth of the) following Deposition, which we give in Writing: That on the 7th of the Month of September, Mr. Gordon, with Four Companies of Sepoys, and a hundred Horse of the Ruffauleh of Ruzza Beg Khan, did march from the Ghaut of Jehoorah toward Taundeh, and we (the Deponents) were along with him. From our setting out, till our Arrival at Taundeh, Thousands of Country People surrounded us on every Side, with Intention to cut off the Troops and the Baggage; so that we were continually engaged both with Swords and Small Arms the whole Way; but as the Order of March was well regulated, the Enemy could not succeed in their Attempts upon the Army. After skirmishing throughout the whole March, by which several of the Enemy were killed, we arrived in Safety, about Two o'Clock in the Afternoon, on the Bank of the Nullah of Teerah, which runs beneath Taundeh; after our Arrival there, Mr. Gordon wanted to cross the Nullah, and halt in Taundeh, and he gave us Orders to cross the Nullah. We attempted to pass over, but the Fougedar of Taundeh, by Name Shumsheer Khan, hearing that Mr. Gordon was about to cross the Nullah, prepared Three Guns, and Three or Four Tomuns of Matchlock Men, who were stationed with him, and posted them at the Ghaut, and they pointed the Guns toward the Troops of Mr. Gordon; and the Fougedar gave Orders not to permit a single Man belonging to that Gentleman to cross. Although Mr. Gordon wrote a Letter to the said Fougedar, it made no Sort of Impression upon him. At last the Evening came. It happened that Ruzza Beg Khan had arrived alone on some Business, before this Affair, and crossed over to Taundeh. The Cavalry belonging to the said Ruffaulehdar, before any one else, swam their Horses across the River, and fled. The Sepoys seeing Thousands of Country People advancing, on one Side; the Ghaut shut up by the Fougedar Shumsheer Khan, who would allow no one to pass, on the other; and that the Cavalry who accompanied them were dispersed and gone, gave up at once their Steadiness and Resolution, and taking off their Coats, and throwing down their Arms, turned themselves to Flight, until Mr. Gordon was left with only Ten or Eleven Men, for all the rest had fled. At this Time Cally Pershaud, Mr. Scott's Bengally, who resided at the Kooty in Taundeh, by a thousand Supplications and Entreaties, obtained an Order from the Fougedar for One Boar, which he sent over. Mr. Gordon was then alone on the Bank; he was forced to cross; and all the Baggage belonging to him and his Followers was plundered.

Meer Ahmud Ally, and Doond Sing.

NUM. 3. T.

Translation of the solemn Declaration of the Ranny Golaub Kooer, made on the 12th Day of November 1781, before Chief Justice Sir Elijah Impey.

On the 27th of Shabaun, Sunday, the Chiefs who came to Ramnagur from Lutteefgur, appointed by Rajah Cheit Sing, were Mocundy and Ram Buksh, Bhemun Sing, and Cullian Sing, and Baul Kishen Huzzarry, and Sirdar Sing, a Follower of Ramjewun, and Ram Sheweh, a Follower of Ajayb Sing, and Dildar Hoosein Khan, and Nuzzur Ashriff, with their own Parties. On the next Morning, which was Monday the 28th of Shabaun, the above-named Chiefs had an Engagement at Ramnagur, with the Companies which came from the Fort of Chunar; at Two Pahr and a Half of the Day, ($\frac{1}{4}$ past One P. M.) those Companies were defeated, and the Intelligence was immediately sent to Lutteefgur; and at One Pahr of the Night, (Nine o'Clock) Bauboo Soojaun Sing having left Lutteefgur, with Gholaum Hoosein Khan, and Fyz-Oolla Khan, arrived that same Night at Ramnagur, when Two Gurries of it remained.

Tuesday the whole Day he was employed in Preparations, and in stationing the above-mentioned Chiefs, and in loading Bamboo Ladders on the Boats, and Guns upon the Pinnacle. And he gave Orders to the Chiefs and the Troops, that at Twelve at Night, on Wednesday, they should cross and attack the Governor General, and the other English Gentlemen who resided in Mehadew Daus's Garden. All the Inhabitants of Ramnagur, as well as I, saw and heard these Particulars.

(The Ranny's Signature.)

With respect to Cheit Sing's having, from of old, an improper Correspondence with the Begums at Lucknow, and the Rajah of Bheraich and Gooruckpoor, the Declaration of the above Ranny is as follows:

Since Two Years, on account of the Enmity of Cheit Sing to me, I had left Ramnagur, and resided in another Dwelling; and Cheit Sing had always acted towards me with such Enmity and Opposition as cannot be described; how, therefore, should he have acquainted me with his Correspondences?—but I have heard from Report, that he had in many Places improper Correspondences. However, it is very plain that he had Enmity towards the Governor General; because, whenever he learned any thing to the Prejudice of the Governor, from the Letters of his Vakeels, or the Reports of ill-designing Persons, he used to rejoice:—This is known to all the Inhabitants of Ramnagur. Accordingly, when the Governor General was lately coming from Calcutta towards this Quarter, the Rajah and his Companions used to say, “the Governor has been displaced, and is making his Escape to Hindostan.” Besides, from the Rajah's going to Buxar to meet him with the greatest Preparations his Intention plainly appears.

Ranny Golaub Kooer.

NUM. 3. U.

Translation of the Deposition of Gudgerauge Sing.—*The Deponent sworn before Chief Justice Sir Elijah Impey, November 12th 1781.*

I Gudgerauge Sing, the ancient Kelladar of Ramnagur from the Time of the deceased Rajah Bulwant Sing, do declare and give in Writing without Reserve (considering God to be present and a Witness) all that I have done, seen, or heard, to the following Effect:

On the Day that the Engagement happened between the Forces which came from Chunar and the Troops of Rajah Cheit Sing, I was in Readiness in the Fort of Ramnagur, with the Burkandazes with their Matches lighted. When the Chunar Army had been defeated, a Budgerow from the Westward came near the Ghaut of Buxey Suddanund. Having observed it from the Fort, I went out by the Wicket Gate, which is to the Southward, with Seven or Eight Burkandazes; the Rowers, and other People belonging to the Budgerow, on seeing this, leaped into the Water, and the Gentleman was killed by the Stroke of a Sword from the Men who accompanied me. About this Time I received Intelligence that the Rajah's Cavalry, who opposed the Chunar Army, had fled; upon this I was greatly confused, and was desirous of carrying the Budgerow under the Fort, but the People of Buxey Suddanund took possession of the Budgerow, and declared that they would keep it, as it had come to their Ghaut. Two Burkandazes brought from the Budgerow Two Muskets and some Cloths, and One of my People took One Musket, whilst the Burkandazes took more Cloth and Arms. From thence I went to my Charge in the Fort.

My further Deposition is as follows:

On the Night of the same Day that the Army from Chunar was defeated, about Two Ghurries of the Night remaining, Bauboo Soojaun Sing arrived from Lutteesgur at Ramnagur. I heard from several Persons, that the said Bauboo had given Orders to his Troops and Chiefs, to make a Night Attack on the Governor General and the other Gentlemen who were in Mahadew Das's Garden. Accordingly, he employed his Troops in bringing Bamboo Ladders, and loading them on Boats, and every one was preparing for the Attack.

I swear, that whatever is written in this Paper is true.

Gudgerauge Sing.

FOURTH PARCEL.

NUM. 4. A.

Affidavit of Captain Davy.

Captain William Davy, private Persian Translator to the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, Governor General of Fort William in Bengal, &c. &c. maketh Oath, and saith, That he understands the Language spoken by the Deponent, Hindoo Sing; and that he faithfully and truly explained to the said Deponent the Contents of the annexed Affidavit, in the Hindostan Language, being the Language of the said Hindoo Sing, before he the said Hindoo Sing had sworn the same.

Sworn before me, this 12th Day of
December 1781.

William Davy.

E. Impey.

NUM. 4. B.

Affidavit of Hindoo Sing, Adjutant at Buxar.

The Deposition of Hindoo Sing, Adjutant at Buxar, says, That the People under the Government of Cheit Sing gave many Proofs of Disaffection to the English—That about Two Months before

PART III.

before the Arrival of the Governor General at Buxar, Two Sepoys belonging to the Fort of Buxar obtained Leave of Absence, and did not return—That Soojaun Sing, the Brother of the Rajah Cheit Sing, took them into his Service, and made one of them a Havildar, and the other a Naick—That he received undoubted Information, which was afterwards confirmed by Desertions from the Garrison, that Soojaun Sing tutored the Two Deserters to entice away the English Sepoys from Buxar, promising to make them Havildars and Officers if they would enter into his Service; in consequence of which, Seven Sepoys deserted, and entered into the Service of the said Soojaun Sing; and that many more would have followed, but that proper Measures were taken to prevent them. The Deponent also says, That long before this, when Sir Eyre Coote was on his Way to Lucknow, Three Sepoys were sent to purchase Grain at Balleah, in the Country of the Rajah; that they applied to the Fougedar of the Place for his Assistance in purchasing the Grain; which he not only refused, but he caused them to be beaten almost to Death; that their Turbans and Bayonets were taken away; and that no Satisfaction could ever be obtained for this Injustice and Insult to the English Government, nor was the Fougedar called to Account for his Conduct. The Deponent further says, That when the Rajah came to Buxar to meet the Governor General, he had with him a Fleet of Boats, in Number Eighty or Eighty-five, on which were embarked, according to the Information which he obtained, Two thousand or Two thousand Five hundred Men, Sepoys and Matchlock Men, with Four Guns; that he came to, and encamped on, the Northern Side of the River, opposite to Buxar; and that he had several Bodies of Cavalry on the Road, on the same Side of the River—Says, that the Rajah came to Buxar to see the Governor General; that he brought with him only Fifty or Sixty People, but that they were all his Relations and particular Friends, on whom he depended; and that they were all armed. The Deponent further says, That when Hostilities commenced between the Rajah and the English, the Sepoys and others who happened to be in the Rajah's Country, were all driven out, and the Road on both Sides the River so completely shut up, that no Individual could pass—That Four or Five thousand Matchlock Men were to be collected by Two Brothers, Deir Sing and Beir Sing, at Serinjah, agreeable to Orders from the Rajah; and that the said Rajah wrote Directions to the said Deir Sing and Beir Sing, and to the Kelladar of Serinjah, to reduce the Fort of Buxar, and to establish his Government in that Country.

The Deponent further says, That about Twelve Months ago Three European Gentlemen were attacked at Beerpoor, in the Country of the Rajah, about Five Coss from Buxar; that One of the Gentlemen was desperately wounded; that a Serjeant, a Jemadar, and Fifty Sepoys, were sent from Buxar to seize the Zemeeदार, but without Effect—That Complaints were made to the Rajah, but no Redress could ever be obtained.

Hindoo Sing.

Sworn before me (the Contents being first explained to the Witness by W. Davy Esquire, in the Hindostan Language) the 9th Day of December 1781.

E. Impey.

F I F T H P A R C E L.

NUM. 5. A.

Affidavit of Captain Davy.

Captain William Davy, private Persian Secretary to the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, Governor General of Bengal, &c. &c. upon Oath, saith, That he is acquainted with the Language spoken by the Persons who made the annexed Depositions; that he received said Depositions verbally, from each of said Deponents his separate Deposition; and that he has rendered them faithfully into English, to the best of his Knowledge and Judgment; and that he has faithfully explained to said Deponents, in their own Language, to each his proper Deposition, the Contents of said annexed Deposition.

Sworn before me this 3d Day of
December 1781.

E. Impey.

NUM. 5. B.

Affidavit of Sheakh Mahommed Aumeen Meyher.

Deposition of Sheakh Mahommed Aumeen Meyher, late a Commandant in the Service of Cheit Sing.—Upon his Oath says, He was the Servant of Cheit Sing; that he commanded a Battalion of Eleven hundred and Fifty Sepoys in his Service; that he accompanied Cheit Sing when he went to Buxar to meet the Governor General; that there was with Cheit Sing at that Time, the following armed Force, Two hundred and Twenty-eight Sepoys under the immediate Command of this Deponent, Six hundred Matchlock Men under the Command of Seuperfauz Sing, and Three hundred Peadahs, or Sword Men, called Huzzoory or Guards; that the above-mentioned Troops accompanied the Rajah in Boats; and that the said Rajah Cheit Sing was also attended by a Body of Six hundred Cavalry, under different Leaders; that the Cavalry marched down on the Southern Bank of the Ganges, and directed their Movements by the Motion of the Fleet of Boats in which the Rajah and his Infantry were embarked: That when the Rajah Cheit Sing arrived at Ghauzipoor, he was joined by Bullum Dafs the Aumil, and the Dewan Ruggoobur Dial; and that when he proceeded on from thence, a Detachment of Cavalry and Matchlock Men (stationary Troops at Ghauzipoor) in Number about Five hundred, accompanied the Rajah, marching along the Northern Bank of the River in the same Manner as the Troops on the opposite Side, moving when the Fleet moved, and halting when that halted; that the Rajah arrived, and encamped on the Northern Side of the Ganges, opposite the Fort of Buxar; that the Governor General arrived at Buxar the next Day; that the Rajah crossed the River, and waited upon him; that he returned to his Camp, and about Three o'Clock in the Afternoon put his People and Fleet in Motion, returning as he had went, and the Troops on the Banks of the River accompanying the Boats; that the Governor General proceeded the next Morning, and came up with the Rajah at Zemeneerah, about Twenty Cofs from Buxar; that the Rajah again waited on the Governor General on board his Boat, and that the Governor General then proceeded on before the Rajah, the Rajah following at the Distance of Four or Five Cofs, until they reached Banaris; that the Governor General went to the Garden of Mahadew Dafs, and the Rajah to Shewallah Ghaut, his armed People taking their Stations in their Neighbourhood; that his (the Deponent's) People did not arrive with the Rajah, but that he joined him with Fifty Sepoys, and took his Station near to Shewallah; that Two Companies of Sepoys also joined the Rajah from Ramnagur.—The Deponent further says, That on the Day that the Three Gentlemen and the Two Companies of English Sepoys came to the Rajah, and the Circumstance of his Arrest was known, the Rajah's People (who were then stationed round Shewallah) to the Number of about Four thousand, were armed and prepared for Action; that at this Time Munnihar Sing, Seuamur Sing, and Nunkoo Sing, went to the Rajah: That the Disturbance and Dispute at the Gate ran high, and increased every Moment: That the Huzzoories, Peadahs, and others, with their Arms, got upon the Chuppers which were erected against the Wall on the Outside; that the Matchlock Men fired upon a Company who were without Shewallah; that the Deponent counted Seven Matchlocks which were fired, and saw a Sepoy fall by the First Shot; that the Moment the Firing was heard, the Rajah's People forced their Way Sword in Hand into Shewallah, and cut the Gentlemen and Sepoys to Pieces; that the Rajah Cheit Sing escaped during the Conflict to Ramnagur, and from thence to Lutteefpoor.

The Deponent further says, That after the Detachment from Chunar was repulsed near Ramnagur and obliged to retreat, Soojaun Sing and the Buxey Suddanund arrived with Troops at that Place, and that by Orders from the Rajah they prepared Scaling Ladders, &c. in order to make a Night Assault on the Garden of Mahadew Dafs; that Boats were prepared, and Guns and Troops marched down to the Ghaut of Ausi Sungum; that the Sepoys belonging to the Deponent refused to cross the River until they had obtained some Refreshment, having been without Food for Two Days; that the Night passed away without any Thing being done, and that the Governor General on that Night quitted Banaris, and arrived at Chunar; that Soojaun Sing and Suddanund Buxey wrote a Complaint to Cheit Sing against the Troops under the Command of the Deponent the next Morning; and that Soojaun Sing sent a Company of his own Sepoys to take possession of the Garden of Mahadew Dafs; that they plundered the Property of the Gentlemen at that Place, and returned to Ramnagur.

The Deponent further says, That the following is, to the best of his Memory, a true List of the Forces with Rajah Cheit Sing; those on the regular Establishment, those newly entertained, and those who came in to his Assistance.

List of the Established Forces in the Service of Cheit Sing.

Cavalry, Sepoys, Matchlock Men, &c.

	Number.
Cavalry — — — —	1,700
Body Guards, or select Troops, Cavalry and Infantry — —	700
Sepoys — — — —	1,150
Matchlock Men — — — —	1,800
Attached to Bullum Dans — — — —	800
With Soojaun Sing — — — —	500
Sepoys and Artillery Men with Two Guns — — — —	340
With Munnear Sing — — — —	700
	<hr/> 7,690

Troops entertained after the Arrival of Cheit Sing at Lutteefpoor.

First, entertained at Lutteefpoor — —	Matchlock Men and Sword Men	2,000
Second, — — Nujjeeb — —	Sword Men from Lucknow — —	1,000
		<hr/> 3,000

Troops assembled from different Places.

Infantry and Cavalry with Juggurdeave Sing — —	500
Matchlock Men arrived with Bukht Sing, by Orders from Rajah — —	1,200
D ^o with Gooman Sing, sent for by the Rajah — —	500
D ^o from the Fougedar of Bidduwy — —	1,000
Raujpoos of the Tribe of Kugbunfie from Kurraukut — —	3,000
With Dillun Sing, Fougedar of Mukurun Baudhaashpoodmate — —	1,500
Cavalry and Infantry arrived with Ruzza Rool Khaun — —	300
Raujpoos collected from Agoree and Purwah by Dea Lutchoo — —	500
D ^o of the Tribe of Cummur collected by Soojaun Sing — —	1,000
Sword and Matchlock Men with Ranju Awun — —	2,000
	<hr/> 11,500

Total Troops in the Service of Cheit Sing — 22,190

To which are to be added Husbandmen and Adventurers who took up Arms, making the foregoing Number amount to near 40,000 Men.

(Signed) Sheakh Mahommed Aumeen Mhiur.

Sworn (the Contents being first explained to
the Deponent by William Davy Esquire)
this 3d Day of December 1781.

(Signed) E. Impey.

NUM. 5. C.

Deposition of Sheakh Hossain Oolla, Jemmadar, relative to the Action at Shewallah Ghaut, at which Period he was Havildar and Orderly with Lieutenant Stalker.

The Deponent upon his Oath says, He was one of those who attended Mr. Markham and Lieutenant Stalker when they went to the Rajah Cheit Sing at Shewallah Ghaut, with about Fifty orderly Sepoys, armed with Swords only; that a short Time after, Two Companies of Sepoys arrived under the Command of Lieutenants Scott and Symes; that Mr. Markham returned from the Rajah's with about Thirty of the Orderlies; that he, the Deponent, continued during the whole of the succeeding Transaction near to Lieutenant Stalker; that he saw Lieutenants Scott and Symes enter Shewallah with their Swords drawn, and shortly after observed Guards posted in different Places, from which he discovered for the first Time that the Rajah was in Arrest; that after the Departure of Mr. Markham there were present Messrs. Stalker, Scott, and Symes, with Seven or Eight Sepoys (Orderlies) attending just without the Apartment, where they were seated with the Rajah; that several of the Rajah's People, all armed, to the Number of Forty, were seated without the Purdahs; that Centries were posted round the Building; and that the Two Companies remained without the Inner Gate; that many of the Rajah's Peons, to the Amount of about Three hundred, were assembled in the same Place; that several Notes were sent off by Lieutenant Stalker, and One Note received by him; that about Twelve o'Clock at Noon the Rajah desired Permission to perform his Ablutions, which was refused, unless he would send for Water and perform them on the Spot, which he did accordingly; that before this Period, the Rajah's People between the Outer Gate and that which led immediately to the Building, made

Two different Attempts to force their Way through the Inner Gate, but were kept back by the Two Companies who were posted there; that Lieutenant Stalker once went himself to the Gate, and struck One of the Rajah's People, who was endeavouring to force his Way in; that the Rajah's People appeared to be highly irritated, and that the Subadars of the Companies found it necessary to fix Bayonets—Says, That Messrs. Scott and Symes accompanied Lieutenant Stalker on this Occasion, but that he, the Deponent, continued near the Rajah with Three or Four Sepoys, by Orders from Lieutenant Stalker; that he nevertheless saw what passed through the Stone Lattice, which surrounded the Building; that at this Period the Rajah sent his Buxey to forbid his People from making any Disturbance, and the Affair subsided; that the Gentlemen returned to the Rajah. The Deponent further says, That after the Rajah had finished his Ablutions, he retired to a Stone Pavilion, or Sort of Bastion, to perform his Devotions; that Three or Four orderly Sepoys were directed to attend him at a small Distance, to observe his Motions (the Officers continuing in their Places); that at this Period a Chubdar (named Cheit Ram) came from Mr. Markham, and delivered a Message to Mr. Stalker; and that the said Chubdar afterwards went to the Rajah Cheit Sing, who was still at his Devotions; that he appeared, by his Manner and the Loudness of his Voice, to be speaking insultingly and passionately to the Rajah; that at this Period a Report of Matchlocks was heard, and One of the Subadars, Bishen Sing, called out to the Officers, that they were fired upon by the Rajah's People from the Outer Wall; that the Gentlemen started from their Seats, and drew their Swords; that Lieutenant Stalker rushed forward toward the Gate, and that Lieutenants Scott and Symes attempted to follow him; that the Moment the Firing commenced from the Outer Wall, the Two Companies were attacked by the Three hundred Peons in the Space between the Two Walls with them; at the same Instant the Officers and their Orderlies were attacked by the Forty of the Rajah's People (said to be within the Building at the Beginning of this Deposition); that the beforementioned Subadar Bishen Sing forced his Way through the Inner Gate, with about Twenty Sepoys, to the Assistance of the Officers; that the Passage was soon stopped up by the Number of Dead and Wounded in the Gateway; that after the Communication was cut off, the Action still continued both within and without; the Two Companies still fired upon from the Outer Wall; that the Deponent saw Lieutenant Stalker defend himself with great Resolution with a Sword, which he had taken from One of his Sepoys; that the Deponent himself in a short Time received several Wounds, and fell; that he fainted, and therefore has no further Knowledge of what passed during the Remainder of the Action, or how the Rajah made his Escape; that when he recovered his Senses he saw Lieutenant Stalker lying dead near him, with many of the Sepoys; that he heard a Firing, which one of the Wounded told him proceeded from a Company of Sepoys, who were driving off the Rajah's Matchlock-men; that he, the Deponent, continued on the Ground the whole Night, but was removed the next Morning to the Garden of Mahadew Dafs.

The Mark of Sheakh Hossain Oolla, Jemmadar.

Sworn before me (the Contents being first explained to the Deponent by Will. Davy Esquire) this 3d Day of December 1781.

E. Impey.

NUM. 5. D.

The Deposition of Bishen Sing, Subadar, relative to the Action at Shewallah Ghaut.

Upon his Oath, says, That in the Morning of , Lieutenants Scott and Symes gave Orders that Two Companies of Grenadier Sepoys should be got ready; that the Companies were immediately paraded, and that the above Gentlemen marched with them to Shewallah, where the Rajah Cheit Sing resided; that Lieutenant Symes with One Company took Post within the First Gate; that the Company under Lieutenant Scott stationed themselves at the Inner Gate; that Lieutenant Stalker ordered him to post a Guard of a Havildar and Twelve Sepoys at the small Gate leading to the River, and another Guard at the Gate opening from thence into Shewallah; that he posted Guards as he was ordered, and that he sent out a Havildar to see what Number of Men were in the neighbouring Gardens and Cantonments, and what they were about; that the Havildar brought back Information, that the Rajah's People were all arming themselves, and loading their Matchlocks; that he communicated this Intelligence to Lieutenant Stalker, and added, that the Rajah's People were certainly preparing to attack them; that at this Period the Rajah's Buxey arrived; that he went in to Cheit Sing, and that he saw him make a Motion with his Hand as one striking with a Sword; that the Deponent saw this from the Inner Gate where he was standing; that Cheit Sing's People became turbulent, exclaiming on all Sides, that they (the English) had made their Rajah a Prisoner, and calling out to attack them; that he found it necessary to order the Sepoys to fix their Bayonets, and that he sent Information to Lieutenant Stalker, that they were about to be assaulted; in consequence of which, Lieutenant Stalker came out to the Place where Lieutenant Symes was posted with his Company; that Lieutenant Symes, pointing to the Rajah's People with his Hand, told Lieutenant Stalker, that those People were going

PART III.

going to attack him; that Lieutenant Stalker spoke to the Rajah's People, and returned, and that the Clamour in some measure subsided; that at this Juncture Munnear Sing, and his Son Nunkoo Sing, and Seuamur Sing, arrived, and seated themselves by the Rajah; that at this Instant, an Hircarrah brought Intelligence to the Rajah, that another Company of English Sepoys were coming from Murwarry, and that they were arrived near at hand; that at this Period, one of the Rajah's Matchlock Men fired at the Company which was advancing; that the Moment the Report of the Matchlock was heard, the Rajah's People within, who were alarmed, became very turbulent; the Noise and Confusion increased, and Lieutenant Scott came out and enquired into the Cause of it; that the Action immediately commenced within, and that Lieutenant Stalker called out to the Deponent to enter with his Company; that he attempted to obey the Orders which he had received, but that the Attack at that Instant began without the Inner Gate also; that it was no longer possible to enter with his Company; but that he nevertheless forced his Way in with about Twenty Sepoys; that Mohun Sing, Subadar, the Moulavy, and Cheit Ram (Mr. Markham's Chubdar), were first cut down; that Munnear Sing struck at Lieutenant Stalker with his Scymetar, but without Effect; that Lieutenant Stalker made a Thrust at Munnear Sing with his Sword, without Effect also; that Lieutenant Stalker threw the Sword from his Hand, and took a Scymetar from one of his orderly Sepoys, with which he continued the Action; that Nunkoo Sing afterwards made a Stroke at Lieutenant Stalker; that the Rajah's People, who were now assembled in great Numbers both within and without, charged the English Sepoys Sword in Hand, and continued the Attack till Lieutenants Stalker and Scott, with all the Sepoys, were cut down; that the Deponent's Arm was struck off by the Blow of a Scymetar; that he received several other Wounds, and at last fell, and that he continued there among the Dead and the Wounded, until a Company of Sepoys came and carried off those who remained alive.

Bishen Sing, Subadar.

Sworn before me (the Contents being first explained to the Deponent by W. Davy Esquire) this 3d Day of December 1781.

E. Impey.

[NUM. 5. E.]

Deposition of Ruggoobur Sing, Orderly Sepoy to Lieut. Stalker.

The Deponent (upon his Oath) says, He went with Lieutenant Stalker and Mr. Markham to Shewallah, where the Rajah Cheit Sing resided, and that he went with them into the Presence of the Rajah; that shortly after Two Companies of Sepoys arrived, with Two Gentlemen, whose Names the Deponent does not remember, being a newly enlisted Sepoy; that those Two Officers came in and continued with the Rajah and Lieutenant Stalker; that he the Deponent was directed by Lieutenant Stalker to attend, with Three other orderly Sepoys, in the Apartment where the Officers were sitting with the Rajah; that the rest of the orderly Sepoys remained without the Purdahs, which were let down in the Front of the Apartment; that he is unacquainted with what passed without the Gate, where the Two Companies were, or what People were there on the Part of the Rajah. The Deponent does not recollect, nor can he, he says, relate the Circumstances which passed before the Attack commenced; but in Reply to a Question put to him, Whether Mr. Markham's Chubdar, Cheit Ram, spoke to the Rajah? he says, that said Chubdar brought a Note to Lieutenant Stalker at the Time when the Rajah's People without were endeavouring to enter; that he delivered the Note to Lieutenant Stalker; that at this Time the Noise and Confusion at the Gateway was very great; that the Chubdar went from Lieutenant Stalker toward Cheit Sing, who was then sitting at the Place where he performed his Devotions; that he told him to order his People to desist; that he (the Chubdar) was Cheit Ram, and that the Rajah was but Cheit Sing; and that if he did not make his People desist, he would confine him — Says, He was an Ear Witness to the foregoing; that it was at this Moment the Firing was heard, and the Attack began; that Lieutenant Stalker's Hircarrah had his Sword; that he called to this Deponent to give him his Sword, which he did, and stood behind Lieutenant Stalker by his Orders, with the Scabbard in his Hand, until that Officer fell; that he was soon after cut down himself; that he was deprived of Sense, and knows nothing of what passed afterwards.

The Mark of Ruggoobur Sing, Sepoy.

Sworn before me (the Contents being first explained to the Deponent by W. Davy Esquire) this 3d Day of December 1781.

E. Impey.]

SIXTH PARCEL.

NUM. 6. A.

Affidavit of Captain Davy.

Captain William Davy, private Persian Translator to the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, Governor General of Fort William in Bengal, &c. &c. maketh Oath and faith, That he understands the Persian Language, and that the Paper hereunto annexed, is a true and faithful Translate of the Persian Version of the original Hindoo Deposition, both hereunto annexed, to the best of this Deponent's Skill and Belief.

William Davy.

Sworn before me this 12th Day
of December 1781.

E. Impey.

NUM. 6. B.

Translation of the Deposition of Contoo Doss, rendered into English from a Persian Version of the Original in the Hindoo Language, written by Bunny Mull Moonshy, according to the Interpretation of Bauboo Juggut Sing.—The Deponent, and the Writer of the Persian Translate, sworn before Sir Elijah Impey, one on the 2d, and the other on the 5th of December 1781.

On the First of the Month Ramzan, Wednesday, in the 23d Year, Bauboo Soojaun Sing, appointing Diaram Aumeen, sent him to Banaris; Diaram came, and made a Proclamation through the City, that whoever protected in his House the Dependants of the English, or the Property of the English, should be considered as a Criminal, and his House be seized.

Written by Contoo Doss.

SEVENTH PARCEL.

NUM. 7. A.

Affidavit of Captain Davy.

Captain William Davy, private Persian Translator to the Honourable Warren Hastings Esq. Governor General of Fort William in Bengal, &c. &c. maketh Oath and faith, That he understands the Hindoostan Language, being the Language of the Deponents Dadjoo Sing and Gobindram Misser; and that he faithfully and truly explained to the said Deponents the Contents of the annexed Affidavit, in the Hindoostan Language, before they had sworn the same.

W. Davy.

Sworn before me this 22d Day
of December 1781.

Warren Hastings.

NUM. 7. B.

Affidavit of Dadjoo Sing and Gobindram Misser.

Dadjoo Sing, and Gobindram Misser, make Oath, according to the Practice of their Religion, and say, That about the 12th of the Month of Baudoon, the Deponent Dadjoo Sing received a Perwannah or Letter from the Rajah Cheit Sing, dated the 1st of the said Month of Baudoon; and that, about the 18th of the Month Kowwar, the said Deponent received a second Perwannah or Letter from the said Rajah Cheit Sing, bearing Date the 10th of the Month Kowwar; that both those Perwannahs or Letters were perused by the Deponent Dadjoo Sing, and shewn by him to the Deponent Gobindram Misser, who read them also; and that the said Perwannahs or Letters were immediately sent to Mr. Graine at Chuprah, by the Deponent Dadjoo Sing.

And these Deponents further say, That having perused the annexed Papers in the Hindoo Character, marked Num. 7 D and Num. 7 E, they are the same Perwannahs or Letters which the Deponent Dadjoo Sing received as aforesaid from the Rajah Cheit Sing.

Dadjoo Sing.
Gobindram Misser.

Sworn before me this 22d Day
of December 1781.

Warren Hastings.

PART III.

Num. 7. C.

Affidavit of Captain Davy.

Captain William Davy, private Persian Translator to the Honourable Warren Hastings Esq. Governor General of Fort William in Bengal, &c. &c. maketh Oath and faith, That he understands the Persian Language, and that he received from Gomauny Lall, a Hindoo, who he believes understands both the Hindoo and Persian Languages, a verbal Interpretation in Persian of the annexed Papers, written in the Hindoo Language: And the Deponent further faith, That the English Papers hereunto annexed, are true and faithful Translations of the said Hindoo Papers, made from the verbal Interpretation in Persian of the said Gomauny Lall, to the best of this Deponent's Skill and Belief.

W. Davy.

Sworn before me this 12th Day
of December 1781.

E. Impey.

Num. 7. D.

Translation of a Letter from the Rajah Cheit Sing to Dadjoo Sing, written in the Hindoo Language and Character.—This Version made from the verbal Interpretation of Gomauny Lall, a Hindoo Moonshy.

Complimentary Introduction.

Great Misunderstandings have come to pass between me and the English; I therefore direct you, with your People, to join me the Moment you see this Order; every Encouragement and Support shall be given you by me—Let your Mind be at Rest, and come with Speed.

Wherever you meet with either Europeans or Sepoys, plunder and cut them off—Consider this as particularly enjoined.

Written the 4th of the Month Baudoon.

Supercribed by Cheit Sing in his own Hand, "*The Contents approved.*"

The Cover directed to Dadjoo Sing, and sealed with the Seal of the Rajah Cheit Sing.

Num. 7. E.

Translation of a Letter from the Rajah Cheit Sing, to Dadjoo Sing, written in the Hindoo Language and Character.—This Version made from the verbal Interpretation of Gomauny Lall, a Hindoo Moonshy.

Complimentary Introduction.

It appears that you are united with the English—I therefore write to you, that living as you do under my Protection, the taking part with them will be attended with bad Consequences to yourself.

I direct that, immediately on the Arrival of this Order, you join the Rajah Futteh Sing, and see the Enemy; in this only you will find your Advantage—Consider the above as most strictly enjoined.

Written the 10th of the Month Kawwar.

If you act according to these Orders, you will obtain Honour thereby.

[Supercribed by Cheit Sing] "*The above is strictly enjoined.*"

The Cover directed to Dadjoo Sing, and sealed with the Seal of the Rajah Cheit Sing.

EIGHTH PARCEL.

Num. 8. A.

Affidavit of Colonel Blair, commanding the Fort of Chunar.

The Affidavit of Lieutenant Colonel William Blair, taken before Sir Elijah Impey, Knight, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal.—This Deponent, on his Oath, faith, That on the 21st of August 1781, to the best of his Recollection, about 8 o'Clock in the Morning, and something near an Hour after he had issued Orders for the 2d Battalion of the 6th Regiment to cross the River, and march with all possible Expedition to Banaris, a Man was brought to him, who said he had some particular Intelligence to deliver; that upon hearing what he had to say, he acquainted the Deponent that he had left Kamnagur in the Night, and that it was there determined to attack the Fort of Chunar the following

Night; he mentioned several of the Leaders Names, whom the Deponent does not remember, and said, that Ladders had been prepared at Pateeta for that Purpose, and that a considerable Force was expected to join those at Ramnagur. The Deponent further saith, That at the Time this Fellow gave him the above Information, he was going to the Beach to see the Battalion paraded, and to expedite the Boats; and that he saw the same Man upon the Road as he was returning from the River Side. Lieutenant Colonel Blair further saith, That a short Time before Dinner, on the same Day, another Man was brought to him with Intelligence, who was dressed like a Fakcer; he seemed a middle-aged Man, and appeared very solicitous for the Safety of the English: His Information corresponded with the former, as to the Time that the Fort was to be attacked; the Forces he said could not in all consist of less than between Twenty and Thirty thousand Men, with Artillery; that they were to be led on by the Rajah in Person, and were to come from Lutteespoor, Ramnagur, and Pateeta. The Deponent remarks, that this Man spoke so much more than merely answering Questions that were put to him, that this, joined to his seeming Anxiety for the Safety of the English, created in the Deponent's Mind great Doubts of his Veracity, though he did not totally reject his Information. The Deponent here observes, that this Man, and also the Person that delivered the first Intelligence, were perfect Strangers to the Deponent, and every Person about him; and that, among other Questions, he asked him what was his Inducement to come to him with such particular Information? to which he answered, That he was a poor Man and expected a Reward. The Deponent then told him, that if he called upon him next Day, he would most undoubtedly reward him accordingly. The Deponent further saith, That as far as he recollects, between Three and Four o'Clock the same Afternoon, he was observing the last of the before-mentioned Battalion crossing the River, his Jemmadar Hircarrah came to him, and told him that it was the general Belief every where, that a large Army was upon the March, and it was supposed would reach Chunar that Night, and that vast Numbers of the Inhabitants were flying the Town; that he the Deponent warned the said Jemmadar Hircarrah to beware of bringing or spreading false Intelligence, as he should answer for it with his Life; his Answer was, that he spoke nothing of himself. The Deponent, after having seen all the Battalion across the River, and begun their March, ordered the Jemmadar Hircarrah to attend him to Camp. That as the Deponent was on the Road, he met a young Man seemingly much out of Breath, but could not understand what he had to say, till he reached the Camp, when he called Captain Blair to interpret for him. The Information this Man gave was, that he was an Inhabitant of Pateeta, and used frequently to come to Chunar upon his own Business; that the Deponent's Jemmadar Hircarrah knew him, which was acknowledged by the Jemmadar himself. He said, that when he left Pateeta, there was about Six thousand Men getting ready to march towards Chunar, and that he understood that a very large Body was to follow from Lutteespoor. The Deponent further saith, That, upon reflecting upon the various Intelligence he had received through the Day, he thought it necessary to acquaint Captain Sparks and Captain Blair with his Apprehensions of an Attack being made that Night; that he the Deponent saw Out-posts placed, and gave every necessary Instruction to prevent a Surprise, and to oppose the Enemy with Vigour, as he was conscious that every Thing depended upon being able to keep the Field. The Deponent after this, when the Troops were turned out at Roll-calling, directed Captains Blair and Sparks to thank their Men in the Name of the Governor General for their late gallant Behaviour at Ramnagur, lamenting at the same Time the great Loss that they had sustained by being imprudently led into a Place where they could not act, but that he the Deponent was confident they could in the fair Field beat any Force that the Rajah could bring against them; that the Men expressed a perfect Confidence and Readiness to oppose the Enemy if attacked, and the Chasseurs expressed the greatest Eagerness to embrace the first Opportunity of revenging the Death of their Companions and Commandant; and they remained upon their Arms all Night with the utmost Cheerfulness. The Deponent further saith, That when the Governor General arrived at Chunar next Morning, and that he was told the Danger that threatened him and all the other Gentlemen at Banaria, which he was perfectly ignorant of before, it then crowded on his Mind, as no Enemy had made the least Attempt either upon the Camp or Fort, that all these Pieces of Intelligence, which had been brought in the Day before, were entirely calculated for the Purpose of detaining the Troops from being sent to Banaris, and thereby favouring the Design of attacking the Governor and Gentlemen there; and the Deponent says, that he is the more induced to this Belief, as he was not able next Day, or any Time since, to find the People that brought the Deponent this Intelligence, though every Endeavour was made to discover them.

W. Blair.

Sworn before me this 2d Day of
December 1781.

E. Impey.

PART III.

NUM. 8. B.

Affidavit of Captain M'Dougall.

The Affidavit of Captain Patrick M'Dougall, taken before Sir Elijah Impey, Knight, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal. This Deponent, on his Oath, saith, That on the Evening of the 21st of August last, after having crossed the River with his Battalion, in order to march to Banaris, agreeable to Colonel Blair's Orders, several People came and acquainted him, that there were Two thousand armed Men posted in the Neighbourhood of Beety-bur, to oppose his marching to Banaris; and not doubting this Intelligence to be well founded, and Night approaching, took every Precaution to guard against a Surprise, and oppose the Enemy; but meeting with no Opposition on his March there, or returning to Chunargur, therefore concluded the Information to have been groundless.

Sworn before me this 2d Day
of December. 1781.

Patrick M'Dougall.

E. Impey.

NINTH PARCEL.

NUM. 9. A.

Affidavit of Nathaniel Middleton Esquire.

Nathaniel Middleton Esquire, on his Oath, saith, That he left Lucknow on the 19th August 1781, and joining the Nabob Vizeer at about Ten Cois distant, proceeded with him towards Banaris, with an Intention to meet the Governor General, who was expected shortly at Lucknow: That about Three or Four Days after his Departure, he heard of the Disturbance at Banaris, and of the Massacre of Three European Officers, with a Number of Sepoys, at the Instigation of Rajah Cheit Sing, which prevented the Governor General's setting out for Lucknow, as he had intended; and on his Arrival at Doudnagur, on the 24th of the same Month, he received imperfect Accounts, through the Channel of the Vizeer's public Intelligence, of the Retreat of the Governor General and his Party to Chunargur; and the same Account, as well as many others, set forth, that the Rajah Cheit Sing had issued his most positive Orders to all the Zemeeendars and Officers of his Government, to put every European to Death that they could lay hold of; to seize and severely punish any Natives who should be found in the Service of or connected with the English; and in general, to use every Means in their Power to promote an Insurrection throughout the Country; for which they should be liberally rewarded: That he had also written Perwanahs, or Letters, to many of the Zemeeendars of the Vizeer's Country, encouraging them to raise Disturbances in their respective Districts, and to assist him with Troops, for which he promised them large Sums of Money: That this Report was made to him repeatedly, through various Channels, and implicitly credited not only by himself, but he firmly believes by the Vizeer and every Man in his Retinue: That in consequence of these Occurrences, the Vizeer, who had left Lucknow with a very small Force, determined to wait for Reinforcements before he proceeded; and accordingly, summoning his Troops from all Quarters, halted at Hussanpoor until they joined him: That on the 31st of said Month he, this Deponent, in Company with the Vizeer, left Hussanpoor, and proceeded towards Chunargur: That on his Arrival at or near the Village of Gopee Gunge, he heard from several different Persons, whose Names he does not at present recollect, that a Number of dead Bodies were seen, some in a Well situated near the Road Side, and others lying on the open Plain, partly covered with loose Earth, or Sand, that had been thrown over them: That these Bodies were supposed and generally believed to be the Bodies of Dauck Hircarrahs, and other Travellers dependant on the English, who had been seized and murdered in consequence of the aforesaid Orders of Rajah Cheit Sing: That this Deponent did not see the Bodies, but had not a Doubt of the Truth of the Story, as it was mentioned by several Persons at the Time they were passing the Place, and afterwards by others who had stopped to see them: That in a small Mud Fort and Village near the Place where the Bodies were discovered, he, this Deponent, heard from Almas Ally Khan, a principal Farmer of the Nabob Vizeer's Revenue, that there were several hundred armed Men assembled in the Service of Rajah Cheit Sing; but for what particular Purpose he did not learn: That some Days after his (this Deponent's) Arrival at Chunar, he was informed by Two Hircarrahs, who brought him an Express from the Aumil of Illahabad, that in passing through Gopee Gunge they had seen the dead Bodies of Two Europeans, who they supposed had been murdered by the Inhabitants of that Place: That he heard at the Time, and believed, and does still believe, that much Encouragement, and some actual Aid in the raising of Troops, was given Rajah Cheit Sing by Behar Ally Khan and Jowar Ally Khan, the Two principal Eunuchs and Counsellors of the Vizeer's Mother at Fyzabad; and that their Conduct, as well as that of their Dependants, during the Continuance of the Disturbances at Banaris, manifested a strong Disaffection to the English: That he further

heard

heard from his own News-writer stationed at Fyzabad, that a Vakeel, or Agent, from Rajah Cheit Sing had been received at that Place, and allowed to remain under the Protection of the said Eunuchs; but for what particular Purpose, or what was the Nature of his Commission or Negotiations, this Deponent has not been able to discover.

Nathaniel Middleton.

Sworn this 27th Day of November 1781, before me,

E. Impey.

NUM. 9. B.

Affidavit of Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hannay.

Alexander Hannay Esquire, Lieutenant Colonel, commanding a Corps of his Excellency the Vizeer Assof-ud-Dowlah's Sepoys, on his Oath, declares, to the best of his Remembrance and Belief, the following Circumstances respecting the State of the Country he was stationed in, and the Reports that prevailed there during the Months of September and October 1781:—That, in obedience to Orders he received from his Excellency the Nabob Vizeer for that Purpose, on the 28th of August 1781, he issued Orders for forming a Detachment, consisting of One thousand Sepoys, Four Guns, and Five thousand Horse, from the Troops under his Command, to assemble at Akberpoor, on the Road leading to Jowanpoor: That Eight Companies of Sepoys, Two Guns, and about One hundred Horse of the said Detachment, were ordered to cross the Gogra at the Chowra Ghaut, and proceed to Akberpoor: That Two Companies of Sepoys, Two Guns, and the Remainder of the Horse, were ordered to cross at Fyzabad, and encamp on the Rumna until the Arrival of the Deponent, who was from thence to march them to Akberpoor, the appointed Rendezvous of the Detachment: That the Deponent arrived at Fyzabad on the Evening of the 7th of September, with the Intention of pursuing his March to Akberpoor the next Morning; but was detained, from the Horsemen having been seduced into the Town, where they were tampered with by the Servants and Agents of the Begums to decline proceeding further with him: That the Subadars of the Two Companies of Sepoys represented to him, that Guards were placed (said by the Authority of the Begums), to prevent the Sepoys, or any one connected with the English, from entering the Town; and upon Enquiry, it appeared that such Representation was true: That the Deponent learnt from various, and what he deemed Information to be depended on, that the Agents of Rajah Cheit Sing were publicly suffered to raise Troops in Fyzabad; and that the Eunuchs of both Begums encouraged the People to enter into his Service, particularly Jewar Ally Khan, who was represented to have gone into the Chouk for this Purpose: That the Deponent was credibly informed, that Two or Three Days before his Arrival at Fyzabad, a Man named Sheakh Khan, had marched from thence, in order to join Rajah Cheit Sing, with about a Thousand Horse and Foot, and that several other Detachments had before proceeded from thence with the same Design. These Transactions were of so public Notoriety, and so generally believed, that the Deponent deemed it his Duty to represent their Impropriety to the Bow Begum*, but could obtain no Answer. On the Evening of the 8th of September, the Deponent received a Letter from Lieutenant Gordon, who was on his March to join him at Akberpoor, informing him that he had been attacked on his March from Chowrah Ghaut by great Bodies of Men, assembled to oppose him; and that on his Arrival at Taundeh, the Conduct of Shumsheer Khan, the Begum's Aumil of that Place, had effected the Loss of his Detachment, as appears from the following Copy of his Letter to the Deponent, relating the Circumstances of that unhappy Disaster.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant John Gordon to Lieutenant Colonel Hannay, dated at Taundeh, the 10th of September 1781.

" I had the Honour to write you on the 8th Instant, acquainting you with the Disaster which happened to my Detachment; and I now beg leave to lay before you the Particulars of that unfortunate Affair.

" When I crossed the Gogra, on the 6th, at Chowrah, with the Four Companies of Sepoys, and about Eighty Horse (in all near 400), I saw that the Country was disaffected: My Force, however, I judged to be quite sufficient to join you at Akberpoor; indeed, I did not conceive that his Excellency's Troops, marching to join him by his Order, could meet with any Interruption.

" On the 7th, at Day-break, I marched; and about Half a Mile from Chowrah, when crossing a Nullah, where I had sent Boats Overnight, I observed great Bodies of Men assembled to oppose my March: I immediately made what I judged to be the best Disposition of my small Corps, and the Behaviour of the Men did them great Credit; for though during the whole of the March of Eight Cos, we were attacked, and often surrounded, by incredible Numbers of People, yet we constantly beat them off, killing and wounding many of them; and

* The Nabob Vizeer's Mother, called in the Narrative Nawab Alee.

PART III.

“ arrived, with very little Loss, about One o’Clock in the Afternoon, at the Teerta Nullah, which runs by Taundeh, bringing the whole of our Bazar and Baggage in the most complete Safety. I now imagined myself in a Friend’s Country, and intended crossing the Nullah, that my People might halt for the Day, and refresh after their fatiguing March: For this Purpose I ordered my Bazar and Baggage to be sent over, and Part of the Sepoys to stand to their Arms: A great Number of our Enemies were still in Sight; but judge of my Surprise, when I was informed that the Boats were all on the other Side of the Nullah, and that none of them were permitted to cross. I immediately wrote to the Begum’s Aumil, Shumsheer Khan, acquainting him, that I was marching with the Vizeer’s Troops, by his Orders, to join him; that I was astonished at his stopping the Ghaut, and desired he would send Boats for the Transport of my Detachment. To this no Answer was made; but immediately Three Guns were brought near the Ghaut, and pointed to us; and a Number of Nujeebs were posted on the Banks of the Nullah, who threatened to fire if any Body passed. It is proper to remark here, that near the Ghaut there were a great many large Boats belonging to Mr. Scott, whose Gomastah, notwithstanding his most earnest Entreaties, was prevented from sending them by Shumsheer Khan; and even the Plunder of his Factory and his Life were threatened, if he attempted it.—When I found this to be the Case, I took possession of a very strong Ground, surrounded on Three Sides by the River and Nullah; on the Fourth Side, where only I could be attacked by the Country People, I ordered the Sepoys to make a Breast-work, by piling up Planks, of which there were a great Number; and as I had Ammunition and Provisions, I intended to wait there until I could procure Boats, or discover a Ford. While I was thus employed, I found that Mahommed Ruzza Beg, the Jemmadar of Ilorfe, had swam across the Nullah, and procured Permission for his People to follow him, which they immediately did. No Answer coming from the Fougedar, I desired my Moonshy to go to him, and explain the Matter; he accordingly went to the Ghaut, and demanding a Passage, he was refused, and insulted in Terms the most opprobrious to the English. He returned; and telling me this, I ordered him to take an Elephant and swim over; but when he attempted to enter the Nullah with the Animal, the Nujeebs pointed their Matchlocks at him, and obliged him to desist: The Sepoys seeing this, and that the Horsemen were permitted to swim across, naturally imagined that the Objection was to the English only, and their Adherents; they thought it safest to abandon me, whom they must have concluded to be devoted, and, throwing down their Coats and Arms, they followed the Example of the Horsemen in swimming across the Nullah, making a Merit with Shumsheer Khan of giving me up to my Fate. One of the Subadars represented to Two others the Folly of their suffering for One Person; and proposed to them to deliver me up to Shumsheer Khan, or to the Country People; but this Proposal they rejected with Scorn: The Desertion however was almost complete; for in a little Time, of the Four Companies, not Twenty Men remained, including Officers. It was now almost Evening, when Mr. Scott’s Gomastah, with great Difficulty, at last obtained Permission from the Fougedar to send One Boat; but it came too late to render any effectual Service; for with the few Sepoys who remained, Command was at an end; and, as most of my Servants had gone off, my Baggage was left a Prey to the Badditti, who soon carried off and destroyed it. Some Things, which a few of my Servants brought with them, they gave in Charge of the Fougedar’s People, to take care of them; but they reserved them for themselves, or rather for the Fougedar; and though many of my Things were seen in his House, I never could recover a single Article. I am still in Mr. Scott’s Factory, which there is every Reason to think will be attacked, as Numbers of People are assembled in the Neighbourhood for that Purpose; and as the Fougedar positively refuses to grant the least Assistance, God knows what may be the Consequence: However, as it is evident that Shumsheer Khan was the sole Cause of this Disaster, I hope that exemplary Punishment will be inflicted on him, and if I survive I doubt not but I shall be reimbursed for what I lost by his Villany.

“ I have the Honour to be; &c.

“ J. Gordon, Lieut.”

The Deponent further saith, That both from Observation and Information, he doth believe that a general and universal Insurrection took place, before the 15th of September, in all the Country to the Eastward of the Gogra, from Mungee to Baraitch, and on its Western Banks from the Borders of the Banaris Districts to the Extremity of Kheirabad; that it was created and fomented by the Agents of Rajah Cheit Sing, disaffected People at Fyzabad, and about the Vizeer’s Court; and that the Expulsion of the English was its Object. In the Districts of Gooruckpoor, and indeed in all the Pergunnahs below Fyzabad, it was generally asserted, and the Deponent never heard the Assertion contradicted, that the Rajah Cheit Sing furnished the principal Zeminedars, particularly the Rajahs Futeh Saw, Genoo Roy, Ajeet Mull, Zalim Sing, and Perty Pall Sing, with considerable Sums of Money, in order to subsist the Force they collected on this Occasion; and that he granted them ostensible Certificates under his Seal, engaging to discharge whatever Expence they might incur in the Service of the Insurrection. These Certificates and Perwannahs they received, or pretended to have received, under the Seal of the Vizeer, confirming them in their hereditary Zeminedaries, and appointing them

Aumils on the Part of the Sirkar in their respective Pergunnahs, gained them an unbounded Influence over the Inhabitants. The Aumils of the Country in general were obliged to fly from their Stations; the Nujeebs and Sebundy joined the Insurgents, or dispersed; all Ferry-boats were sunk or destroyed; many of the Dauck Hircarrahs were slain, and the rest obliged to fly, which effectually cut off all Correspondence, as well as Communication, and the Country remained in a State of Distraction which cannot well be described, until the Beginning of October; when the News of our Success at Banaris, and the Nabob's Return to Lucknow, calmed the Tumult.

Sworn this 26th Day of November
1781, before me,

Alexander Hannay.

E. Impey.

NUM. 9. C.

Affidavit of Major M'Donald.

John M'Donald, Esq; Major commanding the Nabob Assof-ud-Dowlah's Third Battalion of Sepoys, on Oath saith, That he the Deponent was stationed at Amora, to assist the Aumil in collecting the Company's Tunka, also to protect the Subjects of his Excellency the Vizeer from the Depredations of Zalim Sing, the Rebel Rajah of the aforementioned Place Amora, also the Attacks of others his Adherents: That the said Deponent had been detached by Lieutenant Colonel Hannay, some Time in February 1780, with a Body of Horse and Foot, in Pursuit of the above-mentioned Rajah Zalim Sing, who, besides sequestering the Rents of the Pergunnah, had compelled the Inhabitants to quit the District; and further, wantonly, and without Cause, murdered Two of the principal Cannoongoes of the Pergunnah aforesaid. The Deponent could not come up with the flying Rajah, but followed him until he took to a large Jungle, that bounded the Country of the Vizeer to the Eastward, and is the Westermost Limit of the Zemeedary of Cheit Sing, Rajah of Banaris. Zalim Sing was there received in the most friendly Manner, and Protection promised him. On this, the Deponent sent proper Spies to watch the Motions of Rajah Zalim Sing, and returned himself with the Troops to his Station at Amora: That the Deponent learned by the Spies left about Zalim Sing, that he was allowed to reside openly under the Protection of Cheit Sing, and had Villages, also Lands, assigned for the Maintenance of himself and Followers.

About the Twentieth of August last, the Deponent was informed, Cheit Sing had, after putting to Death Three English Officers and Two hundred and Fifty Sepoys, fled from Banaris, and openly set up the Standard of Rebellion, inviting all Persons, who could procure Arms, to repair to him, and by fighting under his Banner, extirpate the Fringies. The Road by which the Post usually travelled from Banaris, became impassable from the numerous Parties, it was said, Cheit Sing had sent out, to cut off all Communication betwixt the Honourable Governor General and the different Stations of the Army. As the Deponent could not obtain any authentic Account of the State of Affairs, he thought it best to send out Persons to all Parts for Information, that he might judge from the State of the Country how Matters stood at the Place of the greatest Moment. The Country of the daring Rebel Cheit Sing, and the City of Fyzabad, seemed to the Deponent the most likely Places to furnish the wished Intelligence. In the latter Place it was reported, first, that the Honourable Warren Hastings Esq; had been massacred at Banaris; then, that he had been cut off on his Way to Chunar; at last it was said the Honourable Governor General was in Chunargur, but must soon fall into the Hands of the Banaris Rebel, as no Relief could possibly reach the Place in Time to save it; and that shortly the Destruction of every Englishman in these Parts would be effected. From the Banaris District the Deponent learnt, Cheit Sing had summoned the Zemeedars of his Raje to join him with all the Troops they could raise, promising present Pay to those bearing Arms, and a Remission of a Year's Rent to all who repaired to his Standard. Many Rebels who had fled the Company's and Nabob's Territories, and taken Refuge in his Zemeedary, were furnished with Money, and joined by such Zemeedars, belonging to the aforesaid Banaris Rebel, as lay too far distant from the principal Scene of Action, to make a Diversion both towards the Company's Lands and those Parts of his Excellency's Dominions under the Charge of English Officers, and endeavour to cut them all off, and thereby prevent any Assistance being sent from either Goo-ruckpoor or Bahraich. His Excellency the Vizeer repaired to Sultanpoor, about this Time, which prevented the Rebel Zalim Sing, also Perty Pall Sing, the Rebel of Busty, from quitting the Jungle; but they were busy in making the necessary Preparations, by raising of Men, with the Money said to be sent them by Cheit Sing in Fyzabad: The Khajaha * of the Vizeer's Grandmother, as well as those of the Bow Begum, were raising Men under various Pretences, and making every Preparation that might be necessary either for offensive or defensive War. During the Time the Nabob lay encamped at Sultanpoor, the Deponent's People were insulted and ill used in Fyzabad, by the Peons, Sepoys, and other Servants of Jewar Ally Khan and the Two Begums, as were all who made use of the English Name, or were supposed to have any Con-

PART III.

nection of the Kind; but on its being known there that his Excellency had moved towards Chunar, no one who was a Servant of the English could get Admittance into the City but by Stealth, or in Disguise; even the Duack from Lucknow was not allowed to pass through as formerly, but obliged to make a large Circuit, and the Hircarrahs put on different Appearances to pass unnoticed to Amora. After the Departure of the Nabob from Sultanpoor, as before mentioned, the Rebels, who had been driven from the Province of Gooruckpoor, began moving towards the Gogra. The Zemcedars of Amora, where the Deponent then resided, also those of the adjacent Pergunnahs, held frequent Meetings, and seemed big with some great Plan. On or about the 29th of August, the Deponent received a Letter from Lieutenant Colonel Hannay, informing him, that his Excellency the Nabob had written to him (Colonel Hannay) to join him immediately with a thousand Sepoys, Four Guns, and Five hundred Horse. Four hundred Sepoys of the Deponent's Battalion were ordered for this Service; also his Battalion Guns, and a hundred Horse that belonged to the Amora Station, were withdrawn, to make up the Number required by his Excellency. No sooner was this made public, than the Zemcedars absented themselves; and the Deponent learnt from all Parts of the Country, that every Man was getting ready his Arms, and that Cheit Sing's Name was in every Body's Mouth; that every Rajah in the Country had declared for him: That the Deponent endeavoured to get some Nujeebs to supply the Place of the Troops called away; but all in vain; every Attempt was rendered abortive by the Machinations of the Khajahs belonging to the Two Begums at Fyzabad; and every Soul in that City seemed, from their Conduct and Conversation, to look upon the English as on the very Eve of Extermination, forbidding any one to serve the Fringies, but to repair to Cheit Sing and Saadut Ally—Nay, every Method and Way were tried to seduce the Sepoys from the Deponent's Battalion, which, however, did not succeed while remaining under his Eye, but had the desired Effect upon the Nujeeb and Sebundy. After the Sepoys, Guns, and Horse had crossed the Gogra, there was an End to all Government in that Part of the Country where the Deponent resided. Not an Article of any Kind was to be had; and but for the Deponent's having foreseen the Situation he should be in, and provided accordingly, he would have been under the Necessity of leaving his Station from the Want of Provisions. Thus surrounded on all Sides by lurking Enemies (for there was no knowing who to treat otherwise) the Deponent knew not when or from what Quarter the Blow was to be struck; but on the 8th of September it broke out in all Parts. All Out Posts were driven into Camp; the Roads in an Instant secured by armed Parties; Hircarrahs murdered, Sepoys attacked, and the intended Destruction of every Englishman openly declared, not only throughout the Pergunnah, Towns, and Villages, but even in the City of Fyzabad. To such Lengths was it carried by the People of Jewar Ally Khan, and other Khajahs belonging to the Begums, that the Women of the Deponent's Camp, that were sent across the Gogra to be out of the Way of Danger, being obnoxious from the Connection, were refused that Protection which the Sex in every Country meets with, but particularly in Hindostan claims as a Right. From the above Date, the Deponent was confined to the Limits of his Camp, nor had he any Road open but that to Rye Ghaut opposite Owd, at which Place Lieutenant Colonel Hannay then lay with a very small Force; while the Country around him, also the City of Fyzabad, seemed ready to commence Hostilities. On the 10th of September, Rajah Zalim Sing, accompanied by other rebellious Rajahs, appeared with a numerous Force on the Banks of the Gogra opposite to Amora. The Deponent's Spies brought him Intelligence from the Rebel's Camp, that his, the Deponent's Property, likewise that of all his Camp, was already divided; that the Deponent's Horses, Camels, &c. Things worth Notice, the Rajah Zalim Sing reserved to himself; the rest was to be given up to those who could get it. Moreover the Deponent saith, his People informed him that Rajah Zalim Sing had produced a Paper, which he, the Rajah, said was a Sunnud from the Nabob, restoring him to his Zemcedary, appointing him Collector of the adjacent Pergunnahs, Busty and Nagger, also that he had the Nabob's Directions to drive the Fringies out of his Districts; that he only waited for the *Site* * (Boats being already provided, from Fyzabad, which the Deponent knew absolutely to be the Case) to cross the Gogra, and carry the Nabob's Orders into Execution. Further, that his Excellency had altered his Sentiments regarding the Part he was to take in the present Contest; that his Excellency set out with the Intent of adhering to his Treaty with the Company, but that Mirza Saadut Ally wrote him he was to blame if he gave any Assistance; that now was the Time to shake off the English Yoke; that it might not be prudent to declare himself at once; that he had only to stand neuter, and, under Pretence of defending themselves, direct his Subjects to take Arms, and endeavour to prevent the Junction of the English Forces, when the Matter would work of itself: Further, to direct the Aumils to send no more Supplies of Money, which would cause the Sepoys to leave the English Service for want of Pay, while themselves would have Plenty of Money. In the City of Fyzabad the same Language prevailed as to the Money Part, and Stoppage of the Tunka, until the Nabob Saadut Ally Khan thought proper to issue the Grants. During the Night of the 10th of September Rajah Zalim Sing crossed the Gogra, and advanced within Four Cos of the Deponent's Camp; on the Evening of the 11th the aforesaid Rajah pushed Three Posts to within a Mile of the Deponent's Lines, and was to have moved from

his Camp with his main Body when the Moon rose. Thus situated, it was thought expedient, for the Safety of both Parties, that the Deponent should join Lieutenant Colonel Hannay while yet a Passage was open; accordingly, about Two in the Morning of the 12th of September, the Deponent quitted his Camp at Amora, and marched to Rye Ghaut. The Deponent was scarcely out of his Camp, when the Rajah's People rushed into it, seizing all they could find, and murdered some unhappy Persons who had neglected to move in Front of the Deponent's Party. The Deponent reached Rye Ghaut at Sunrise of the 12th. As soon as it was known at Fyzabad, that Zalim Sing was in Possession of Amora, the whole City was in an Uproar from Joy; and the Deponent heard the Report and saw the Smoke of Guns that were discharged at Fyzabad, he believes on the Occasion. The Deponent saith, He believed the Reports as before related at that Time, and still is of Opinion the Threats therein contained were intended to be carried into Execution had the League been successful; nor did the Deponent then (or even at this Moment) doubt but what the Begums at Fyzabad and their Khajahs were in a League with Cheit Sing the Banaris Rebel; and the Deponent is of Opinion that the Whole of the Disturbances that happened in the Parts where he resided, took its rise from the Rebellion of Rajah Cheit Sing; and the Deponent is further of Opinion, that it would not have extended itself so wide in the short Time it really did, had it not been a Matter pre-concerted, and brought to light by mere Chance, ere properly ripe for Execution: And the Deponent further saith, That he is of Opinion, from the many Conversations he the Deponent has held with several Persons, Inhabitants of the Rebel Cheit Sing's Country, that the Rebellion has been meditating even some Years; that the Deponent was informed the Matter was absolutely debated in the Year 1779, and prevented only by the Voice of a Person about the Rajah, to whose Judgment much Deference was paid by the Rajah Bulwant Sing, Father of the Rebel.

J. Macdonald.

Sworn before me this 27th

Day of November 1781,

E. Impey.

NUM. 9. D.

Affidavit of Captain David Williams.

David Williams Esquire, Captain of the First Battalion of his Excellency the Vizier Affof-ud-Dowlah's Sepoys, on his Oath declares, to the best of his Remembrance and Belief, the following Circumstances respecting the State of the Country he was stationed in, the Reports that prevailed there, and his own Situation in it, during the Months of September and October One thousand Seven hundred and Eighty-one. Upon hearing that the Rebellion of Rajah Cheit Sing at Banaris, had become of a very serious Nature, he deemed it requisite to repair immediately to his Station at Gungowah, in the District of Gooruckpoor; accordingly he left Lucknow, by Dauck, on the First of September, and reached Sakrora the same Evening; on the Second, he arrived at Amora, and on the Third at Gooruckpoor. Upon the Road between Busty and Meerungunge, a Sepoy belonging to Major M'Donald's Battalion overtook him, and gave him Information that the Rebels had attacked a Post in the Jungle, which they had carried. On his Arrival at Gooruckpoor, the Jemadar who commanded in the Fort acquainted him, that the Rajahs Futteh Saw, Genoo Roy, and Ajeet Mull, had received a very considerable Sum of Money from Rajah Cheit Sing, to enable them to commence Hostilities in Gooruckpoor, and in the Company's Districts, and that they had crossed the Gogra, and also, that they had Promises of considerable Sums of Money and Supplies of Men upon commencing their Operations. The Fourth, in the Evening, he arrived at Gungowah, and had the same Reports confirmed to him by his Commandant, and most of the People of that Place. On the Fifth and Sixth, he got all Things in Readiness to proceed, agreeable to the following Orders from Colonel Hannay, to Ackberpoor.

“ To Captain Williams, commanding at Gooruckpoor.

“ Sir,

“ Having received the Vizeer's Orders to join him without Delay with the greatest Part of the Forces acting immediately under my Authority, I have to desire, that immediately on Receipt of this Letter, or as soon after as possible, you do march with the Two Grenadier Companies of your Battalion complete, and your Battalion Guns, and proceed with all possible Expedition to Ackberpoor on the Road from Fyzabad to Sultanpoor, where you will receive further Orders. You will march by the Route of Gooruckpoor, and cross the Gogra at Taundeh, where you will find Three large Pattallies ready for your Passage. The Four Companies of your Battalion stationed at Busty, Dooreaparah, Dumreagunge, and Batunfy, have also received Orders to march; but as the utmost Expedition is required, they will proceed immediately under the Command of Lieutenant Gordon, and not wait your Arrival. The Four Companies of your Battalion in Gooruckpoor, and with Hurdial Sing, will remain under the Authority of Mahommed Shuffy Khan, and I have to desire you will particularly instruct the Subadars, commanding them to pay the strictest Attention to

“ such

PART III.

" such Orders as they may receive from Mahommed Shuffy Khan, during your Absence
 " I know not what Quantity of Ammunition the Four Companies at Busty, &c. have with
 " them; but it will be necessary, if possible, to bring a Quantity with you sufficient to supply
 " the whole Six Companies of your Battalion under Orders of March, with a Complement of
 " Two hundred Rounds a Man; and inclosed you will receive a Letter from Mahommed Shuffy
 " Khan, desiring him to yield you every Assistance in his Power, in order to procure Carriage
 " for the Transport of it. What else may be wanted to expedite your March, your own Pru-
 " dence and Zeal will suggest, and I have only to repeat it is necessary you should make all
 " possible Dispatch.

" Alexander Hannay."

On the Seventh he marched with Two Companies and Two Guns, having previously sent Orders to the scattered Detachments to repair to Gungowah, there to remain under the Directions of the Aumil, agreeable to Colonel Hannay's Orders. On the Eighth continued his March; on the Evening of the same Day certain Accounts were brought him, that the Boats on the Rivers and Nullahs were destroyed, and the whole Country to the Gogra up in Arms; and having also received Intelligence that Futteh Saw, Genoo Roy, and Ajeet Mull, with their Banditti, were encamped on the Road to Burragong, it determined him to return immediately to Gungowah, and proceed by the Way of Burragong and Chuprah to Buxar, to join Major Crawford's Regiment with the Two Companies and Two Guns; by taking which Route, he would have had an Opportunity of driving off that Party, which would have freed the Country from the principal Rebel. On the Ninth he returned to Gungowah; and, as the Commotions in the Country seemed evidently to increase, since the detached Parties who were directed to repair to Gungowah had been severally attacked on their Way, as they came in, he sent Orders to Hurdial Sing, Commandant stationed at Itchmul, to repair with all Expedition to Gungowah with Two Companies and Guns belonging to the Fougedar of that Place, and in the Evening informed the Aumil Mahommed Shuffy Khan of his Intention of proceeding by Chuprah to Banaris, and gave him Advice respecting the Defence of the Country during his Absence. The Detachment was ordered to march on the Tenth. About One o'Clock in the Morning the Jemadar attached to the Guns came and informed him that the Companies had mutinied, and would not march without having their Arrears paid them. In the Morning he went to the Parade, and ordered the Men to fall in; they paraded with Reluctance and Difficulty, particularly the Left Hand Company, commanded by Khan Mahommed Subadar. When they were got under Arms, he acquainted them that he was concerned they were not paid so regularly as he could have wished, but if there were any of them that were distressed for Subsistence, he would advance them as much of his own Money as they required, as soon as they came to their Ground that Day; but that it was indispensably necessary that they should march with all Expedition to attack a Party of Futteh Saw, &c.'s Troops, which had taken Possession of the Ghaut in the Jerry Jungle, before they should have Time to fortify themselves. They were silent; he directed them to march off. When they had gone about One hundred Yards from the Parade, one of the Men stepped out of his File, and demanded all the Arrears of Pay due to him; he immediately seized the Bayonet of the Mutineer, with an Intention of putting him to Death; when Six or Seven Men turned out, fixed their Bayonets, and made the same Demand; the Black Officers remained silent and inactive; he ordered his Commandant to march on, and ordered the Mutineers to take off their Coats, as they were not worthy of being Soldiers, and that his Moonshy would pay them their Arrears that Instant; many more joined them in a few Minutes, loaded their Pieces, laid hold of the Moonshy, and were going to put him to Death. When he found that to be the Case, and that almost the whole Two Companies were engaged in the Mutiny, he ordered the Party to return, as it was in vain to proceed. A short Time after, the whole Party surrounded him, some with loaded Arms and fixed Bayonets, having also loaded the Guns with Grape, and with one Voice demanded their Arrears might be paid off. He remonstrated, that it was impossible for him to comply with their Demands, but that all the Money he had, or could get, should be distributed amongst them, if they would obey his Orders. For about Three Hours they behaved in the most licentious Manner, and were proceeding to break open the Treasure Chest; at last, however, he prevailed upon them to receive Three Months Pay. Upon this being given them they returned to their Lines, but kept Centries at the Bungalow. After this he sent for the Two Subadars, and desired them to sound the Men, and try if they could induce them, upon Promise of Forgiveness for what they had done, to return to their Duty. They came back, and reported, that they would consent to obey upon those Conditions. He went to the Parade in the Evening, and promised them Forgiveness; upon which they took an Oath to obey his Orders, upon Condition that they were not to march to Banaris; so that it became impracticable to prosecute the Intentions he had formed. However, in a few Hours more they again mutinied; and, to the best of his Recollection, they proposed to march to Banaris, and join Cheit Sing and Saadut Ally, who, as they said, would pay them their Arrears, and make them great Men; adding, that all the Europeans were cut off, and that he, meaning the Deponent, was the only Person left in the Country. In the Evening the Two Subadars Khan Mahommed and Buctour Sing came to him, and proposed to carry him Prisoner to Banaris. On the Twelfth he represented

sent to them, that if they did not immediately march to attack Futteh Saw, &c. who had already posted Detachments within Sight of the Cantonments, and, as he was informed, was lying near Hussanpoor with near Seven thousand Men, they would be distressed for Provision, since the whole Country was in Arms. He sent for all the Black Officers, and begged and intreated of them to use their Influence over the Men upon this Occasion; but they were deaf to all he could say. Had they complied, he was confident of Success against the Rebels, as Dadjoo Sing and Gobindram Misser had engaged to make a Diversion in his Favour upon their Rear, whilst he attacked them in Front. In the Evening they came to a Determination to march to Fyzabad to the Begum; who they also declared would pay them their Arrears, and take them into her Service; but on the Thirteenth, before they had carried these Intentions into Execution, he was joined by Hurdial Sing, with Two weak sickly Companies; and having borrowed Money sufficient to pay them the Three Months Pay which the others had received, and thereby render them upon an Equality, they remained staunch, though every possible Means had been taken by the Mutineers to corrupt them. Shortly after this he received Information, that the Fort of Gooruckpoor had been attacked by near Six thousand Rebels. There was a Jemmadar and about Fifty Men in the Fort, who behaved most gallantly. The Attack commenced near Nine o'Clock in the Evening. They carried the outward Fort, which was too extensive; and the Party were obliged to retire to the Citadel, where there were upwards of Two hundred Prisoners confined. They endeavoured to seize the Sepoys; in which Attempt Nineteen of them were put to death, and many wounded. The Attack continued till near Four o'Clock in the Afternoon; when Shawmut Khan, a Jemmadar, and Nine Men, who had been ordered to march there from Puroonah, at the Beginning of the Disturbances in the Country, arrived in the Town; the People told them to throw down their Arms, and run off to the Jungles to save their Lives; for it was impossible for them to get into the Fort, as it was surrounded by Six thousand Rebels, who must carry it in a few Minutes. The Jemmadar, with admirable Presence of Mind, replied, That he was only the advanced Party, and that the Captain and the Guns were close after them; called out to a Man to run and bring them up, that the whole of the Rebels might be destroyed; and immediately fired upon the Rebels. The Report instantly spread; a Panic seized the whole, and they ran off in the utmost Confusion. He joined the Jemmadar in the Fort with his Nine Men: They sallied out after the Rebels, and cut off about Two hundred of them. During the Attacks, the Rebels frequently called out to the Jemmadar to deliver up the Place to them, as they had Perwannah from the Begum, Cheit Sing, and Saadut Ally, for what they did.

Having received Orders from Lieutenant Colonel Hannay to proceed towards him, and also a Letter from Lieutenant Gordon, acquainting him that it was Colonel Hannay's Wish he should join him at Amora, informing him of the Loss of Two Companies of his Battalion which were with Lieutenant Gordon; on the Fifteenth he marched from Gongowah with the Aumil and Fougedars of the Country, and all the Stores of his Battalion. The March proved exceedingly fatiguing, on account of the Country's being under Water, and most of the Nullahs unfordable, and no proper Boats upon them for crossing. On the Twentieth arrived at Gooruckpoor, where he found Two Companies belonging to his Battalion, which were directed to join Lieutenant Gordon, but not being able to effect it, they had been under the Necessity of returning to Gooruckpoor, also a Company of Major M'Donald's Battalion, which had been obliged to retire from Busby. On the Nineteenth received a Letter from Lieutenant Colonel Hannay, which determined him to remain at Gooruckpoor till he received further Orders, and wrote a Letter in Answer, proposing to march by the Route of Mugger and Busby, to chastise Zalim Sing at Amora, and Lieutenant Colonel Hannay should advance by the Route of Mahadea to Amora, which he thought would be the most practicable Means of quieting the Rebellion in the Country. He was under a Necessity of borrowing Money to pay his Companies at Gooruckpoor, and also Major M'Donald's Company, and to make up the Ammunition that was damaged by the Weather, and repair the Tumbrils and Limbers: His Battalion being ill furnished with Arms and Ammunition, and the Draft Cattle very bad, which retarded him much during his March to Gooruckpoor. The Thirteenth received a Letter from Lieutenant Colonel Hannay, and wrote, for Answer, that he would march for certain on the Second of October; but the Difficulty he found in procuring a sufficient Quantity of Provision, and Carriage for it, as the whole Country was hostile, and Bodies of armed Men, to the Amount of several Thousands, were actually in the Town; added to the heavy Rain which fell on the Fourth and Fifth, rendered it impracticable for him to march till the Sixth. During the Time he remained at Gooruckpoor, it was currently reported and given out by the rebellious Rajahs, that they acted in conformity to the Orders they had received from Cheit Sing, Saadut Ally, and the Begums, to raise an Insurrection in the Country, and to destroy the English wherever they found them. Many Letters were intercepted, but the necessary Care was not taken of them, and they were either destroyed or lost. Having the Rainy and several Nullahs to cross, he did not reach Busby till the Ninth, which is distant about Two-and-twenty compassed Cois. On the Ninth in the Evening a violent Storm of Rain began, which lasted to the Sixteenth, with scarcely an Hour's Intermission, which rendered it totally impracticable to march during that Time; as the whole Country was overflowed, and the Rivers quite full. The March from Sakrora was extremely tedious and difficult, great Delays being occasioned by the Necessity he was under of making

PART III.

making Bridges, added to the Interruptions he suffered from the frequent Skirmishes he had with the People of the different Districts he passed through. On the 23d he arrived at Goondah, and on the Day following joined Colonel Hannay at Sakrora, with Eight Companies of his own Battalion; and a Company of Major M'Donald's Battalion. The Aumils and Fougedars of Gooruckpoor came under his Protection, and a Number of People in Office in the Collections; the Gun belonging to the Fougedary he brought with him, being the only one in the District he commanded. During his March from Gooruckpoor to Sakrora, the Rebels who harassed gave out, that every Measure they took was in compliance with the Directions they received from the Begum, Saadut Ally, and Cheit Sing. Since the Time of his being appointed to the Command of the Battalion, in January One thousand Seven hundred and Eighty-one, he has only received Two Months Pay, on its Account, from his Excellency the Vizeer, to the present Time, November the Twenty-seventh: His Battalion was dispersed in such a Manner, and at so great a Distance, that he hardly ever had above Two Companies with him, till they joined him by Degrees. During the Rebellion, he continually advised Colonel Hannay of his Situation, but it appears few of his Letters reached him, as the Communication was shut up.

Sworn this 27th Day of November

1781, before me,

E. Impey

D. Williams,

Captain, commanding the 1st Battalion of his Excellency the Vizeer's Sepoys.

NUM. 9. E.

Affidavit of Captain John Gordon.

John Gordon Esquire, Captain in the Corps of Sepoys of his Excellency Assof ud-Dowlah Nabob Vizeer, on his Oath saith, That he crossed the Gogra on the 6th of September at Chowrah, with Four Companies of Sepoys, and about Eighty Horse (in all, near 400) under his Command; that he saw the Country was disaffected, but judged his Force to be sufficient to join Colonel Hannay at Akberpoor; indeed the Deponent did not conceive that his Excellency's Troops, marching to join him by his Command, could meet with any Interruption. On the 7th, at Day-break, the Deponent marched, and about Half a Mile from Chowrah, when crossing a Nullah, he observed great Bodies of Men assembled to oppose his March; he immediately made what he judged to be the best Disposition of his small Corps, and the Behaviour of the Men did them great Credit; for though, during the whole of the March of Eight Cos, they were attacked and often surrounded by incredible Numbers of People, yet they constantly beat them off, killing and wounding many of them, and arrived, with very little Loss, about One o'Clock in the Afternoon, at the Tereca Nullah, which runs by Taundeh, bringing the whole of the Bazar and Baggage in the most perfect Safety; the Deponent then imagined himself in a Friend's Country, and intended crossing the Nullah, that his People might halt for the Day and refresh after their very fatiguing March; for this Purpose he ordered the Bazar and Baggage to be sent over, and Part of the Sepoys to stand to their Arms, as great Numbers of their Enemies were still in Sight; but his Surprize was extreme when he was informed, that the Boats were all on the other Side of the Nullah, and that none of them were permitted to cross. The Deponent immediately wrote a Letter to the Begum's Aumil, Shumsheer Khan, acquainting him that he was marching with the Vizeer's Troops, by his Order, to join him; that he, the Deponent, was stopped at his stopping the Ghaut; and desiring Boats might be sent for the Transport of the Detachment. To this no Answer was made, but immediately Three Guns were brought near the Ghaut, and pointed to the Detachment, and a Number of Matchlock Men were posted on the Banks of the Nullah, who threatened to fire if any Body passed. There were then near the Ghaut a great many large Boats belonging to Mr. Scott, whose Gomastah, notwithstanding his utmost Intreaties, was prevented from sending them by Shumsheer Khan; who threatened the Plunder of his Factory, and even his Life, if he attempted it. This was told the Deponent by the said Gomastah repeatedly, and the Deponent believes it to be true, as it corresponds entirely with every other Part of Shumsheer Khan's Conduct. The Deponent, upon being refused a Passage, took possession of a very strong Ground, surrounded on Three Sides by the Gogra, and the Nullah on the Fourth Side, whence only he could be attacked by the Country People; he ordered the Sepoys to make a Breast Work, by piling up of Planks, of which there were a great Number; and as he had Ammunition and Provisions, he intended to wait there until he could procure Boats, or discover a Ford. While the Deponent was thus employed, Mahommed Ruzza Beg, the Jemadar of Horse, had swam across the Nullah, and procured Permission for his People to follow him, which they immediately did. No Answer coming from the Fougedar, the Deponent desired his Moonshy to go to him, and explain the Matter; he accordingly went to the Ghaut, and demanding a Passage, he was refused, and insulted in Terms the most abusive to the English. He returned, and telling this, the Deponent ordered him to take an Elephant and swim over; but when he attempted to enter the Nullah with the Animal, the Nujeebs pointed their Matchlocks at him, and obliged him to desist: The Sepoys seeing this, and that the Horsemen were permitted to swim across, naturally imagined that the Objection was to the English only and their Adherents; they thought it safest to abandon the Deponent, whom they must have concluded to be devoted, and throwing down their Coats and Arms, they followed the Example of the Horsemen, in swimming across the Nullah, making a Merit with Shumsheer Khan,

of

of giving the Deponent up to his Fate. One of the Subadars represented to Two others, the Folly of suffering for One Person; and proposed to them to deliver up the Deponent to Shumsheer Khan or to the Country People; but the Proposal was rejected with Scorn, and One of the Subadars reported the Behaviour of the other immediately to the Deponent: The Desertion, however, was almost complete; for in a little Time, of the Four Companies, not Twenty Men remained, including Officers. It was almost Evening when Mr. Scott's Gomastah, with great Difficulty, at last obtained Permission from Shumsheer Khan to send One Boat, but it came too late to render any effectual Assistance, for with the few Sepoys who remained, Command was at an End; and as most of the Deponent's Servants had gone off, his Baggage was left a Prey to the Banditti, who soon carried off and destroyed it. Some Things which a few of his Servants brought with them, they gave in Charge to the Fougedar's People, who promised to take care of them, but they reserved them for themselves, or rather for the Fougedar; and though many of the Deponent's Things were seen in his House, he could never recover a single Article. For many Days during the Stay of the Deponent in Mr. Scott's Factory it was threatened to be attacked; and Shumsheer Khan, though often applied to by Mr. Scott's Gomastah, constantly refused to grant the least Assistance: Notwithstanding this, Shumsheer Khan was, and the Deponent believes is still, continued in Office; and while the Deponent was at Fyzabad, Shumsheer Khan came there, and was well received by the Begum and her Ministers: From all which Circumstances the Deponent is convinced, that Shumsheer Khan could not have dared to act as he did, had he not been authorized by the Begum and her Ministers, or at least had he not known that such Conduct would be agreeable to them.

J. Gordon.

Sworn this 27th Day of November
1781, before me,

E. Impey.

TENTH PARCEL.

NUM. 10.

Affidavit of Jean Honore Mordelait, Private of the Company of Chasseurs.

Jean Honore Mordelait, Natif de Corbell, Province de l'Isle de France, fait Serment, et dit, Qu'étant malade à Mirzapour il fût laissé en arrière avec Quatorze de ses Camarades, lui inclus, tous servant dans la Compagnie de Chasseurs, commandée par le Capitaine Doxat; lorsque le dit Capitaine marcha avec les Troupes qui composoient le Détachement commandé par le Capitaine Mayaffre; que lors du Départ du dit Capitaine, le Raja de l'Endroit les fit entrer en son Entourage pour plus de Sureté contre les Voleurs qui l'environnoient; que sur leurs Représentations qu'ils n'avoient pas d'Argent pour se fournir des Vivres, il leur fit donner à manger chaque jour par un Bannià, qu'il les consolait et les assurait qu'allant voir ce qui se passoit à l'Entour de son terrain il chercheroit après un Moyen de les faire passer à Chandernagore; que des lors il ne revint point: Que le Commandement étant alors dévolu au Second, il les fit appeler le Trentième, et leur donna Deux Roupies à chacun pour servir à une Route qu'ils devoient faire de Deux Jours de Chemin; qu'il leur fit savoir que c'étoit ses Ordres de les renvoyer de là, et qu'il avoit aussi reçu Ordre de couler tous les Bateaux passant par Mirzapour: Que pendant ce Temps Cinquante de ses Gens furent envoyés pour s'emparer de leurs Armes, et que ces Gens prirent un Inventaire de ce qui appartenoit à la Compagnie; que le Lendemain ils furent contraintes de se mettre en Route, leur Sacs placés sur des Chameaux, sur lesquelles ils furent obligés de monter à grands Coups de Fouet pour ceux qui refusoient: Que durant leur Route ils eurent toutes Sortes d'Indignités, qu'on leur crachoit au Village, qu'on les battoit. Que la seconde Journée un de ses Camarades fût assez heureux de mourir; que le Chemin qu'ils faisoient étoit parmi des Gorges de Montaignes, et qu'avec les Détours qu'ils firent il croit que le Trajet jusqu'à Laitiffghur, où ils arrivèrent le Deuxième de Septembre, étoit plus de 40 Cofs: Qu'à la fin de la première Journée ils s'arrêtèrent à un petit Fort dans les Gorges, où leur mauvais Traitement fût redoublé. Qu'arrivé à Laitiffghur ceux qui vinrent avec eux se dispersèrent; qu'ils furent entourés pendant deux Heures qu'ils y restèrent par environ deux ou trois mille Gens qui les insultèrent grossièrement, et particulièrement, les accusa d'avoir assassiné le Raja de Gualier: Qu'un de leur Camarades, nommé François, fût mené auprès du Raja lequel à son Retour leur déclara que le Raja l'avoit assuré qu'en cas qu'il lui amena Compagnie Française qu'il auroit son Pain. Qu'après ils furent conduits hors de Laitiffghur de la même Manière qu'auparavant sous le Garde de quelques Sepoys, et autres Gens armés, à une petite Maison fortifiée au de là de Laitiffghur une Cofs sur le Chemin de Beejahghur; que ces Gens y restèrent pour les garder: Qu'on ne leur donna ni à manger ni à boire: Que le Lendemain, étant le troisième, un Chef de Laitiffghur avec dix Sepoys et environ 40 Hommes armés les fit sortir à une Portée de Fusil de la Maison: Qu'ils lièrent leurs Mains derrière leurs Dos; et qu'en cette Position ils leur crièrent à manger, leur montrant des Vivres à quelque Distance dans des Corbeilles. Qu'après s'être amusé pendant une Heure ou deux

PART III.

deux de leur Misères, ces Barbares tirèrent leurs Sabres et commencèrent le Massacre : Que le susdit eût une Baonette passée du travers du Corps, et un grand Coup de Pied sur les Reins pour la faire ressortir : Qu'en cet Etat il feignit le Mort, et deux de ses Camarades tombant sur lui cachèrent sa Feinte : Que les Meurtriers se retirant après ce Carnage, il eût assez de Force pour se retirer dans les Jungles à vingt Pas de là : Qu'à la Discretion des Tigres il passa toute la Nuit ; qu'accablé de soif, le Lendemain il descendit à un Ruissseau pour boire de l'Eau ; qu'il fût vit par des Campagnards, et amené à l'Endroit d'où il étoit sorti le Jour avant ; que les Habitants le rassurèrent contre toute Crainte de sa Vie : Que leur Chef lui donna pour lui et sa Femme huit Pice par Jour, laquelle Substistence lui fût continué par moyen d'une Garde qui montoit et étoit relevé chaque Jour de Laitiffghur : Que parmi les Gens qui étoient là, il ne reconnût aucun de ceux qui les tuèrent : Que le 20, le Jour que le Raja s'enfuit de Laitiffghur, après que lui et ses Troupes eurent passées auprès de l'Endroit où le susdit étoit, il se rendit à Laitiffghur sans Empêchement, et même fut mis au large par les Habitants : Que la Nuit du 20 ou 21 il fût obligé de se cacher, pour se mettre à l'abri des Gens qui pilloient de tous Côtés : Que le Lendemain Matin à l'Entrée du Major Crabb il fût découvert et heureusement mis en Sûreté de toute autre Pour suite.

Le susdit fait Serment et dit, de plus qu'il croit que le Massacre provenoit d'un Acte de libéré, et que ce ne pouvoit être le Résultat d'aucune Cause, comme ces Camarade et lui étoient trop tristes pour démontrer aucun Signe de Joie, s'abandonnant à la Mort d'après la mauvais Traitement qu'ils avoient subits : Qu'au contraire quant ils entendirent le Matin du Jour du Massacre, le Bruit des Canons et des Fusils, ils s'entredisoient tout doucement que leur Destruction seroit la Conséquence infaillible en cas que les Troupes du Raja perdroyent la Bataille : Que même, lors de cette Communication d'Idees, ils n'y avoient aucuns de leurs Gardes ou autres Gens pour les écouter ; que leurs Expressions à ce Sujet se passèrent, lors du Bruit des Canons et des Fusils, lequel étoit de grand Matin : Que leurs Meurtriers n'arrivoient de Laitiffghur qu'environ les onze Heures : Que deux Heures se passèrent à leur contraindre de tirer Habits, Chapeaux, &c. Qu'au lieu du Meurtre ils furent conduits en Chemise, et qu'il étoit environ une Heure après Midi, quand cet Acte de Barbarité fût commise.

Mordelait.

Sworn before me, this 5th Day of
December 1781.

E. Impey.

Translation of the foregoing Affidavit.

John Honore Mordelait, Native of Corbell, a Province in the Isle of France, declares upon Oath, That being sick at Mirzapoor, he was left behind with Fourteen of his Comrades, himself included, all of whom belonged to the Company of Chasseurs commanded by Captain Doxat, when the said Captain marched with the Troops which composed the Detachment commanded by Captain Mayaffre : That upon his Departure, the Rajah of the Place made them come within his own Premises, for the greater Safety against the Thieves which surrounded them : That on their representing they had no Money to supply themselves with Food, he caused them to be given something to eat every Day by a Banian : That he comforted them, and assured them, that upon seeing what passed round his Seraglio, he sought for Means to transport them to Chandernagore : That from that Time he did not return : That the Command having then devolved upon the Second, he had them called before him on the Thirtieth, and gave them Two Rupees each, to serve for the Journey of Two Days they were to take : That he let them know his Orders were to send them from thence ; and that he had also received Orders to sink all the Boats passing by Mirzapoor : That during this Time, Fifty of his People were sent to seize their Arms ; and that those People took an Inventory of what belonged to the Company : That the next Day they were obliged to begin their Journey, with their Baggage placed on Camels, which they were obliged to mount ; and those who refused, received violent Blows with a Whip : That during their Route every Sort of Indignity was offered to them : That they spit in their Faces ; and beat them so, that on the second Day one of his Companions was so happy as to die : That the Road they took was through narrow Passes, between Mountains ; and that with the Circuits they made, he believes the Journey to Laitiffghur, where they arrived the 2d of September, was more than 40 Cos : That at the Clois of the first Day they slept at a small Fort in the Passes, where their Ill-treatment was redoubled : That being arrived at Laitiffghur, the Persons who came with them dispersed : That they were surrounded for Two Hours, and remained there, among about Two or Three thousand People, who insulted them grossly ; and particularly accused them of having assassinated the Rajah of Gwallior : That one of their Companions, named Francois, was taken before the Rajah, and declared to them, at his Return, that the Rajah had assured him that in case he brought the French Company to him, he should be provided for : That afterwards they were conducted out of Laitiffghur in the same Manner as before, guarded by some Sepoys and other armed Men, to a small fortified House beyond Laitiffghur, One Cos on the Road from Beejahghur : That those People remained there to guard them : That they had nothing either to

eat or drink given to them: That the next Day, being the Third, a Chief of Laitiffghur, with Ten Sepoys, and about Forty armed Men, made them go out to the Distance of a Musket Shot from the House: That they tied their Hands behind their Backs; and that in this Position they told them to eat; shewing them Provisions in Baskets at some Distance: That after having amused themselves for an Hour or two with their Misery, these Barbarians drew their Sabres and began the Massacre: That the Deponent had a Bayonet passed through his Body, and a violent Kick on the Reins to make it come out: That in this Situation he feigned Death; and Two of his Companions falling upon him covered the Deceit: That the Murderers retiring after this Carnage, he had Strength enough to retreat to the Jungles, Twenty Paces from the Place: That he past the Night at the Mercy of the Tigers: That on the next Day being parched with Thirst, he went down to a Brook to drink: That he was seen by some Country People, and carried to the Place which he had left the preceding Day: That the Inhabitants assured him his Life was in no Danger: That their Chief gave him Eight Pice every Day for his Wife and himself, which Subsistence was continued to him by means of a Guard, which was mounted and relieved every Day from Laitiffghur. That he did not recollect the Persons of any of the Murderers among the People here: That on the 20th, the Day the Rajah fled from Laitiffghur, after he and his Troops had passed near the Spot where the Deponent was, he went to Laitiffghur unmolested, and was even set at Liberty by the Inhabitants: That in the Night from the 20th to the 21st he was obliged to lie concealed to save himself from the People, who were pillaging on all Sides: That the next Morning, at the Entry of Major Crabb, he was discovered, and fortunately placed in Safety from all further Pursuit. The Deponent moreover declares upon Oath, That he believes the Massacre proceeded from a deliberate Act, and that it could not have been occasioned by any Cause, his Companions and himself being too sorrowful to shew any Sign of Joy, as they had abandoned themselves to Death after the Ill-treatment they had met with: That on the contrary, when on the Morning of the Massacre they heard the Report of the Cannons and Muskets, they said to each other softly, that their Destruction would be the infallible Consequence, in case the Rajah's Troops should lose the Battle: That even at this Communication of Ideas there were none of their Guards nor any other Persons present to hear them: That their Conversation on this Subject passed when the Noise of the Cannons and Muskets was heard, when it was broad Daylight: That their Murderers did not arrive from Laitiffghur till about Eleven o'Clock: That Two Hours passed in making them take off their Cloaths, Hats, &c.: That they were led in their Shirts to the Place where the Murders were committed, and that it was about One o'Clock in the Afternoon when this Act of Barbarity took place.

Sworn before me,
this 5th Day of December 1781.
(Signed) E. Impey.

(Signed) Mordelait.

ELEVENTH PARCEL.

NUM. II.

Affidavit of Lieutenant Colonel Hannay.

Alexander Hannay Esquire, Lieutenant Colonel in the Service of the Honourable United East India Company, maketh Oath, and saith, That in the Month of September last (1781) he commanded a Body of Troops (Horse and Foot) in the Service of the Nabob Vizeer: That on the 10th of that Month, being encamped at Ryegunge, near Fyzabad, employed in transporting the said Troops across the River Gogra, in order to act against the Insurgents to the Northward of that River, in the Evening he received Intimation from a Person living in the Zennana, that the Nabob Begum (Grandmother to the Nabob Vizeer Assof-ud-Dowla) had, through her Agents, prevailed upon the principal Jemmadar of Horse, to engage to detach himself from the said Deponent, and to abandon him; and further warning the said Deponent to attend to his own personal Safety, as there was an Intention of detaining him at Fyzabad: That this Intimation was given to the Deponent in the Presence of Lieutenant Charles Middleton, to whom the Deponent did communicate it; and that, during the whole Course of that Day (the 10th of September) he the Deponent had not been able to prevail on any of the Horsemen to cross the River—a Matter which he could not until then account for, but which served to impress him so strongly with a Belief of the Truth of the Information he had received, that he sent for the principal Jemmadar of Horse, circumstantially communicated the said Information to him; and, as forcibly as he was able, stated to him the Treachery, Disgrace, and Infamy, inseparable from so unmanly a Behaviour: That the said Jemmadar of Horse appeared much affected at the Conversation, and acknowledged that the Information was true in every Circumstance, except that of his having acceded to the Proposals that were made to him, which he declared he had rejected; but said, they had also been made to the other Jemmadars of Horse by the Agents of both the Begums (the Nabob Vizeer's Mother and Grandmother); and the Truth of this Affir-

PART III.

tion was afterwards affirmed to the said Deponent by Two of the said Jemmadars, and several of the inferior Officers and private Horsemen. The Deponent further declareth, That the above-recited Conversation passed in his the Deponent's Tent, to the best of his Recollection and Memory, on the Night of the 10th of September, in the Presence of Lieutenant Charles Middleton; and that, as the said Lieutenant Charles Middleton did not perfectly understand the Moorish Language, in which the Conversation was held, he the Deponent explained the Nature and Subject of it to him as soon as the Jemmadar left the Tent. The Deponent further declareth, That he is restrained from mentioning the Names of the Jemmadars alluded to, from an Apprehension that their Names becoming public, might operate to their Prejudice, if not Ruin; but that the Facts which he hath deposed are Truth.

Sworn before me (the Deponent declaring on his Oath, that the above Affidavit is written in his own Hand-writing at Banaris) this 31st Day of December 1781,

Alexander Hannay.

Warren Hastings.

Minute of the Board, entered in the Consultations of 14 January 1782.

The Board having already passed their Opinion, in Terms of the fullest Approbation, upon the Governor General's Conduct and Management in the Suppression of the Rebellion of Cheit Sing, and the Regulation of the Province and City of Banaris; they think it unnecessary to repeat their Opinion of those Measures.

Extra & Secret
Consultations,
14th Jan. 1782.

They cannot at the same Time but remark, that the Explanations which the Governor General has given in some Parts of his Proceedings, during his first Discussions with Cheit Sing, and subsequent to the Convulsion, are rather an open Avowal of the Motives that actuated his Mind, than the guarded Representations of a public Officer, stating to his Employers the Measures which an extraordinary Situation influenced, dictated, and justified.

To a liberal and candid Tribunal, such was the natural, and certainly the wisest Appeal. The Generosity and Justice of a British Tribunal looks more to the real Motives and Zeal of their Agent, than to the preconcerted Artifice of his Conduct, or the legal Discriminations of his Defence. Even where a public Measure is unsuccessful, the Responsibility required by the Agent (if risked upon public Principles) is frequently his Justification, and in many Cases entitles him to Applause.

In these distant Dominions the ruling Servants of the State attend more to those Rules and Forms which protect from Responsibility, than to an ardent Pursuit of the public Interest; under every private Risk, the Hands of Administration may secure themselves against Condemnation, even though the Country should be lost through their Mismanagement.

It was not by avoiding personal Responsibility that the Servants of the Public established the British Influence in Asia; nor is it by such cold Precautions that our Power is to be maintained, especially at an Hour of general Hostility against us. The Board are led into these Observations, from an ingenuous Consideration of the Difficulties in which the Governor General found himself involved at Banaris, and a Conviction of the Motives under which he acted. The first were surmounted with Ability and Fortitude: The latter they most sincerely believe do him real Honour.

Easy would be the Task to approve the Suppression of the Rebellion, and to stand disconnected with any Responsibility, by justifying those Acts which certainly precipitated the Storm from the Cloud in which he had gathered; Acts which Judges at a Distance, Judges unoppressed with the actual Embarrassments of this Government, may, with great Speciousness of Argument, condemn. But the Board wish not, they cannot permit themselves to proceed so disingenuously, or guardedly. They are at the same Time aware, that in a rigid Investigation of the whole of this Business, the following Questions will be asked.

1st. Where were the Governor General's particular Instructions for such extraordinary Demands upon Cheit Sing?

2dly. Why was that Chief put in Arrest, when he offered to make every Concession?

3dly. Whether there was not a Compact between him and the Company, which specified, that he was only to pay them a certain annual Tribute?

Subsequent to the Massacre of our Troops, and the Events that followed, no Questions will be asked.

In answer to the first Question, the Board think the Governor General was fully authorized by the general Tenor of his Instructions. The Governor General having a deciding Vote, could have written out and approved more particular Instructions. There was a Delicacy in the Mode he preferred; and it imposed a greater Responsibility.

In regard to the Second Question; it is evident from Cheit Sing's Answers and Preparations, and the whole Tenor of his Conduct, before and at the Time, that nothing but Arrest could have convinced him of the Governor General's Determination.

That

That the Arrest was not intended to proceed farther than the Payment of a proper Fine to the Company, who stood in the Place of his Sovereign and Benefactors, is evinced by the Governor General's Answer to Cheit Sing, after his Confinement.

Had a total Revolution in the Administration of the Zemceedary been intended, the Arrest must have been effected with more Force, and greater Marks of Severity.

That the Officers who went to execute this Service were convinced that no Measure of determined Severity was intended against Cheit Sing, appears from that unfortunate Want of Precaution which cost them and their Followers their Lives.

The Third Question involves much Argument, yet is fully answered by that Part of the Governor General's Narrative, which discusses the Sunnud under which Cheit Sing ruled the Provinces, and which was so liberally granted by the Company.

The Correspondence with the India States, shews clearly their Ideas of the Rights of Zemceedars and Rajahs protected in their Zemceedaries by a superior Power. Had Cheit Sing been an Ally Sovereign Prince, who paid only a fixed Subsidy, his Military Preparations, and his insidious Conduct, under Pretences of Poverty, in disappointing the Expectations of the Government from the Army under Major Camac, justified, together with his Correspondence with our Enemies, the severest Exertion of Aid to assist the Company in their Distresses, and atone for his Ingratitude and Treachery to a Power who protected him, and to whom he owed his Situation.

On the Subject of the Treaty concluded on the 18th of September last, between the Governor General and the Nabob Vizeer, and which the Difficulties of the Communication prevented the Governor General from explaining so fully before, the Board have to observe, that the Treaty is evidently a political Expedient, which forfeits no Advantage, which promises the Acquisition of many, and which, properly managed by this Government (as Events favourable, or even unfavourable, arise), may lead to the final and complete Arrangement of an Alliance with the Vizeer. Such an Alliance, being less oppressive to him, may be more advantageous and honourable to the Company, and may remove that too general but dangerous Impression, which the different States of this Country have received from the double Character in which we have hitherto appeared in India—that of Allies and Conquerors.

If the Nabob Vizeer should not be able, under the Support of the Troops of this Government stationed at Cawnpore, to maintain the Tranquillity of his Dominions, and collect those Resources which are necessary to defray even his reduced Expences, and discharge his heavy Debt to the Company, a new Arrangement must follow; and that Arrangement necessarily, at the express Request of the Vizeer, will secure every Advantage that can be wished or expected from his Provinces by this Government.

The Reduction of that heavy Burthen of Expence, which was at once oppressive to the Vizeer, and of no Return to the Company (though a Source of Patronage to this Administration), the Board approve of most heartily; and, with a full Sense of the Credit which a Measure of such Difficulty and Unpleasantness reflects upon the Governor General, they take this Occasion of pledging to him and to their Employers their utmost Support, not only in this, but in every other Branch of public economical Reformation, which he may propose.

Upon the Return of the Governor General, the Board resolve to discuss with him those Parts of the Treaty, which carry the Appearance of a hasty Agreement. The Disaffection of many of the Vizeer's principal Jagheerdars; and the Steps which, from the Representations of Colonel Hannay and other Officers, appear to have been rapidly taken by the Begums, to support the Rebellion of Cheit Sing; were probably very early known to the Governor General, and through the Medium of all the Suspicions that his Situation, at the Time he met the Vizeer, had naturally created.

At such a Moment, and under such Suspicions, and even while the Issue of the Contest of Cheit Sing was depending, it is not surprizing that some Parts of the Agreement between the Governor General and the Vizeer were speedily adjusted, and, as the Governor acknowledges, in Conversation at their First Interview.

A short Time will satisfy the Board, whether the Vizeer is willing or able to fulfil his Part of the Treaty: If he is, that, and the Company can recover their Debt from him in the present Emergency and Distress of their Affairs, the Board cannot then but agree, that the Governor General has acted in the Arrangement not only with Zeal, and the best public Intentions, but with a masterly Decision, that must entitle him to the grateful and complete Approbation of his Employers.

It remains with the Board to concert with the Governor General, upon his Return, those Measures that may secure this Government from any future Inconveniences or Distress, that can be supposed connected with the Confidence reposed in the Vizeer, for the Administration of the Affairs of his Revenue and Military Establishments.

Extra!t Secr.
Dept. Conf.
5 Feb. 1782.

The Governor General delivers in the following Minute, in consequence of that of the Board, entered on the Proceedings of the 14th ultimo.

The Governor General acknowledges his Obligations to the Board, for this repeated Instance of the liberal Manner in which they have been pleased to record their Judgment on his Conduct. Had it been expressed in the simple Terms of official Approbation, he should have been pleased, and satisfied that it had received so respectable a Sanction; but by tracing the Sources of it, in the Motives which he has avowed; by their Examination of those Motives with their relative

PART III.

relative Facts and Circumstances; and by the Doubts which they have anticipated and solved, on the Propriety of such Parts of his Conduct as might most obviously suggest them; they have justified their own Approval, and entitled him to expect the same favourable Sentiments in their common Superiors.

Nor is he less pleased with the Reserve with which the Board have declared their Satisfaction in the Arrangement concluded by him with the Nabob Vizeer; because he thinks it will be received as an Evidence of the Deliberation and Sincerity of their former Approval. He is willing to submit the Propriety of the Measure to the Test of its Success. The Resident has already informed the Board, that he had received of the Treasures of the late Vizeer, left in the Charge of his Widow, and lately reclaimed by his Son, the Amount of the Bond granted by the latter for the Balance of the Year 1178, which ends in September 1780 of our *Æra*; and was in the actual Receipt of as much as would discharge the Balance of the last Year, that is, of the Year 1179. The first of these Balances is 32,68,613. 11, the last 12,09,876. 9. 8. The Sum of both is, R^r 44,78,490. 4. 8. *Owd Siccas*. The Resident seems to have understood this to be the Whole of the Nabob's Debt. There is a further Balance of 26 Lacks, which appears to have been by some means overlooked, or withheld from Mr. Middleton on the Transfer of his Office from Mr. Purling. A rectified Account, drawn to the latest Period, has been transmitted to Mr. Middleton by the Accomptant General, which it is hoped will arrive in Time to prevent his stopping at the Receipt of the supposed Balance; and at all Events, the Profits of the resumed Jagheers ought to yield a Fund, more than sufficient both for the complete Liquidation of what may remain of the Nabob's present Debt, and to make up the Deficiency of the Assignments granted on his Revenue for the current Year, within the Course of it.

The Governor General expects this Service from the Resident, and relies upon his Fidelity for the Performance of it. But in the Supposition of the Possibility of a Disappointment, he again offers his personal Services to proceed to Lucknow, on the first Symptom of such a Failure; and, with the Confidence which he feels in his own Influence, aided by the powerful Support of the Board, he will venture to promise, that he will not return with their Object unaccomplished.

He hopes, and believes, that there will be no Necessity for this Extremity, but adds it as a Ground for the Assurance which he ventures to propose; and wishes the Board to give to the Honourable Court of Directors, in the Advices to them now under Dispatch, that there is the fairest Prospect, amounting as near to a Certainty as can be affirmed of an Event yet in Expectation, that the Debt due from the Nabob Vizeer to the Company, and even that of the Rohilla Donation, will be completely paid off in the Course of the present Year, and a Supply added to our ordinary Resources, which will fully answer all our own Wants for that Period, and enable us to contribute still further, and we hope effectual Aids, to those of the Carnatic.

The Governor General forbears to include the Presidency of Bombay in this Provision. Its Expences have already contributed more even than those of the Carnatic to exhaust these Provinces of the Currency; nor will it be possible for them to support any longer so pernicious a Drain. At a certain Point it must have a Close. For this Distress we must seek a Remedy in a different Expedient, in the Conclusion of the War with the Maratta State, and the consequent and most necessary Reduction of the Armies now employed on that Service. In the mean Time, he trusts that they are not so devoid of Resources in themselves, as to make them totally dependant for the Subsistence on this Government, since they have a large and rich Territory; acquired by their late Conquests in Guzerat, in the Dependence of Surat, and, as we learn only from an allusive Passage in General Goddard's last Letters, even in Concan, of which we were not before apprised. These Districts, we are assured by the same Authority, were in a State of perfect Tranquillity, and undisturbed Collection of their Revenues; and in the same State they are likely to remain, since in the Prospect of a Peace the Maratta Government will naturally look to the Restitution of their former Possessions, and would eventually be at least equal Sufferers with us, by any Devastations committed in them.

Such are the Expectations which the Governor General wishes to have presented to the Court of Directors, of the Course and Issue of the Resources of this Government for the present Year. He hopes that Credit will be given to them to that Degree, beyond which it would be presumptuous on any Grounds to hazard the Promise of contingent Events; that if those which he has predicted shall not come to pass, the Causes of their Failure shall be such as shall account for it, and acquit him of the Reproach of it.

Of the Consequences, as they may affect him personally, he is become indifferent; expecting the forced Censures of his avowed Enemies, and assured of the Applause of his Superiors, from the internal Conviction of his own Mind, that he has laboured to the utmost of his Ability to merit it.

(Signed) Warren Hastings.

Die Veneris, 29^e Februarij 1788.

THE Lords being in their Places, the House resumed, the usual Proclamations made, and the Defendant appearing at the Bar, the Lord Chancellor acquainted the Managers for the Commons they might proceed with their Evidence.

Then the Clerk proceeded to read from the printed Copy of the Narrative of the Governor General already delivered in, beginning at Page 21, where the same was broken off Yesterday, and read as far as Page 29 of the said Narrative (*).

Then the Managers for the Commons stated, that they should proceed to point out such further Extracts from the same, as they particularly desired to call the Attention of the House to.

Read, the following Extract, from Page 34 of the said Narrative :

“ On the 20th or 21st, I forget which, I received a Letter from Rajah Cheit Sing filled with Expressions of slight Concern for what had passed, and Professions, but indefinite and unapplied, of Fidelity. I did not think it becoming to make any Reply to it, and I think I ordered the Bearer of the Letter to be told, that it required none.

“ On the Morning of the 21st, a Person came to Mr. R. Johnson, who was One of my Party, and desired his Interposition with me to receive a Letter and Messenger from the Rajah in the Evening, with Proposals for an Accommodation. The like Application was made by Myrza Abdullah Beg, the Rajah's Vakeel, to my Dewan Contoo Bauboo; and, with my Permission, Contoo Bauboo returned to his own House to meet the Vakeel by Appointment for that Purpose, by which Means he missed the Opportunity of going off with me; the Intelligence of my Intention reaching him too late for him to join me, or his infirm State of Body not admitting of his taking so hasty a Resolution. The Substance of the Message, as it has been since delivered to me by Abdullah Beg, in Writing, was to exculpate himself from any Concern in what had passed, which he charged to the insolent Behaviour of a Servant of the Resident, who was present, and the Resentment of his own People, and to profess his Obedience and Submission to my Will in whatever Way I should dictate (b).”

Read, also, from Page 46, as follows :

“ It would break the Attention, and perplex the Thread of the Narrative, to relate every distinct Event in its exact Order of Time: I have therefore, in the minuter Points, endeavoured rather to arrange them according to their Relation to the greater, or to find a Place for them in the vacant Intervals and Pauses of it. It may be proper in this Place to mention, that during the Time of Inaction which succeeded to my Arrival at Chunar, I received several Letters from Cheit Sing, besides Letters from Mr. Barnet, and One from Contoo Bauboo, who were both his Prisoners at Lutteespoor, which were written by his Order. These were all alike in Substance, containing Acknowledgments and Professions of Submission to my Authority; Assertions of his own Innocence, charging the Massacre at Shewallah to the Chubdar, whose Insults provoked the Resentment of his Servants, whom he could not restrain; and claiming a Merit from his having in the Three past Actions been the suffering Party, though successful, and in none the Aggressor; adding general Offers of Accommodation; and in the Letters written by his Order, a pompous Display of his inexhaustible Wealth, the Multitude and Bravery of his Forces, and the devoted Affection and Fidelity of all his Subjects. I refused to answer them, letting him know that they were written with too much Presumption, in the Style of Equality, and with inapplicable Professions, which were no better than none. Some of these Letters will appear in the Appendix; the rest were lost (c).”

Read, also, from Page 49, as follows :

“ The News of these concurrent Successes being conveyed to the Rajah at the same Instant of Time, alarmed him exceedingly for his own personal Safety. His Fears were excited with a more forcible Impression by the Surprise of the Advance of so great a Force, from a Quarter where he had not expected any. With his Face turned towards Chunar, and his whole Attention, and that of his People, directed to the Movements which we made on that Side, they had no Suspi-

(*) See the Whole of the said Extract supra, from Page 109 to Page 120, inclosed within the Brackets, and the Hands pointing thereto.

(b) Vide the Narrative supra, Page 122.

(c) Vide supra, Page 127.

tion of any Design being formed behind them.—The first Intelligence which was received of Major Crabb's Party described it as consisting of the Followers of Owsan Sing, and only Three Companies of our Sepoys; the Hircarrahs who conveyed the News, possibly mistaking the advanced Guard for the whole Force, and reporting it accordingly; nor was the real Strength of the Party known, even by that which was detached to oppose it, until the Instant of the Action. This Circumstance was related at the Time, and has since been confirmed to me by an Officer named Myker, who commanded a small Body of the Rajah's Sepoys, and the Guns, in the Action. No Design could be more judiciously planned, or more happily executed. Even the Impediments and Disappointments which attended it, served but to promote the Coincidence of the final Movements of its Operations, with so well timed an Effect, that the Difference of the Time which passed between the Engagement at Lora and the Conquest of Pateeta, was little more than that which would be required by the Difference of the Distances of each from Lutteefpoor, for the News of each Success to reach Lutteefpoor at the same Instant.

“ Cheit Sing instantly prepared for Flight. His Road to Bidjeygur, which was his last Refuge, lay through the Pals, which he durst not attempt. He left Lutteefpoor about Three or Four in the Afternoon, and making a Circuit over the Hills, gained the High Road at the Distance of some Miles beyond the Pals, and proceeded with a few Followers to the Neighbourhood of Bidjeygur: Some others followed and re-joined him; the rest, left without Orders, stayed but to plunder the Place, and evacuated it. The Gaung-Wallahs, or Militia, composed of the Husbandmen, who had been summoned to attend him, all fled to their own Houses. So rapid was the Report of this Event in it's Communication, and so decisive in it's Effect, that the Fort of Sutteefgur, which lies about Seven or Eight Miles to the Northward of Lutteefpoor, and the Palace of Ramnagar, were evacuated on the same Evening; and the Allegiance of the whole Country restored as completely, in the Course of a few Hours, from a State of universal Revolt to it's proper Channel, as if it had never departed from it (*).”

The Managers for the Commons informed the House, the next Extract they should read was to prove the Appointment of the Rajah Mehipnarain to be Rajah of Banaris.

Read, from Page 51 of the said Narrative, as follows :

“ My first Care, after my Return to Banaris, was to determine the Succession to the Zemeedary and Rauje, vacated by the Forfeiture of Cheit Sing. The Right of the Company to the Disposal of it certainly had not suffered by the past Events. The Territory had been wholly lost to their Dominion, and wholly conquered by their Arms. Yet the Rest of the Family who formerly possessed it had not merited, by any Act of theirs, to be involved in the Punishment of a Man who had been equally their Enemy, and whom they regarded as the Usurper of their more legal Rights; nor perhaps would it have been prudent to put the Submission of the People to the Test of a new Species of Dominion. I therefore resolved, in virtue of the full Powers which I possessed from the Board for that Purpose, to bestow it on the next lineal Heir. This was Bauboo Mehipnarain. He was the Grandson of Rajah Bulwant Sing, by a Daughter married to Bauboo Doorgbijey Sing. The Widow of Bulwant Sing, named Ranny Goolaub Koor, was still living, and in an extreme old Age. By the Hindoo Law she might claim the Inheritance; her Daughter also, the Wife of Doorgbijey Sing, might assert the like Pretension. Had it become a Matter of Contest, I had resolved to leave it to the Decision of the whole Body of the Pundits of Banaris. But this Reference was unnecessary. Doorgbijey Sing yielded up the Pretension of his Wife, and the old Ranny her own, by a Writing, sealed with her Name, and acknowledged in the Presence of a confidential Person, whom I deputed to her for that Purpose; declaring it to be her Wish and Request, that the Rauje might be conferred on her Grandson Mehipnarain. He was accordingly invested and proclaimed on the 30th of September. His Father Bauboo Doorgbijey Sing was at the same Time invested with the Office of Naib, and is in Effect the sole acting Manager. He is about Thirty-five Years of Age—his Son Nineteen (b).”

Read, also, from Page 52 of the said Narrative, as follows :

“ After having gained Possession of Lutteefpoor, Major Popham lost no Time in prosecuting his March to Bidjeygur. Cheit Sing did not wait his Approach, but fled, taking with him as much Treasure as his Elephants and Camels could carry, which has been reported to me to have consisted of One Lack of Mohrg, and Fifteen or Sixteen of Silver (c), besides Jewels to an unknown Amount. His Wife, a Woman of amiable Character, his Mother Patna, and all the other Women of his Family, and the Survivors of the Family of his Father Bulwant Sing who were connected with him, were left in the Fort of Bidjeygur. He took the Rout of Rewa, and from thence proceeded to Panna, the Capital of Boondelcund, paying and plundering as he passed. He was by the last Advices in that Country, the Rajah professing in his Letters to me a Resolution to withdraw his Protection from him, and secretly favouring him (d).”

(*) Vide supra, Page 128 to Page 129.

(c) Amounting to about 400,000l. Sterling.

(b) Vide supra, Page 129.

(d) Vide supra, Page 130.

Then the Managers for the Commons acquainted the House, they should next read an Affidavit of Major Palmer, to prove the Allegation in the First Article of the Charge, which states the Intention of the Defendant to extort a large Sum of Money, by way of Fine, from the Rajah Cheit Sing. (*)

Read, Appendix to the Narrative, Part III. p. 157.

“ Second Parcel,

(Num. 2. A.)

Affidavit of Major Palmer.

“ William Palmer, Major in the Service of the Honourable the East India Company in Bengal, maketh Oath and faith, That about the latter End of the Month of June last, the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, Governor General of Bengal, discoursing with this Deponent on the Subject of his intended Journey to Banaris and Lucknow, declared one of the principal Objects of it to be, to exact from Rajah Cheit Sing a Fine or Contribution of Fifty Lacks of Rupees, as a Punishment for Breach of Engagements with the Government of Bengal, and for Acts of Misconduct in his Zemedyary. The Governor General further declared to this Deponent, that he knew the Ability of the Rajah to contribute such a Sum to the Exigences of Government; and that he, the Governor General, was determined to convert the Faults committed by the Rajah into a public Benefit. The Governor General further declared to this Deponent in the same Conversation, That an Offer from the Rajah, but indirectly, had been made to him of Twenty Lacks of Rupees for the public Service, as a Retribution for his Failure of Engagements; but that he, the Governor General, was resolved to insist upon the first mentioned Sum of Fifty Lacks of Rupees, and if the Rajah should absolutely refuse the Demand, that he, the Governor General, would deprive him of his Zemedyary, or transfer the Sovereignty thereof to the Nabob Vizeer.

W. PALMER.

Sworn before me, this 4th Day of December, 1781. E. IMPEY. (b)”

To prove the same Facts stated in the Affidavit of Major Palmer, and also the Transaction charged in the First Article to have passed between Mr. Hastings and the Vizier, relative to the Province of Benares ;

Read, Appendix, p. 158.

“ (Num. 2. B.)

Attestation of David Anderson Esquire.

“ To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire.

“ Honourable Sir,

“ In Obedience to your Commands conveyed to me through Major Palmer, I shall endeavour to repeat, as well as I can remember, the Purport of what you were pleased to inform me before your Departure from Calcutta, of your Intentions regarding Cheit Sing ; but as so long an Interval has since elapsed, my Recollection, which has never been strengthened by a Communication, must necessarily be somewhat imperfect.

“ After enumerating some of the Resources which you expected to find up the Country for the Relief of the Company's Exigencies, you mentioned to me the Conduct of Cheit Sing.

“ You observed, that he owed his Elevation to the Company ; that he was allowed to enjoy a very considerable Income, the Revenue exacted from him being much inferior to the Produce of his Districts, and that his Territories were maintained and defended by the English Army ; that on those Considerations it had been reckoned equitable, that he should contribute on an Emergency to the Support of Wars carried on by that Government under which he held his Zemedyary, and to which he was indebted for its Protection. Accordingly you mentioned that a Sum had been demanded from him ; that, after some Difficulties, he had agreed to pay it at a certain Period ; that, trusting to his Promises, you had made an Assignment on him for the Use of Colonel Camac's Detachment ; and that Colonel Camac, relying on his Punctuality, had returned a Bill for a less Sum, which had been sent to him by Mr. Middleton ; but that this Confidence had nearly proved fatal to the Detachment, and actually did prove the Cause of retarding the Expedition ; that Cheit Sing, in Spite of all the Representations which were made to him, delayed so long the promised Payment, that the Officers of the Detachment were reduced to the Necessity of selling their Plate ; that you therefore determined to call him to an Account, and oblige him to make an Atonement for his Conduct in this Instance, and the Want of Attachment he had in general shewn to our Government, by paying a considerable Sum of Money to the Relief of the Company's Exigencies ; that if he consented, you were desirous of establishing his Possession on the most permanent and eligible Footing ; but, if he refused, you had in your Power to raise a large Sum for the

(*) Vide printed Articles, Bottom of p. 5, and Top of p. 6.

(b) Vide supra, P. 232.

Company, by accepting of an Offer which had been made for his District by the Vizeer. You minuted the Particulars of Cheit Sing's Conduct in an Account which you drew up in Calcutta, of the State of the different Powers of Hindoostan, though I do not believe that in that Paper you expressed the Intentions you had formed: And I remember you told me that you had communicated to Mr. Wheeler your Intentions regarding Cheit Sing; and I believe (though I cannot positively recollect) you said he had concurred in them.

I am, with the greatest Respect, &c.

D. ANDERSON." (-)

Mahdajee Sindia's Camp, near Dutteah,
the 14th January, 1782.

Then the Managers for the Commons acquainted the House, they should next proceed to read several Affidavits of Natives. That the First they should produce particularly respected the Escape of the Rajah Cheit Sing, and what happened upon that Escape; and all of them went to prove the Massacre and confirm the Narrative in other Particulars.

Read, Appendix, Part III. P. 163, as follows:

" (Num. 3. E.)

" TRANSLATION of the Deposition of Jewan Ram Moonshy, in the Service of the late Lieutenant Stalker.—The Deponent sworn before Chief Justice Sir Elijah Impey, December 2nd, 1781.

" After the Arrival of Mr. Markham at Shewallah, I went in and paid my Respects to my Master; who asked me, If I knew whether Mr. Markham would come there or not? I replied, It was reported so; but that it depended on his Inclinations. Mr. Stalker then told me I might go, but afterwards ordered me to stay. I continued there, and saw Doorgbijey Sing sitting with the Rajah in the Centre Apartment, and Suddanund Buxey and others whispering to the Rajah. Shortly after, News was brought to the Three Gentlemen sitting in the adjoining Room that there were Disputes without. Mr. Stalker went without the Jauli (or First Wall), and asked the Subadar Bishun Sing, Why he had ordered the Bayonets to be fixed? The Subadar replied, That Numbers of the Rajah's armed Servants had come in, and that they paid no Regard to the Company's Orders. After which, Mr. Stalker advanced further out, and asked of the younger Mowllavy and me, Who amongst those People was the Chief? I answered, Bauboo Munnear Sing. Mr. Stalker sent for Munnear Sing, and strongly enjoined him to appease his People, and enquire why they attempted to dispute and fight with his Sepoys? Munnear Sing replied, "What Power have they, that any one of them should presume to fight? We Two, Father and Son, are desirous to go to the Rajah." Mr. Stalker answered, "Very well; but you must stay here between your People and mine, that they may not come to Blows." After that a Letter arrived from the Governor to the Rajah, which Mr. Stalker, having quieted and soothed the People, presented to him. The Rajah then got up, and went out of the Burradurry to the adjacent Bastion to perform his Devotions. At this Time Information was brought to Mr. Stalker, that the Rajah's People opposed and refused Admittance to another Company of Sepoys, who had brought Provisions, a Table, &c. for the Gentlemen. Mr. Stalker again went out, and calling to Suddanund Buxey, asked the Cause of this Opposition; and told him to send Directions (to the Rajah's People). Suddanund said, he would go himself. Mr. Stalker replied, "No, send One of your Servants." While the Man was going out to silence the People, Mr. Stalker returned within the Jauli. Doorgbijey Sing was gone from thence; no one knew whither. Cheit Ram, Mr. Markham's Chubdar, informed Mr. Stalker that he had a Message to deliver to the Rajah from the Governor General. Mr. Stalker said, "Deliver it." He the Chubdar said, at the Place where the Rajah was at his Devotions, "the Governor says your People want to quarrel and fight; it will be better if you forbid them, for every Sepoy is an European, and every European is as a (or the) Company: If a Drop of their Blood is shed, you shall be plundered and destroyed." At this Period there was a Report of Guns at the Gate of Shewallah. The Action was commenced. At this Time Mr. Stalker and Cheit Ram went towards the Rajah. Munnear Sing and others cut down Cheit Ram, pulled Mr. Stalker back, and pushing him on one Side, began the Slaughter. The Rajah escaped through a Window by a Rope made of Turbans, got into a Boat, and went off. His People, by the same Means, drew up Swords and Shields as a Bucket is drawn up from a Well, and began to engage. I stood near the Jauli behind my Master. When my Master was killed, I fled toward the Place where the Rajah's Victuals was dressed. I continued there a short Time, and saw the Rajah's People jump from the Walls and the Trees, with their Shields and Swords, and advance. After this I assumed the Character of One of Cheit Sing's Servants, fled with his People, and came to the Presence. The Gentlemen after this went to Chunar, and I should have arrived the next Day, but I was plundered on the Road, and confined in the Fort of Pindera. Diaram took away from my House Two Tangon Horses, and placed his Seal and a Guard upon the Door. After the Flight of the Rajah, the Zemcedar of the before mentioned Fort set me at Liberty. Without a

Master, every Way disconsolate, to whom can I communicate my Distress? I now hope for Favour and Support from the Almighty and from you.

Jewan Ram." (c)

Read next, Appendix, Part III. P. 189, as follows :

" (Num. 5. E.)

" Deposition of Ruggoobur Sing, Orderly Sepoy to Lieutenant Stalker.

" The Deponent (upon his Oath) says, He went with Lieutenant Stalker and Mr. Markham to Shewallah, where the Rajah Cheit Sing resided; and that he went with them into the Presence of the Rajah; that shortly after Two Companies of Sepoys arrived with Two Gentlemen, whose Names the Deponent does not remember, being a newly enlisted Sepoy; that those Two Officers came in and continued with the Rajah and Lieutenant Stalker; that he, the Deponent, was directed by Lieutenant Stalker to attend, with Three other orderly Sepoys, in the Apartment where the Officers were sitting with the Rajah; that the rest of the orderly Sepoys remained without the Purdahs, which were let down in the Front of the Apartment; that he is unacquainted with what passed without the Gate where the Two Companies were, or what People were there on the Part of the Rajah. The Deponent does not recollect, nor can he, he says, relate the Circumstances which passed before the Attack commenced; but in reply to a Question put to him, Whether Mr. Markham's Chubdar Cheit Ram spoke to the Rajah? he says, that said Chubdar brought a Note to Lieutenant Stalker, at the Time when the Rajah's People without were endeavouring to enter; that he delivered the Note to Lieutenant Stalker; that at this Time the Noise and Confusion at the Gate-way was very great; that the Chubdar went from Lieutenant Stalker toward Cheit Sing, who was then sitting at the Place where he performed his Devotions; that he told him to order his People to desist; that he, the Chubdar, was Cheit Ram, and that the Rajah was but Cheit Sing, and that if he did not make his People desist he would confine him. Says, he was an Ear-witness to the foregoing; that it was at this Moment the Firing was heard and the Attack began; that Lieutenant Stalker's Hircarrah had his Sword; that he called to this Deponent to give him his Sword, which he did, and stood behind Lieutenant Stalker, by his Orders, with the Scabbard in his Hand, until that Officer fell; that he was soon after cut down himself; that he was deprived of Sense, and knows nothing of what passed afterwards.

" Sworn before me, the Contents being first explained to the Deponent, by W. Davy, Esq; this 3d Day of December 1781.

E. Impey."

The Mark of
Ruggoobur Sing,
Sepoy." (b)

Then the Managers for the Commons acquainted the House, that they wished to point their Attention to Two other Affidavits of Natives; the One an Affidavit of Sheakh Hossein Oolla, Jemadar, Havildar and Orderly with Lieutenant Stalker, at the Time of the Action at Shewallah Ghaut, in P. 186 of the Appendix, marked (N° 5. C.) (c); the other, an Affidavit of Bishen Sing Subadar, (marked N° 5. D.) P. 187, of the said Appendix (d), and which they meant to have produced, as being strong to the same Point as the two Affidavits last read: But as they were to the same Effect, in order to save the Time of the House, they should omit reading them; and proceed next to prove the Submission of the Rajah Cheyt Sing, by certain Letters which they filed *Letters of Submission*, and which Letters were written by him subsequent to his quitting Benares: The Letters hitherto read in the Course of the Evidence were all prior to that Event.

Read, Appendix, Part II. P. 106, as follows :

" N° 72. The Two following Letters were sent from Ramnagur by Teekchund to Govind Ram Pundit at Banaris, and delivered to the Governor General by Bencram Pundit, on the 5th September 1781.

" Translation of an Arzee from Rajah Cheit Sing to the Honourable Governor General.

" When I waited upon your Highness in your Pinnace, I represented to you every Thing which was proper to be represented; that my Life, my Country, and Property, belonged to your Highness; requesting that you would order whatever was your Pleasure, and I was ready to obey it with Pleasure. I besides performed all the Duties of Obedience and Humility; and represented all the Particulars, with a View to the present Time; for I well knew that, as soon as Owfan Sing should be introduced to your Highness, Mr. Markham and the Moulavies, &c. having settled this Plan, would make you conceive Displeasure against me. At that Time your Highness answered, that you had no Business with my Life or Property; that you had not given Admission to Owfan Sing or any of his People; that you had no Connection with any of my

(a) Vide supra, P. 235. (b) Supra, P. 251. (c) Supra, P. 249. (d) Supra, P. 250.

Relations. What Crime did I afterwards commit that, by the Advice of my Enemies, you should resolve to confine me with such Disgrace? However, I remained until Evening in Confinement, and behaved in no Instance otherwise than with the greatest Humility and Obedience. I addressed several Arzees, expressing my Readiness to obey your Orders, and that I was your Slave, and was ready with my Life and Property. Observe, that Cheit Ram Chubdar came to me, and reviled me, and with a loud Voice gave both me and my People the vilest Abuse. The People of the Sirkar first fired Balls from their Guns, and discharged their Muskets: Immediately the Tumult arose, and notwithstanding my most earnest Request for them to desist, no one would hear me. Myself, after being wounded by a Sword in the Hand of the Captain, escaped with Life from that imminent Danger, and withdrew myself. If you will examine with an Eye of Justice, and without listening to Talebearers and Informers, you will find no Crime in me; and your Mind, which is the Mirror of the World, will, I am certain, approve of it. I have before addressed Arzees to you, but have not yet been honoured with an Answer. Owsan Sing has not yet ceased from ruining the Affairs. Should now my Life and Honour be left to me, I am your Slave. Beneram Pundit will have represented my Situation to you, and will continue to do so." (*)

Then the Managers for the Commons stated, that to save Time they would pass over Two other Letters, and proceed to N° 76. Appendix, P. 109.

The same was read, and is as follows.

" N° 76. From Cheit Sing to the Governor General.

" Before this, the Arzees, which I have repeatedly addressed to your Presence, will have been perused by you, but to this Time I have not been honoured with an Answer to any one of them. I am in every Way ready in my Allegiance and Duty, and have obeyed all your Highness's Orders, and never have I been negligent in any one Point; and your Highness, from your Goodness and Justice, has always been pleased to protect and support your own Slave, and to shew him Favour. All this Time when, from the unfortunate State of the Times, the Reports of self-interested Persons have met with Reception at the Presence, I humbly represent that the Words of evil-minded, self-interested Persons be not attended to, but that your Highness, looking upon me as a Slave raised by yourself, will be favourable towards me, because I am your Slave, and am ready in my Duty and Allegiance. Although I have been guilty of no Fault, yet the Slave is by all Means criminal, and the Business of the Master is Pardon. By the Blessing of God, your Highness is the Master, and is just. Let him consider, that in all the Three Battles the Army of the Sirkar was the Aggressor. Now Matters have passed the Extremities. Should you even now bestow Life upon me, it would not be foreign from the Duty of a Master." (")

Dated the 21st of Ramzaun.

Then the Managers for the Commons stated, that having brought the Matter to that Part of the Charge which relates to the Storming and Surrender of Bidjey-gur, they should presently proceed to call Evidence upon that Head. And in the mean Time they would fill up the Evidence which was left unfinished Yesterday, owing to the Accident of not having the Records of the East India Company at Hand.

And first, With respect to the illegal Delegation to Mr. Hastings, the House would be pleased to recollect that they had produced the Minutes of the Council of the 21st of May 1781, and the Minutes of the Council of the 3d of July 1781, by which they had shewn Mr. Hastings's Motive for desiring that Delegation, the Appointment of himself (Mr. Hastings) to conduct the Business of the Supreme Council, with all the Authority of that Supreme Council, wherever he should be;—The Authority* to Mr. Wheeler to conduct all the Business of the Supreme Council, with all the Authority of the Supreme Council at Calcutta, and in the Provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa; and Mr. Hastings's Credentials. That they had referred to the Stat. 13 Geo. III. c. 63. sect. 7. which attaches upon the Two Standing Orders of the Company, the One of 1702, and the other of 1736; and that the Situation of the Evidence, with respect to those Orders, was as follows: They had produced the Original Drafts of those Orders sent out to Bengal by the Court of Directors, and the Names of the Ships in which they were sent out, docketed upon the Papers: That an Objection had been taken, that there was no Proof of the Orders having arrived at Calcutta; and therefore the Managers, without waving their Right to insist upon that as sufficient Evidence, were now to prove that these Documents did arrive at Bengal, which they should do in the following Manner: First, as to the Orders of 1702, they should prove the Transmission of the Standing Orders from Bengal to Europe, in consequence of the Request of the Court of Directors: And, Secondly, They would shew the Arrival of the Standing Orders of 1736 at Calcutta. Having

(*) Vide supra, P. 204.

(") Vide supra, P. 206.

done that, they should next request the Attention of the House to the Clause of the Act of Parliament attaching upon these standing Orders; and, lastly, to conclude the Subject of the Delegation, they would produce a Paragraph of a Letter from the Court of Directors, in the Year 1778, to shew that those Parts of the Authority conferred by the Delegation, which regarded the Command of the Military, were particularly rendered illegal by the Orders of the Directors contained in that Letter.

Then Mr. Robert Hudson was again called, and produced Book 59, indorsed as follows, " 1702 to 1727, Bengal Standing Orders."

Then the Witness was asked,

Q. Is that a Letter from Bengal to the Court of Directors?

A. No.

Q. What is it?

A. The standing Orders transmitted from Bengal at the Request or Order of the Court of Directors.

Q. Were they transmitted by Letter from the Council of Bengal to the Court of Directors?

A. They were.

Q. What is the Date of that Transmission?

A. 3d February 1728-9.

Q. Was there any subsequent Transmission of the standing Orders of Bengal to the Court of Directors here that you know of?

A. There was a subsequent Transmission of the Orders in the Year 1737.

Q. Do you know of any other Transmission since the Year 1737?

A. There is another Book of the standing Orders, brought down as low as the Year 1753.

Q. Were those likewise transmitted from Bengal?

A. From Bengal.

Q. Has there been any Transmission from Bengal since the Year 1753?

A. I believe not.

The Counsel for the Defendant stated, That in the Year 1756, when Calcutta was taken, every Muniment of this Sort was, as they understood, destroyed. They wished therefore to know whether, at the Time of Mr. Hastings being appointed to the Government, there remained subsisting on Record at Calcutta any standing Orders of this Sort denoting his Duty.

The Counsel were asked, whether they meant to found upon this any Objection to the reading of these standing Orders.

The Counsel replied, they did not; that they had no particular Objection to reading the standing Orders, if taken with this Explanation—that Mr. Hastings had no Notice of them.—In other Words, that the Orders having been destroyed in 1756, and no Renewal of them sent to the Governor and Council at Calcutta, the Managers ought to prove Notice to Mr. Hastings, or they could not affect him.

The House observed, that it appeared the standing Orders had been transmitted from 1702 to 1753, at the last of which Periods it would appear, when they came to be read, what the standing Orders of the Company to the Governor and Council at Bengal were; and that the Question, whether they came to the Notice of Mr. Hastings, was a Matter for after Consideration.

Then the Managers for the Commons, in answer to the Objection taken by the Counsel for the Defendant, desired to observe, that the Seventh Section of Stat. 13 Geo. III, c. 63, by which Mr. Hastings was appointed Governor General of Bengal, is to the following Effect, " That the whole civil and military Government of the Presidency, and also the Ordering, Management, and Government, of all the territorial Acquisitions and Revenues, &c. are thereby vested in the said Governor General and Council, &c. in like Manner, to all Intents and Purposes, as the same now are, or at any Time heretofore might have been exercised by the President and Council, or Select Committee, in the said Kingdoms." That as there was no Dispute at all concerning the Production of the Book by which the Existence of those standing Orders had been proved, the Act of Parliament attaching upon them was complete and absolute Notice of them to the Defendant.

Upon which the Counsel for the Defendant were again asked, whether they did or did not mean to object to the standing Orders, that were sent to the Company antecedent to the Year 1756, being read? The Counsel replied, that they did not object to their being read, under the Observations they had before taken the Liberty of submitting to the House. Whereupon the Managers for the Commons were informed they might proceed to read those standing Orders.

Read, the following Extract from Book 59, Page 183.

" Fort William Standing Orders, N^o 23.
Received per Stretham, 10th September 1729.

In the Com-
mission dated
26th Feb. 1702.

" Par. 4. Having heard Complaints of some Irregularities in some of the Factories of either Companies, we do strictly enjoin that all our Affairs be transacted in Council, and ordered and managed as the Majority in Council shall determine, and not otherwise upon any Pretence whatsoever, and to that End, that all of the Council do reside upon the Place; and though we hope you will be unanimous in the Pursuit of our common Interest, yet if on Occasion it happen that your Votes are equally divided, the same must be determined by Lot, as we by our new Charter are directed in such Case to do."

Then the Witness produced Book 57, indorsed, " Fort William Standing Orders, Collected for 12 Years, No. 6. Received 7th August 1739, per Wager."

Read, the following Extract.

" Per Ship Nottingham,
Dated 9th February 1736-7.

All the Com-
pany's Affairs
to be trans-
acted in Coun-
cil.

" Our Orders are, that all our Affairs should be regularly transmitted* in Council, and every Member duly summoned to attend."

The Managers for the Commons observed, That the Word "*transmitted*" was a Mistake, and should have been "*transacted*."

Then the Managers for the Commons desired the Witness might be asked,

Q. Whether the Orders which had been read, are not now considered by the East India Company as the standing Orders for the Direction of their Servants in Bengal?

A. We always consider them so.

Q. Do you happen to know if they have been varied by any subsequent Orders?

A. I do not know of any.

Q. (*Cross examined.*) Have you made any Search to see whether there were any subsequent Orders?

A. I have not; but I have gone through the Correspondence so frequently, that if there had I must certainly have known it.

Q. Whether there were not Orders contradictory to those Orders, namely, to the Order in 1702, that all the Council should reside upon the Spot; and to the Order of 1736-7, that every Member should be duly summoned to attend?

The House observed, That if there were subsequent Orders of the Company in any Manner varying from the Orders that had been read, the proper Evidence of that would be to produce them, and then the Fact would appear; but the Witness could not give distinct Evidence of what is in Writing.

The Counsel for the Defendant said, They did not ask the Question for the Purpose of giving Evidence of the subsequent Orders, but to impeach the Memory of the Witness, by leading his Recollection to Orders which varied the former Orders, though he had said there were none.

The House observed, That nothing would be concluded by whether the Witness did, or did not remember the Whole of the Records of the East India Company; that nothing turned upon it. If there were other Orders they must be produced, and then the Fact would appear.

Then the Witness produced Book 58, intitled, " Bengal Dispatches 7th January 1774 to 15th December 1775."

* Sic in Orig. See the Abstract in the Margin, and also the Extract of the Draught of the Company's General Letter to Bengal, of the 9th February 1736, *supra*, Page 106.

Read,

Read, the following Extract, beginning at Page 49.

" 29th March 1774.

" P. 49. Instructions from the Court of Directors of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies—To Warren Hastings Esquire, Governor General, Lieutenant General John Clavering, the Honourable George Monson, Richard Barwell Esquire, and Philip Francis Esquire, Counsellors, constituted and appointed the Governor General and Council of the said United Company's Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, by an Act of Parliament passed in the last Session, intituled, ' An Act for establishing certain Regulations for the better Management of the Affairs of the East India Company, as well in India as in Europe.'

Read, from same Book, Page 70.

" Par. 39. It is also our express Direction, that you not only strictly attend to the standing Orders of the Company, communicated to their Presidency of Fort William, but to all such Orders and Instructions as the Court of Directors have transmitted to the Governor and Council, or Select Committee of the said Presidency, and in an especial Manner to those which any Ways relate to forming proper Statements of our Revenues, and to the keeping of our Treasury Accounts; and if any of our Orders remain unexecuted, you are to take care that the same be carried into Execution in every Instance wherein they have not been annulled by the before mentioned Act of Parliament, or superseded by our present Orders and Instructions.

(Signed at the End)

London,
29 March 1774.

George Cuming,
Joseph Sparkes,
Pet. Lascelles,
Cha^r Boddam,
Jn^o Michie,
Cha^r Chambers, junior,
R^d Hall,
John Smith,

Edw^d Wheler,
John Harrison,
Jn^o Woodhouse,
Sam^l Peach,
Fred^k Pigou,
Daniel Wier,
W^m James,
T. B. Rous,
George Tatem."

Then the Witness produced Book 41, " intituled, Bengal Dispatches, 30th January 1778 to 28th December 1778."

Read, from Page 378 of the said Book, the 9th Paragraph of a Letter from the Court of Directors to the Governor General and Council at Fort William in Bengal, dated London, the 7th May 1778, and signed,

W^m Mills junior
Cha^r Boddam,
Sam^l Peach,
Tho^r Cheap,
G. Tatem,
R^d Hall,
Rob^t Gregory,
Jn^o Woodhouse,

G. Wombwell,
W^m James,
Ben. Booth,
Joseph Sparkes,
J. Purling,
Jn^o Michie,
Rich^d Becher,
W. Devaynes,

L. Sullivan.

" Par. 9. As we do not intend that our Governor General shall at any Time exercise Military Command beyond the Limits of the Garrison of Fort William, it is our Order, that whenever the said Governor General shall find it necessary to be absent from the Presidency, his usual and accustomed Body Guard only shall attend him, and remain under his Command during such Absence as aforesaid; and the same Rule is to be observed respecting every President and Governor at our other Settlements."

Then the Managers for the Commons stated, That there was another Chasm left in the Evidence of Yesterday respecting the Recall of Mr. Fowke, and the Appointment of Mr. Markham to be Resident at Banaris, which they should now supply, in order to shew the Intention and View of Mr. Hastings in making that Appointment, and in his subsequent Journey to Banaris.

Then the Witness produced Book 54, intituled, " Bengal Secret Council, from 4th January to 29th March 1781."

Read,

Read, the following Extract from a Consultation of 14th January 1781, beginning at Page 133 of the said Book.

" Fort William, 14th January 1781.

" At a Council; Present,
The Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, President;
and Edward Wheler Esquire.

Lieutenant General Sir Eyre Coote, K. B. absent on Command at Fort St. George.

" The Governor General delivers in the following Minute.

" Governor General.—While this Government is charged with such extensive Concerns, and hath to contend with Difficulties equal perhaps to those in which even the supreme Administration of the British Empire is at this Period involved, it may at least claim as a Right what, under any other System of Government that hath ever yet existed, would be imposed on it as * indispensable Obligation, to employ and exercise the Powers which are inherent in its Constitution, and which are immediately necessary to the Support, and eventually to the Existence of those essential Interests which it holds in Charge. On this Principle I claim the Right of nominating the Agent, of my own Choice, to the Residency of Benares. It is a Representative Station, and cannot, without a Contradiction, be the Charge of a Man not preferably chosen to it, by the Members of the actual Government, and holding it by an Authority independent of theirs. Speaking for myself alone, it may be sufficient to affirm, that Mr. Francis Fowke is not my Agent; that I cannot give him my Confidence; that, while he continues at Benares, he stands as a Screen between the Raja and this Government, instead of an Instrument of Controul; and that the Raja himself, and every Chief in Hindostan, with whom we are in Connection, will regard it as the Pledge and Foundation of his Independance.

* Sic in Orig.

" To Mr. Fowke himself I have no personal Objection: I approve his Conduct, and esteem his Character; and I believe that I might depend upon his exact and literal Obedience and Fidelity in the Execution of the Functions annexed to it. My Objection I have stated above, and it is insuperable.

" The Person whom I have chosen to succeed him I consider as standing in the same Degree of Confidence and Estimation with Mr. Wheler as myself. I adopted him (if I may so express myself) from his Family and Patronage, and assigned him an Office of the highest Trust near my own Person, with Mr. Wheler's Approbation; and from a Foresight of the Event which has since made us the Copartners of this Government, and which suggested to me the Propriety of employing such Agents as would be agreeable to him, while they possessed the other Requisites for my own Confidence. I therefore think him, on every Consideration, the fittest to fill the Office in Question.

" I therefore move that Mr. Francis Fowke be immediately removed from the Residency of Benaras, and that Mr. William Markham may be appointed to it in his Stead.

" While I thus acquit myself of what I conceive to be a public Duty, it is my Desire at the same Time to indemnify Mr. Fowke from the Consequences personally attending it towards him.

" I therefore move, that he be at the same Time invested with the Appointment of Agent for the Provision of all Boats to be employed for the Military Services of this Establishment, with an Allowance of a Commission of 15 per Cent. upon all his Disbursements in this Office; that the executive Charge thereof take Place from the Period of the Expiration of Colonel Morgan's present Contract, and that until that Time, and for Three Months following it, he be allowed to draw his present Allowance of 1000 Rupees per Month.

" I propose this Method in preference to a Contract, because I am convinced from Experience, that the Service will be better performed by this Alteration, although it is liable to one material Objection in its natural Influence on his Expences. This is a Defect which can only be corrected by the Probity of the Person who is entrusted with so important a Charge; and I am willing to have it understood, as a Proof of the Confidence which I repose in Mr. Fowke, that I have proposed this Appointment in Opposition to a general Principle to a Trust so constituted.

" I move also that Mr. John Benn be appointed Assistant to the Resident at Benaras.

" Mr. Wheler delivers in the following Minute.

" Mr. Wheler.—I accede to the Propriety of the Governor General's Arguments, and think them particularly applicable to the present State of this Government. I am also highly flattered by the Choice the Governor General has made of a Gentleman to fill this important Station, who was formerly under my Patronage, and who is still in my Confidence: But as Mr. Fowke has not yet signified his Willingness to accept of the Compensation proposed to him in Exchange for his present Appointment, I must decline giving my Assent to his immediate Removal.

" The Governor General's Motion being agreed to,

" Resolved, That Mr. William Markham be accordingly appointed Resident at Benaras, and Mr. John Benn his Assistant.

" Resolved, That Mr. Francis Fowke be invested with the Appointment of Agent for the Provision of all Boats to be employed for the Military Services of this Establishment, with an Allowance of a Commission of 15 per Cent. upon all his Disbursements in this Office, the executive Charge of which is to take Place from the Period of the Expiration of Colonel Morgan's present Contract; and that to that Time, and for Three Months following it, he be permitted to draw his present Allowance of 1000 Rupees per Month.

Then the Managers for the Commons stated, That this closed the Evidence which had been left unfinished on the preceding Day; and they should now proceed upon the remaining Part of the Article; but that before they entered upon the Evidence relative to the Capture of Bidjegur, they would prove one Circumstance in Illustration of that Part of the Charge which respected the Proceedings at Benares.

They desired the House to recollect, that it had been stated as a particular Severity to put an Hindoo under Arrest*; therefore they would now produce a Letter from Shujah ul Dowlah to Mr. Hastings, the Governor General, where that Sentiment was expressed, and which Sentiment had actually been put upon Record by Mr. Hastings himself. Introductory to which, they added, it might be proper to inform them, that in 1773 Mr. Hastings made a Journey to the Upper Provinces; that he there concerted various Schemes with the Vizeer, among the rest a Scheme for the Extirpation of the Rohillas; that Colonel Champion commanded the British Army upon that Expedition; that the Vizeer complained of the Colonel by Letter to the Board, upon the Receipt of which he was put upon his Defence; and this was the Letter.

* Vide printed Articles, Page 6.

The Commons further stated, That they produced this Extract to shew, by the best Evidence they thought the Nature of the Thing would admit, that the Disgrace of the Rajah Cheyt Sing was in the Eyes of all the Europeans, and People of Hindostan, particularly severe to him.

The Witness produced Book 60, intituled, "Fort William Country Correspondence, received from 1st January to 29th December 1774."

Read, Extract of a Letter from the Nabob Sujah ul Dowlah to the Governor General, received on the 28th November 1774, as follows:

"My Friend,

"The Case is, that all the Infantry in my Service know the Custom of the Army, that if any One commits a Fault, he will be imprisoned for it, and think nothing of being put under a Guard; but there are other Hindostanies, and the Nejeeb Battalions, and others in my Service, who consider it as the highest Disgrace to be put under a Guard; and if any one attempts it, they will defend themselves against it, and rather lose their Lives than submit to such a Dishonour."

Then the Managers for the Commons stated, That they wished now to call the Attention of the House to the Letters or Orders issued by Mr. Hastings to Colonel Popham, respecting the Attack of Bidjegur and the Prize Money; previously remarking, that the First Letter they should produce would be read from a Copy, without either Address or Conclusion. They observed, it had been contended this was a Letter of a private Nature; that it had begun, "Dear Sir," and concluded in the same Manner: and Mr. Hastings having shewn he intended to make that Distinction between public Orders and private Letters, they should read it, subject to the following Observation; that no doubt the House would judge from the Letter itself, without regarding Addresses or Conclusions.

Then the Witness produced Book 17, intituled, "Bengal Public Consultations, from the 23d May to the 3d July 1782;" and the Managers for the Commons desired an Extract of a Consultation held on the 23d May 1782, beginning at Page 12, might be read.

The Counsel for the Defendant wished that the Introduction to the said Extract might be read.

Read, the following Extracts, beginning at Page 7 of the said Book.

"Fort William, 23d May 1782.

Pub. Dept.
Thursday.

"At a Council; Present,

The Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, Governor General, President.

Edward Wheler,

and John Macpherson,

} Esquires.

Lieutenant General Sir Eyre Coote, K. B. absent on Duty at Fort St. George.

("* The Governor General delivers in the following Minute, and begs Leave to record his Correspondence with Major Popham on the Subject.

"23d May 1782.

The Governor General's Minute and Correspondence with Major Popham.

"Governor General.—I am much affected by the Letter which has been addressed by the Officers of Major Popham's late Detachment in reply to the Demand made on them by the Board in their General Orders of the 23d of February. They declare, that, upon a Reference

* Vide Note supra, Page 66.

“ to my Letters, dated the 22d of October and 3d of November 1781, they cannot but be of Opinion, that they (*i. e.* those Letters) clearly and incontestibly invested Major Popham with full Power to order a Distribution of the Effects and Treasure found in the Fort of Bidjey Ghur. They remind me of the Conduct of the Troops, of which I myself have been an Eye Witness, and to whom every Degree of Merit has been repeatedly allowed; adding, “ how sensibly must the Honourable Governor General himself be affected, were he to see the Reward which he held out to those Troops taken from them by that very Power to whom they have looked up for Encouragement !” And they express their Hope, that “ the Board will be induced to permit them peaceably to enjoy what it is apparent from the whole Tenor of my Conduct I wished them to possess.”

“ I yet acknowledge, with a Conviction of the Obligation unchanged by the Reproach of it, the spirited and effectual Services which were performed by the Officers of Major Popham’s late Detachment, and the Zeal which excited them. I receive and confirm their Attestation of the Wishes which were uniformly manifested by me, to bestow on them a Reward adequate to their Merits; and even that, though with some Difference in the Mode, which they assumed for themselves. But I deny that I ever “ invested Major Popham with a full Power,” or with any Power to order a Distribution of the Effects and Treasure found in the Fort, or that I had any such Intention, or that the Words which have been quoted from my Letters to prove it, are or can be taken in that Sense by any Construction, however forced.

“ When I left Benares, I had Hopes given me of a very different Termination of this Affair; I therefore suppressed the Letters which had passed between me and Major Popham respecting it. These are now become necessary for my Justification, and for that Purpose I do not, without much Reluctance, lay them in their connected Order before the Board, requesting that Copies of the other Papers which have been recorded on this Subject may be added to them by the Secretary, and that the Whole may be transmitted by the next Dispatches to the Court of Directors.

“ Notwithstanding the Want of Respect which has been shewn to me by the Officers of Major Popham’s Detachment, I yet feel to warm a Remembrance of their Services, that I am unwilling to trust to the Equality of my own Judgment, in proposing the Step which may be proper to be taken for asserting the Rights of the Company, the Authority of Government, or the relative Claims of the Officers to a Participation of the Treasure and other Plunder acquired by the Surrender of Bidjey Ghur.

“ I will confess, that I am not solicitous to compel the Officers to refund all the Money which they have assumed; it would perhaps, with all the Aid of the Law, be impossible; nor am I now very anxious for the Use of it on Loan. We have it, though not immediately under its proper Term, nor tendered, as it ought to have been, by the Officers themselves.

“ The Points which I am most anxious to obtain are, the Establishment of the Right in whatever Manner, and a fair Distribution. I can scarce suppress a Degree of Resentment, even at this Distance of Time, when I reflect that many Officers to whom the Service was most indebted for the Reduction of the Province of Benares, and even this Government perhaps to its Existence, have been shared out by others who had no Part in any of the essential Actions of the Campaign, but came in just at the Close of it, to make their Fortunes by Treasures, in the Seizure of which the successful Exertions of others had enabled them to participate.

“ I must particularly refer to the Case of Major Crabb, whose Exclusion dishonours the Decision which passed it; I will not enumerate others.

“ I entreat the Board, for the Reasons which I have already alleged, to spare me the painful Office of proposing what may be necessary for their Conduct in this Business, presuming that they are now in Possession of all the Materials required for proceeding upon it.”) §

Here the Managers for the Commons observed, That as the House were now in Possession of the Manner and Cause of the Letters they were about to read being introduced upon the Consultation, it would save Time to state the Use and Purpose they intended to make of them.

Then they stated, That there were Two Charges against Mr. Hastings, relative to the Prize Money: one, that he did illegally grant that Prize Money, and the Effect it produced; the other, that he afterwards faithlessly endeavoured to take it away: That having premised this now, they should probably not find it necessary to trouble the House with any further Observations upon that Head.

Then the Clerk proceeded to read as follows:

“ To Major Popham, commanding before Bidjegur.

“ Benares, the 22d October 1781, 10 o’Clock P. M.

☞ [“ I am this Instant favoured with yours of Yesterday. Mine to you of the same Date has before this Time acquainted you with my Resolutions and Sentiments respecting the Rannee. I think every Demand she has made to you, except that of Safety and Respect for her Person, is unreasonable. If the Reports brought to me are true, your rejecting her Offers, or any Negotiation with her, would soon obtain you Possession of the Fort upon your own Terms. I apprehend that she will contrive

contrive to defraud the Captors of a considerable Part of the Booty, by being suffered to retire without Examination; but this is your Consideration, and not mine: I should be sorry that your Officers and Soldiers lost any Part of the Reward to which they are so well entitled, but I cannot make any Objection; as you must be the best Judge of the Expediency of the promised Indulgence to the Rannee. What you have engaged for I will certainly ratify; but as to permitting the Rannee to hold the Pergunnah of Kurteek, or any other in the Zemindary, without being subject to the Authority of the Zemindar, or any Lands whatever, or indeed making any Conditions with her for a Provision, I will never consent to it.

I am, &c.

(Signed) Warren Hastings."

" N. B. The initial and concluding Addresses of this Letter are omitted in the only Copy of it preserved by the Governor, but he knows that the Letter was familiar and not official."

" Dear Major,

" Benares, the 3d November 1781.

" My Duan Contoo Bouboo has shewn me a Letter addressed to him from Panna, the Mother of Cheit Sing, intreating his Intercession that she may be relieved from the Hardships and Dangers of her present Situation, and offering to surrender the Fort of Bidjgur, and the Treasure and valuable Effects contained in it, provided she can be assured of Safety and Protection to her Person and Honour, and to that of her Family and Attendants; and that Contoo himself will undertake to conduct her out of the Fort to such Place of Security as she shall choose. As this Offer affords a Prospect of your obtaining Possession of the Fort, and the Wealth which it contains, without further Loss or Delay, I have judged it proper to accept it, and directed Contoo to repair to your Camp immediately with as many Doolies and Cauhrs as can be collected for the Conveyance of Panna, her Family, and such Necessaries as are indispensable to Women of their Condition.

" You will be pleased, when Contoo arrives with you, to send a Messenger of your own, accompanied with one from him, to acquaint Panna that I have sent him conformably to her Request, to receive and conduct her with Safety and Honour to whatever Place she may choose as her Residence, and that I am willing to grant her now the same Conditions to which I at first consented, provided that she delivers into your Possession, within Twenty-four Hours from the Time of receiving your Message, the Fort of Bidjgur, with the Treasure and Effects lodged therein by Cheyt Sing, or any of his Adherents, with the Reserve only as abovementioned of such Articles as you shall think necessary to her Sex and Condition, or as you shall be disposed of yourself to indulge her with. If she complies, as I expect she will, it will be your Part to secure the Fort and the Property it contains, for the Benefit of yourself and Detachment. I have only further to request, that you'll grant an Escort, if Panna should require it, to conduct her here, or wherever she may choose to retire to. But should she refuse to execute the Promise she has made, or delay it beyond the Term of Twenty-four Hours, it is my positive Injunction, that you immediately put a Stop to any further Intercourse or Negotiation with her, and on no Pretext to renew it. If she disappoints or trifles with me, after I have subjected my Duan to the Disgrace of returning ineffectually, and of course myself to Discredit, I shall consider it as a wanton Affront and Indignity which I can never forgive, nor will I grant her any Conditions whatever, but leave her exposed to those Dangers which she has chosen to risque, rather than trust to the Clemency and Generosity of our Government. I think she cannot be ignorant of these Consequences, and will not venture to incur them; and it is for this Reason I place a Dependence on her Offers, and have consented to send my Duan to her.

Yours, &c.

" (Signed) Warren Hastings."

" Dear Sir,

Camp, Bijee Ghur, 10th November 1781.

" I have the Honour to inform you, that last Night about Twelve o'Clock, the Grenadiers took Possession of the Western Gate of Bijee Ghur, after the Rannee had played with and deceived us from Ten o'Clock in the Morning, when she had agreed that it should have been given up to us.

" Permit me to request your Orders, Sir, with respect to the future Disposition of the Troops; and at the same Time, to beg Major Gardiner may have the carrying on what Works shall be judged necessary for the Repairs of the Fort of Bijee Ghur, as it is with the greatest Truth I assure you we are much indebted to his Labours and Services for the Fall of the Place.

The Honourable
Warren Hastings Esq.

" I have the Honour to be,

" with the greatest Respect, &c.

" (Signed) W^m Popham."

" Dear Sir,

Camp Bijee Ghur, 12th November 1781.

" I did myself the Honour, the Day before Yesterday, to inform you of the Surrender of this Place, and the Situation of Affairs at that Time.

" The Rhannee came out of the Fort with her Family and Dependants the 10th at Night, owing to which such Attention was not paid to her as I wished; and I am exceedingly sorry to inform you

you that the Licentiousness of our Followers was beyond the Bounds of Controul; for, notwithstanding all I could do, her People were plundered on the Road of most of the Things which they brought out of the Fort, by which Means one of the Articles of Surrender has been much infringed. The Distress I have felt upon this Occasion cannot be expressed, and can only be allayed by a firm Performance of the other Articles of the Treaty, which I shall make it my Business to enforce.

"The Suspicions which the Officers had of Treachery, and the Delay made to our getting Possession, had enraged them as well as the Troops so much, that the Treaty was at first regarded as void; but this Determination was soon succeeded by Pity and Compassion for the unfortunate besieged.

"The Women are now in Tents at a little Distance from the Camp, with a proper Safeguard; and I have sent into the Fort for those Conveniencies which are necessary to their Situation; and the Rhannee will have her Share of Fifteen per Cent. exactly paid her. She will remain here until such Time as Bearers and Carriages can be procured to convey her to Benares, where she wishes to reside, but she earnestly begs that she may not be dependant upon the old Rhannee, the new Rajah, or Oussaun Sing.]—She tells me that she has a House at Benares (that I believe in which the Nabob Saadut Ally now lives), also another at Gungapore about four Cose from the City. Both these she hopes for from your Indulgence, and, for future Support, she most humbly submits to your Generosity. Cantoo Baboo is with the Rhannee; and as she has particularly requested that Captain Scott may pitch his Tent near hers, and accompany her on her Way to Benares, I have consented, and he will move accordingly.

"I have to request that you will give Orders for such a Number of Bearers and Coolies as can be collected, to be sent here immediately to conduct the Rhannee and her Family, &c. who are in all about Three hundred Women, besides Children. Thirty or Forty Coupalas will also be necessary; and if some Bazaar is likewise sent, it will make the Journey perfectly convenient. I shall furnish a sufficient Escort. Every Means is taking to procure Bearers here, but I fear this Country will afford but very few, on which Account I hope many will come from Benares.

"Dhouda Buggut may justly be said to have occasioned the Rhannee's Sufferings, as he caused the Delay in the Surrender of the Fort. Bogwisdial the Buxey, on the contrary, acted with the greatest Honour; and should he survive the Fever he is now ill of, I think he will merit the Attention of Government. Chumput Roy also demands Praise for the Sufferings which his Attachment to our Government has drawn on him. He is likewise with the Rhannee.

"I have the Honour to be, with high Respect, &c.

(Signed)

W^m Popham."

"The Honourable Warren Hastings Esq.

"To Major Popham.

"Sir,

Chunar, 14th November 1781.

"I have received your Letter of the 12th, and sincerely congratulate you on the easy Conquest which you have made of Bidjy Gur.

"It gives me great Concern that the Licentiousness of any Persons under your Command should have given Cause to complain of the Infringement of the smallest Article of the Capitulation in favour of the Mother of Cheyt Sing and her Dependants. I hope you will discover the Offenders, and oblige them to make Restitution, and also punish them in the most exemplary Manner. I rely on your Humanity and Justice to make her all the Recompence in your Power, by a scrupulous Attention to enforce the Performance of the remaining Stipulations in her Favour.

"Bearers, Coolies, and other Conveyances have been ordered for the Women and their Effects. The Mother of Cheyt Sing, her Family and Attendants, may reside wherever she pleases; and she shall be put in Possession of such Houses as are her own immediate Property.

"The Subject on which I am now to write is a very disagreeable and painful one to me, but indispensable. I have received Information which, though private, is certainly authentic, that you have already distributed One Dividend of the Treasure found in Bidjy Gur amongst the Officers and Troops on the Spot. If this be true, I am very sorry for it, as, on many Considerations, it appears to me that such Distribution is premature. I apprehend that it is a Proposition not to be disputed, that every Thing acquired by the Arms of a State belongs to the State which employed those Arms. By Charters and Acts of Parliament, the sole Right to all Conquests or Captures made by the Company's Arms were vested in the Company. It was however my Intention to have used my utmost Authority and Influence to have obtained for the Troops engaged in the Service against Cheyt Sing the whole Booty which might be found in Bidjy Gur or other Places. I regarded it as the due Reward of their Services, and Recompence of their Sufferings, but I never meant that they should seize it and scramble for it. Besides, if the actual Right was in the Army, at a Time like this, when the Exigencies of the Company are so great, surely they might have expected to have benefited by the immediate Use of it as a Loan. I had, I must own, such Confidence in your Discretion, that I did expect, if the Treasure found in the Fort should prove very considerable, you would not have proceeded to any Distribution of it until you had reported the Amount to the Board, and obtained their Sanction for appropriating it to the Troops, or at least that you would have represented it to me, as I am so near you.

" It gives me still greater Concern to learn that you have excluded from any Benefit in this valuable Capture all the Troops not immediately acting in the Siege of Bidjgur. I have received a strong Representation from the Officers of Major White's Regiment of their Claim to an equal Share with the Troops composing your Detachment; and when I consider the Services and Sufferings of that Regiment, I cannot help being of Opinion that their Title is good. You will recollect that it was the first employed, and was exposed in Two Actions, where only Danger and Honour were to be expected; that it marched to our Relief at Benares, and has ever since been furnishing Detachments and Escorts to facilitate the Success of your Operations. Surely neither Justice nor Generosity will admit that a partial Distribution of Benefits should take place amongst Corps engaged in the same Service, and co-operating to the same Effect, because a Part of them happen to be employed at a Distance from the Place where such Benefits are immediately obtained. It will hardly be supposed by those Claimants that you could have overlooked their Pretensions, or not have expected that they would have urged them; and they will interpret so precipitate a Division of the Booty into a Design of precluding them from any Share in it. Whatever may be the Decision of the Board respecting the Treasure in Question, the Claim of the 6th Regiment is unquestionably as just as that of the actual Captors. I must therefore require of you to suspend any further Dividend or Distribution until the Orders of the Board respecting it are received, and I desire you will order and require the Officers, who have already shared, to refund the Sums which they have respectively received, and acquaint them if they do not they will be responsible to Government, and that such Sums, as well as what shall remain, are and must be subject to the final Decision of the Board.

" Let me add, as a Suggestion worth your Attention, that if you do persist to decide by your own Authority on the Claims of the Captors, you may, and I foretell that this will assuredly prove so, withdraw the Question from our immediate Government to make it a National Concern. You might have expected every partial Regard from the Board, from myself especially, who have been a personal Object of your Operations, which we could legally bestow; and whatever we had decreed on so meritorious an Occasion would have received the undoubted Approval of the Company, with whom it would have finally rested; or have fallen, with their Displeasure, if they had not approved it, on us alone.

" I am, &c.

(Signed)

Warren Hastings."

" To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, Governor General, &c.

" Sir,

" Yesterday Evening I was honoured by your Letter, without Date, too late to reply to it by the Return of the Dawk.

" My most earnest Endeavours have been used in performing every Article of the Treaty of Capitulation in Favour of the Mother of Cheit Sing; and she will have the Whole of, if not more than, those Effects, &c. which were agreed to be given up. I have provided as many Bearers, Doolies, and other Conveyance, as will suffice for her Journey to Benares, which she began this Day, accompanied, at her own particular Request, by Captain Scott and Cantoo Baboo. I could have wished her to remain a Day or two longer, till more Conveniencies could have been provided; but as she was exceedingly anxious to move, I did not think it advisable to prevent her.

" It gives me the most sincere Concern to find, that a Conduct, which I flattered myself would have met with your Approbation, has unfortunately incurred your Displeasure; but I am the more sensibly hurt, as the Letters I had the Honour to receive from you, before this, gave me every Reason to suppose that you were of Opinion the Effects and Money in Bijee Ghur should immediately become the Property of the Captors, which Idea, so correspondent to my own and all the Officers Wishes, occasioned the Conduct I pursued.

" Alluding to the then proposed Capitulation, in your Letter of the 22d October, you are pleased to say, " I apprehend, that she will contrive to defraud the Captors of a considerable Part of the Booty, by being suffered to retire without Examination; but this is your Consideration, and not mine. I should be sorry that your Officers and Soldiers lost any Part of the Reward to which they are so well entitled."

" In the Letter which I was honoured with on the 3d instant, you are pleased to give me the following Order, on the Supposition that the Rhannee would surrender the Fort:—" It will be your Part to secure the Fort, and the Property it contains, for the Benefit of yourself and Detachment; and I have only further to request, that you will grant an Escort to Panna, should she require it, to conduct her here, or wherever she may chuse to retire to."

" Convinced before of the Justness of the Detachment's Claims to the Property in the Fort, your so cheerful and positive Acquiescence in the Opinion made me doubly happy to share amongst the Officers and Troops the Reward of their Services; and the Order conveyed to me in the last Extract from your Letter made me do it immediately, before a Separation of the Troops should take Place, which I regarded as the best Security against Jealousies and Suspicions that might naturally arise, in case of Delay.

" Before the Fall of the Fort it was determined, agreeable to the general Sense of the Officers, that the Seniors should form a Committee for the Distribution of the Shares. Major Moses Crawford,

furd, the First of the Number, accordingly was appointed to command the Party to take Possession of the Fort. The other Members of the Committee went in with him, and have held the whole Power in their Hands ever since, without my having the smallest Interference, except to demand the stipulated Effects and Share of every Thing for the Rhannee.

" It would be disrespectful, as well as unnecessary, for me to enter into Arguments with you, Sir, concerning the Rights of the Company, from Charters and Acts of Parliament in their Favour; but even allowing, for the present, that the Right of Plunder was vested in the Company, I apprehend that your Order to secure the Fort, and the Property in it, for the Use of myself and Detachment, was a sufficient Authority for my sharing the Capture among the Officers and Troops under my Command; but more especially as the Minutes of Council, issued in General Orders, vested you with the full Powers of the Board; and, of course, any Decision you made was regarded as a final one of the Supreme Council.

" The Officers of the Detachment regarded also your generous and impartial Determination in their Favour with Veneration and Gratitude, as it saved them the Anxiety of Suspence, and was a Mark of your Approbation of their Services; yet, at the same Time, they did not admit a Doubt of the Contents of the Fort of Bidjie Ghur being their Prize.

" With respect to the Exigencies of the Company, every Officer of the Detachment would, I dare say, be ready to administer singly to their Convenience, as their Circumstances would allow; but to give in One Sum the Whole of their Property, without its being properly divided, they did not think would be expected, as a general Bond surely cannot be esteemed sufficient Security for every Individual.

" Regarding the Exclusion of Major White's Regiment, the Committee of Distribution will undoubtedly give Reasons for their Conduct, and the Officers of that Regiment will then be able to judge how far the Exclusion has been just, which, I believe, has been regulated by Custom.

" The Plunder being shared, and become the present Property of the different Sharers, I do not think myself competent to give an Order for a Refund. The Officers and Troops will judge how far they are liable to answer to Government for having received it. The Decision of the Board will, I am certain, be received with that respectful Attention it is their Duty to pay; and I beg Leave, Sir, to offer you my sincere Thanks for your promised Influence to make it favourable.

" From the Usages of all Services I have ever heard of, and had the Honour of being employed in, I was firmly of Opinion that the Right of Plunder was vested in the Captors. The Instances of Plunder being shared in this and other Countries, without any prior Application to the Members of Government, have been many; and it would be only, Sir, intruding on your Patience to enumerate them. I will therefore only add, ever happy in the Assurance of your Esteem and Friendship, that I hope, from your Indulgence, the Claims on the Part of the Company to be withdrawn; and that from your Acquiescence and Favour we may obtain the quiet Enjoyment of what, I have every Reason to believe, you will not think unworthy the Services of myself and the Troops under my Command.

" I have the Honour to be, with every Sense of Respect,

" Sir, &c.

" Camp near Bijee Ghur, 16th Nov. 1781.

(Signed) William Popham."

" To Major Popham.

" Sir,

Chunargur, Nov. 18th, 1781.

" I have this Day received your Letter of the 16th instant. Since my private Letters have been received and quoted as Authority, I regret that they were not more guardedly written, and yet more that they were written at all. Their obvious Construction is, that I myself considered the Plunder of Bidjygar as so much the due Reward of the Officers and Soldiers whose Services had earned it, that I expressed it as decidedly theirs. Had my Letters been official, or intended for the strict Interpretation which you have given to them, I should have declared the same Sentiments in Substance, but in more warrantable Language. It is most probable that I should have signified my Opinion that the Officers and Soldiers were entitled to share between them the Whole of the Treasure and valuable Effects taken in Bidjygar; not as theirs by any positive or declared Law, or by the Right of Custom, but as the Effect of that Claim which Merit has to optional Bounty; that if the Amount had been even considerable, but not enormously great, I might have exercised the Authority with which I have been invested, to allow the immediate Distribution of it, that no Part of its Effect might be lost by Delay; but that if the Sum was so great as to become a public Object, I should certainly have hoped, that to remove the popular Envy which might attend its Appropriation to the Benefit of Individuals, it might have been tendered by the Officers themselves for the immediate Relief of the Company in the present Distress, on Loan, for Bonds severally granted to each Sharer, not, as you supposed would be necessary, to the Whole collectively; which, as the Company's Bonds are negotiable, would have as effectually secured their Property in them, as if the Sums charged to each Bond had been actually lent in the common Mode; but, at all Events, if I had thought it proper to refer the final Decision to the Board, I should have taken upon myself the first Responsibility of the Gift, by advising it, and by becoming the Advocate of the

the Army for obtaining an Act of the Board for that Purpose. I am myself, knowing the Characters of the Gentlemen actually composing that Body, perfectly assured that they would have as heartily joined with me in such a Resolution, as I was disposed to propose it.

" If you thought my Letters conveyed the Sanction which you seem to attribute to them, I am sorry that you did not avail yourself of your inire Knowledge of my private Sentiments, however conveyed to you upon the same Subject; and I must now request that you will enable me to make them known to those, who, from this partial Selection of them, may have acquired a Right to be possessed of the Whole, by furnishing me with Copies of the Letters which have been written by my Secretary Major Palmer, as declaratory of them; particularly One dated the 10th November, which, I believe, comprises my Opinion and Wishes in the fullest and most positive Terms.

" It has been intimated to me, that a Suspicion, that the Treasure found in Bidjgur might, if reported before its Distribution, have been wholly taken by Government for the Benefit of the Company, was the Cause and Motive for the precipitate Division of it. I own it has that Appearance; and I am sufficiently mortified by the Idea which this Construction suggests of the Opinion which you must have entertained of my Sincerity, if you countenanced such a Precaution, since the Passages in my Letters, which you have quoted as ascertaining the Right of the Army, were, under a more favourable Supposition, more likely to have operated as Encouragements to apply for a Sanction to receive it with the Assurance of Success, than to seize it before it could be disputed.

" I am sorry that I am constrained to appear in a Character so different from that in which I hoped to have shewn myself, in Opposition to an Act done for the Benefit of the Army, instead of being the Instrument of promoting their Interest; I must bear, as I can, the Mortification of my present Disappointment, and satisfy myself with the Consciousness that I have been, and the Assurance that they will find it, by the Event, their best Friend and Adviser.

" In the mean Time you have declared, that the " Plunder being shared, and become the present Property of the different Sharers, you do not think yourself competent to give an Order for " a Refund." I am compelled by the Sense of my public Duty to protest, and I hereby protest against the Distribution, not as the Act of the Officers whom you have constituted a Committee for that Purpose, but as yours, the sole and whole Authority being yours, and Responsibility unalienably vested in you. I protest against the Exclusion of the others in Benefit of their own Pretensions, and against the Power granted them for that Purpose, as repugnant to the Principles of Natural Justice, which forbid that Men shall be Judges in their own Causes, when a superior Judgment can be obtained.

" I shall prepare the Materials of this Transaction for the Information of the Board, but shall wait for your Answer, before I finally dispatch them.

" Sir,

" With the greatest Respect, &c.

" (Signed)

Warren Hastings."

" N. B. To this Letter I never received any Answer."

" To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, Governor General.

" Honourable Sir,

" It is with the sincerest Regret we are informed by Major Popham, that the Distribution of the Prize Money taken at Bidjee Ghur is repugnant to your Ideas of Propriety and Justice.

" We did conceive that any Money and Effects (Warlike Stores excepted) taken consequent to a Capitulation, was the undoubted Property of those whose Lives were risked in the Acquisition.

" Consequent to your Order, any farther Participation is suspended, but we trust, from your Candour and Generosity, you will permit us to retain the Residue of what we had always understood you had regarded as our Property, and which now would have been untouched, had not your (supposed) Approval seemingly established the Rectitude of our Claim as incontestible. But, abstracted from this imaginary Admission of our Right, we were influenced to believe that no Doubt existed as to the Validity of our Pretensions, from many reiterated Precedents in Point occurring to our Reflection to confirm them.

" It is not to be imagined that Military Men are acquainted with the Niceties of Legal Distinction, the Usage of the Service can be their only Guide; and if they adhere strictly to that, and yet err, we do not apprehend that any just Imputation of Guilt can result from their Ignorance.

" Respecting a Resumption of the Sum already received, we fear it is impossible, the greatest Portion being already alienated; but we are very ready to submit what remains to your entire Disposal.

" As to the Claim of the First Battalion of Major White's Regiment (Captain Blair's) it was admitted the Moment the Case was clearly understood; but in respect to the other Battalion of that Regiment, we beg Leave to suggest the following Reasons for its Exclusion.

" In the First Place, a Return of that Corps, since the Commencement of the present Service, has never been transmitted to Major Popham; neither has Captain M'Dougall ever received any

official

official Instructions from him whatever : Secondly, a Return of that Battalion has never been included in the General Returns transmitted to you, the Commander in Chief, or Military Secretary, as any Part composing this Detachment : And, thirdly, we believe it to be strictly conformant to Military Regulations, that Officers commanding Corps do return monthly to their immediate Commanding Officers, as well as to the Commandant of the Regiment or Brigade to which such Corps are attached.

" That Captain M'Dougal has made a Return to Major White (as is customary) we do not pretend to dispute ; and does it not then inevitably follow that the same Rule should have been observed in respect to Major Popham, had Captain M'Dougal ever entertained an Idea of acting under his Command ?

" We write this, Sir, under the clearest Conviction of your Regard, Candour, and Impartiality, and beg you will do us the Justice to believe that

We are, with the greatest Esteem and Respect, &c.

C. Crawford, Lieutenant,
R. Maxwell, Captain,
Ed. Humphries, Major,
Tho^r. Townshend, Lieutenant,
J. Campbell, Lieutenant,
C. Vernon, Lieutenant,
R^d. Sands, Lieutenant, Fireworker,
R^d Morris, Lieutenant,
J. Noke, Captain,
Oliv^r Cacy, Lieutenant,
Ludovick Grant, Captain,
James Harwood Lieutenant,
Alex^r Macleod, Lieutenant,
J. H. Hutchinson, Lieutenant,
John Garstin,
E. O. Donnell, Lieutenant,
R. S. Perreau,
J. Fox Calcraft, Lieutenant,
J. P. Pigott,
G. Ball, Lieutenant,
P. Fallon,
John Gordon, Lieutenant,
B. Nofs, Lieutenant,
D. Reed, Lieutenant.

W^m Popham, Major,
Justly Hill, Captain, Artillery,
M. Crawford, Major,
A. Balfour,
James Denty, Captain,
Geo. Birrell, Lieutenant,
Alex^r Knox, Lieutenant,
R. Dumes, Captain,
J. J. Windood, Lieutenant,
Thomas Brown, Lieutenant,
W. Lane, Major,
J. Hamilton, Lieutenant,
Ja^s Gellespie, Lieutenant, Artillery,
J. Underwood, Lieutenant,
W^m Crawford, Lieutenant,
P. Stewart,
W^m Pickett, Lieutenant,
John Morrison, Lieutenant,
Robert Bell, Lieutenant,
W^m Shipton, Lieutenant, Fireworker,
J. Bellasis, Lieutenant,
B. Bruce,
David Birrell,
James Lewis Lucadon,
W^m Comyn, Lieutenant,

" Chunargur, November 30, 1781.

" To Major Popham.

" Sir,

" Expecting your Arrival at this Place some Days earlier than it happened, I have delayed my Answer to the Letter which you, and the Officers of your Detachment, did me the Honour to Address to me on the 10th Instant, on the Subject of the Claims preferred to me for a Participation in the Plunder of Bidjygar, by the Officers and Troops engaged in the Service against Rajah Cheit Sing, but not present at the Siege of that Fortress.

" In the present State of the Question, I do not think my sole Authority competent to the Acceptance of the Proposition made in the Letter. My Disposition is still more averse than my Authority is ineffectual to appear in the Character of an Arbiter, and eventually subject to that of an Opposer of the Interest of Gentlemen, whose public Services, and personal Attachment, have given them the strongest Claims to my Esteem and Support.

" It is my ardent Wish that no Altercation, or Disagreement, may ever subsist between us, and that our only Intercourse may be Justice in public, and Kindness and Cordiality in our private Relations. For these Reasons, I must decline answering the Arguments upon which the Officers have supported the Justice and Propriety of the Disposition which has been made of the Treasure and Effects. But as the Result of the Conversation which I have had with you on this Subject, promises an equitable and impartial Mode of Decision, I shall transmit the Letter to the Board, with such Observations as the Sentiments of Candour and Confidence which it contains, as well as the great Merits and Services of the Detachment, intitle the Gentlemen to expect from me.

" I am, Sir, &c.

" (Signed) Warren Hastings."

" Chunargur, 30th November 1781.

" To Major Popham.

" Sir,

" I request that you will be pleased to represent to the Officers of your Detachment, with what Reluctance I return the Presents with which they have honoured me, and which I estimated not by their intrinsic Value, considerable as they are, but as Testimonies of the Affection of a Body of Gentlemen for whom I entertain the highest and best founded Esteem and Respect.

" Nothing less than the apparent Inconsistency which my Conduct would wear in retaining Presents of such Value, after the Opinion I have delivered concerning the Property of which they compose a Part, could prevail upon me to part with the Pledges of an Attachment for which I am so solicitous. But I shall ever preserve the most grateful Remembrance of the Sentiments which those Pledges are intended to convey.

" Although I cannot accept of Presents which I consider to be a Part of Property yet undecided, I am desirous of giving the Gentlemen of the Detachment a Proof that I do not mean to decline receiving any Marks of their Regard, which I think they can with Propriety bestow, or I accept; and this Proof is afforded me, by requesting they will indulge me with the Shannierit Manuscripts which may be found in Bidjgur, where, I am informed, Rajah Cheyt Sing had made a curious and valuable Collection.

I am, Sir, &c.

(Signed) Warren Hastings."

" Read the following Letters from Captain John Hamilton,
Lieutenant P. Fallon,

. . . Falvey,

J. Campbell,

L. Ol' Carry,

C. Evelyn."

" To J. P. Auriol Esquire, Secretary to the Honourable the Governor General and Supreme Council.

" Sir,

" In Compliance to the Orders of the Honourable Board of the 18th of February last, respecting the Plunder taken in the Fortress of Bejyghur, I have the Honour to acquaint, for the Board's Information, that I am, at all Times, willing to abide by their Decision; but having incurred Debts to a considerable Amount from the Service of Eleven Years in a Subaltern Line, I, on receiving my Quota of the Prize Money, remitted it to the Liquidation of those Debts, as being present at the Capture of several more important Fortresses, the Prize Money was, without Hesitation, immediately divided among the Captors.

" 15th May 1782.

I have the Honour to subscribe myself, &c.

(Signed) John Hamilton."

Officers who
have shared in
the Distribu-
tion of the
Bejy Ghur
Prize Money.

" To J. P. Auriol Esquire, Secretary to the Honourable the Governor General and Council.

" Sir,

" I should no Doubt have done myself the Honour of addressing you respecting the Orders of the Honourable Board, under Date the 18th February, regarding the Prize Money divided amongst the Troops employed at the Siege of Bidjeeghur, had I not been upon Leave of Absence these last Two Months, during which Time I received no official Account of these Orders. This, Sir, I hope will sufficiently justify my Conduct in not earlier writing to you on the Subject. I have to request, you will be pleased to inform the Honourable Board, so far as my Abilities will admit, it shall be my constant Duty to shew them how ready I shall be to act with Zeal and Attention to their Commands. Long before any Idea was entertained that the Division of the Prize Money would not meet with the Approbation of the Honourable the Governor General and Council, I had appropriated a considerable Share of it to the Payment of my Debts which I had long owed. The Remainder has been reduced to a very small Sum by the unavoidable Accession of Expence which I have incurred in replacing the most necessary Articles thereby, to the whole Amount of my Property which I had lost in the Retreat from Mammagur. These Circumstances, I doubt not, will convince the Honourable the Governor General and Council of my Inability to repay the whole Sum; however, what little remains, I shall with Pleasure submit to their Disposal.

" I have the Honour to be, &c.

" Chunar, 26th April 1782.

(Signed)

Pat. Fallon, Lt."

" To J. P. Auriol Esq.

" Sir,

" I have received your Letter of the 2d instant, desiring to know if I am willing to submit my Right in the Share of the Booty found in Bidjgur, which I have received, to the Determination of the Honourable Governor General and Council; to which I answer, that I am, and ever shall be,

willing to abide by their Determination as far as lies in my Power ; but that prior Misfortunes, aggravated by a severe Fit of Illness, which I got at the Siege of that Fort, involved me so much in Debt that a Second Bidjgur Prize would scarcely extricate me. You know, Sir, that in the Loss of the Stafford, all the Property that every Individual had on Board was involved. It is plain, that I, as a Passenger, and going to Madras to join my Corps, did not leave much behind me, and that of Course I must have been one of those that suffered the most. I lost all I had in the World, and tho' this was not much, yet the richest of my fellow Sufferers, in a comparative Sense, could have lost no more. Prior to this Event, I was out of Debt, and easy in my Circumstances, but as a Change of Causes necessarily occasions a Change of Events, the Catastrophe of the Stafford reduced me to the Necessity of having Recourse to Friends, and borrowing Money; the Willingness with which they served me, heightened the Obligations on my Part, and I sighed after the happy Moment when I could pay them with Gratitude; this happy Moment, I thought, came at last; but after summing up all my Debts, I found my Prize Money insufficient to the Task; however, I made a proportionable Dividend of my Cash to all my Benefactors; and the Goodness of my Intentions supplied my want of Abilities for the Balance.

" Chandernagore, 12 May 1782.

I am, Sir, &c.

(Signed) M. Falvey."

" On the Service.

" To J. P. Auriol Esquire, Secretary to the Honourable the Governor General and Supreme Council.

" Sir,

" My having left Burrampore to join my Corps at this Station, has been the Cause of my not sooner answering your Letter of the 2d instant, which I have just received.

" With respect to my not having delivered in my Sentiments upon the Requisition of the Honourable the Governor General and Supreme Council, regarding the Booty found in Bidjyghur, I request Permission to inform the Honourable Board through you, that, with a Confidence of the Propriety of obeying their Orders, and a thorough Reliance upon the Equity and Generosity with which the Honourable Board would determine; nevertheless, being a very young Officer, my Anxiety to assert the Character of a Soldier, not only by a strict Obedience to the Orders of my Superiors, but by an Adherence to my Duty, in supporting whatever Claims I may be justly entitled to, urged me to look to the Conduct of my senior Officers, by whose Experience I wished to be guided. Being now called upon to answer as an Individual, I candidly confess my Opinion, that no Man of Honour can feel the least Compunction in submitting his Right to the Determination of that Honourable Board, whose Justice and Equity forms the Basis of our Government.

" A Detail of private Concerns may be looked upon as Intrusion; yet give me Leave to represent to my Honourable Masters, that being on my Way to join the Corps I was then attached to, I arrived at Banaris just at the Commencement of the Disturbances, and was immediately desired to join the Troops then with the Honourable the Governor General: That having no Land Carriage for my Effects upon the March to Chunargur, I was forced to leave all that I was possessed of in my Boat, which I * every Thing in it destroyed. I was then of Necessity obliged to run greatly in Debt, to equip myself for the Campaign. This Loss, together with paying my former Debts, and being rather extravagant, when I found it for the First Time in my Power, leaves so small a Part of the Money I received, as my Share of the Booty, in my Possession, that it could not afford the smallest Assistance to the Honourable Company in their present Situation.

" These Circumstances, the Generosity of the Honourable Board, and their Promise of liberally considering the Honourable Governor General's Letters to Major Popham, induces me to hope that the Decision of the Honourable Board will be in my Favour, as it is evident, from the above State of my Affairs, that the contrary must prove fatal to me.

" Midnapore, 14th May 1782.

" I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) John Campbell, Lieutenant,
2d Battalion 17th Regiment."

" Peter Auriol Esquire, Secretary to the Honourable the Supreme Council.

" Sir,

" I take the earliest Opportunity to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter, wherein you complain of my not having given an Answer yet to the Requisition of the Honourable the Governor General and Council, in their Minute of the 18th February last, respecting the Booty found in Bidjyghur, also of your being directed to call upon me, to know if I am willing to submit my Right in the Share I have received to their Determination.

" I now acquaint you, for the Information of the Honourable the Supreme Council, that I have, in Obedience to their Requisition of the 18th February last, given my Answer in Writing, dated 26th last Month. Whether it hath miscarried in the Dawk, or had met with an Accident through my Servant, after I had sent it there, I know not.

" The Purport of my Answer, both there and now is, that the Share of Prize I got at Bidjy-gur was given to me as my legal Right, and that by the express Authority of Major Popham; therefore I do not mean to relinquish any Part of it, nor is it in all my * Power, though I should even be inclined at this late Time; my having but a scanty Mite remaining, after first discharging all the occasional Debts which I incurred previous to my receiving it; add to that, the hasty Extravagance that such a Thing generally leads an Officer of my volatile Rank into, upon his coming to it in that Chance Way. * Sic in Orig.

" Please, Sir, to assure the Honourable the Governor General and Council, that I retain the highest Sense of Respect and Esteem for them; and I hope to be henceforth able, through a proper Attention, to shew the great Duty and Obedience I, as an Officer in the Honourable Company's Service, owe to their certain Wills and Pleasure.

" I have the Honour to be, &c.

" Borhampore, May the 15th, 1782.

(Signed) Olie' Cary, Lieutenant,
6th Regiment Sepoys."

" To J. P. Auriol Esquire, Secretary to the Honourable the Governor General and Council.

" Sir,

" I have received your Letter in the Name of the Honourable Board, and in Answer I must beg Leave to inform you, that it is out of my Power to lay the Dividend of the Prize Money I received at Bidjy-gur to the Determination of the Honourable Board; the greatest Part of it was required to discharge the Debts I had unavoidably contracted. Had I been acquainted before the 31st of March, that the Committee had no Intentions of sending an Answer in the Name of the Whole of Major Popham's Detachment, I would have sent in a separate one before. † Sic in Orig.

" I have the Honour to be, &c.

" Berhampore, May 13th, 1782.

(Signed) C. Evelyn, Lieutenant,
28th Regiment Sepoys."

" Agreed that a Committee, consisting of all the Field Officers at the Presidency, whether on Duty or otherwise, who have no Interest in the Booty taken at Beejy-gur, nor Pretensions thereto, be appointed to consider the Claims of those Officers to share in the said Booty, who, in consequence of their Exclusion by the Committee of Officers in the Division made by them on the Spot, have applied to the Board to be admitted;—that all the Papers concerning this Business in the Possession of the Board be laid before the Committee now appointed, in order to guide their Consideration; and that they be desired to report their Opinion, either establishing or rejecting the Pretensions of such Officers whose Cases may be submitted to them by the Board.

" And in order to establish the Right of the Company to the Property found in Beejy-gur upon the Surrender of that Place:

" It is resolved, that a Suit be commenced against Major Arthur Balfour, whose Name is first signed to the joint Letter, recorded in Consultation 25th April, from several of the Officers concerned in the Receipt of the said Booty, refusing to submit their Rights to the Determination of the Board."

Then the Managers for the Commons acquainted the House they would next proceed to lay before them Extracts of Two separate Letters, from Mr. Hastings, and from the Board in general, to Colonel Champion in 1774, to prove that Part of the Article which charges Mr. Hastings with having made a Demand of the Prize Money contrary to his Knowledge of what was right, and contrary to his own former Declaration *.

* Vide printed
Articles, Page
7, Par. 2.

The Witness produced Book 18, intituled, " Bengal Secret Consultations from the 3d January to the 19th September 1774."

Read, the following Extracts of a Consultation on the 3d June 1774, beginning at Page 276.

" Fort William, 3d June 1774.

Secret Dep.
Friday.

" At a Consultation; Present,

" The Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, President.

Philip M. Dacres,
James Lawrell,
John Graham,
Nichl. Grueber, } Esquires.

[" Extract of a Letter from the Honourable the Governor to Colonel Champion,
dated May 21, 1774.

" Hitherto every Part of your Conduct has met with my most entire Approbation; but there is
" One Subject which in some Measure alarms me; the very Idea of Prize Money suggests to my
" Remembrance

" Remembrance the former Disorders which arose in our Army from this Source, and had almost proved fatal to it. Of this Circumstance you must be sufficiently apprised, and of the Necessity of discouraging every Expectation of this Kind among the Troops. It is to be avoided like Poison. However, in case any considerable Capture should attend your future Operations, I think you cannot pursue a better Conduct than that which you intended; to determine nothing yourself, but acquaint the Board with the Circumstances, and wait for their Decision."

" (A true Extract.)

" (Signed) James Browne,
" Aid-de-Camp."]

" Extract of a Letter from the Honourable the Governor to Colonel Champion, dated May 28th 1774.

" I have received a Letter from the Vizier, complaining of the Claim you made to search for Treasure in Pelibeet.

" I have already expressed my Sentiments upon the Subject of Prize Money to the Army; the only Instance wherein our Troops, in the present Service, could have any Pretensions to it by the Customs of War, would be in the actual Assault of a Place by Storm; in every other Case it is clear, that the Capture becomes the sole Property of the Power carrying on the War. In the Instance of Pelibeet, which made no sort of Defence whatever, but fell with the whole Rohillah Country into the Hands of the Nabob, in Consequence of the Victory, we had no more Right to search or interfere at all in the Riches it contained, than we had to ransack every defenceless Village or House in the open Country for Plunder.

" It is true, that our General obtained that Victory, and our Troops bore the Brunt of the Action; but such was the Tenure of our Engagement with the Vizier, in Consideration of which he stipulated to pay a certain Sum to the Company, and to bear the whole Expence of the Service. His own Argument is unanswerable on this Subject; if we deprive him of the Fruits of his Conquest, we infringe the Agreement upon which the Expedition was set on foot; and he has a Right on his Side, to refuse the Payment stipulated to us, because he depended on the Fruits of his Conquest to enable him to make that Payment. I must here remark, that the Particulars of this Transaction, as mentioned by the Vizier, bear a very different Appearance from your Account of it; and that when I approved of the Conduct you intended to have pursued, it respected only your Intention of delivering up whatever might be taken to the Vizier, and waiting for the Board's Determination.

" With Respect to Pelibeet, however, and to every Capture in the present Service, except perhaps, in the Case of Plunder taken in an actual Assault, the Right is clearly the Nabob's, and will admit of no Disputation. This is my positive Decision on the Subject, which must be regarded by you as an Instruction for your Conduct, until you receive the Sentiments of the Select Committee, in case you should judge it necessary to apply to them on this Subject.

" (A true Extract)

" (Signed) James Browne,
" Aid-de-Camp."

Country Correspondence.

" The President also submits to the Board, the Translation of a Letter from the Vizier to him, giving an Account of the Claim of the Army to the Treasure supposed to have been in Pellybeet; which is read for the Information of the Board, and returned to the President.

" Read the 9th Paragraph of the Company's Orders in their general Letter of the 24th of December 1765, which are as follows:

" Extract of a General Letter from the Court of Directors, dated 24th December 1765.

Company's Orders.

" Par. 9th. To prevent this dishonourable Practice of stipulating for Services that are but the Duty of a Soldier's Profession, we positively forbid all future Stipulations by Treaty or otherwise, with any of the Country Powers, for any Donation or Gratification for Services to be performed.

Reply to Colonel Champion.

" Agreed that a Copy of these Orders be transmitted with the following Letter to Colonel Champion.

" To Colonel Alexander Champion, Commander in Chief of the Forces under the Presidency.

" Sir,

" The Letter which you addressed us from Bissonly, of the 16th Ult^o, was duly received.

" It gives us great Concern to find a Claim urged by the Army and supported by you with no inconsiderable Degree of Warmth, which we deem equally improper, and at this Time ill founded. We cannot admit of any Right in the Troops to a Share of the Treasures which the Vizier may acquire in the Rohilla Country. He is the Principal in the War, and to him every Acquisition of Right belongs, Treasure and Effects as well as Territory. We know that by the Usage of War, the Plunder that falls immediately under the Soldiers Hand, in the Storming of any City or Camp, is left with them, but we believe that in no Country or State there is a Right acknowledged in the Army to any further Share of the Fruits of Conquest. There are indeed Instances where the Sovereign

Sovereign, in particular Services, grants a Share of the general Plunder to the Troops, and previously settles the Mode of dividing it; but in this Case the Vizir made no such Grant, nor did we stipulate for any such from him.

" We observe, Sir, that after enumerating the immense Spoils which the Vizir is said to have gathered, you testify your Belief that we did not foresee those Circumstances, otherwise, you are persuaded, we should have made further Conditions for the Company and the Army in our Treaty with him. To this we reply, that we certainly did not foresee what we cannot yet even give Credit to upon the Strength of Reports, although we find they have been sufficient for procuring the implicit Belief of the Army. An Instance which we think almost demonstrative of the Exaggeration of these Reports, is that respecting Fiezulla Khan. We cannot conceive that this Nabob, from a Country yielding only a yearly Revenue from 6 to 8 Lacks, which has besides been the Seat of War, or in the close Neighbourhood of it, for two Years past, should be able to amass a Treasure of 75 Lacks in ready Money.

" But still were these Acquisitions to prove real, and were we to have foreseen them, we do not know that we could have exacted better Terms for the Company. At any Rate, Reflections of this Kind are of no Use. Arguments introduced in Opposition to Measures already decided, can only be considered as Accusations, and we doubt not in this Instance to justify ourselves fully to our Employers.

☞ [" It is however certain, that in no Event either would we, or could we, have made any Stipulation for the Army. The bad Effects of a similar Measure were but too plainly felt in a former Period; and our Honourable Masters did not fail, on that Occasion, to reprobate with their Censure, in the most severe Terms, a Practice which they regarded as the Source of infinite Evils, and which, if established, would in their Judgment necessarily bring Corruption and Ruin on their Army.

" This being their Opinion on the general Practice, they doubtless must have stronger Objections to a partial Distribution among the Troops immediately employed, which could not fail of exciting Jealousy in the others, and carry the Appearance of Injustice to them.

" Further, Sir, for your more particular Information on a Subject, concerning which it appears you have so widely misunderstood both our Motives and Sentiments, we think proper to communicate to you, as a Member of the Administration, an Extract of the Paragraph of the General Letter of 24th December 1765, in which you will find (what it would seem you did not suspect) a positive Prohibition from the Court of Directors against all such Stipulations for the future.

" This Plan, independent of Argument, must appear conclusive on the Point. You will therefore take the proper Method to convey a positive and firm Declaration to the Troops, that they are not to expect any Share of the Riches acquired by the Vizir in this Conquest. Indeed, the Consequences which you signify to us are to be apprehended from our refusing this Gratification are sufficiently alarming; but, at the same Time, were there no other Reason, the very Appearance of so dangerous a Spirit in the Troops would determine us to oppose it in the Beginning; and we rely on your Conduct and Firmness, and that Subordination and strict Discipline, which Experience has taught us it has been always your Pride to maintain, for enforcing, with the Support of your Second in Command and the other Field Officers, these Orders, and procuring a complete Acquiescence in them from all the Officers and Soldiers of the Army. Indeed, we are persuaded that the general Disposition is to Obedience, however a few unruly Spirits or unthinking Men may have expressed different Sentiments.

" We are sorry to find you imagine the Vizir does not entertain a proper Sense of the Service of the Army in this Campaign. Although he may not have testified it directly to them, we can assure you, that he has not been wanting in his Letters to the President in Expressions of the warmest Sort, both as to their Behaviour and the Services which they have rendered him. It is not in the Manners of the Eastern Princes to signify directly to the Troops their Satisfaction in them; and very probably the Rumours which prevailed of the Treasures which he had acquired, prevented the Vizir from expressing his Sense of it in private Conversation, lest he should raise Expectations which it was not in his Power to gratify.

" We conclude with recommending, in the warmest Manner, that you exert yourself in bringing the Troops to a proper Disposition on the Subject in Question; that you discourage in future those occasional Reports of Riches and Treasure found by the Vizir, which are generally founded on idle Rumour, and the Cupidity or Self Interest of Individuals, and which can only tend to mislead the Soldier into Hopes which can never be realized, and instil Notions into him very incompatible with his Duty and Profession.

We are with Esteem, &c."] ☞

" Fort William, 3d June 1774.

Then the Managers for the Commons acquainted the House, That the Subject of the Prize Money was finished for the present. That the next Allegation in the Article * which respects the Nomination and Appointment of the Rajah Mehipnarain had been proved by a Part of the Narrative before read to the House (†), and that therefore they should proceed to the next Allegation, namely, the Defendant's Exaction of a much larger

(*) Vide printed Articles, P. 7. Par. 3.

(†) Vide supra, Page 271.

larger annual Sum of Money than had ever before been paid, and larger than the Province of Benares could afford, viz. 40,00,000 Rupees per Annum as a Tribute.

The Managers for the Commons further stated, That the Letter which proved this Allegation would likewise prove several other Matters; and therefore, to save Time, they should direct those Parts of the Letter to be read altogether, stating first shortly the different Allegations of the Articles which the Letter went to prove; namely, First, the Advancement of the Tribute to 40,00,000 Rupees per Annum: Secondly, That Mr. Hastings himself thought that Tribute too high: Thirdly, To shew the Grants and Pensions out of the Property of the Inhabitants of Benares: Fourthly, That certain Duties were laid upon Goods by his Authority without the Interference of the Council; and, lastly, To shew the Amount of the Revenues of Benares, as stated by Mr. Hastings himself; to which Statement they wished particularly to call the Attention of the House, in order that the House might better understand the Parole Evidence that would be given to that Point.

Read, from the Narrative of the Insurrection which happened in the Zemceedary of Benaris, (before delivered in), the following Extracts, beginning at the Appendix, Part I. Page 28. (a)

“ Letter to the Governor General and Council, dated the 21st of November 1781, respecting the Settlement of the Zemceedary of Banaris, &c. (Signed) Warren Hastings.

“ To Edward Wheler and John M^rPherson, Esquires, Members of the Council of Fort William.

“ Gentlemen,

“ In a short Letter dated the 5th of this Month, I informed you that I had on that Day concluded the Settlement of this Zemceedary, for the fixt and perpetual yearly Jummah of Forty Lacks of Rupees, with a Deduction of Rupees 6,66,666 : 10 : 10, being the Amount of Two Months Collections, estimated in equal Divisions for the current Year. I have now the Honour to send you the following Papers which comprehend all the Accounts and Deeds appertaining to this Transaction.

“ Although I am convinced that with proper Management the Zemceedary might yield an Amount considerably exceeding that which I have taken as the Estimate of its Value, yet I must express my Apprehension, that unless the Naib can find Means to avail himself of better official Assistance than he at present possesses, his real Profits will fall below their allowed Amount; and on that Account I have encouraged him to hope that if he shall prove himself diligent in his Office, and punctual in the Discharge of his Kists to the Company, he may hereafter obtain, from the Indulgence of the Board, some Remission from the stipulated Jummah, whenever the actual Demands of the Company shall be lessened, and the State of their Treasury will admit of it; and this I shall recommend as an Act of Generosity becoming their former Relation to this Province, and equally warranted by the Principles of good Policy; for there are certain Lines beyond which the Exaction of a public Revenue, will not only defeat its own Purpose, but operate as effectually to a Reduction as an intentional Act of Bounty could do. But it is not my Wish to engage the present Attention of the Board in a Discussion upon this Subject; my Desire being only to premise what I may hereafter find necessary to introduce to their further Consideration, so that any future Proposition may not appear to arise wholly from the instant Occasion of it.

“ I now proceed to the Explanation of the Particulars of the Settlement, as contained in the Account N^o 3. H. The first Deduction made from the gross estimated Jummah of Rupees 53,06,002 : 12 is the Sum of Rupees 61,496 granted in Jagheers and other Alienations. The first is a Jagheer granted to Beneram Pundit, of the yearly Amount of Rupees 25,000. I have already acquainted the Board with the faithful Services of this Man and his Family during the late Troubles; which I can take upon me to assure the Board, whatever was our Opinion of them at the Time, and how repugnant it may be to our national Character to regard any Situation of Affairs with the Eye of Dependancy, were considered universally by all but ourselves, equally by Friend and by Foe, as utterly desperate. To the Merits of Beneram Pundit and his Brother, on this Occasion, I must add a long Series of Attachment and effectual Service, from the Year 1773 to the present Time.” (1)

Here the Managers for the Commons acquainted the House, that the following Extract, about to be read, was to shew the Jagheers upon the Province of Benaris.

P. 31. “ The next Article will require little Explanation and no Apology. Bundoo Khan, whose Name is affixed to a Jagheer of 2000 Rupees annual Rent, is an Inhabitant of the Town of Chunar. He attended Captain Blair in the unfortunate Attempt on Benmugur, and in the Battle

(1) Vide supra, P. 151.

fought at Pateeta; and was of much Service to that Officer on both Occasions, by his Knowledge of the Ground, and by a natural good Understanding, which enabled him to apply that Knowledge to the Incidents before him. This Man suggested the Expedition, which was afterwards formed, to take Possession of the Passes lying behind Lutteespoor by an unknown and secret Route, and was himself the Guide of the Detachment. Although his former Services, and that which he offered upon this Occasion, were gratuitous, yet as the Success of the Enterprize appeared to me, from his Description of it, likely to prove the Crisis of the War, I thought it advisable to secure his Fidelity, and animate his Exertions by such Incitements as were likely to operate with the greatest Power on a Man of his Rank and Situation in Life. I promised him a Jagheer in any Part of the Company's Dominions, of which he should make Choice, to the Amount of One thousand Rupees clear yearly Rent, if the Enterprize succeeded. The Event proved the Justice of his Advice, and the Truth of his Representations, and his Conduct in the Course of it obtained the most favourable Testimony of Major Crabb, the Officer who commanded the Party. On his Return to Chunar, I instantly granted him a Perwannah for the Village of Jalaulpoor, of which I had allowed him to make Choice, situated in the Pergunnah of Pateeta. He himself told me, that it yielded a Revenue exceeding 1500 Rupees, and to prevent Disputes if it were more, I have inserted it at the round Sum of Two thousand.

Page 32. "Jaggernaut Sing, late Commandant in the 3d Regiment of Sepoys, having been strongly recommended to me by Colonels Muir, Auchmuty, and other Officers of Rank, whose Recommendation at this Time had particular Weight with me, for a Provision in his declining Years, after having passed Thirty of his Life in faithful and meritorious Service, I procured for him a Jagheer, in the Zemceedary, to the yearly Value of 1200 Rupees. I am persuaded the Board will admit the Expediency as well as the Justice and Humanity of making a more comfortable Provision than our ordinary invalid Establishment allows for such native Soldiers as have merited the particular Attention of their Superiours; and I flatter myself that the present Instance, as well as the Principle on which it is founded, will meet with their Approval." (*)

Then the Managers for the Commons informed the House, That what was next about to be read, was the Account of the final Settlement with the Rajah Mehpnarain; and to render it intelligible they would state the Nature of it.—That it was an Account delivered in by Mr. Hastings, annexed to the Narrative and to the Appendix, No. 3. A. That he takes the total Amount of the Revenues of Benares at 53,06,002 : 12 Rupees.—That he makes Deductions for Jagheers, amounting to 61,496 Rupees, leaving a net Balance of 52,44,506 : 12 Rupees. That he then deducts the Charges of the Collection in the Aumanee Mehals, &c. amounting to 1,43,717 : 15 Rupees, which left a Balance of 51,00,788 : 13 Rupees. That he next deducts for Kheiragur, of which the Maulgoozary is appropriated to, the Sircar of the Nabob Vizier, to the annual Amount of 1,98,046 : 14 Rupees, leaving a Balance of 49,02,741 : 15 Rupees. The next Deduction is for the Provision for the Rajah's Family, stating it to be for different Purposes, in several different Pergunnahs: One Sum of 1,58,341 Rupees, another 60,000 Rupees, another of 54,000 Rupees, and another of 6,30,400 : 15 Rupees, for the Rajah and the Expence of his Family; which last mentioned Sum of 6,30,400 : 15 Rupees, the Managers for the Commons desired the House to observe was the Sum to which their Attention was meant to be particularly directed. That these Three make together 9,02,741 : 15 Rupees, which being deducted from the last Remainder, left a net Balance of Forty Lacks; namely the very Sum of the Tribute Mr. Hastings thought fit to exact of the Province of Benares, after the Expulsion of the Rajah Cheit Sing.

P. 38.—"Num. 3. H.

"FORM of the General Settlement concluded by the Governor General with Rajah Mehpnarain.

Jummah, as per Account	—	—	—	—	49,06,002 12	—
Add Profits enjoyed by the Baubooos, which may now be resumed, calculated at	—	—	—	—	4,00,000	—
					<u>53,06,002 12</u>	—
					Carry over	53,06,002 12. —

(*) Vide supra, P. 153.

Brought over 53,06,002 12 —

Deduct Articles of Revenue now alienated : (viz.)

Beneram's Jagheer	—	—	—	25,000	—	—
Bundoo Khan's Jagheer	—	—	—	2,000	—	—
Jaggernaut's Jagheer	—	—	—	1,200	—	—
Half of the Maash and Charity confirmed by Mr. Marriot, afterwards resumed, and now restored				33,296	—	—
					61,496	—
				Rup ^s	52,44,506	12 —

Deduct also Charges of Collection, as per Account; viz.

In the Aumaunce Mehals	—	—	41,119	6	1
In the farmed Mehals allowed to the Farmers	—	—	1,02,598	8	1
					1,43,717 15 —

Deduct Revenue paid for Kheiragur to the Vizeer	—	—	—	51,00,788	13 —
				1,98,046	14 —
				49,02,741	15 —

Deduct Jagheers and Allowances for the Support of the Rajah, his Family, and Dependants; viz.

Jagheer of Buddovee belonging to the Rajah	—	1,58,341	—	—
Ditto Mahaytch Doorgbijey Sing	—	60,000	—	—
Ditto Seidpoor Owsang Sing	—	54,000	—	—
Allowance granted for the Support of the Rajah, his Household Expences, Family, Sewary, &c.	—	6,30,400	15	—
				9,02,741 15 —
			Rup ^{es}	40,00,000 — (*)

Then the Managers for the Commons desired Leave to state to the House, That an Omission had been made in the Evidence relative to the Proceedings at Bidjegur, which they thought extremely material to be supplied.

Read accordingly, from Appendix, Part II, Page 138, as follows:

* N^o 118. Translation from the Persian of a Proclamation issued by the Governor General the 25th of September 1781.

" Be it known to the Zemcedars, Aumils, Reyots, and all the Inhabitants of the Zemcedary of Banaris, &c. That whereas Rajah Cheit Sing, by many Acts of Rebellion and Fidelity, and the Murder of a Number of English Officers, Sepoys, and other Dependants of the Government of the Company, who were unarmed, has totally forfeited his Right to the Zemcedary of Banaris, &c. and become amenable to the Justice of the Company; it is therefore made known and proclaimed that Cheit Sing and his Brother Soojan Sing, and their Dependants, have, from this Period, no further Right or Interest in the Zemcedary of the said Province; and all the Zemcedars and Reyots are required to withhold their Obedience and Submission from him, otherwise they will be punished accordingly. And whereas by the Sedition of Cheit Sing the Country has fallen into Confusion and Alarms, Assurances of Protection are hereby given to the Zemcedars and other Inhabitants of this Country, and they are hereby invited to repair to their former Places of Residence, and resume their usual Occupations in perfect Security. And lest any should entertain Apprehensions on Account of their Misdemeanors, it is declared that the past Offences of all the Inhabitants of this Country, who shall conform to this Order, are pardoned. And further, every Zemcedar and Aumil who shall, within the Space of One Month, repair to the Presence of the Governor General, or to Major William Popham, Commander of the Forces in the Field, and make their Submission, shall be pardoned; and such as, on Account of the Distance of the Road, or any other valid Reason, cannot attend in Person, must send their Vakeels for this Purpose with proper Credentials. But as it is known that the Persons of Cheit Sing and his Brother Soojan Sing are excepted from this Pardon; and the Town of Gopet Gunge, the Inhabitants of which have been particularly active in this Rebellion, and have committed many Acts of Sedition, and even Bloodshed on many of the Dependants of this Government, shall be destroyed, and the Inhabitants thereof punished, on a due Enquiry into their Crimes. Such Persons as, availing themselves of their Troubles, shall have plundered and oppressed the Inhabitants of the City of Banaris, and such as shall have committed

Murder on peaceable Passengers, shall be rendered accountable for the same in the due Course of Justice (*).

Which being read, the Managers for the Commons acquainted the House, they should return to the Part they had interrupted, and next produce Evidence of the oppressive Duties which were laid by the Defendant upon Goods and Merchandize in the Province of Benares.*

* Vide printed Articles, Page 7. Par. 3.

Then the Witness produced Book 45, intituled, "Bengal Council, from the 8th April to the 20th May 1782."

Read, the following Extract of a Consultation of the 8th April 1782, beginning Page 103 of the said Book.

" Fort William, 8th April 1782.

Secret Dep. Monday.

" At a Council, Present,
The Honourable Warren Hastings, Esq. Governor General, President,
Edward Wheler, and } Esquires.
John M'Pherson, }
Lieutenant General Sir Eyre Coote, K. B. absent on Service at Fort St. George.

☞ [" Read, the following Letters from the Resident at Benares.

" Honourable Sir and Sirs,

" I do myself the Honour of transmitting you, according to the Orders of the Honourable Governor General when at Benares, Account Particulars of the Customs as designed to be levied, and of the Duty as levied by Rajah Cheit Sing. Resident at Benares, 20th and 29th March.

" You will perceive that, to preserve Uniformity and to point out whatever Difference there may be between the present Duty and that proposed to be levied in a more striking Manner, I have rated the Three last Columns on a Tungay, or Six Maunds, the Load which a Bullock is supposed to carry, as the former Method of collecting the Duty was on the Weight, not on the Value of the Goods.

" I shall trust to the Candour of your Honourable Board for my Excuse in pointing out some Articles on which a Duty of 5 per Cent. will be too heavy, and by which the Collection would be required, viz. Mace, Cloves, Nutmegs, Cinnamon, and Silk.

" The People who principally trade in these Articles are the Maratta Merchants, and a religious Sect called Ahtects, who generally land their Goods at Mirzapore, and from thence carry them by Land and Bullocks into the Decan, or to Delhy; and they will find it more profitable to unload their Boats at Patna, and carry their Goods through Ramgur, than to pay so heavy a Custom as 5 per Cent. will amount to in the Road from Patna to Mirzapore.

" I know for certain, that on the Rumour being spread, in December last, that 5 per Cent. was to be levied on every Article, by the Directions of the Honourable the Governor General, that the principal Houses in the Decan immediately ordered their Gomastahs to stop all their Boats at Patna, and to send their Goods by the Rout above mentioned, if the Duty of 5 per Cent. was continued.

" I beg leave to lay before your Honourable Board another Proposition; Whether it will not be judicious to reduce the 5 per Cent. to 2½ on our own staple Commodities, viz. Broad Cloth, Europe Iron, Steel, and Copper.

" I have the Honour to be, &c. —"

" Benares, the 20th March 1782.

(Signed) W^m Markham.

" P. S. I have not been able to bring some certain Articles within the accompanying Statement, on Account of their indefinite Value and Weight. You will observe that Cloths more particularly are in the above Predicament.

(Signed) W. Markham."] ☞

" Resolved, That the Duties of 2½ per Cent collected by the Aumeen be abolished.

" Agreed that the following Letter be written to Mr. Markham.

" Sir,

" We have received your Letter of the 20th ultimo, with the Account of Duties designed to be levied by the Governor General's late new Arrangement, and of those exacted by the late Raja.

To the Resident at Benares.

" As we agree with you in Opinion, that the Duty of 5 per Cent. being a great Increase upon the former Rates on some Articles would be too heavy, we direct that it be reduced to 2½ per Cent. upon the following Goods, viz.

Saffron,
Cinnamon,
Mace,
Cloves,

(*) Vide supra, P. 222.

Nutmegs,
Cochineal,
Raw Silk,
Broad Cloth,
Europe Iron,
Steel,
Copper.

" Fort William, the 8th April 1782.

We are, &c."

Then the Managers for the Commons acquainted the House, That the Evidence they were about to produce, related not only to the Points stated in the Letter read from the Appendix, No. 3. A, supra, Page 294, but likewise to some other Points, which, for the Sake of Perspicuity, they would shortly state; whereupon they desired the House to recollect there was a Charge in the First Article against Mr. Hastings of his having carried on a clandestine Correspondence with Mr. Markham *.

* Vide printed Articles, P. 7, Par. 4.

† Vide printed Articles, P. 7, Par. 4, 5, 6.

‡ Vide printed Articles, P. 8, Par. 2.

There were other Charges in the same Article as to the Removal of Doorgbijey Sing from his Office, the confining of him in Prison, and the Exactions made upon him by the Defendant †. There was also a further Charge relative to the Appointment of Jagger Deo Sing (called in the Charge Jagger Deo Seo) to the Office of Administrator of the Province of Benares ‡: All which Charges in the Article the Papers about to be produced would prove to be true.

Then the Witnesses produced Book 19, intituled, " Bengal Secret Council, from 23d September to 31st December 1782."

Read, the following Extract of a Consultation of 4th December 1782, beginning Page 711 of the said Book.

" Fort William, 4th December 1782.

" At a Council; Present,

Edward Wheler,
John M'Pherson, } Esquires,
and
John Stables,

The Governor General and Sir Eyre Coote indisposed.

☞ [" The Proceedings of the 25th ultimo read and approved.

" The Secretary having received the following Minute, with the Letter inclosed in it, from the Governor General, they were circulated agreeable to his Instructions.

" 27th November 1782.

Governor General's Minute.

" Governor General.—I desire the Secretary to lay the accompanying Letters from Mr. Markham before the Board, and request that Orders may be immediately sent to him concerning the Subjects contained in them. It may be necessary to inform the Board, that on repeated Information from Mr. Markham, which indeed was confirmed to me beyond a Doubt by other Channels, and by private Assurances which I could trust, that the Affairs of that Province were likely to fall into the greatest Confusion, from the Misconduct of Baboo Doorkbijey Sing, whom I had appointed the Naib: Fearing the dangerous Consequences of a Delay, and being at too great a Distance to consult the Members of the Board, who I knew could repose that Confidence in my local Knowledge as to admit of this occasional Exercise of my own separate Authority, I wrote to Mr. Markham the Letter to which he alludes, dated 29th September last, of which I now lay before the Board a Copy. The first of the accompanying Letters from Mr. Markham arrived at a Time when a severe Return of my late Illness obliged me, by the Advice of my Physicians, to leave Calcutta for the Benefit of the Country Air, and prevented me from bringing it earlier before the Notice of the Board. It had indeed been my Intention, but for the same Cause, to have requested the Instructions of the Board for the Conduct of Mr. Markham in the Difficulties which he had to encounter immediately after the Date of my Letter to him, and to have recommended the Substance of it for an Order of the Board, of which indeed I had given him Expectation; and this will account for his Letter of the 24th October, stating the Subject without any Reference to the Orders which I had given him, and for his subsequent Letters, referring to my Orders for what he had done in Obedience to them, and in Default of Orders from the Board. I do now most earnestly recommend that the Board will be pleased to confirm the Appointment which Mr. Markham has made, and to direct him to exact from Baboo Doorkbijey Sing, with the utmost Rigour, every Rupee of the Collections which it shall appear that he has made, and not brought to Account, and either to confine him at Benares, or to send him a Prisoner to Calcutta, and to keep him in Confinement until he shall have discharged the Whole of the Amount due from him.

Governor General's Minute.

" I feel myself, and may be allowed on such an Occasion to acknowledge it, personally hurt at the Ingratitude of this Man, and the Discredit which his ill Conduct has thrown on my Appointment of him. In my own Justification, it will be sufficient to recur to the Remembrance of my assigned Motive for his Appointment. The Rajah himself, scarcely arrived at the Verge of Manhood, was in

in Understanding but little advanced beyond the Term of Childhood, and it had been the Policy of Cheit Sing to keep him equally secluded from the World and from Business. It was therefore indispensibly necessary to depute some Person for the Management of his Affairs; and no one certainly could appear so fit for this Trust as his own Father, whose external Appearance and Behaviour, and the Mode of his Education, which Qualities were all that could be yet known of his Character, seemed besides to qualify him for that Charge. He has deceived me. He has offended against the Government which I then represented, and merits at least the Punishment of a rigid Exaction of its Dues, and, in my Opinion, a Forfeiture of its Bounties. As he was allowed a Jagheer of a very liberal Amount to enable him to maintain a State and Consequence suitable both to the Relation in which he stood to the Rajah, and the high Office which had been assigned to him, and sufficient also to free him from the Temptation of little and mean Peculations, it is therefore my Opinion, and I recommend that Mr. Markham be ordered to divest him of his Jagheer, and re-unite it to the Maulguzary, or the Land paying its Revenue through the Rajah to the Company.]

"The Opposition made by the Rajah and the old Rannee, both equally incapable of judging for themselves, do certainly originate from some secret Influence, which ought to be checked, by a decided and peremptory Declaration of the Authority of the Board, and a Denunciation of their Displeasure at their Presumption. If they can be induced to yield the Appearance of a cheerful Acquiescence in the new Arrangement, and to adopt it as a Measure formed with their Participation, it would be better than that it should be done by a declared Act of Compulsion; but at all Events it ought to be done. In the Management of this Business, I would recommend that the Board trust to Mr. Markham's Discretion for the Execution of their Orders.

"I must beg leave farther to recommend that Mr. Markham be authorised to grant the Khelaut for the Niabut to Baboo Jagger Deo Sing, and to carry into Execution the other Points of my Letter of the 29th September.

"The Institution of the new Offices therein recommended will effectually guard against the Embezzlements and concealed Practices which the Example of Doorkbijey Sing may suggest to others entrusted with that Charge.

Warren Hastings."

["Nia Serai, September 29, 1782.

Copy of a Letter from the Governor General to Mr Markham, Resident at Benaris.

"I have received your Letter of the 8th instant, and am no less pleased with your Conduct than I am dissatisfied with that of Doorbijey Sing. I am thoroughly convinced of his Incapacity, and of the Necessity of removing him. Your Recommendation of Ally Ibrahim Khawn gives me Pleasure. I consider it as a Confirmation of his Worth, and as an additional Proof of yours, that you have conceived a Friendship for the Man who, from the Nature of his Office, might possibly have been to many others in your Situation an Object of Jealousy. For the Reasons you have assigned, I think he cannot, with Propriety, accept the Niabut; and for the same Reasons I should be unwilling to make him a Sezawul. It is an invidious Office, inferior in Point of Dignity even to that of Naib, and invariably exposes the Person who possesses it, to the Ill will not only of his immediate Superior in his District, but of all over whom his Authority extends. The Post he already fills is as laborious as it is useful and important. Not only perfect Leisure, but popular Esteem, is in some Measure necessary to the perfect Discharge of its Duties; and I should be very sorry to give him an Employment that might contribute to rob him of either. Avail yourself, however, of his Experience and Abilities upon all Occasions, where they can be of Service to you in your public Business, and particularly upon the Arrangements which this Letter will authorise you to make.

"I need not tell you, my dear Sir, that I possess a very high Opinion of your Abilities, and that I repose the utmost Confidence in your Integrity. The Whole of your Conduct since our Acquaintance has served to impress me with these Sentiments; and mine, I hope, has proved, that I entertain them. From your long Residence at Benaris, and from the Part you have had in the Business of that Zemindarry, you must certainly best know the Men who are most capable and deserving of public Employment. From among these, I authorise you to nominate a Naib to the Rajah, in the Room of Doorbijey Sing, whom, on account of his ill Conduct, I think it necessary to dismiss from that Office. It will hardly be necessary to except Oossann Sing from the Description of Men to whom I have limited your Choice; yet it may not be improper to apprise you that I will on no Terms consent to his being Naib. In forming the Arrangements consequent upon this new Appointment, I request you will, as far as you can with Propriety, adopt those which were in use during the Life of Bulwant Sing, so far at least as to have distinct Offices for distinct Purposes, independent of each other, and with proper Men at the Head of each; so that One Office may detect or prevent any Abuses or Irregularities in the others, and together form a System of reciprocal Checks. Upon that Principle, I desire you will in particular establish under whatever Names one Office of Receipts, and another of Treasury. The Officers of both must be responsible for the Truth and Regularity of their respective Accounts, but not subject in the Statement of them to the Controul or Interference of the Rajah or Naib; nor should they be removable at Pleasure, but for manifest Misconduct only. At the Head of one or other of these Offices, I could wish to see the late Boxey Rogoobey Dyall; his Conduct in his former Office, his Behaviour

on

on the Revolt of Cheit Sing, and particularly at the Fall of Bidjeegur, together with his general Character, prove him worthy of Employment, and of the Notice of our Government. It is possible that he may have Objections to holding an Office under the present Rajah; offer him one however, and let him know that you do so by my Directions. In forming these Arrangements, do not wholly neglect the Rajah; consult with him in Appearance, but in Appearance only. His Situation requires that you should do that much; but his Youth and Inexperience forbid that you should do more.

" With respect to Doorbijey Sing, he has dishonoured my Choice of him. It now only remains for me to guard against the ill Effects of his Misconduct; to detect and punish it. To this End I desire, that the Officers to be appointed, in consequence of these Instructions, do, with as much Accuracy and Expedition as possible, make out an Account of the Receipts, Disbursements, and Transactions of Doorbijey Sing, during the Time he has acted as Naib of the Zemindar of Benaris; and I desire you will, in my Name, assure him, that unless he pays at the limited Time every Rupee of the Revenue due to the Company, his Life shall answer for the Default. I need not caution you to provide against his Flight, and the Removal of his Effects.

" I am, &c.

" (Signed) Warren Hastings." 

" The Letters which follow were also circulated with the above Minute.

" To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Esq. &c. &c. &c.

" Benares, 24th October 1782.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, from Mr. Markham.

" Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

" I have delayed sending to you the Accounts Treasury for the Month of September, as I have yet only received from Rajah Myip Narain the Sum of 1,55,000 Rupees in Part Payment of the Kist of Bahdown due the 21st ultimo.

" The Month of Assin is now elapsed, and I see no Probability of his speedily completing the Balance due on account of the Malguzzarry of the last Year. I have in the strongest Terms represented to the Naib Durbeetzy Sing the Impropriety of his Conduct, and the Ruin which must attend him, if thus acting contrary to my Advice, he will fully abuse the Trust reposed in him by your Honourable Board. He cannot plead Inability, for I am confident that he has ready Cash now by him more than sufficient to answer every Demand.

" I am sorry that my Duty obliges me to mention to your Honourable Board my Apprehensions of a severe Loss accruing to the Honourable Company, if Baboo Durbeetzy Sing is continued in the Naibut during the present Year. I ground my Fears on the Knowledge I have had of his Mismanagement: The bad Choice he has made of his Aumils, the Mistrust which they have of him, and the several Complaints which have been preferred to me by the Ryotts of almost every Purgunnah in the Zemindary. I did not choose to waste the Time of your Honourable Board in listening to my Representations of his Inattention to the Complaints of Oppression, which were made to him by his Ryotts, as I hoped that a Letter he received from the Honourable Governor General would have had Weight sufficient to have made him more regular in his Business, and more careful of his Son's Interest. I am sorry to observe that it was but a temporary Remedy to the Evil.

" During a Course of Two Months Illness, he was incapable of transacting any Business whatsoever. In the most pressing Letters, I repeatedly enjoined him to appoint either One of his Brothers, or some confidential Servant, for the settling the Accounts of his Aumils, and for receiving the Kists due from them. I imagine he will find himself a very considerable Loser by neglecting this Advice.

" An innate Sloth in his Disposition, and a studied Procrastination in every Business where Application and Dispatch are necessary, mark him as unfit for the present Station, to which he has been elevated by his Alliance with the old Family of Bulwant Sing, and the Regard which the Honourable the Governor General paid to the obvious Idea of the Father's being the most proper Person for the Management of the Son's Affairs.

" I intended to have represented these Circumstances to your Honourable Board some Weeks ago, but was prevented by a severe intermittent Fever, which confined me to my Bed.

" I acquainted Mr. Day, the Paymaster to Sir John Cumming's Detachment, that I had your Directions for advancing Three Months Pay, but he required only Two Lacks of Rupees, for which I have taken his Drafts on the Military Paymaster General.

" I have the Honour to be, &c. &c. &c.

" W^m Markham, Resident."

[" Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

" The Loss which would accrue upon this Year's Collections, if some immediate Step had not been taken, has obliged me to put in force the Orders which I received from the Honourable the Governor General, in a Letter dated 24th of September, and which I at that Time delayed so doing, hoping that the Difference of a few Days would occasion no Detriment to the Collections, and that I should be able to persuade the Naib Durbeetzy Sing to pay up the Balance of his last Year's Malguzzary. I have been deceived in the latter of my Expectations, and find Durbeetzy Sing more

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, &c. &c. from Mr. Markham, Benares, Nov. 24th 1782.

more obstinate than ever in withholding the Balance of his Bahdoor Kist, Two Lacks of which only have as yet been received. It is necessary that I should make One Observation to you, that I am confirmed in an Opinion which I formerly had, but which I could not with Propriety mention to your Honourable Board, that it never was Durbeetzy Sing's Intention to hold the Country longer than throughout the Fuffilee Year One thousand one hundred and eighty-nine. My Reason is as follows: He has often expressed a Disgust that the Country should be given to him on harder Terms than those on which the late Rajah Chyet Sing held it; and you will observe that he has this Year only paid Twenty-seven Lacks Twenty-seven thousand Rupees, which is nearly the Amount of what Rajah Chyet Sing's Tribute was, after the Five Lacks on his Contribution towards the Expences of the War was levied upon him. I am confident, and hope I shall be able to prove, that he has collected at least Forty Lacks from the Râje. I have therefore, in consequence of the Honourable the Governor General's Orders, sent him a Letter, informing him that he is dismissed from his former Employment; a Translation of which I have the Honour to inclose. I thought it proper that Durbeetzy Sing should be put under a gentle Confinement until I shall receive your Honourable Board's Orders for any future Measures.

"As the Honourable the Governor General has given me an Authority to select a proper Person for Naib, and as Baboo Naibul Sing and Baboo Jagger Deeo Sing are the only Two of the Family of Rajah Bulwant Sing who are fit for such a Trust, I recommended the latter to the Honourable the Governor General; and as his Illness has prevented me from receiving further Instructions, I have appointed him Naib.

"The Honourable the Governor General also ordered me to establish Offices, which might not only be a reciprocal Check upon each other, but might also prevent any Collusion on the Part of the Naib. I shall therefore appoint a Dewane; One Office for Receipts of Revenue into the Treasury; a Treasury; and a Fourth Office, in which are to be kept all Disbursements from the Treasury. If I had waited for further Directions from the Honourable the Governor General, or your Honourable Board, the Collections on the Khareef Fuffil would have been entirely lost, and a Deficiency perhaps happened in the Forty Lacks, which is the Malguzarry from Rajah Mehpnarain this Year, as a most unusual Drought has been universally felt over the Country, no Rain having fallen since the latter End of August, which may prove very detrimental to the Rhabbee Fuffil.

"Babbao Durbeetzy Sing has certainly Money by him sufficient to pay up the Arrears of the Month Bhadoon, and it would be proper that some stricter Confinement should oblige him to part with it for that Purpose; yet, let me assure your Honourable Board, that I will exert myself as much as possible to recover any Balances which may be due to him from the Country, and that it shall be my most earnest Endeavour to avert any Loss from the Honourable Company, which his obstinate Conduct and impolitic Dishonesty might otherwise occasion.

"I hope that your Honourable Board will approve of my Conduct in this Business; and that you will believe

"I am,

"Benaris, Nov. 12th, 1782.

"Honourable Sir and Sirs, &c. &c. &c.

W^m Markham, Resident."]



"A TRANSLATION of a Persian Letter to the Naib Durbeetzy Sing.

"After Compliments—The Impropriety of your Conduct, and intentional Delays in paying up your Bhadoon Khist, have at length determined the Honourable Nabob Imaud ul Dowlah, &c. &c. &c. to remove you from the high Station to which he formerly raised you, from all Interference in the Affairs of your Son, and consequently in those of this Zemindarry.

"You have since the First of Afsen of the Fuffilee Year 1189, paid no more into the Treasury than Twenty-seven Lacks Twenty-seven thousand Rupees. It is impossible, from a Country by your own Account affording an easy Revenue of Forty-nine Lacks, that no more should be collected: I therefore recommend it to you most earnestly to make up the Balance due, and avoid the Dishonour and Shame, and perhaps even worse, which will inevitably pursue you, if you disregard these Injunctions. In the mean Time I have thought proper to keep a Guard upon your Person. I desire that you without Delay give me a Paper, containing the Names of all your Mutzuddies, Writers of Accounts, &c. &c. &c.; that you in the Course of this Day send me a List of the Balances due to you from the Aumils whom you have employed; that you give the most positive Orders to your Mutzuddies, &c. &c. &c. to render me a just Account and Information of the present State of the Country, and to attend me whenever I shall call upon them.

"W^m Markham."

"Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

"In a Letter which I did myself the Honour of writing to you on the 12th instant, I informed you that I had given Baboo Jagger Deeo Sing the Appointment of Naib. He could not at that Time be invested with the Khalaar, as the Bramins prognosticated it a Day of ill Omen; and the 15th was fixed upon for the Ceremony.

Translation of
a Persian Letter
to the Naib
Durbeetzy
Sing.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, &c. &c. from Mr. Markham.
Benares, Nov. 14th 1782.

" Since that Time the old Rannee and the Rajah, instructed by Durbeetzy Sing, have most vehemently declared to me, that they will by no Means give their Consent that any other Person shall be appointed Naib. I therefore have deferred the Ceremony of granting him the Khalaat till I receive further Orders from your Honourable Board.

" It is necessary to be remarked, that Baboo Jagger Deeo Sing and Baboo Neehul Sing are the only Two of the old Family of Bulwant Sing, and indeed the only Two Men with whom I am acquainted in the Zemindarry, to whose Hands so high an Employment can be entrusted, and I gave the Preference to the former, as Age and Deafness are great Impediments to Business in the latter.

" I have the Honour to be, &c. &c. &c.

" Benares, Nov. 14th, 1782.

W^m Markham, Resident."

" The following Minute was returned with the foregoing Papers, and the Letter which is entered after it written to Mr. Markham :

" In Circulation.

" A Minute from the Governor General.

" Three Letters and One Inclosure from the Resident at Benares.

" Copy of the Governor's Letter to D^o, dated 29th September.

" Thursday, 28th Nov. 1782.

" Mr. Wheler.—I approve of the Measures recommended by the Governor General's Minute respecting Baboo Doorkbijey Sing, and of the Mode of carrying them into Execution through the Resident of Benares, which is his official Duty; and also of the Appointment of Jagger Deeo Sing to fill the Office of which Doorkbijey has been dispossessed; and of the Appointments recommended in the Governor General's Letter of the 29th September. The severe Indisposition with which the Governor General was afflicted when these Letters were received, and his Absence from the Presidency, are Subjects well known to every Member of the Board.

" (Signed)

E. W.
J. M^cP.
J. S."

" Sir,

To Mr. Markham.

" We have now before us your Letters of the 24th October, 12th and 14th November. The Governor General has likewise communicated to us a Copy of the Letter which he wrote to you on 29th September from Nia Serai.

" The Measures which you have taken with Baboo Doorkbijey Sing are perfectly right and proper, so far as they go; and we now direct that you exact from him, with the utmost Rigour, every Rupee of the Collections which it shall appear that he has made and not brought to Account, and either confine him at Benares, or send him a Prisoner to Chunar, and keep him in Confinement until he shall have discharged the Whole of the Amount due from him.

" We likewise direct, that for the Offence which he has been guilty of you divest him of the Jagheer which was assigned him, and re-unite the Property of it to the Malguzarry, or the Land paying its Revenue through the Rajah to the Company.

" We approve and confirm your Appointment of Baboo Jagger Deeo Sing to the Office of Naib of the Zemindarry, in the Room of Doorbijey Sing, and desire that you will invest him immediately with the usual Khelaat in due Form.

" We also direct you to carry into Execution the other Points of the Governor General's Letter to you of the 29th September, which remain to be accomplished.

" Fort William, 4th Dec. 1782.

" We are, &c. &c. &c."

Then the Managers for the Commons acquainted the House, That they had now read all the Letters they proposed to give in Evidence relative to this Part of the Charge; and that what was not completely made out by those Letters would be supplied by parole Testimony: That they should now proceed to the Conclusion of the first Article of the Charge, which they should read from the Article itself, in order to point out to the House what the remaining Part of the Proof would apply to, viz. " That the Consequence of all these violent Changes and arbitrary Acts were the total Ruin and Desolation of the Country, and the Flight of the Inhabitants; the said Warren Hastings having found every Place abandoned at his Approach even by the Officers of the very Government which he established, and seeing nothing but Traces of Devastation in every Village; the Province in Effect without a Government; the Administration miscondacted; the People oppressed; Trade discouraged; and the Revenue in danger of a rapid Decline."

This the Managers stated would be proved by a Letter of the 2d of April 1784 (already alluded to in the opening of this Article) from Mr. Hastings at Lucknow to the Council at Calcutta upon his second Expedition, giving an Account of the Situation of the Country from his own ocular Inspection;—but before they produced this Letter, it might be more in order to read the Petitions or Arzees from the Rannee the Widow of Bulwant Sing, and the Rajah Mchipnarain, and then proceed to the abovementioned Letter, which would be the last Piece of written Evidence they should have occasion to produce upon this Article of the Charge.

Then the Witness produced Book 46, intituled, "Persian Correspondence, Public Department, Letters received in the Year 1782."

Read, the following Letters to the Governor General, both received on the 15th December 1782, No. 46 and No. 47 in the said Book.

"From the Ranny, Widow of Raja Bulwant Sing.

"Received 15th December 1782.

"No. 46. I and my Children have no Hopes but from your Highness, and our Honour and Rank are bestowed by you. Mr. Markham, from the Advice of my Enemies, having protected the Farmers, would not permit the Balances to be collected. Baboo Dirgebeij Sing frequently before desired that Gentleman to shew his Resentment against the People who owed Balances, that the Balances might be collected, and to give Ease to his Mind for the present Year, conformably to the Requests signed by the Presence, that he might complete the Bundobust. But that Gentleman would not listen to him, and having appointed a Muteseddy and Taveeldar, employs them in the Collections of the Year, and sent Two Companies of Sepoys and arrested Baboo Dirgebeij Sing upon this Charge, that he had secreted, in his House, many Lacks of Rupees from the Collections, and he carried the Muteseddies and Treasurer, with their Papers, to his own Presence. He neither ascertained this Matter by Proofs, nor does he complete the Balance of the Sircar from the Jaidads of the Balances; right or wrong he is resolved to destroy our Lives. As we have no Asylum or Hope except from your Highness, and as the Almighty has formed your Mind to be a Distributor of Justice in these Times, I therefore hope, from the Benignity of your Highness, that you will enquire and do Justice in this Matter, and that an Ameen may be appointed from the Presence, that having discovered the Crimes or Innocence of Baboo Dirgebeij Sing, he may report to the Presence. Further Particulars will be made known to your Highness by the Arzie of my Son, Raja Mchipnaraine Bahader."

"Arzie from Raja Mchipnarain Bahader.

"Received 15th December 1782.

"No. 47. I before this had the Honour of addressing several Arzies to your Presence, but, from my unfortunate State, not one of them has been perused by your Highness, that my Situation might be fully learnt by you: The Case is this; Mr. Markham, from the Advice of my Enemies, having occasioned several kinds of Losses, and given Protection to those who owed Balances, prevented the Balance from being collected; for this Reason, that the Money not being paid in Time, the Baboo might be convicted of Inability. From this Reason, all the Owers of Balances refused to pay the Malwajib of the Sircar: before this the Baboo had frequently desired that Gentleman to shew his Resentment against the Persons who owed the Balances, that the Balances might be paid, and that his Mind might be at Ease for the present Year, so that the Bundobust of the present Year might be completed; adding, that if next Year such kinds of Injuries and Protection of the Farmers were to happen he should not be able to support it. But that Gentleman did not reprove the Owers of Balances; and with respect to the Satisfaction for the present Year, he said that he could not at this Time do it. From this Reason so great a Balance to the Sircar still remains. Besides this, upon the false Representations of my Enemies, that Gentleman said to the Baboo, "You have secreted in your House several Lacks of Rupees from the Collections, and do not pay the Balance to the Sircar." The Baboo requested that this Matter might be properly inquired into; but that Gentleman, without ascertaining it, appointed a Muteseddy and a Treasurer from his own Sircar, for the Collections of the present Year. Afterwards, on the 4th of Zehidja he sent an English Gentleman with Two Companies of Sepoys who put the Baboo under Arrest, at the same Time he threw the Muteseddies and Treasurer, with their Papers, into Confinement, and brought them to his own Presence, and told me that Orders had come from the Presence for a new Naib, and that I must appoint Jugdeo Sing Naib to finish the Bundobust of the present Year, and that having settled this Point with the Ranny, I should return. I gave him a proper Answer, and again went to the Presence of that Gentleman, and conformably to the Directions of the Ranny, I said to him, "That, with respect to the Neabut of Jugdeo Sing, which he had ordered, I was now myself able to attend to and manage the Affairs of the Sircar, and that the Ranny did not consent or approve of a Naib: that it would have been incumbent on him, first, to have proved the Crime of Baboo Dirgebeij Sing, and then confined him: That this would have been proper, because, in the Room of all the Ranks and Honours bestowed upon him by the Presence, from the Event, Disgrace and Injury,

* Sic in Orig.

Injury, without Bounds, have come upon him: That now, from the carrying the Muteseddies and Treasurer, with their Papers, to the Presence, no Secrecy remained. If this Matter should be carried to the Proofs, the Baboo is entirely guilty; but in case of his Innocence, let the Guard be taken off, and then the Affairs of this Year may be fully discussed." Mr. Markham replied, that he would again write this Matter to the Presence.

" My Master, I do not know what he may have written to your Presence, I have therefore represented fully my distressed Situation; my only Hopes are from your Highness; my Honour and Rank are bestowed by you. Mr. Markham having written false Complaints to your Presence, has brought me to this Situation, and has thrown the Concerns of this Year into Incompletion and Ruin. I am therefore hopeful that an Ameen be appointed, who having enquired into the Crime or Innocence of the Baboo, may inform the Presence, and may compel the Owers of Balances to pay the Balance of the Sircar. You have approved of the Concerns of the present Year being completed by me; favour me so far as to prevent the Injuries, and Protection of the Farmers from that Gentleman, and that I may remain firm, conformably to the Requests signed by the Presence, that I may complete the Malwajib of the Sircar with Ease."

The Managers for the Commons said, They would in the next Place shew that there was but One Month in Arrear at the Time of Doorbidjey Sing's being put into Confinement.

Then the Witness produced Book 61, intituled, " Bengal Council, from 2d January to 11th February 1782."

Read, Extract of a Consultation on 5th February 1782, beginning at Page 387 of the same Book.

" Fort William, 5th February 1782.

" At a Council; Present,
The Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, President;
Edward Wheler, }
and } Esquires.
John M'Pherson, }

Lieutenant General Sir Eyre Coote, K. B. Absent on Service at Fort St. George.

" Extract of a Letter to the Governor General and Council, dated Benares, 25th Jan. 1782.

" Received the following Letter from the Resident at Benares.

" Honourable Sir and Sirs,

" I herewith have the Honour to transmit you an Account of the Receipts and Disbursements at this Treasury, from the 1st Assin, answering to the 14th of September 1781, to the 20th of January 1782, by which you will perceive, that Rajah Myipnarsain has liquidated the Three first Kists of Assin, Kautick, and Augun."

Then Book 45, intituled, " Bengal Council from the 8th April to the 20th May 1782," was delivered in.

Read, the following Extract of a Consultation held on 20th May 1782, beginning at Page 619 of the same Book.

" Fort William, 20th May 1782.

" At a Council; Present,
The Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, Governor General, President;
Edward Wheler, }
and } Esquires.
John M'Pherson, }

Lieutenant General Sir Eyre Coote, K. B. absent on Service at Fort St. George.

" The Proceedings of the 16th instant read and approved.

" Read the following Letter from the Resident at Benares.

" Honourable Sir and Sirs,

" I herewith have the Honour to transmit you an Account of the Receipts and Disbursements at this Treasury, from the 3d March 1782 to the 3d April 1782, by which you will perceive, that Rajah Myipnarsain has liquidated his two Kists for Mang and Phaugun."

Then the Witness produced Book 42, intituled, " Bengal General Council, from the 16th September to the 28th October 1782."

Resident at
Benares,
3d April.

Read.

Read, Extract of a Consultation of 30th September 1782, beginning at Page 234 of the said Book, as follows :

" Fort William the 30th September 1782.

" At a Council ; Present,

Edward Wheler, and } Esquires.
John Macpherson,

The Governor General indisposed.

Lieutenant General Sir Eyre Coote absent on Command at Fort St. George.

" Honourable Sir and Sirs,

" I herewith have the Honour to transmit you an Account of the Receipts and Disbursements at this Treasury, from the 3d August 1782 to the 3d September 1782, by which you will perceive, that Rajah Myipnarain has liquidated his 11 Kist for Saween."

Then the Witness produced Book 64, intituled, " Bengal Council, from 2d January to the 10th of February 1783."

Read, the following Extract of a Consultation, 27th January 1783, beginning at Page 510 of the said Book.

" Fort William, the 27th January 1783.

The Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, President ;

Lieutenant General Sir Eyre Coote,

Edward Wheler,

John Macpherson,

John Stables.

" Received the following Letters from Mr. Markham.

" Honourable Sir and Sirs,

" I herewith have the Honour to transmit you an Account of the Receipts and Disbursements at this Treasury from the 3d of October 1782 to the 3d of November 1782, by which you will perceive, that only 2,00,000 Rupees of the Bhadoon Kist, due the 21st September, has been received, and that a Balance of 6,06,33 : 5 : 10 yet remains to be liquidated.

" I am in Hopes of obtaining this Balance in a few Days from the late Naib Durbeetzy Sing, who, according to your Orders, still remains in Confinement.

" Benares,

30th September 1782.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) Wm. Markham."

" Honourable Sir and Sirs,

" I herewith have the Honour to transmit you an Account of the Disbursements at the Treasury from the 3d September 1782 to the 3d October 1782.

" Benares,

30th December 1782.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) Wm. Markham."

" Honourable Sir and Sirs,

" I have the Honour to enclose you an Account of the Receipts and Disbursements at this Treasury, from the 3d December 1782 to the 3d January 1783, by which you will perceive that Baboo Jagger Devo Sing has liquidated Rajah Myipnarain's 1st Kist for Assin, due the 21st October.

" I expect to receive the 2d Kist for Kautich in the Course of Four or Five Days.

" Benares,

8th January 1783.

I have the Honour to be, &c.

(Signed) Wm. Markham."

Then the Witness produced Book 65, intituled, " Bengal Council, from 12th May to 3d July 1783."

Read, the following Extract from a Consultation of 19th May 1783, beginning at Page 142 of the said Book.

" Fort William, 19th May 1783.

" At a Council ; Present,

The Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor General, President.

Edward Wheler,

John Macpherson,

John Stables,

} Esquires.

" Read the following Letters from the Resident at Benares.

" To the Honourable Warren Hastings Esquire, Governor General, &c. Council.

" Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

" Mr. Markham, the late Resident at Benares, has left this Station to the * proceed to the Presidency, agreeable to your Orders, having previously delivered the Public Letters, Accounts, and other

Pub. Dep.
Monday.

Extract Letter from Mr. Markham to the Governor and Council, dated from Benares 22d Sept. 1782.

Pub. Dep.
Monday.

Letter from Mr. Benn to the Governor and Council.

* Fac simile of Orig.

other Documents, belonging to the Appointment of Resident, to me, in Charge, till the Arrival of Mr. Fowke.

" Mr. Markham's Letter, inclosing the Public Accounts, would inform your Honourable Board, that the Kists for the present Year, and the Balance due from Baboo Deerbidzy Sing, on account of the last, have been received into the Company's Treasury, except such Sums as your Honourable Board may not think just, and consequently not admit in the Claims which Baboo Durbidzy Sing has made for Deductions.

" Benares,
April 12, 1783.

" I have the Honour to be
Your most obedient humble Servant,
(Signed) John Henn,
Assistant to the Resident at Benares."

Then the Managers for the Commons desired the Witness might produce the Letter of Mr. Hastings from Lucknow before alluded to.

The Witness produced Book 47, intituled, " Bengal Secret Council, from 18th March to 30th June 1784."

Read, Extract of a Consultation on 20th April 1784, beginning Page 247 of the said Book, as follows:

" Fort William, the 20th April 1784.

Sec. Depart.
Tuesday.

" At a Council; Present,
The Honourable Edward Wheeler Esquire,
and

John Macpherson Esquire.

The Honourable the Governor General absent on a Visit to the Nabob Vizier.
John Stables Esquire indisposed.

☞ [" Read, the following Letter from the Honourable the Governor General.

Edward Wheeler Esquire, Council, &c. &c. &c. Fort William.

" Gentlemen,

Lucknow, the 2d April 1784.

Governor
General,
Lucknow,
2d Apr. 1784.

" Having contrived, by making forced Stages, while the Troops of my Escort marched at the ordinary Rate, to make a stay of Five Days at Benares, I was thereby furnished with the Means of acquiring some Knowledge of the State of the Province, which I am anxious to communicate to you: indeed, the Enquiry, which was in a great Degree obtruded upon me, affected me with very mortifying Reflections on my own Inability to apply it to any useful Purpose. From the Confines of Buxar to Benares, I was followed and fatigued by the Clamours of the discontented Inhabitants; it was what I expected in a Degree, because it is rare that the Exercise of Authority should prove satisfactory to all who are the Objects of it. The Distresses which were produced by the long continued Drought, unavoidably tended to heighten the general Discontent; yet, I have Reason to fear, that the Cause existed principally in a defective if not a corrupt and oppressive Administration. Of a multitude of Petitions which were presented to me, and of which I took Minutes, every one that did not relate to a personal Grievance, continued the Representation of one and the same Species of Oppression, which is, in its Nature, of an Influence most fatal to the future Cultivation. The Practice to which I allude is this. It is affirmed, that the Aumils and Renters exact from the Proprietors of the actual Harvest, a large Increase in Kind on their stipulated Rent, that is, from those who hold their Pottahs by the Tenure of paying One Half of the Produce of their Crops, either the Whole without a Subterfuge, or a large Proportion of it by false Measurement, or other Pretexes, and from those whose Engagements are for a fixed Rent in Money, the Half, or a greater Proportion is taken in Kind. This is, in effect, a Tax upon the Industry of the Inhabitants; since there is scarce a Field of Grain in the Province, I might say not one, which has not been preserved by the incessant Labour of the Cultivator, by digging Wells for their Supply, or watering them from the Wells of Maritany*, with which this Country abounds, or from the neighbouring Tanks, Rivers, and Nullahs. The People who imposed on themselves this voluntary and extraordinary Labour, and not unattended with Expence, did it in the Expectation of reaping the Profits of it, and it is as certain that they would not have done it, if they had known that their Rulers, from whom they were entitled to an indemnification, would take from them what they had so hardly earned. If the same Administration continues, and the Country shall again labour under a Want of the natural Rains, every Field will be abandoned, the Revenue fail, and Thousands perish through the Want of Subsistence, for who will labour for the sole Benefit of others, and to make himself the Subject of Vexation? These Practices are not to be imputed to the Aumils employed in the Districts, but to the Nabob himself. The avowed Principle on which he acts, and which he acknowledged to myself, is that the whole Sum fixed for the Revenue of the Province must be collected, and that for this Purpose, the Deficiency arising in Places where the Crops have failed, or which have been left uncultivated, must be supplied from the Resources of others, where the Soil has been better suited to the

* Sic in Orig.

the Season, or the Industry of the Cultivators more successfully exerted; a Principle which, however specious and plausible it may at first appear, certainly tends to the most pernicious and destructive Consequences. If this Declaration of the Naib had been made only to myself, I might have doubted my Construction of it; but it was repeated by him to Mr. Anderson, who understood it exactly in the same Sense. In the Management of the Customs, the Conduct of the Naib, or of the Officers under him, was forced also upon my Attention. The exorbitant Rates exacted by an arbitrary Valuation of the Goods, the Practice of exacting Duties Twice on the same Goods, first from the Seller, and afterwards from the Buyer; and the vexatious Disputes and Delays drawn on the Merchants by these Oppressions were loudly complained of; and some Instances of this Kind were said to exist at the very Time when I was in Benares. Under such Circumstances we are not to wonder if the Merchants of foreign Countries are discouraged from resorting to Benaris, and if the Commerce of that Province should annually decay. Other Evils, or imputed Evils, have accidentally come to my Knowledge, which I will not now particularize, as I hope, that, with the Assistance of the Resident, they may be in part corrected. One however I must mention, because it has been verified by my own Observation, and is of that Kind which reflects an unmerited Reproach on our general and national Character. When I was at Buxar, the Resident, at my Desire, enjoined the Naib to appoint creditable People to every Town through which our Route lay, to persuade and encourage the Inhabitants to remain in their Houses, promising to give them Guards as I approached, and they required it for their Protection; and that he might perceive how earnest I was for his Obedience of this Precaution (which I am certain was faithfully delivered) I repeated it to him in Person, and dismissed him, that he might proceed me for that Purpose; but, to my great Disappointment, I found every Place through which I passed abandoned; nor had there been a Man left in any of them for their Protection. I am sorry to add, that from Buxar to the opposite Boundary, I have seen nothing but the Traces of complete Devastation in every Village, whether caused by the Followers of the Troops which have lately passed, for their natural Relief, and I know not whether my own may not have had their Share, or from the Apprehensions of the Inhabitants left to themselves, and of themselves deserting their Houses. I wish to acquit my own Countrymen of the Blame of these unfavourable Appearances, and in my own Heart I do acquit them; for at One Encampment near a large Village, called Derrera, in the Pergunnah of Zemanee, a Crowd of People came to me, complaining, that their former Aumil, who was a Native of the Place, and had long been established in Authority over them, and whose Custom it had been, whenever any Troops passed, to remain in Person on the Spot for their Protection, having been removed, the new Aumil, on the Approach of any military Detachment, himself first fled from the Place, and the Inhabitants, having no One to whom they could apply for Redress, or for the Representation of their Grievances, and being thus remediless, fled also; so that their Houses and Effects became a Prey to any Person who chose to plunder them. The general Conclusion appeared to me an inevitable Consequence from such a State of Facts, and my own Senses bore Testimony to it in this specific Instance; nor do I know how it is possible for any Officer commanding a military Party, how attentive soever he may be to the Discipline and Forbearance of his People, to prevent Disorders, when there is neither Opposition to hinder, nor Evidence to deter them. These and many other Irregularities I impute solely to the Naib, and I think it my Duty to recommend his instant Removal. I would myself have dismissed him, had the Controul of this Province come within the Line of my Powers, and have established such Regulations and Checks as would have been most likely to prevent the like Irregularities. I have said Checks, because unless there is some visible Influence, and a powerful and able one, impended over the Head of the Manager, no System can avail. The next appointed may prove, from some Defect, as unfit for the Office as the present; for the Choice is limited to few, without Experience to guide it. The first was of my own Nomination: His Merits and Qualifications stood in equal Balance with my Knowledge of those who might have been the Candidates for the Office. But he was the Father of the Rajah, and the Affinity sunk the Scale wholly in his Favour; for who could be so fit to be entrusted with the Charge of his Son's Interests, and the new Credit of the rising Family? He deceived my Expectations. Another was recommended by the Resident; and, at my Instance, the Board appointed him. This was Juggerdeo Sing, the present Naib. I knew him not, and the other Members of the Board as little.

" While Mr. Markham remained in Office, of whom, as his immediate Patron, he may have stood in Awe, I am told that he restrained his natural Disposition, which has been described to me as rapacious, unfeeling, haughty, and to an Extreme vindictive. I cannot avoid remarking, that excepting the City of Benares itself, the Province depending upon it is in effect without a Government; the Naib exercising only a dependant Jurisdiction without a Principal. The Rajah is without Authority, and even his Name disused in the Official Instruments issued or taken by the Manager. The Representation of his Situation shall be the Subject of another Letter: I have made this already too long, and shall confine it to the single Subject, for the Communication of which it was begun: This permit me to recapitulate. The Administration of the Province is mismanaged, and the People oppressed; Trade discouraged, and the Revenue, though said to be exceeded in the actual Collections by many Lacs (for I have a minute Account of it, which states the nett Amount, including Jagheers, at something more than Fifty-one Lacs) in Danger of a rapid

a rapid Decline, from the violent Appropriation of its Means. The Naib or Manager is unfit for his Office: A new Manager is required, and a System of official Control; in a Word, a Constitution; for neither can the Board extend its superintending Powers to a District so remote from its Observation; nor has it delegated that Authority to the Resident, who is merely the Representative of Government, and the Receiver of its Revenue in the last Process of it; nor indeed would it be possible to render him wholly so, for Reasons which I may hereafter detail. If, Gentlemen, you shall think it proper to entrust me with Powers for this Purpose, I will cheerfully undertake the Reformation of the Country, and will be answerable for its Effects; but I entreat that your Resolves may be instant: for from the Hour that it is known, that such a Design is in Contemplation, and it will be known in Ten Days after your Receipt of it, the Authority of the Manager will sink with his Influence, unless it is preserved by some immediate Pledge of Confirmation; and such I would advise, if you shall deem it improper to yield to my Recommendation. I have the Happiness to find all Men satisfied and happy in the excellent Administration of the City of Benares, and have experienced, what few Men of the first Station have known in the Intercourse with the Natives of India, if of any other Country, the Voice of Adulation diverted, even in my own Presence, from myself, in the Eagerness of bestowing a better merited Praise on another. Such is the Tribute which the Wisdom and Integrity of Ally Ibrahim Cawn have extorted from the Hearts of those who have been subjected to his Jurisdiction; and I dare trust to the Result of your own Enquiries, let who will make the Report of him, for a Confirmation of mine.

I have the Honour to be, &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) Warren Hastings."

" P. S. The above Letter was written immediately after my leaving Benares, but the Interruptions of travelling occasioned a Delay in transcribing it until the present Day. This Delay has, however, given me an Opportunity of ascertaining more fully the Informations I received at Benares, and of confirming the Opinion I before entertained.

(Signed) W. H.]

" Ordered, That the foregoing Letter do lie for Consideration until there shall be a full Meeting of the Council."

Then the Managers for the Commons desired John Stables Esquire might be called.

Then JOHN STABLES Esquire was called, and being sworn, was examined as follows:

Q. Whether you were not in the Province of Benaris in the Year 1764, during the Period of Bulwant Sing's Zemindary?

A. I was, in the Year 1764.

Q. In the Year 1764?

A. Yes.

Q. And Bulwant Sing was at that Time Zemindar?

A. Bulwant Sing was at that Time Zemindar.

Q. In what Capacity was you in the Province of Benaris at that Time?

A. An Officer in the Army.—I had the Honour to be Aid de Camp to the Commander in Chief, and acted then as an Officer in the Service.

Q. Whether you had any Intercourse with Bulwant Sing, and what your Opinion was of the State and Rank of Bulwant Sing?

A. I thought him a very considerable Prince.—He was in Possession of a very fine Country, and had a large Body of Troops.

Q. Whether you ever was in Company with Bulwant Sing in any Progress through the Country, or upon any other Occasion, which gave you an Opportunity of observing the Affections of his Subjects to him?

A. I had the Honour once of riding out with him, and I had great Pleasure in observing the Affection of his Subjects to him; his Villages were full, and they all came out to meet him.

Q. What State did the Country of Benaris seem to be in at the Time of which you have spoken with respect to Cultivation and Fruitfulness, in the Year 1764?—It may be necessary to ask first how long you staid at Benaris in 1764?

A. I cannot exactly speak to the Time we were there; I should suppose between Two and Three Months.

Q. In what Part of the Year ?

A. I think in November. The Battle of Buxar was the 23d of October. We marched afterwards to Benares, and we staid from thence it might be about Three Months—not quite Three Months.

Q. During the Time that you was there, had you any, and what Opportunity of observing the Condition of the Country ?

A. The Country appeared to me in high Cultivation.

Q. What Part of the Country had you an Opportunity of observing ?

A. The Army marched from Buxar to Benaris, and round Benaris.

Q. What is the Length of that March ?

A. I do not recollect exactly.

Q. I do not mean exactly ; how many Days march ?

A. I cannot recollect.

Q. That was the Part of the Country you had an Opportunity of observing ?

A. Yes.

Q. And you thought it in high Cultivation and rich ?

A. It appeared so to me.

Q. Who was Commander in Chief at that Time, under whom you served as Aid de Camp ?

A. At the Time I speak of, Major Hector Munro, now Sir Hector Munro.

Q. During the Whole of the Time you speak of ?

A. Yes, during the whole Time.

Q. The Witnesses said the Troops went round Benaris, I wish to know whether the Troops, or those under the Command of the English Officers, were permitted to enter the Town of Benaris ?

A. I believe not : a Chain of Centinels and Guards were set round it.

Q. Do you mean stationed round, or marched round ?

A. We were encamped at some little Distance from the Town of Benares, and set Guards to prevent the Troops from getting into the City and committing Irregularities.

Q. Whether there was any Reason, peculiar to Benares, that made it necessary to place those Guards upon the Troops to prevent them entering into the Town ?

A. Benares is an open defenceless Town, the Habitation of People of Religion, and of great Property, and they were not molested, and were requested to remain quiet in their Houses.

Q. They were not molested ; but it was enjoined them to remain quiet in their Houses ?

A. They were requested to remain quiet in their Houses.

Q. By your Commander in Chief, I suppose ?

A. Yes.

Q. (By a Lord.) What was the State of the Population of that Part of the Country you saw ?

A. The Villages appeared to me full of Inhabitants.

Q. Were the Villages near to each other, or remote from each other ?

A. I thought there were a great many more Inhabitants than in our Provinces which adjoined to it.

Q. Which Provinces do you particularly allude to ?

A. Gauzepore and Buxar.

Q. At what Distance, upon an Average, and generally speaking, are the Villages in that Part of the Country you went through ?

A. They are scattered about here and there, about a Mile, some perhaps two Miles distant from each other.

Q. (Cross examined.) Whether you had any Opportunity of knowing and being acquainted with the Constitution of the Country, except from your casual Residence of Three Months ?

A. I was as an Officer of the Army, and had no Opportunity of inquiring into the Particulars at that Time.

Q. You were with the Army, and had not so good an Opportunity of enquiring ?

A. Not at that Time.

Q. Whether you had ever been in the Country before the Period of 1764 which you speak to, or ever have been there since the Time that you returned ?

A. No, I never have.

Q. How long had you been in the Service of the Company in India when you went to Benares?
A. I arrived in India the latter End of the Year 1759; this I am speaking of was in 1764.

Q. In what Part of India did you arrive at in 1759?
A. First at Madrafs, afterwards in Bengal.

Q. Can you recollect what Time it was you came to Bengal?
A. I cannot speak particularly to the Distance of Time we arrived. I suppose it was either in September or October 1759.

Q. In Bengal?
A. In Bengal.

Q. Whether you had any Opportunity of knowing the precise Relation in which Bulwant Sing then stood to Sujah ul Dowlah?
A. No, I had not.

Q. Whether you can take upon yourself to say whether Bulwant Sing was at that Time an Aumil under Sujah ul Dowlah, or had any independent Rights of his own beyond the Office of Aumil?

A. I considered him as a Man of very great Consequence. We had taken every Step the Year before to bring him over to our Interest.

Q. (By a Lord.) We have taken your Answer to be, that you understood him to be a Man of great Consequence, and that the English had taken every Means the Year before to bring him over to their Interest?

A. Yes.

Q. The Question beyond that is, whether you know any Thing of the Manner and Constitution of his Office beyond what you observed, namely, that he appeared to have great Consequence belonging to him; his particular Situation you had no Means of knowing?

A. His particular Situation I had no Means of knowing, but I understand he paid Tribute to Sujah ul Dowlah; but that he had by some Measures rendered himself rather Independent. A particular Instance was, that he refused to go to the Presence of Sujah ul Dowlah, as I heard, when he was particularly called for.

Q. Do you know any Thing yourself of that Refusal to go to the Presence of Sujah Dowlah?
A. He was afraid, I should apprehend, for his own Safety.

Q. Does it fall within your Knowledge that he refused to go to the Presence?

A. It was a general Report in our Camp, and of the People who brought us Intelligence from the Enemy.

Q. Whether Bulwant Sing was not, at the Time you have been speaking of, serving in the Army of Sujah ul Dowlah?

A. In October I believe he was; but I said before that we endeavoured to draw him over to our Interest. Our Army was forced to retreat, and, of Course, he would not afterwards join us.

Q. Do you happen to know how long it was that Bulwant Sing was serving in the Army of Sujah ul Dowlah?

A. I don't recollect the precise Time when he joined Sujah ul Dowlah; but for a long Time he kept aloof while Sujah ul Dowlah was making his Preparations to attack Bengal.

Q. Was you in the Army with the English Forces at the Time that Bulwant Sing served in the Army of Sujah ul Dowlah?

A. Yes, I was.

Q. At what Time was that?

A. When Sujah ul Dowlah came down to invade the Provinces of Bengal, he came down with him, as we heard.

Q. Do you mean that he was in the Service of Sujah ul Dowlah, or that he was in our Service at the Time that Sujah ul Dowlah was defeated?

A. At the Time Sujah ul Dowlah was defeated he was in Sujah ul Dowlah's Service.

Q. At what Time was he defeated?

A. On the 23d of October 1764.

Q. When did he join our Arms?

A. At our Arrival at or near Benares.

Q. At what Time before the 23d of October 1764 was it he was serving in the Army of Sujah ul Dowlah?

A. I don't recollect how many Months. He was there for some Time across the River, and would not go to join Sujah ul Dowlah.

Q. At

Q. At what Time was he in the Army of Sujah ul Dowlah?

A. He was in the Army of Sujah ul Dowlah on the 23d of October 1764; and I cannot exactly say how long before.

Q. Can you go to any general Average of Time?

A. Early in the Year 1764, or the latter End of 1763, when our Army lay at Buxar, we were in Treaty with Bulwant Sing to join us.

Q. Between that Time and the 23d of October, had you any Thing more to say?

A. The Treaty broke off.

Q. Do you recollect when that Treaty broke off?

A. It broke off immediately upon our retiring: We were obliged to retreat from Buxar to Patna.

Q. Can you recollect what Time of the Year that Retreat was?

A. I cannot exactly say; it was early in the Year 1764, I think.

Q. At that Time you understand the Treaty broke off?

A. We understood he would not come to join us, because he would not join an Army that was retreating.

Q. (*By a Lord.*) Whether, when Bulwant Sing was serving in the Army of Sujah ul Dowlah, he was employed to command any of the Troops of Sujah ul Dowlah, or to command his own Troops?

A. We understood in our Camp, that he raised a large Body of Troops, and had joined Sujah ul Dowlah with near 10,000 Cavalry; we speak in round Numbers; we cannot exactly tell.

Q. Whether these Cavalry under Bulwant Sing, that joined Sujah ul Dowlah, were Troops in his own Pay, or whether they were in the Pay of Sujah ul Dowlah?

A. I believe they were in his own Pay.

Q. Whether, when a Tributary joins the Army of his Prince at the Head of his own Troops, he does not always command his own Troops, and those Troops only?

A. I believe in general that is the Case; but Sujah ul Dowlah assigned, as we heard, a different Command to Bulwant Sing—a separate Command.

Q. Whether you know of any pecuniary Assistance afforded by Bulwant Sing to Sujah ul Dowlah at the Time of the Treaty of Mahabad in August 1765?

A. I left the Army in the Beginning of the Year 1765, and consequently could know nothing of what passed afterwards.

Q. The Witness has spoken of having been present when the Inhabitants of the Villages came out to meet Bulwant Sing; I wish the Witness to be asked, Whether the same Circumstances would not have taken place, if an Aumil or Collector of the Province, and particularly an Aumil, or any other Person of great Authority, had come in the same Manner.

A. I thought their coming out proceeded from their Affection to him; it had that Appearance to me at that Time.

Q. But what the Manner of the Country would have been to any other great Person, you do not undertake to know?

A. They generally come out to any great Man; but I thought their coming out and speaking to him as they did, was from Affection.

Q. Besides the Ceremony to other great People, there was a Manner of Affection in the Behaviour of the People to him?

A. I thought so at the Time.

Q. Whether Bulwant Sing did or did not command a Part of the Army of Sujah ul Dowlah at the Battle of Buxar?

A. I believe he commanded his own Troops; a Part of them had crossed over the River to invade the Provinces to the Eastward of the Ganges, and Bulwant Sing was to have gone with a Detachment beyond the Ganges to invade those Provinces; but the Battle of Buxar put an End to that Scheme.

Q. Then, except the Troops which had crossed over the River, his Troops in general made a Part of the Army of Sujah ul Dowlah at the Battle of Buxar?

A. I believe so.—What Part they made I cannot say, but they made a Part of the Troops.

Q. Do you know whether the Cavalry you mention to have been in the Service of Bulwant Sing at the Period you have been speaking of, and making Part of the Army of Sujah ul Dowlah, were all raised in the Province of Benares?

A. I really do not know where they were raised,

Q. Do

Q. Do you consider yourself as having had an Opportunity of being well acquainted with the Province of Benares during the Time you mentioned before, from your Residence there, and your March?

A. I spoke a little of the Language at the Time, and the Hircarrahs or Guides were under my Direction.

Q. Which Language did you speak?

A. Hindoitan.

Q. What were the Hircarrahs?

A. Guides.

Q. But who did they belong to?

A. They belonged to the Army, and were generally under my Direction.

Q. Were they Hindoos, or of what Cast?

A. They were of all Casts.

Q. The Question put to you was, Whether you consider yourself as well acquainted with the Province of Benares, from the Circumstance of your Residence and your March?

A. I have mentioned the Time I was there, and the Observations I made during that Time.

Q. Whether, from your Knowledge of the Customs of India, a Vassal is not always obliged in Time of War to be attendant upon his Sovereign?

A. I should suppose that he ought to attend him.

Q. What Part of India is it that your Knowledge leads you to speak of?

A. Bengal.

Q. You say you suppose a Tributary attends his superiour Lord; why do you suppose so? for what Reason?—Upon what Foundation do you go, in saying a Zemindar is obliged to be attendant upon his Sovereign?

A. I believe the Superior always gives him Orders to attend, and many do attend.

Q. Have you any Knowledge upon the Subject at all but what arises from general Reputation?

A. None.

Q. Whether you looked upon Bulwant Sing as a Vassal to Sujah ul Dowlah, and did he stand in that Relation to him at that Time?

A. I never considered him as a Vassal.

Q. In what Relation did you consider Bulwant Sing to stand to Sujah ul Dowlah?

A. He was originally, I believe, a Zemindar under Sujah ul Dowlah; but he had, by every Means almost, endeavoured to render himself independent.

Q. But did he consider himself as independent?

A. No; but he endeavoured to render himself independent.

Q. What do you mean by his holding of Sujah ul Dowlah under the Mogul?

A. He was tributary, and paid a Tribute to Sujah ul Dowlah, under whom he held; but what Tribute he paid, or on what Terms he held the Zemindary, I am not acquainted with.

Q. The Witness has said, he thinks a Zemindar is bound to attend his Superior in Time of War; does he think the Consequence of a Zemindar refusing to attend him would be a Forfeiture of his Tenure?

A. I am unacquainted what would have been the Consequence.

Q. Do you know any thing of the Laws or Rules of that Country but from Conversation or Rumour?

A. No, I am not acquainted with that.

Q. What do you understand to be the Situation of a Zemindar?

A. A Possessor of a District under a Sunnud.

Q. What Alteration was made in that Situation afterwards, when you say the Rajah began to grow independent? What were his Endeavours to make himself independent?

A. He raised a large Body of Troops, and treated to join us while Sujah ul Dowlah was making Preparations to invade the Provinces. I considered that as a Mark of his endeavouring to obtain Independence.

Q. What do you understand the Meaning of the Word Sunnud to be, as near as you can explain it, in English?

A. A Grant.

Q. And as applied to a Zemindary, a Grant of a District of Land?

A. Yes.

Q. At what Period was Bulwant Sing invited or ordered into the Prefence of Sujah ul Dowlah?

A. I believe it might have been early in the Year 1764, or the latter End of the Year 1763, when our Army retired from Buxar.

Q. Whether he at that Period was in the Service of Sujah ul Dowlah?

A. He was Zemindar of the District of Benares.

Q. You have described Bulwant Sing as having the Command of a Body of Troops attached to the Army of Sujah Dowlah: Was it at the Time when he was so commanding, and attached to the Army of Sujah ul Dowlah, or before that Time, that he was ordered into the Prefence of Sujah ul Dowlah?

A. It was before.

Q. You said he refused to go?

A. There was a Story universally believed, that Sujah ul Dowlah was obliged to send his own Son to him before he would come into his Prefence.

Q. The Whole of this you speak from the Relation that was current in the Camp at the Time?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know or believe that Sujah ul Dowlah had any Right to punish Bulwant Sing for refusing to come into his Prefence?

A. I do not know.

Q. You were speaking of the Duty of a Vassal to be attendant on his Superior—Whether you know any Instance of such Vassal so bound commuting his Service for a Tribute or a Sum of Money?

A. I do not.

The Witness was directed to withdraw.

Then HENRY FOX CALCRAFT Esquire was called in, and being sworn, was examined as follows:

Q. Whether you served in the Army under the Command of Major Popham at Bidjeygur?

A. Yes.

Q. In what Rank did you serve?

A. As Colonel Popham's Aid de Camp.

Q. Was you present at the Surrender of the Fort?

A. Yes, I was present.

Q. Whether the Treasure found in the Fort was divided amongst the Detachment of the Army?

A. It was.

Q. By what Authority was it so divided?

A. Under the immediate Order of Colonel Popham; as I understood.

Q. What Opportunity had you of knowing by whose Orders they were divided?

A. After the Capture of the Fort, the Officers were desired to send for their Shares.

Q. Who sent them that Order?

A. The Order was circulated in the usual Military Form.

Q. You were Aid de Camp at that Time to Major Popham? Did you circulate that Order?

A. I believe it was written by the Brigade Major; I do not know whether it went, through me, but I saw it.

Q. What is the usual Military Form of circulating Orders?

A. The Order originates in the Brigade Major's Office; it is copied from thence by the several Sergeants, and circulated through the Camp to the Gentlemen of the Detachment.

Q. Whether you know under what Authority Colonel Popham issued any Orders upon that Head?

A. On the Day of the Surrender, Colonel Popham shewed me a Letter from Mr. Hastings, which he deemed an Order, or I believe he would not have permitted it to be done.

Objected by the Counsel, that the Witness ought not to give Evidence of a Paper in the Possession of Major Popham; if the Paper exists, the Managers for the Commons ought to have given Major Popham Notice to attend, and produce it.

The Managers for the Commons answered, that the Question did not go to the Contents of the Paper.

Q. The Question is, whether the Division was by the Order of Major Popham?

A. The Division was under the Order of Major Popham.

The Counsel objected, that the Letter said to have passed between Mr. Hastings and Major Popham ought to be produced and shewn to the Witnesses.

Notice was taken by the House, that the Witness had stated that the Governor General wrote a certain Letter to Major Popham, and that an Order for the Division of the Prize Money was given by Major Popham; and the Managers for the Commons were asked, whether they could carry that Point further?

The Managers for the Commons answered, " They could not."

Q. Whether you were sent by Colonel Popham with the News of the Surrender of the Fort of Bidjeygur to Mr. Hastings, the Governor General?

A. Yes.

Q. Whether you acquainted Mr. Hastings with the Division of the Plunder?

A. I did.

Q. Did Mr. Hastings express at that Time any Dissatisfaction at that Division?

A. Very great Dissatisfaction.

Q. Perhaps it may be better to ask, at what Time it was after the Plunder had been divided that the Witness acquainted Mr. Hastings with it?

A. I think I went the same Day the Money was divided, and arrived the next Morning at Chunar.

Q. How long was it between the Division of the Money and the Capture of the Fort?

A. To the best of my Remembrance the Money was divided the succeeding Day after the Fort was taken.

Q. Do you recollect the Day of the Month upon which the Fort was taken?

A. I think it was either the 9th or 10th of November. I don't speak positively as to that.

Q. Upon the Day after the Capture of the Fort, the Money was divided; and upon that Day or the next you went and acquainted Mr. Hastings with it, and at which Information you say he expressed great Dissatisfaction?

A. Yes.

Q. What Conversation passed between you and Mr. Hastings at the Time you acquainted him with this Transaction, and at which he expressed his Dissatisfaction?

A. A little while after I was introduced to Mr. Hastings, I begged his Acceptance of a Sword, in the Name of the Gentlemen of the Detachment, as a Testimony of their Respect and Esteem for him. Mr. Hastings said, "As such I accept it." He then asked me whether it was true that the Money had been divided; as a Rumour of that Sort had preceded my Arrival? I answered, It was true: At which Mr. Hastings expressed the most vehement Disapprobation. After some Conversation respecting it, which, from the Distance of Time, I cannot detail so circumstantially as I could wish, I retired. About a Quarter of an Hour afterwards Mr. Hastings sent for me, and asked what could have impelled Major Popham, when he was at so short a Distance, to suffer this Division of the Money, at a Time when the Company stood so much in Want of it. I answered, that I had seen a Letter which, according to my Conception and Construction of it, did authorize the Participation of the Plunder. Mr. Hastings said, that he had been referred to in every consequential Operation of the War, and it was very odd that a Business of this Magnitude should have been concluded without his Concurrence; and that the Letter I alluded to was no Authority: He then said the Officers must refund. I believe I should have stated, that, with the Sword, I gave a Letter from the Gentlemen of the Detachment, professing what I mentioned before. He said they must refund. I said I believed it would be impossible, for the Money was already too generally diffused. Mr. Hastings said, if the Gentlemen would refund, he would use his Influence with Mr. Wheeler and Mr. M'Pherson to give their Sanction for a Division afterwards; but the Company wanted it now, and they must have it.—I mean to say, that at this Distance of Time it is impossible I should recollect very circumstantially; it is near Eight or Nine Years ago. What I now say are the Heads of the Conversation, as it recurs to my Memory.

Q. Was that all the Conversation?

A. No.

The Witness said he was endeavouring to recollect further Heads, and then proceeded as follows:

A. I then told Mr. Hastings, that one Motive for the Precipitancy was the Recollection that the Rohilla Gratuity, or Prize Money, was not yet paid. That Money, Mr. Hastings said, the Troops had no Right to; and finally sent me back with a Letter, the Contents of which I am not acquainted

acquainted with; but it occasioned an Order from Major Popham to the Gentlemen to refund; which, however, none of them did.

Q. Whether any Present was sent from the Detachment to any Person; and what it was?

A. I should have mentioned, there were a few Articles of ornamental Plate which they desired Mrs. Hastings's Acceptance of. I mentioned this Circumstance to Mr. Hastings; but I do not believe she ever saw them; they were left there. I do not exactly recollect what Mr. Hastings said, but think it was, He would settle that. There is one Circumstance more I should have mentioned, which is, that Mr. Hastings, before I went away, said, his Acceptance of the Sword was conditional upon the Gentlemen refunding; and if they would not refund, then he would not accept it, or the other Presents. When I went away with the Letter, the Sword and the other Things were left in the Custody of Mr. Markham; what became of them afterwards I do not know.

Q. You said Mrs. Hastings never saw them.

A. No.

Q. What Conversation had you with the Governor General upon the Subject of the Letter authorizing the Plunder?

A. Mr. Hastings denied it was any Authority; and, as I recollect, made some Distinction between a private and a public Letter; he said it was a private Letter; and I said it could not be a private Letter, because it contained public Matter.

Q. What Conversation passed upon that?

A. The Conversation is not sufficiently impressed upon my Mind to recollect any more of it.

Q. (*Cross-examined*) The Witness having said, that the Acceptance of the Sword was conditional, I wish to ask, did Mr. Hastings retain the Sword?

A. Certainly not.

Q. Do you know whether Mrs. Hastings ever was in Possession of the Plate?

A. I am sure she was not.

Q. Having stated that you were present at the Surrender of the Fort of Bidjeygut—do you know whether any Plunder was committed upon the Person of the Rannee herself?

A. None to my Knowledge. I do not say that none was, but I do not know of any.

Q. Do you know at what Time of Night the Fort was evacuated?

A. It was at the Close of the Day; I do not exactly recollect.

Q. What Hour?

A. I cannot name the Hour; some Time in the Evening.

Q. Whether the Plunder that was committed upon the Persons who attended the Rannee was committed by the Soldiers of the Army, or the Followers?

A. Every Attempt was made to discover who it was done by, but it never could be discovered: I never heard any Person was punished for it; though Major Popham did his utmost to discover it.

Q. Whether any Officers were called upon to refund, or did afterwards refund the Money?

A. They were called upon, and did not refund.

Q. Whether at the Time the Rannee left the Fort every possible Mark of Respect and Attention was not shewn to her?

A. I do not recollect any particular Circumstance of Respect or Attention; but they had Palanquins and Cooleys, and every Thing of that Kind for their Accommodation.

Q. (*By a Lord*) The Witness said, the Rannee herself was not plundered; I wish him to be asked, whether any Escort was given to the Ladies when they left the Fort?

A. I should suppose there was, but I do not know whether there was or not, but I think there must have been.

Q. Whether before the Surrender of the Fort it was not generally understood by the Officers of the Army that the Plunder of the Fort was to be divided amongst them?

A. I can only say what I thought of it myself; I thought if there was a large Sum of Money Mr. Hastings would take it for the Company, if a small one it would be divided.

Q. Do you know the Amount of the whole Sum that was divided amongst the Army?

A. The Rannee had Fifteen per Cent. upon it, and I believe Twenty-four or Twenty-five Lacks were divided.

Q. You have said, that if it were a great Sum of Money you thought the Company would have it, if a small one you thought it would be divided: Whether you do not conceive Twenty-four or Twenty-five Lacks of Rupees come within the Description of a large Sum of Money?

A. Doubtless it is a large Sum.

Q. Do

Q. Do you know whether the Money was equally divided amongst the Officers and Soldiers, or in what Shares?

A. It was settled by a Committee of Officers—a Seapoy got 100 Rupees; it was thought to be a very fair and equal Division.

Q. Whether it was by Order of Major Popham that the Ladies left the Fort at so late an Hour; was it their own Act, or the Order of your Commander? Do you know any Thing of it?

A. I do not.

Q. Can you state what was the Value of the Sword in Question?

A. I have no Idea of it; it was set with very bad Jewels; it was of no very great Value.

Q. Whether you had any Conversation with Major Popham upon the Remarks Mr. Hastings made on the Division of the Plunder?

A. I detailed the Conversation to Major Popham very circumstantially, but I do not recollect any particular Conversation between him and me upon it. I thought Mr. Hastings's Rejection of the Right did not agree with the Purport of that Letter, and Major Popham and I thought we had a Right to keep it.

Q. Whether the Receipt of that Letter was generally known in the Army?

A. I cannot tell.

Q. You said it was your Opinion if the Sum found in the Fort was a small one, the Governor General would give it up to be divided; if it was a large one, he would secure it for the Advantage of the Company: At what Time did you form that Opinion?

A. I cannot say when I formed the Opinion, but it was exactly what I would have done myself, and that is the Reason why I entertained that Opinion.

Q. Do you recollect whether you formed that Opinion before or after your hearing of that Letter?

A. I considered the Letter as a palpable Admission of the Right.

Q. After you had seen the Letter, did you then retain that Opinion?

A. I think I have answered the Question by saying, I considered the Letter as an Admission of the Right.

Q. The Question put to you is, after you had seen that Letter which you suppose to be an Admission of the Right, Did you continue to entertain an Opinion that a Difference would be made between a large and a small Sum?

A. Most certainly not.

Q. Whether Mr. Hastings said any Thing to you about the Right that any other Officers or Soldiers besides those present at the taking of the Fort had to a Division of the Plunder?

A. Yes; I now recollect that Mr. Hastings said the Division was a Scramble rather than a Division, and if there was any Division Colonel Blair and Major White ought to have been included.

Q. Who were they? What Part of the Army did they command?

A. Colonel Blair commanded at Chunar, and Major White (who commanded a Regiment at Chunar), had waived his Right to Major Popham.

Q. How far is Chunar from Bidjeygur?

A. I believe about 40 or 50 Miles.

Q. (By the Managers) The Witness said first, he did not know what the Value of the Sabre was, and afterwards that it was not considerable; I wish to know whether he has any Knowledge of the Value of the Jewels?

A. That Sabre was ornamented with a particular Sort of Jewels called Lasks, an inferior Sort of Diamonds.

Q. Do you know the Difference between Lasks and proper Diamonds?

A. A Lask is a very thin cutting of a Diamond, and those are of little or no Value.

Q. When you left Chunar, in whose Possession did you leave the Sabre and the Plate?

A. I was asked in whose Possession I left the Sword and other Things; the Answer is, I left them with Mr. Markham.

Q. Did you ever see them afterwards, or hear any Thing of them?

A. No.

Q. Then how can you take upon yourself to say positively that they never came into the Possession of Mr. or Mrs. Hastings?

A. Because they were carried out of the Room by me, and I gave them into Mr. Markham's Hands; I speak only to my Belief of the Subject, that Mrs. Hastings never saw the Plate.

Q. Who was Mr. Markham?

A. Resident at Benares.

Q. At

Q. At that Time?

A. Yes.

Q. Did Major Popham express any Surprise at Mr. Hastings's Disapprobation of the Division of the Plunder?

A. I do not recollect what passed between Major Popham and me upon it.

The Witness was directed to withdraw.

Then JOHN BENN Esq; was called in, and being sworn, was examined as follows :

Q. In what Situation was you at Benares?

A. In the Year 1782 and 1783, I was Assistant to the Resident at Benares.

Q. When was you appointed Assistant to the Resident at Benares?

A. In January 1781.

Q. Did you go to reside there then?

A. No; not till some Time after.

Q. When did you go to reside at Benares?

A. In the Month of April 1782 : In March or April.

Q. I should wish the Witness to be asked, Whether he had any Opportunity of examining into, or knowing what Rent or Revenue the Country of Benares was able to pay?

A. I resided there for some Time, and made such Enquiries as I thought would ascertain it.

Q. Did those Enquiries, or did they not, furnish you with an Opportunity of knowing that Fact?

A. Not as a Certainty, but as a Matter of Opinion.

Q. What was the Result of your Opinion from the Enquiry you made?

A. I thought that the Country would not continue to yield Forty Lacks of Rupees.

Q. Whether he has any Means of knowing what the Country did yield in the Time of Bulwant Sing?

A. No certain Documents.

Here the Question and Answer were, by Desire of the Managers for the Commons, read over to the Witness by the Clerk.

Then the Witness was asked,

Q. Have you any other Means of knowing besides certain Documents?

A. I have enquired of some of the Servants of the Rajah, employed in his Offices.

The Counsel for the Defendant objected, That this was not Evidence to ascertain the precise Sum.

The Managers for the Commons stated, That there was an Account before the House, by which it appeared there was an Allowance to Rajah Mehipnarrain of Six Lacks of Rupees, and desired the Witness might be asked,

Q. Whether that Allowance was annually received by Mehipnarrain?

A. I believe it was not.

Q. Do you know the Reason why it was not received?

A. I understood the Rajah claimed it from the Naib, and it appeared the Country would not yield it.

Q. What Manner of Understanding had you of it? How did you understand it?

A. From the Naib himself; he told me so.

Q. Who was the Naib?

A. Doorgbijey Sing, and Jagger Deo Sing.

The Counsel for the Defendant objected, What Jagger Deo Sing and the other Naib said was no Evidence.

Q. Do you know at what Time Doorgbijey Sing was put into Confinement?

A. The latter End of October or November 1782.

Q. How long did he continue in Confinement?

A. Till April following, 1783.

Q. I would wish to know whether he was ever again put into Confinement after that April? Was he discharged in April?

A. He was.

Q. Do you know of his being put in Confinement after that ?

A. He was.

Q. When was it ?

A. About the March following, 1784.

Q. Do you know of the Fact of his being confined ?

A. I do.

Q. How long did he continue in that Second Confinement ?

A. I believe till March 1785.

Q. Was he then released from his Confinement ?

A. He died, I believe, in Confinement, in that Month.

Q. Do you know any Thing of his Confinement ; where was he confined ?

A. He was confined at Benares.

Q. Do you know of his having died in that Confinement ?

A. Yes.

Q. Whether any Complaints were ever made to you, in your Situation as Assistant Resident, that the Rajah did not receive the Stipend allotted to him of Six Lacks of Rupees ?

A. None—no Complaints.

Q. Do you know of any such Complaints being made to any other Person, and to whom ?

A. No.

Q. I should wish that he was desired to recollect himself, and answer the Question, Whether he does not know that Rajah Mehipnarrain made Complaints, that his Allowance was not paid to him, to the Officers of the British Government, and to whom ?

A. I do not recollect that he made any Complaints to any of the Officers of the British Government at Benares.

Q. Do you know that the Naib Doorgbijey Sing complained he could not collect the Revenues of the Country, to any of the Officers of the British Government ?

A. I do not.

The Counsel objected to this as no Evidence, unless the Complaints were afterwards represented to Mr. Hastings.

Q. Do you know whether Doorgbijey Sing made any Complaint to any of the Officers of the British Government that he could not collect the Revenue ?

A. I do not recollect he did.

The Managers for the Commons said, They were extremely sorry to put the Question again to the Witness, to desire he would inform the House,

Q. Whether Doorgbijey Sing complained to any Officers of the British Government that he could not collect the Revenue ?

A. I do not recollect he did.

Q. Did he ever complain to any of the Officers of the British Government, and to whom, that he could not collect the Sum of Six Lacks, which was allowed to the Rajah ?

A. I never heard that Doorgbijey Sing did make that Complaint.

Q. Do you or do you not know whether the whole Sum of Six Lacks annually was paid to Rajah Mehipnarrain ?

A. I believe it was not.

Q. Do you know any Thing of it—was it a Part of your Business to know whether it was or was not paid ?

A. No, it was not.

Q. (*Cross examined*) Whether you had any Opportunity of seeing Doorgbijey Sing during the Time he was in Confinement ?

A. I never did see him during the Time he was in Confinement.

Q. Do you know where he was confined, and how he was treated ?

A. He was confined in a House at Benares belonging to the Rajah, situated in a Garden, which, I believe, might be about Six Acres of Ground ; the House was in the Centre, and surrounded by a high Wall. He had Permission to walk about that Garden, and the Guard placed to secure him was on the Outside of the Wall of the Garden.

Q. It having been suggested, this Confinement was the Cause of the Death of Doorgbijey Sing, I would wish the Witness to say what he knows was the Cause of Doorgbijey Sing's Death ?

A. I believe Disease was the Cause of his Death.

Q. Do

Q. Do you know any Thing of his Death, or what occasioned it?

A. He had been long ill, and died of that Illness.

Q. Whether the Subject of the Demand, relative to the Arrears of Rent, was not submitted to Arbitration, on the Part of the Company, to Ally Ibrahim Cawn, and whether Doorgbijey Sing did not submit to that Arbitration?

A. It was submitted to Arbitration.

Q. By whose Consent?

A. By mutual Consent.

Q. Of whom?

A. Of Doorgbijey Sing and Jagger Deo Sing.

Q. To whom?

A. Ally Ibrahim Cawn.

Q. Whether Ally Ibrahim Cawn awarded any Thing, and what to be due to the Company?

A. I do not know the exact Sum, but think he awarded to the Company about 1,50,000 Rupees.

Q. Was the Award made in Writing?

A. It was.

Q. What was the Character of Ally Ibrahim Cawn, and in what Esteem was he with the Natives?

A. In very high Estimation.

Q. Whether it was usual to have a Mahometan in the Situation of Chief or Supreme Magistrate before this Time?

A. In 1781 he was Chief Judge of Criminal and Civil Matters; I believe before the Country was ceded to the East India Company, and while it was under the Vizier, Justice was administered by a Mahometan. When it was given up to the British Government, it was administered by a Hindoo, put in by the Rajah?

Q. Whether, in all the Time you was at Benares, you ever heard a single Complaint made against Ally Ibrahim Cawn?

A. I never heard One.

Q. In what Situation, in point of Cultivation and Population, was Benares when you saw it last, and what Part of the District of Benares have you seen?

A. I have seen nearly the whole District.

Q. When did you see it last?

A. I left Benares in the Year 1786; I believe in February in that Year.

Q. What was the Condition of Benares when you saw it last, in point of Cultivation and Population?

A. It was both well cultivated and peopled, the Parts I saw.

Q. Did you see Benares in 1783, and in what Condition of Population or Cultivation was it then?

A. In 1783 I travelled from Benares to Buxar, on One Side of the River, and we travelled the same Distance upon the other Side of the River. I also travelled through the District of Benares to Chaundpore, which was rather a circuitous Way over that District, and I found it both populous and well cultivated.

Q. Do you know any Thing of it in the Years 1784 and 1785?

A. I resided in the Province of Benares in the Years 1784 and 1785; and the Description that I have given appears to be as applicable to those Years as the others.

Then the Managers for the Commons desired Permission to put a few Questions to the Witnesses which they had omitted; and first,

Q. Under whose Direction the Mint at Benares was, during the Time of his Residence there?

A. Under the Direction of the Resident.

Q. How were the Profits arising from the Mint applied; do you know?

A. As a Perquisite of the Resident's Office.

Q. Do you know whether there was any Monopoly of Salt Petre in the Province of Benares while you were there?

The Counsel for the Defendant submitted, That before this Question was answered, the Managers for the Commons should point out whether it had any Reference to the Charge.

The Managers for the Commons were asked, To what Point of the Charge the Question applied?

They made Answer, That it was stated in the Charge, that Mr. Hastings arbitrarily deposed Rajah Cheyt Sing, and gave the Government to Rajah Mehinnarrain.

It

It was further stated, That the Mint belonged to him, and that the Question was put with a View to shew how Mr. Hastings settled the Government after he placed Mehpnarrain there.

The Counsel for the Defendant replied, That the Charge states the Instances in which he did tyrannically settle the Government *: That he did of his own mere Authority raise the Tribute to 400,000l. and that he wantonly and illegally imposed certain oppressive Duties upon Goods and Merchandize, to the great Injury of Trade and Ruin of the Province; and did further dispose of as his own the Property within the said Provinces, by granting the same, or Parts thereof, in Pensions to such Persons as he thought fit: And therefore submitted that the Managers for the Commons ought to bring the Question within these Specifications.

The Managers for the Commons maintained, That to prove the Defendant guilty of great Misdemeanours in having deposed Cheyt Sing and setting up Rajah Mehpnarrain, it was necessary to shew how and upon what Terms he had so done; and therefore, amongst other Things, they should shew that he gave the Monopoly of Trade to Persons belonging to himself.

The Managers for the Commons were asked, Whether they pressed that particular Question? To which they answered, That they did not mean to give up their Right to put the Question; but should not at that late Hour trouble the House to go to the Chamber of Parliament.

The Managers for the Commons then proposed to put this Question to the Witnesses, viz. Whether he was examined before the Committee of the House of Commons?

The Counsel for the Defendant stated, that this was a new Question, and that the Managers for the Commons had no Right to put it, unless it arose out of Matter in the Cross-examination.

The Counsel, being asked, If they had any Objection to the Question now proposed being put? Made answer, That they had not, except that it was a new Examination.

Then the Question was put.

Q. Have you ever been examined before the Committee of the House of Commons?

A. I have.

Q. Whether you did not before that Committee answer the following Question in the following Manner: "Who was to pay Mehpnarrain the Allowances stipulated for him by the Governor General? Answer. Doorgbijey Sing."

The Counsel were asked, If they objected to that Question being put?

The Counsel answered, That they must object to that Question, it being perfectly new in Judicature for a Party to undertake to impeach his own Witnesses; and were heard in Support of the said Objection.

The Managers for the Commons were heard in Answer to the same, and, in the Course of their Argument, acquainted the House, that the Question and Answer which they had proposed the Witness to speak to, were only introductory to a further Question put to the Witness, and his Answer thereto, before the Committee of the House of Commons, which they meant to insist upon, and stated the same as follows:

"Q. Did he not alledge he never received what was allowed him?

A. He says he had not received the Sum that was to be allowed him. He did not receive his Money Allowance, because the Receipts of the Country could not afford it, they being estimated at a Standard of 49 Lacks, whereas they cannot produce above 44 or 45 Lacks, nor that, unless good Care is taken of the Country. The State of the Country depends on its being well nursed. The Country has been made by Care, and without that Care would soon fall off. It never yielded in Bulwant Sing or Cheit Sing's Time above 45 Lacks."

Then the House adjourned to the Chamber of Parliament.

* See the printed Articles, Page 7. Paragraph 3.