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REPORTS  
THE FIFTH REPORT  
FROM THE  
(456)  
SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
ON THE  
AFFAIRS OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY

Dated 28th July, 1812.

GOVT. OF INDIA  
SECRETARIAT  
LIBRARY.

EDITED

BY

THE VEN. WALTER KELLY FIRMINER,

(Merton College, Oxford), M.A., B.D., B. Lit.,

ARCHDEACON OF CALCUTTA,

Editor, *Bengal : Past & Present*,

AND

President of the Calcutta Historical Society, 1914.

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VOL. III.

BRITISH ACQUISITIONS IN THE PRESIDENCY OF FORT  
ST. GEORGE, MADRAS APPENDICES, WILKINS'  
GLOSSARY & INDEX.

CALCUTTA:

R. CAMBRAY & Co.,

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1918.





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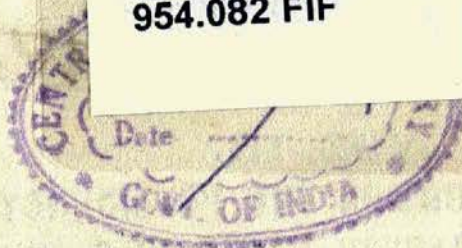


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## Editor's Preface to Third Volume.

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It had been my intention to prefix to this third and last volume a sketch of the career of Sir Thomas Munro. In view, however, of the very low rate at which it is hoped that this work may remain on sale, and in view also of the fact that Dr. John Bradshaw has contributed to the "Rulers of India" series an admirable sketch of Sir Thomas' work in the Madras Presidency, I have thought it best to remain content with a simple reference to Dr. Bradshaw's book.

"The Historical Tables concerning the Presidency of Fort St. George" were published as a pamphlet several years ago at Madras, and are the work of a member of the Civil Service at that Presidency.

Editor's Preface to third Volume, l. 14 *for* "1883" *read* "1813."

~~THE FATHER OF THE TOUCHET~~ ~~THOMAS THACKERAY~~ ~~IN CALCUTTA IN 1809, AGED~~  
35 years. Webb Thackeray, the third son, of the Madras Civil Service, died in 1809, aged 19 years, as he was being carried down ill to Madras. Thomas Thackeray of the Bengal Army, was killed in action in Nepal in 1814, aged 25 years. St. John Thackeray, of the Madras Civil Service, fell in action at the Kittlur Fort, Belgaum District, in 1824, aged 33 years. The last son, Charles, barrister and journalist, died in Calcutta, 1846, aged 22 years.

Before laying down my pen, I will take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to the Publishers for their pluck and public spirit in placing a trustworthy edition of the *Fifth Report* on sale at a price at which it can be purchased by a student whose power to purchase books is restricted. I myself, for instance, was never before able to enjoy the possession of a copy of my own, and I have therefore been glad to place my free services as Editor at the disposal of the publishers. I will conclude by saying that there are other Reports, for instance the Touchet Report, the republication of which would be a public service, and I hope that some day a public demand will be felt sufficient to induce Messrs. Cambray & Co. to make yet another venture.

WALTER K. FIRMINGER.

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### CORRIGENDUM.

Vol. II. 14th line from bottom *for* "Pijou" *read* "Pigou."





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## ACQUISITIONS OF TERRITORY BY THE BRITISH IN THE PRESIDENCY OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

### No. I.

Year	Territory	How acquired, and District now representing it	Approximate Area	Land Revenue
1616 ...	Calicut, Factory of ...	Now merged in the town of Calicut, the capital of the district of Malabar. (1.) Factory established by permission of the Zamorin or Raja of Calicut, the ancestor of the present Zamorin (Thornton's Gazetteer).	Factory only	Nil
1664-65	...	(2.) Establishment expelled by the Dutch (Bruce ii, 158).		
1668-69	...	(3.) Agency re-established (Bruce ii, 224).		
1702 ...	...	(4.) 2nd July—Factory entered in the "Quinque-partite Indenture of Conveyance of the Dead Stock of the two East India Companies."		
1766 ...	...	(5.) Grant of factory and all existing privileges confirmed and ratified by Hyder Ali on his conquest of Malabar, 23rd February (Aitchison, vol. v, p. 127).		
1770 ...	...	(6.) Further ratification by Hyder Ali. Treaty 8th August (Aitchison v, 133).		
1779 ...	...	(7.) English dispossessed by Hyder Ali.		
1782 ...	...	(8.) Reduced by Major Abingdon (Malabar Commission Report, para. 38).		
1784 ...	...	(9.) Treaty dated 11th March. Factory and privileges restored by Tippoo Sultan, Article 9 (Aitchison v, 144).		
1792 ...	...	(10.) Ceded with the rest of Malabar to the Company by Tippoo (Aitchison v, 149). Treaty dated 18th March.		

### No. II.

1621-22	Pulicat ...	A seaport in the district of Chingleput, 23 miles north of Madras. (1.) Factory established by permission of the Dutch under the operation of the treaty concluded between King James I and the States General, dated 7th July 1619 (Bruce i, 231).	Factory only	Nil
1622-23	...	(2.) Factory withdrawn in consequence of the oppressions of the Dutch (Bruce i, 239).		
1781 ...	...	(3.) Fort, Factory, and Dependencies, viz, the island of Irakam <sup>1</sup> and the villages of Vanjivākam, Avarivākam, and Kanavandurai (land revenue, 1,475 pagodas) taken from the Dutch by Lord Macartney, Governor of Madras, 2nd July (Local Records).	Sq. MILES 1,647	Rs. 7,338

<sup>1</sup> The island of Irakam is now attached to the Nellore District.





## BRITISH ACQUISITIONS IN THE

## No. II—(Concluded).

Year	Territory	How acquired, and District now representing it	Approximate Area	Land Revenue
1785 ...	Pulicat, (Concluded)	(4.) July—Restored to Holland under treaty with the States General of 20th May 1784 (Local Records).		
1795 ...	...	(5.) Surrendered to Lord Hobart, the Governor's summons. Capitulation dated 16th July (Local Records).		
1818 ...	...	(6.) 31st March—Restored to Holland agreeably to the Convention of the Allied Powers in 1814 (Local Records).		
1825 ...	...	(7.) 1st June—Restored to Great Britain under the treaty of March 1824 (Local Records).		

## No. III.

	Pettipolee ...	Now Nizampatam, a seaport in the district of Kistna.	Factory only	<i>Nil</i>
1621-22	...	(1.) Factory established (Bruce i, 232). <i>N.B.</i> —This is the first place at which the English commenced to trade on the Eastern Coast of the continent of India. They landed at Pettipolee, August 20th, 1611; sent goods on shore and left two of the supercargoes, picking them up again on the ship's return from Masulipatam, and proceeding across the Bay to Bantam (Narrative of seventh voyage, London East India Company; Captain Antony Hippon in ship <i>Globe</i> ).		
1653-54	...	(2.) Dissolved (Bruce i, 484).		
1682 ...	...	(3.) Noted as existing, 21st July (Local Records).		
1686 ...	...	(4.) Dissolved again (Bruce ii, 572).		
1697 ...	...	(5.) Re-settled (Bruce ii, 206).		
1702 ...	...	(6.) 2nd July—The factory is entered in the "Quinque-partite Indenture of Conveyance of the Dead Stock of the two East India Companies," but it was probably soon after dissolved, as there is no further mention of it in the Local Records.		
1753 ...	...	(7.) November—Ceded to the French by the Nizam, as part of the Northern Circars.		
1759 ...	...	(8.) 14th May—As part of the Nizampatam Circar bestowed on the English by Salábat Jang, Nizam (Aitchison's Treaties, vol. v). ( <i>Vide</i> Acq. No. XXXI).		
1765 ...	...	(9.) August 12th—Grant confirmed by the Mogul's farmán.		

## No. IV.

	Masulipatam, Factory of	The chief town and port of the Kistna District.	Factory only	<i>Nil</i>
1621-22	...	(1.) Factory established (Bruce i, 239). <i>Note</i> —The first English vessel that traded at Masulipatam <i>alias</i> Metclepatnam arrived there 31st August 1611 [ <i>vide</i> Note (1) under Pettipolee].		





# PRESIDENCY OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

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## No. IV—(Concluded).

Year	Territory	How acquired, and District now representing it	Approximate Area	Land Revenue
1628 ...	Masulipatam— (Concluded)	(2.) Removal to Armagon owing to exactions of local Governor, one factor being left behind to collect debts 27th September (Bruce i, 291).		
1632 ...	...	(3.) November.—Factory re-established under the "Golden Phurmaund" of the King of Golconda.		
1689 ...	...	(4.) Factory seized by the local Governor owing to the rupture between Aurangzeb and the Company (Bruce ii, 650).		
1690 ...	...	(5.) Cowle for the factory renewed.—Farmán dated 28th December from Zulfakar Khán, the Mogul General (Local Records).		
1762 ...	...	(6.) The factory of Macilipatnam is entered in the "Quinque-partite Indenture of Conveyance of the Dead Stock of the two East India Companies," dated 2nd July.		
1750 ...	...	(7.) Captured by the French under orders of Dupleix, who sent up a force by sea from Pondicherry, month of July (Orme, Book II).		
1753 ...	...	(8.) November—Formally ceded to France by the Nizam with the rest of the Circars (Orme, Book II).		
1759 ...	...	(9.) Retaken from the French by Colonel Forde, 7th April (Orme, Book II).		
1759 ...	...	(10.) 14th May—Bestowed on the English Company as an inám or free gift, together with the whole of the circar of Masulipatam and other territory by the Nizam Salábat Jang (Aitchison's Treaties, vol. v.) (Vide Acq. No. XXXI).		
1765 ...	...	(11.) August 12th—Grant confirmed by the Mogul's farmán.		

## No. V.

1625-26	Armagon, Factory of	A port in the district of Nellore, 66 miles north of Madras.	Fortified Factory only	Nil
1641 ...	...	(1.) February (Bruce i, 269).—The ground for the factory was obtained from the local Karnam or Kánúngo, Patnaswámula Arumukham Mudali, and named after him (Nellore Manual, pp. 440-41).		
1801 ...	...	(2.) 24 September—Establishment removed to the new station, Madras and the place abandoned altogether (Wilks i, 163).		
		(3.) 31st July—Ceded with the rest of the Carnatic to the East India Company by His Highness Prince Azim-ul-Daula, Nawáb Subahdar of Arcot (Aitchison's Treaties, vol. v.) (Vide Acq. No. XLIII).		



Year	Territory	How acquired, and District now representing it	Approximate Area	Land Revenue
	Viravesaram	A small town 8 miles north-west of Narsapur Port, Godavari District.	Factory only	<i>Nil</i>
1634-35	...	(a.) Factory established (Bruce i, 326).		
1662-63	...	(b.) Withdrawn (Bruce ii, 150).		
1677-78	...	(c.) Re-established (Bruce ii, 409).		
1702 ...	...	(d.) No longer existing. Not in list of Dead Stock taken this year.		
1768 ...	...	(e.) Ceded with Circars ( <i>vide</i> Acq. No. XXXIV).		

No. VII.

			Sq. Miles	Rs.
1639 ...	Madraspatam, Original Settlement of	(1.) 1st March—Grant for a station and for the erection of a fort by Sri Ranga Ráyulu (descendant of the Vijayanagar Kings) reigning at Chandragiri, about ninety miles north-west of Madras; obtained for the Company by the local Governor or Naick, Dámarla Venkatá dri (ancestor of the present Raja of Kálahasti, c.s.i) who desired that the station (which was selected "as better calculated for the protection of trade than Armagon") might be styled Chennappa-patnam, after his father Kari Chennappa, which was done; although the Royal grant enjoins the use of the name "Sri Ranga Raya patnam." Mr. Francis Day, one of the Council at Masulipatam, and the head of the factory at Armagon, was the officer who negotiated the affair. The grant covered a space roughly estimated as five miles in length by one mile in breadth (Bruce i, 368; Wilks i, 163; Mill iii, 52).	674	19,879
1645-46	...	(2.) The Hindu State of Chandragiri being subverted about this time (Wilks i, 163) by the Mussulman King of Golconda, the Agent and Council at Fort St. George send a deputation, with a present to Golconda, to obtain a confirmation of their privileges (Bruce i, 415). The same authority (i, 455) under the year 1650-51 speaks of the grant having been obtained; but the formal document was not delivered till 1683 [ <i>vide</i> (4) <i>infra</i> ].		
1671-72	...	(3.) Local Records, dated 11th April—It is agreed to pay the King of Golconda 1,200 pagodas (4 800 rupees) per annum, as rent for the settlement which is to be free from any other imposition for ever; and to pay 11,000 pagodas in full of all demands for the time past.		
1683 ...	...	(4.) Local Records, 12th November—The Golconda farmán formally delivered to Mr. William Gyfford, Governor. <i>Note</i> —Golconda fell under the arms of Aurangzeb in 1687, and the rent then became an asset of the Mogul Empire.		





## No. VII—(Concluded).

Year	Territory	How acquired, and District now representing it	Approximate Area	Land Revenue
1702 ...	Madraspatam— (Concluded)	(5.) 2nd July—Described in the list of the Dead Stock of the two East India Companies, as "Fort St. George, with the castle and fortifications, and territory thereto belonging : upon which a large city is built, consisting of—houses, which are held of and pay rent to the said Governor and Company, together with the said city and its dependencies."		
1746 ...	...	(6.) September 10th—Surrendered to the French arms under Labourdonnais. Ransom fixed by him at 11 lakhs of pagodas (44 lakhs of rupees or 440,000 pounds sterling); but the stipulation disregarded by Dupleix (Orme).		
1749 ...	...	(7.) August 15th—Delivered up by the French under the operation of the treaty of Aix la Chapelle, dated October 7th, 1748 (Orme).		
1752 ...	...	(8.) Local Records, 31st August—Mahomed Ali (Wallajah), Nawáb of Arcot, remits by farmán the 1,200 pagodas (4,800 rupees) per annum, the rent heretofore paid for the settlement [ <i>vide</i> Note (3) <i>supra</i> ].		
1765 ...	...	(9.) August 12th—Possession confirmed by a farmán from the Mogul by way of inám or free gift.		

## No. VIII.

	Madakara ...	Island on the north side of the Billiapatam river, north of Cannanore ; is now a part of the Cherakal Taluk.	ACRES S. GR. 1	Rs. 1,120
1669-70	...	(1.) Obtained from the Raja, <i>i.e.</i> , of Cherakal, probably as a trading post on rent.		
1736 ...	...	(2.) March—Permission granted by the Raja for the erection of a fort.		
1749 ...	...	(3.) May—The island formally ceded by the Raja as a British possession (Malabar Commission Report, para. 9).		
1762 ...	...	(4.) August—Fort blown up and island given back to the Vice-Regent of Cherakal. <sup>2</sup>		
1792 ...	...	(5.) 18th March—Ceded by Tippoo with the rest of Malabar and other territory ( <i>vide</i> Acq. No. XXXVIII).		

## No. IX.

	Madapollam, Factory of	Makes one village with Narsapur of the Godáviri District, 45 miles north of Masulipatam, 6 miles from mouth of the Vasishta branch of the Godáviri, and on its right bank.	Factory only	Nil
--	---------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------	-----

<sup>2</sup> After the fall of Pondicherry and Mahé in 1761, this post which had up to that time been useful in protecting the English Company's trade, and in retarding that of the French Company, was abandoned as no longer of use.



BRITISH ACQUISITIONS IN THE

No. IX—(Concluded).

Year	Territory	How acquired, and District now representing it	Approximate Area	Land Revenue
1679 ...	Madapollam— (Concluded)	(1.) December—Factory established (Bruce ii, 439).		
1688 ...	...	(2.) August—Withdrawn (Bruce ii, 654).		
1698 ...	...	(3.) Resettled under orders of Court of Directors.		
1702 ...	...	(4.) Entered in the Dead Stock of the two uniting Companies.		
1757 ...	...	(5.) Captured by the French under Bussy.		
1759 ...	...	(6.) 14th May—Part of the territory ceded by Nizam's Treaty with Colonel Forde ( <i>vide</i> Acq. No. XXXI).		
1765 ...	...	(7.) August 12th—Grant confirmed by the Mogul's farmán.		

No. X.

			SQ. MILES	Rs.
	Porto-Novo alias Faran- gipet.	A seaport in the district of South Arcot...	078	36
1681-82	...	(1.) Local Records, dated 12th January—Cowle for making a settlement obtained from Haraji Raja, the Subahdar of Gingee, and the Deputy in the Carnatic of Sambaji, who had recently succeeded his father, Sivaji, as head of the Mahratta dynasty.		
1702 ...	...	(2.) July 2nd—Factory entered in the "Quinque-partite Indenture of the Conveyance of the Dead Stock of the two East India Companies."		
1758 ...	...	(3.) Fell into the hands of the French under Lally, with Fort St. David and Cuddalore.		
1760 ...	...	(4.) French driven out by Colonel Coote after the defeat of Lally at Wandiwash.		
1782 ...	...	(5.) Taken by the French under Bussy (Wilks).		
1785 ...	...	(6.) 1st February—Restored to England under treaty of Versailles, dated 3rd September 1783.		

No. XI.

	Cuddalore, Factory of	A seaport in South Arcot, and the chief town of that district.	1	3,643
1682 ...	...	(1.) Factory established (Local Records, 11th May 1682).		
1683 ...	...	(2.) Business commenced (Local Records, 19th March 1683).		
1692 ...	...	(3.) Ordered by the Court of Directors to be withdrawn, along with Conimere (q. v.) <sup>3</sup> in consequence of the grant of Tegnapatam (q. v.) <sup>4</sup> by Rám Raja (Bruce iii, 111).		
1702 ...	...	(4.) July 2nd—Mentioned as existing in the "Quinque-partite Indenture of Conveyance of the Dead Stock of the two East India Companies."		

<sup>3</sup> *Vide* Acq. No. XIV.

<sup>4</sup> *Vide* Acq. No. XV.



No. XI—(*Concluded*).

Year	Territory	How acquired, and District now representing it	Approximate Area	Land Revenue
1758 ...	Cuddalore— ( <i>Concluded</i> )	(5.) Surrendered to Lally, 4th May (Orme).		
1760 ...	...	(6.) April—Retaken by detachment under Assaf Beg, sent by Coote after his victory at Wandiwash (Orme).		
1782 ...	...	(7.) April 8th—Capitulated to the French, assisted by the Mysoreans (Wilks).		
1785 ...	...	(8.) 1st February—Restored to England by France under the treaty of Versailles, dated 3rd September 1783.		

No. XII.

1683 ...	Vizagapatam, Fortified Factory of	A seaport, capital of district of that name. (1.) Supposed date of establishing settlement (being the first mention of it). The date is not given by Bruce, nor in the Local Records which go back to 1670 only. If the date is correct, the grant must have issued from the King of Golconda or his local officers.	Fortified Factory only	<i>Nil</i>
1689 ...	...	(2.) September 13th—Factory seized and the English officers put to the sword by the Mogul's orders, owing to the rupture between Aurangzeb and the Company in that year.		
1690 ...	...	(3.) 28th December—Kaul for the factory renewed by Zulfakar Khán, the Mogul General in the Deccan.		
1692 ...	...	(4.) April—Factory allowed to be fortified by the same authority.		
1702 ...	...	(5.) Entered in the Dead Stock account taken on the union of the two East India Companies. It is there described as "the Fort and Factory at Vizagapatam."		
1716 ...	...	(6.) Farmán from the Emperor Farok-sir confirming the possession of the settlement (Local Records).		
1757 ...	...	(7.) 25th June—Capture by the French under Bussy (Orme).		
1758 ...	...	(8.) 12th September—Presented to the English by the Raja of Vizianagram after capturing it from the French garrison (Orme).		
1765 ...	...	(9.) August 12th—Grant confirmed by the Mogul's farmán.		

No. XIII.

1683-84	Tellicherry	Town and seaport in Malabar ... (1.) Factory established under a Chief and Factors by the President of Surat (Bruce ii, 511); being the first Pepper settlement on the Malabar Coast.	Fortified Factory only	<i>Nil</i>
1688-89	...	(2.) Factory strengthened (Bruce ii, 616).		
1702 ...	...	(3.) Entered in the Dead Stock list of two East India Companies as the "Fort of Tellicherry."		





## No. XIII—(Concluded).

Year	Territory	How acquired, and District now representing it	Approximate Area	Land Revenue
1708 ...	Tellicherry— (Concluded)	(4.) Formal grant obtained for the Fort from the Cherakal Raja (Malabar Commission Report, para. 9).	Sq. MILES 1½	Rs 1,490
1719 ...	...	(5.) Limits of settlement extended on south side after a successful war with the Coringotte Nair ( <i>idem</i> ).		
1776 ...	...	(6.) The settlement reduced from a Chiefship to a Residency.		
1780 ...	...	(7.) Besieged by Sirdar Khán, Hyder's Faujdar, with the Cherakal Raja.		
1782 ...	...	(8.) Successful sortie under Major Abingdon, and the siege raised (Malabar Commission Report, para. 30).		
1784 ...	...	(9.) The Chiefship re-established.		
1794 ...	...	(10.) Chiefship abolished, and the settlement placed directly under the Supervisor of Malabar.		

## No. XIV

Continued areas				
	Kunimédu	On the coast, South Arcot District, 10 miles north of Pondicherry.	Factory only	Nil
1683 ...		(1.) Factory established (Bruce ii, 519).		
1668 ...	...	(2.) Farmán for a fortified settlement and liberty of trade, obtained on a present of 800 pagodas or Rupees 3,200, from Rám Raja, who, on the assassination of his elder brother Sambaji (Sivaji's successor) by Aurangzeb, and the simultaneous captivity of Sahoji, Sambaji's son, had been recognised as head of the Mahratta dynasty by its subjects (Bruce ii, 652).		
1691 ...	...	(3.) Withdrawn by order of the Court of Directors, on the purchase of Tegnapatam (Fort St. David), (Bruce iii, 111). ( <i>Vide</i> Acq. No. XV).		
1801 ...	...	(4.) Ceded with the rest of the Subah of Arcot to the Company by treaty with Azim-ul-Daula, Nawab Subahdar of the Carnatic, 31st July (Aitchison, vol. v. 248). ( <i>Vide</i> Acq. No. XLIII).		

## No. XV.

	Tegnapatam	( <i>Alias</i> Fort St. David), sometimes written Thevanapatnam, Devenapatnam, Devanàmpatnam, Devipatnam, now included in Cuddalore, the chief town of the South Arcot District.	Sq. MILES 10	Rs. 11,130
1690 ...	...	(1.) September 1st—The grant of land for this settlement was purchased for 120,000 chakrams = 8,000 pagodas = 32,000 rupees from Rám Raja, who, on the assassination of his elder brother Sambaji (Sivaji's successor) by Aurangzeb, and the simultaneous captivity of Sahoji, Sambaji's son, had been recognised as the head of the Mahratta dynasty by its subjects (Local Records).		





## No. XV—(Concluded).

Year	Territory	How acquired, and District now representing it	Approximate Area	Land Revenue
1702 ...	Tegnapatam— (Concluded)	(2.) July 2nd—Mentioned in the "Quinque-partite Indenture of Conveyance of the Dead Stock of the two East India Companies" as "all that fort called Fort St. David (being a strong fort and factory) and about three miles compass of the circumjacent country, upon which several small towns or villages are erected."		
1758 ...	...	(3.) June 2nd—Surrendered to the French under Lally, who at once razed all the fortifications to the ground (Orme). It was afterwards included in Cuddalore (q. v.) <sup>5</sup> and its dependencies, instead of being shown under a separate head.		

## No. XVI.

			Sq. Miles	Rs.
1693 ...	The villages of Tondiyárpét, Purasavákam and Egmore	Parwána from Asad Khán Aurangzeb's Grand Vizier, granting the English the three towns, now included in the city of Madras, of Tondiyárpét, Purasavákam, and Egmore properly Elambúr, 10th February (Local Records).	8·8	20,861
1746 ...	...	(2.) September 10th—Surrendered, as part of the city of Madras, to the French arms under Labourdonnais. Ransom fixed by him at 11 lakhs of pagodas (44 lakhs of rupees or 440,000 pounds sterling); but the stipulation disregarded by Dupleix (Orme).	8·8	20,861
1749 ...	...	(3.) August 15th—Delivered up, as part of the city of Madras, by the French under the operation of the treaty of Aix la Chapelle, dated October 7th, 1748 (Orme).		
1765 ...	...	(4.) August 12th—Original grant confirmed by a farmán from the Mogul.		

## No. XVII.

	Anjengo	A small seaport on the Travancore Coast 78 miles N.-N.-W. of Cape Comorin; now attached to the Malabar Collectorate.	½	891
1694-95	...	(1.) Settlement formed by grant of the Queen of Attinga, a Princess under the sovereignty of Travancore (Bruce iii, 165) on payment of ground-rent.		
1695-96	...	(2.) Fort built (Bruce iii, 195).		
1702 ...	...	(3.) Fort entered in the "Quinque-partite Indenture of Conveyance of the Dead Stock of the two East India Companies," dated 2nd July.		

<sup>5</sup> Vide Acq. No. XI.



Year	Territory	How acquired, and District now representing it	Approximate Area	Land Revenue
1800 ...	All the territories acquired by the Nizam under the treaty of Seringapatam (1792) and all the territories acquired by him under the treaty of Mysore (1799) except any districts situate to the north of the river Tangabhadra, in lieu of which the Nizam ceded the district of Adoni and all other his territory to the south of that river or to the Kistna below the junction of these two rivers.	Ceded by the Nizam in perpetuity by treaty dated 12th October "for the regular payment of the expense of the augmented subsidiary force." The districts now representing this cession are Bellary (except the feudatory Native State of Sandūr, <i>vide</i> Acq. No. XLV), Cuddapah, the feudatory Native State of Banganapalli and Kurnool. <sup>13</sup> The expression not unfrequently used in official correspondence of "the Ceded Districts and Kurnool" as if Bellary and Cuddapah were ceded to the British Government at one time, and Kurnool at another, is erroneous.	Sq. MILES 26,592	Rs. 57,50,000

No. XLIV.

1801 ...	The Carnatic below Ghauts, Greater portion of	The whole of the Carnatic, Payen Ghaut, not included in previous grants: <i>viz.</i> , the present Nellore District, North Arcot (except Kangundi and Punganūr), South Arcot (except previous grants), Trichinopoly, Madura (except Dindigul and Pulney Taluks) and Tinnevely; also the feudatory State of Pudukōta.  July 31st.—Ceded to the Company by His Highness Azim-ūl Daula, Nawāb Subahdar of the Carnatic (Aitchison v. p. 248).	35,732.	145,50,000
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<sup>13</sup> The district of Kurnool yielded to the Nizam and afterwards (up to 1839) to the British Government a land revenue of Pagodas 66,666, or Rupees 2,44,431 only (subsequently reduced to 1,00,000 rupees) being the peshkash payable by the hereditary Pathān Nawābs of Kurnool. In 1839, the Nawāb was deposed and the country brought under direct administration. Subsequently the district has been enlarged by the addition of taluks taken from Bellary and Cuddapah.





## No. XLV.

Year	Territory	How acquired, and District now representing it	Approximate Area	Land Revenue
1803 ...	Districts ceded by Rajah of Mysore.	December 29th—Supplementary Treaty of 1803 with Mysore (Aitchison, vol. v, pp. 166-67). Under this treaty the Company, while ceding certain taluks to Mysore, obtained an equivalent cession, the whole of which is now incorporated with the Madras Presidency, except the taluk called "Era Saver Seemy" (properly <i>Elusdevirastime</i> ), which in 1804 was transferred to, and now forms part of Coorg, viz.:— Uddantapuram ... Bellary District. Two-thirds of North Arcot. Punganúr. Wainad ... Part in Malabar, part in Nilgiris. Hulhul, or Hullial, in North Canara which now belongs to the Bombay Presidency. Part (not Port, as given by Aitchison) of Gudikota } Bellary.	Sq. MILES 1,715	Rs. 1,00,000

## No. XLVI.

1818 ...	Sandúr. Feudatory State of	Fell under the paramount sovereignty of the British Government, with the rest of the territories dependent on the Poona Government, on the surrender of Bajeerow, Peshwa.	140	Free from tribute
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## No. XLVII.

1845 ...	Tranquebar...	A seaport in the District of Tanjore, held by the Danes of the Raja of Tanjore at an annual rent of 4,000 rupees. Transferred to the East India Company by the King of Denmark, with all other Danish Settlements in India, for the sum of 12,50,000 rupees. Treaty done at Calcutta, 22nd February, and ratified by the Court of Directors of the East India Company at London, 2nd July.	13	15,756
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## No. XLVIII.

1856 ..	The Fort of Tanjore.	October 18th—Taken possession of by the Company twelve months from the death of Raja Sivaji, without male heirs, direct or collateral.	ACRES 530	RS. A. P. 7 2 0
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## XXX BRITISH ACQUISITIONS IN THE PRESIDENCY OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

## No. XLIX.

Year	Territory	How acquired, and District now representing it	Approximate Area	Land Revenue
1860 ...	Bhadráchalam and Ráka-palli, Taluks of	Ceded by the Nizam by the 8th Article of the Treaty, dated 26th December 1860. Now attached to the Godavari District of Madras Presidency.	Sq. MILES 873	Rs. 17,450





FIFTH REPORT  
FROM THE  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON THE  
Affairs of the East India Company.

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APPENDIX, No. 13.

POLITICAL SURVEY OF THE NORTHERN CIRCARS,

BY JAMES GRANT, ESQUIRE ;

*Transmitted by the Bengal Government, in the year 1786, to the Court  
of Directors.*

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TO THE HONOURABLE WARREN HASTINGS, ESQ.,  
*Governor-General, &c., Council, in their Secret Political Department,  
Fort William.*

Hon'ble Sir and Sirs,

CONCEIVING it to be one of the primary duties implied by the tenor of my commission as public minister to the Nizam's court, to learn the political situation of the different independent states of the Deccan, with which we were or might eventually be, at enmity or in alliance, as well as to ascertain the value and relative circumstances of the British territorial dependencies in the neighbourhood, to the end, that if the fortune of war, (always precarious,) should, contrary to the experienced judgment of intelligent rulers vindicate the gloomy apprehensions of the multitude, previous to the battle of Porto Novo, and become so far unpropitious to the national cause, as to authorize or impel a sacrifice to be made for the attainment of peace, we might be at least enabled to enter on the business of negotiation, with some certain precise knowledge in political arithmetic.

But the more immediate particular objects of enquiry seemed to be ; first, to determine the actual power, with the inclinations, of Nizam Ali, to espouse the interests of the English against the Mysorean ; and secondly, to ascertain the true territorial worth of our possessions adjacent to Hyderabad, called the Northern Circars, of which the re-annexation to the nizamat has been very naturally the favourite ambitious wish of his highness, from the moment of necessary and rightful dismemberment of these provinces in favour of the Company. This nabob's power, estimated on a superficial view of an extensive dominion, with an annexed revenue, or from recorded public informations



appeared as formidable as his inclinations were interpreted to be favourable on the present occasion; while on the other hand, according to the accounts laid before Parliament in 1772, or subsequently in private circulation, and verified by farther committee investigations in 1781-2, it did not appear that such great advantages, either financial, commercial, or military, were derived from the circars, for fifteen successive years of occupancy, with local tranquillity and abundant territorial produce as might render continued possession, with the utmost expected benefits in future, grounded on experience of the past, an object of any political importance, to be set against either the entire loss of the Carnatic, or the further expense of a ruinous war in that quarter, under circumstances of unavoidable or factitious distress, perhaps unparalleled in the history of a powerful empire, not visibly arrived at the period of the final dissolution. The materials however to form the estimate required, in order to be prepared rather against possible than any probable contingences (though the best to be procured at the time, and sufficient at least to justify the lukewarm measures of cautious responsibility), carried with them such marks of imperfection and inaccuracy, as are ever inseparable from the infant state of every branch of experimental knowledge, and must have left an impression of doubt on the least enlightened minds.

To learn therefore something more circumstantial and certain, on matters so important, and which might eventually come under discussion within the scope of further negotiations, engaged my earliest attention, when arrived at the place of my destination, or afterwards more conveniently situated in the neighbourhood. Such informations as I could procure under the vigilant jealousy of a Mussulman court on the first mentioned topics of investigation, touching the Nizam's power and inclinations, I transmitted to the Governor-General in his private capacity; and though in substance and form, these communications were unfit for the public eye, or in proof insufficient to authorize active measures, yet it seems possible they might in some degree, have influenced the continued suspension of a fruitless negotiation during the whole period of my own residency, and while the posture of affairs was less in reality, than apparently, unfavourable to the national cause. With respect to the second branch of enquiry relative to the state of the circars, I flatter myself that my endeavours have been more successful, and it is therefore as well as from an idea of the importance of the subject itself, as connected with the duties of my late office, that I presume to offer the following sheets, which contain the result of my observations on the former topics in the abstract, on the latter in detail, for the inspection or consideration of the honourable board; hoping, if no new or beneficial lights should be communicated to those for whose use my labours are for the present exclusively intended, that yet they may bear some testimony of [619] the zealous desire I feel, for the prosperity and constitutional aggrandisement of that great political body, which I have the honour humbly to serve.

The actual complexion of affairs in England is a powerful additional motive for bringing forward, without delay, some observations which occurred to me in the prosecution of my inquiry, touching the general financial system of India; for notwithstanding the patriotic successful opposition to the late attempt made to deprive the Company of their chartered rights, it is to be feared, that it was altogether from an apprehension of the influence the proposed arrangements might have on the constitution at home, and not to avert the avowed purpose, or indirect tendency of part, to introduce one ill founded, if not wholly erroneous belief, of a most unwarrantable dangerous alteration of a fundamental principle in the interior government of this country, respecting the civil rights of persons and things universally, but more especially the nature of zemindarry tenures.

If what I have advanced on this subject, should in the least operate to suspend still dreaded measures, as founded on a too prevalent mistake, and specious reasoning on the necessity of reformation, the present disquisition may be of greater importance to the public interests than if it prove the means of





realizing a pecuniary increase of half a crore in yearly revenue, held out as a consequence of adhering to the equitable established laws or usages of the country.

I am extremely sensible of the hazard I incur of discovering a very limited defective knowledge, by a performance that may come in competition with that of a committee of circuit instituted a twelvemonth since, and whose Report will be founded on more minute, authoritative, and extensive researches into the actual state of these provinces, than can reasonably be expected from any private individual; but as I am not conscious of writing, either from mercenary motives, or any impulse of vanity; seeing that my labours are not designed, more than they are proper, for publication, it will be sufficient satisfaction for me, in fulfilling what, at any rate, I only consider my duty, unaccompanied with any extraordinary public expense, if I should, by anticipation, throw a glimmering of light upon what may hereafter appear in the full blaze of truth; or if, by general hints, on a connected view of many distinct considerations necessary to estimate the political importance of the circars, I can in any degree elucidate, the minuter details of more accurate, but perhaps less general inquiry, on a subject apparently important for the controuling representative of the British sovereignty in this country, to be fully informed of, as intimately connected with the prosperity of the Company, and the national interests at large.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect,  
Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

Calcutta,  
20th December 1784. }

Your faithful and most  
obedient humble servant,  
(Signed) JAMES GRANT.

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## OF THE NORTHERN CIRCARS, FROM A POLITICAL SURVEY OF THE DECCAN.

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### DESCRIPTION GEOGRAPHICAL, PHYSICAL, AND MORAL.

**T**HAT portion of the British dominion on the Coromandel coast, commonly called the Northern Circars, from its relative situation to Fort St. George; at the distance of 200 English miles, is a narrow slip of maritime country extending from  $15^{\circ}2'$  to the  $20^{\text{th}}$  degree of north latitude, and from  $79^{\circ}2'$  to  $85^{\circ}2'$  east longitude from Greenwich. The sea bounds it to the east, in a direct course N.E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. along a coast 470 measured miles in length from the port of Mootapillee, dependent on Guntoor, near its southern extremity, to the town of Moland in Orissa, on the borders of the Chilca lake. In almost a parallel direction on the west from 50 to 70 miles in land, it is divided from the interior provinces of the soubah of Hyderabad, by a range of small detached hills extending to the banks of the Godaveri, and in like manner separated from Berar to the north of that river, by a great continued ridge of mountains impassable everywhere hitherto explored, for horse or wheel carriage, excepting in the middle near Salourgant, quite to the northern extremity of the circars at Goomsur. From this last place, the same unbroken chain curves to the eastward, and together with the Chilca lake, form an almost impenetrable barrier of 30 miles to the north on the side of the Marhattas of Cuttack, excepting a tongue of land between that lake and the sea, a mile in breadth at Moland, and intersected by the deep water communication of Manickpatam, at all times unfordable. Towards the south, the small river Gondezama which empties itself at Mootapillee, separates

Mr. J. Grant's  
Political Survey of the  
Northern Circars.

Extent and Boundary.



4 APPENDIX TO FIFTH REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

the territory we are describing, from the districts of Ongole, and formeth on that side, the most distinguishable modern frontier to the Carnatic Payenghaut.

The area or superficial contents of the circars, taken in their greatest extent of accessible productive land, may be computed at 17,000 square geographic miles; of which perhaps only 1-5th is in cultivation or fallow; twice that portion, in pasture; and the remainder, under woods, water, towns, barren hills, or a sandy waste three miles in breadth, bordering the [620] whole extent of the coast. By another division, 3-4ths of this area may be considered a plain,\* rising nowhere more than 25 feet above the level of the sea, and stretching on a medium 35 miles inland, with only two remarkable interruptions in its greatest length along the shore, by as many crop or rather inclined ridges of hills; the one, a few miles north of the river Sitteararam, which forms the southern boundary of Cicacole, and the other, parting unequally that province at the river of Poondy, into its present subdivisions dependent on Vizagapatam and Ganjam. The remaining fourth proportion parallel to this plain, and farther inland about 15 miles, is much more elevated, is agreeably variegated with hills and vales, easy of access, and superabundantly fertile. But beyond both these tracts of plain and hilly ground, to the north of the Godaveri, a still higher region extends close to the great ridge of mountains on the confines of Berar. This comprehends at least 6,000 square miles additional; but being poor, unhealthy, and thinly inhabited, pays so slender a tribute that it is scarcely made any account of, unless as a frontier towards the Marhatta dominions on the N. W. almost wholly inaccessible.

The grand divisions of this whole territory are naturally and properly five:

Six Provincial Domini-  
ons.

being so many portions of its length, principally marked by rivers running across from the hills on the west to the sea. But besides these, a sixth district has been formed from the maritime border of the four southerly

circars or provinces, to serve as an appendage to, and secure the salt made, or customs collected at the ports of Nizampatam, on a southern outlet of the Kistna, and of Masulipatam on one of its northern branches, as well as at their respective dependencies along the coast. 1st. Guntoor or Moortizanagur, the most southerly province, is of a circular form, comprehending an area of about 2,500 square miles. The river Kistna, after running a course of 600 miles nearly on the parallel of  $16^{\circ}\frac{1}{2}$  latitude, from its source to the Balagaut hills near the coast of Malabar, forms the northern boundaries of this circar and separates it, on its greatest extent on that side, from the province of Mustafanagur, to the west and south; the districts of Palnaued and Ongole, formerly dependent on the foujedarry of Kirpa, but some time since, incorporated with the Carnatic Payengaut, border its limits; and on the east, Nizampatam with its dependencies, intervene everywhere between it and the sea, excepting a narrow communication with the small port of Mootapillee, which in the confusion of frequent revolutions, has been dismembered from its proper maritime capital, and annexed to the interior country. This province, therefore, generally speaking, is entirely surrounded by the other dominions of Britain, and absolutely detached from all the rightful territory still claimed and held formerly by the soubahdar of the Deccan under the crown of Delhi.—2d. Condapillee, or Mustafanagar; and 3d. Ellore, adjacent to each other, as well as to the circar just described, in a north-easterly direction, occupy the whole space lying between the Kistna and Godaveri, the districts of Masulipatam towards the sea, and the inland province of Commamet on the west; and the keel or lake of Colare, chiefly formed by the overflowings of those two rivers, with a

\* To this the province of Cicacole may be considered an exception, as being interspersed in its whole area, with a number of small insulated hills, rising abruptly from the common level at considerable distances from each other.



parallel stream running through its centre to the sea coast at Gollapollam, would nearly divide the circars under consideration into two equal parts or squares of about 53 miles on every side, allowing for some inequalities, which however ought not to escape notice. Condapillee along the north bank of the Kistna, stretches some of its straggling pergunnahs in the west through Comma-met, as far as Mongal, 120 miles from Masulipatam, and rather more than half way to Hyderabad, comprehending an area in the whole, of about 3,400 square miles. On the other hand, the river Godaveri, which describes the limits of Ellore northerly, curves so much in its greater branch to the south on approaching the sea, as to diminish considerably the east side of the square of this province; and though the district of Poleveram dependent on Rajemundry, among the hill on the southern bank of the same river, be a further encroachment on the regular bounds of Ellore, yet still its superficial contents cannot justly be estimated at less than 2,700 square miles.

4th. Rajemundry, towards the south, is, with the exception above mentioned, separated from Ellore, in its greatest breadth, by the Godaveri. This river, after receiving many lesser ones from its sources among the Ballagaut mountains, near Bombay on the Malabar coast, and running a course east, southerly from thence about 700 miles, divides itself into two great branches 35 miles from the sea, within which is formed the island of Nagur, a triangular space comprehending only 500 square miles, but of greater value in proportion to its extent than perhaps any other spot in the East, without excepting the famed Delta at Egypt. From the district of Polaveram on the west, the great ridge of hills towards Berar, limits this province; and the small river of Settieveram, running from thence to the sea, describes its northern boundary with Cicacole, including in all, an area of 1,700 miles of accessible country.

5th. The districts of Masulipatam, form the coast of the grand division of the circars, and, as hath been observed, are only portions of the maritime border, dismembered for certain use, from the four provinces already described. Nizampatam, formerly a separate jurisdiction on the south of the Kistna, extending along a coast of 60 miles from point Dive, near the great mouth of that river, to Moolapillee south, and about 5 in breadth, on a medium, to the territory of Guntour, constitutes the southern portion of this division, and from the same head land, including the island of Dive, to Marsapore on the southern arm of the Godaveri; and from thence to Ingeram on its northern branch just beyond the point formed by and deriving its name from this river, lie several pergunnahs detached from Condapillee, and some lesser sea ports, scattered on the shores of Ellore and [621] Rajemundry, together composing the northern subdivision, and extending along a coast of 105 miles, within 45 of Pentacottah, at the mouth of the Sittaveram, and boundary of Cicacole. Both these portions united, may contain 700 square miles of land immediately dependent on Masulipatam, which is not only the capital of these districts, but also the seat of a subordinate government, ruling the different provinces described, except Guntour, and is the principal fort and bulwark of all the Northern circars.

6th. Cicacole, anciently Kulling, the most northerly and last in order of the grand division, is also subdivided into two districts, of which, one deriving its name from that of the province, is dependent on Vizagapatam; the other, called Johapour, is placed under the chief and council of Ganjam.

The former lies between the rivers of Settavarveram on the south, and of Poondy north. From the cross hills approaching the sea near those extremities, it forms a kind of amphitheatre, or semicircular territory, of which the diameter along the coast extends 180 miles; and its greatest dimensions inland to the high mountainous region on the west, about one-third of the same distance, comprising an area not less than 4,400 square miles. The latter subdivision of this province is of a triangular figure, stretching its longest side along the





## APPENDIX TO FIFTH REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

shore about 80 miles from Poondy to Moland, the southern frontier of Cuttack, and its shortest, to the angle at Goomsur; 50 miles in a west-northerly direction towards Berar, containing near 1,600 miles of superficial measure, exclusive of that portion of country which in this district, as well as in all the others southward to the Godaveri, we have assigned to the high inaccessible region, extending to the great ridge of boundary mountains on the west, in variable breadths. The climate of the Northern circars, with

## Climate.

a general conformity to what is observable in the other parts of Hindostan, north of the Kistna, has yet, from latitudinal extent of country, maritime situation, and position of the inland hills, some peculiarities in each of the three seasons of the year, worthy of remark. The periodical rain, called by the natives Bursant, usually sets in about the middle of June, with a westerly wind, in moderate showers, until the latter end of August, which month concludes the poonass fussul, or small grain harvest, and continues from this period, in greater abundance to the beginning of November, when it generally breaks up with violence, and ushers in the zemmestan with a strong north-easterly wind, greatly tempered, however, in its coldness, by the mild influence of the sea over which it blows. The middle of this latter and delightful season early in January, finishes the fussul khereef for rice and bajary, which are the great productions of the country north of the Godaveri; and in like manner its close at the vernal equinox, terminates the third fussul or rubbi harvest: the grand one for zoary or zanaloo,\* as well as for all the different species of grain or pease south of that river. Then commenceth the jabestan, or hot season, which is always extremely moderate towards the northern extremity of the circars near Ganjam, by reason of constant simidinal breezes from the sea; and the position of the neighbouring hills from south to west, contrary to the ordinary direction of the wind about Masulipatam. On the south, for the first two months, strong southerly gales along the shore, together with the sea breezes, moderate the heat, but the baleful influence of the former in blowing over salt stagnant marshes on the coast is injurious to animal life, and absolutely destructive of vegetation; and during the succeeding month, until the rains, the wind coming from the west over a parched loose soil of great extent, uninterrupted by any continued chain of hills, but particularly in passing along the broad, and at this time of the year almost dry sandy bed of the Kistna, becomes so intolerably hot near the mouth of that river, as to raise the thermometer, sometimes for a week entire, to 110 degrees within the house, and seldom under 105, during the first part of the day. Another peculiarity of climate, too often and fatally experienced in this country, is the noxious state of the air in all the hilly regions throughout the different seasons of vegetation, which occasions the distemper called the hill fever. This general mortal disorder, has been sometimes ascribed to the water, impregnated perhaps with the poisonous quality of copper ore, in passing over the mountains, or with unwholesome mineral earths, in issuing through springs; and sometimes with equal probability it has been attributed, to the corrupted juice of vegetables washed down by torrents into the public reservoirs; but the great operative cause is doubtless the grossness of the atmosphere, charged and contaminated with the exhalations of a luxuriant soil pent up in vallies, as seems to be clearly evinced by the prevalence of the same distemper even in the plains, where the richer crops of zenaloo are cultivated, and a free circulation of the air impeded by the luxuriance of the proper growth of this plant, or by surrounding trees and villages.

\* Toary and Pelajary, the former white, the other yellower and coarser, are a species of Maize, with a large brushy top, in contradiction to the Mecca Joary or Indian corn, which hath its grain growing on one instance of a conic form, as hath in like manner the Bajary or Millet, on a larger and slenderer Buhta or Ear.





In all these provinces along the coast, the soil is chiefly sandy, improving gradually towards the hills. The same ground therefore seldom, if ever, yields more than a single crop of grain annually; but there being everywhere an abundant supply of water, the one produced is generally extremely rich; for, besides the boundary rivers already mentioned, which fertilize the country on either side, there are many lesser ones within each of the circars, running into the sea, or divided artificially into canals, and afterwards conducted into the tanks and great reservoirs; such, are the streams passing through Guntoor, and which for the most part collected near Bopetta, together with the overflowings of the Kistna, water the lands of Nizampatam; such also, are the rivulets drawn from this great river and the Godaveri, which uniting in the Colare, between the province of Condapillee [622] and Ellore, are from thence diverted into numberless channels, to water the circumjacent territory. In Rajemundry the Yel-eric or Yalore, running parallel to, and not far south of the Settiavaram is, with uncommon intelligence and industry subdivided, to answer the purposes of cultivation within the two principal zemindarries of Peddapore, and Pettapore, on its opposite banks, while the island of Nagur or Nagurum, enclosed chiefly by the two greater branches of the Godaveri, and intersected by five others (lesser ones) is made wonderfully productive, not only by a constant and plentiful supply of the great element of vegetation, but from the acquisition of an extraordinary rich soil, in being thus, from situation, the grand receptacle of all the slimy mould carried down by the greatest river in the Deccan. The southern subdivisions of Chicacole, with a better soil than is found in other parts of the circars, is sufficiently watered by four interior rivers, which have their outlets at the respective ports of Vizigapatam, Bimlipatam, Maphus Bunder or Chicacole, and Calingapatam, besides many lesser streams in the seasons of the rains; in advancing to the northward, and in the territory of Jehapore, the river of Gangam, uniting different branches from the vallies of Vizianagur, Burragur, and Govinsur, in the very centre of the whole district, in its greatest breadth, as Aska makes this portion of the province equally fruitful with the other, comparatively to its extent.

From the many advantages which we have already enumerated, as common to the circars, it may be expected, that their natural produce will appear proportionate; nevertheless, the more useful classes of animals are found in greater abundance than variety, being almost wholly reducible to sheep and the larger species of horned cattle; but the neighbouring sea, and its numerous inlets, abound with every kind of Indian fish, a few excepted, together with some that are common to Europe, such as mullet, soal, and pomflet; the latter resembling most the turbot, if it be not exactly the same in miniature, is most peculiarly attached to this coast, and is turned to no inconsiderable benefit when salted, for the inland markets. It is, however, in the grand and most necessary articles of vegetable production, that this territory is particularly famous. In grain, the different sorts of which we have already had occasion to mention, it is properly the granary of the Carnatic during the north-east monsoon, in like manner as Tanjore is reckoned on, for the other season of the periodical winds from the opposite point of the compass. Fruits, roots, and greens are scarce, or reared with difficulty, to the south of the Godaveri, and even to the north of that river: owing, no doubt, to the influence of the sea air, are neither so excellent in kind, nor are they to be met with in such plenty or variety as in other parts of the Deccan. It may farther be observed, that some of the articles of second necessity, such as sugar and cotton, are also too scantily produced in Rajemundry and Jehapoor, for the general consumption of all the provinces, while on the other hand, bay salt and tobacco, the latter from the vicinity of Masulipatam, known everywhere for superior



excellence have exceeded, of late years, in quantity, the home and foreign demand for both. But, in the estimation of a commercial people, all the partial disadvantages we have named would be more than counterbalanced by a single uncultivated production of the greatest utility, if proper use were made of the forests of Rajemundry, which, from the commencement of the hills along the banks of the Godaveri to Palouncha, on the frontiers of Commamet, yield a superabundance of the best and largest teak timbers, so generally thought superior in quality even to oak, for the ship-building and navigation of the Indian seas. At present, the cocoa and palmyra, or in the more northerly province, the toomecara,\* form the principal materials for constructing, in the different ports of the circars, 500 of those unwieldy vessels called doonies† of various burthens, from 60 to 300 tons each. The diamond mines of Guntoor and Condapillee, reserved by treaty to the Nizam, deserve barely to be mentioned as a rarity; not to be considered as of any great political consequence.

In regard to Manufactures, the staple produce of the country worked from cotton is of two different sorts and fineness. Plain long cloth, so valuable at foreign markets, is chiefly wrought in the island of Nagur and its vicinity, where the manufacturers have always found a sure asylum from the ravages of war; it forms the ground-work of the best printed calicoes in Europe, and of those inimitable painted ones called palampores, in the districts of Masulipatam. The coarser plain cloths made to the north and south of the Godaveri, or coloured with chay root, which is the madder of the East, and growing in most perfection in the pure sands annually overflowed by the Kistna are equally articles in vast demand abroad, or for interior consumption. But the muslins of Chicacole; the beautiful woollen carpets of Ellore, and silks of Burrampore in Jehapoor, wrought from raw materials imported from Bengal or China, are rather objects of curiosity and meriting encouragement, than considerable in quantity or benefit. Of this nature also is the art of painting, or inlaying ivory and black wood, in the cabinet work made at Vizagapatam; but the facility, convenience, and cheapness, with which ships of war or of burthen, not exceeding 500 tons, have been, and might in greater number be constructed, in the ports of Coringa and Narsapore, at the two principal mouths of the Godaveri, are considerations of the utmost importance to a maritime state; nor should the extensive branch of ship-building at present in use, though with so much imperfections and improvidence in supplying 50,000 tons in small craft for the coasting trade, be forgotten, in stating the more useful arts, which at once favour the proprietary and local interests of the country.

The several objects of natural or artificial produce, when united, form the grand resources of commerce, which in the circars may be classed, under three different heads. The trade to [623] Europe, to neighbouring Indian ports, and the inland provinces of the Deccan. The first confined entirely to the fine cotton manufactures exported by European nations which have establishments on this coast, or purchased by other foreign adventurers, may amount in the whole, at prime cost, to thirty lacks of rupees, of which one-half seldom finds its way to England, though a much greater quantity would be productive of a certain benefit, of upwards of 100 per cent.—The 2d, or coasting trade, carried on almost entirely with Madras, since the late prohibition against importing bay salt into Bengal, consists either of grain, amounting annually to half a million of bags, and valued on a medium, at twenty-five lacks of rupees

\* This seems to be a species of the tree which produces the gum arabic.

† Coasting vessels of one or two masts, managed by native Lascars or seamen, having a convex upper deck, with the view of resisting more effectually any incumbent waves.



including freight and other charges, which return to the country; or for the most part, in the coarser cloths proper for the eastern markets, and which may be estimated at ten lacks more.—The 3d branch, or interior commerce, in salt and piece goods of native production, or copper, and raw salt; the latter, chiefly from Bengal, leaves a balance of ten lacks, after deducting half that amount for returns of cotton and wheat received in barter from the Lomballies,\* or inland carriers, and consumed within the circars;—and these are the various commercial benefits computed in the gross at 75 lacks of rupees, which, in a flourishing period of 17 years back, and most so under the late distractions in the Carnatic, have annually increased the hidden treasure, or languid circulation of the parsimonious Indians, excepting an overplus never exceeding 15 lacks, saved from a very disproportionate revenue, to liquidate the yearly gratuity paid to the Nizam by treaty, or be remitted in specie to the presidency of Fort St. George.

The native inhabitants of all these provinces, exclusive of a few thousand Mahomedans dispersed in the principal towns, and among the more regular infantry and militia, are wholly  
Population.                      Hindoos, and may, with great moderation, be numbered at two million and a half, under all denominations. They are parts, of the two nations of Telinga and Oria, Worja, or Orissa, formerly divided from each other by the Godeveri, but since their union under the government, a good deal mixed among themselves, as well as with some of the neighbouring tribes; still, however, under a general religious conformity to the doctrines of the Bedes, as received in the Deccan. They speak and write different dialects, apparently of the Shanscrit language, and have rites, customs, and characteristical traits, perfectly distinguishable from each other. The four great casts or divisions of the people, as founded on spiritual authority, are therefore common to both countries; but with less deviation from the original institutions in Oria, where braminal abstinence from animal food, excepting fish, contrary to the practice of all the other Decannes, is pretty generally observed by the higher tribes of every class. Farther, as these distinctions had equally a reference to the temporal, as well as religious state, so, even where the ancient rule, prohibitory of intermarriage, has been once or oftener infringed, and the tendency consequently greatest to confound the different orders, yet they have been, in a manner, wholly preserved; and sometimes most tenaciously adhered to, in civil occurrences among the Sunker, mixed or bastard descendants of the primitive inhabitants. Thus, the Bramins continue to enjoy their preeminence and consideration among the other tribes, though always in proportion to the purity of their lives, or outward sanctity. In like manner, the Rachewars, Row-wars, and Velmas,† of which denominations the principal zemindars in the circars are actually composed, affect the warlike character and manners of Rajepoots, to entitle themselves to be ranked with the more genuine offspring of the Chesteree, or second class. But the commewar conbies, or husbandmen; golawer-ahere, or cowherds; saliwar-juilhai, or weavers, together with the twelve bullootedars or artificers, maintained by the greater villages, and taxed by government, though all incorporated in the sooder, last, or fourth great cast, have yet sometimes claimed the degree, immediately above them; and from their

\* Lomballies, Lombardies, or Buyarabs, are a wandering tribe of carriers or camp followers; the descendants of those who, with their cattle, accompanied the emperors Shah Jehan and Allum Geer, in their wars in the Deccan. They are a tribe of Sieks subdivided into about 18 lesser ones, all followers of Nanic Shah.

† Rachewars, Row-wars, Telinga corruptions of Rajah, or of its diminutive Rai joined with the personal or local appellation, war, to express the people or descendants of chiefs of foreign extracts, or of modern upstart races. The Velmawars among the Telinganians, are equivalent to the Nairs of Malabar, or Nurigs of Canara, and are the native gentry or military of the country, claiming descent from, or adopted into, the families sprung from the ancient princes of Worungel.



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utility, have as often been allowed by a foreign magistrate, to rank with the compte banias, or retail merchants, which are properly of the third class or class assimilated with that of Bice.\*

### REVOLUTIONS AND HISTORICAL EVENTS.

IT was not until the year 1471 of the Christian era, or 876 of the Hejirah, that the Mahomedans of the Deccan extended their arms to the Northern circars. At this time, Oriah, the rajah of the country of the same name, separated from the rest of Orissa on the north by the Chilka lake, having died without issue, a dispute arose for the succession between Mungul-rai, the adopted son, and Hunner, the cousin of the deceased. The latter, had recourse for assistance to Mahomed Shah Lushery, who then ruled over the Bramineah empire in Beder, and long wished for such an opportunity of extending his conquests on that side of his dominions; in consequence of which, the claimant was not only put in possession of the family estates, but through the aid of his great ally, acquired the new conquests of Condapillee, including all the intervening districts, to Rajemundry, on condition of becoming [624] tributary for the whole to the Mussulman empire; but the ambitious projects of Mahomed Shah were not accomplished until nine years afterwards, in subjugating more completely to his authority, the districts of Masulipatam, with the important province of Gauntour. These formed part of a principality lately established by Narsingh, who was probably descended from the conquered Telinga rajahs of Worungaul; and being driven from the family inheritance, took advantage of the distractions which prevailed in the Carnatic, to make himself master of the sea-coast of Coromandel, from the Kistna south, to Kanje, or Conjeveram; fixing his chief residence at Chudergeery Narsinga, and so often confounded by European travellers or historians with Bejenagur, the capital of the greatest Indian empire of Canara, from which it had been dismembered, entered largely into the political views of the court of Beder; so the possession of Guntoor in particular, as lying on the south side of the Kistna, and in other respects, from situation, justly considered the master-key of the Carnatic towards the north, appeared of the greatest relative importance.

In the year 1512, the Kootubshahy, or second dynasty of Decanny Mussulman kings, dismembered, as turrefdars or governors, in right of power, the eastern division of the Bramineah empire, called Telinga, but in after ages, more generally denominated, from its capital and principal fortress indiscriminately, the state of Hyderabad or of Golconda; and in proportion to the limited sway of this new sovereignty, so the complete reduction of all the tributary dependencies, especially those on the sea-coast, which are now the subject of consideration, became more an object of policy with the ruling administration. The countries south of the Godaveri to the river Gondegama, were entirely subdued, reduced nearly into their present form of provinces as described, and otherwise modelled almost on the same principles of interior government, as prevailed to the period of the last revolution, when they were annexed to the British dominions in India: but at that time, Wistna Deo or Gajeputty, a powerful prince of Orissa, having united under his sceptre all the ancient family domains, from the confines of Bengal to those of Telinga on the south, no impression could be made on Rajemundry, or the more northerly

\* N B.—What further regards the character, customs, manners and religion of these Decannee Hindoos, is the subject of a more ample description, in another part of our Political Survey, which treats generally of all the six Indian nations inhabiting the Peninsula, giving their names to, or denominated from the grand divisions of country, Malabar, Canara, Merhat, Telinga, Oria and Goudwannah, into which the Deccan is naturally and properly distributed.





province, formerly tributary to the Mahomedans, while possessed by the descendants of Oria, until the year 1571, under the reign of Ibrahim Kootub Shah. Then, a new participation of this Indian principality lessened the power of defence, and facilitated the reduction of the Rheddy, or proprietary chief of the race of Gajepetty, to whose lot the southern division, along the banks of the Godaveri, descended as an inheritance. The treason of Vachevoy Mussalee, ancestor to the present zemindar of Peddapore, and renter or manager for the Rheddywars, furthered the ambitious projects of the sultan, while it procured for himself, the farm of Kimmoordeta, which served as a foundation to more extensive acquisitions. But the conquest of Rajemundry was still far from being complete. The island of Nagur was wholly inaccessible to Mussulman troops; nor could the interior of the province be sufficiently protected from the ravages of the ejected proprietors, who were driven to their unwholesome fastnesses among the hills, without a standing militia and feudatory force; which, besides the ordinary estimated revenue of the circar, subsisted on lands exempted from taxation, undue exactions from inferior subjects of the state, or plunder taken from neighbouring independent inhabitants, who were possessed of greater wealth than courage to defend it. In like manner, Cicacole was but imperfectly reduced; and reckoning only its first valuation, according to the public records, rated at an assessment greatly short of the actual collections made from the people, and the necessary military disbursements of a frontier Province.\*

Such, however, was the state in which all the Northern circars, together with the other dominions of Abril Hussien, the last of the race of the Kootubshahy, fell in the year 1687, to the victorious arms of Allen Geer, the great Mogul emperor of Hindostan. But, during the remaining twenty years of his reign, this monarch was too busily employed in conquering the larger provinces of the Deccan, and curbing the upstart Marhattah power, to inspect or render as productive as they ought to have been to the treasury, either of the two maritime dependencies of Hyderabad, henceforth termed a soubah, lying north of the Godaveri; and in the period which immediately followed his death, successive wars or contention for empire precluded every where, the possibility of a reform, having introduced anarchy and usurpation in some places, or in general occasioned a total suspension of all regular governments, throughout the whole extent of Hindostan.

At length, the memorable battle of Shuckerkerd, A. D. 1724, gave a transient repose to the Deccan, while it transferred in fact, though not in form, the sovereignty of this great limb of the Mogul empire, from the house of Timeer to that of Assiphean, in the person of the first and famous Nizam ul Moolk; self constituted, as well by sunnuds from Mahommed Shah the reigning emperor, viceroy, of all the six soubahdarries south of the Nerbudda, one of the great ancient and modern boundaries of proper Hindostan. The wisdom and vigour of this new ruler, were immediately felt in the circar of Cicacole, by the appointment of Anweer ud dien Khan Gopamovee to the post of aumildar, or controller

\* About the year 1592, Rajah Mansing, the emperor Ackbar's delegate in Bengal, having partially subdued the northern provinces of Orissa, including in the list of his conquests the southerly dependencies of Kalling or Cicacole, and Rajemundry, valuing the former of 27 mehals, at rupees 2,39,000, and the latter of 16 mehals, at rupees 1,25,000; but in truth, the Mogul arms did not penetrate beyond the Chilca lake and the assessment of those two districts annexed to, or making part of the original Toomar Jumma of Toorel Mull, as exhibited in the Ayeen Akbary, serves only to evince the imperfection of that famous rent-roll, with respect to the soubah of Bengal.



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of that province; but we are not to estimate the public benefits derived from a able administration of fifteen years successively, by the criterion of a rent-roll, under the best constituted Mussulman government. The pride, the advantage of a great military establishment, though often [625] nominal, must be taken into consideration; and if the policy and passion of princes did not so powerfully incline them to the system of purchasing personal attachments by conferring individual favours, yet it is so much the interest of ministers and other courtiers present, thus to promote the wealth and influence of provincial delegates, perhaps originally recommended by themselves, that full credit ought always to be given to public management, for every acquisition of private fortune authorized by unqualified despotism, written positive laws, or a conscientious implication of their reason and true spirit: nor will such liberality appear so great, when it is considered that death legally gave to the prince, entire and unconditionally, whatever portion of the riches of his subjects, the forbearance of his arbitrary will, left to their enjoyment in life, only, perhaps, in the hope of future reversion. To judge, therefore, impartially of Anweer undien Khan's progress in reducing to proper obedience, or in ascertaining and realizing the full revenue of those districts, so long placed under his management, we must take into the account his ample private emoluments, of which a skilful application probably paved the way to further preferment, until finally rewarded by the foujedarry of the Carnatic. That the remains of his fortune, escaped the grasping hand of his immediate superior, the soubahdar of Hyderabad, at the period of his death, must be attributed to the inability of even the great viceroy himself, their common ruler, to assert the more undoubted rights of sovereignty in any part of the Deccan, under the terror of the then prevailing power of the Marhattas. And it may not be unworthy of remark, that even nineteen years afterwards, it required the irresistible influence of the British government to obtain for Mahommed Ali, the successor of Anweer ud Dien, a full discharge of the arrears, or pretended defalcations in the revenue of Cicacole. But if such were the advantages resulting from the ability and good fortune of the Ommilden, deputed by the great Asiph Jah to one of the maritime circars; greater still were the benefits derived from the vigour and integrity of his contemporary, Rustum Khan, who, from 1732, for seven successive years, ruled with the most ample delegated sway, Rajemundry, with the other four more southerly provinces. There the zemindars, or Indian farmers generally had availed themselves of the surrounding distractions of the death of Alem Geer, to usurp the rights and feeble authority of their corrupt Mussulman superintendents. To correct these dangerous abuses, and restore the antient legal or necessary forms of interior administration, were the arduous task assigned to this new zelahdar or provincial governor next in subordinate degree to, though on the present occasion, vested in the plenary powers of a foujedar; and the conduct of the man so fully justifies the Nizam's choice, that even to this day it is held up and considered by the inhabitants in general, as an example worthy of imitation for necessary policy, considerate humanity, rigid and universal justice. At the same time that these zemindars, defrauded the public treasury, they squeezed, with the iron-hand of oppression, the industrious husbandmen and manufacturers. The first objects, therefore, of Rustum Khan's government, was the total extirpation of such merciless tyrants. Those who escaped the sword were proclaimed as traitors, and a reward being offered for their own, with adherents heads, a sufficient number was soon collected, to erect two of those shocking pyramidal monuments, called Khulla-minar, near each of the provincial capitals; for one of which kind, though in a larger scale, the cruelty of Nadir Shah is held in Europe, so justly in abhorrence. The remains of one of those singular proofs of Eastern depravity, the cause or effect of the most violent despotism, are still to be seen in the neighbourhood of Masulipatam, and might be supposed to serve as a lesson of useful instruction to the natives,



to contrast and revere the lenity of their actual government. But the legislator will assuredly be disappointed who expects to find in Hindostan the operation of free enlarged reason and reflection; and the characteristic traits of the people, as sketched by the great Tamerlane, in his celebrated institutions, would not have been so long and universally admitted by his imperial successors, as making the true unchangeable features of their subjects, as well as indicating the infallible standard of practical rule in politics, if they had not been drawn with exact similitude by a superior discerning genius and the hand of a master. Accordingly, the severe administration of Rustum Khan, which he now farther distinguished, by substituting ameens, supervisors or temporary collectors, in the room of the annihilated refractory zemindars, as proverbial for exemplary excellence in the circars as that of Jaffier Khan, who devised the famous loathsome torture of the by-kunta or paradise, to extort from similar delinquents in Bengal the settled revenue of the soubah, collected from the ryots. Still, however, the jumma kaamil, or original assessment, continued at an under rate on the Khalsah records; and the benefits derived by the state from superior management were always temporary, depending on the personal ability of the individual employed, and for the most part flowing in, through the private channels of corruption. Mussulman depravity, indolence and ignorance, soon made it necessary to recur to the ancient system of finance, through the agency of Hindoo farmers in general, who, to remedy the evils of a fluctuating government were made to have a permanent interest in the soil and general prosperity of the country, by certain local privileges which were so invariably continued in the same family by successive aumildars, that they were often mistaken by the possessors for hereditary rights; proper always to be enlarged in anarchy, or under the authority of natural law, when civil restraints lost all controuling influence; and thus the creation of new zemindars was, in a few years, productive of fresh disorders under similar circumstances, throughout the whole extent of the Northern circars.

For when these provinces, A.D. 1753, were annexed to the French dominions in India, under the nizamut of Salabut Jung, who owed

A. D. 1753. his elevation and future support chiefly to the great address and military conduct of the famous Bussy, so  
5th.—The French. this able politician and commander, appointed to rule the Ceded Territories, found himself under the

necessity, but [626] always with true measured civilized humanity, of going over the same ground with the best of his Mussulman predecessors, in re-establishing order, and the indispensable indubitable rights of Eastern sovereignty. Zemindars were as usual dismissed from their employments, but generally permitted to enjoy, under French sunnuds, their russooms and saverums, or conditional hereditary privileges, amounting to from eight to twelve per cent. on the net revenue collected; and excepting in the circar of Chicacole, there are more instances of new creations than total extirpation of the necessary officers of government. Here indeed the reform was not complete, a number of petty Indian superintendents divided the whole province betwixt them and family; new internal usurpations, together with multiplied abuses, for ever disturbed the tranquillity, while they lessened the receipts greatly below the dues of the exchequer. The union or annexation of these several possessions under one head, appeared the most eligible system of administration, and Vizieram Rauze, the predecessor, not ancestor of the present zemindar of the same name, who then only held the four pergunnahs or lesser districts about Vizianagram, rendered himself the most useful and acceptable man to act in the capacity of chief. It is not our province to trace the progressive execution of the plan projected; and we could wish to forget such bloody scenes as occurred, in the acquisition of Bobilee;—suffice it to observe, that success crowned the enterprize, and raised the favourite



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Vizieram to that unrivalled power and consideration which the adopted representative of his family still is permitted to enjoy among a multitude of other official landholders dispersed throughout the circars, some of higher pretensions from birth, but all of inferior territorial consequence. At length, a complete

1757.

survey and hustabood, or detailed account of the gross collections of the whole country, infinitely more accurate and useful than the famous Domesday book of England, were formed, and put Mr. Bussy in the knowledge of resources entirely beyond the reach of his Mussulman predecessors, and greatly exceeding perhaps the general belief of modern financiers. But moderation was necessary, under a recent foreign administration; the regular troops to be supported by the revenue were to be employed in distant service, and the great director general himself, whose presence might frequently be requisite to enforce his decrees, was almost constantly obliged to reside at the Nizam's court, to keep in order and set in motion that wonderful political machinery, which was at once the basis of his own grandeur, and made his nation the arbiters of the Deccari. The jumma-bundy or annual settlement, therefore, was only doubled in Cicacole and Rajemundry, and brought somewhat nearer the kham wossool, or gross receipts, in the other provinces. Besides which, as a temporary expedient, the zemindars were bound to maintain the public peace, defray all charges of collections, and keep on foot a sebundy corps or militia of twelve thousand infantry, which, over and above the ordinary service of preserving the three yearly corps, or enforcing their equal division between government and its tenants, were liable to be called on for a very small daily allowance, to repel any invading force. All this, however, we believe to have been only the first step towards establishing a more adequate jumma kaumil, or standard revenue, which a future prospect of stability was to make progressive, until arrived at the equitable medium of rent or taxation that leaves abundance to the husbandmen, with a sufficient spur to industry; that supplies the exigencies of the state in the necessary means for general system of defence, or to diffuse with returning increase, through the channels of commerce or other public disbursements, the enlivening benefits of provincial circulation, and after all, afford to indispensable intermediate agents, not princely fortunes to feed idleness, or pamper useless luxury; not hoards of wealth to be secreted in the earth, for the purposes of superstition or chicanery, and thus set at nought the deadly labour of man in the acquisition; not enormous defalcations, from the indisputable rights of royalty to purchase remissions, privileges, and influence by corruption to maintain a formidable military retinue, whose only virtue is personal attachment, to the master that pays them, chiefly in alienated lands, on the footing of those territorial benefices, which, with equal impropriety or ignorance, are sometimes suffered to be given away to gain the partial favour of Bramins, until at length the king's conquered domains are rendered of no account, or wholly parcelled out to support meditated rebellion, and be again re-united under refractory subjects, in the form of hereditary independent possession; no, not any such dangerous, superfluities or embezzlements would probably have been allowed to zemindars; those necessary servile links in Eastern despotism to connect the distant extremes of prince and ryot. Nothing beyond a splendid family subsistence, with just such an overplus of income as might serve to support official dignity, consequential appearance, personal pre-eminence, and gentility. This we believe would have been the equitable political result of Mr. Bussy's scheme of finance, if he had been allowed to complete it, though the ignorant calumniators of that great man, without attending to the other inexhaustible sources of private wealth, which he possessed in commanding the entire ministerial influence of the Nizamut, do not give his disinterestedness all the credit due in the adjustments in the mean time concluded, for the annual revenues of the circars.

But in April 1759, by the conquest of the fortress of Masulipatam, that





A. D. 1759.

6th Anarchy.

great commanding bulwark, the virtual sovereignty of all the maritime provinces on either side, from the river Godegama to the Chilca lake, was absolutely and necessarily transferred from the French to the British government. The gallant officer, however, under whose command this new and amazing revolution had been affected, could not conceive the possibility of maintaining, under the rule of mercantile establishment, territorial acquisitions of such vast extent. He contented himself, and still more fully his employers, in obtaining a formal grant for those districts only, which have since constituted the immediate dependencies of the conquered capital from Salabut Jung, the supposed rightful renter of the Deccan set up by [627] Bussy, and left the viceroy in nominal possession of the remainder, lost in wonder at the generosity and moderation of the English, though utterly incapable from court distractions, or the local circumstances of the country itself, thus dismembered from its head, to realize the derelicted boon. In consequence of which, for seven succeeding years, the completest anarchy recorded in the history of Hindostan, prevailed over all the five greater Northern circars. The forms, nay even the remembrance of civil government, seemed to be wholly lost; lords became vassals, renters were called proprietors, and aumildars changed condition with their inferior officers, by accepting zemindarry russooms, or yearly acknowledgments to lessen the recorded value and standing revenue of the lands. In 1761, an unconstitutional reform was attempted under the sanction of illegitimate authority. Nizam Ali, the brother of Salabut Jung, the actual viceroy, having some time before usurped the general administration of affairs in the Deccan, was so unfortunate in his transaction with the Marhattas, as to be obliged to cede for ever to the Peshwa, territories of the yearly value of one crore of rupees. The aspiring minister, regarding the consequent enfeebled state of the Nizamut rather as the effect of his brother's weakness and unworthiness to rule, than of his own misconduct, began to entertain thoughts of the Musnud, and to anticipate the princely honours to which he had already been declared apparent heir. In this design, he the more readily yielded his inferior charge to a new court faction, which rose on the decline of his own popularity, on being permitted to levy contributions from the eastern refractory provinces, which were to constitute a fund of corruption to assist him in his elevation. At that time, Hussein Ali Cawn acted in the capacity of aumildar in the circars. This man had in vain instigated the English government to assert its rights; at the same time he found his authority curtailed in the exercise of his office by the protection given to the zemindars. Among numberless instances of his kind, one Codant Ram, of Deoracotah, a small but compact fruitful and highly cultivated pergunnah, lying 15 miles south of Masulipatam on the banks of the Kistna, had been invariably assessed in the books of the circar of Condapillee, for a revenue of rupees, two lacks nineteen thousand four hundred and fifty-seven and six annas (2,19,457,6.); the gross Mofussil receipts exceeded this amount in the sum of sixty thousand rupees which defrayed the expense of internal management, such as sebundy, with the russooms and saverams of the zemindar, and other lesser officers of government. Codant Ram, a sensible intelligent man, and at this day, without exception, the most skillful farmer in any of the provinces according to popular estimation, availed himself of the prevailing distraction, on reinstatement in the zemindarry management, from which he had been suspended by the French, to obtain an annual diminution of his usual rent on the plea of predatory and other losses sustained by the inhabitants of the district, in the period of his suspension. He was seconded by the then chief of Masulipatam, who undoubtedly conceiving him aggrieved, interceded so powerfully in his behalf, that for the small additional consideration of nine thousand pagodas paid to the aumildar, the zemindarry, in the first instance, was only rated at forty-eight thousand rupees on the general rent-roll, though afterwards increased to 18,000 pagodas, or seventy-two thousand



rupees, but with a continuation of the same douceur, on settling the jumma-bundy. In this situation of affairs, curtailed in power and emolument, Husséin Ali solicited strongly the known ambitious Nizam Ali, who had already set out in quest of his pecuniary object, to visit and reform his own distracted jurisdiction. The invitation was gladly accepted, nor was the expedition fruitless. Titles and sunnuds were lavishly bestowed on the zemindars, for paying up arrears of revenue, or attaching them to the personal fortunes of the discarded minister, who was meditating rebellion against his brother, the immediate sovereign. These favours, illegal, unsubstantial in themselves, did not even in form, transfer any of the rights of Mogul royalty, and were only a temporary confirmation of ancient grants to new usurping landholders; every tehseeldar, or petty Mussulman, and French collector, held and exercised the same prerogative on their first accession or yearly settlement of accounts, and the fees admitted of on such occasions, were no inconsiderable benefit to all the officers of government; nevertheless the privileges conferred in this period of confusion, as coming from superior authority, and flattering to the vanity of upstart pretenders, became soon afterwards in such repute, that forgeries of them were common; twenty rupees could purchase an impression of the counterfeit seal, and eight annas more might have alienated half the regalities of Hindostan, as far as they were, at the disposal of an adroit Persian mutseddy or writer. But now a new revolution was preparing from abroad to rectify these glaring absurdities, and substitute constitutional rule, in the room of the most licentious disorders, oppression, and tyrannical anarchy, which had actually reduced the Nizam's receipts from all the provinces north of the Kistna on a medium of five successive years, to something less than

A. D. 1766.

7th.—British Rule.

three lacks of rupees annually. This was no other than the grand political change gloriously began ten years before, and finally executed in 1766, by the immediate achievement or under the auspices of the immortal Clive, which increased the British empire, not

so particularly in the East perhaps, as universally, to its greatest splendor and magnitude; though, at the same time, with respect to the circars, it could only be considered, as adding territorial possession under written forms, to previous conquered right. Sunnuds, the most ample and legal, were procured from the actual rightful acknowledged emperor of Hindostan, transferring in perpetuity to the great India Company, the entire, free, and unconditional sovereignty of that portion of his hereditary dominions, the present object of consideration, and then nominally under the weak factious administration of his delegate, or rather the self-constituted viceroy of the Déccan. An army of about 3,000 seapoys at once enforced the grant, and terrified the Nizam into a solemn confirmation of it by treaty, but with a voluntary acknowledgment on the part of the English, which, though of longer duration than originally expected, must be allowed sufficiently to support the national claim to [628] generosity and moderation. An insidious combination and war commenced a twelvemonth afterwards, in return for such substantial favour, soon gloriously terminated, however by the battle of Trincomalee, served only to strengthen and give permanency to the tenure of these important recent acquisitions, with rather a diminution of the pecuniary gratuity erroneously called a Peshcush, or tribute paid yearly on certain conditions, to the Soubah, in consequence of the former negotiation; nor will it seem a matter of so much surprize, that an incumbrance so large, dangerous, and, as it afterwards appeared, so ill bestowed, should have at all entered into the original agreement, or that an entire permission of it, should not have formed an article of the second, when it is considered, that in both cases, concessions the most mortifying, and infinitely of greater estimation, were obtained in addition, for the nabob of the Carnatic, the mortal enemy and declared rival of his superior the Nizam; that a variety of other circumstances, and political combinations, opposed a more advantageous





settlement ; such as, that the sphere of British government in the East was but recently enlarged by the acquisition of extensive territory ; that men's minds, formed only to the contracted scale of mercantile policy, were consequently unprepared instantaneously to embrace objects so various, complicated, and of so vast a scope ; or that, if a few individuals of superior genius could be found, who comprehended the theory, yet still experience was wanting, in the practise : that on the other hand, the highest and most formidable ideas were then entertained of the power, pretensions, and rights of the viceroy of the Deccan ; that in proportion as the glare of these, was to vanish from popular sight, so the gratuitous tribute it commanded, was to be of that short duration, subject to many future contingencies, and, at all events, agreeably to the law of nations, as universally understood in the East, as well as to the spirit, and not contrary to the letter of subsisting treaties, was absolutely and finally to cease on the death or removal of the actual incumbent. Neither is it to be

1789. September.

wondered, even at this day, after a lapse of full seventeen years of the most profound tranquillity, abundant produce, and commercial benefits, enjoyed, perhaps, for the first time for ages past in all the circars, if the East India Company have not as yet, entirely entered into their last equivocal and more undoubted proprietary rights. Their servants in this country are placed under the most embarrassing, unreasonable circumstances. The pursuit of fortune can be the only private object, to suffer probable death, and certain loss of health, in a foreign climate, destitute of all natural or social pleasures, according to the bent of a tolerably well finished European education. Not only the most rigid restraints, formally are opposed to the gratification of a ruling desire, originating from a fictitious necessity, but likewise, all visible means of subsistence are actually denied ; at the same time the temptations of ministerial offers are strong, but not so much in the pride of holding these, as in their attendant emoluments. The virtue of the present age is weak ; while refinements of the understanding are capable of finding out and reconciling evasions of the civil, only obey the more powerful law of natural reason. Prejudices are consequently entertained at home, against Indian administration in general. These create disgust abroad : no incitements are held out for industry, improvement, or disinterested conduct. The evil becomes extreme ; it is found to be deeply rooted in the original constitution of government ; and if at all to be rectified, it can only be, through the lenient, wise, and powerful interposition of the British legislature. The task is begun, with some hopes of completion ; yet, if it should appear, in course of a vigorous prosecution, that millions have been lost to the public, in lieu of thousands pocketed by individuals, it by no means follows, that mere penal laws, rigidly enforced by the most virtuous administration in the universe, will prove effectual, when due attention is not paid to the local circumstances and craving private interests of agents, necessarily, employed at the distance of near half the globe from the high controuling power, in large discretionary confidential trusts ; or rather, perhaps, according to a former observation, it may happen, that "should restricted laws be written in blood, and Minos himself the judge, unaccompanied by reason, they would be as the dead letter of tyranny, opposed by bold necessity, or eluded by the timid craft and villainy of slavery."—But to return from this digression, to the subject of our historical detail : it is necessary to remark, that even after the formal cession of the circars, so liberally paid for by the Company, their arms had still to subdue, at a great expense, the zemindars of Cicacole and Rajemundry, instigated to be refractory through the former weakness and present machinations of their rejected Mussulman rulers, while the farming landholders of Ellore and Condapillee more readily submitted, under a written promise from the military commander, of the continuation of their privileges under certain conditions ; which, of course, were never voluntarily to be fulfilled by a people who, the first time in the tradition of ages, had heard of stipulations proposed by conquerors.





## 18 APPENDIX TO FIFTH REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

The fate of Guntoor was singular ; nor doth the possession of it, yet complete the conquered granted right of sovereignty. A Singular fate of Guntoor. seven years lease of this province, granted to Bazalut Jung by his brother Salabut Jung, the viceroy, to enable the former to entertain the party of Frenchmen to be expelled from the limits of the Deccan, ignorantly described by the river Kistna on the south ; and thus virtually set aside the agreement entered into by the latter in 1759, with the English government, was just expired at the period of concluding the treaty of Hyderabad in 1766 ; and though Nizam Alli, the successor of Salabut Jung, at this time would have considered the extermination of his brother the lessee, a more desirable circumstance than the renewal of his holding, and soon afterwards actually proposed the alternative ; yet, as the latter proceeding curtailed the advantages of a more formidable natural enemy, and left great room for future contingencies, so the farm of Guntoor was continued to Bazalet Jung, but under the erroneous description of a jagheer, on conditions acknowledged to have been broken on his part in 1768, and always depending on the good [629] will and pleasure of his immediate proprietary superiors, who, at the same time, enjoyed the most rightful, extensive, and powerful sovereignty actually existing in Hindoostan. But, strange to relate, in 1779, we find the local representatives of this mighty government change conditions with a petty vassal, and put themselves on a footing with the little proprietor of the circar of Adoni, to obtain the rental of Guntoor, that they might have the honour of sub-letting to the lately constituted subadar of the Carnatic, their great enfeudatory nawaub or deputy, as in propriety he must be called, since there are no treaties, or circumstances of equality, to authorize his being distinguished as a federate ally, or otherwise, such a reversal of the natural order of things could not have been of long duration. Ignorant, ambitious, neighbouring rulers, construed a total dereliction of dignity, right, and power, into a conscious incapacity of governing, unless through the vain medium of their own flattered ability and supremacy. And as an earnest of greater acquisitions, the Nizam, in November 1780, seized the province in question, which was now ordered to be evacuated by the English troops ; and has, from a series of (to him) fortunate circumstances, continued in his possession even beyond the period of its final absolute reversion to the Company, on the 5th October 1782, when death put an end to all and singular pretensions of Bazalut Jung.

## GOVERNMENT.

WERE we to judge of political events from partial experience, it might be concluded on a superficial view of the preceding account of Revolutions, that the system of government in the circars has undergone the same variety of change.

Despotic form. But as limited monarchy and freedom peculiarly distinguish Europe, so despotism and slavery seem to be the universal indelible character, in which nature has stamped the state of civil society in Asia ; and if any one local division in this quarter of the globe can be said to bear the first and strongest impression, it is undoubtedly Hindostan. From the remotest antiquity, this country has not only been subject to the single arbitrary will of native rulers, in patriarchal feudatory subordination to one or more superior chiefs, but it hath constantly, in whole or in part, been held in a state of double vassalage or tributary dependance on foreigners, until its final absolute conquest by the Mussulman arms at the close of the 13th century. This revolution, indeed, having effected the total subversion of the ancient inferior empire of the Hindoos, introduced the most violent unnatural tyranny, as being engrafted on a new and sanguinary religion. The rights of persons and things universally, as understood in free states, had, it is true, at all times concentrated in the prince, or flowed from him as the focus of royalty, to such of his servile subjects as came within the





reflected rays of his temporary benevolence; but at this period, a spirit of enthusiastic intolerance made a daring and successful attempt on the divine and indefeasible right of mental freedom. Thousands of the Indian youth were carried into captivity, chiefly for the purpose of being educated in the slavish detested principles of Mahomedanism, and death or conversion was the usual alternative held out to the mild, though stubborn adherents of the Bedes; grown old under the scriptural rules of Braminical jurisprudence. Yet, even in this horrible oppressive state of society, might have been long endured, through the extreme passive indifference of the conquered, if the evil itself did not carry with it in the depravity, licentiousness and mutual disagreement of their tyrants, the better seeds of reformation, and prepare the land for that memorable change which at length brought the whole empire of Hindostan, under the more qualified despotism of the race of Timur.

Although the small portion of country at present under consideration,

Qualified by political  
maxims.

experienced in a greater or less degree, the effect of these various revolutions, and ought still to enjoy the desirable constitutional benefit of the last mentioned, yet it will not be expected that we should here trace any

of the outlines of general administration, even as laid down in the Mogul code; our scope is too limited, for such a design; and it must be remembered, that notwithstanding the more universal political maxims of Tamerlane, deduced from his own practice, and recommended to his posterity, have been invariably adopted by the best of his imperial successors, and only enlarged, methodized, and brought into more extensive use by the celebrated institutions of Akbar; yet every prince or delegate has his own *dustoor ul aumil*, or special rule or government, sometimes reduced to a form in writing, but for the most part, depending on his single capricious will: and that, therefore, to define a system of the mildest despotism, would be no less a task, than to analyze the various compound of the human mind, in the same man, or discover all the intricate mazes of deceit, inconsistency and folly, in the actions of thousands. This is properly the province of oriental philosophy, general and particular history. We have to lament that the knowledge to be derived from such sources, should be locked up in the difficulties of a foreign language, or confined perhaps to the scanty manuscript records of one accessible library, and which is the more to be regretted, that some palpably erroneous and dangerous doctrines, subversive of one of the first, most essential, and best ascertained principles of Eastern legislation, by which the proprietary right of the soil is constitutional, and solely vested in the sovereign ruler, should of late have gone forth, and received not only the sanction of speculative writers, misled by the misrepresentations of ignorant travellers, or by partial analogous reasoning from an imperfect understanding of fact and local circumstances\*, but also be adopted and strenuously urged by men of influence and experimental knowledge, equally eminent for ability [630] and integrity; though it seems evident in this instance, that a close attention to public avocations, or their private pursuits, left them not sufficient leisure to investigate or discuss with due consideration, the true theory of their own practice.† For that such is the foundation of the revenue system, in all parts of Asia, is not only deducible from the nature and spirit of despotic governments, as universally established there, and manifested in a manner, in every page of the genuine particular histories of each country, but absolutely ascertained to be so in Hindostan, in form and fact, by written positive laws; not indeed declaratory of a right which never was or could not be disputed, nor otherwise understood than as instituting and enforcing a practical scheme of finance over the whole landed property of the empire, and calculated to draw

\* Vide *Legislation Orientale*, par Monsr. Anquetil du Perron. Paris 1778 4to.

† Also, Reports of a Committee of the House of Commons, 1781-2; and a Plan for the Settlement of the Revenues of Bengal, &c. 1776.



the greatest possible rent into the royal treasury, after deduction of the necessary expense of agency, and having exercised the highest proprietary authority in obtaining the legal sources, personal management, and amount of revenue, according to an exact measurement, and proportional assessment of the land, on an equitable valuation of the annual territorial produce, to be equally divided between government and its ryots, or the immediate cultivator of the soil; neither is it to be expected that we should in this place, describe all the higher gradations of delegated power, the standing forms of office, or the functions of superior agents, however necessary it may seem for the more perfect comprehension of the relative subordinate administration of the Northern circars, depending also on discretionary individual rule. Such information will best be collected from the firmans, sunnuds, or commissions of the respective officers employed, connected with an historical detail of executive management, throughout all the various departments of the state. We shall therefore now confine ourselves, to a cursory view only of those provincial arrangements respecting the civil jurisdiction of the territory at present under consideration, which occur, in describing in very general terms, the formal authority of the lowest class of arbitrary delegates, beginning with the *aumildar* as the immediate representative of government.

This officer, though greatly below the degree of the *foujedars* of the Carnatic Payenghaut and Kerpah, held his appointment in like manner, directly under the *soubadar* of Hyderabad, but most commonly by patent, from the universal superior, the Nizam or great ruler of all the six *soubahs* of the Deccan, including the whole peninsula or southern promontory of Hindostan, from Cape Cormorin in 8° North latitude, to the river Nerbuddah, almost under the tropic of Cancer. His local jurisdiction also, when extending over all the northern maritime provinces between the Gondegama and the Chilca Lake, was no wise inferior in magnitude or relative importance, to that of either of his two southerly colleagues, and he was absolutely vested in the same undivided plenary powers of *zelahdarry*, *foujedarry*, and *shaikdarry*, which may be defined provincial civil magistracy, military command, and controul of finance; though with this difference however, in latter times, that he continued in fact, as well as in form, subject to a superior; whereas the others had effected or were supported, in a state of virtual independence.

In the first capacity of Nizam, or ruling magistrate, he was guardian of the rights of sovereignty; prevented or chastised foreign encroachments and interior disorders; declared what should be construed into rebellion or treason, and punished such delinquency at discretion. Arbiter in all cases of life and death, he presided personally, or by *naib* or deputy, in the *sudder cutcheree adawlut*, or chief court of justice. The *darogha* or principal clerk, prepared the indictment, summoned the evidences, and went through the forms of examination, as directed from the bench. The *mufti* or *molavi*, doctors learned in the law, expounded the text or numerous orthodox commentaries of the Koran; the *cazi*, or supreme judge, pronounced the sentence, and the *cutwal* or lieutenant of police, executed it; but only at the special command of the *aumildar*. In like manner, this high representative of royalty took cognizance of, ultimately, and solely determined, the more consequential civil disputes or causes of considerable private property; but left the decision of such as were of little moment or unproductive of heavy fines, and the usual forfeiture of one-fourth of the amount litigated claimed by government, to the *cazi*, who was also public notary in the attestation of deeds of grant or contract, and writings in general. Thus the Mussulman code was the universal established law of the land in crimes and punishments, and regulated the forms in all cases of judicial administration, though the virtual exercise of it depending on





the single arbitrary will of an individual; and, considering the mixture and common depravity of inhabitants, the crafty pusillanimity or inoffensive bloodless disposition of the greater part, the propensity of the stronger few or slaves in power, to tyrannize over the weaker and more dependant classes of the people, it must be confessed that a system of jurisprudence summary, severe, and despotic in the execution, seemed the best calculated to preserve the distant, feeble supremacy of the prince with the internal tranquillity and order of society. But in mere civil cases or personal differences, the genuine parsimony and bigotted Hindoos seldom if ever, had recourse to a foreign tribunal so expensive, uncertain, and violent in its decisions. The simple, amicable mode of arbitration by reference to the heads of casts and tribes, to native superiors, or mutual friends, was universally followed by those who formed the bulk of the community; and from its convenience, never opposed by their slothful, proud, selfish rulers, since the commencement of English administration. We know not on what principles there has been a total suspension of the long-established Mussulman law and high court of judicature, without substituting [631] others in their room, yet incurring the usual expense of all the requisite officers. That no very great public inconvenience hath as yet been experienced or made visible from such extraordinary deficiencies, may be a good argument to prove the habitually pacific submissive character of the natives, or the strong impression of ancient forms of rigorous justice over timid minds; but will scarcely vindicate the continuance of the same negative course of government, or indeed recurring to any other than the former, under milder and better regulations, unless it be admitted that the experience of ages and reasoning of the best statesmen of Hindostan can be controverted; that the nature of man is changed, and requires not the checks of a legal despotic authority; or that civil society can long exist in a state of judicial anarchy, under the forced dominion of a handful of foreigners, removed at the distance of a six months voyage from their mother country.

In the second capacity of *Sirdur fouge*, or head of the troops, the aumildar

Military.

himself held the principal jagheer or military fief, which was denominated *tatie* or personal, *mushroot* or conditional; imposing, in either case, an obligation to maintain a certain number of cavalry and infantry for the protection of the province, and follow the superior's standard in times of foreign war. In like manner, all lesser *jageerdars* and *munsudars*, with their respective quotas of *sepoys* or soldiers, were immediately under the command of this provincial *nazim*, who was further vested with the power of making additional temporary levies for apparent and useful services, annexed, as usual, to the post of *hackshe* or paymaster, which always gives the highest official designation of title to the commander in chief of the imperial forces, and places him next to the *vizier* in rank and consequence.

But it was chiefly in the third capacity of *shahkdar*, or dewanny delegate,

and Financial.

that the aumildar exercised the most important functions of his office. This department had always, during the vigour of the Mogul government, continued separate from the two former, held by the *soubadar* and his *nawabs*, or deputies; but on the resolution in favour of *Nizam ul Mulck*, was, in the first instance, in fact united in his own person, and became so, of course, throughout all the inferior gradations of the sovereign authority. The ordering, management and collection of the revenues, the amount, ways and means, and personal agency, in raising the supplies, the confirmation of former grants, the suspension of any provincial *sunnuds* to new men, were the high powers annexed to the post of even provincial controller of finance. He was virtually restrained in nothing, except alienation of land. Remissions of the annual assessment on an increase of expense, the least encroachment on the more consequential prerogatives of



the crown, could not be tolerated; but in the extension of imperial advantages, and at all times to authorize it in any shape, the different tedious and complex formalities attending the royal or viceroyal approbation, under the seals and signatures of all the ministers of state, were indispensably necessary. It is true, indeed, that the proper sources of revenue were ascertained by law and custom, as also the government share of the yearly territorial produce, whether in kind or in specie, and which constituted at least nine-tenths of the public income; but in the latter case, the proportion has only been struck for such lands, as were completely valued by measurement and actual rent, and even then, a latitude was left for greater exactions, on account of further improvement; and in all cases whatsoever, under the most vigorous administration, the aumildar not only could, and generally did, by means of bribery, justify a deviation from any standing regulations touching private interests, but with respect to the receipts of the treasury, was expressly required by his commission, to increase them as much as possible, and by every expedient ingenuity could devise, consistently with the political safety, or temporary views of despotism. In this department also, the Sudder dewanny adawlut, or principal court of exchequer, was under the immediate superintendence of this president of all the other superior provincial tribunals, and the nazer, or supervisor, enforced his decrees through the agency of the hazary, or commander of a thousand peons, of seduwar or head of the jummadar chief, any inferior indefinite number of the sebundy fussulla, or revenue troops, entertained everywhere originally on stated monthly wages, but latterly, from abuse in certain great allotments of land throughout the different pergunnahs, fraudulently sequestered from the circar, to increase the private emolument of one or all of the officers employed in the collections, who were comprized under the following denominations, and divided into two classes; viz. such of the natives as held their appointments, rights, and privileges, by sunnuds from the reigning sovereign, with the good-will of the ryots, or such as were merely temporary, more immediately dependent on the aumildar.

Among the former, the *Desmook Zemindar Chowdry*, or chief of a district consisting of one or more pergunnahs, held the first rank or consideration, for he was at once, the agent of government, the head farmer, and natural representative of the people. This office was originally instituted in 1582, under the name of *Crory*, by the Mogul emperor Akbar, and during the second administration of the famous financier, Tuder, or Toorel Mull. It was intended to remedy those necessary evils in despotism, frequent changes of the provincial delegate, and the distant remove of the protecting hand of this sovereign representative from the helpless indigent peasantry, as well as to reconcile the conquered multitude of opposite religious tenets, laws, habits, languages, and characters, to the unnatural oppressive dominion of a few intruding Mussulman barbarians; therefore the occupant, though holding his grants only during the life and pleasure of every succeeding prince, or any of his more powerful deputies, was considered as permanent officer, the intermediate agent of government to superintend a certain portion of the country, redress the petty grievances of the Hindoo inhabitants, furnish the husbandmen with the necessary advances for agriculture, and collect or become responsible for their annual rent, to the circar of state; his *nancar*, or Persian [632] derivation, or according to the usage, *Decan saverum*, from the Turkish word, with the common Telinga termination of *um*, signifying in both cases, a subsistence in bread, or a livelihood being to arise from small allotments of land freed from any public incumbrances, and conveniently dispersed throughout the district, so as to make his presence necessary everywhere, gave him local attachment and greater effect to general superintendence, in attending to his own private interest. At the same time, his *russooms*, customs, a commission on the gross revenue collected, invariably





fixed at 5 per cent. in addition to nearly the like income from his territorial property, were supposed to quicken his endeavours in the exercise of the public receipt by improvements, or greater economy in the mofussil or detailed rural expenses, and in general, bias his inclination to promote the peaceful prosperity of the country. From the first institution of the crory, until the death of Alemgeer in 1707, the person employed in that office, properly speaking, was the only subject under the crown of Delhi who held any thing like a free tenure in lands, to the extent of a family subsistence; for such holdings did not, in form, confer hereditary right, yet they were generally continued, except in cases of delinquency, to the posterity of the original grantee, who was usually chosen, in the progress of Mogul conquest, from among the agents of the ejected and former proprietors, or the most experienced farmers and managers to be found in the country. Nevertheless, his freehold was but a very inconsiderable portion of his zemindarry, or territorial jurisdiction, it might justly be considered the price of securing a local attachment, influencing the welfare and happiness of the inferior inhabitants, in like manner, as his russooms were intended to compensate, as well as stimulate, the laudable endeavour of realizing the public revenue, when he himself acted on the part of government, as the immediate receiver or farmer general of his whole district. But about the period we have just mentioned, from the unsubdued state of the more difficult and distant parts of the kingdoms of Hydrabad and Bajepoor, then recently formed into soubahs or provinces of the Mogul empire, a variety of native landholders, either wholly independent, or in different degrees of subordination to the new mussulmen conquerors, became first known in Hindostan, and distinguished in the records of the khalsah shereefa, or ryot exchequer. Such were all the former class, entirely free, the petty rajahs of Malabar, in the southern extremity of the peninsula, and those of Rumpa and Bustar, among the high unhealthy ranges of mountains which separate the maritime circars, north of the Godaveri from the soubah of Berar; and such were of the latter designation, imperfectly reduced, or subject to a certain tribute, the rannies of Bednore, with the rajahs of Mysore and Tanjore, which served as barriers to the unconquered countries of Malabar, in like manner as the nearest hilly districts of Poleveram, Cottapillee and Tottapillee, under the Rheddewar of Rajemundry, or those of Tarpoor, &c. dependant on another branch of the royal family of Orissa settled in Cicacole, being only partially subdued, ensured the perfect freedom of the more interior mountainous regions of Rumpa and Bustar, ruled by the Coywar and Godd-wannah rajahs. In process of time, and during the latter convulsions of the empire after the invasion of Nadir Shah, in 1739, not only some of the principal Hindoos, Jagheerdars, and farmers general, but even inconsiderable enaumdars or charity landholders, hoisted the standard of rebellion, and in different provinces of Hindostan, under distracted feeble governments, actually acquired a greater or lesser degree of independence. All those territorial proprietors therefore, in general, whether free or tributary rajahs, crories, desmooks, or chowdries, acting in their different capacities, or self-dignified with Hindoo titles, usurping the real property of their Mahomedan masters, or mere feudatory or simple pensioners for life, yet claiming, and on the *ipse dixit* weakly or ignorantly acknowledged lawful inheritors of their conditional temporary benefices were ultimately confounded with each other, and classed under the same common well known appellation of zemindar or landholder, and from which proceed those gross mistakes of late occurrence, and doubts entertained, respecting the rights and privileges annexed to a patent office, originally and constitutionally of Mogul creation, under the forms, limitations, and controul already specified. But there is not throughout the Northern circars, more than within the rest of the wide circle of the British or subordinate allied dominions in India, excepting the few instances we have mentioned, a single individual or set of men among the native Hindoos, calling themselves, or acknowledged, rajahs and zemindars, who have the smallest pretension in form, right, or fact, to an inch of territorial





property, beyond the extent of their nancars or saverums, or who can be considered in any other light, than as mere renters, with stated local privileges, depending on their own good behaviour, and the bounty of the proprietary lords of the soil; unless the English East India Company, in the latter capacity, have, since the date of their territorial acquisitions in 1765-6, formally alienated or transferred, which we believe they have not, any of their indubitable, necessary, possessory rights of Mogul royalty, under the crown and parliament of Great Britain.

The next revenue officer of rank, and of the same class with the desmook, though of greater utility, and sometimes of more extensive local jurisdiction, was the *despandeah canongoe*, or provincial register; this employment, for the most part exercised by Bramins, is the only one in its nature hereditary, to be found in the whole system of Mussulman government: it was an exception to the general rule, from necessity; but policy, convenience, and universal use, gave to the person holding it a greater degree of consideration at court, and in the public estimation, than could be acquired in virtue of the highest incorporeal rights and privileges. All firman sunnuds, grants of every kind, rules, ordinances, regulations of interior police, judicial decrees, from each of the three departments, the *jumma kaumil toomar*, or original more perfect rent-roll of the lands in detail, serving as a standard and gross valuation, or political calculations of the revenue, and to fix the amount of jageers, as well [633] as of religious or charitable endowments; the *hustabood*, or actual sources of the collections made from the ryots; the *jumma wassel baukey*, or annual account of the assessments, receipts, and balances of the country, as settled in behalf of government, with its intermediate agents; the divisions, measurement, quality, and produce of the lands, enumeration of villages, farms, husbandmen, manufacturers, or artificers, liable to taxation; and in general, all donations, arrangements, and circumstances affecting real or personal property, but more particularly touching the proprietary interest of the state, were necessarily made matters of record in the dufter or office of the despandeah or canongoe, as they could only be properly authenticated, and acquire validity after passing through such form of registration, to render still more efficacious this great intended check, not only on the zemindars and lesser native superintendants, but also on the aumildar himself, and all his immediate agents, in affairs of civil administration or finance; private interest and hereditary independence were the powerful incentives, added to personal honours, consideration, and influence. To ensure the honest full discharge of a very important trust, a russoom of two and a half per cent. on the revenue, ascertained by his own vouchers to have been collected throughout the country, was assigned to the public register, his heirs, and deputies in perpetuity. In lieu of this commission, however, at present there are a number of inferior despandeahs, claiming a right to free merassy, hereditary villages, or to others held by a tenure called bilmokta or tatoodarry, at a low unalterable rent; but all these, we apprehend to be improper, unauthorized alienations, made by the desmooks or other officers of government in power, to purchase greater defalcations in their own favour, from the stated dues of the exchequer.

Thirdly, the *Puttel muccudim* or chief ryot of a *deh-gam* or village, was precisely, within his narrower precincts, what the Puttel and Koolcurny. desmook was in the pergunnah or zemindarry, as in like manner the *koolcurny*, *curnum*, *putwarry*, or accomp- tant, held the next inferior gradation to the despandeah. These were the principal and more permanent officers of the revenue, in a regular chain of subordination to each other, when acting under their native head; but serving as mutual checks during the suspended authority of the zemindar, either from insufficiency or mal-administration, and while the interior management devolved on the secondary class of agents before described as temporary