

form the southern boundaries of the Bootan dominions. In most places it is now in a state of decay. The Bootia at present possess about five miles in breadth of the valley from the foot of the mountains through the whole extent of Camroop and Dehrungh. On the southern side of the Berhampooter, between Goalpara and Nagurboyra lays Bisne. This part of the country is noticed with some degree of accuracy in Rennell's Map. The Garroo mountains close the scene to the southward, a stream flows at the foot of these which is navigable in the seasons of inundation to a considerable distance and falls into the Berhampooter above Goalpara.

The district of Summooria occupies the southern bank of the Berhampooter at Nagurboyra Hill, behind and farther to the south is the Burhdooaria Purgunnehs at the foot of the Garroo mountains. Adjoining to the Burhdooar to the eastward is the district of Nodooar, which extends easterly to the country of the Ranu rajah. The Nodooria country is divided into nine shares whose possessors are Rajahs, though at present the whole country is subject to two Princes or Rajahs. The Dooars or Dewars are passes into the lofty Garroo Mountains.

Ranigawn, or the country of the Rani Raja extends in a similar direction as far as Bogoribaree Chokey, and along the foot of the mountains to Okkooruralee causeway, which separates Ranigawn from Beltola, and runs from the lofty hills which surround Goahawtee, to the Garroo mountain called by the same title Okhoor.

Goahawtee occupies an extent of hilly country on both banks of the great stream; the hills on each side form a spacious amphitheatre, which have been equally well fortified by nature and by art. It is the capital of lower Assam, and the residence of the viceroy or Burro Fokun. The natives of upper Assam apply the title of the Goahawtee to all the hilly country in that neighbourhood, including the district of Beltola, but the Goahawtia or inhabitants of this quarter confine the appellation to the space within the five Chookees or guarded passes on the southern side, viz. 1. The Luttaril or Panichokee; 2. The Zoidewar; 3. The Dhurhum Dewar; 4. The Dewargonrila; 5. The Panroo, or Pandhoo Chokey. North Goahawtee occupies the space within the following passes through the fortified hills, viz. 1. Koneiboorkiboa;



2. Sillar Chokee; 3. Khindoorigapa or Sindoorigopa; 4. Pat-dewar; 5. Korai or Pani Chokee, beyond these passes to the north, runs the province of Camroop, and the district of Sikree one of the principal places in Camroop. South Goahawtee extends to Cajullimook, or to the mouth of the Cajulli river, noted as the ancient limit of the kingdom of Camprist or Camroop, which seems to have occupied all the countries on the south of the Berhampooter from Borritulla to Kapillimook; and on the northern side to have extended from the Curruttia or Corotia river in Bengal to the Dikolai river beyond Dehrung. At that early period Assam was called Khoomorprist, and extended on both sides of the Berhampooter as far as Khuddia or Suddia from these limits Cajullimook is distant to the eastward about 20 miles from the Nuttasil Chokey at Goahawtee. The interval is occupied by the Mekeer hills; and by Tattimosa mountain at the foot of which is the residence of Panbooria Rajah; Beltola does not extend to the eastward of Goahawtee, but fills the interval of valley between this fortress and the Garroo mountains.

Panbarree is a small district separated on the west from Goahawtee and Beltola by the Mekeer hills; and on the east by a range of hills which run from the banks of the river at Kajullimook towards the Garroo mountains. The plain which is nearly surrounded by those hills is about eight miles in length and six in breadth, while Beltola exceeds ten in breadth and twelve in length.

The Goba and Sonapoor districts succeed to the south-east, and lay between the Colone river, and this part of the Garroo mountains which are annexed to the Zevointa dominions, or the Gentia of Rennell's map. These districts are about 10 miles in length and five in breadth. They have Tattimora on the west, Zevointa and the Garros on the south. Dimurroona the east, and the Colone river, the whole extent of the north to its junction with the Berhampooter. These though formerly appendages of the government of Goahawtee appear now to be under the joint dominion of the Zevointa and Dimurrooa governments. The country is interspersed with small hills. It was formerly the channel of communication with Bengal from every part of Assam through Zevointa and Sylhet, for all access by the Berhampooter was scrupulously prevented. This part of the country is elevated, and no where subject to inundation in the season of rains.

Cojulli.—The angle above the junction of the Colone with the Berhampooter is occupied by the district of Cojulli, which does not exceed six miles in length. It is bounded on the south by the Colone, on the north by the great stream, and the east and south-east by Sunna hills, which line the banks of the Berhampooter from Cojullimook. It is interspersed with hills, Kajulli formed the western limits of Assam at an earlier period. It is subject to inundation, and the villages are chiefly situated on the sides of hills.

Mayungh.—To the eastward of Cojulli at the foot of the hills lays Mayungh, under the government of a lesser Rajah; it is separated to the southward from the Colone by a range of hills; the Berhampooter and the Booraboori hills form its boundaries to the north. Part of it only is subject to inundation, it is about eight miles in length and six in breadth. To the eastward of Mayungh succeed Nogown, Littree Lowkoah, Gorokia, Dehingh, and Siliabundo. The five latter situated on or near the banks of the Berhampooter.

Nogown occupies the interval between these and the Colone river to the southward, and is bounded by Corungi on the east, it is about 20 miles in length, and probably not above 4 miles in breadth, situated on a line of high ground on either bank of the Colone. It is not affected by the inundations of the Berhampooter, or of this river, the latter however, seldom overflows its banks, from Lowgua on the Berhampooter to Nogown on the Colone; the distance is about 40 miles; these districts are not contiguous, part of Littree and Dehingh are rather to the southward of Loqua and Silabunda, and immediately border on Nogown. Beyond Mayungh or the range of hills which intervene between Mayungh, and the river in regular succession to the eastward. I have already noticed the situations of the Gorokia, Littree, Loqua and Silabanda; contiguous to the latter, in the same direction lays Coliabur. Dehingh also borders on Littree to the eastward.

Corungi forms the confines of Nogown on the east, and occupies both banks of the Colone river, like the latter. It exhibits a square of about 40 miles. On the north lays a part of Silabunda; on the south, the lofty range of Garroo mountains which obtain the appellation of Cossari in this quarter.

Coliabur is contiguous on the north-east; and the famous causeway Rangulighur, separates it on the east from upper



Assam. The mountains here incline towards the great stream, and the interval of low country is occupied by the Rongulighur rampart, which runs from the Colone near its junction with the Berhampooter, during a course of 10 miles to the southern mountains. Coliabor upon the whole may be reckoned about 100 miles from Cojullimook.

Casirunga lies to the east and south-east of Rungulighur and Namdoyungh to the eastward above Khonarmook or Sonarmkooh, the country here is low and subject to inundation. It extends about six miles in length, from the causeway to Bassa, and four in breadth to the foot of the mountains from Namdoyungh.

Namdoyungh is 40 miles long, and 10 broad; it has Colarpharit on the west, Ouperdoyungh on the east, Casirunga on the south; and the Berhampooter flows on the north. Tooghurrurgown, Khoololgown, Atooniagown and Dehinghiagown are the principal towns of this flourishing province.

Morunghi lies to the east of Casirunga, it is interspersed with small hills, covered with a wild and luxuriant vegetation, and is not subject to inundation. Tobungh, Khapecorti, and Lokow are the principal towns. It is a frontier district, and possessed a military station of 3000 men on the Rungaghurra hill, as a protection against the inroads of the mountaineers of Naga and Cosari, who are contiguous on the south. It is bounded on the north and east by Doyungh, Bassa, and the Dunsiri river.

Colarphant extends to the east and north-east above Coliabor, to the distance of 10 or 15 miles. It has Doyungh and Casirunga to the east and south.

Bassa is a considerable district about 10 miles in length, and eight in breadth. The Naga mountains rise to the south, Doyungh lays to the north, Dhooli to the east, and the Dunsiri flows on the west. It is a low country resembling Natou in Bengal, on a smaller scale.

Ouperdoyungh is contiguous to Bassa on the south, it has Deorgown to the east, Namdoyungh to the west, and the Dehing river to the north. It is interspersed with small hills of red earth; and is not subject to be overflowed in any part during the season of rains. Itamdoigown, Purbuttiagown, Kaburrurgown, Daikialurgown, and Rhadullagown, are its principal towns. Cosarihat and Nagaphant are also places of

note in this district; which forms a square of 20 miles in length and breadth.

Deorgown, famous for the temple of Sadassi, is eight miles long, and six broad. It is an elevated country, on the banks of one of the principal branches of the great river; which flowing through various channels in this neighbourhood forms several low islands, susceptible of cultivation.

Gooroomari Chapari (Chapari means island) is opposite to Deorgown, it is not of any great extent; but Majuli called by preeminence the island, lays in this direction and is very large. It is formed by the Dehingh river on the south, and the Looicheh on the north, to the west of this appears the Halidooati island opposite the mouth of the Dunkiri or Dunsiri river. It is 20 miles in length, and about 10 in breadth. Further to the west, and similar in size to the latter, lies Rungachapuri, facing Coorabai to the south. Between this island and Coorabai, is another small island, eight miles in length and six in breadth, named Nicori. I shall omit any further description of the islands at present.

Dhuli and Khitole are to the eastward of Deorgown. The former is about six miles in length, and four in breadth. The country is high, and is intersected by the Dhuli river, Sungigown lies near the banks, and Sungirghaut is the principal ferry. It is bounded on the south by the mountains.

Khitole is about twelve miles long, and ten broad, this district has much low ground. On the banks of the Cacadunga, directly east from Deorgown, is established the Custom House of Khitalurphant.

Zurhat is eight miles in length, and six miles in breadth. It is bounded on the west by Dhuli, on the south by the high road which leads from Coliabur to the capital, Rungpoor; on the east by the Disoi river, and on the north by Coontiapota. Gayangown, and Arriadherragown are its principal towns. The road to Munnipoor the capital of the Muggloo country (Meckly of the maps) proceeded from this place over the Naga mountains, into Mounghi.

Tiuk. To the south of the great road from Coliabur is Tiuk about twelve miles long, and eight broad; it is contiguous to *Toratooli*, a high country near the mountains, which is watered by the Iazi on the south-west. It is eight miles in



length, and six in breadth. The Ghurphullia establishment of the Ahom caste inhabits this district.

Khonanei the district of Khonanei, or Khonarinei succeeds. It is twelve miles in length, and ten in breadth. The country is very low, and under water in high inundations, which however do not last long. The great causeway or high road, raised to preserve the interior from the inundations of the Dehing, passes Khonanei in its progress from Deorgown, to the capital, Rungpoor. In the dry season the causeway is about two miles distant from the stream of the Dehing. It is a work of immense labour. Notegown, and Kotekeegown, are the principal towns, and the ferry is established at Bhanderdoo ghaut. The strait road from this to the capital, is about ten miles in length.

Rungpoor—is the capital of Assam, or the military station of the real capital, Gurgown. The Dhekow river flows on the north, the Namdangh on the south. Singhdewar, or Sinadewar, and the Duburriunniali rampart, or high road forms its security on the east. The fortress is built near the banks of the Dhekow, round but at a considerable distance. The town of Caloogown, Gowrisaghurgown, Kerimerialigown, Dooboorialigown, Muttermoragown, Koomargown, Maitaka, and Bhogbarri form a circle round Rungpoor, which is twelve miles in length, and about ten in breadth.

The banks of the Dhekow are connected by a lofty rampart with the southern mountains, through an extent of ten or fifteen miles. It was constructed in remote antiquity for the protection of Gurgown; which was the principal residence of the monarch, and of all the great officers of state. The distance from Rungpoor to Gurgown is about miles. Gurgown is ten miles long and five broad. From Rungpoor westward of the Dhekow, to Saraideo the seat and centre of the ancient worship of the Assamese conquerors, the distance may be estimated about eighty miles. The interval is occupied by the following districts. Saringh, Tipam, Metaka, Nazira, Atkheil, Govindurgown, and Roonroongh.

Saringh, about thirty miles long and twenty broad is the property, and the general residence of the heir apparent entitled Saringh Rajah.

Tipam, belongs to his Coadjutor, and presumptive heir the

Tipam Rajah. It does not extend above twenty miles in length, and ten in breadth.

Metaka, borders on Singhdewar, it is six miles long, and four broad.

Nazira, is fourteen miles long, and eight broad. The principal places in this district are, Gunnukgown, and Nazirahath.

Atkheil, is about fifteen miles in length, and five in breadth.

Govindhurgown, is about twelve miles in length, and eight in breadth. It is noted for a Govindh deul, or temple, romantically situated on the banks of the Dhekow.

Roonroongh, is about ten miles in length, and six in breadth. It takes its name from a place of ancient Assamese worship. In their original language Roonroongh means God.

Saraideo, is contiguous to Roonroongh. It is the principal seat of their former worship; and distant from Rungpoor about eighty miles. These districts which extend to the westward of the Dhekow river, are not subject to inundations from the river.

Kendoogoori, is ten miles in length and five in breadth. It is a high country, and noted as the domestic residence of the Burhpatur Gohaign.

Gurgown, the principal capital of the kingdom of Assam, and the usual residence of the monarch, is situated considerably above Rungpoor on the opposite high bank of the Dhekow river. It is ten miles long, and five broad. Since the insurrection of the Moamorias, the city, palaces, and fort are all in a state of ruin. It is situate in Latitude 27 degree Longitude 94. 29.

Burchola, is twelve miles in length, and eight in breadth.

Benganabari, is twenty miles in length, and fifteen in breadth. The Moamoria insurgents had depopulated the greater part of the districts of upper Assam, to the westward of Benganabari. This district however and all beyond it have been preserved by them in a considerable degree of population. Beyond this district succeed Tocobari, Ghurcakur, Ubeipoor, and a number of others in Decanparh, of which I could not procure any sufficiently correct information.

Tocobari, is thirty miles long, and twenty-five broad. The monarchs of the country at a period anterior to their removal to Gurgown and Rungpoor occupied a fortress at this place.



Gurcakur, is a smaller district about fifteen miles in length and five in breadth. It is noted as the domestic residence of the Surgi Deo's Nowbeissa establishment.

Ubeipoor, is esteemed a very fine district, it rather exceeds forty miles in length and twenty in breadth.

I have already mentioned that Decanparh contains several extensive districts between Ubeipoor and Suddia, or Khuddia, which forms the boundaries of Assam in that quarter.

Outreparh, as the third grand division of Assam, or the Majuli, lies parallel to the districts of Decanparh, which have just been described, it might be deemed proper to enter on the description of the former, before I return to the provinces of Outreparh; but it will prevent confusion if the great island and its appendages are reserved for the conclusion of this sketch. I shall therefore return to the eastern boundaries of Camroop in Outreparh, and describe the several districts in succession from west to east, in the direction of their length.

Dehrungh, the province or principality of Dehrungh forms the eastern boundary of northern Camroop. It is divided from the latter by the Burronuddee. On the south flows the Berhampooter, the mountains of Bhotan, or more properly, Comola Gohaign Ali, a causeway formed by Pretaubsing, which runs from Coosbeyhar through the whole extent of Assam to Suddia forms the boundaries of Dehrungh on the north. To the east lay the districts of Soontia, Cosarigown, and Seidewar or Saridewar. This principality forms a square of about thirty miles. It is governed by a tributary prince. The principal towns are Monghuldie, Simooagown, Tangazogonigown, Paoniagown, Arringgown, Doonigown, Batacoosihath, Ataringhiagown, and others. This principality is seldom subject to inundation. It is very fertile and highly cultivated.

Kosarigown is to the north-east of Dehrungh. It has Soontia for its boundary on the south, Seidewar on the north, and Pakurrigoori on the east. Its extent does not exceed eight miles in length, and four in breadth.

Soontiagown is about the same size as Kosarigown. The level of the country is in general pretty high. Parallel to the principality of Dehrungh and these districts, the stream of the Berhampooter forms several smaller islands, which are in many places inhabited, and in some parts by pirates.

Pakurrigoori is equal to Soontia-gown in breadth, but somewhat inferior in length.

Saridewar.—The district or province of Saridewar runs about 30 miles in length and twenty in breadth. The general level of the country secures it from the inundations of the rivers. Cargown, Deooliagown, and Bahmungown, are the principal towns. This province derives its name from the four passes into the mountains, at each of which the officers of government collect the tribute of the contiguous nations, Bootan, Onka, and Duffala.

Gilladarigown borders on Saridewar in succession to the eastward, in the direction of the great stream. It is about 10 miles in length, and six in breadth. All these provinces and districts from the Khondor Chokey to Biswehnath, are highly cultivated and populous. The Moamaria desolation not having extended below Biswehnath.

Biswehnath, famous for its temples, succeeds. It is a small district, which does not exceed eight miles in length and two in breadth. The level of the country is very high.

Corungi is five miles long and two broad.

Bebezia.—Boringoor Corungi is the district of Bebezia, which is seven miles in length and two in breadth. A considerable part of this district, near the mountains, is covered with a wild vegetation. The other parts are well cultivated.

Khoolol, or *Khoololgown* is twenty miles in length, and only five in breadth. It is chiefly remarkable for its fine pastures.

Lokhow extends eastward of Khoololgown, eight miles in length, and six in breadth. It is an elevated tract.

Bangsali is ten miles long and five broad. This is also a high district.

Lowpotia succeeds next: it is fifteen miles in length and five in breadth.

Moolocal is the same length as the latter, but exceeds it in breadth. This district is also exempted from the inundations of the great river.

Dipora is ten miles long, and five broad. Its principal places are Diporabath, and a celebrated temple of Camaka.

Sanghmoragown, which borders on Dipora, is nearly of the same size. It is a pretty dry country, and like all the former, very populous and highly cultivated.

Botiagown lies next to Sanghmoragown. It is a district



of considerable extent in length, exceeding forty miles, but so narrow that two miles are supposed to be its utmost breadth. A large interval of forest trees and wild vegetation intervenes between this district and the foot of the northern mountains. The great rendezvous of the mountaineers of Duffala, Onka, and Miri, tributaries of the Surgi Deo, takes place annually in this district.

The *Dewars*, or passes into the mountains, may be noticed here. In Khoologown there are nine Dewars leading into Duffala. In the following districts, viz. Colonepoor, Zaikaisook, Nuranpoor, and Banfagh, there are six other passes through the same mountains. These were formerly well guarded until those mountainous nations became peaceable subjects to the Surgi Deo. Catacoosi, and Goozloongh, contain three passes into Duffala, and three into Miri.

Colonepoor does not exceed 20 miles in length, and ten in breadth. These districts, like the whole of Outreparh, are perfectly level.

Zaikaisook resembles Colonepoor in every respect nearly. It is of the same length, but exceeds it in breadth, about five miles.

Naranpoor is 30 miles in length, and 15 in breadth. This district is remarkable for two temples, romantically situated on the banks of the Pisola river, which rival those of Dhundegown, and Colabarri in the district of Zaikaisook.

Banfagh, similar to all the districts in Outreparh, extends in length to the eastward; and in breadth, from the great stream towards the northern mountains. Banfagh is about 30 miles in length, and 20 in breadth. Its principal places are Dhapcotagown, Dooliagown, and a very large tank, called Khonaripookari. Itemarbarigown, Cotokigown, Deberapargown, are also considerable towns in this district. In all these northern districts the tanks are very large and numerous.

Corah borders on Banfagh to the eastward. It is a smaller district, 10 miles square, and is bounded in the same direction by Fokunhath.

Fokunhath is a considerable district, famous for its great fair on the banks of the Looicheh river.

Moorabaga.—Next to this succeeds the small district of Moorabaga, which does not exceed eight miles in length, and two in breadth, but it is famous for a temple of Camaka,

greatly frequented by the mountaineers, as well as the inhabitants of Upper Assam.

Coticoosi is an extensive district, about 40 miles in length, and 20 in breadth, and is bounded by Guzloongh to the eastward.

Guzloongh is a district of the same extent.

Haboongh.—Contiguous to Guzloongh, still in an easterly direction lays Haboongh, which is 30 miles in length, and 15 in breadth. This district is remarkable for the superior richness of the soil, and for the industry, size, and appetite of the inhabitants.

Narooa is a much smaller district, which does not exceed eight miles in length, and six in breadth. It is chiefly noted for a temple or Takoorbari. It is bounded by a much larger district, Munnipoor.

Munnipoor is about 40 miles in length, and 30 in breadth. Munnipoor is bounded on the east by a much smaller district called Gaguldoobi, about eight miles long, and six broad. It was formerly the seat of banishment of various criminals.

Tellahi, which borders on Gaguldoobi to the east, is about ten miles in length and six in breadth. This is the last district in Outreparh, of which I could procure any correct information. A great tract of country occupies the interval between this district and Suddia, but I could not procure original documents on the subject, and as every person I consulted, either confessed their ignorance of these districts, or gave such inconsistent accounts as could not be trusted; it will be more prudent to conclude the description of Outreparh with the Tellahi district, and proceed to that of the third division of Assam, called Majuli, or the great island.

Third division of Assam, Majuli, or the Great Island.—Above Coliabur, and opposite to Banfangh, the two great streams called the Dehingh, and the Looicheh, formed by the two principal branches of the Berhampooter, form a junction, and again assume the name of the latter. The interval from Banfangh on the west, to Baingnmar on the east, is occupied by the great island, called by pre-eminence Majuli. One hundred and sixty miles are calculated as the length, and sixty miles as the utmost breadth of this third division of Assam.

Calculations of distance in Assam, as well as in many enlightened countries, even of Europe, are formed on the usual



rate of travelling on foot during the course of one day, 20 miles, or possibly less, may be deemed equal to a journey of one day, over the greater part of Hindustan, but especially in the plain country. The Majuli is intersected in several places by channels of communication between the Dehingh and the Looicheh, which in reality converts it into a cluster of islands; but in addition to these subdivisions of the great island, numerous smaller islands range its whole length, nearly formed by various branches of the principal streams. These, however, are not included in the general appellation Majuli; but are indiscriminately called Chapoori, or small islands. Some of these are always overflowed in the season of inundation, others occasionally only; all possess a stratum of rich soil, above a deeper layer of sand, and often of clay. The smaller islands of Majuli, formed by the channels, are also called Chapoori.

Roopeichapoori.—The first which presents itself on ascending the Berhampooter is Roopeichapoori. It occupies the western extremity of Majuli, where opposite to Banfagh the two great streams reunite, its length is about six miles, and its breadth three. Cutwalgown is the chief town; but the Moamoria desolation has pervaded the greater part of these districts.

Rungachapoori.—To the eastward of Roopeichapoori lies Rungachapoori, in length 10 miles, and in breadth eight. The length of these districts is eastward. Teliagown is the chief town. Deooliagown is another place of considerable consequence.

Haludiati.—The district of Haludiati succeeds. In length 15 miles, and in breadth 10. It is intersected by a Khoonti or channel of communication between the two rivers. Moodeigown and Laclunghiagown are its principal towns.

Burhgohaign Chapoori is ten miles broad and fifteen long. Its insular situation gives it the title of Chapoori; for Lit-tree-Khoonti, or channel, flows to the eastward, and Dhon-rakoa-Nulla forms the western boundary.

Tamoolbarri.—Contiguous to Burhgohaign Chapoori lies the district of Tamoolbarri, in length ten miles, and in breadth about seven. Khetrigown and Brahmungown are its principal towns.

Ghoria is to the east of Tamoolbarri; its length is about

thirty miles, and its breadth twenty. Suckurburtigown, Khargown, and Moodeigown are the principal towns. It is intersected by the Colacosa-Nulla, which communicates with both the great streams.

Auneati—The district of Auneati is eight miles long and four broad. Mothargown is the principal town. Parts of this district are higher than the general level of Majuli.

Baignauti is contiguous to the former; it forms a square of about eight miles. Baizbooroo'argown and Pansolia lake, which is of great extent, are its most remarkable places.

Comolabarri extends to the eastward six miles in length and four in breadth. It is bounded by the Tooni-Nulla, which communicates with the Dehingh and Looicheh. Doolakakoriagown and Khargown are its chief places.

Kowpotia district is about eight miles in length and four in breadth. It is contiguous to the former and to the following:—

Poritia is six miles long and nearly half as much in breadth.

Deanpat is in length about eight miles and five in breadth. It principally occupies the bank of the Dehingh, Samagoorigown, Dighulligown, and Biragigown are places of note in this district.

Goromoor is a large district to the eastward of the former; it extends about forty miles in length and fifteen in breadth. The high causeway in Outreparh is exactly opposite to this district, and runs from the river to the foot of the Northern Mountains.

Pohmara is about twenty miles in length and only five in breadth.

Sunnatoli is a small district near the former, about six miles broad and ten long. Khomargown is its chief town.

A considerable part of Majuli, probably about one fourth, remains unnoticed. A great difference in the several accounts which were received of the other districts; with respect to their extent, situation, and names, have induced me to conclude the account of Majuli here.

Such was the populous and highly cultivated districts of Assam, previous to the Moamoria rebellion; but that savage people carried desolation throughout a great part of the upper provinces.



CHAPTER III.

RIVERS OF ASSAM.

As far as my information or my recollection extends, this country exceeds every other in the universe of similar extent, in the number of its rivers, which in general are of a sufficient depth at all seasons to allow of a commercial communication on the shallow boats of Assam.

The number of rivers of which the existence has been ascertained, amounts to 58, including the Berhampooter and its two great branches, the Dehingh and Looicheh. Thirty-four of these flow from the Northern and twenty-four from the Southern Mountains. The source of the Berhampooter is uncertain.

1st. From the Northern Mountains:—

1. Sowpurra. 2. Khobunkhiree. 3. Khomediree. 4. Pabo. 5. Owah.
6. Gayraylooa. 7. Rasicota. 8. Dikrungh. 9. Pisola. 10. Burrowpannee.
11. Doorpangh. 12. Dehiree. 13. Seinsa Oujan (upper).
14. Karoe. 15. Semamora. 16. Madooree. 17. Doobia. 18. Booroos.
19. Bayhallee. 20. Burrowgawn. 21. Booriagawn. 22. Gilladaree.
23. Dikolei. 24. Dunkhiree. 25. Bhonrollee. 26. Monguldie.
27. Burhmuddee. 28. Seinsa (Lower). 29. Boroloia. 30. Bhontee.
31. Rowrowah. 32. Sowlkoa. 33, 34. Booradia and Manaha.

2nd. From the Southern Mountains:—

1. Dillee. 2. Dorika. 3. Dhekow. 4. Namdangh. 5. Tasee.
6. Khonkilla. 7. Dussoi or Duswei. 8. Dhollee. 9. Dilkhiree. 10. Gilladare, South.
11. Doyungh. 12. Dunkhiree. 13. Kaliyun. 14. Karzooree.
15. Dhurria. 16. Goloka. 17. Diphulloo. 18. Meesa.
19. Hanria. 20. Kopillee. 21. Bhonrulloa. 22. Ghuraloo. 23. Sownra.
24. Kolei.

3rd. The Berhampooter with its branches. The Dehingh and Looicheh exclusive of various other branches of considerable size.

From Suddea, or Khuddea, the eastern extremity of Assam, to Sowpurra, an extent of country is intersected by numerous rivers flowing from the Northern Mountains, of these,

however, I could not procure even the names, I am therefore compelled to begin with those first on the list.

1. *The Sowpurra* river falls from the mountains of Miri, and flows through Colicoossee, a district appropriated to the office of Boora Gohaign; its waters contribute to enrich the estate of the Nunoowah Gosaigh, or Geswams, and after a very long course joins the Berhampooter about 60 miles below Suddia. It is about the size of the Dhekow at Rungpoor, and is navigable by the boats of Assam at all seasons of the year.

2. *Khobunkiri*, or Sobunsiri (for many of the natives substitute the kh and s for one another), derives its source in the mountains of Miri and enters Assam from that quarter. Its breadth is scarcely inferior to that of the Berhampooter, though in depth it is far inferior; after a very winding course through the same district as the former, it meets the latter river at Haboongh; most of these rivers have a very winding course, though the direct distance from the junction of the Khobunkhiri with the Berhampooter to the foot of the mountains does not exceed 40 miles. It is navigable at all seasons to the mountains, and indeed considerably farther; though the navigation between the mountainous ridge is performed with some danger and difficulty from numerous rocks in the bed of the river, frequent waterfalls, and impenetrable forests on the banks. Gold is procurable from the bed of this river as well as from all those which have their sources in any of the northern ranges of mountains. It is deemed less pure and of a paler colour than the rivers farthest to the east, as well as less in quantity. But an article far more precious than gold abounds in all these rivers, and affords the inhabitants plentiful supplies of wholesome aliment. The varieties of fish are considerable, though not of every kind which are found to frequent the Berhampooter in the lower part of Assam. These remarks, indeed, are not strictly geographical, nor shall I often indulge in similar deviations from the immediate subject of these sheets; though I may be permitted occasionally to imitate the irregular course of rivers, and assume a greater latitude of description in the second than I presumed to take in the first part of this sketch, for I perceive in my notes and translations relative to the rivers of Assam, many particulars unconnected with geography, yet



not destitute of interest, which must necessarily be neglected altogether unless they are allowed admission here.

3. *The Khomediri* rises from the same range of mountains to the west of the former, and flowing through Gurhugh, a district belonging to the office of Boora Gohain, or prime councillor of state, meets the great stream considerably below its confluence with the Khobunkhiri, it is somewhat larger than the Dhekow, and is navigable at all seasons.

4. *The Paboh* is another river, which rising in the mountains of Miri, flows also through Guglough, and joins the Berhampooter at Frookunbath, in the same province. It is smaller than the former, scarcely larger than the Dhekow, but remains at all seasons navigable by boats which are not deeply laden. The banks of this as well as all the other rivers, were formerly lined with habitations. The Moamoria Revolution has changed the face of the country, but the Panesellia Burro Burrowah has endeavoured with some success to restore the population.

5. *The Owah* originates in the same mountains, flows in a somewhat smaller stream through the same province, and mixes its water with the Berhampooter a little to the westward of the preceding rivers.

6. *The Gayraylooa* rises in the Duffala mountains, and enters Assam in the province of Gushunghor Gurloongh; through which it runs to meet the great stream at Sown-pawni; by boats of every size it is navigable in the season of inundation; but accessible only to small fishing boats in the dry season.

7. *Kasicota* rises also in the mountains of Duffala, and taking its course through the province of Bauphan or Bauphaugh, visits the capital towns of Hemalboori and Dhapkota, and joins the Berhampooter at Khonaripokri. Its banks are lined with numerous towns. Its size is nearly the same as the former.

8. *The Dikrungh* is one of the most remarkable rivers of Assam. It rises like the former in the Duffala mountains, and exhibits a long stream in its course through Bauphan, till it reaches the Berhampooter at Naygoria Ghaut. It is deep and rapid in general and considerably larger than the Teesta near Dinajpoor in Bengal. The bed of this river is extremely uneven, being every where interrupted with fragments of

rock, till its nearer approach towards the great stream. Although the direct distance does not exceed 25 miles, it performs a winding course about 100 miles from its mouth to the foot of the mountain. It is accessible through its whole length for the largest boats in the seasons of inundation, and for small boats during the whole year. Posiagong, Aneatigosaingkat, remarkable for the Gosaing's granaries; Ballik-huttra, Deberapar, Negoriagong, and Baligong are the principal towns on the banks of this river, which is also noted for the quality and quantity of gold procured from its bed. The colour of the metal is much higher than that found in the sands of the Berhampooter and other rivers. It is believed by the natives, that during its mountainous course it is joined by a stream from Himalek.

9. *Pisoola* rises in the Duffala mountains, and flowing through Naranpoor, a province attached to the office of Buragohain, joins the Berhampooter at Nimookgong, about ten miles to the westward of the Dhekow, at the capital; and forms a course of about 60 miles from the foot of the mountains. It is not navigable in the dry seasons, but accessible by boats of any size during the inundations to the very foot of the mountains. Phoolbarree, Deorgong, and Kosowahgong, are the principal towns on its banks. Phoolbarree is famous for a temple of masonry, dedicated to Mai, or Kamaka, Deorgong is inhabited chiefly by those who attend the temples at Phoolbarree and Kosowahgong.

10. *Buropanee* falls from the Duffala mountains, and at no great distance joins the Pesoola. This stream is more remarkable for the quantity than the quality of its gold.

11. *Doorpang* resembles the former in its rise and termination, as well as in the circumstance of its course running entirely through forests of large trees and large tracks of wild vegetation. A great variety of useful timber, especially fir, might be procured with great facility through these rivers, the Doorpang, however, is very rapid and rocky.

12. *Dehiree* takes a larger course and falls into the Dissoolah at Etabanee, Dehirugong, Naranpooriagong, and other towns line the banks of this river. These three rivers are about the size of the Burolooa at Goahawtee.

13. *Scindia Oujan*, or Upper Seinsa, flows from the Duffala mountains, and intersects the province of Zukoigook, ap-



pertaining to the office of Burh Patur Gohainghn. It is about the breadth and depth of the Osoolat. Tintalia is the principal town on its banks.

14. *Karoo* is received from the same range of mountains, flows through the same province, and falls into the Pisola near the junction of the latter with the Berhampooter, and might have been noticed with propriety before the Seinsa. Kolabaree Hileipura and many other towns line the banks of the Karoo.

15. *Seingmora* flows from the same mountains through Kolonepoor, a province attached to the office of Barro Gohainghn, and joins the Berhampooter near Sutaree, more than 30 miles below the mouth of the Dikrungh. It is smaller than the latter in breadth, but much larger than the others, yet it is not deep enough in the dry season to be navigated by small boats.

16. *Madooree* enters the valley from the Duffala mountains, and flowing through Kolonepoor joins the Berhampooter above Booreimook, in most respects it bears a resemblance to the former river. The towns of Dipora and Kolonepoor are on its banks.

17. *Doobia* flows into the valley from Duffala, and intersects the same Pergunna as the former. It falls into the Berhampooter between the Madooramook and Booreimook. In all these small rivers a running stream always exists, even in the driest seasons of the depth of one and a half foot; most of these streams furnish abundance of fish at all times.

18. *Boorei*.—In the original the rivers do not invariably appear to be described in the exact order in which they succeed one another, proceeding from east to west. In the present instance this is particularly observable. The Boorei entering the valley from Duffala flows through Kolonepoor, and joins the Berhampooter at Rangsaligonj, Lowpotiagong and Moolooalgong, with a great number of other towns, decorate its banks. It is as broad as the Dikungh, and considerably deeper. Boats of every size, unless very deeply laden, may navigate this river during the driest season, as far as the mountains. Its course, however, is of no great extent, possibly not above 30 or 40 miles; for that part of the mountainous range of Duffala, whence it enters the valley,

approaches rather nearer to the Berhampooter in this quarter.

19. *Behalee* proceeds also from the Duffala mountains, and intersecting the province of Khoolol, an appendage of the office of Khoolol Gohaign, falls into the Berhampooter at Zoorungong, about fifteen miles above Biswehnath, in size it resembles the Deturee.

20. *Burrowgawn* rising in the same mountains, runs through the same province as the former, and joins the Berhampooter about two miles lower, it is nearly of the size of the Dikrungh, but much more rapid and rocky; and therefore, though the depth is considerable, navigation is utterly impracticable. The name of Khoololgong is given to the whole extent of villages which line its banks. It is still more remarkable than the Dikrungh, for the quality of its gold which is found in the greatest quantity near these mountains.

21. *Boorigawn* comes also from the Duffala mountains, and intersecting the province of Khoolol, joins the Berhampooter at the famous temple of Biswehnath. It has the depth but not the breadth of the Pisola; it is navigable only in the rains. Gunukgown, Rungabah, and Biswenath, of great notoriety, are the principal rivers on its banks. Gold is found here as in all the northern rivers.

22. *Giladaree* from the same mountains, runs through the province of Korunghee, and falls into the Berhampooter at Doloniaegham, nearly opposite to Kooliabur, and about eight miles below. Korunghee is a province attached to the office of Khoolol Gohaign, though the militia (Mooteicore) are under the command of the Burro Fokun. It is navigable to a little distance in the dry seasons; its depth being considerable in proportion to its breadth. Koringheegown is situated on its banks. Khoololgown, extends from the Booregawn, and lines the Gilladora, which also passes a part of Deoliagown, as the latter occupies a line of country from Biswenath. The towns are numerous on its banks.

23. *Dikolei* rises also in Duffala, and flowing at no great distance from the former, meets the Berhampooter above the Khingeree hills, which form the bank of the great stream nearly opposite to the Koliabar; but rather lower



down. It is larger than the Gilladoree. Bebeziagown is the principal town on its banks. It is not navigable to any distance in the dry season.

24. *Dunkhiria* rises in the Duffala mountains, flows near the last mentioned river, and enters the Berhampooter immediately above the Khingaree hills. The river is about the size of the Dikolei.

25. *Bhonoolee*.—This river proceeds from the range of mountains formed of the extremities of Bootan, Onka, and Duffala, properly called Onka, which lie between the first and the last, it flows near but below the station of Seidewar, and through the district of the same name, and joins the Berhampooter considerably below the former. The whole extent of towns on the banks is called Sedewargown. The province of Seutra commences from the western bank. It is a large river, larger than Dikrungh. The water is rapid and rough, with a rocky bottom, it is navigable in the driest season to the foot of the mountains, it may be about 15 miles in its circuitous course from the mouth to the hills, and ten miles in a direct line, for this mountain approaches the river in this quarter.

26. *Monguldie*.—From the mountainous range which form the extremity of Bootan, and the modern boundaries of Dehrungh to the east, formerly the Dikolei formed the boundaries of Dehrungh. In its course it encircles a large extent of Dehrungh, and falls into the Berhampooter near the town which derives its name from the river. The residence of the Boodeh Rajah. It is considerably larger than Burrolooa, but not navigable in the dry season.

27. *Burhnuddee*.—This river is from the Bootaw, and forms the western boundaries of Dehrungh, flowing between that district and Camroop, and falls into the Berhampooter opposite to the Nuttassil Chokey, to the eastward of Goahawtee, and immediately above Khonieboorukoloa, a Pucka Deul, or temple of masonry, which stands on a high hill. It is navigable some way up by small boats in the dry season. Mantacutta, Doykairigown, and Ballicoossee belonging to the provinces of Kamroop, on its banks, the last a very beautiful village; its winding course may be about 60 miles, the mountains receding in this quarter from the Berhampooter.

28. *Seinsa*.—This also has its source in Bootan, runs

through the Camroop, and joins the Berhampooter just below Haadjoo; it is the size of the Burrolooa and navigable by boats of all sizes in the rains.

29. *Borolia* also from Bootan, flows through the Burrobag district of the province of Camroop, and joins the Berhampooter through a short extent of wild vegetation, about four miles below Hasuriora hill. This river is rather larger than the Burrolooa, and is navigated as late as December, which in Assam is nearly throughout the whole year. The circuitous course of most of these Camroop rivers is about 60 miles to the foot of the mountains.

30. *Bhontee* rises in Bootan and flowing through Camroop, falls into the Berhampooter near Summoolia, about four miles below the mouth of Borolia.

31. *Rerowah* has its source in Bootan, runs through Camroop, and falls into the Berhampooter at Butabarigown, dividing that town into two parts, opposite to but a little above Nagurbera. It is as broad as the Dhekow but much shallower and not navigable in the dry season.

32. *Sowlkoa* has the same source, flows also through Camroop, and falls into the Manaha after it has made a considerable course through the same province. The banks of all the Camroop rivers are covered with towns, except where they discharge themselves into the Berhampooter, and in many the mouths on both sides are covered with impenetrable wild grass, the haunt of buffaloes, elephants, wild hogs, tigers, &c.

33. *Booradia* originates in Bootan to the west of the former and falls into the Manaha like the former. These two rivers are in the dry season accessible to large boats to a considerable distance, and to small boats as far as the foot of the mountains.

34. *Manaha*.—This river enters Camroop from Bootan at the Badewar, flows through the district of Roguribarree, receiving several small tributary streams, and falls into the Berhampooter immediately above Juggigopa. It is accessible to pretty large boats in the dry season, and forms the western boundaries of Camroop and Assam in Outerparh. It is frequently mentioned in the Assamese History of the Wars between Assam and Bengal, and Assam and the antient kingdom of Coosbehar. Gold is found in this river also in the



season of rains; by its communication with the other rivers, boats can proceed from Juggigopa through Camroop into the Berham-pooter at Haadjoo, avoiding the rapidity of the great stream.

Besides these there are several rivulets which fall into the Manaha and the other rivers of Camroop. Between Suddia and the Sowpara river, as also between the latter and the Manaha, there are many streams from the northern mountains of the names and situations of which no correct information could be procured.

SOUTHERN RIVERS :—No correct information could be procured of the numerous streams from the southern mountains between Suddia and the district of Baignmar, from the latter to Dilli river, a stream intervenes the name of which has been omitted.

1. *Dilli*, has its source in the Naga mountains runs through the district of Fokowbarree and falls into the Dhekow about four miles above the mouth of the latter, it is navigable, but not for deep laden boats in the dry season, its banks and bed are of reddish clay, indeed the banks and beds of all the southern rivers are of clay, with a small mixture of coarse sand at the very bottom. Its winding course is of great length, about 200 miles, it is navigable about half way in the dry season for small boats.

2. *Dorika* rises in the Naga mountains, runs through the district of Gurgakhur, and falls into the Dilli about ten miles above the mouth of the latter. Small boats can navigate it even in the dry season, its winding course is about 100 miles in length, it is somewhat smaller than the Dilli, and its waters are of a reddish colour.

3. *Dhekow*—The source of this river is in the Naga mountains, at a great distance to the eastward, thence it flows through the Naga Mountains and enters Assam about ten miles to the east of the source of the Cilpannee or the town of that name, and falls into the Dehingh at Sitamalighur. In its course it passes through the town of Govindhurdeal or Doli; near the temple of that name, then to Nasiragown, then Gurgown the capital on the eastern bank, then to Poojahghur a temple dedicated to Mai, the ancient temple of the Royal Poojah, then to Khakbarree, now Khally a royal repository for boats, then Maitaikagown, then near the fortress of Rungpoor on its south-western bank, then by Moleimora, Burhgown, and

Sitomanighur. It is esteemed to have a course of 200 miles from its entrance into the valley to its junction with the Dehing, in the dry season it is only navigable by small boats to a little distance above Ghurgown, it takes a very circuitous course. The bottom of its bed contains some coarse sand, but the bed and banks are in general of a dark coloured clay, interspersed with streaks and patches of a reddish colour, for the soil is not so red at Rungpoor as towards the Dilli. These southern rivers are never rapid, the inundation commencing from the northern rivers fills the Berhampooter and these, so that the water has no considerable current until the months of May or June when the current is rather stronger from the southern season of rains, though not rapid as the great river continues pretty full; in reality before this period the current sometimes encreases after considerable showers of rain have fallen in the neighbourhood, the banks are not at any great distance from each other, but the channel is very deep; yet in the season of highest inundation it occasionally overflows its banks and the whole neighbourhood. This river is famous in Assamese history, especially for the curse of Bukshisht Rikhee. From above Gurgown the banks on both sides were lined with towns and villages without an interval as far as the Dehing; beyond Gurgown to its entrance into the valley, the towns were frequent the intervals every where in cultivation, except occasionally small spots of wild grass.

4. *Namdangh* has its source in the Naga mountains, flows through the Seringh Province a feu of the office of Saringh Rajah and falls into the Dhekow about two miles by land and four by water below the fortress of Rungpoor. It winds in a course of 120 miles, but it is only 60 or 80 miles in a direct line from its entrance into the valley to its mouth. It is navigable half way up by small boats in the dry season, and by the largest, as far as the mountains in the rains. Kahmara and Seringh are the principal towns on its banks, which were formerly highly cultivated and populous throughout their whole extent. It flows for a considerable distance along the foot of the mountains and forms the south-west limits of the city or rather district of Rungpoor, where there is a bridge of masonry, the only one in the kingdom.

5. *Jazy*, which also rises in the Naga mountains flows through



the district of Tiuk, and falls into the Dehingh a little above Diha. Ghurpholia is the principal town on its banks, and inhabited by the Aham tribe only. It is of the breadth and depth of the Dhekow. The direct distance from its entrance into the valley to its mouth, may be about 30 miles, and its winding course about 60, small boats have access in the dry season to a considerable distance, and the largest in the rainy season as far as the mountains.

The high road in some places about 40 feet above the level of the country, leads from Rungpoor to the mouth of this river, a ferry boat receives the passengers here and conveys them to the other side, where the high road resuming its course parallel to, but a little distance from, the Dehingh, proceeds to Deorgown; the waters of the river however in the highest inundations touch the road on each side, but it is never entirely overflowed, not even between Rungpoor and Soonanee.

6. *Konkilla*, from the Naga mountains.

7. *Dussei or Duswei*, from the Naga mountains through the province of Korungh joins the Dehingh a little above Koontia-putta, Dooliagown the residence of Surgee Deo's Dowlah bearers, Khonkaimookiagown at the mouth of a rivulet of that name originating in the neighbouring Jeels, Zoorhath where the Boora Gobaigh has his station and Kaylahs with a great number of other towns are on the banks of this river, it is as broad but not so deep as the Dhekow. The direct distance from the mouth to the mountains is about 40 miles, the winding course about 60; small boats in the dry season have access to a little above Zoorhath, but large boats in the wet season can go to the mountains. It is more rapid than any of the southern rivers except the Kalizun and Dunkhree, the latter is more rapid, the Duswei however is a very obliging river to its friends, for in the year in the month of Cheit when the Boora Gobaigh's Kaylahs had been 15 days surrounded by the Moamorias, and his people had exhausted all the firewood, he ordered the Brahmans to perform a Poojah to the river, which overflowed the banks that very night, and deposited a large quantity of wood close to his entrenchments, yet it is not in general so bountiful in its supplies of wood as the Dunkhiry which in Bisah and Jeith carries down trunks of trees in such prodigious quantities

that the natives say a person can walk across the river on them.

8. *Dholy* rises in the Naga mountains, flows through the district of Packamoora and falls into the Dilkhiry at Tungokosary, a town inhabited entirely by Korarees; the direct distance of its mouth from the mountains is about 10 miles, the winding course about 20 miles. It is dry in the dry season, but navigable for large boats in the rains. Pokamoora-gown is a considerable town on its banks.

9. *Dilkhiry* or *Kakadougha*, is also from the Naga mountains through the provinces of Bassa and Dayungh, and joins the Dehingh just above the town and temple of Deorgown, nearly the whole extent of the banks is occupied by a line of towns which together have the names of Bassa and Doyungh, the province belongs to the Boora Gohaign; from the mouth to the mountains, the direct distance is about 15 miles, the winding course about 30. It is considerably smaller than the Dhekow. In the rains it is much the size of the Burroolooa. Small boats have access in the dry season about half way, large in the wet to the mountains.

10. *Gilladary* from the Naga mountains, flows through Bassa Doyungh, and falls into the Dilkhiry about 15 miles above the mouth of the latter, at the Dorjunghia Sorjuk, or division of one hundred Mool, &c. Its mouth from the mountains is about 5 miles direct, its winding distance about 20 miles, it flows through an iron soil like all Bassa Doyungh, yet its waters are clear and very firm to drink, the bottom is sand, the banks a very stiff iron soil.

11. *Dorjungh*, from the Naga mountains, runs through Dorjungh province, falls into the Dunkhiry at Nagaphat, where there is a market held daily for the mountaineers.

12. *Dunkhirree*, from the Naga mountains, runs through Doyungh and Morungh, and falls into the Dehingh at Koora-bahi, near the residence of the Gosaigh of that name. The mouth is distant in a straight line from the mountains, about 30 miles and 80 miles in its windings. The Morungikoa Gohaigns station or residence, is on the southern bank at Topola Ghaut. Small boats can go as far as the mountains at all seasons, and large ones half way. It is broader and deeper than the Dhekow, and very rapid especially in Baisak and Jeit. It is scarcely used as drink from its great muddiness.



Dolungialgown, Kabooroorgown, Rungdarrigown, Khookurisoonghia, Khuttra, the residence of the Khookurisoonghia Atta Gosaigh or Goswamee, Puttanagola and Nagaphant, are all towns on and near its banks. From Nagaphant to the southward is the road to Munipoor; the Muggulloes we saw, had come that way, the road is not over but between the mountains, it is from 15 days to a months journey, they have however to surmount some small hills on the way.

13. *Kalirjun*, from the Naga mountains through the Morungh Jungle into the Dunkhree after a course of about ten miles, the Morungh Jungle was formerly inhabited by the Kosaree, who were expelled by the Surgee Deo (see the history) the Kosaree Rajah had a strong fort there formerly of bricks with a deep ditch, the whole has long ago gone to ruins. In the dry season it has nearly two feet of water, small boats have access, but it is scarcely ever navigable at present.

14. *Karzaree* has its source in the Naga mountains runs through the Morungh Jungle, then through the Morungh province, and falls into the Dhunkhirree, in the middle of Morunghgown, it has a small running stream even in the dry weather, very cold from its being protected in its whole length from the sun by the trees, boats have no access in the dry season, it is a small stream.

15. *Dhurria* rises in the Naga mountains, runs through Namdorjungh and falls into the Dehingh at Dhurria Jungle about four miles or more below the Dhunkhirrees mouth. It is above 20 miles from the mountains in a direct line, and in its course more than 40 miles. There is a small stream in the dry weather, but too shallow for boats to navigate.

16. *Goloka* has its source from a Jeel in Dorjungh, runs through that province, and falls into Dehingh about two miles below the mouth of the former; there is no access for boats in the dry season, though there is a little water, but boats of all sizes can navigate in the rains.

17. *Diphulloo*, from the Naga mountains, runs through Namdorjungh passing the residence of the Diphulloo Gosaigh, and falls into the great stream below the junction of the Lovit and Dehingh above Kolaiphant; it is rather broader and not so deep as the Burrolooa, it is about 15 miles in a straight line

from its mouth and 20 miles in its course, small boats go half way in the dry season. Marangown (the residence of the Namdorjunghia Kanrees who are of the Maran Zat) is on its banks, Baghurgown, Konethaloneegown and Jaghunrurgown are all towns on its banks.

18. *Mæsa*, also from the Naga mountains through the province of Nogown, and falls into the Colonge, a little above Koothurkawn; it is about 15 miles in a direct line, and 20 miles in its winding course from the mountains, it is only navigable in the rains.

19. *Hanria*, from the Kosaree mountains, runs through Raha province near the Raha Chokey, and falls into the Colonge. It flows between the countries of Jowointa and Khosaree, forming at one time the boundaries between them, small boats can go as far as the hearts of both those countries, even in the dry season. This river is full of fish.

20. *Kopilee*, from the Kosaree mountains, runs through the Kosaree and Jwointa countries, and falls into the Colonge, a little below the Raha Chokey. The southern sides of those rivers belong to the Kosarees and Jwointias, formerly armies as well as travellers went both by land and water through this river into those countries.

21. *Bhourulloo* rises in the Garroo mountains, runs through Bettola, intersects Goahawtee, and falls into the Brahmapootra near the fort, of which it forms the principal strength.

22. *Ghurraloo*, also from the Garroo mountains, runs through Raneegown and falls into the Brahmapootra at Pani Chokey about eight miles below Camaka; in the dry season small boats can navigate half way. Its direct distance is about five miles, its winding one eight miles.

23. *Howra*, from the Garroo mountains in the possession of the Nodoowar Rajah, runs through the Burdooaria province, and falls into the Brahmapootra at Palasbarree close to the residence of the Palasbarree Gosaig; there is no access for boats in the dry season. It is about five miles in a direct line from the mountain, and 10 miles in its circuitous course. Palasbarree Hat is held at the mouth.

24. *Coleey* has its source in the Garroo mountains, runs through the Burhdooria and Summooria provinces, and falls into the Brahmapootra above Nagurbaira hill, the utmost



limits of southern Assam in that quarter, small boats can navigate half way in the dry season, and large boats in the rains.

Berhampooter, Dehingh and Looicheh.—The learned natives of Assam insist that the sources of the Berhampooter, in Sangskrit Brahmapootra, or son of Brahma, lie in a range of mountains beyond Nara to the east-north-east of Assam.

The fabulous and divine origin of this river is detailed in the Pooranas, probably mixed with much valuable information derived from actual observation on the spot. A fountain called Brahmakoondah is represented as the source of three great rivers, viz. 1. Siriloocheh. 2. Boodah Looicheh. 3. Looicheh, Gobroo Looicheh, Daika Looicheh, or Brahmapootra.

The Siri Looicheh flows towards the north. The Boodah Looicheh takes a southerly direction, through the Burhma country. The Berhampooter rising between the two former intersects Assam and Camaroopa. By the kingdom of Camaroopa in the Pooranas, is understood a considerable extent of country on both sides of the Berhampooter, nearly to its junction with the sea. It is certain that such a great empire did exist at a very remote period, under the appellation of Camprist, Camaroopa, or Rangamuttee.

Major Rennell mentions that the natives of Assam positively assured him, their river came from the north-west, through the Bootan mountains. It is not probable, that on the confines of Bengal, he should meet any natives who had the slightest acquaintance with the source of the Berhampooter; for even at the capital of the country, with every advantage of communication with the most intelligent natives of the higher ranks, no certain information could be obtained on this subject, except in one particular, which contradicts Major Rennell's authorities, that the Berhampooter lies to the east-north-east, and that it flows westward, through the whole of its course to its entrance into Bengal. It is not considered by the Assamese as a continuation of the Sampoo, or of the river which intersects the Lama Goroo's country; although it is highly probable that the latter is one of the great auxiliary streams which flow from the Bootan, or northern ranges of mountains into the Berhampooter.

Captain Turner saw the Erechoomboo, which he styles Berhampooter on his sole authority, running eastward and

southward in latitude $29^{\circ} 10'$ and east longitude $89^{\circ} 10'$ in his progress through Bootan. A latitude and longitude which differ greatly from the statement of Major Rennell, derived from the authority of Du Halde and D'Anville, being at a greater distance to the southward than the place assigned in their maps; and the probability is considerably increased, that it is merely one of the numerous auxiliary streams of the great river of Assam. In reality Du Halde himself confirms this conjecture, by the south-east course which he gives that river in the neighbourhood of Lassa.

If nearly in the longitude of 89, its course is south-easterly, it is evident, as it has only about $2\frac{1}{2}$ degrees of latitude to run, it must penetrate the mountains in that direction, and join the Berhampooter, before the latter reaches the longitude of the capital of Assam in $94^{\circ} 29'$. But the Berhampooter is still a great river, very far to the eastward of the capital. It is probable also, that the course of the Sampoo would become still more southerly as it approached the mountainous confines, from the resistance it would experience, and its natural tendency to declivities leading to the valley of Assam.

From a consideration of these circumstances, we shall be compelled to consider the information, or the conjectures of Du Halde, D'Anville, and Rennell as utterly founded on error; the source of the Berhampooter to lay where the natives of Assam have placed it, to the east-north-east beyond the mountains of Nara; and the Sampoo of Bootan to pour its scattered waters into the valley of Assam, and to join the Berhampooter at a great distance from the place where the latter enters Assam, possibly about half-way between that spot and the Khondar Chokey; where it visits Bengal. If I were permitted to form a conjecture, under such a deficiency of precise information, I would venture to suppose the Dik-rungh the receptacle of the waters of the Sampoo.

These, however, are not the only errors in D'Anville and Rennell's maps, affecting the geography of Assam and the contiguous nations; for the western limits of Ava, placed by them about 94 degrees of longitude, would encroach considerably on the kingdom of Assam; while the borders of China, or of Yunnan, under $97^{\circ} 30'$ would lay nearly in the same longitude as the entrance of the Berhampooter into the valley of Assam; and consequently the latter would be



navigable from the Gulph of Bengal into the kingdom of China. I proceed to describe the course of the Berhampooter, which it appears rises beyond the mountains of Nara, and flowing through the mountainous tract of Suddia, continues its course westward through Assam, to the confines of Bengal. Beyond the capital Rungpoor-Gurgown, about 120 miles to the eastward, at Doimoanimook, it divides itself into two large and deep streams, called the Looicheh, and Dehingh.

Looicheh.—The former glides with a gentle current, in a northerly direction, and declining in its course to the north-west, west, and south-west, receives many tributary rivers from the northern mountains, and reunites with the Dehingh at Phogaduragown in Outrekole.

Dehingh.—The Dehingh takes a southerly course at first, and passing Sonanei, Deorgown, and other celebrated towns, with a much more rapid current than the former, turns to the westward, and meets the Looicheh, opposite to Zoontiarum and Poolargaut in Dukancole, about 40 miles above Koliabur, having received a great accession of waters from the southern rivers. This grand united stream reassumes the name of Berhampooter, and proceeds in a westerly and south-westerly course, to within 10 miles of Koliabur, where it sends off a considerable branch, called Colone, to the southward.

The Colone flows through Koliabur, Korungi, Nogown, Bebezia, Paithura-Kosaree, Iwointa, Dimurooa, Mayungh, and Kajulee; and returning westward, after a semicircular course of about 160 miles, revisits the Berhampooter at Kajulimook, 20 miles above Goahawtee. The great stream pursues its rapid, though smooth course, through Camroop to the Khondar Chokey, where it enters Bengal. I refer to Major Rennell for its progress to the Ocean.



CHAPTER III.

COMMERCE OF ASSAM. ADJACENT TERRITORIES, ETC.

[I now resume the desultory notices of Asam, &c. which Dr. Buchanan appended to his survey of Ronggpoor.—ED.]

The balance of trade with Bengal, which amounted in 1808-9 to exports from Asam 1,50,900 rs. Imports from Bengal 2,28,300 rs. is paid in gold from the mines, and in silver. This gold comes from the mine called Pakerguri, and is contained in the sand at the junction of the Donsiri or Donhiri (Donheeriah, Wood) with the Brohmoputro, about 32 miles in a straight line from Gohati. The officer who superintends is an Asamese, and is subject only to the immediate orders of the court. He is allowed 1000 men, who are called Sondboni, with officers of 10 and 20, and all are paid in land. He possesses the charge of police, and the administration of justice in the district, which these occupy. They begin to work the mine in Aswin (15th September to 14th October), and each man must deliver $1\frac{1}{2}$ r. weight of gold dust. If he is successful, he may keep whatever more he finds; but he must take up whatever deficiencies ill luck or indolence have occasioned. The mine, therefore, produces to the royal treasury 1500 rs. weight of gold dust; for every person employed is paid in land. The rupee weight of gold dust is worth 12 rs. of silver; but it is adulterated, and formed into small balls, which sell at Goyalpara for 11 sicca rupees for the weight of an Asamese rupee. The mine, therefore, is worth to the king somewhat more than 18,000 sicca rs. a year.

In the territory, called Doyang, s. w. from Jorhat a day's journey, there is an iron mine, which is wrought in the same manner, on account of the king. It supplies the whole country with abundance; but I did not learn what amount is returned to the royal treasury. In the province of Sodiya is an important mine of salt, which in case of a dispute with



Bengal is the only supply on which the country can depend, and the supply is scanty. It is under the superintendency of an officer named Mohong-hat Boruya, and produces annually to the royal treasury about 40,000 rs. So far as I can understand, the salt is found in the form of brine, by digging pools in a certain small extent. The water is evaporated by boiling, and the salt is brought to Jorhat in the joints of large bamboos. It is purer and higher priced than the salt of Bengal. The mine is farmed, and is not wrought by the king's people.

At Solalphat, which seems to be the Sewlul Chokey of Mr. Wood's survey, there is a custom house on the Brohmoputro, where duties are taken on all goods passing between Kamrup and Asam proper. It is farmed to a Boruya at 5000 rs. a year. At Roha, or Rosa, on the Kolong river, is a Boruya, who collects duties on the transit of goods, and pays annually a fixed rent. Another Boruya farms, at 6000 rs. a year, the duties which are collected at Dorong-Bata-Kuchi, about two miles from the Brohmoputro on the Monggol Doho river. These duties consist of 4 anas on each of the 6000 Payiks sent from Dorong to work for the king, of a hoe and some rice, which each of them pays in addition, and which altogether may be worth 3000 rs., and from 4 to 8 anas on every cow or ox that is sold in Dorong. Some allege, that the money paid by these three last-mentioned officers is on account of the person who farms the custom houses towards Bengal; while other of my informants allege, that it goes directly to the royal treasury.

A person called the Wozir Boruya, of a Kolita family that is in hereditary possession of the office, has charge of the intercourse with Bhotan. He resides at Simlyavari, one day's journey north from the house of Dorong Raja. He has some lands, and pays nothing to the king except presents. All the messengers and traders of Bhotan, and these last are in fact all servants of the Dev' Raja, must go first to Simlya. He levies no duties, but generally receives presents, in order to prevent his throwing impediments in the way of business, and no one is allowed to purchase at Simlya without employing him as a broker. The Bhoteas may, however, take what part of their goods they please to a place called Haju, which is north from Gohati, and there they may dispose of them.

The trade is said to be of considerable importance, and to amount to 200,000 rs. a year. The exports from Asam are lac, Muga silk, and cloth, Erendi cloth, and dry fish. The imports from Bhotan are woollen cloth, gold dust, salt, musk, horses, Chamor, or cow tails, and Chinese silks. The Miris, or Michimis, and Dophlas, carry on some trade with Charidwar. The territory of the latter extends to the right bank of the Brohmoputro.

On the opposite side of the river, immediately beyond the Dikrong river, are said to dwell a people called Abor, and farther up another tribe called Tikliya Nagas, both of whom are extremely savage. They are, indeed, said to be cannibals, and have little or no intercourse with the people in Asam, although the two territories are adjacent. In Nepal I heard of a nation of cannibals in these eastern regions, who in 1802 were said to be engaged in a war with the Chinese of Thibet, and probably may have been of these tribes, or at least some kindred race. In the map drawn by the natives, these nations are placed east from Sodiya; as if the Brohmoputro continued, beyond Tikliya, to run from east to west; but I think that highly improbable, and I imagine that at the above mentioned place it runs from north to south, and descends there from the mountains to the plains at the place called Brohmokundo by the Asamese.

South from the Abor, is a country called Chingpho, which has a Raja, independent of Asam, and with whose people there is some commercial intercourse. I imagine that the people of Chingpho are those whom the inhabitants of Ava call Kathee Shan; for the Asamese say, that immediately beyond Chingpho is a great river called Boro Lusit, or Lubit, which they say flows into the country of the Brahmans, as they call the inhabitants of Ava. Now this can only be the great western branch of the Ayraiwati, which joins that river below Ava, and is there called Kiayn Duayn, and in the maps which I procured at Ava, the Kathee Shan are placed on the upper part of that river. It is also to be remarked, that the people of Asam bring the Boro Lubit river from the same Brohmokundo, that gives rise to the Brohmoputro, that is to say, according to their ideas, from a great pool or lake, into which the Brohmoputro of Nepal, or Sanpo of Thibet is precipitated, in coming south from the northern mountains. It is



also to be observed, that as the western branch of the Ayra-wati or river of Ava is by the Asamese called Boro Luhit or Lusit, so the Brohmoputro, proceeding from the same place, in their common language, is called Lusit or Luhit. In Sangskrita it is called Lobityo, as well as Brohmoputro. The former name seems to be an alteration of Luhit, in order to give it a meaning in the sacred language. The latter is derived from the fable, which I mentioned in my account of the river's topography. From this may be inferred, that the Brohmoputro and river of Ava communicate by a branch scarcely inferior in size to either river; but it is probably incapable of being navigated, on account of its rapidity near the place of separation; for on that account the Brohmoputro of Asam is not navigable any higher up than Tikli Potar. This curious anastomosis is farther confirmed by an account, which I received at Komila from some natives of Monipoor, who asserted, that the rivers of Asam and Ava communicated by a channel.

West from Chingpho, and bounding on the the south with Asam, is the country of Nora, which belongs to the descendants of Khunlai, brother of Khuntai, first king of Asam. The language and customs of the people of Nora are the same with those which formerly prevailed among the proper Asamese; and between the two people there is still a constant friendly intercourse; and many natives of Nora are always to be found at the court of Jorhat.

West from Nora, and nearly south from Jorhat, the territory of Asam is bounded by that of the Khamti Raja, which is rather a plain country, but much overgrown with woods, The inhabitants are reckoned expert workmen in iron and timber, and their manners are nearly the same with those which prevail in Nora. Until lately the Raja was entirely independent, and a very friendly intercourse subsisted between his subjects and the Asamese. On the death of Gaurinath king of Asam, the Bura Gohaing invited the Raja of Khamti to an interview, under pretence of treating with him for the succession to the throne of Jorhat; for it must be observed, that the right of all the descendants of Godadhor to the succession is doubtful, as his birth was illegitimate. During the interview the unwary Raja was seized and put in confinement, and the Asamese took possession of the greater

part of Khamti. The nephew of the captive prince, however in 1808 was still able to act on the defensive, and harassed the Asamese with a band of faithful adherents. The Bura Gohaing was then said to be preparing a force in order to reduce the country to entire obedience; but whether or not this force proceeded in the beginning of 1809, or what has been the result, I have not learned.

Beyond Nora and Khamti, towards the south, is the principality of Monipoor, which the people of Ava call Kathee (Cussay R). It is no where adjacent to Asam; but the Sworgo Deys have had many alliances with the Rajas of Monipoor, and frequent intermarriages with that family. Since the usurped authority of the Bura Gohaing, all intercourse with Monipoor has been prohibited, as its Raja favoured Gaurinath. The roads are now choked, and even commerce has ceased.

West from Khamti, and adjacent to Asam, is the territory of the Kochhari Raja, with whose people there has been frequent intercourse, and some commerce. I have already given some account of the manners and language of this people, who are said to have once been the sovereigns of Asam. The territory, belonging still to the Kachhari Raja is of considerable extent, but is very mountainous. In the fables of the Bengalese it is called Hairombo, and I have already mention the extraordinary manner, in which the Bengalese suppose its inhabitants to live.

West from the territory of the Kachhari Raja, is that of the Jaintiyas. Some of my informants insist, that this is no where adjacent to the frontier of Asam, while others assert, that the Kajoli Mukha Gohaing has been appointed to watch over the frontier between the two countries; and this is probably true; as when Mr. Wood made his survey, the people would appear to have pointed out many hills in that quarter, and at no great distance from the Brohmoputro, as belonging to the Jaintiyas. The Jaintiya Raja is a Garo, who has been in some measure converted to the doctrines of the Brahmans, and coins a base money. The difference of opinion among my informants may have arisen from their being interposed by some petty chiefs of the same nation, who still retain their ancient customs, but who are tributary to the Jaintiya Raja, who lives near Srihotto or Silhet. One set of my informants,



therefore, consider Kachhar as bounded on the west by Garos; while another set consider these as forming part of the principality of Jaintiya. Formerly there was a friendly intercourse between the Rajas of Asam and Jaintiya; but, since the jealous government of the Bura Gohaing, this has been relinquished, and commerce is prohibited.

The Garos seem to be allowed a free trade in the territories of their chiefs, that have become tributary to Asam. They bring salt from Silhet, and cotton from their own hills, which is not only sufficient for the whole consumption of Asam, but admits of a considerable quantity being sent to Bengal. The returns are hoes, copper ornaments, and slaves. These are chiefly Garos, who had once been converted to the worship of Vishnu; but who have lost caste, owing to their inability to restrain their monstrous appetite for beef, and who are sent back among their impure countrymen as a punishment for their transgression. The number I believe is pretty considerable.

Having now mentioned every thing that I learned concerning the jurisdictions of the country, I proceed to mention some further particulars concerning its extent, wealth, and cultivation. The province under the Boro Phukon, with several subordinate or intermixed petty jurisdictions, extends from the Company's boundary to somewhere near the celebrated temple of the middle Kamakhya, which Mr. Wood places in latitude $26^{\circ} 36'$ N., and in longitude $92^{\circ} 56'$ E. from Greenwich. The province is therefore about 130 British miles in length. From the boundary opposite to Goyalpara to Nogorbera, a distance of about 21 miles, the Asamese possess only the northern bank of the river, so that on the south side the length of this province is about 109 British miles. Its width on this side is reckoned by my informants from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ day's journey, or perhaps from 12 to 25 miles. On the north side of the river, the province extends to the Donhiri or Donsiri river, the mouth of which, according to Mr. Wood, is situated about 103 miles above Goyalpara. The width from the Brohmoputro to the northern frontier is said to be, on an average, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ day's journey, or about 25 miles. About 104 miles above Gohati, according to Mr. Wood's survey, the Brohmoputro divides into two branches; of which the northern is by far the greatest, and preserves

the name, while the southern is named Kolong. These two branches separate at Arikatarmukh, and rejoin at Kajoli Mukh, 90 miles below, leaving between them an island, which by my informants is reckoned five days' journey in length, and about one in width. About one half of this island may belong to the western province of the kingdom, or to jurisdictions that are surrounded by it.

I have already given an account of the subdivisions of this territory, which so far as I can judge, is exceedingly like Haworaghat and Kungtaghat, belonging to the Company. It contains many low hills, covered with woods, but a great extent of fine low land, all capable of cultivation, and at one time probably all cultivated. I am inclined, however, to suppose, that its extent does not exceed 4000 square miles, and probably is rather nearer 3000. The part on the north side of the Brohmoputro, that is farmed to Zemindars, who have no hereditary claim, is in a still worse state than the adjacent territory of the Company; for during the insurrection of the Mahamaris it was most cruelly plundered by the robber Merja, who has been already mentioned. The parts under the Rajas, or immediately under the officers of government, are said to be in a much better state.

In the Pergunahs the tenantry have now given up a fixed residence, and many have altogether retired to the Company's territory, while others keep their women and children there, and every morning cross the river to cultivate their fields in Asam; but return at night to sleep in some degree of safety. They cultivate the land two years, and then allow it a fallow of four, so that the whole cultivation is trifling. Their rent is apparently very moderate; they pay on account of the king two rupees a year for each plough; and half a rupee a hoe, and five baskets of rice to the custom master (Boruya), for a mere permission to export their mustard seed to Bengal. They not only make other presents to the Chaudhuri; but in order to make them give presents, they are beaten and abused by every petty fellow, who is a little elevated above the lowest rank. The rent on each plough, including presents, amounts to from six to seven rupees a year, and this, were it not for the manner in which it is exacted, and the total uncertainty, in which every man is, concerning the extent of these exactions, would not be at all oppressive; for



I learn on the same authority, on which I state the above, and which appears to me good, that a plough produces annually 30 Vis of rough rice equal to rather more than 79 mans Calcutta weight, and 6 Vis of mustard seed, which even as burthened by the fetters of monopoly, sells at 8 rs.; but, if allowed to go freely to Goyalpara, would sell for at least fifteen.

Before the insurrection of the Mahamaris it is said, that six-sixteenths of the whole were waste, being occupied by rivers, marshes, woods, and hills, and that ten-sixteenths were fully cultivated. The usual estimate is, that this furnished 80,000 Payiks to the king, or to the persons who served the prince, and that these cultivated only one-half of the province; one-fourth was granted to Zemindars, three-sixteenths were granted for the support of temples, and one-sixteenth had been granted to men considered eminent for holiness. Eighty thousand Payiks, at the usual allowance, would require, for their support, about 1743 square miles of arable land, besides what was reserved for their officers, and for the king, equal perhaps to one-fourth part of the above; for, although the men work one-third of their time for their officers and the king, many are not employed in agriculture. This would make one-half of the arable lands 2176 square miles, or the whole in round number 4000, which being only five-eighths of the whole total extent would be 6400 square miles. There is no doubt, that the estimate of the extent, as given by the natives would fully justify this supposition; but there is great reason to suspect, that they exaggerate the width. In the few places, where Mr. Wood had an opportunity of ascertaining this, as at Gohati in the middle of the province, the width, that he found, cannot justify me in supposing the utmost extent to be more than 4000 square miles. If this be accurate, the number of Payiks must always have been nominal; at present, in the reduced state of the country, it is so most notoriously, and the officer, who is said to have charge of 1000 Payiks has often not more than 500.

The middle province of the kingdom, which should be under the immediate government of the Boro Boruya, or prime minister, and which may be called Asam proper, is of greater extent than Kamrup. Mr. Wood having reached

little beyond the capital we have no accurate grounds for ascertaining its length, but we may make an approximation.

On the north side of the river, from Tiklipotarmukh, where the Brohmoputro divides into two branches, the Luhit or Brohmoputro and the Diking, this province and its dependent jurisdictions extend to the mouth of the Donkiri, about 103 miles above Goyalpara. Now from Tiklipotarmukh to Goyalpara is reckoned $18\frac{1}{4}$ days journey by land, of which $12\frac{3}{4}$ are between Goyalpara and the mouth of the Dickar river, which according to Mr. Wood is placed in lat. $26^{\circ} 48'$ north, and in long. $94^{\circ} 6'$ east from Greenwich, and is therefore about 220 miles, in a straight line, from Goyalpara, giving about $17\frac{1}{4}$ miles direct for each day's journey, so that Tiklipotarmukh should be about 314 miles in a direct line from Goyalpara. Then, deducting 103 from Goyalpara to the Donkiri, we have 211 miles for the length of the territory called Charidwar, which comprehends all on the north bank of the Brohmoputro, that now in any manner belongs to Asam proper. The width of this territory is stated to be from 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ days journey, for which we should allow from 20 to 30 miles. Two officers subordinate to the Boro Boruya, as I have already mentioned, administer justice in it, and collect the royal revenue, which however is only a fourth part of what the inhabitants pay. The manner in which the other three shares are collected, as already stated, render it highly improbable that the country should be well occupied.

On the south side of the Brohmoputro the length of Asam proper is less considerable. It commences near the middle Kamakhya, about 130 miles from Goyalpara, and reaches near to the Upper Kamakhya, which is said to be about ten miles below Tiklipotarmukh. Its length, therefore, should be about 174 miles. Its width is said to be from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ days journey, or from 25 to 40 miles. But besides this, it possesses about the upper half of the island formed by the Brohmoputro and Kolong rivers and it comprehends the whole of the very large island, which is contained between the Brohmoputro, or Luhit, and the Diking rivers. This is said to be $7\frac{3}{4}$ days journey by land in length, and from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a day's journey in width, the former we may call 130



miles in a direct line, and the width may be from 10 to 15 miles. This fine island is called Majuli, and has been in a great measure alienated to temples, and to men considered holy.

Asam proper is higher, and of a better soil than Kamrup, and contains few or no hills, nor woods. It is reckoned, that formerly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the whole were in full cultivation, and that even now not above $\frac{5}{18}$ are waste or unoccupied. This, I presume, is only meant to apply to the islands and the parts that are on the south side of the Brohmoputro. It is said, that of all the lands in Asam proper, which are occupied, $2\frac{1}{2}$ anas belong to temples, or men esteemed holy, $4\frac{1}{2}$ anas are let for a rent, and 9 anas are distributed among Payiks, or reserved for the king and his officers.

The two persons, from whom I received the most copious information, had never been in Sodiya, the third and most remote province, into which the kingdom is divided; and the accounts which they gave differ exceedingly. The native who constructed the map, represents it as a very small territory, about half a day's journey from east to west, and one day's journey from north to south, and immediately west from the Dikrong river, which separates the Abor from Asam, and which is the eastern boundary of Kamrup. The native of Bengal stated the province of Sodiya to be $\frac{3}{18}$ of the whole kingdom, while the middle province comprehend $\frac{7}{18}$, and the western province amounted to $\frac{6}{18}$. He farther added, that the province of Sodiya extended to Brohmokundro, that is to where the great river is precipitated from the northern mountains; and he reckoned the greater part of the population to be composed of the Miri, Dophlas and Kampos, whom the native considers as independent nations. Two circumstances give great weight to the opinion of the Bengalese. It is evident in the first place, from the account given of the expedition of Mir Jamleh in the Asiatic researches, that then the Northern mountains, or the country of the Miris, Kampos, and Dophlas, belonged to Asam. In the second place the high title of Gohaing, given to the Governor of Sodiya, shows, that until Gohati was wrested from the Moguls, his government was of greater importance than the western province, whose governor had only the title of Phukon, still, however, I think, that the native of Asam,

who drew the map, had the better opportunity of being well informed, and his map, in many great points, is supported by the authority of a most accurate survey. I therefore shall endeavour to reconcile the difference, by supposing that the native gives his account from the actual state of the country, and that the Bengalese spoke of Sodiya in its ancient state, before the Miris, Dophlas, and Kambo Bhoteas had declared themselves independent, and when probably a great part of Charidwar was under the authority of the Sodiya Governor.

I shall now give some account of the productions of the country:—Salidhan, or transplanted winter rice, forms $\frac{3}{4}$ of the whole crops. Ahudhan, or summer rice, and Uridhan, or winter rice, that is sown broadcast in low land, are also pretty considerable crops. A little Borodhan, or spring rice, is also raised.

Next to rice, the most considerable crop is a kind of mustard called Vihar; it is the oil of this that is chiefly used. The quantity of sesamum is very inconsiderable. Wheat, barley, and millet, are very little used. Little or no pulse was formerly used, and the *Cytisus Cajan*, called Garo Mar, was only cultivated for rearing the Lac insect; but it is now preserved for its pulse; and other plants are used for rearing the Lac, which is done exactly in the same manner, as I have described in my account of Ronggopoor. The most common pulse in Asam is the *Phaseolus-Mas*, called Mati-Mas; but they have also the Mug-Mas, or *Phaseolus minimum* of Rumph, the Kola-Mas, or *Lathyrus sativus*, the Borkola-Mas, or *Pisum arvense*, and the Mohu-Mas, or *Ervum Lens*.

The Asamese raise black pepper, it is said to a great extent. Very little comes to Bengal; but it is probable that a good deal may find its way towards the east. It is said to be raised somewhat as betle-leaf is usually cultivated in Bengal. They have also, as warm seasoning, long pepper, and the pepper called choyi, ginger, turmeric, capsicum, onions, and garlic. Their acid seasonings are tamarinds, Autengga (*Dillenia speciosa*), Amra (*Spondias Amara*), Jolpayi (*Perinkara H. M.*), Kamrangga (*Averrhoa carambola*), and Thaikol of two kinds, the Boro, which is the largest and best, and the Kuji, which I have described in my account of the natural productions of Ronggopoor.

The betle-leaf is raised on trees in every garden. There



is plenty of tobacco, and betle nut. Opium is raised in abundance for consumption, and there is much used. Sugar cane thrives, most of it is eaten fresh. A little extract is prepared; but no sugar is made. Cocoa nuts are very scarce, and no palm wine is extracted. Their kitchen gardens and fruit are much the same as in Ronggopoor, only the pomegranate is said to be very common, and there are plenty of oranges. Cotton is reared mostly by the hill tribes, and is little used. The *crotonaria juncea* and *Corchorus* are cultivated; but the fishermen use mostly the fibres of the Rike, or *urtica nivea* W.

No less than four different kinds of silk worm are reared, and the different silks form the greater part of the clothing, and [are exported in some quantity. The silk-worm reared on the mulberry is the least common. That which is produced on a species of *laurus*, and is called Muga, is the most common. The tree is planted, and its branches are pruned; but the insect is fed on the tree as it grows. Some people who have seen the insect, say that it is the same with the Tosor of Bengal; but the silk is so different that I suppose they are mistaken. There are two crops, the silk procured in the beginning of the dry season (Kartik) is red, that which is cut in the end of spring (Jaishtio) is white, and is reckoned the best. The silk called Medanggosi, is reared in Asam proper on a tree, that is cultivated; but of what kind I did not learn, nor could I procure the insect; it is higher priced than the Muga. The silk called Erendi is reared on the *Ricinus* in great quantity, as in Ronggopoor.

In Kamrup, oxen are the common labouring cattle, in Asam proper many buffaloes are employed in the plough, sheep are very scarce, and goats are not numerous. Ducks are more so than fowls; but many persons keep game cocks.

I shall now mention what I heard concerning their courts of justice: the officers under whom the Payiks, or servants of the crown are placed, the Rajas, the persons (Chaudhuris), who farm the revenue of the lands which are let for rent, and every one who has received free lands, have charge of the police, within the bounds which their people cultivate; they also settle small disputes that arise among their dependents, and all assume the right of whipping; but this seems illegal.

The power of inflicting punishment is reserved for the principal officers and rajas; and in all civil cases, except in the men granted to the three great councillors of state, there is an appeal to the three provincial courts, in which the Boro Boruya, the Boro Phukon, and the Sodiya Khaoya Gohaing, preside. These have full jurisdiction in all cases, civil and criminal, and without reference to the royal authority, may inflict any punishment short of death; but no person is put to death without an order from the king, and that order is always communicated in writing, and is procured by a written account of the proceedings having been submitted to the royal consideration. In such cases the trial is carried on openly, and the chief judge, or governor of the province, seems never to condemn without the concurrence of his assessors, who in Kamrup are six Phukons; so that unfair trials are not usual; but it is alleged, that the guilty, who can bribe, are often allowed to escape with impunity, while the punishments inflicted on the guilty poor are exceedingly severe. In fact, the possession of jurisdiction in police, and in civil and criminal law, without any salary or regular fees, is considered as a valuable and productive authority.

The capital offences are treason, murder, rape, arson, and voluntary abortion. Rebels are never excused; for other offences pardon may be purchased. Capital punishment extends to the whole family of a rebel, parents, brothers, sisters, wives, and children. Offenders are put to death in various manners; by cutting their throats, by impaling them, by grinding them between two wooden cylinders, by sawing them asunder between two planks, by beating them with hammers, and by applying burning hoes to different parts until they die. This is the most horrible.

Except the gang from Bengal, there are few robbers and atrocious housebreakers or pirates, such persons are punished in a summary manner by thrusting out their eyes, or by cutting off the knee pans. The wretches usually die of the latter operation, but survive the former. Both punishments are inflicted by the sole order of the chief minister in Asam proper, or of the Governor of the two other provinces. Petty thefts are very common, and are punished by whipping, or by cutting off the nose or ears. The first punishment



may legally be inflicted by any considerable officer, such as a Raja, or Phukon ; but the two latter could only be inflicted by the chief judge of the district.

The three great councillors of state possess the same jurisdiction over their own people, that the governors of provinces do in their respective countries. The administration of civil affairs, seems to be worse arranged than the criminal law; and, less odium being attached to injustice in this respect, the judges seem to be uncommonly venal. In the Bora Boruya's court he receives all complaints verbally, and immediately gives some person orders to investigate the cause, and to report the truth, and the cause is always decided according to the report of the umpire. Many officers attend the court, who receive allowances with a view of rendering them fit to be entrusted with this delicate office. These are as follows: 3 Tambulis, 1 Naosalya, 1 Takla-Bora, 1 Mojumdar-Boruya, and 12 Rajkhaoyas. Even these are accused of taking bribes very openly ; and the accusation seems to be well founded, as the judge often sends a menial servant, or needy follower, to settle disputes, and to give them an opportunity of a little gain.

The system of raising a revenue by presents is almost universal in eastern countries, and in none is carried to a more pernicious extent than in Asam. The tenant, who for a plough-gate of land pays only 2 rs., to the king, in various other kinds of exactions, pays an addition of between 4 and 5. Each petty officer has a share, part of which he must disgorge to his superiors, while these again are finally squeezed by the king. The Rani-raja is estimated to pay 5000 rs., a year to various persons at Gohati, as I have before mentioned. The composition of 14 rs., therefore, sometimes accepted by the king in lieu of the service rendered by these men, is not what these men pay ; but only what goes immediately to the king. The management of 1000 Payiks is considered as a sufficient reward for a considerable officer of government, even when he receives their composition, and remits it to the treasury, or when he exacts their labour on the king's account ; for his trouble he is only allowed a commission of five per cent., and from his profits must make presents to all his superiors, until a share reaches the throne, to which offerings are made by between 20 and 30 of the principal

persons of the kingdom. The presents are made on holidays, and are called Bhetis. The two chief Bhetis are on the last days of the months Chaitro and Pausb. The two next in value are the festivals called Dolyatra and Durgapuja. On each of these occasions each of the tenantry Payiks and petty officers present the commanders of a thousand, or Rajas, or Zemindars, with rice, pulse, extract of sugar-cane, and oil, perhaps to the value of $\frac{1}{2}$ rupee.

The principal castes and tribes in Asam are as follows. The Rarbi Brahmans of Bengal, as I have before said, have obtained the spiritual guidance of the king and principal officers of the court, and it is probably through their influence, that two men of the same caste have procured the lucrative farm of the trade with Bengal. The Guru and Purohit, are men of great reputation for learning.

There are Brahmans called Asamese. They are Baidiks of Kanyakubjo, and one of them told me, that they were introduced from that place by Viswo Singho, the Koch Raja; but that having penetrated into Asam, they no longer intermarried with those who remained in the western parts of Kamrup; as they could not mutually be informed, how far each party had preserved its purity. Before their arrival, there were learned men among the Kolitas, who were Gurus for all the people.

Many Kamrupi Baidik Brahmans are now settled in Asam, and it is said, that among them there are many persons learned in Hindu science. Very few among either the Baidiks of Asam or Kamrup, worship the Saktis. They are chiefly of the sect of Vishnu. They have a few academies (Chauvaris), where, the Rotomala Vyakoron, law, and metaphysics are taught, and some Pandits are skilled in astrology and magic. The grand study with the Mohajons, or spiritual guides, is the Sri Bhagwot.

Some of the Baidiks in this country have degraded themselves, have become Vorno, and instruct the impure tribes, a meanness to which none of those in Bengal have submitted. The persons called Muno Singhos Brahmans are pretty numerous, and are employed in all low offices, totally unconnected with religion.

The Deodhaings, descended from the religious guide of Khuntai, may now amount to 30 men, besides women and



children. Their chief is called Deo-dhaing Boruya, and has the charge of the God Chung, of his worship, and of the royal insignia, such as the sword Hyangdang, and the sacred feathers. The Deodhaings possess a learning and language peculiar to themselves, and keep them a profound secret; but they have in many points adopted the worship of Vishnu. They are still highly respected.

In the eastern parts of the present dominions of Asam, beyond Koliyabar, and exclusive of the Kampos Miris and Dophlas, the most numerous class of inhabitants are the Ahams, or governing nation. Those legitimately descended from the companions of Khuntai still retain all the principal offices of state. They may be considered as the nobility, and are said to be now reduced to 26 families, 2 Danggoriyas, 1 Duyara, 1 Dihinggha, 1 Lahon, 1 Sondike, and 20 Hatimuriyas. Of these last 5 families are attached to each of the Danggoriyas, and ten to the Barapatra Gohaing, who is descended of Khuntai. The remainder of the nation is by some alleged to owe its origin to the illegitimate issue of these families; but, as I have before mentioned, many of them are probably descended from the soldiers and servants, who accompanied the prince. It is generally admitted, that the Ahams on their arrival had no women; but espoused those of the country; and the royal family have since had frequent intermarriages with the daughters of neighbouring princes; but, since the introduction of caste, the Ahams confine their marriages to their own tribe. The whole have now adopted the language of Bengal, as their colloquial dialect, and have also relinquished the use of beef; but about a fourth part have yet no other priests than the Deodhaings. The remaining $\frac{3}{4}$ have adopted the religion of the Hindus, chiefly as taught by the following of Madhav Acharjyo.

In the parts east from Koliyabor the tribe next most numerous is called Chutiya, and is divided into two classes, called Hindu and Aham. The former have abandoned many of their impure customs, and have received Vorno Brahmans as their spiritual guides. The latter wallow in their impurity, and adhere to the Deodhaings.

West from Koliyabor the two most numerous tribes, and nearly equal in strength are the Kolitas and Koch. The Kolitas, of whom mention has been made in my account of



Ronggopoor, are also a numerous tribe in Asam proper. Those, who can read, are called Kayasthas, and are the religious guides for most of the others, and for many of the Koch. The others follow all manner of trades and occupations. They intermarry with the Koch, and are accused of being a great deal too easy towards their wives, many of whom cannot resist temptation. They speak the language of Bengal, and have nearly the same customs with the pure Hindus of that country, only they are still more strict in eating and drinking. They are considered, by the Brahmans of that country, as pure Sudras. Their features are less strongly marked, as being of Chinese origin, than those of the Koch. The Koch already often mentioned, are very numerous in the province of Kamrup, especially in Dorong, the Rajah of which is one of their number. They are less abstinent than the Kolitas, and are considered as lower; but still they are admitted to be pure.

The Nodiyals or Dom are more numerous than the Koch, as they extend over both Asam proper and Kamrup. Their manners exactly resemble those of the colony, which has settled at Goyalpara, and which has been already described. Notwithstanding their care in eating, they are considered as impure. There are a good many Heluya-Keyots, who cultivate the ground, and Keyots who fish. The former are pure, and usually assume the title of Kaibarta; the latter are impure; but have not adopted the Muhammedan doctrine, as those of Ronggopoor have done.

The Moriyas speak the Bengalese language; but have abandoned themselves to eat beef, and to drink strong liquors. The Rabhas, the Kachharis, the Garos and the Mech have been already described. Many of the Garos have been in some measure converted; but they are very apt to revert to their impure habits. The Hiras are an impure caste, who make pots, as has been already mentioned.

Most trades are carried on by the Kolitas and Koch, without distinction of castes; but many artists and people have lately come from Bengal, and will probably in a great measure succeed in separating different professions, into different castes. The Mulakors, called here Phulmali, make artificial flowers. The Notis, or dancers and musicians, are here employed in the temples, are considered as a pure caste, and



are not common prostitutes. Even the purest Brahmans condescend to give them instruction.

The washermen refuse to perform their office for any persons, except the royal family, and Brahmans, and have been elevated to the rank of purity. Many cotton weavers have been introduced, and are partly of the impure tribe called Jogi, and partly Muhammedans, who are called Jolas.

Some Haris or scavengers have been introduced, and have brought a disgrace on the profession, which secures them in the exclusive enjoyment of their nastiness. There are also some fishermen of the impure tribe called Chondal.

In the province of Kamrup there are many Moslems; but so degenerated into heathen superstition, that even those of Goyalpara refuse their communion. The government gives them no sort of molestation. On the whole the most numerous tribe is the Dom, next come the Kolita and Koch, nearly equal, then the Aham, then the Keyot, then the Chutiya. The number of any other tribe, when compared with these, is inconsiderable.

The persons, who instruct the worshippers of Vishnu, that is most of those, who have adopted the Hindu religion, are called Mahajons, and live in Chatras just like those, whom I have described in my account of the eastern divisions of Ronggopoor. They are, however, more powerful, several of them having from 10,000 to 15,000 men entirely devoted to their service. Their office is hereditary in certain families. The king, on a vacancy, appoints any person of the family, that he pleases; but the appointment unfortunately is for life. The Brahmans, who are elevated to this high dignity, separate from their women, and all worldly pleasures, and admit among their disciples only Ahams, Kolitas, Koch, Kai-bartos, Notis, and Phulmalis. The Kolita Mahajons do not separate from their families, and admit among their followers all Hindus, that are reckoned pure, and also the fishermen called Dom, a numerous and licentious mob, by whom in a measure the government of Gaurinath was overthrown, and the country reduced to its present misery.

The chief Chatras or religious instructors are as follows:— In the province of Kamrup. 1 Boropeta, a Kolita. 2 Pat Bausi, 3 Biha Kuchi, Baidik Brahmans. 4 Bhowanipur, A Kolita. 5 Palasvari, 6 Srihati, Baidik Brahmans. In the province of Asam proper. 1 Aunihati, 2 Dokhyinpat, 3 Ku-